



WORDS FROM CEO Brett Bachmann



The famous author, Alexander Smith, once said, "In the entire circle of the year there are no days so delightful as those of a fine October." Now that fall is officially here, activities on the Heuser Hearing Institute (HHI) campus are in full gear. Our students in the classrooms are continually engaged and eager for experiences with a complete calendar of educational learning. One of our first field trips is to Gallrein Farms, where our Heuser Hearing & Language Academy (HHLA) students will get a fresh taste of fall complete with pumpkins, apple cider and a petting zoo. This trip is one of the most popular with our students.

Next up is what has become our most exciting fundraiser ever – the Butterflies in Motion luncheon that features some of the best decorated movie themed tables I have ever seen. This entertaining and unique event is hosted by WAVE 3 News' Shannon Cogan and Kevin Harned and will take place once again at the historic Brown Hotel. I must give all the credit to our dedicated board members Libby Parkinson and Brad Broecker and to members of The Butterfly Society for putting on this fabulous event that takes place on the first Tuesday in October. And if you need a little fall pick-me-up, drop by the Fabulous Finds Pop-Up Shop on Saturday, October 7, where you will find all sorts of items from books to vases to holiday decorations. Your support at these events helps give children in our community the experience of sound and language.

We welcome a new teacher, Stacey Chevalier, to HHLA. Stacey shares her approach to teaching and what she sees changing in the deaf and hard of hearing classrooms. Also, special thanks to one of our patients, Christina Jefferson, for her kind words about HHI. Finally, our Research Corner discusses hidden hearing loss, which can explain reasons for hearing problems in some patients.

Community outreach is important to us. Our goal is to provide the best hearing health solutions to our patients, students and their families. We invite you to join us in celebrating National Audiology Month in October by scheduling a tour of the academy or visiting HHI for a hearing screening. Visit our website at www.thehearinginstitute.org or call (502) 584-3573 for our October offer: 10 percent off all products geared toward hearing protection or a risk-free trial for daily or extended wear amplification.

As always, my door is open to you. Happy fall!

-Brett

TEACHER PROFILE: Meet Stacey Chevalier



This is my first year as a teacher at Heuser Hearing & Language Academy, but my 15th year teaching. In 2001, under the advice of my college professor, I did my student teaching at Heuser, then known as the Louisville Deaf Oral School, with Ronda Dean. I had such a wonderful experience working in the three-year-old total communication classroom that I started my Master's the following summer in Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education at the University of Louisville. At that time I accepted my first teaching position as a middle school teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing in Hardin County. After marrying my husband in 2003, I left Hardin County Schools and moved to Lafayette, Indiana, where I worked at Ivy Technical College as an adjunct teacher and sign language interpreter for an adult student who was taking classes.

My husband and I moved to Bardstown in 2005. Upon his graduation, we bought our first home and had our first son. I also accepted my second teaching position as a preschool teacher in an inclusive public preschool. I worked for six years in Washington County Schools and six years in Nelson County as a preschool teacher. I have always wanted to find my way back to working as a teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing and really thought my career would lead me to Heuser at some point; I just didn't realize it would take fifteen years to find my way back.

I grew up in the very small town of Springfield, Kentucky, south of Louisville. I have been married to my husband Eric for almost fourteen years, and I am the mother to three very active boys - Thomas age 12, Tyler age 10, and Logan age 7. My youngest son Logan was born with Down syndrome. After my son's newborn diagnosis, I felt very prepared to navigate my new role as the parent of a child with a disability as a teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing and preschool teacher. I have attended multiple national conferences on special education and Down syndrome, and we are also members of Down Syndrome of Louisville.

Preschool is my favorite age group for many reasons. Most significantly, I know that we are building the brains of young children in preschool. Birth through age five is when the brains of young children are building all the passageways. Strong early interventions make all the difference in ensuring success later in life, especially for children with hearing loss and special needs. I feel blessed every day to have the opportunity to make a lasting contribution in the lives of young children. Heuser Hearing & Language Academy is a great place for me.

THANK YOU HEUSER!



Christina Jefferson, age 47, has been a HHI patient for 15 years. One of five children, she was born in Chicago with a condition called retinitis pigmentosa – an eye disease in which the back wall of the eye, or the retina, is damaged. She moved to Louisville at age 19 where she lived with her condition, getting married and having children and working in a career as a carpenter. Eventually, Christina learned about Heuser from her sister and brother-in-law, who is a physician. Since coming to Heuser, she has grown attached to the staff and services at HHI. She credits HHI for getting her quality hearing aids, and the staff for being "like family."

In 2016, Christina was asked by audiologist, Angie Beach, to consider a cochlear implant. Christina decided to have surgery in December of last year. She was blown away by the results when audiologist, Lisa Reedy, activated the sound in her hearing devices. "It was the first time in life I heard myself talk," says Christina. "I'm not afraid anymore when I'm with a group of people, or when I'm out at waterparks and enjoying other activities," she adds. Since getting help with her hearing, Christina is happy and her speech is much better. "I love this cochlear implant because I now can hear," says Christina. "Thank you so much, Heuser!"



RESEARCH CORNER: Hidden Hearing Loss

By Pavel Zahorik, Heuser Hearing Research Endowed Chair

Do you have trouble understanding conversations when you're in a noisy room? There is now research that suggests a new type of "hidden" hearing loss may explain some of these problems, and this type of hearing loss is not detectable using standard assessments, such as an audiogram.

From animal studies, scientists now believe that even moderate level of noise exposure can lead to damage of the neural connections between auditory hair cells and the auditory nerve. The extent to which this occurs in humans is not known. However, relationships between audiometric testing results and listening performance in complex real-world situations is currently an active area of study, including current research being conducted at Heuser Hearing Institute. Until more is known, consider this as one more reason to protect your hearing. Always remember to avoid situations with loud sounds, like musical concerts and sporting events, and wear proper hearing protection such as ear plugs when possible.

LISTEN UP! PROJECT'S NEWEST RECIPIENT

Congratulations to our latest ListenUp! Project recipient, Danny Poelman, pictured here with audiologist, Nick Leahy, after his fitting in the Lyndon office. Danny, age 65, plans to volunteer at Hosparus Health and feels his hearing aids will help greatly improve his life especially in everyday hearing situations. He can now get more involved in his community and Bible study with his local Boy Scout troop and better enjoy spending time with his family.



Every year, countless Kentuckians deal with the problems associated with hearing loss and are unable to afford the proper care needed. To help fill this void, The ListenUp! Project provides the opportunity for you or a loved one to volunteer at one of HHI's charitable partners in exchange for credit towards hearing aids. This pilot program has been made possible by a generous donation from Delta Dental of Kentucky's Making Smiles Happen program.

Learn more about the ListenUp! Project at www.thehearinginstitute.org.

2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For more information on the calendar of events, call (502) 515-3320 or visit www.thehearinginstitute.org and click on Event Calendar.

October 3 | 11 a.m.
Butterflies in Motion Luncheon at the Brown Hotel

October 7 | 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Fabulous Finds Pop-Up Shop at HHLA Cafeteria

Join Fabulous Finds, the 13-year tradition on Frankfort Avenue that is now a pop-up shop, for this sale of holiday decorations, jewelry, furniture, household items and more. All proceeds benefit Heuser Hearing & Language Academy. Free onsite parking!

October 12 | 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Advanced Technology Event at HHI

This event is designed to help you learn about new, powerful hearing aids and cochlear implants in an informal setting. If you feel your hearing aids are no longer working for you or believe you could be getting more out of them, please join us.

October 27 | 2:30 p.m.
Heuser Hearing & Language Academy Halloween Party, hosted by Delta Zeta

October 30
Heuser Hearing & Language Academy Field Trip to Gallrein Farms

November 4 | 10 a.m.
Walk4Hearing at Beckett Creek Park

Walk4Hearing is a community event that increases awareness about hearing loss and raises money for programs that support local families, including our Heuser Hearing & Language Academy students. Call 502.515.3320 to learn how to join our team and walk with us and make a difference!

November 18 | 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Quattra Designs Jewelry Show at the Louisville Boat Club

November 28 | all day
Giving Tuesday

Help give children in our community the experience of sound and language with an on-line gift on Giving Tuesday.

Lyndon Location
417 Benjamin Lane
Louisville, KY 40222

Dupont Location
3900 Dupont Square South, Suite D
Louisville, KY 40207

Downtown Campus
111-117 East Kentucky St.
Louisville, KY 40203