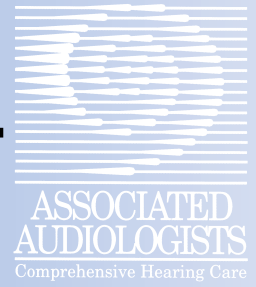


HEARING

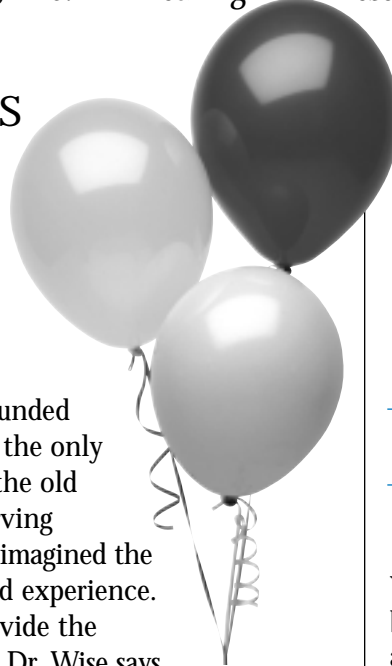
YOUR BEST



Information From Associated Audiologists, Inc. – “Hearing Your Best for Life”

Spring 2005

ASSOCIATED AUDIOLOGISTS CELEBRATES 20 YEARS



When James A. Wise, Ph.D., C.C.C.-A., founded Associated Audiologists, Inc. 20 years ago, he was the only audiologist serving patients from a small office in the old Olathe Medical Center. Today, Dr. Wise is still serving Kansas City area patients, but he never could have imagined the growth his practice, or the field of audiology, would experience.

“From the beginning, our goal has been to provide the highest level of quality and service to our patients,” Dr. Wise says. “I believe that this is the reason we have seen such wonderful growth in our practice. Our patients appreciate our dedication and concern for their hearing, and they often tell their friends and relatives about us.”

“From the beginning, our goal has been to provide the highest level of quality and service to our patients.”

In addition, hearing aid technology has changed rapidly over the past two decades, with hearing solutions now available for almost everyone. “When I began practicing audiology, most patients had non-programmable hearing aids,” Dr. Wise says. “Most hearing aids we recommend today utilize digital technology from the world’s leading hearing aid manufacturers.”

A perfect example of how Associated Audiologists and hearing aid technology have changed can be illustrated by this issue’s patient testimonial, given by Virginia Schmideskamp. Virginia has a new Digital Wireless BiCROS hearing system. This hearing system is for individuals who have an asymmetrical hearing loss. That means 20 years ago, patients with this type of hearing loss had few options in regards to amplification. Wired hearing systems could be cumbersome and confining. But the new wireless systems utilize remote microphones and a receiver, meaning there are no wires or cords.

“As with Virginia, our relationships with our patients are immensely rewarding,” Dr. Wise says. “We consider ourselves fortunate to have been a part of so many patients’ efforts to hear their best.”

NEW HEARING PERKS PROGRAM FOR PATIENTS

By Sarah Hovel, M.A.



Congratulations!

You’ve made the first step towards better hearing by wearing hearing aids. It may seem easy enough, but adapting to and getting used to hearing aids is not always simple. Not only are you getting used to wearing the hearing aids, you are also getting used to a new pattern of sound.

That is why we have developed our new *Hearing Perks* program, which offers you useful information for adapting to your hearing aids. Your spouse, family members and even your friends are welcome to attend, and I encourage it. These people have a great impact on you, as you do on them.

Topics we will discuss include speech reading; communication and listening strategies; and communication tips for family members. The program also is a great opportunity to review and share your listening experiences with others.

For details regarding our Hearing Perks program or for dates and times, contact any of our three offices, or see page 2 for more information.

WIRELESS HEARING SYSTEM HELPS VIRGINIA SCHMIDESKAMP UNDERSTAND CONVERSATIONS AGAIN

With three grandchildren age 3 and under, Virginia Schmideskamp doesn't want to miss one single, precious word they say. "I have three beautiful grandchildren. I am so proud of them," Virginia says.

A history of middle ear infections resulted in a significant decrease in the hearing sensitivity in her right ear. Therefore, she was no longer successful with a traditional hearing aid in that ear. The hearing loss in her left ear remained stable, therefore, she was still able to use a hearing aid in that ear. "I had problems understanding conversations unless I was looking right at the person," says Virginia. "And if someone was trying to talk to me from another room, I couldn't hear them at all."

Dr. Wise suggested that Virginia try a new **digital wireless BiCROS** hearing system from Unitron called the Unison 6 WIFI Mic system. With the new

system, Virginia now wears a hearing aid in her left ear and a wireless microphone in her right ear.

The wireless microphone transmits sound from Virginia's right ear to a digital hearing aid in her left ear, without the use of wires. The hearing aid worn in her left ear also amplifies sound. This gives Virginia the sense that she is hearing with both ears.

"The BiCROS system is just wonderful," she says. "When I got in my car the other day, I could hear my radio. Before, I could tell the radio was on, but I didn't know what it was saying."

Now the 78-year-old retiree says she plans to use her time and her new-found hearing to help care for her grandchildren. "I can hear everything with this new hearing system," Virginia adds, "especially my grandchildren's voices."



Getting The Most From Your Hearing Aid

Get the Most from Your Hearing Aid!

Join Us for Coffee and Conversation at our **FREE Seminar, "Hearing Perks"** Especially for Hearing Aid Wearers

Learn About:

- Effective Communication Strategies
- Assistive Listening Devices
- Hearing Aid Maintenance & Troubleshooting

APRIL 20 • 2 to 3 p.m.
Olathe Medical Center.
Call 913-829-0891
to reserve your seat.

JUNE 7 • 2 to 3 p.m.
Sylvester Powell Center.
Call 913-262-5855
to reserve your seat.

Hearing Your Best is published regularly by Associated Audiologists, Inc. All materials are created by our audiologists solely for the education of our patients and referring physicians. Any reproduction must be approved in writing by our editor. If you have comments or suggestions, please direct them to:

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SEVERE WEATHER ALERTING SYSTEMS

Springtime in the Midwest is known for severe weather, especially the threat of tornadoes. For our patients with hearing loss, a weather alert system called Weather Alert 2000 provides notification about imminent local weather emergencies and alerts about homeland security.

The Weather Alert 2000 is the nation's first text-based digital receiver for weather warnings and civil emergency messages. It utilizes a combination of satellite uplinks/downlinks and 900 MhzFlex technology, offering capabilities well beyond current analog weather radios, e-mail-based alerting systems and telephone dial-up notification.

Upon receiving a warning with its built-in antenna, the system sounds a loud 85 dB alert tone for 30 seconds and flashes a high-intensity red LED indicator. It features an eight-line display on an oversized, backlit LCD screen for the message text with an alert time stamp and a large digital clock display with alert. Alerts are displayed less than 90 seconds after transmission by the National Weather Service

The fully digital, high-frequency receiver is virtually unaffected by interference, which can be problematic for traditional weather radios during inclement weather. There are also substantially fewer problems with reception indoors as well as outdoors, including in rugged terrain.

For individuals with hearing loss, the weather alert system can be used in combination with other assistive devices that vibrate or flash to obtain the person's attention. For more information on this weather alert system, talk with your audiologist.

LOOK HOW WE'VE GROWN!

- 1985** May, James A. Wise, Ph.D., C.C.C.-A., opens Associated Audiologists' first office at Olathe Medical Center.
- 1989** Associated Audiologists opens its second office in Prairie Village at 7301 Mission Road, Suite 140.
- 1991** Olathe practice moves to its current location at 13025 S. Mur-Len, Suite 220.
Susan Hulett, Administrative Assistant, joins Prairie Village office; Carody Wise joins staff as Office Administrator.
- 1995** Kim Young, Claims Administrator, joins Olathe office.
- 1997** Tanja Porter, Administrative Assistant, joins Olathe office.
- 1998** Audiologists David Nissen, M.S., C.C.C.-A., and Traci Ring, M.S., C.C.C.-A., join Associated Audiologists. David works in the Prairie Village office, Traci in the Olathe office.
- 1999** August, practice opens its third location at Saint Luke's South Hospital at 12330 Metcalf, Suite 560.
- 2001** Larry Ruder, M.A., C.C.C.-A., Audiologist, joins practice at Saint Luke's South location.
- 2002** Jen Boschert, Administrative Assistant, joins Overland Park office.
- 2003** Kelli Brunz, M.A., C.C.C.-A., Audiologist, joins practice at Olathe office.
- 2004** Sarah Hovel, M.A., joins practice as an Audiologist working from Prairie Village and Saint Luke's South offices.
Jolene Ring, Administrative Assistant, joins practice, works in all three offices.
- 2005** May – Associated Audiologists celebrates 20 years of service to Kansas City community with three offices and six university-trained audiologists!

Associated Audiologists' staff includes back row from left to right: Susan Hulett, Larry Ruder, Tanja Porter, Jolene Ring, Traci Ring, Sarah Hovel, Kelli Brunz and Kim Young; front row left to right: Dave Nissen, Dr. James Wise, Carody Wise and Jen Boschert.





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HEARING YOUR BEST



MAY IS BETTER HEARING MONTH

*and in honor of our
20 years in practice,
we want
to celebrate!*

During the entire month of May, we would like to offer you a gift of appreciation.

Just bring your newsletter to any of our three offices to redeem your \$20 gift!



Gift Certificate

This certificate entitles the bearer to **\$20 off** any product or service over \$50 including:

- Hearing Aids
- Dry Aid Kits
- Assistive Listening Devices



**This certificate does not cover the cost of a diagnostic hearing evaluation.*

**Expires May 31, 2005.*

Be sure and visit our website at www.hearingyourbest.com for additional information.