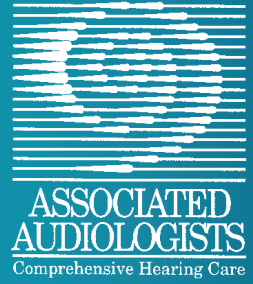


# Hearing Your Best

Summer 2014 • Vol. 14, Issue 2



INFORMATION FROM

Associated Audiologists, Inc. "Hearing Your Best for Life"

## Two Audiologists Join Practice

We're excited to announce **Sarah Jo Mediavilla, Au.D., FAAA**, and **Travis B. Hopkins Williams, Au.D., FAAA**, are the newest members of the Associated Audiologists team. Both audiologists are seeing patients in our Overland Park clinic. Dr. Mediavilla also is seeing patients in our Prairie Village clinic.

### Dr. Hopkins Williams

Personal experience with his own hearing loss is what inspired Dr. Hopkins Williams to pursue a career in audiology. Though he was born with normal hearing, Dr. Hopkins Williams began to lose his hearing when he was in grade school.

Early on, he wore hearing aids, but his hearing continued to decline. "My doctors were never able to figure out what caused my hearing loss, but I received a cochlear implant when I was 13 years old," Dr. Hopkins Williams explains. "I hear very well with my implant. My hearing sensitivity and speech reception are essentially normal."

Dr. Hopkins Williams says his experience with the challenges of hearing loss have made him who he is, and fueled his career choice as an audiologist.

"I can definitely relate to my patients," he says. "I know what it's like to withdraw from social situations because you can't hear. I want to encourage my patients to advocate for themselves."

*Continued on page 3*

### Dr. Mediavilla

Dr. Mediavilla showed an interest in science early in life, an interest that led her to choose a career in audiology.

"This profession is a nice blend of health, technology and science," she says. "Communication is so important to everything we do. It affects every aspect of our lives. It's a privilege when people trust me with their hearing health care."

Dr. Mediavilla has more than 25 years of experience as an audiologist. She has worked in a number of settings, and spent many years caring for cochlear implant and vestibular patients at Midwest Ear Institute before leaving to spend more time with

*Continued on page 3*



Sarah Jo Mediavilla, Au.D., FAAA

Travis B. Hopkins Williams, Au.D., FAAA

# Hearing Your Best



## Hear Here...

By Tim Steele, Ph.D., FAAA, President  
Associated Audiologists, Inc.

Associated Audiologists, Inc. is experiencing exciting growth as we approach our 30-year anniversary next May. In this issue of the newsletter, we are thrilled to introduce two new audiologists who have recently joined our outstanding team. In addition, we will be opening a clinic this fall in Kansas City, Mo., just east of Zona Rosa off of N.W. Barry Road.

From our founder, Dr. Wise, to our newly hired externs, being an audiologist is more than just a job—it's our "vocation." According to most definitions, a vocation is an occupation to which a person is specially drawn or for which he or she is suited, trained or qualified. Use of the word "vocation" before the sixteenth century referred to the "call" by God to an individual. I feel this is important when you choose a provider. The dedication and devotion for pursuing the vocation of audiology is what defines us. I believe our patients and community deserve that level of care. Serving others through our audiology careers is intrinsic for our staff. For example, Dr. Jacobson, Dr. Smith and I recently provided audiology services in Guatemala in August. See our story in this issue for more information.

My mother gave me a priceless gift sitting in my office that is a constant reminder of my "calling." It's a photo of me in high school leaning closely to talk to my Great Grandmother because she had profound hearing loss. She had a great influence on my life and career choice. As a child I was fascinated by intricate gadgets and electronics, so I was naturally intrigued by her hearing aid. Grandma was an amazing baker and although she was most comfortable in the kitchen, she often left the kitchen chaos because she simply could not hear or participate with our large family. I knew when I discovered the field of audiology that this is what I was meant to do. I wish my Great Grandmother were alive today. It would be a joy to help her.

There are many amazing advancements for hearing loss, but ultimately, the technology is only as good as the professional who customizes and programs it for your unique needs. Your audiologist should be highly trained and experienced to fit, program and verify these devices. At Associated Audiologists, that's exactly who you'll work with. It's our calling to help you hear your best and navigate your world.

## Outreach Services

As an added convenience for our patients, Associated Audiologists provides services to several area retirement communities, hospitals and clinics.

### Kansas City area:

- > **Town Village**, second Wednesday of every other month. Call 913-498-2827 to schedule an appointment.
- > **Tallgrass Creek**, first Thursday of each month by appointment. Call 913-498-2827 to schedule an appointment.
- > **Village Shalom**, third Tuesday of every month. Sign up at Village Shalom.
- > **Brookdale Place** (previously Grand Court), fourth Thursday of every other month. Sign up at Brookdale Place.
- > **Grace Gardens**, schedule as needed. Call 913-498-2827 to schedule an appointment.
- > **Cedar Lake Village**, second Friday of each month. Call 913-403-0018 to schedule an appointment.
- > **Lakeview Village**, second Friday afternoon of each month. Call 913-403-0018 to schedule an appointment.
- > **Santa Marta**, fourth Friday of each month. Call 913-403-0018 to schedule an appointment.
- > **Aberdeen Village**, fourth Friday of each month. Call 913-403-0018 to schedule an appointment.
- > **Shawnee Hills**, every other second Friday of the month, 3:30 p.m. Sign up at Shawnee Hills.

### Leavenworth area:

- > **Twin Oaks Health and Rehab**, Lansing, Aug. 27.
- > **Twin Oaks Assisted Living**, Lansing, Sept. 24.
- > **Homestead, Leavenworth**, Oct. 29.
- > **Twin Oaks Independent Living**, Lansing, Nov. 26.
- > **Twin Oaks Health and Rehab**, Lansing, Dec. 17.
- > *Dr. Smith rotates between these locations on the dates indicated from 4 to 5 p.m. in the Beauty Shop. No appointment is necessary. She sees patients on a first come, first serve basis.*

### Manhattan area:

- > **Nemaha Valley Community Hospital**, first Wednesday and third Friday of every month. Call 785-336-2189, ext. 162 to schedule an appointment.
- > **Morris County Hospital Clinic**, second and fourth Fridays of every month. Call 620-767-5126 to schedule an appointment.
- > **The Washington Clinic**, second Wednesday of every month. Call 785-325-2240 to schedule an appointment.



# Audiologists Make Mission Trip to Guatemala



**Dana Jacobson, Au.D., FAAA**, Overland Park Clinic Manager, **Erica Smith, Au.D., FAAA**, Leavenworth Clinic Manager, and **Tim Steele, Au.D., FAAA**, President, Associated Audiologists, recently traveled to Guatemala as part of a medical mission trip with Rotary International and Woodland Public Charity in mid-August.



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The audiologists worked in a community health center near Lake Atitlan, assisting with establishing audiology services for the health center's patients.

"Our first trip consisted of building a hearing screening program and training some of the staff nurses how to screen for hearing loss," Dr. Jacobson explains. "Our participation is vital in order to bring audiological services to Guatemala. There are few resources there, but we will help build a long-term, self-supporting clinic that serves the community, even after we have left the country." The audiologists' goal is to train the clinic's staff and support them with periodic mission trips.

## How You Can Help!

You can help support their mission work by donating your used hearing aids to the effort. "We can recycle and refurbish our patients' older hearing aid technology to benefit these patients," Dr. Jacobson explains.

Just leave your used hearing aids at any of our five area offices, and we will be sure they are used for this important effort on future mission trips.

**For more information contact Dr. Jacobson at 913-498-2827.**

## Dr. Hopkins Williams *continued on from page 1*

Dr. Hopkins Williams completed his clinical externship at Washington University in St. Louis with the Division of Audiology and focused on adult diagnostics and hearing aid fitting and verification. He earned his doctor of audiology from Washington University's St. Louis School of Medicine. His doctoral research project analyzed the impact of directional microphone technology on speech recognition in noise in a BICROS hearing aid. He received his bachelor's of science degree from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, and his associate's degrees in arts and science from John A. Logan College, Carterville, Ill.

He is a member of the American Auditory Society, the Missouri Academy of Audiology and the American Academy of Audiology.

A native of Murphysboro, Ill., Dr. Hopkins Williams has recently relocated to the Overland Park area. "I'm looking forward to spreading my wings and finding my place in the field of audiology," he says. He enjoys the outdoors and fishing in his spare time.

Dr. Hopkins Williams sees patients at our Overland Park clinic.

## Dr. Mediavilla *continued on from page 1*

her family. Prior to joining Associated Audiologists, she was an adjunct lecturer with the University of Kansas.

"I know that Associated Audiologists has an excellent reputation and I look forward to returning to direct patient care with this practice," she says.

Dr. Mediavilla earned her doctor of audiology degree from the University of Kansas Medical Center. She has master's and bachelor's degrees in health science from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

She is board certified by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and is a fellow of the American Academy of Audiology. She also is a member of the Kansas City Society of Audiology.

Dr. Mediavilla is married and has two daughters. They reside in Parkville, Mo. She enjoys spending time with family and volunteering. Recently appointed philanthropic chairperson for the Santa Fe Trail Chapter of the Embroiderer's Guild of America Inc., she coordinates several outreach activities in the community.

Dr. Mediavilla sees patients at our Overland Park and Prairie Village clinics.

## Patient Enjoys Long-lasting Connection to Associated Audiologists

When Lucy Crabtree began to lose her hearing, she was only 4 years old. "Honestly, it was probably much more traumatic for my parents than it was for me," she admits. "My mom says I complained of having a 'soft ear' and a 'loud ear.'"

Over the years, Lucy saw a number of health care professionals. Though no one ever figured out the cause of her hearing loss, one was instrumental in helping her overcome her challenges—Jim Wise, Ph.D., FAAA, President Emeritus of Associated Audiologists.

"Our families were actually neighbors and friends even before I lost my hearing," Lucy says. "Dr. Wise guided us through the diagnostic testing process and he also was a valuable resource of emotional support, expressing genuine concern and care and empathizing with the dramatic change my parents and I were experiencing."

He also offered Lucy's family hope. "Dr. Wise's support was refreshing and encouraging in the face of less helpful advice from other specialists," Lucy says. "One doctor even told my parents that I wouldn't make it past the third grade!"

Fast forward to today, and it's easy to see that Lucy not only proved that doctor wrong, but she hasn't let her hearing loss keep her from living life to its fullest. "I graduated college cum laude, and now I am an editor with a Kansas City publishing company," she says.

Though Lucy is profoundly deaf without her hearing aids, Dr. Wise always has made sure she has the most reliable and up-to-date technology available. "Dr. Steele also has been exceedingly kind and supportive in much the same way, as has Dr. Nissen."

Lucy now wears two Phonak Nadia hearing aids. "My hearing aids are instrumental in helping me communicate with others. Studies show that lipreading alone would only give me about 30 percent of the information from a conversation," she says. "Adding hearing aids to the mix makes the world much more accessible to me, from carrying on conversations with



Lucy Crabtree, far right, with Lisa Caravello, practice development coordinator and her daughters, Merissa and Audrey, at an HLAA picnic.

co-workers, to spending time with friends. And, music has always had a special place in my heart. If I didn't have my hearing aids, I never would have been exposed to Les Miserables, and what a tragedy that would be!"

After having been a patient of Associated Audiologists for 27 years, Lucy says she can't imagine going anywhere else for her hearing health care. "I just can't say enough good things about the practice. I have had a positive experience with everyone I have ever come in contact with!"

### Join the conversation!



Find us on facebook.

[www.facebook.com/  
hearingyourbest](http://www.facebook.com/hearingyourbest)





# HLAAKC

## Bridges Hearing Loss

Aside from being a patient at Associated Audiologists, Lucy says one of the best things she ever did for herself is to attend a meeting of the Kansas City chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAAKC).

"Dr. Wise used to encourage me to attend meetings for the organization's predecessor, Self-Help for the Hard of Hearing," Lucy admits. "I always resisted because I was a high school and college student. I had visions of being the youngest person there, plus I was in denial for a long time that my hearing loss was something that needed a support group."

Then, about four years ago Lucy went to a meeting at a friend's urging, and has been involved ever since. HLAA's mission is to provide support, education, information and advocacy for people with hearing loss and their families. Events are aimed at educating and sharing information about things

like cochlear implants, captioning and mental health for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

"The goal of our social events is to provide a comfortable space to get together and just be with other people who get what it's like to live with hearing loss," Lucy says. "We also work on advocacy projects in Kansas City, particularly with regard to captioning."

Lucy is passionate about the group and wants to spread the word about HLAA to others with hearing loss. "It's easy for people with hearing loss to become isolated and withdrawn," Lucy says. "I want them to know there is a group out there for them."

"Being hard of hearing is a lonely place to be—you're not hearing the way the rest of your friends and family are, but neither are you culturally deaf," Lucy describes. "Being hard of hearing feels like a bit of a



Other helpful links include:

Blog:  
<http://hlaakc.com>

Email:  
[hlaakc@gmail.com](mailto:hlaakc@gmail.com)

HLAA website:  
<http://hearingloss.org>

no-man's-land sometimes, but it doesn't have to be! Through HLAA I've gained confidence, learned practical tips and advice from other people with hearing loss and discovered many opportunities to advocate for the deaf and hard of hearing community. I'd love to see others be encouraged and inspired by HLAA the way I have been! We always have room for more visitors and volunteers at our events, so we'd love to see some new faces!"

**For more information about HLAAC, including meeting dates, times and locations, visit the group's Facebook page at [facebook.com/hlaakc](https://facebook.com/hlaakc).**



## STAFF NEWS

### Dr. Flowers Featured as Guest Editor in Prestigious Journal



Congratulations to **Laura Flowers, Au.D., FAAA**, our Tinnitus and Sound Sensitivity Manager, who is a guest editor for the prestigious *Seminars in Hearing Journal*, a publication for audiology professionals.

The quarterly review journal publishes topic-specific issues in the field of audiology, including areas such as hearing loss, auditory disorders and psychoacoustics.



### Larry Retires

**Larry Ruder, M.A., FAAA**, officially retired from practice at the end of May and celebrated at the Aboretum with co-workers, family and friends. Larry will continue to assist us with our staffing needs, filling in when others are on vacation or family leave. We wish Larry and his wife Ginny the best!



### Welcome!

Welcome to our new externs, **Lindsey Pacey**, a student with the University of Kansas Medical Center; and **Danielle Soerens**, a student at Northern Illinois



Lindsey Pacey



Danielle Soerens

University. Lindsey will be assisting with patients in our Shawnee Mission clinic, and Danielle with patients at our Overland Park and Prairie Village clinics. They will be with us for the next year and anticipate graduating in May 2015.

### Dr. Steele Shares Expertise

**Tim Steele, Ph.D., FAAA**, President, Associated Audiologists, was recently featured in *The Hearing Journal* discussing the new made-for-iPhone hearing aid, LiNX from ReSound.



### Headed North!

**Associated Audiologists is expanding** this fall to serve patients north of the river near the Zona Rosa shopping district and Saint Luke's North. Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks!

### As Seen on KCTV-5

**Sam Bittel, Au.D., FAAA**, Vestibular Program Director, was recently featured on KCTV-5 with Karen Fuller, anchor, discussing the new rotary chair and how it's used to diagnose dizziness and balance disorders.



**Stacey Baldwin, Au.D., FAAA**, Senior Audiologist and Clinical Systems Manager, was interviewed by Fuller about preventing hearing loss during Fourth of July displays.



### Good Luck to Dr. Gonzales

**Tammy Gonzales, Au.D., FAAA**, Dizziness and Balance Specialist, is leaving Associated Audiologists and moving to Topeka, Kan. to be closer to family. Dr. Gonzales joined the practice in 2012 following her externship and graduation from the University of Kansas Medical Center. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors!



### Grass Roots Lobbying

Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins met with **Dr. Steele** and **Dr. Smith** at the Leavenworth clinic of Associated Audiologists recently. The meeting was part of a grass roots effort to improve access and coverage for audiology services for Medicare beneficiaries.



To take advantage of our summer battery sale, use the coupon below.

# Get More Life from Your Hearing Aid Batteries

Hearing aids have made significant advances in recent years, but many of those advances require more power, and more powerful hearing aid batteries.



The professional line of batteries carried by Associated Audiologists are mercury-free and can power the newest hearing instruments, compared with over-the-counter batteries you might purchase in drugstore chains, at shopping clubs or online.

These professional batteries work best with the digital technology and wireless connectivity features found in high-performing hearing aids. This means that although less expensive batteries are available, you may end up spending more to power your hearing aids for an equal amount of time. In addition, less expensive batteries can negatively affect the performance of your hearing aids. Be sure to talk with your audiologist about which batteries work best with your hearing aids.

## BATTERY SALE

# Half Price

Sizes 10, 13, 312 – one 48 pack per person.  
Size 675 – one 40 pack per person.

**While supplies last.**

*Exp. 9/30/2014*



## GET MORE LIFE FROM YOUR BATTERIES

- ▶ Before putting your batteries in your hearing aid, remove the sticker and expose them to the air for at least 60 seconds. This charges the battery and can help you get 25 to 30 percent longer life from your batteries.
- ▶ Turn your hearing aids off at night, and when not in use. Opening the battery door completely may also help extend battery life and allow contacts to stay dry.
- ▶ Batteries frequently have a longer shelf life when stored at room temperature. Don't keep them in the refrigerator and keep them out of direct sunlight or heat.
- ▶ An inexpensive battery tester is a good way to check your hearing aid battery's life.
- ▶ Always keep spare batteries with you.

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## Hearing Your Best

### Associated Audiologists Helps Former KSU Athletic Director Hear His Best

**W**hen 75-year-old Max Urick began to experience hearing loss a few years ago, his first response was like millions of others—he ignored it.

But the former Kansas State University athletic director eventually grew weary of asking people to repeat themselves. After visiting several audiology practices in the Manhattan area, he found Sam Gillespie, Au.D., FAAA, Senior Audiologist with Associated Audiologists' Manhattan Clinic.

Dr. Gillespie conducted comprehensive diagnostic testing, then fit Urick with two discreet behind-the-ear digital hearing aids packed with the latest technology. Today, Urick is enjoying everything from the sounds of his eight grandchildren's voices, to the announcers at KSU athletic events.

"I wanted to regain as much of my hearing as I possibly could," Urick says. "My experience with Associated Audiologists and Dr. Gillespie has been life-changing. I'm glad I found him!"

**Call the office nearest you for additional information.**