

Academy's Future Leaders of Audiology Conference

September 25–27, 2008

To the Editor:

With one voice, the attendees of the 2008 Future Leaders of Audiology Conference (FLAC) would like to express our sincere appreciation to the American Academy of Audiology for the opportunity to participate in this career-changing event. In bringing together 16 audiologists from a wide variety of careers and backgrounds with a distinguished faculty, the Academy has once again demonstrated its commitment to the future of our profession and to the overarching goal of providing the highest level of hearing and balance health care for Americans.

Assembling a diverse group of audiologists from across the country brought forth widely differing opinions and ideas, and we were consistently impressed by the willingness of the Academy staff and faculty to consider and incorporate that diversity. Similarly, it was impressive to recognize the degree of commitment and sheer quantity of work undertaken and accomplished on the behalf of audiologists by the Academy staff and Board of Directors.


Our experiences in Reston, Virginia, and on Capitol Hill in the midst of the financial crisis further illustrated the importance of the Academy's efforts on the behalf of audiologists across the country and their potential impact on audiologists around the world. As



the world watched the news feeds from Washington, we were reminded of the importance of the efforts of the Academy's Political Action Committee (PAC) in shaping political opinion toward recognition of the effects of audiology on the health and quality of life of our patients. Continued strong leadership by the Academy, conscientious decision-making by our members, and increased political influence in Washington through the Political Action Committee will surely lead to the continued growth and success of our profession.

We would also like to use this forum to thank all of the members of the Academy for their day-to-day

efforts to improve the lives of our patients and to further the profession. We remind our colleagues across the country that the resources of the Academy are at their disposal and of the impact of small gestures performed by a large number of people. Whether in the form of a brief letter to a state or federal representative, a visit to a career fair, a small donation to the PAC, or a myriad of other contributions, all work toward increased community awareness of audiology and continued recruitment of bright young minds to the profession.

In the words of Helen Keller, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." 

Respectfully, and with thanks to, and hope for, the Academy and profession, **The FLAC Alumni of 2008**

M. Bailey, S. Banerjee, M. Brudereck, L. Christensen, K. Curtis, S. Dhar, S. Draplin, J.A. Dundas, G. Fike, B. Fligor, J. Helmbrecht, K. Huckabay, C. Kaspar, S. Luongo, S. Burt, and C. Trueheart.