

Board Members and Advisors - Profiles

Board Members

Martha Harney, M.S., CCC-A - Martha Harney is an Audiology Clinical Supervisor and Lecturer in the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences at the University of Washington. Her expertise is in Audiological Assessment, Amplification and Aural Rehabilitation. Martha has been employed for 13 years in the University. Her primary work is to mentor audiology graduate students within the University of Washington Speech and Hearing Clinic. She is departmental practicum coordinator, advising AuD students within their clinical rotations and acting as liaison to institutions that provide externship positions. Martha is onsite director of the NW Lions Foundation Hearing Aid Bank at the University of Washington. Martha was employed previously for a decade with Group Health Cooperative providing adult and pediatric diagnostic and amplification services.

Martha's volunteer work has included organizing local fund raisers for international concerns. Martha also previously worked as a Peace Corps volunteer in Africa to provide audiology services to deaf and hard of hearing children, serving within the Kenya Society for Deaf Children. Martha holds her B.A. from San Jose State University and her M.S. in Audiology from the University of Washington. She is a member of the American Speech, Language and Hearing Association, American Academy of Audiology and the Washington Society of Audiology.

Verna Kilic, MS, SLP – Verna Kilic is a speech-language pathologist, who is currently a stay-at-home mother of three children. She obtained her MS in speech-language pathology from the University of Washington, and has worked as a clinical speech pathologist at Group Health and Learning and Language Services. Her special interests are child language acquisition, learning disabilities and second language acquisition, cultural learning, and health education. In addition to English, she speaks Turkish, her husband's language of origin. Verna is currently a board member of Listen and Talk, a private, non-profit program for hearing impaired and deaf infants and children in Seattle, Washington.

Fred D. Minifie, Ph.D: Fred Minifie, Ph.D. is Professor Emeritus of Speech and Hearing Sciences, at the University of Washington where he served for 29 years, including eleven years as Department Chair. He previously taught at the University of Wisconsin for 8 years. He has authored five books about speech and hearing, including the seminal textbook (with Hixon and Williams), "Normal Aspects of Speech, Hearing, and Language", and has published over 60 scientific and professional articles in national and international journals. Fred's prolific research career has been supported by numerous grants from the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and the US Department of Education.



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As President of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association in 1983, Fred directed this enormous organization through one of its most formative periods, and he continues to serve as an advisor to the Association. Fred has served as President of both the American Speech-Language Hearing Foundation and the Council of Graduate Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders. His contributions have been widely recognized with many honors and awards, including most notably the Honors of the Association, awarded by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association in 1990, the Honors of the Council of Graduate Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders, the 2000 Golden Ear Drum Award by the Virginia Merrill Bloedel Hearing Research Center, and as the Outstanding Graduate from the University of Iowa, Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology.

Since his retirement in 2000, Fred has produced a number of instructional animations on the physiology of speech and hearing mechanisms. He is also a past President of the Northwest Lions Foundation for Sight and Hearing, and past President and current member of the University Lions Club in Seattle. During 2008-2009, Fred is chairing a fundraising campaign for the Lions Clubs of Washington, Northern Idaho and British Columbia to help families in Bolivia earn enough money to keep their children from having to work in the mines.

Richard Pepe – Rich Pepe is the founder and CEO of Pepe International, a consortium of restaurant, wine, travel, and hospitality businesses based in Carmel, California. Rich is a self-made entrepreneur, executive chef, and restaurateur who owns several properties including Peppoli restaurant at Pebble Beach, Little Napoli "Bistro Italiano", Carmel Bakery, and Pepe Winery, among others. He is involved with many community and civic organizations such as the YMCA and Boys and Girls Club. An avid tennis player and coach, he has volunteered with the US Deaf Sports Federation and coached the tennis teams since 1989 in international competitions including the Deaf Olympics in Sofia Bulgaria '93 and Copenhagen, Denmark '97, Rome, Italy '01, plus three Dresse and Maere Cups.

Paige Stringer: Paige Stringer has 12 years of corporate marketing experience, including managerial positions held at the Clorox Company and Amazon.com. Her expertise is in brand marketing, communications, sponsorship, product management, and business development. She holds a patent for a product that she helped launch while at Amazon. She now provides freelance marketing and public relations services to companies in the travel industry and is a published travel writer. Paige is currently Vice President of the Board of Directors at Listen and Talk, an auditory-verbal program in Washington State that provides early intervention, pre-school, and pre-K programs and services for children with hearing loss and their families. She is also a University Lions Club member in Seattle and serves on the Board of Directors for Wrestling the World, a non-profit entity committed to humanitarian projects around the world. Previously, Paige was Vice President of the Board for the University of Washington Young Alumni Association, and served on the Board of Directors for the University of Washington's Big W Scholar-Athlete Alumni Club.

Paige was born hard-of-hearing and wears two hearing aids, but thanks to early intervention programs and strong family and teacher support, grew up in mainstream hearing society and attended regular

schools throughout her academic career. She holds a B.A. from the University of Washington where she was a scholarship athlete on the women's tennis team, and a M.A. from the University of San Francisco.

Terrance Stringer, MBA: Terry Stringer has over 30 years experience in the petroleum industry including the positions of vice-president and executive vice-president of publically traded and privately held companies and their subsidiaries such as Chevron and TOSCO, including three years international trading out of England. Now retired, Terry continues to offer his expertise to small and medium-size companies by providing financial and general business consulting services. Terry is a former Board member of Amgen Corporation and Tri-Valley Corporation and a current Board member of ConvertCoal, Inc. He has non-profit experience with Business Volunteers for the Arts-Los Angeles, Rebuilding Together Orange County, and Youth for Understanding-USA. Terry holds a BS in Chemical Engineering from the University of Illinois and an MBA from UCLA with an emphasis in Finance, and also served as a US Naval Officer for nearly six years.

Sharron Stringer Baggs: During her professional career, Sharron Stringer Baggs was employed by Pacific Bell and PHH HomeEquity, before retiring from Bank of America as Vice President and Global Risk Manager responsible for mitigating the banking risks related to large syndicated credits initiated by Fortune 1000 clients. Sharron has been involved with many nonprofit and charitable organizations over the years, including Junior League of the Oakland-East Bay, Board of Directors of Viewpoint School (Calabasas, California), the Agoura-Calabasas Special Education Consortium, and Moraga (California) School District. She presently serves as Secretary for the Board of Directors at Anacortes Senior College. She has a BA in History and Political Science from the University of San Diego. Sharron is the proud mother of two daughters and grandmother of two grandsons.

Mary Tait- Mary Tait is a Washington State K-8 certified elementary education teacher. Mary has worked for the Lake Stevens School District for the past ten years, specializing in highly capable education for 2nd through 5th grade children. During this time, her classes have consistently tested top in the district and placed in the top ten percentile in the state. Prior to entering a career in education, Mary worked as a Compliance Officer at the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) in Overland Park, KS and Washington State University (WSU) in Pullman, WA, where she had to deal with student-athletes and sports' administrators/management on a daily basis helping them navigate the complex sports law that governs modern collegiate sports.

Mary holds two Masters Degrees from Eastern Washington University and Gonzaga University. While earning a BA from the University of Washington, Mary was recognized as "University of Washington Female-Athlete of the Year" and held the top position on the woman's tennis team. Mary is also hard-of-hearing, wears two hearing aids and is blessed to have had such wonderful parents, teachers and administrators in both the private and public sectors of education. Mary is always looking for opportunities to help deaf children through some of the challenges they face in growing up in society with hearing impairments.



Board Advisors

Nancy Hatfield, PhD - Nancy Hatfield is the Director, Early Childhood for Washington Sensory Disabilities Services (WSDS). She was the creative catalyst for effective Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) programs in Washington State and has worked with WSDS since 1992 to enhance statewide capacity to meet the needs of children and young adults with sensory disabilities. She co-directs the deaf-blind project, as well as functioning as administrative director of WSDS staff and grants based at the Puget Sound Educational Service District. Nancy's prior work experience includes early intervention services for families with infants and toddlers who are deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind. She wrote grants for ECHO (Early Childhood Hearing Outreach to Early Head Start programs) and early intervention training programs for the Washington State Department of Health and the Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services. Nancy holds a B.A. in Speech Pathology/ Audiology and a M.S. and Ph.D. in Education and Human Development.

Nikki Maziasz- Nikki Maziasz is a retired Senior Vice President & Regional Manager of Wells Fargo Bank, where she served for 31 years with numerous assignments in consumer banking, commercial lending and real estate construction lending. In her last 15 years with the bank, she was a Regional Manager responsible for approximately \$1 billion of construction loans to real estate developers in Northern California, northern Nevada and Utah. She has been an active board member in many non-profit endeavors including: United Way, March of Dimes, Salvation Army, and the Family Stress Center. She currently serves on the Board of Holy Names University and the Kennedy-King Scholarship Foundation. Nikki holds a BA in Business Administration from Holy Names University.

Lori Mercer, Ph.D, CCC-A – Lori Mercer owns Northgate Hearing Services, a private practice in audiology in Seattle, Washington. She obtained her BA degree in Communication Disorders from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, her MA in Audiology from Washington State University, and her clinical Doctorate degree in Audiology from the Arizona School of Health Sciences. Lori has practiced audiology since 1987 and has been in private practice since 1994. Previously, she worked in a multidiscipline medical practice and as a public school audiologist. Lori is a member of the Academy of Dispensing Audiologists, American Academy of Audiology, Washington Society of Audiology, and Washington Audiology Alliance.

Suzanne Quigley Ph.D, CCC-A – Suzanne Quigley is the Executive Director of Listen and Talk, an auditory-verbal program in Washington State that provides early intervention, pre-school, and pre-K programs and services for children with hearing loss and their families. Suzanne holds her BA in Audiology from The George Washington University, her MS in Audiology from Columbia University, and her Ph.D. in Hearing Sciences from the University of Washington. From 1991-2000 she was Director of Audiology and Director of Cochlear Implants at Virginia Mason Medical Center. During that time, Suzanne was also a clinical and associate professor at the University of Washington, focusing on areas of aural rehabilitation. She is an elected official on the Lake Stevens city council, serves on the Board of Directors for the Lake Stevens Education Foundation, and is a member of the University Lions Club in



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Seattle. She is past President of the Lake Stevens Concerned Citizens and a founding member of Academic Beginnings for Children.

Judith Simser O.Ont, B.Ed., Dip. Ed. Deaf, Cert. AVT – Judy Simser is an internationally-acclaimed speaker on the education of children with hearing loss and the former director of the Auditory-Verbal Program at the Children's Hospital in Ottawa, Canada. She also worked in Taiwan for six years, where she established two Auditory-Verbal clinics serving over 1,000 families and trained 36 teachers. Judy also spent a year training Auditory-Verbal therapists from Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Indonesia, and developed an auditory-verbal center at the Singapore General Hospital. She now resides in Ottawa where she continues to serve as an international consultant on childhood hearing loss and is an ambassador for the AG Bell Association. A past president of Auditory-Verbal International and recipient of the AG Bell International Teacher of the Year Award, Judy has also been recognized for her contributions to the profession with the Canadian Commemorative Medal and the prestigious Order of Ontario. Judy has contributed to many publications and is the parent of a son with a profound hearing loss who is currently practicing law.