

2016 ONE FELL SWOOP

By Doris Gordon

As we come to the close of 2016, ACAE takes stock of what took place and what was accomplished over the course of the year. Although these past 12 months flew by, there were two major happenings that the ACAE Board of Directors enthusiastically approved.

The first was a board action to approve ACAE's Educational Standards in March 2016, a multi-year project that resulted in a rigorous and high-quality set of standards. We wrote about them extensively in publications before and after their approval, especially emphasizing two features as follows:

- They were written exclusively for doctoral-level audiologists, and
- They were written with an eye towards the future, meaning that an incoming class in 2020 would be ready to learn (didactically and clinically) the most up-to-date science-based knowledge, skills, and abilities related to the audiology profession.

Also, last summer, the 2016 standards were incorporated into ACAE's web-based platform and will be ready for programs to use in March 2017, one year from the time of approval and when the standards officially go into effect. In addition, numerous documents were updated to reflect the 2016 standards.

The second was an event that was a first for ACAE. Early in 2015, the board approved hosting an inaugural Clinical Education Forum at AudiologyNOW!® 2016 in Phoenix, Arizona. Several related organizations—the American Board of Audiology (ABA), Council of Academic Programs in Communications Sciences and Disorders (CAPCSD), and American Speech-Language and Hearing Association (ASHA)—provided updates about their organizations, and 14 audiology leaders gave presentations about innovative and best practices in clinical education.

Three sponsors—Audigy, ReSound, and Fuel Medical—joined forces to subsidize the forum, noting it was an exciting, timely, and critical topic for faculty and clinical educators to discuss. Over 110 people attended and actively interacted with the

presenters throughout a four-hour morning session.

In an effort to continue the forum's momentum, the presenters provided brief abstracts of their presentations for publication in the July/August and September/October issues of *Audiology Today*. In this issue, November/December, Dr. Sumitrajit Dhar provides his full presentation in a feature article, titled "The ABCs of Innovation: Aspirations, Balance and Creativity." Please take the time to read it.

Accreditation is always our priority, and this year, two new programs started the accreditation process and began working steadily to complete their profiles and self-studies.

The ACAE board also started work on several other significant tasks, the details of which will be announced in the first quarter of 2017. Stay tuned.

In addition, the ACAE board announces a Call for Nominations for ACAE board membership in 2017. Members will serve a full, three-year term and, afterward, extend it (on approval of the board) for another three years. Nomination forms can be found on ACAE's website, www.acaeccred.org. We greatly look forward to hearing from interested parties.

This concludes a summary of ACAE's major activities, all of which have taken place in one fell swoop. Please be in touch at info@acaeccred.org if you have questions. 📧

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