



# Have You Heard?

SPRING 2010

**903-592-3666**

Visit our website for  
more information:

**www.enttyler.com**

## AUDIOLOGISTS

Janice Richbourg, Au.D., CCC-A

Laurie Hicks, M.S., CCC-A

Mary K. Roberts, M.A., CCC-A

Sean Lowery, Au.D., CCC-A

Lesley Lee, Au.D., CCC-A

## AUDIOPROSTHOLOGIST

Fred Beam, H.I.S., ACA

## SUPPORT STAFF

Marilyn Russell

Shannon Letsinger

## Walk-In Hours:

Wednesdays 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Fridays 7:00 - 9:00 a.m.

## Meet the Hearing Aid & Balance Center Staff

This is a continuation of our series to introduce our staff on a more personal level. In our last newsletter, we introduced our support staff. The remaining six members of our team include our five audiologists and one hearing aid dispenser. Below is an introduction to three members of that team:

**Janice Richbourg Au.D., CCC/A** has been at ENT Associates for almost eight years. She is the director of audiology, and received her doctorate of audiology from Texas Tech University. Janice divides her time among hearing aid consultations, diagnostic testing, vestibular testing, and administrative duties.

Janice is a newlywed; she and her husband, Daniel, spend a lot of their time with family and playing with their two dogs, Hogan and Claire. Their energetic dogs need lots of exercise and, since the weather has turned cold, they have gotten this extra exercise by walking the dogs on the treadmill (and we have pictures to prove it)! Janice devotes the remainder of her spare time to her favorite hobbies—cooking and baking—and our staff is always happy to be the “testers” of Janice’s home-made goodies!

**Laurie Hicks, M.S. CCC/A** is an audiologist with 25 years of experience, and she has spent the last six years at ENT Associates. Laurie works at the clinic on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. She divides her time between diagnostic testing and vestibular testing.



**(From left) Janice Richbourg, Fred Beam, and Laurie Hicks**

Laurie has a wonderful husband and a daughter, Sarah, who is currently enrolled at the University of Houston. She also has two dogs, named Coffee and Callie. Laurie and her husband, Tracy, put in long hours with work and family—to recharge their batteries, they take annual vacations. Although the location changes from year to year, it always has a beach nearby!

**Fred Beam, H.I.S., ACA** is our hearing aid dispenser. Fred joined our team in 2004, and he commits his time in the office solely to hearing aids. Fred has a lovely wife, Tamara, who devotes her time to their two children, seven-year-old Amielia, and three-year-old Peter.

Fred is active in his church through Bible studies and dramatic presentations. Fred and his family love to vacation at the beach, and even rode out hurricane Humberto while vacationing in Galveston! We are so lucky to have such an energetic and colorful team member! If you ever wonder about the bold color choices Fred makes for his shirts & ties or his endless energy...yes, his wife buys his clothes, and, yes, we try to limit his caffeine as best we can!

## Advances in Hearing Aids

Technology is constantly changing and improving; these days, it seems to grow by leaps and bounds! Like computers and cell phones, new hearing aid models are released almost every year. Hearing aid features are added and expanded, which improve the benefits to users like you. Generally speaking, hearing aids have a life expectancy of about five years, but advances in technology can make a hearing aid obsolete in only three years.

There are many new hearing aid features, providing immense benefits to patients by allowing improved communication and usability. Many hearing aid manufacturers have improved the use of hearing aids in conjunction with land-line telephones—some hearing aid models

now have the ability to transmit a caller's voice directly to both hearing aids simultaneously. This means that if you answer the phone with the left ear, the hearing aid will automatically switch into a telephone program and place the caller's voice in both the left and right ears. This helps the hearing aid user hear phone conversations much more effectively, and hopefully allows those with hearing loss to stay in contact with loved ones more easily.

Another improvement to hearing aids is the addition of a tinnitus masking feature. Tinnitus is a ringing, roaring, or cricket sound in the ears that is often more prominent in quiet situations. Several new hearing aid models have a tinnitus masking feature included, which can vary from one manufacturer to another. One manufacturer may

offer a manual program that masks tinnitus with music or white noise, while another manufacturer may increase the frequency range to try to alleviate ringing in the ears.

All of the advances in technology provide the benefits of better communication and ease of use to hearing aid users. If you would like more information about the advances in hearing aids and the benefits they could provide to you, please call our office at 903-592-3666 to schedule an appointment.

**The highest compliment you can give our practice is the referral of your family and friends!**



- Meet the Staff
- Advances in Hearing Aids

### INSIDE:

ENT Associates of East Texas  
Hearing Aid & Balance Center  
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