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Presentation by Paul Niswander on March 2 **“The Roots of Audiology”**

An innovator in the field of audiology, Paul S. Niswander will deliver his Torch paper, “The Roots of Audiology,” to the Columbus Torch Club on March 2. Audiology has been defined in various ways, but the definition Paul likes best is: “Audiology is the branch of science and medicine concerned with the sense of hearing.”

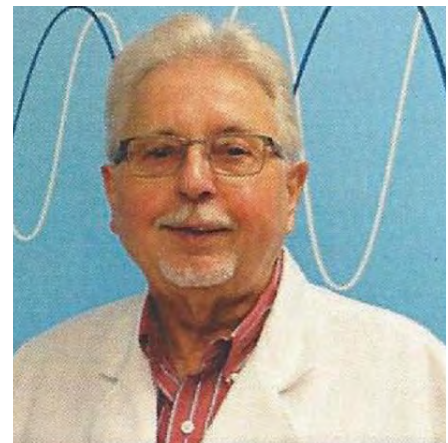
“Audiology is the child of World War II and was largely a product of the Big Ten Universities, Northwestern and Iowa specifically,” Paul reports. “Yet the foundations of audiology date back to the turn of the century and, to some extent, even before. Physicists, physicians, engineers and psychologists contributed to the body of knowledge that was to become audiology.”

Paul maintains Interest in the anatomy and function of the ear goes back to the ancient Greeks. By 1900, a great deal was known about the anatomy of the ear. However, until Deforest invented the vacuum tube in 1906, actual knowledge of hearing was not well understood.

“Prior to 1900, controlled sources of sound were not readily available,” Paul says. “Once the vacuum tube entered the picture, control of sound intensity and frequency was possible for the study of hearing and classification of hearing loss.”

He notes that Bell Labs and the Harvard Psycho-Acoustic Lab provided a wealth of information on hearing and its disorders. The audiogram, the audiometer, the first hearing aids, standardized lists for speech recognition testing and even the term “audiology” all came from these particular sites.

Paul’s Torch paper will cover these areas and, perhaps, shed some light on hearing disorders and their management.



Paul S. Niswander

Biography of Paul S. Niswander



Paul S. Niswander has been practicing audiology for more than 45 years. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from The Ohio State University, majoring in electrical engineering and physics.

He completed master's and Ph.D. degrees at Michigan State University. While a graduate student at Michigan State, he completed a summer internship at the Army Medical Labs in Ft. Knox, Kentucky. Following completion of his Ph.D., he completed a three-year post-doctoral fellowship at Northwestern University.

Paul returned to Ohio State in 1971 as an assistant professor. He was promoted to associate professor and granted tenure in 1977. He was director of the audiology clinic at The Nisonger Center and also held a joint appointment as an associate professor in the Department of Pediatrics. He is, perhaps, most proud of his activities in the area of neonatal testing, in which he assisted in the development of a neonatal hearing screening program in the Ohio State Medical Center.

Paul retired in 1995, but he continued teaching and clinical activities until 1999. In 2000, he established a private audiology practice, Professional Hearing Care Services, in Columbus. In 2007 he opened a satellite office in London, OH. He says he plans to retire some day.

In his spare time, Paul likes to read, watch interesting programs on PBS, attend symphony concerts in Columbus, Cincinnati and Cleveland, and attend professional meetings when his expenses are paid. He also accompanies his wife to the casino, where her wins usually balance his losses.

President's message: Looking ahead

It's not quite spring, but our unusually mild winter has already turned our thoughts in that direction. In addition to what a young man (not me) is supposed to think about, we always see spring as a time of new beginnings. As an economist, this reminds me of one of the firmest principles in economic theory – sunk cost.

Sunk cost means a cost that has already been incurred, and thus cannot be affected by any decision. One of the most typical fallacies in economic decisions is to base them on sunk cost: "We've already put so much into this that we can't back out now..." Economic logic suggests instead that we should ask, given the current situation, what are the optimal choices going forward – precisely because we can't go back and change the sunk cost. The things we've already done may have changed the opportunities for us in the future, but the decisions are about the future, not the past.

It is very nice at this hopeful time of year to realize that not only are we looking forward to the promise of spring, but we're also focused on the future, making us good economists in the process.

I hope that getting together with your Torch colleagues is one of the things that brings you pleasure this spring!



Jeff Caswell

Member's Moment – Virginia A. Gauthier

Presented by Joan R. Leitzel on February 2, 2017

It's my privilege to take a few minutes this evening to highlight some of the exceptional achievements and contributions of our Torch member, Virginia (Cherpak) Gauthier. Ginny grew up in New Britain, Conn., so she's a real Connecticut Yankee. Her grandparents came to this country from a farming area of Slovakia. Her grandmother was a teacher. Ginny's father was very interested in medicine and completed a pre-med program, but in time he, too, ended up a teacher, a teacher of middle school science.

By the time Ginny was a teenager, her interests in children and their learning were already apparent; by age 16, she was working with young kids in a local day camp and a couple years later she worked summers in the New Britain City Parks. She was able to go to college right there in her own hometown at Central Connecticut State University. She earned both her baccalaureate and her master's degrees in elementary education there. And, while she was a graduate student, her department already had her in a faculty role, teaching at the university's laboratory school.



Joan Leitzel (left) presented the Member's Moment for Ginny Gauthier at the Torch Club meeting February 2.

It happened that at Ginny's freshman orientation at the university she met Howard Gauthier, an upperclassman studying history and economics. In a couple years, Howard graduated and was off to Northwestern for his Ph.D. studies, which turned out to focus in the area of regional economic development and transportation infrastructure. As he worked on his dissertation, Howard obtained a significant grant to study those issues in Kenya, but in time it became clear that the wars in Kenya would make travel there impossible. Fortunately, he was able to redirect his research to Brazil and get grant support to work there.

You won't be surprised when I tell you that Howard and Ginny continued their relationship following their initial meeting; six years later in 1961 they married and then

quickly headed for Brazil where they lived for more than a year. During that time, Ginny became an expert on all things Latin American. She did not teach while they were there, but when they returned to Northwestern for the last phase of Howard's studies, she did teach in a Chicago suburb and also undertook some further graduate study. When Howard finished, they hopped over to Rutgers for a few months on a special project, and in 1963 they settled into Columbus, Ohio, and The Ohio State University.

Soon Ginny was teaching first grade in Bexley. Before long she, with others, obtained a significant four-year grant to develop a program for children with reading difficulties. This program proved to be so

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Member's Moment – Virginia A. Gauthier

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important in the Bexley schools that the district maintained it for many years.

Another thing that Ginny, the designer, accomplished early on was to work with an architect to plan their home in Upper Arlington and get it built and furnished by 1966. For 50 years that house has served the Gauthier family very, very well. The family came to include daughter Nicole and son Greg. Nicole and her husband now live in Nevada with their daughter and son; Greg and his wife now live in Wisconsin with their daughter and son. (Greg is a faculty member in the Medical School at the University of Wisconsin; his research is focused in the area of biogenetics.) Both of these families find their way to Columbus rather often – to decorate the Christmas tree and to claim their parts of a house that clearly is the Gauthier home.

Over the years, being a homeowner has cultivated in Ginny a strong interest in landscaping, flowers, and outdoor beauty. In 2003, she earned special community recognition for her work in this area. She received Upper Arlington's Gardening Award for the city's best front yard landscaping and floral display.

The Gauthiers' interest in other countries and other cultures has never lessened. They have now visited 54 different countries, some for extended time – and Brazil is always a favorite. One of Ginny's foci in these places each time is the food and the recipes. Without a doubt, she is an everyday gourmet cook back here in her Columbus kitchen.

I probably don't need to tell you that this individual, who always helps with name tags and information at our Torch meetings, is a very consistent, hard-working volunteer with Columbus organizations. When the children were young, it was Cub Scouts, Campfire Girls, band parents, volunteering in the schools. And then The Ohio State University Women's Club (for which she was president), her Gourmet Group (for which she was chair), and The Ohio State University Medical Center's Service Organization (for which she was president and a leader in their important fundraising campaign in 2000).

Clearly, I don't have time to share all of the Ginny Gauthier stories I know you'd enjoy, but I anticipate you'll want to have conversations with her. Let me suggest four areas where she has much to share:

- Children and their learning: ways to improve learning opportunities for students.
- International travel: the most interesting parts of our world and where to find the best food.
- Gardening: how to get those flowers to grow and how to make the front yard attractive.
- Volunteering: where investments of your time and talents can make a meaningful difference.

I know you agree that we're very fortunate to have Ginny Gauthier as a member of Torch, and I also know you'll enjoy your future conversations with her.

Volunteer needed to create website for Columbus Torch Club

The Columbus Torch Club is interested in having a relatively simple website with information about the club, Torch papers, and monthly newsletters. Steve Sterrett, editor of *The Torch Lighter*, is willing to maintain and update content on the website once it is created. If there is a club member or other volunteer willing to create the website, please contact Steve at (614) 262-4586 or sterrett.1@osu.edu. You can find links to several other Torch club websites through the International Association of Torch Clubs' website at <http://www.torch.org>.

Responding to the Evite from Secretary Seelbach

Club secretary Thom Seelbach will send you via electronic mail an Evite to attend the Torch Club meeting on March 2. Respond promptly to the Evite so he will have an accurate count of meals needed. You also may respond to him at tseelbach@gmail.com or (614) 457-5103.

The directions for responding to the Evite are:

1. After you click on the email from Evite, it will bring up a new window on the Evite website. You must click your response in this new window for Evite to register your response.
2. The guest count is the actual number of attendees. If only you are attending, the count will be 1. The cost for a guest to attend the meeting and dinner is \$30.

Schedule of Torch Club speakers and their papers for 2016-17

Thursday, October 6, 2016

“The Gifted, Resiliency, and Brain Plasticity” by Bruce Kline and Elizabeth Short

Thursday, November 3, 2016

“Stevenson’s Dentist – Unsung Hero” by Robert Stevenson

Thursday, December 1, 2016

“Seasonal Music from the Old and New Worlds” performed by the Early Interval

Thursday, January 5, 2017

“Marketing Opportunities to Improve Sorghum Farmers’ Incomes in East Africa” by Don Larson

Thursday, February 2, 2017

“Hey, Bernie! No, No!” By Thomas Atzberger

Thursday, March 2, 2017

“The Roots of Audiology” by Paul Niswander

Thursday, April 6, 2017

“Is There Honor in Honor Societies?” by Diane Selby

Thursday, May 4, 2017

“Mr. Lincoln’s News Paper” by Violet Meek

Torch Club’s monthly meeting agenda

4:30-5:30 p.m. Board of Directors meeting

5:30-6:15 p.m. Cocktails and conversation

6:15-6:35 p.m. Business matters

6:35-7:30 p.m. Speaker presents Torch paper

7:30-8:45 p.m. Dinner and table discussion

Meetings are conducted in The Ohio State University Faculty Club, 181 S. Oval Drive; (614) 292-2262.

Board of Directors of Torch Club of Columbus, Ohio, for 2016-17

President – Jeff Caswell

President-Elect – Rich Davis

Past President – Don Dell

Secretary – Thomas M. Seelbach

Assistant Secretary – Susan Warren Smith

Treasurer – Howard Gauthier

Assistant Treasurer – Tom Costantiello

Membership Chair – Dorothy E. Driskell

Fellowship Chair – Violet Meek

Nominating Chair – Don Dell

Newsletter Editor – Stephen A. Sterrett

Director-at-Large – Violet Meek (2018)

Director-at-Large – Pat Smith (2018)

Director-at-Large – Dorothy Driskell (2017)

Director-at-Large – Stephen A. Sterrett (2017)