

# Clarke Hearing News



Hearing news you can use!

Spring 2010

## Welcome to Our First Newsletter!

Knowledge is power, so we hope to empower you with information about hearing, hearing loss and hearing health care. We will keep you up to date with what's going on here at Clarke Hearing Center and in the field of audiology. In today's technological world, changes and improvements abound, so we'll use our newsletters to bring you information about new hearing technology and options. We're always looking to improve our services to you and to the community, and we have some exciting events planned for the coming year.

So watch for your quarterly newsletter — we hope you enjoy it!



If you wish to stop receiving this newsletter, please email your request to us at: [chc@clarkeschools.org](mailto:chc@clarkeschools.org)

## Audiologist vs. Hearing Aid Dispenser: What's the Difference?

About eight years of education in hearing and rehabilitation is the main difference. A dispenser is licensed to test hearing solely for the purpose of selecting and fitting hearing aids. An audiologist is educated and trained to prevent, identify, and assess hearing and balance disorders, as well as to provide treatment—including hearing aids and other assistive listening devices.

More than any other hearing care professional, an audiologist understands how the degree of your hearing loss affects your communication with others and your quality of life. Their rehabilitation and technical training results in a more holistic approach to solving hearing problems. Educating and counseling patients and their families about their hearing losses and providing realistic expectations are essential for success with hearing aids.

## Hearing with Background Noise

Clear hearing in background noise is one of the biggest challenges to those with hearing loss. Often, background noise makes it difficult to focus on the relevant sounds. Here are some tips to help you decrease background noise and improve your understanding:

- Ask to be seated in quiet areas in public places like in a booth or away from heavy traffic areas like the front door, kitchen, etc.
- Sit near the front and/or by a speaker in a public-speaking venue.
- Use assistive listening devices whenever possible. Many theaters or venues have ALDs available, but you must request one.
- Relax when in a conversation, don't become tense or nervous if you can't understand, ask the speaker to repeat himself or herself by

stating what you could hear instead of just responding with "What?" Sometimes it is helpful to ask for an unheard statement to be reworded instead of repeated.

- Let your family know that they can help by speaking in a normal tone, looking directly at you, being in close range when talking with you and rephrasing if necessary. Ask them to slow down their rate of speech.
- Don't expect to hear 100% of what is said — even people with normal hearing have some trouble in noise.

If you have any questions about hearing more clearly in background noise, call our office at 413.582.1114 to make an appointment with an audiologist.



45 Round Hill Road  
Northampton, MA 01060

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

413.582.1114

[www.clarkeschools.org/hearing-clinic](http://www.clarkeschools.org/hearing-clinic)

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## Technology Update: Phonak Audéo Smart

The Audéo Smart from Phonak accomplishes what no other hearing system can. The smallest wireless hearing instrument in the world provides the solution to a previously unsolved challenge – Audéo Smart broadens the hearing range, restoring high frequencies so the full spectrum of sounds is audible for all users! In fact, more hearing is just one of its advantages...

- **More Hearing with SoundRecover:** Exclusive to Phonak products, SoundRecover breaks the high frequency barrier and expands audibility, improving speech understanding, as well as awareness of the listening

environment, to significantly improve quality of life.

- **Brilliant Design:** Audéo Smart is designed to match individual lifestyles. Its improved, robust housing is available in 17 fresh color combinations, making it one of the most attractive devices on the market.
- **CORE Performance:** CORE, the Communication Optimized Real-audio Engine, provides unmatched audiological features, including industry benchmarks for automatic functionality, feedback elimination, directional beam-forming and



hearing focus control – not to mention full wireless functionality.

Clarke does not endorse any one particular hearing aid manufacturer and this is not a paid advertisement.

Our spotlighted hearing aid may not be appropriate for every person with hearing loss. Speak with an audiologist, who can help you choose a hearing aid that is appropriate for the type and degree of hearing loss, meets your listening needs, and falls within your hearing healthcare budget.

At Clarke, you are the focus. Don't just take our word for it... Here's what Judith Espinola of South Hadley had to say about her experience at Clarke:

*"The service was totally individualized! I felt as if my Audiologist was mindful of my personal needs and tailored her recommendations accordingly. I wouldn't go anywhere else for audiological services. I am glad Clarke is around!"*

## Clarke Welcomes Dr. Alexander

The Clarke Hearing Center welcomes Dr. Christine Alexander, Au.D. Upon completing her doctorate in audiology at Washington University School for Medicine in St. Louis, Dr. Alexander completed her externship at The New York Eye and Ear Infirmary Hearing and Learning Center in New York City, where she worked with both adult and pediatric patients. Following her externship, she was hired by New York Eye and Ear as a clinical audiologist.

*"I look forward to continuing Clarke's commitment to educating people about hearing loss and providing excellent diagnostic and hearing aid services," stated Dr. Alexander. "It is so rewarding to join a practice with such a strong focus on the care of patients and their families."*