

OLLI@AU

HRING MATTERS

Syllabus

Spring 2022

Thursdays, March 10-April 28, 2022 at 11:45a-1:15p

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“The effects of hearing loss on communications and, as a consequence, social interactions and functional abilities have serious public health implications for adults of all ages.” *National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (2016)*.

The goal of this class is to educate us, as consumers, about hearing to enhance quality of life. We will share experiences, lessons learned, and current information about hearing health; loss; evaluation/audiogram; devices (hearing aids, cochlear implants); hearing assistive technologies (HAT); large area assistive listening systems (ALS); emerging technologies (“hearables,” PSAPS, OTC, DTC aids); communications strategies; Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); and advocacy.

Session 1: Day-to-Day Communications Challenges

- Welcome and introduction
- Ground rules Zoom to ensure all hear one another: “Say What?”
- Review session topics
- My journey and volunteer work with Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) and Network of Consumer Hearing Assistive Technology Trainers (NCHATT)

- Review recent data about hearing loss across various demographics, including increase among young people
- Members introductions, including 1-2 key course expectations
- “Do you think you have a hearing loss?”
- “Tips for a hearing person to communicate with person who has hearing loss.”
- Assign individuals to prioritize challenging hearing situations for next session

Session 2: Applying Communications Strategies

- Discuss situational strategies and tools used and/or considered
- Identify key skills to enhance hearing
- Case study: Restaurant
- Case study: Meeting Room
- Role play advocacy and it’s importance

Session 3: How to Assess Hring

- Guest speaker: Larry Medwetsky, Ph.D. Gallaudet University, professor, AuD program. HLAA professional advisor audiology.
- Understand audiogram as basis for hearing assessment and device recommendations (hearing aid, cochlear implant, etc)
- Q&A

Session 4: Hearing Assistive Devices

- Reviewing the latest information in this dynamically changing space
- Hearing aids
- Cochlear implants
- “Hearables”
- PSAPs

- OTC, DCT aids
- Examples and samples of various
- Q&A

Session 5: HLAA and Cochlr Implant

- Guest speaker, Russell Misheloff, past resident of HLAA-DC chapter and cochlear implant user
- Understand the mission of HLAA as voice of those with hearing loss and as an informed, collegial resource and advocate
- Learn first-hand about hearing loss journey leading to cochlear implant and its use
- Q&A

Session 6: Hearing Accessible Technology (HAT)

- Telecommunications overview and demoes
 - Amplification: Pocket Talker
 - Voice to Text: CapTel (landline); InnoCaptions (mobile); Google Voice (messages)
- Apps overview and demoes
 - General (FaceTime, Skype, Zoom)
 - Hearing Specific (AVA; Otter)
- Streamers, Bluetooth, Smartphones
- Safety and Alerting Devices (wakeup; doorbell; phone; fire)
- Other innovations
- Q&A

Session 7: Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) and Accessibility

- Hearing loss as “invisible disability”
- Setting criteria and importance of advocacy to meet needs
- Public venue accessibility resources: Assistive Listening Systems (ALS)

- Induction loop (OLLI at AU; DC public libraries – Tenley)
- Infrared (IR) (Ken Cen)
- Frequency Modulation (FM) (National Cathedral; National Presbyterian Church)
- T-Coils
- Captions
- Movie theater
- Live theater
- CART (caption assisted real time)
- Zoom Automated Speech Recognition (ASR)
- DC Office of Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing established by Law 12/21.

Session 8: You and Your Hearing Matters

- Check-in and discussion regarding stated expectations from session 1.
- Share curated resources and website addresses for info and support
- Q&A
- Wrapup
- You can help those with hearing loss to enhance their quality of life – and that of others: ADVOCATE!

Note: A slide will state and I will reiterate that none of the products or services discussed are endorsed by OLLI, N-CHAT, HLAA, nor me. The purpose of any specific references or demos is to provide an opportunity to know about resources, experience a few among many choices, and develop criteria for selection and use.

Methodology: Adult Learning Theory is embraced including stated learning outcomes, lecture, discussion, activities such as group reportouts, case studies, videos, guest speakers, demoes. All members are encouraged to participate. All questions are good questions. All levels of experience, knowledge, and interest are respected as we share with and benefit oneanother