

THE AU.D. DEGREE

A Retrospective

*“History is who we are
and why we are the way we are”*

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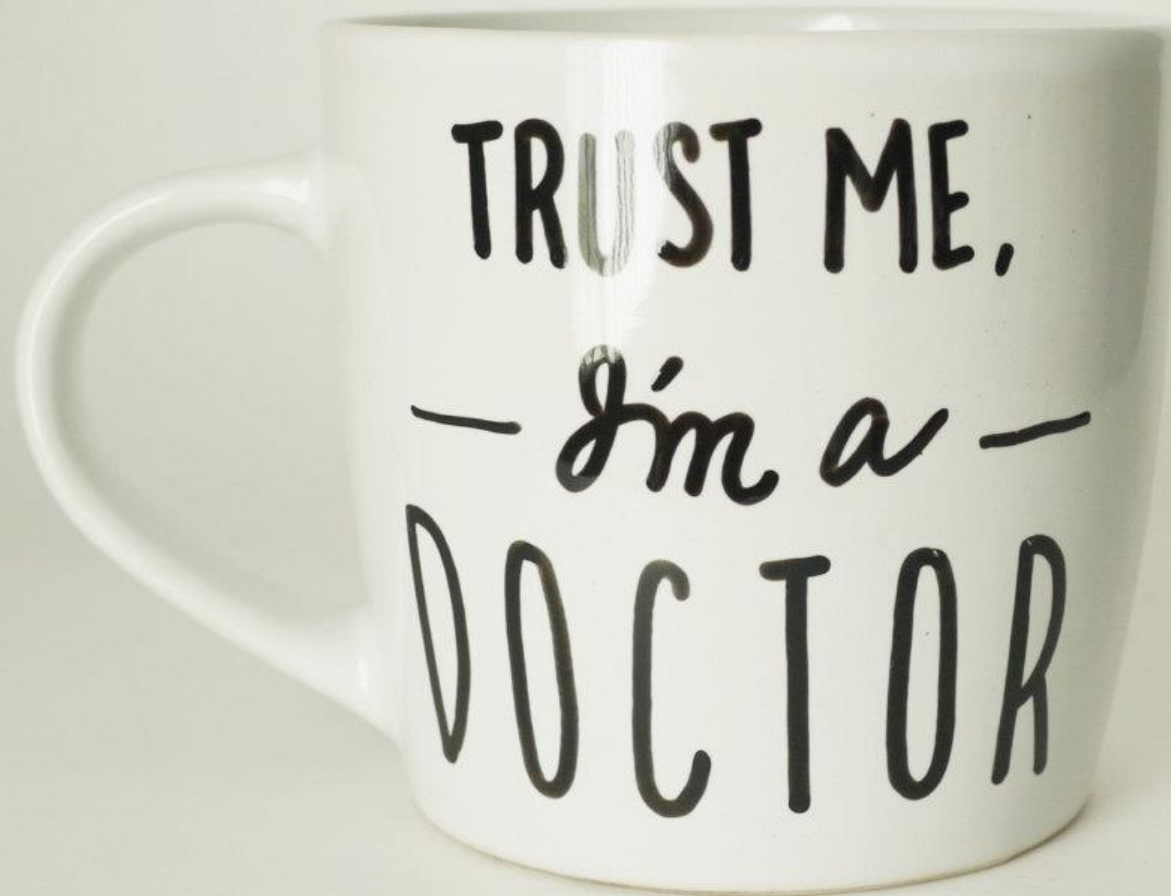


The Highland Park Conference (1963)

ASHA Reports, No. 13

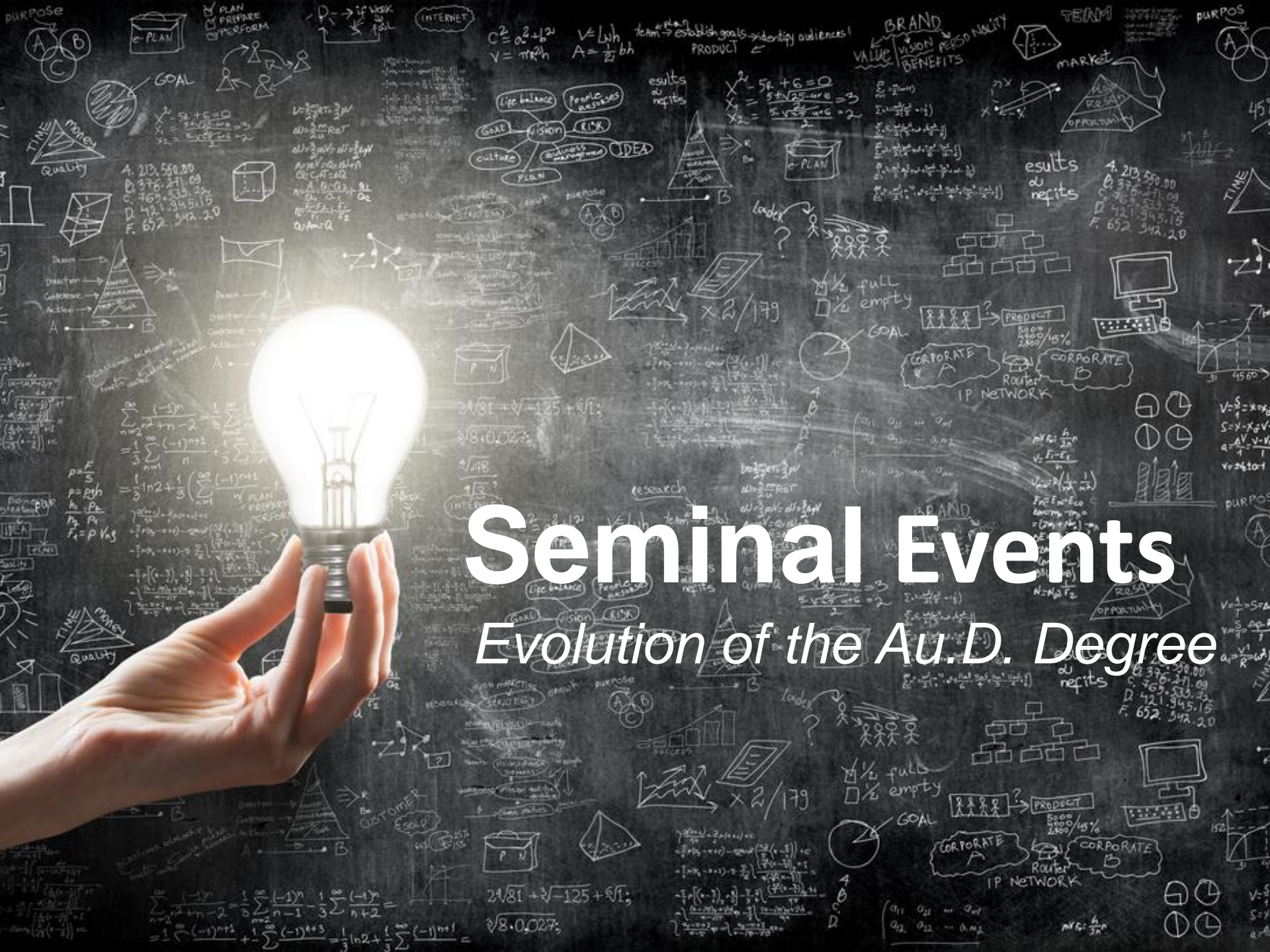
“A professional doctorate was not recommended”

Why a Doctorate in Audiology?



A Doctorate? Agenda

- 1 Professional Autonomy
- 2 Information Explosion
- 3 MS/MA Degree Overburdened
- 4 PhD not a professional degree
- 5 Two Groups – Doctorate & no doctorate
- 6 Doctorate has credibility in healthcare



Seminal Events

Evolution of the Au.D. Degree

America Academy of Dispensing Audiologists (ADA)



David P. Goldstein, Ph.D.

Audiology Foundation of America

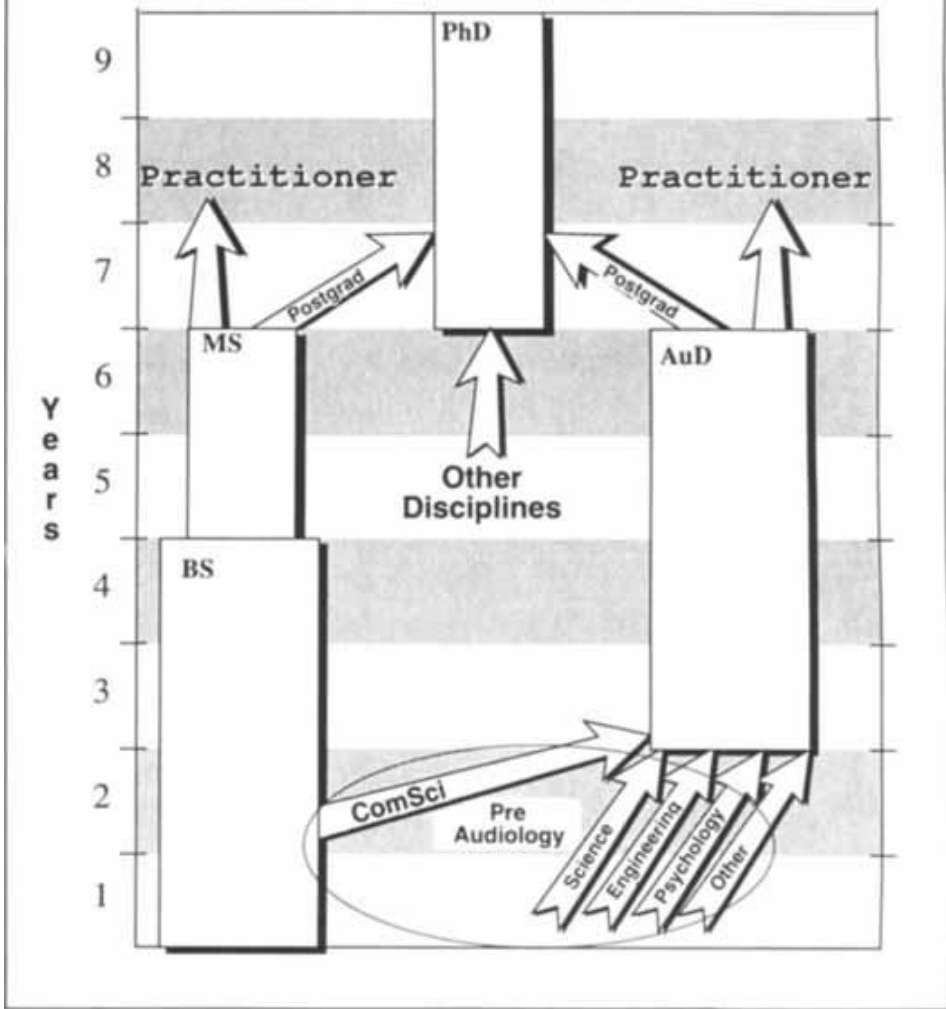
ADA/Goldstein developed proposal on Au.D degree (1988)

In 1989, ADA convened in AZ with audiologist's representing different organization to discuss the ADA/Goldstein proposal

Many audiologists had reservations about the Au.D. proposal

Heated discussions and debate ensued over the next few years

Figure 1
Model depicting the AuD degree in audiology



Goldstein, ASHA, 1988



First Executive Committee of AAA (1988)

Audiology Today

Bulletin of the American Academy of Audiology

Issue Number 1, August 1988

Report From The President

Our Academy is a reality! Although invitations to join were mailed out only a few weeks ago, we have already received over 1000 applications. The response has been heartening and, in general, quite positive. As we had expected, however, there have been some questions, and some misunderstandings, about the Ph.D. requirement after 1992. Some people with master's degrees did not realize that they would be grandfathered in if they were members at the time of the deadline. They wondered why the Academy would be willing to take their money for 5 years and then cast them out. It is important, therefore, to emphasize that there is no intent to reject the present population of individuals holding the master's degree. They will be welcomed into the organization and remain as Fellows as long as they wish. The intent is simply to upgrade future educational qualifications so that, eventually, the doctoral level will be the training standard for audiologists.

Questions and comments from the people who have written fall into three general categories:

- 1...Do you need a doctoral degree to be a good audiologist?
- 2...Why is the doctoral degree so important?
- 3...Haven't we done all right with just the master's degree?

I would like to reiterate the background of thought and discussion leading to our decision, as it impacts on these three questions, so that you can structure your own thoughts on these important issues.

1...Do you need a doctoral degree to be a good audiologist?

No, you certainly don't need a doctoral degree to be a good audiologist. We all know M. A. level colleagues whose background of training and experience has brought them to a level of expertise that the rest of us can only envy. The real issue, however, is not how we perceive ourselves, but how we are perceived by the public and by colleagues in related professions; and this depends on the kind of setting in which we are typically encountered. Speech-language pathologists, for example, function, by-and-large, in an *educational setting*. For them, therefore, the

doctoral level as minimal qualification may not be an issue. But audiologists typically do not function in an educational setting. For most of us the *health-care model* is more appropriate. The majority of audiologists work, either directly for physicians, in hospital clinics, or in private practice. According to a recent ASHA survey, the exact figure is 73%. Only a relatively small percentage (7%) find work settings in public or private schools, or in other educational situations. Most of us work under the health care model and, in the health-care model, the doctoral level has particular relevance.

2...Why is the doctoral degree so important?

It is a fact of life that, in the health-care model, there are two categories of participants; those at the doctoral level (e.g., M.D.s, Ph.D.s, D.O.s), and those at less than the doctoral level (e.g., physical therapists, nurses, radiology techs, etc.).

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Create professional home; upgrade to Au.D

Bylaws stated that after 1992 all new members must hold the doctoral degree

Expressed concerns regarding Goldstein/ADA proposal—

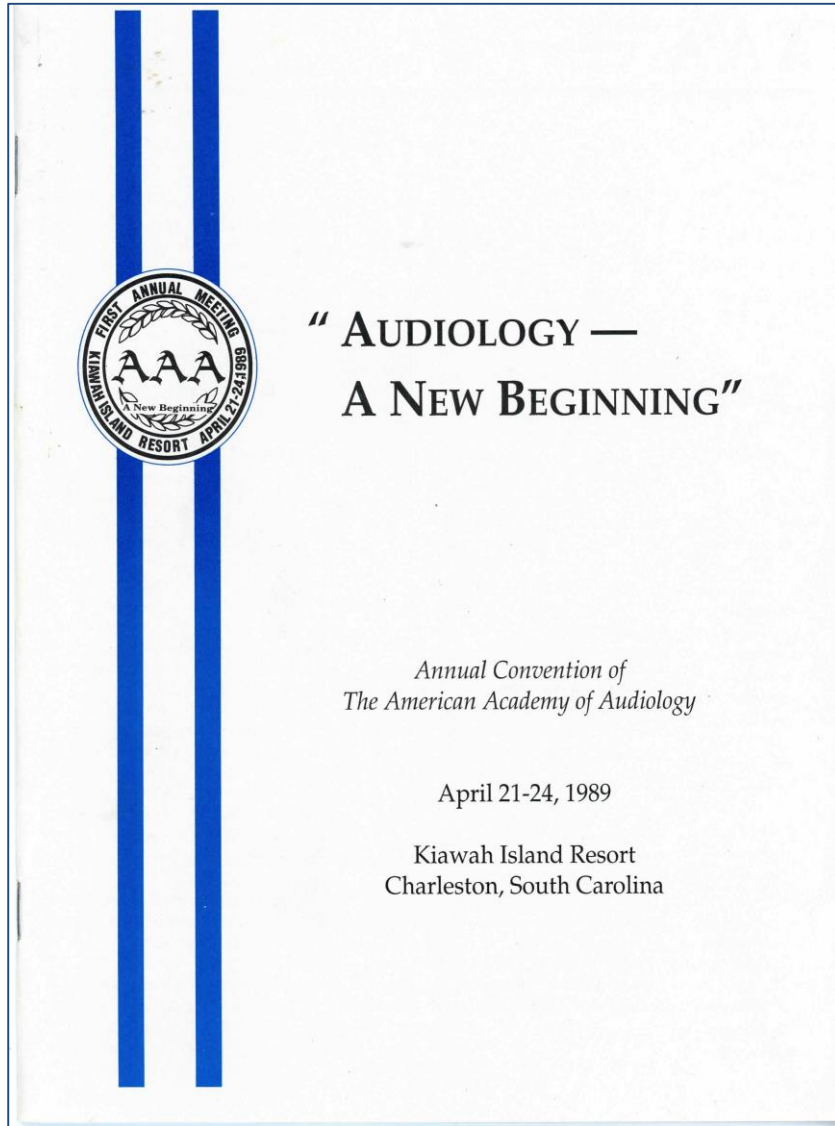
Curriculum

**No Assurance of Standards of Quality
Grandfathering**

Developed a monograph on the professional doctorate (1989)

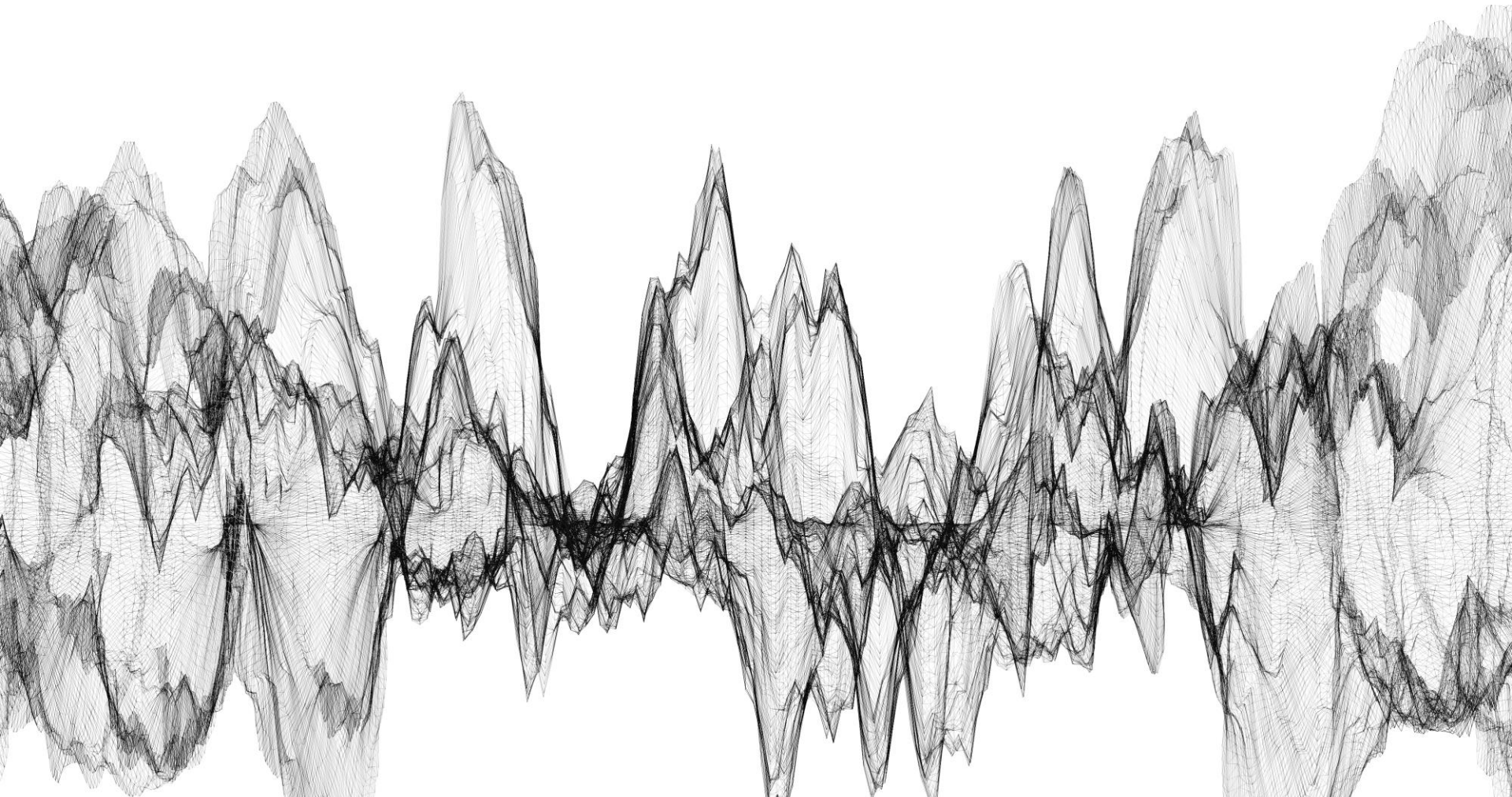
Sponsored Consensus Conference on Fourth Year Au.D. Students (2004)

First Annual AAA Meeting (1989)



“Audiology **needs** a professional doctorate”

~ David Goldstein



American Speech-Language-Hearing Association



AMERICAN
SPEECH-LANGUAGE-
HEARING
ASSOCIATION

Making effective communication, a human right,
accessible and achievable for all.

Successive resolutions in support of the entry-level doctorate (and the Au.D. as designator), were passed by the legislative council (1992, 1993)

Council of Higher Education granted authority to ASHA to accredit doctoral program

New standards were developed during the ensuing years following extensive data collection and analysis of results

ETS was commissioned to conduct skills validation study in audiology

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Baylor College of Medicine

Baylor College of Medicine Launches
1st Au.D. Program
1994

Distance Learning Programs/Jackson Foundation



Brian Walden, Ph.D. Walter Reed
Army Hospital

Pursued a distance learning Au.D. program for government employees and other practitioners

Government entities cannot receive private funds—thus, the Jackson Foundation

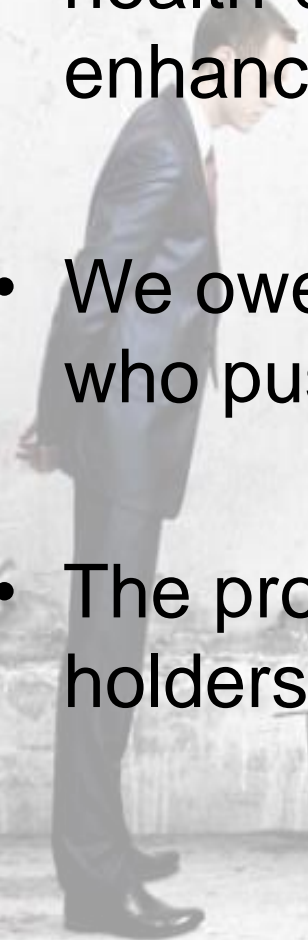
Raised funds from armed forces, VA, ASHA, AAA and Industry—+250K

Issued an RFP to existing audiology programs—receipt date July 1, 1997

Central Michigan/Vanderbilt received grant

Lessons Learned From Our Past

- The presence and prestige of audiology in the health-care community has been significantly enhanced by the Au.D.
- We owe a debt of gratitude to those pioneers who pushed the Au.D. forward
- The profession is best served when all stake holders cooperate with one another



KEEP CLIMBING & INVESTING

