

# *In Memory Of...*

## **Sadanand Singh**

The Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology professions, San Diego State University School of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences, CSHA, ASHA, and AAA lost a great friend and visionary leader with the passing of Sadanand Singh on February 27, 2010. He was a noted scholar, academic educator, author, publisher, entrepreneur, and philanthropist. His fruitful life shaped and influenced countless people.

Born in Bihar, a poor agricultural community in Northern India with no electricity or running water, he was predestined to be a farmer. His love for the written word and desire to educate, however, led him from his remote village to become the first member of his family to earn a college degree. Yet his thirst for knowledge persisted. He continued to cultivate educational opportunities and received his Masters of Literature followed by his Ph.D. in Aesthetics. In 1963 he received an offer from Ohio State University to join the faculty and in 1965 earned his second Doctorate in Speech and Hearing Sciences. He joined the faculty of Howard University in 1967 but returned to Ohio State to become a professor of Hearing and Speech Sciences from 1969-1974. Following a six-year stint at the University of Texas in Houston, he accepted a position at San Diego State University as Chair of the Department of Communicative Disorders, now the School of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences.

His love for research and the professions led him to his next quest, that of being an author, a vocation he treasured. His scholarly work has shaped the fields of speech-language pathology, audiology, and hearing and speech science. His success as an author and editor directed him to his next career, publishing. In 1980 he and his wife, Kala, an audiologist, founded College-Hill Press, which became one of the most influential publishing companies in the speech and hearing sciences with more than 250 titles in print. In 1986 the company was sold to Little, Brown & Company. That was also the year that tragedy struck the Singh family. While on a family trip to India, Kala was killed during an attempted hijacking. Dr. Singh and his two young children were seriously injured.

His love for the written word and desire to educate again helped him through this devastating ordeal, as did his faith and strong family bonds. In 1990 he married Angie and together they created Singular Publishing Group. Eight years later, and 350 titles and seven journals in print, they sold Singular. Sadanand attempted retirement, however, his active mind would not let him relinquish his passions. He

and Angie founded ContentScan, an internet literature search program, which was acquired in 2004 by Cambridge Information Group. They continued their journey through the publishing fields and founded Plural Publishing, which today has a dynamic and growing list of titles in the fields of speech and language pathology, audiology, voice disorders, swallowing disorders, and otolaryngology. His "fields" continue to flourish because of his dedication, passion for the professions, diligence and brilliant mind.

Sadanand has been the recipient of numerous prestigious awards. Just to name a few: in 2006 he received Honors of the Association for the American Speech, Language and Hearing Association as well as the Lybarger Award, the highest honor of the American Academy of Audiology. In 2004 San Diego State University honored him with the endowed Sadanand Singh Professorship in Communication Sciences and Disorders. He accepted all awards with infectious enthusiasm, modesty, and humility. He always had a story to tell and sage advice to give. A voracious reader, he would sprinkle his stories with wit and humor, ancient wisdom, or lines of poetry.

Now for the man and his personal passions. Family was paramount in his life. His ideal was to have all of his children and grandchildren living with him and Angie. He spent as much time as he could with his teenage son and daughter and his children from other marriages and their children. He spoke to his brother every day and looked forward to his annual journeys to India. Another of his priorities was staying in contact with the scores of lifetime friends he cultivated. His friends became family, too. His huge heart was undeniable. When you visited his home, the care and love he had for his family, friends,

and faith were evident. His spirit envelops the home. Look in the back and you will see a part of the farmer in him. The Singhs have a prolific edible garden that beckons you to touch the ripe fruit and vegetables, smell them, pick them and devour them. The kitchens in all of his homes have been the center of love and life. Everyone pitches in and cooks from the bounty of the yard. For this man, fated to be a cultivator of the earth, every field he touched turned fertile.

Dr. Singh is survived by his wife of two decades, Angie, two sons, five daughters, thirteen grandchildren, one great-grandchild and three brothers. He also leaves behind a long list of extended family and friends. His proud legacy lives with them all. ♦

*by Marlowe Fischer*

