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Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences

October 2015

Message from the Chair, James Mahshie

I want to extend a warm greeting from the faculty and staff of the Department of Speech and Hearing Science at GW. We hope you will find this version of Hearsay to be interesting and informative.

The department continues its engagement in the community through workshops, volunteer projects and our lecture series. Please note the upcoming presentations sponsored by SPHR. If you are in the area, please try to attend. These promise to be informative and a convenient way to obtain ASHA CEU credits.

Our undergrad program is ushering a newly revised set of concentrations: speech language pathology; hearing and deafness; and speech and hearing science. These have enabled students to focus more on the coursework that best addresses their long-range academic plans. We are finding a large number of students are double majors in speech and hearing and a range of other fields, including psychology, business and health sciences. Our revised curriculum includes two new classes: one on the structure, function and use of language and the second is an introduction to research.

Our MA program is off to a very positive start this year. Our first year students are in the midst of their clinical tracks and first semester coursework. Second year students, in addition to their externships, are also very much involved with their own research, as well as working in a number of labs.

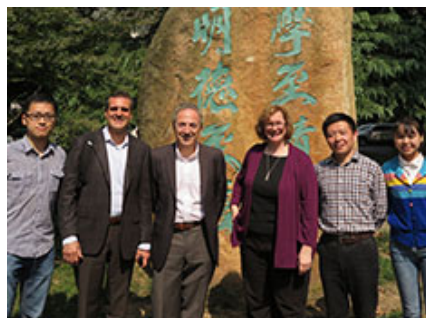
The heightened interest in research is in line with the department's increasing research profile. Faculty and students are actively involved in investigations that span a range of communication areas: deafness, autism, language disorders, bilingual language development, aphasia and traumatic brain injury to name a few. One of the hallmarks of GW's Speech and Hearing Science Department is the inclusion of students in these research activities. We have a record number of second years conducting MA thesis projects this year, as well as a number of undergraduate students involved in independent study projects. It is impressive that two students this year are Luther Rice recipients.

This heightened research activity is reflected in a number of faculty and student presentations this year at ASHA. You will find information about these presentations [here](#).

If you are planning to attend ASHA, please plan to join us for an alumni reception. This year we are planning to meet at a pub close to the convention center on Friday afternoon from 4:45 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. The **Rock Bottom Restaurant** promises to be a fun venue for connecting with other alumni along with faculty and current students. Please **RSVP at the event page**.



Department Spotlights



[A round of applause for the LSVT LOUD event.](#)



Our Global Initiatives

As part of the university's commitment to global engagement, the department has been actively involved with a number of interesting initiatives. In 2013 Professors **Comer** and **Campbell** brought a group of students to South Korea where they had the opportunity to observe speech language pathologists and surgeons, and interact with students attending the Speech Language Pathology program at Hallym University.

In October of this year, Professors **Mahshie**, **Brundage** and **Bamdad** visited a number of cities in China in an effort better understand speech and hearing professions in that country. The trip, funded through the GW Confucius Institute, enabled the group to attend the Asian Pacific Conference on Speech, Language and Hearing in Changzhou, China.

Photo Caption: From left to right, Ph.D. student Guan Hatao, Professors Michael Bamdad, Jim Mahshie, Shelley Brundage, and Wentao Gu, and MS student Yin Jao in Nanjing, China.

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Engaging with the Community

As part of SPHR's ongoing mission to engage with the community, faculty members spearheaded a variety of local efforts. The activities ranged from popular talks to one-on-one sessions with international students, but all were well-received and enabled the department to connect with the people in our area. In August, 48 speech language pathologists from around the country—including three recent GW graduates—spent two days learning the LSVT LOUD technique. The SLPs then administered the treatment to a group of Parkinson's patients. Dr. Geralyn Schulz and Rachel Pittmann organized the training and certification workshop. The event was a resounding success and the wine-and-cheese event drew a crowd.

More information can be found at the [Hanan Centre](#) and [LVST Global](#) websites.

Photo: A round of applause for the LSVT LOUD event.

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Lending Ronald McDonald a Hand

Our department visited the Ronald McDonald House in Washington, D.C., on August 1. We spent the morning helping with house chores such as dusting, arranging and cleaning. We saw the beauty of the place and the amazing work they do there. Many families travel far from home and spend several weeks or months to get treatment for their seriously ill or injured children—a long time to be away or to divide a family. And, for children facing a serious medical crisis, nothing seems scarier than not having mom and dad close by for love and support. A Ronald McDonald House is that “home-away-from-home” for families so they can stay close by their hospitalized child at little or no cost. We felt very fortunate to have had this opportunity and look forward to making this an annual outing.

Photo: Faculty members clown around at McDonald House.

Faculty Kudos

Shelley Brundage received the International Fluency Association's Knowledge Development and Innovation Award.

Congratulations to **Melanie Moriarty Birck's** practice for winning the 2015 Patients' Choice Awards in Washington Audiologist.

Congratulations to **Adrienne Hancock** for being chosen as one of the recipients of the Bender Teaching Award! [Click here to read the article](#) or [here to view the video](#).

Department News

CHAMP Camp: “We’ve Got the Magic!”

CHAMP Camp completed its fourth consecutive year over the summer at the Speech and Hearing Center. The Childhood Apraxia and Motor Planning Camp is an intensive speech therapy camp that provided both individual and group therapy over the course of nine days. This year 31 of 33 of our first year students participated in the program. The camp ran from 9-12:30 daily. In the course of one day, each camper received two individual and two group therapy sessions. Campers and their parents came from as near as Virginia and as far as Nebraska. Jodi Kumar coordinated this year's camp, which was deemed a great success.

Brainy Talk

Michael Bamdad gave a series of talks on traumatic brain injury that were well received by groups in the tristate area. He spoke at venues as diverse as Baltimore County Public Schools and the Army Audiology and Speech Center, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

Literacy Efforts in Local Schools

Geoff Greenman coordinated literacy services to high-needs students in grades K-2, evaluated GAs for whom English is a second language, and conducted a series of all-day boot camps for improving pronunciation accuracy by ESL students in the Med School.

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Publications and Presentations

Bernstein, L. E., & Liebenthal, E. (2014). "Neural pathways for visual speech perception." *Frontiers in Neuroscience*. 8, 386, 10.3389/fnins.2014.00386

Brundage, S., & Hancock, A. (2015). "Real Enough: Using Virtual Public Speaking Environments to Evoke Feelings and Behaviors Targeted in Stuttering Assessment and Treatment." *American Journal of Speech Language Pathology*, 24, 139-149.

Core, C., Larsen, M., Wilson, J., & Mahshie, J. (2014). "Assessing speech perception in young children with cochlear implants using a hybrid visual habituation paradigm." *Ear & Hearing*, 07/2014; DOI: 10.1097/AUD.0000000000000049

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Alumni Alley



Corie Mae Meyers is on the Job

Corie Mae Meyers, an SPHR alumni from 2013 and current SLP at the Leap Academy, has been helping current graduate students at KIPP D.C. schools. Graduate students from diagnostic procedures class accompany Meyers to the sites and administer complete speech, language and hearing screenings for incoming preschoolers.

Photo: First year students Kelly Hartigan, Ellen Wiebke, Kristin Budd and Alison Carson.

An SPHR Alum Becomes President

Congratulations to **Ronella Rosenberg** on becoming the Region 10 councilor and president of NSSHLA. She looks forward to serving the

community and supporting other students "in their journey in earning a speech and hearing degree."

Rita Purcell

Many of you knew Dr. **Rita M. Purcell-Robertson**. Her upbeat and engaging personality was well known through the various classes she taught in the department, including Foundations of Human Communication and Voice and Diction. It is with sadness that we learned that Dr. Purcell-Robertson passed away Sunday, April 26, 2015. She continued to work for Loudoun County Public Schools, and taught night classes at George Washington University until March 24, 2015. Rita throughout her life had an abundance of energy (enough for two people) which she applied to work, family and community service.

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Fall 2015 Guest Lecture Series

The GW Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences is excited to present Rachel Barr, PhD, to discuss "Bilingual Advantages in Memory Flexibility During Early Childhood." Dr. Barr is an associate professor at Georgetown University. Her research focuses on how bilingual exposure alters memory processing during infancy, as opposed to perceptual processing during infancy and cognitive processing during early childhood. Dr. Barr will discuss the implications of how

In November, Gary Dell, PhD, will give a talk on "What Freud Got Right About Speech Errors." Dr. Dell is professor of linguistics and professor of psychology at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. His work deals with how people produce and understand sentences, and how these processes can be modelled using neural networks. By changing the processing characteristics of the model, one can produce speech error patterns that are characteristic of

early environmental variations shape the trajectory of memory development and cognitive flexibility.

certain types of aphasic patients. This can offer important insights into the sources of different language impairments.

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

5:15 p.m.

Funger Hall 103, GW

RSVP

Friday, November 6, 2015

4:00 p.m.

Ross Hall 227, GW

RSVP details TBA

Visit us at ASHA 2015!

Come visit with the department during the ASHA 2015 Convention!

SPHR Alumni Event at ASHA

Friday, November 13, 4:45 -6:00 p.m.

The event will be hosted at the **Rock Bottom Restaurant**.

Presentations

A number of our faculty will be presenting during the ASHA convention. Below are the details of their presentations. We would love for you to attend!

Evaluating SLP Students' Team Communication Skills During an Interprofessional Education Exercise in the Health Sciences

Presenters: **Brundage S., Comer K., Pittmann R., Goldman E.**

Day: Thursday, November 12, 2015

Time: 3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

Session Format: Poster Session

Code: 7110

Poster Board: 245

Critical Thinking: Foundations & Applications for Preparing Our Future Helping Professionals

Presenters: **Finn P., Brundage S., DiLollo A.**

Day: Friday, November 13, 2015

Time: 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Session Format: Short Course

Code: SC09

Does Bilingualism Elevate Stuttering Risk?

Presenters: **Brundage S., Bernstein Ratner N., Wu C., Hoff E.**

Day: Saturday, November 14, 2015

Time: 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Session Format: Poster

Code: 9197

Poster Board: 466

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Alumni Updates

Deborah Appelbaum, MA '07, is in her ninth year working as an SLP at Montgomery County Public Schools in Maryland. She lives in Rockville, Md., with her husband and three children.

Karina Baeza, MA '15, is currently in her CFY at a high school in APS. After graduation she and her husband traveled to the Czech Republic, Turkey and Peru (where they celebrated their five-year wedding anniversary), and they also became home owners!

Danielle Battaglia, BA '11, graduated from the Florida Atlantic University with a MS in communication sciences and disorders in August 2015. Beginning in September, she began working as a speech language pathologist for Bergen County Special Services in the Autism Continuum.

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Donor Recognition

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

The Department of Speech and Hearing would like to gratefully acknowledge the following generous donors who made a gift to the school from July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015.

Sandra Henegan Alston, BA '77, MA '78
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Jennifer Elizabeth Fabe, MA '00

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Maria H. Roumel, BA '68, MA '70
Susanna Rutski, MA '95
Michele K. Shields, MA '76
Ellen S. Siegel, BA '67
Regina R. Thomas, MA '74
Cynthia Ruth Weitz, MA '73

* Friend
** Parent
+ Faculty/Staff
~ Student

Support the Department

Can You Help Support Student Research?

If you are interested in helping to support our student research activities, your assistance would be very much appreciated. We have a large number of students that are presenting at conferences and they need funding support. In addition, there are expenses associated with recruiting and paying participants, obtaining analysis assistance and other expenses. The department is able to help, but these student projects would benefit from your assistance. Even a small designated donation to the department for student research will go a long way to help students get the most from these scholarly activities.

You can make your gift to the department in a number of ways:

- Securely online at www.gwu.edu/give2gw. Just choose “other” under designation and type in the name of the department.
- By mailing your check, made out to The George Washington University and with the name of the department in the memo line, to:

The George Washington University
2033 K Street NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20052

- By phone by calling the GW Annual Fund at 1-800-789-2611.

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To learn more about the GW Alumni Travel Program and see where your next journey may take you, please visit: www.alumni.gwu.edu/travel

members for this unique opportunity to share your experiences, exchange career tips and build your professional network! Online networking enables you to speed-network from wherever you are: home, office, library, even on the road. Come build real relationships and connections in a purposeful, exciting way!

Visit <http://alumni.gwu.edu/gw-linked-in-virtual-networking-hours> for information on our next event!

Whether you are looking to engage fellow alumni, connect with students or support an academic program, we have an opportunity for you.

To learn more about available volunteer opportunities that meet your interest, experience and schedule and to get involved, [click here](#).

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