Did You Know We Offer…

**Cochlear Implant Services?** Programming for all models of the Advanced Bionics and Cochlear Americas systems.

**Aphasia Group Treatment?** The Center holds 50 minute group sessions twice weekly for individuals with aphasia.

**Groups for Children?** We are looking for toddlers for a baby sign language group, children ages 10-13 to join our social group, and children of all ages to join a language-based sensory group for the 2012-2013 school year.

Save the Date!! – FREE Hearing Screenings

October 26, 2012 From 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

The Audiologists will be offering FREE hearing screenings for those who want to know how their hearing system is working. Contact the Center to register, as appointments are limited. Schedule your free screening by calling (202) 994-7360.

Fall is Here!!!

As we enter the fall of 2012, we would like to extend a heartfelt “Thank You” to all of our clients, friends, campers and professional associates for making this year one to remember.

Without you, there would be no Speech & Hearing Center. We know you have other choices for your hearing healthcare, hearing aid and speech and language needs and appreciate your continued trust.

**The highest compliment our clients can give us is to recommend us to a friend.** We thank all of you for the referrals to our Center.
Welcome!!
We are excited to introduce a new member of the GWU Speech & Hearing Center team. A warm welcome to Rachel Neuman.

Rachel Neuman
Rachel completed her undergraduate degree at Syracuse University in New York and obtained her master’s degree at Boston University in Massachusetts. She began her career at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston where she worked in an adult outpatient therapy setting. She left the east coast to try out the Midwest, residing and working in Minneapolis, Minnesota, working in inpatient skilled nursing and outpatient rehabilitation settings, but ultimately decided to return to the east coast. Rachel recently moved to Washington, DC and is supervising students in the Neurogenic Communication Disorders and Fluency Disorders tracks, as well as working in an outpatient hospital based setting. Rachel holds certification in Lee Silverman Voice Treatment.

Don’t Forget to Update Us!
Have new information?
Life moves very quickly these days. If you move or change your phone number please let us know so we can update our files and remain in communication with you.
Fluency Disorders

Stuttering

**Stuttering** is a disorder in which sounds, syllables or words are repeated or last longer than normal. Stuttering typically develops between the ages of 2-5 years, and it may last from several weeks to several years. For some children, stuttering does not go away and may get worse.

Stuttering affects over three million Americans, or approximately 1% of the population. Although there are no cures for stuttering, speech therapy may be helpful for those who stutter to progress toward fluency.

For more information about the Center’s services for stuttering or other fluency disorders, contact Jeanne McHugh at mchughj@gwu.edu or Rachel Neuman at rneuman@gwu.edu.

Neurogenic Communication Disorders

What are they and what causes them?

A **neurogenic communication disorder** is the difficulty exchanging information with others because of speech, language, cognitive-linguistic and/or hearing problems caused by impairment of the nervous system.

These disorders can be secondary to stroke, traumatic or acquired brain injury, neuromuscular or neurodegenerative disorders (e.g. Parkinson’s disease, ALS, Multiple Sclerosis).

Individuals diagnosed with aphasia, apraxia of speech, dysarthria, or cognitive-linguistic deficits have neurogenic communication disorders.

For more information about the Center’s services for neurogenic communication disorders, contact Michael Bamdad at mbamdad@gwu.edu or Rachel Neuman at rneuman@gwu.edu.
Hearing loss and heart disease – a possible connection

A study by the Population Health Program Faculty at Wisconsin University indicated that hearing loss may be associated with heart disease in older adults. The prevalence of various degrees of hearing loss is 54% greater among those who have a history of heart disease compared to the general population. Also, hearing loss occurred in almost 80% of the people who had suffered from cardiovascular disease.

The study also looked at age, gender, occupation and other factors. When all were taken into account, it was found that hearing problems in connection to heart disease was a predictor for women but not for men.

The study also indicated that individuals who exercised at least once a week saw a 32% reduction in their risk of hearing loss, when compared to sedentary individuals.

Further studies are being conducted to learn more about the connection between heart disease and hearing loss.

If you have heart disease or would like to know the current status of your hearing ability, contact the Center at (202) 994-7360 to schedule an appointment.

Source: “The Association Between Cardiovascular Disease and Cochlear Function in Older Adults.” Population Health Program Faculty, Wisconsin University, First Annual Population Health Poster Session selected abstracts, 2001-2002.
Research Opportunities

The Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences is always looking for individuals who would like to participate in ongoing research projects. The Department currently has five different projects open to the community for participation, three of which are described below.

Information about each of these research projects can also be found on our website at departments.columbian.gwu.edu/speechhearing/research-opportunities.

**Adults**

- **Cochlear Implant Research**
  - The study is assessing two training programs to determine whether they can improve speech understanding and communication in daily life of individuals who have received cochlear implants.
  - Eight weekly visits (90 minutes each) are required initially, with two follow-up visits, one at 2-months and one at 6-months following the last training session.
  - Eligible participants are 18 years of age or older, have had their implant between 3 months and 3 years, be post-lingually deaf and are fluent in English.
  - To enroll in the study, contact Claire Bernstein, PhD at (202) 448-7204 or via email at CITrainingStudy@hearingresearch.org.

- **Communication Factors in Gender Perception**
  - The study is investigating relationships between speakers' dialect, gender and resulting speech perceptions.
  - Total time required is 30 minutes, including a questionnaire and audio and video recording of your reading aloud, describing a picture and engaging in conversation with the examiner.
  - Contact Adrienne Hancock, PhD at hancock@gwu.edu to arrange a convenient time.

**Pediatrics**

- **Infant Social Development Research**
  - The study is investigating how children learn from others and from computers.
  - Eligible participants are normally developing infants, 3-12 months of age with no medical complications and no prescription medication use.
  - To enroll in the study, visit the following website at www.recruitment.subiaul.com.
We would LOVE to hear from you…

If there are any questions you would like addressed in future issues of Have You Heard?, contact the Center at (202) 994-7360 or via email at shcenter@gwu.edu. Happy Fall and we look forward to seeing you throughout the year!!

GWU Speech & Hearing Center

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