



The Speech-Language Pathology Clinic and Summer Camp for Students

By: *Lori Cimino, MS, CCC-SLP*

The Speech, Language and Hearing Center at Misericordia University is a comprehensive facility serving the residents of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Located on the second floor of Mercy Hall on the Misericordia University campus, the center provides a full range of diagnostic and speech, language, and hearing services for individuals of all ages, newborn through geriatric. Hearing screenings and audiological rehabilitation services are also available.

These services are provided by undergraduate and graduate student clinicians working toward their master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology at Misericordia University. In the clinic, student clinicians are given the opportunity to evaluate and diagnose individuals with speech and language disorders. In addition, they design and implement treatment programs for individuals with communication disorders under the direct supervision of faculty and staff certified by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) and licensed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

In an effort to provide students with additional information regarding Misericordia University's Speech-Language Pathology Program as well as the profession itself, the Department of Speech-Language Pathology hosts a 3-day, 2-night residential Career Exploration Camp for interested junior and senior high school students every summer. The cost is \$75.00. During the camp, students will have an opportunity to experience life on the campus and interact with faculty, staff, and students who are currently involved in the Speech-Language Pathology program. Students will also visit local health care facilities where speech-language pathologists



Lori Cimino, MS, CCC-SLP, clinical director

conduct therapy. The students tour the facilities and learn about the speech-language pathologists' responsibilities in that particular setting. Social activities that will facilitate career exploration in a casual setting will also take place on campus and in the community.

To find out more about Misericordia University's Speech-Language Pathology Program log on to www.misericordia.edu/slp. To register for our summer speech camp, contact the MU Speech, Language, and Hearing Center at (570) 674-6724. ●

A Note from your Editor

By: *Cara Callanan*

It has been a new and exciting process to serve as the first editor of The Misericordia Articulator. When I was first asked if I was up to the task I was unsure whether I was the right person for the job. Beyond my work as a tutor at the Misericordia Writing Center, I had no experience in newspaper editing or anything else of the sort. However, I found that my love of writing and ability to lead others were the real tools required to build a sound newsletter.

As a student in the Speech-Language Pathology Program, it has been rewarding to witness the vast improvements taking place in this major. I am tremendously grateful to Dr. Glen Tellis and Dr. Cari Tellis for the many changes that they have initiated. For instance, the curriculum has been altered to better suit the needs of a future speech-language pathologist in any setting. In addition, the move to the new Insalaco Hall in 2008 will provide speech-language pathology students enough space to feel comfortable in their learning environment. Beyond the classroom, my experience in the clinic with Clinic Director Lori Cimino and Clinic Supervisor Jennifer Nudo-Alberti has been wonderful. They are always available to offer encouragement when therapy becomes frustrating and give useful suggestions to set students on the right track again.

I am thrilled to be moving forward in the field of Speech-Language Pathology. There are so many opportunities for success in both the medical and school settings. I appreciate the advantage of having a wide range in my choices of where to go and what to do as a professional. The spectrum of Speech-Language Pathology can be overwhelming to me when thinking about all that is involved in the field. I am anticipating my



Letter from the Chair

Dr. Glen Tellis instructing
Katrina Emerick
in the speech lab.

The Speech-Language Pathology Department at Misericordia University is one of only three 5-year undergraduate and graduate programs in the country that lead to a Master of Science degree in Speech-Language Pathology. The vision of the Speech-Language Pathology Department is to develop a sound research program that integrates clinical practice with quality teaching.

This is an exciting period of growth for our Program. We would like to highlight a few of our notable accomplishments. Applications to our undergraduate and graduate Program are at an all-time high. This year, for the first time, five of our students will be presenting research at state and national conferences. Our students have also been actively involved in service activities through the National Student Speech-Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) and have been awarded the 2007 National Chapter Honors by NSSLHA. They will receive the award at the 2007 National American Speech-Language Hearing Association Convention in Boston in November. Our faculty have also successfully published papers and obtained grants to equip a research laboratory with advanced equipment

for assessing and treating various communicative disorders.

Apart from some of the accomplishments noted above, the Department has recently hired Dr. Ruixia Yan as a tenure-track assistant professor. Dr. Yan completed her doctorate in Communicative Disorders from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in May of 2007. Her areas of interest include language testing/assessment, normal speech and language development in a first language, second language acquisition and teaching, child language disorders, multilingualism in communicative disorders, autism spectrum disorders, semiotics, statistics, and research methods. The Department is also recruiting another tenure-track faculty in the areas of Child Language and Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) and/or neurogenic communicative disorders. The addition of Dr. Yan and another new faculty member will enhance the Department's strengths in fluency disorders, voice disorders, and speech science.

In the fall of 2007, Misericordia University will begin constructing a new 7 million dollar Insalaco Hall. When constructed, Insalaco Hall,

complete with wireless capabilities, will house the entire Speech-Language Pathology Department as well as other departments and conference rooms. The new facility will include a Speech-Language Pathology classroom, a student resource room, several Speech-Language Pathology research laboratories including a Speech-Science Lab, a Fluency Lab, an AAC Lab (i.e., assistive technology), and a Cognitive Science Lab. The new facility will also include our in-house state-of-the-art Speech-Language and Hearing Center. Our new clinic will have a cutting-edge video-capture system to digitally record all clinical sessions for live and play-back analysis by students and supervisors. We intend to train and educate our talented undergraduate and graduate students to enter the workforce and become avid consumers of research and exceptional clinical practitioners.

Take a moment to browse through our updated Department website and contact us if you would like more information about all the wonderful achievements of our students.

Glen Tellis, Ph.D.
Associate Professor & Department Chair

MU's NSSLHA Chapter wins National Award

By: Katrina Emerick

The National Student Speech-Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) is the national organization for graduate and undergraduate students who are interested in the study of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. Membership provides benefits that help students remain current in the field, enhance their academic knowledge, locate internships and employment opportunities, network with other students who hold similar interests, and save money on products and services.

Misericordia University's NSSLHA Chapter was founded in 2004 and has gained esteem throughout the university community and beyond. Our chapter received the 2007 National NSSLHA Chapter of the Year Honors. The NSSLHA Executive Council will publicly

recognize Misericordia University's NSSLHA Chapter for this Honor on Friday, November 16, 2007 during the NSSLHA Luncheon and Awards Ceremony at the ASHA Convention in Boston, MA. Our Chapter will receive a \$500 stipend that will be presented at the luncheon. Also, NSSLHA will officially announce the honor to the membership in the fall 2007 issue of NSSLHA.

Our local chapter has more than 70 members, all of whom are also national members. Misericordia University's NSSLHA Chapter upholds the mission of the national NSSLHA organization through various service, fundraising, and social activities. Members are constantly active in service activities. Some activities that have been held annually include a Halloween party organized for Misericordia

University's Speech, Language, and Hearing Center patients and the March of Dimes walk. This past year, several fundraisers were held including Homecoming weekend activities, bake sales, and Gertrude Hawk chocolate sales. Homecoming weekend has always been a success in giving new members the means to bond with current members from our chapter, so we hope to continue that tradition this semester. Lastly, our greatest social affair of the past has been our end of the year banquet, which has been held in recognition of outstanding members and all our NSSLHA members. ●



Erik Raj working with a client in the Speech, Language and Hearing Center.



Dr. Cari Tellis in the speech lab with students Lisa Bressler and Katrina Emerick.

Insight into fieldwork from a MU alumnae

“We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.” —Winston Churchill

By: Jennifer Chulick CCC-SLP

The field of Speech-Language Pathology is not as simple as the therapy techniques used, or even the progress made in therapy. It is about changing the lives of your patients. We change lives by believing in our patients and giving them a chance, even after everyone else has given up hope. Often, patients will amaze you with their vast improvements and abilities to achieve heights that you never realized they could achieve—because *you* gave them the chance. Be prepared to advocate for your patients when you work with schools administrators, families, nurses, doctors, therapists, and funding agencies who may not agree with allowing your patient the device he or she needs to succeed.

Be prepared for patients who will refuse therapy and want nothing to do with you. They will tell you to “go away,” “be quiet,” and call you some not-too-pleasing names. Do not take it personally, but spend the time getting to know them. Initially, you will have to push yourself to be more creative and gain rapport with your patient. Once you gain your patient’s trust, therapy gets a lot more fun and less stressful.

Interning helped me to develop a true passion for being a speech-language pathologist. Everything “clicked” and I finally understood the amazing things we do and how exciting our field truly can be. *Everyday* there is something new to learn, something changing, and something surprising. Knowing *you* helped improve the quality of your patients’ lives will make your job worthwhile. Most importantly, have fun! If you are bored so is your patient, so laugh and joke around, and be yourself!

Initially, fieldwork is not going to be easy. You will get frustrated and wonder why you chose this challenging field of Speech-Language Pathology. However, at the end of the first week, you will look back on everything you have accomplished and learned and how much fun you had along the way and you will *know* these are the incentives behind your choice. ●

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graduate level classes with high expectations as well as a newfound comfort level with what the program has become since first coming to Misericordia University as a freshman. My greatest wish for this newsletter is that it will offer its readers a glimpse into the advantages and rewards of becoming a student in this field. I hope that you enjoy reading and learning more about Misericordia University’s program in Speech-Language Pathology. ●