



# Articulator

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Fall 2016

## Letter FROM THE Editor '19 D'MANDA PRICE



I would like to thank you for taking the time to read the Fall 2016 edition of the Misericordia Speech-Language Pathology Department's annual *Articulator*. In this edition, you will read articles about our exceptional faculty, alumni, and current students. All of the articles in this 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Articulator* have been written by our existing students, ranging from freshmen to students currently in their fifth year. I am honored to be given the opportunity to highlight and share with you some of the breathtaking life stories and achievements of the individuals in the Speech-Language Pathology Department at Misericordia University.

When asking for the perspectives of students concerning the program, each student agreed that the education received in this department is unlike any other. Faculty members have noted that the experiences and education received in our department are rare and hard to come by. The personal and professional growth that our students receive when going through the program prepares them for the challenges they

will face in the field. Following my time spent speaking with other students, it is evident that each student holds his or her experience in the department with high regard. I am confident that this edition of the *Articulator* will assist in reporting about the opportunities, education, and accomplishments that are present in our department.

Incorporated in this newsletter are updates about Misericordia's chapter of the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association as well as accomplishments of professors, alumni, and students. There is also information about Operation Smile and other featured stories. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this newsletter, including our students who started writing articles last summer. I hope that this edition helps you to gain an understanding of our exceptional program, students, alumni, and faculty members. My wish is that you will realize why I am proud to be associated with such a wonderful department.

Sincerely,

D'manda Price, Class of 2019

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## Tia Spagnuolo '16 AWARDED Von Drach Scholarship

'20 JESSICA HANLY



Tia Spagnuolo is a recent graduate of Misericordia University's Speech-Language Pathology Department.

She is also the recipient of the 2016 Von Drach Memorial Scholarship from the Pennsylvania Speech-Language Hearing Association (PSHA). This scholarship is awarded annually, at the state convention, to an exceptionally qualified student enrolled in an institution, full time, pursuing a career in Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) or Audiology. Before the convention, she had been conducting research in the fields of voice and fluency with both Dr. Cari Tellis and Dr. Glen Tellis, and had submitted her master's thesis for presentation at the convention.

In receiving the award, Tia notes that she is humbled to be chosen because of the other well-deserving candidates who also applied. After being announced as the recipient at the 2016 PSHA Convention, Tia was allowed the opportunity to thank all of the people who have supported her throughout her pre-professional journey. She took this occasion to thank those people for their kind support and for allowing her the

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# AN Interview WITH *Denis Anson*

'19 D'MANDA PRICE



Denis with one of his inventions.

Denis is the Director of Research and Development of the Assistive Technology Research Institute (ATRI) of Misericordia University and a member of the Speech-Language Pathology Department. The mission of the institute is to develop new knowledge about how assistive technology can enhance the lives of people who are aging or who have functional needs. Denis collaborates with the Speech-Language Pathology Department to aid in both developing new assistive technologies and analyzing data from several research teams.

Following is a short interview with Denis to gain further insight into his career.

## What is Assistive Technology?

An Assistive Technology is any technology that is used to allow a person with a functional limitation to do the things that an able-bodied person can do without that technology. Where an able-bodied person might use a remote control because it is easier, for a person with a functional limitation, the remote control, or a device that acts like the remote, might be the only way to perform the task.

## What new projects are you currently working on?

I am in the middle of the development of the Global Public Inclusive Infrastructure (GPII) Shopping and Alerting Aid. This tool will help people who need information or consumer electronics that will accommodate their limitations. The Aid works by allowing individuals to specify what features or needs they have, and selecting only those products that meet those needs. In the fall, we will begin two additional studies. One is examining voice strain of using speaker phones versus using video phones. The second is a nationwide study about the use of service learning in college and university health science programs.

## Could you describe one of your typical workdays?

I'm not sure I have a typical workday. But an unremarkable workday might include working on organizing complex information in ways that are addressable systematically. For example, I was involved in developing a tool to determine whether "accessible signs" meet the requirements of the ADA-ABA guidelines. This requires comparing many features of the characters to the height of the letters to determine proportions. The solution to this problem required combining knowledge of geometry, drafting, and slide-rules. Most commonly, however, I assist other faculty members on the design and implementation of research projects, especially providing assistance in their statistical analysis.

## What parts of your job do you find most challenging?

When I start on a project, I seldom know what is going to be required to complete it. I often forget that I don't think like other people, and am sometimes reminded that a "Denis" solution is not an everyman solution. Sometimes when I am working with students, I pause to think about how to

explain the concepts in a language that the students will understand. It is most definitely not about "dumbing down" the answer, as we have some very bright students, but is about finding language that will match the concepts and linkages that a student will be able to follow.

## What do you enjoy most about your work?

As I frequently tell my research students, there is a period, near the end of a research project, after the data is analyzed, but before it is presented, when you know something that nobody else knows. That is very cool. Additionally, in this job, I get paid to play with my toys. It's just that most folks don't recognize my toys as toys. In a creative job, there is very little drudgery, and lots of excitement!

## What could we look forward to seeing from you in the future?

That is really hard to say. You can never tell where lightning is going to strike next. In general, I look for "hard" problems, and try to find good, and not hard solutions. I'm constantly working on new ways to use information technology to collect data for research projects. Expect more, and more elegant means of data collection for ATRI supported projects.

The Speech-Language Pathology Department would like to thank Denis for taking the time to enlighten the readers about his career. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors!

# *Erin Roberts* WINS Best Poster AT THE FALL **Voice Conference** '18 ALEXANDRA IRR

Pat Riley, the legendary American basketball coach, once said, "Each Warrior wants to leave the mark of his will, his signature, on important acts he touches. This is not the voice of ego but of the human spirit, rising up and declaring that it has something to contribute to the solution of the hardest problems, no matter how vexing!" Erin Roberts has certainly left her mark at Misericordia in various dimensions throughout her five years at the university. Whether it was on the soccer field or in the clinician's room, Roberts' kindness, leadership, and intelligence radiated in a way that allowed younger speech-language pathology students to consistently look up to her as a role model.

Roberts was the definition of a stellar scholar-athlete. She led the Misericordia Women's Soccer team to the NCAA playoffs for four consecutive years. When her team made it to the Final Four of the NCAA championships in 2012, Roberts was awarded the Elite 89 Award for having the highest GPA of all the players in the Final Four tournament. This award demonstrated that while

Roberts shined on the soccer field, she performed even brighter academically. At the end of Erin's sophomore year, Dr. Cari Tellis invited her to join the voice research team. The voice team conducted advanced and innovative research that they presented across the country and even abroad at the Estill Conference in Melbourne, Australia. Roberts also presented with the fluency research team in July 2015 at the International Fluency Association's 8<sup>th</sup> World Congress in Lisbon, Portugal.

More recently, Roberts won Best Poster at the Fall Voice Conference held in Pittsburgh in October 2015. Many well-known professionals in the field were impressed with her presentation. Said Roberts, "It was a great weekend overall, and it was a pretty big accomplishment for our team to present in front of leading laryngologists and speech-language pathologists who specialized in voice."

In May 2016, Roberts presented and defended her Master's thesis titled Cerebral Hemoglobin Changes in Voice Clients Following Integrated Implicit-Explicit Treatment. The study utilized functional near-infrared spectroscopy to measure brain activation changes in clients with voice disorders before and after treatment. Roberts also received the Outstanding Achievement Award from Misericordia's Department

- of Speech Language Pathology.
- Looking toward the future, Roberts explained that she would like to start a clinical fellowship in a medical setting and would love to treat clients with voice or neurological disorders. Roberts also added that she is interested in continuing her research.



Expressing her gratitude towards all those she encountered during her time at Misericordia, Roberts stated, "I am so thankful that I chose to come to Misericordia. I had no idea what I was getting myself into—it turned out for the best. My experience here exceeded even my highest expectations thanks, in large part, to our brilliant professors. I have never met a group of people so invested in their students' success, and feel very lucky to have learned from each of them. It has been a truly invaluable experience and has improved my academic abilities in so many ways. I am extremely grateful for my time at Misericordia, and wouldn't trade it for anything."

Misericordia's Speech-Language Pathology Department is proud of Erin Roberts and looks forward to hearing about her future accomplishments.

## *Tia Spagnuolo '16*

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many opportunities and experiences she had at Misericordia University.

Tia first decided on a career in SLP because, like many others, she wanted a profession that would help people. Coincidentally, she had a younger sibling who attended speech therapy at Misericordia. After observing a few sessions, Tia was hooked. Tia noted that choosing Misericordia for her education

was the absolute best choice she made. She received many invaluable opportunities at Misericordia and could not have asked for a better education. She presented research at state, national, and international conferences and was able to use cutting-edge technology during her clinical work. In addition, she said that she feels incredibly lucky to have had such caring, compassionate, and brilliant professors who make their students' education their number one priority.

Having graduated with a GPA of 3.99, Tia plans to obtain her Certificate of Clinical Competence as well as work with clients who have voice disorders. She also hopes to continue to educate individuals on the role of a SLP in voice rehabilitation. In addition, she works as a staff member at the Performing Arts Training Academy which was founded in 2014 by Misericordia's own Dr. Cari Tellis. Tia works with children ages 7-17 years, teaching them strategies for healthy voice use and helps to create a safe, positive environment for them that promotes self-expression.

GRADUATE

## Women Skills on Field

'19 AMBERLYNN HABICH

Pele, the famous Brazilian soccer player once said, "Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do." The class of 2018 embodies Pele's sentiment. From the perspective of a current student, I can attest that the Speech-Language Pathology program at Misericordia University is challenging for almost everyone. The course load is heavy, the time spent studying for each class is very consuming, and maintaining a high overall grade point average is always on the mind.

As students from the class of 2018 begin graduate school this fall, it is all the more impressive that 10 of them will be taking on the challenges of athletics on top of their graduate school course load. The number of different sports represented by the graduate class is notable and includes basketball, cheerleading, golf, volleyball, tennis, track and field, and cross country. Students in the graduate program who have continued their participation in these sports include Shannon Croasdale, Carly Sees, Kelly Williams, Nicole Tagerty, Cornelia Chmil, Elise Reardon, Bethany Killmon, Katie McLoughlin, Alissa Steier, and Kelsey O'Donnell.

McLoughlin is the goalie of the Women's Lacrosse team at Misericordia, and Steier is a starting pitcher of the Women's Softball team. The time and commitment required to be a student athlete is unparalleled. McLoughlin and Steier both agreed that time-management is their biggest challenge. Steier stated, "It was extremely important for me to learn how to utilize every minute I have." Although being a student athlete has a lot to do with time management, it also is reliant on mental stability. Killmon noted, "It takes a lot



Alissa Steier

to give your time, your heart, and your energy to your major and your sport."

A typical day in the life of a student athlete is different from the day of non-athletes. Even during the off-season, McLoughlin and Steier are preparing for the next season. McLoughlin mentioned that flexibility in her schedule is the biggest difference between in-season and off-season. For example, during the season, McLoughlin says that "my day is pretty much planned for me." Steier pointed out that for softball, the team will play a double header, which adds up to about 8-12 hours a day. Then, after either a lacrosse or softball game, both students are expected to still keep up with their grades. Although there are some challenges to being a student athlete, they enjoy every minute of their time—both in the major and their chosen sport.

There are some skills that are enhanced through athletics that can help a student in the future. Croasdale stated, "Athletics have helped develop skills as I am required to work hard, lead, and take the initiative every day." Chmil thinks that being an athlete will help her in her future as a speech-language pathologist because "it has proved to me that I will learn something new every day."

Sees, Williams, and Tagerty all stressed that despite all the sprints, practices,

and lifting, they play their sports because they enjoy them. Being a student-athlete puts a strain on many students, but ultimately there is a reason they put themselves through those challenges. McLoughlin's favorite part of being a student-athlete is that she has two families, the lacrosse team, and her speech-language pathology classmates. She mentioned that "any challenges that come my way are a little bit easier knowing I'm backed by people who care about my success." Steier states that her favorite part of being a student-athlete is that "both my major and softball allow me to contribute to others." Many students enroll in our major to make people's lives better and more enjoyable. Our athletes also believe that they too improve the lives of their teammates—whether they catch a ball so the play can continue for the rest of the team or say an encouraging word in the huddle to motivate the team. Our talented student athletes add an interesting flavor to our department and enhance the bonds among our students.

Students like Reardon and O'Donnell who decide to go into such a challenging major and put their hearts and souls into their sport are special. Talented student athletes add to the melting pot that makes our department extraordinary.



Katie McLoughlin

# Misericordia Alumni

FIRST YEAR PROFESSOR

## Dr. Nicholas Barone

'17 JULIE PAPORELLO

Dr. Barone received his doctorate from James Madison University in August of 2015 and is currently an assistant professor in the Communication Disorders program at the University of Virginia. We were able to gain some perspective from Dr. Barone of what it is like to be a new professor in the field of speech-language pathology.

**JP:** When did you first realize that pursuing a Ph.D. was the right path for you?

**NB:** After my first graduate class at Misericordia I knew I wanted to go into academia. I was so exhilarated by the course that I realized that I wanted to pursue a doctorate.

**JP:** Did you receive mentoring and encouragement to pursue your doctorate?

**NB:** I had the support of every Misericordia Speech-Language Pathology Professor. I completed a master's thesis and gained experience in the research process. I also received wonderful recommendations from my professors.

**JP:** Were there any specific Misericordia classes and/or experiences that you believe most prepared you for your doctorate?

**NB:** Completing the master's thesis definitely prepared me. What really got me in the right frame of mind was participating in research and being able to volunteer and be a research assistant with four professors in the department. My experiences at Misericordia prepared me to jump right into the research going on at James Madison University.

**JP:** Was there a particular professor who inspired you to pursue your doctorate?

**NB:** Everyone supported me, but the one who influenced me most would have to be Dr. Cari Tellis. She encouraged me to complete a master's



Left to right: Brittany Brown, Dr. Barone, Lauren Mathieu, and Justin Benson

thesis and involved me in all her research endeavors. She taught me how to think like a researcher and professor.

**JP:** What was your favorite part of your Misericordia graduate school experience?

**NB:** My favorite part of the program was the fabulous clinical education and preparation. I felt confident in my clinical abilities upon leaving, as well as my abilities as a researcher. I also really cherished the opportunities to attend conferences and present research. I was even able to go to Rome, Italy and present my thesis. That support and those opportunities are what really got me excited about getting my Ph.D. Meeting my wife in the Speech-Language Pathology program at Misericordia is up there too.

**JP:** What would be your advice for a student who is interested in pursuing a doctorate in Speech Language Pathology?

**NB:** Make sure this is really what you want to do, and if it is—go for it with

everything you've got. Our field is in a real need of Ph.D. faculty who can teach and continue to do research.

**JP:** Did you specialize in a particular area?

**NB:** Neurophysiology of Voice. Exploring how the brain changes as we learn to use the voice in a new way.

**JP:** Is there anything else you would like to add?

**NB:** Without the support of Dr. Glen Tellis, Dr. Hunter Manasco, Dr. Kathy Scaler Scott, Dr. Rachel Yan, and Lori Cimino I would not have gone for my Ph.D. I am sincerely grateful to them for their support and guidance during my master's and doctoral work—as well as now as a new professor.

**JP:** What are your favorite aspects of being a professor?

**NB:** Interacting with students and being able to pass on my love and passion for voice and voice research to great master's students here at the University of Virginia.

# NSSLHA UPDATE

## '19 SHEA WILLIAMS, '19 LISA STUMPP, '19 HOPE SPANGLER, '19 EMILY GURTZEN

Throughout the 2015-2016 school year, the members of the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) Chapter at Misericordia University made it their mission to change the world, one smile at a time.

To kick off the year, our club hosted an ice cream social to allow members to become better acquainted with each other and foster a valued sense of community. The upperclassmen came together in October 2015 to collect and donate supplies for Ruth's Place in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Throughout the fall 2015, NSSLHA sold bracelets to raise funds for Threads of Hope—an organization dedicated to helping at-risk families in the Philippines. In November 2015, multiple members volunteered at the "Gobble Till You Wobble" event hosted by Misericordia's Autism Speaks club. The Thanksgiving-themed event

aimed to provide a safe, fun-filled day—packed with sensory activities, crafts, and games for those in the local community with autism. For this event, our club worked together to make and decorate hand turkeys with the children. In December 2015, members worked together to pack nine shoeboxes with goodies for Operation Christmas Child. Later in the school year, NSSLHA members also formed a team for Misericordia's Relay for Life event, generating \$770 collectively for the American Cancer Society. In April 2017, our NSSLHA Chapter members also supported Misericordia's Chapter of the National Stuttering Association (NSA) by volunteering for the Northeast Pennsylvania NSA Chapter's 3<sup>rd</sup> annual "Don't Tell Me to Slow Down" 5k race and raised \$2,000. In May 2017, our NSSLHA members attended our annual banquet to reflect on all that they had accomplished

throughout the year. At the banquet, members also made spring door decorations for a local nursing home.

Throughout the year, NSSLHA strived to extend its mission to the local communities and various populations. Our club established a pen-pal program with the elderly at a local nursing home. Another event in the service to the elderly was held in October 2015, where members visited the Mercy Center in Dallas, Pennsylvania to make Halloween decorations with the residents. In March 2017, members travelled to a local church to volunteer with an after-school program that offers meals, homework assistance, and activities to school-age children in the area. Later in the month, members visited and donated 32 books to a local preschool. Members also held a "coffee-gram" fundraiser that benefitted Operation Smile entitled "Just Sip 'n Smile," during which members sold coffee and hot chocolate to students and faculty. This fundraiser covered the cost of one cleft palate surgery. We were very pleased with all the volunteer activities our members participated in throughout the year. Our biggest event was organizing a benefit concert for Operation Smile. We raised more than \$3,500 which was enough to cover the cost of 15 cleft palate surgeries in developing countries. NSSLHA, therefore, made the local community part of their global mission to change the world one smile at a time. Our chapter of NSSLHA has already made an impact in the state of Pennsylvania by winning the NSSLHA Chapter Honors award twice in a row at the PSHA Convention as well as winning the PSHA Membership Honors award nine years in a row. The Misericordia University NSSLHA chapter hopes to maintain this strong impact in Pennsylvania as well as make a bigger impact in our field.



MU NSSLHA Officers left to right: Emily Gurtzen, Shea Williams, Hope Spangler, Lisa Stumpp

# *Operation Smile* BECOMES *Annual* PART OF **NSSLHA's Mission**

'20 ANNETTE RITZKO

At the start of the Fall semester in 2015, Misericordia's National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) officers expressed a desire to partner with a group called Operation Smile, a nonprofit organization that provides free surgical procedures for children and young adults born with a cleft lip, cleft palate, and other facial deformities. Since 1982 Operation Smile has provided hundreds of thousands of free surgeries for children from more than 60 countries. Shea Williams, a sophomore Speech-Language Pathology student and President of NSSLHA, explained why NSSLHA chose Operation Smile, "This year, we chose to partner with Operation Smile, with the hope of raising enough money to fund 15 life-changing surgeries for children with cleft palates, cleft lips, and other deformities. Because we are all Speech-Language Pathology majors, this organization is incredibly close to our hearts."

At the beginning of the year, money was raised for Operation Smile through a fundraiser entitled "Just Sip'n'Smile," where members sold and delivered "coffee-grams," or notes from



MU NSSLHA Officers

friends accompanied by coffee or hot chocolate. We raised lot of money and gave people who were not members of NSSLHA an opportunity to give to an exceptional organization. NSSLHA members and Misericordia students, however, did not stop there. In April 2016, Misericordia's NSSLHA Chapter held their 2nd annual benefit concert. This year's theme was "Put a Smile on Your Face" and all proceeds from t-shirt, raffle ticket, and concert ticket sales went toward Operation Smile.

The concert featured Misericordia's Beyond Harmony and Dance Ensemble.

The concert had so many willing participants and performers that it was split into two acts. Prior to the event, members sold t-shirts to support the concert and freshmen participated in their own class project to sell raffle tickets for the baskets and gift certificates. During the benefit concert, people performed dances, sang songs, and exhibited their passion to help others smile again. The show was phenomenal and everyone was impressed with the performances.

After the show the NSSLHA officers gave closing remarks and were surprised that over \$3,300 was raised. A sophomore speech-language pathology student and treasurer of NSSLHA, Emily Gurtzen, said, "We had set a goal of raising a total of \$2,880, enough to fund twelve of these life-changing surgeries. We were pleased that we exceeded our goal and raised over \$3,300—sufficient for 15 surgeries." By the end of the year, a total of \$3,600 was donated to Operation Smile. Obviously, the members of the NSSLHA chapter at Misericordia were thrilled to donate to this cause so that others can smile again.



Volunteers for the Operation Smile Benefit Concert

## A MODEL OF COURAGE:

# Theresa Jacopetti

'20 ELIZABETH HEINMILLER

Luke Easter, an American Baseball player, said "A strong woman knows she has strength enough for the journey, but a woman of strength knows it is on the journey that she will become strong." He must have known Theresa Jacopetti because she is a woman of strength. Theresa has been a Clinical Supervisor for 5 years in Misericordia's Speech-Language Pathology program. She received her Bachelor's and Master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology from Bloomsburg University, and is certified as a Reading Specialist by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Theresa's wide range of experience in the field of Speech-Language Pathology is remarkable. She has worked with patients of all ages and clients with many different diagnoses, ranging from head trauma to dysphagia to apraxia. Not only did Theresa start the preschool speech and language program at Allied Services John Heinz Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, but she also went on to own and operate a private practice in speech and language therapy working with articulation, language, fluency, and voice. Currently, along with her affiliation

with Misericordia, she works as a speech-language pathologist in the Greater Nanticoke Area School District. Theresa emphasized that she specifically enjoys working with the students in Misericordia's Speech-Language Pathology program. "I value the lessons learned, the experiences gained, and the relationships developed on our journey in life."

Theresa has great stories to tell from her incredible career experiences; however, she has a significant one that transcends the boundaries of her job. On Martin Luther King Day in January 2015, Theresa noticed unusual bleeding and called her doctor who saw her the next day and did an ultrasound to determine the cause. The next week, she had an endometrial biopsy, which revealed that Theresa had uterine cancer. On March 3, 2015, she underwent a hysterectomy. The cancer was encapsulated in her uterus at Stage I.

Theresa praised the entire Speech-Language Pathology Department at Misericordia. "The faculty, staff and students exemplified the mercy, service, justice, and hospitality charisms we all know so well at Misericordia University. The kindness showed when visiting, sending cards, and sending emails were heartwarming for me and truly merciful." Placing folders and

paperwork in her mailbox for her to pick up when her husband drove her to the clinic so she could review them allowed her to stay involved in our department that she loves. Theresa noted that the actions taken when finding coverage for her clinical supervision and sending a clinician to help her when she returned to work at the Greater Nanticoke Area School District empowered her. Additionally, Theresa explained that the flowers and meals delivered were generous and friendly reminders of the hospitality that abounds in the halls of Misericordia's University Speech-Language Hearing Center.

In November of 2015, Theresa received an email about Misericordia's Relay for Life. Using this as an opportunity to start a team and celebrate one year of being cancer free, Theresa named her Relay for Life team "Nana Winks." The team came in 3rd place out of 44 teams—raising \$2,800 toward the overall total of \$46,000. Several department faculty, staff, and students donated to her team in support of the American Cancer Society. Many students walked with her in the gym during the event to stand with Theresa in their commitment to fight cancer, support survivors, and honor those who have passed away because of cancer.

When Theresa was offered the honor of being the survivor speaker at the 2016 Relay event, she decided to keep it a secret from her family to surprise them that evening. As Theresa wrote her speech on tablet paper so that it would not be discovered, President Botzman stood by her side and offered to hold the microphone and turn her pages. She commented that this type of gesture demonstrates the spirit of our campus at Misericordia University! Theresa said that Misericordia is her "Happy Place!" The faculty, staff, and students of the Speech-Language Pathology Department at Misericordia are honored to be able to call Theresa a member of our family and a model of courage for all to follow.



Theresa's support system

# AN Interview WITH Victoria Florman '20 PAIGE GREENLEY



Victoria Florman is a 2014 Misericordia graduate currently working as an Outpatient Voice Specialist at Beth Israel

Deaconess Medical Center in Boston. I was able to interview Victoria and ask her several questions about her career.

**During your time at Misericordia, what was your favorite part about the Speech-Language Pathology program?** Hands down, the voice class and the opportunity I had to participate in research with Dr. Cari Tellis and the others on the voice team. I learned so much about the research and clinical process because of my involvement with the team. I loved discovering the "art" and the "science" behind the voice, and in helping my first patients rediscover a part of themselves that they had lost.

## What is your current job title?

I currently work as an outpatient Voice Specialist at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, Massachusetts. Half of my week is spent working in the Voice, Speech, and Swallowing Clinic where I spend time providing therapy for adults with dysphonia, cough/irritable larynx, and paradoxical vocal fold movement

disorder (PVFMD). The other half of my week is spent in the ENT clinic assisting our laryngologist with evaluations and stroboscopy.

## What does a typical work day for you entail?

If I am working in rehab, I'll start at either 7:30 am or 8:30 am. On my longest day I have a 9-hour long patient block. When working in the ENT clinic, I start and finish when our laryngologist is done for the day. Some days I see five or six patients for evaluations; others are lighter, but I spend more time doing laryngoscopies or stroboscopies for follow-up patients. In an outpatient setting, my hours are fixed and the structure is nice. While I may get sudden add-ons, usually I know what to expect. The flip side is that there are some days when "the cancellation Gods have been overly generous and so I may read a few journal articles, catch up on paperwork, or prepare for the rest of the week."

## Have you been back to campus to visit lately?

Unfortunately, no. My clinical Fellowship took me to Oregon, and distance certainly was a barrier! Though I'm back on the east coast now, my job keeps me busy. I'd love to go back and visit though—for homecoming maybe, or to see all the professors. I miss it, and them.

## Do you have any advice for speech-language pathology students at Misericordia?

Don't be afraid to get out of your comfort zone and try new things, and always take advantage of office hours! Outside of class, spend your free time wisely—study yes, but you'll have more time for fun stuff as an undergraduate, so go out and do things! Join clubs, meet people, go on trips through Student Activities. Also, no one expects you to have a "passion" right out of the gate—you don't have to know exactly who you want to work with or in what type of setting, and believe me, your thoughts on that will keep changing as you gain more experience and take new classes. The department has a world-class faculty. The training and education that you receive in the department compares with the top universities in the United States, so take advantage of the professors and the information that they can impart.

## Lastly, any advice for SLP students about to graduate?

Keep in touch with your cohort! With luck, you'll have an amazing Clinical Fellowship placement and supervisor, but in the event you don't, you will be a great resource for each other. I can't count the number of times we reached out asking for resources, advice, and documents.

We thank Victoria for sharing her story with us. Victoria is an inspiration to all speech-language pathology students including myself. We wish her the best!

WE WOULD LIKE TO *acknowledge* THE *following* FOR PROVIDING *grants*  
TO THE *SLP Department:*

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF THE ENDLESS MOUNTAINS, FIRST FEDERAL CHARITABLE FOUNDATION  
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF PENNSYLVANIA, FIRST NATIONAL COMMUNITY BANK, GABRIEL BERNABEO INITIATIVE,  
LANDMARK COMMUNITY BANK, M&T BANK, WEIS MARKETS, INC.

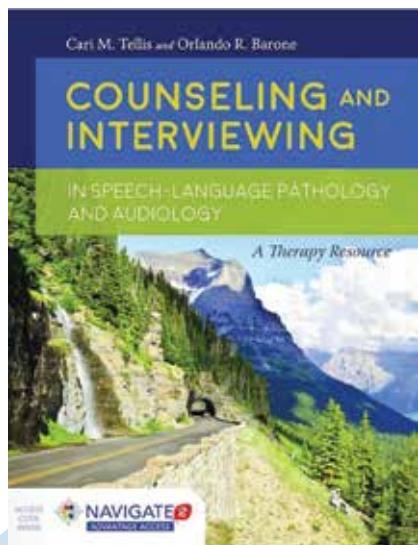
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# New Textbook

COUNSELING AND INTERVIEWING IN SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

'20 CARA IMBALZANO



Cari M. Tellis, Ph.D., CCC-SLP



Orlando Barone, MA

Establishing rapport and building relationships with clients can be a great barrier when trying to accomplish successful and effective therapy. *Counseling and Interviewing in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology: A Therapy Resource*, co-written by Cari M. Tellis, Ph.D., CCC-SLP., an associate professor of speech-language pathology at Misericordia University and Orlando R. Barone, MA, was published this fall by Jones & Bartlett Learning. This text includes information to aid clinicians in the difficult yet essential skills of counseling and interviewing. Each chapter of the book contains real life scenarios that lead the reader into discussions of key issues with regard to counseling their clients. The counseling techniques described in the book have been tested in the field for over a decade. Impressively, these techniques account for factors such as culture, age, cognitive function, and beliefs. *Counseling and Interviewing in Speech-Language Pathology's "solution focus"* theme sheds light on how clinicians and clients can achieve goals that are disorder specific through the use of different counseling approaches.

At its core "solution focus" provides the clinician with tools to ensure that unwavering attention is concentrated on what a client and clinician are working to accomplish. The text provides methods which, if implemented correctly, will ensure that clinicians are working alongside their clients to develop a solution to the "problem" at hand. The word "problem" and what it means to solve "problems" in therapy is discussed in the book.

The book is unique because of Tellis and Barone's use of novel models and techniques. Among these models is the "Circle of Power" which is described as crucial to the clients' success of achieving therapeutic outcomes that are dependent on a clinician's counseling proficiency. Another inimitable idea in the book is the "Confidence Zone" where effective counseling focuses on empowering clients to use their newly acquired therapy skills successfully, thus improving the quality of life.

From a student's perspective, I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book. It was written in language that

was easy to follow for students and clinicians. I have already started using these techniques in my clinical practice and have observed my clients carrying over the counseling methods that were advocated.

# *Letter* FROM THE *Chair*

GLEN TELLIS, PH.D.  
PROFESSOR AND DEPARTMENT CHAIR

It is hard to image that we are now in the 10th year of our newsletter, and our student editor has shared several interesting articles for this edition. Every fall semester when I receive the newsletter I am amazed at all that has taken place in the department during the previous year. Our relatively new department is only in its 14th year of existence; however, the quality of each cohort of students keeps improving.

Our incoming first year students were again in the top 10% of their high school graduating class and the majority of our students excelled in the program. For example, in April 2016, at the Pennsylvania Speech-Language Hearing Association (PSHA) convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, our National Student Speech-Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) Chapter once again received the PSHA Membership Award as well as the Chapter Honors. NSSLHA held many fundraisers and events and collaborated with the Northeast Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Stuttering Association to hold the third "Don't Tell Me to Slow Down" 5k race to support the National Stuttering Association. NSSLHA also organized a benefit concert for Operation Smile and raised enough money to fund 15 cleft palate surgeries in developing countries.

Our 2016 graduating class also received 100% first time passing scores on the PRAXIS-SLP national examination. Many of our students presented numerous papers with faculty members at state, national, and international conferences. Tia Spagnuolo, one of our graduate students, received the PSHA Von Drach Memorial Scholarship, awarded to the outstanding graduate student from the entire state of Pennsylvania. In 2016, we also welcomed Dr.

Nina Santus, our first post-doctoral scholar. She graduated with her Ph.D. from the University of Georgia. We are equally pleased that six of our alumni have either completed their research doctorates and are now faculty members at universities or are in the process of completing their doctorates.

The faculty have presented at numerous conferences, published papers, and written books. Faculty also served as reviewers and editorial consultants for premier journals in our discipline. In 2016, the SLP department co-sponsored with the Hazleton Area School District Early Intervention Department, a full-day seminar that was attended by over 100 professionals and students. Our faculty received several grants in 2015-2016. We received funding from various sources, including, Community Foundation of the Endless Mountains, First Federal Charitable Foundation, First National Bank of Pennsylvania, First National Community Bank, Gabriel Bernabeo Initiative, Landmark Community Bank, M&T Bank, and Weis Markets, Inc. The department received other external funds from: RERC on Universal Interface and Information Technology Access (UIITA) (Funding from NIDRR). This grant, through the University of Wisconsin, Madison, includes a subcontract to Raising the Floor-US for off-campus contributors. Funding has allowed us to provide cutting-edge services and maintain state-of-the art clinic and research facilities.

The Speech-Language and Hearing Center continues to provide a valuable service to the community. We continue our partnerships with numerous agencies including the Hazleton Area School District's Office of Special Education Early Intervention Program.



Our department also was featured in several newspaper articles and radio and television interviews, raising the profile of the program locally and nationally. This publicity has increased the awareness of the department in the community and has resulted in a significant increase in the number of clients who receive services in our Speech-Language and Hearing Center.

I hope you enjoyed this edition of our newsletter. Please take a moment to browse through our department website ([www.misericordia.edu/slp](http://www.misericordia.edu/slp)) and learn more about our program.

Glen Tellis, Ph.D.  
Professor and Department Chair



Department of Speech-Language Pathology

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