



# Articulator

## Letter FROM THE Editor

BY MOLLY CORRELL –  
'11 GRADUATE STUDENT

The 2009 Misericordia Articulator features a wide array of exciting articles about our continually expanding Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) Department. This year's contributors did an excellent job of delivering interesting and informative pieces, shedding light on all that our department has to offer.

The excitement is mounting as we transition into our new home on Lake Street. We will have much more space to accommodate our increasing size. Filled with state-of-the-art equipment, the College of Health Sciences Building is just one more indication that the SLP Program at Misericordia truly is growing by leaps and bounds.

In addition to our expansion in physical size, the list of accomplishments continues to grow here at Misericordia as well. The SLP Department is privileged to acknowledge a major achievement by one of our professors. In November 2008, Dr. Cari Tellis co-published a book entitled, *Your Voice is Your Business*. Alicia Lowe, '11 Graduate Student, discusses this terrific accomplishment in greater detail in her article.

It is easy to see that our horizons are certainly expanding; however, I feel that there is one aspect of the SLP Department at Misericordia that will remain steadfast for years to come. The fact that we truly are a close-knit community will not change. I believe that is one of the primary reasons our program achieves the success that it does. The real purpose of this letter is to provide those who are familiar with our department and those who are not,

with an accurate glimpse into how well the Misericordia SLP faculty, staff, and students work as a team. The collaboration and cooperation that occurs between professors and students, upperclassmen and underclassmen is incredible. Everyone is on a level playing field here. We all just want to succeed.

I was thrilled to accept the position as editor of the 2009 Articulator, because I knew it would be an opportunity to do justice to the hard work and dedication that so many people put into this program. Whenever a group of determined and dependable people come together for a common cause, that endeavor, no matter what it may be, is destined to be a success. I honestly hope that by reading this newsletter, one can realize that it is the people who make the Misericordia SLP Department what it is.

## Getting to Know OUR NEW FACULTY MEMBER

BY MOLLY CORRELL –  
'11 GRADUATE STUDENT

Dr. Kathleen Scaler Scott became our Department's newest faculty member in the fall of 2009. She was excited to take on this new position and gladly answered my questions. Read below to find out more about Dr. Scaler Scott.



**MC:** What drew you to the field of speech-language pathology?

**KS:** I was always interested in helping others, especially children. I knew I wanted to go into some kind of teaching, but decided on speech-language pathology because the teaching was more individual.

I was hooked after I completed my first clinic experience during my undergraduate program at an early intervention nursery.

**MC:** What is your academic and professional background?

**KS:** I received my Bachelor's degree in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences from Douglass College, a women's college within Rutgers University in New Jersey. I

went straight on from undergraduate to graduate school at Emerson College in Boston. After receiving my Master's in Communication Disorders, I worked for 12 years in various clinical settings, including schools, hospitals, and private practice. While working with clients and observing speech and language patterns about which I could find little information, I became

interested in conducting research to find out answers for myself, my students, and other clinicians. In 2005, I began a doctoral program at the University of Louisiana

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# Getting to Know

DR. KATHLEEN SCALER SCOTT

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at Lafayette. I received my Ph.D. in Applied Language and Speech Sciences in December 2008.

**MC:** What areas of speech-language pathology interest you the most?

**KS:** Although I am interested in many areas of speech-language pathology, my areas of greatest interest and expertise fall in the areas of language and literacy, fluency disorders, and social communication issues. I also have special interest in cluttering and speech and language patterns in autism spectrum disorders.

**MC:** Why did you decide to join the faculty at Misericordia University?

**KS:** I was impressed with many things about Misericordia University: the passion for teaching and research among its faculty, the enthusiasm of the students,

and the personal relationship between faculty and students. The campus environment reminds me of my undergraduate education—where the dean knew you by name. It was that type of education that molded me from a shy girl into a leader. I imagine that Misericordia's environment has a similar impact upon its students. I also was extremely impressed with the strong clinical training program at MU.

**MC:** What are your expectations for Northeastern Pennsylvania and Misericordia University?

**KS:** I expect that Misericordia will be a friendly, active, and upbeat place to work—judging by the faculty and students I've met so far. I also expect to gain weight from all of the great... baking I hear that goes on in the department and from the wonderful pizza I have learned Northeastern Pennsylvania is famous for!

**MC:** Can you tell us a little bit about your personal background?

**KS:** I am a native of New Jersey, have one brother and one sister, 3 nieces and nephews, and an amazingly supportive husband. I also have an 11-year-old Godson who holds a special place in my heart. I also love to run, ski, read, and travel.

**MC:** If you weren't a speech-language pathologist, what would you be doing for a living?

**KS:** Something in the music or movie industry. Although I cannot sing or act, I love music, theatre, and movies.

**MC:** What is one thing people would be surprised to know about you?

**KS:** That I am a first-generation college student. When you receive your Ph.D., it is often assumed that others in your family have completed advanced degrees.

## WHAT'S NEW WITH

# NSSLHA

BY DANIELLE CINO –  
'11 GRADUATE STUDENT

Students in our chapter of the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) are proud to be part of such a wonderful organization. Our chapter of NSSLHA started in 2004, and our members have been working hard ever since to become a great club, not only for its members, but also for the community. Two years ago, our chapter received the NSSLHA National Chapter of the Year Award at the American Speech-Language Hearing Association Convention in Boston. Last year our club received the state membership award from the Pennsylvania Speech-Language Hearing Association (PSHA). As the President of our chapter of NSSLHA for the 2008-2009, I have worked with the other club officers and members to follow the path paved by the previous officers to accomplish many great things this year.

A favorite activity that has been kept alive over the years is the Halloween Clinic Party that members of the NSSLHA club sponsored for children who attend our clinic. The event was a resounding success. We also had other fun activities that included a Valentine's Day Bake Sale, Penguins Hockey game for club members, coffee break social night, NSSLHA clothing sale, Saint Patrick's Day t-shirt fundraiser sale, and a campus walk for ALS. We also conducted hearing screenings at a local nursing home and participated in Misericordia's Homecoming Weekend. Another novel activity that our club is proud of is that we pair juniors and freshmen in our mentoring program. Our juniors mentor freshmen and meet monthly to discuss any questions or concerns that the freshmen have about the program.

Our chapter also made a donation to the national

NSSLHA scholarship fund. The Speech-Language Pathology Department matched our donation as well. Members of our club also helped out with the PSHA Political Action Committee drive, sold candy for the Colleen Shea Foundation, participated in a Gertrude Hawk fundraiser, and assisted with the Campus Ministry Adopt-a-Family program to donate Thanksgiving food items.

This has indeed been a fulfilling year for our club. At the end of every school year, our club holds a banquet for members to recognize all their contributions and achievements. Everyone had a great time at the function. I may be a little biased, but I

believe that NSSLHA is an amazing club. I think that any speech-language pathology student who is interested in service should join us and help out with our activities. I have learned so much by being a part of this club and will always cherish the experiences that were made possible because of NSSLHA.



## Sign Language

BY CHERISH FRANCIK – ADJUNCT  
INSTRUCTOR OF AMERICAN SIGN  
LANGUAGE AT MISERICORDIA  
UNIVERSITY

I was pleased when the editor asked me to share my views about why I believe Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) students should take an American Sign Language (ASL) class. When students enter the workforce, they can use the sign language skills learned in an ASL course to communicate with some of their deaf or hard of hearing clients. SLP students who know sign language will find it easier to communicate with their clients who are deaf or hard of hearing. In my experience, I have found that many clients will open up more to a clinician during a session when they know that the SLP knows ASL. A clinician can also use ASL to provide instructions to a client. For example, the SLP clinician can use ASL to teach a client about a certain method of mouth positioning, lip movement, or tongue control. Knowing how to communicate through ASL will make sessions move along more smoothly and be more productive.

Another reason why SLP majors may find it beneficial to take an ASL course would be to gain a better insight about how deaf people communicate in their own language. If SLP students understand how ASL is grammatically structured or how ASL is produced, they will find it easier to communicate with individuals who use this language. SLP students, therefore, should take an ASL course to gain an insight about American Sign Language and its use in the deaf and hard of hearing community. Since ASL is a language in and of itself, it has its own syntax, structure, and grammar. I believe that if SLP students take a course in ASL they will be able to successfully use and understand the language.

## Notes FROM THE *Field*

BY LISA HOLDSWORTH –  
'11 GRADUATE STUDENT

Chavonne Potts graduated in May 2009 and completed her fieldwork placement in Philadelphia. I interviewed Chavonne to gain an insight into her externship experience as well as to ask her about her memories at Misericordia University.

**LH:** In what settings did you complete your fieldwork?

**CP:** In fall 2008, I completed my school placement at Elwyn Davidson School—a special needs school for children ages 3-21 in Media, Pennsylvania. I completed my adult placement at an inpatient facility at Magee Rehabilitation Hospital in center city Philadelphia.

**LH:** How did your externships go overall?

**CP:** My externships went very well. I was extremely nervous at the start of each rotation because I did not know what to expect or how my supervisor would perceive me. It only took about 3-4 weeks to get into the routine of things and settle into my position as a speech clinician. I really enjoyed both of my placements—and I also learned a lot in the process.

**LH:** Were the placements challenging?

**CP:** Yes, they were very challenging and at times overwhelming, but I think they should be! Each day I learned something new and ran into several challenges,

whether it was coming across a medical abbreviation I did not previously know or seeing a new patient with a condition that was different from the medical diagnosis.

**LH:** Do you think that the Speech-Language Pathology Program at Misericordia prepared you well for your fieldwork placements?

**CP:** I feel that Misericordia prepared me very well with the textbook knowledge and clinical skills I needed to succeed in my externship. In school, I received a solid foundation for evaluating and treating both children and adults; however, I believe that you can not get a full understanding of caseloads and the daily experience of being a clinician until you have had full-time hands-on experience at a facility. That is why it is critical to complete an externship before entering the workforce.

**LH:** Did you like having the opportunity to complete an externship before graduation?

**CP:** Yes! Completing my externship has provided me with the knowledge, experience, and confidence I need to go out on my own as a Speech-Language Pathologist. It has also given me the opportunity to experience working with different populations in various settings and has shaped my opinion of things I like and dislike. I will review all these aspects when I am applying for my first job. I truly believe that Misericordia has prepared me for my future in Speech-Language Pathology. The courses, the externship, and the faculty and staff have assured me of a successful future.



INTERVIEW WITH  
**Dr. Cari Tellis**

BY ALICIA LOWE – '11 GRADUATE STUDENT

In November 2008, Dr. Cari Tellis published her first book, *Your Voice Is Your Business*, which she co-authored with her father Orlando Barone, a management consultant and presentation coach. The book was launched at the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association (ASHA) Convention in Chicago in 2008. I sat down with Dr. Tellis to talk to her about the book.

**AL:** What is your book about? What message are you trying to convey?

**CT:** The book combines the art of public speaking with the science of voice. It gives the reader practical suggestions on how to care for the voice, integrate the voice as an effective form of communication, and properly use the voice. For example, the book outlines how people can project their voices to make them louder, while still protecting the voice. A DVD that accompanies the book includes excerpts from workshops we have conducted, an interview with a voice client, and information regarding the therapy process.

**AL:** Why did you decide to write this book?

**CT:** I specialize in voice and my father,

Orlando Barone, specializes in interpersonal effectiveness and presentation skills training. We wanted to inform people about how these two topics are related. After considerable research and no luck finding books that incorporated the use of voice and presentation skills training, we decided to write a book together. We work well together and have the same writing style, so this decision was not hard.

**AL:** How long did the book take to write?

**CT:** To totally finish the book, it took us about two years. We began by researching the evolution of the voice and then spent the first six months writing the first draft. The next year and half was spent editing and creating a DVD to go along with the book.

**AL:** Do you need to be a Speech-Language Pathologist to understand the book?

**CT:** No. This is an introductory book that can be read by people who want to learn about public speaking and the use of one's voice in a professional setting. The book is also helpful for anyone who wishes to learn how to use his or her voice more

effectively. In graduate level voice classes, the book may be used to teach students how to make the voice functional. The field of communication and mass media may also reference the book in areas such as public speaking. The book also contains technical information (located in sidebars of the book) and images that speech-language pathologists would understand.

**AL:** Will you be traveling to promote the book?

**CT:** We released the book at the ASHA Convention in November of 2008 in Chicago. In January of 2009, we attended the International Arts and Humanities Conference in Hawaii, where we gave an informational presentation on the book. There will probably be more promotions to come.

**AL:** Where can someone purchase your book?

**CT:** The book can be found in the Misericordia University library, Amazon.com, or at my publisher's website (Plural Publishing): <http://www.pluralpublishing.com>



## Make a gift TO THE *SLP Student Fund*

Please consider making a gift and helping students in the SLP program defray costs for clinical materials and activities, travel to conferences, research, and other activities. You can support this effort by contributing to the SLP Student Fund. All contributions are tax deductible. Also, check with your place of employment for a Matching Gift Program.

You can give a gift in the following ways:  
On-line at [misericordia.edu/makeagift](http://misericordia.edu/makeagift) please put SLP Student Fund in the memo section.

Call 570-674-6354 between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM to make a gift over the phone.

**SEND A CHECK MADE OUT TO:** Misericordia University, by mail to Development Office, SLP Student Fund, 301 Lake Street, Dallas, PA 18612

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## Letter FROM THE *Chair*

GLEN TELLIS, PH.D. –  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR  
AND DEPARTMENT CHAIR

In seven years, the Speech-Language Pathology Department has grown from an initial cohort of 12 students to over 130 students. While we have grown in size, our student quality has not suffered. In 2009, three of our students completed a master's thesis and three students received graduate student awards to complete their research. One of our 2007 graduates, Jessica Sofranko was accepted into the doctoral program in Communication Sciences and Disorders at The Pennsylvania State University and will begin her Ph.D. in fall 2009. Our students presented their research at the Undergraduate Research at the Capitol conference in Harrisburg and at numerous state and national conventions. A few of our students also presented their research at the 7th Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities. Our students co-published 3 papers with professors and presented numerous papers with faculty members at state and national conferences. At the Pennsylvania Speech-Language Hearing Association (PSHA) convention in Philadelphia in April 2009, the National Student Speech-Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) Chapter once again received the PSHA Membership Award. At the convention, for the second year in succession, one of our students received the Von Drach Memorial Scholarship that is awarded to the outstanding graduate student from the entire state of Pennsylvania.

Our Speech-Language and Hearing Center continues to provide a valuable service to the community. We have established a partnership with the Hazleton Area School District Special Education Department to provide speech and language assessment and therapy to eligible preschool children in the Hazleton Area School District sponsored preschool programs.

Pennsylvania's Governor Edward Rendell visited campus and met one of our clients who used an Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) device that was part of a \$200,000 grant received from the governor's agency—Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development—a Keystone Innovation Starter Kit grant. The parent of the client mentioned to the governor that her 17 year old son had never talked until he received our services and used an AAC device. She thanked the governor for "giving her son a voice." The County Commissioner and Chairman, Maryanne Petrilla and the Executive Director of Human Services, Joseph DeVizia also visited the department and were impressed by the quality of our services.

Our faculty received numerous internal and external grants. Funding from various sources, including the Colleen Shea Foundation, First National Bank, Landmark Community Bank, and PNC Bank has allowed us to provide cutting-edge services and maintain state-of-the art clinic and research facilities. The faculty have published papers and books and presented at numerous conferences. Our department technology was featured in a cover story in *Advance*—a national trade magazine for speech-language pathologists. The department also was featured in several newspaper articles 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 are receiving services in our Speech-Language and Hearing Center.

Apart from some of the accomplishments noted previously, Dr. Kathy Scaler Scott joined the department as a tenure-track assistant professor. Dr. Scaler Scott recently completed her Ph.D. at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Her areas of interest include language and literacy, fluency disorders, and social communication issues. She also is interested in cluttering and speech and language patterns in autism spectrum disorders.

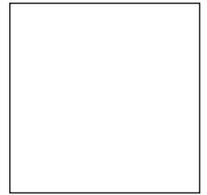
The department will soon be moving to a new location. This facility will house the entire Speech-Language Pathology Department as well as other departments and conference rooms. The new facility will include a classroom, a student resource room, several research laboratories including a speech-science lab, a fluency lab, an AAC lab (i.e., assistive technology), and a cognitive science lab. Our in-house Speech-Language and Hearing Center also will be located in this facility. 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 department website ([www.misericordia.edu/slp](http://www.misericordia.edu/slp)) and learn more about our program.

## *We would like to thank*

THE FOLLOWING FOR *giving generously* TO THE *SLP Student Fund:*

MR. AND MRS. ARTHUR C. BAIR; MR. AND MRS. ROBERT J. BROWN; MR. FRANK R. CONSTABLE; KELLY DEHAVEN '08 GRADUATE; JAMES DESSOYE '06 GRADUATE; SUSAN AND WILLIARD HELWIG, III; MR. AND MRS. MICHAEL D. HOPKINS; MR. AND MRS. ROBERT J. KIDRON; MR. AND MRS. HENRY D. LAUBE; MR. AND MRS. MICHAEL P. LIZONITZ; MR. AND MRS. EUGENE ROBERT MCKEOWN; HEIDI RAC '06 GRADUATE; JANET NOVINSKI RAPHEL, '66 GRADUATE; ERIK RAJ '08 GRADUATE; ROXANNE SMICHERKO RIVIELLO '05 GRADUATE; MR. AND MRS. BARRY L. STANKUS.



## Moving TO THE College OF Health Sciences Building

BY LORI CIMINO, M.S., CCC-SLP CLINICAL  
DIRECTOR, MISERICORDIA UNIVERSITY"

Take a stroll down the second floor corridor in Mercy Hall and you may find yourself asking, "What's the commotion about?" Over the past three years, the Speech-Language Pathology Program and its on-site Speech-Language and Hearing Center at Misericordia University have been growing at a remarkable rate. The rapid expansion of the program and the Center has made the need for a larger facility inevitable.

In fall 2009, the Speech-Language Pathology Department and Clinic is scheduled to move to the new College of Health Sciences building. The entire second floor of this newly renovated building will house the department and clinic, faculty and staff offices, and high-tech research labs.

The Speech-Language and Hearing Center will include a large waiting area, four individual treatment rooms, a sensory-motor gymnasium, an adult group room, a conference room, and a large student room/computer lab where students can prepare for treatment sessions and complete classroom assignments. Additional storage space and storage units in most rooms will make it easy to organize all clinical materials and equipment. All treatment rooms will be equipped with video cameras, two-way observation windows, and audio systems that will allow clinical supervisors, students, and caregivers to carefully monitor live sessions. This improved system will help students enhance their clinical skills and help caregivers learn therapy techniques that they may use at home. A cutting-edge video system will



be housed in a separate room. This system will allow supervisors and students to perform detailed reviews and analysis of recorded sessions.

State-of-the-art voice, fluency,

cognitive-linguistic, and assistive technology labs will be located adjacent to the clinic. These technologically advanced labs will be outfitted with modern equipment that will promote student and faculty research and allow students to learn the latest procedures to evaluate and treat various communicative disorders.

This restructuring of the Speech-Language Pathology Program and its on-site clinic will not only serve Misericordia University students, but will also be beneficial to the community.