



Articulator

Letter

FROM THE *Editors*

'20 CARA IMBALZANO
AND '22 QUINN KELLEY

Thank you for taking the time to read the 12th edition of our department's annual newsletter, "The Articulator." In this edition, you will read articles featuring the incredible accomplishments of our faculty, students, and department. It is an honor to share these accomplishments with you.

The articles in this edition are written by students from first-year undergraduate students to graduate students, students who entered our program as first-year undergraduates to students who transferred into our program as graduate students. You will be updated about our chapter of the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association, introduced to a new faculty member, and understand the astounding accomplishments of faculty, students, and our department.

As we advance academically and clinically during our time in this program, it becomes increasingly evident that the faculty and staff make conscious efforts to foster our growth. We recognize that the academic and clinical experiences we receive in the Speech-Language Pathology Department are invaluable.

We would like to thank our graduate and undergraduate student writers



Quinn Kelley and Cara Imbalzano

who spent their winter break researching, interviewing, and writing articles. We are appreciative of faculty and staff who have contributed to this newsletter and to

our academic and clinical education. We are so proud of our department and we know that as you read this 12th edition of "The Articulator," these articles will convey our pride.

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Augmentative AND Alternative Communication (AAC) Devices AND Research '20 TAYLOR HIRNEISEN

This academic year, our department's augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) intervention, evaluation, and research capabilities were strengthened with the addition of a new faculty member, Tara O'Neill, Ph.D., CCC-SLP. Dr. O'Neill teaches graduate and undergraduate courses and serves as a consultant to students participating in clinical education at our Speech-Language and Hearing Center. With the help of Dr. O'Neill, our department has increased the complexity of our AAC technology collection by adding numerous high-tech devices, mid-tech devices, and iPads to its inventory. In addition to enriching the devices available to clinicians and clients during graduate and undergraduate clinic, Dr. O'Neill and the department also acquired many diagnostic tests that are used during diagnostic clinic to evaluate clients who use AAC. During the fall semester, our student clinicians evaluated several individuals who may benefit from AAC devices.

Student clinicians have started using these new technologies in the evaluation and intervention of numerous clients. Maddy Hayes, a graduate student who participated in diagnostic clinic in the fall, recalls her first diagnostic evaluation with an AAC device. Maddy says, "Finding out that I had an AAC evaluation was a little nerve-racking at first. While I was preparing for the evaluation, Dr. O'Neill was very informative and helpful. I appreciated that she always made herself available to us throughout the process. I learned so much from watching her and consulting with her."

Dr. O'Neill has also established a research team. The team is using eye-tracking technology to investigate how individuals visually process and interact with different types of AAC devices to determine the types of displays that promote effective and efficient communication. In April 2019, the team will present the research at the

Pennsylvania Speech-Language-Hearing Association conference.

In October 2018, Dr. O'Neill and her team held an informational event to celebrate AAC Awareness Month. The event was attended by many undergraduate and graduate speech-language pathology students. They were provided with information about AAC, its importance in the field of speech-language pathology, and individuals who may benefit from AAC. The event also allowed students to participate in hands-on activities with various AAC technologies and iPad apps that are available to student clinicians in our clinic.

With ongoing research and additional technology and assessments, our department has added a new area of expertise to its already extensive repertoire. The department now has the ability to diagnose and treat clients who currently use AAC or those who could benefit from AAC. With Dr. O'Neill and her research team actively investigating, challenging, and extending the general knowledge of AAC, the department will continue to make a substantial impact on the field of speech-language pathology.



'20 Kristin Robinson and '20 Taylor Hirneisen using one of the AAC devices

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: '21 Jenna Reed

'23 JULIANNA SIMUNEK



'21 Jenna Reed

Every year, the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) awards scholarships to current NSSLHA members who exemplify academic rigor, commendable character, and strong leadership qualities. NSSLHA named Misericordia University's

Jenna Reed as one of the recipients of the 2018 NSSLHA undergraduate scholarship.

Jenna's strong work ethic, leadership skills, and dedication are evident in all that she does. Jenna is an active member of NSSLHA and served as our NSSLHA Chapter President. Jenna remembers volunteering at events like the Annual Benefit Concert, Night to Shine, and Relay for Life. She even reminisces about starting her own fundraiser, Backpacks for Kids, which involved collecting backpacks and school supplies in the fall for students at a local elementary school.

Jenna volunteers her time and talents to the campus community through her involvement with the campus liturgy and ministry. She also provides guided tours of our Speech-Language and Hearing Center and is a research assistant to Kathleen Scaler Scott, Ph.D., CCC-SLP. Alongside Dr. Scaler Scott, Jenna explores questions, collects data, and presents research projects on the topic of cluttering. Jenna says, "I see myself as a leader who believes in setting an example for others. I have a strong work ethic, especially when it comes to my passions. Those passions include helping people and improving as a speech-language pathologist. I enjoy taking responsibility and

organizing events. To be able to serve as a leader of NSSLHA was a true honor."

Jenna is now serving as Pennsylvania's Student State Officer (SSO) for National NSSLHA. In this position, she collaborates with the other NSSLHA Chapters in Pennsylvania and with the National

NSSLHA council. "There were challenges, as expected, but when our club was named Outstanding Academic Organization at the Misericordia University Annual Awards Banquet it reminded me of all the impact we made through our efforts."

Jenna is pursuing a career in speech-language pathology because of her love of helping others and inspiration from those she has met along the way. Jenna mentioned, "I am motivated to work for a future where children with special needs are given the services and opportunities they deserve across the lifespan."

Driven by her passion for speech-language pathology and motivated to make a difference in the lives of others, Jenna hopes to continue working on research with Dr. Scaler Scott to enhance her research skills and learn more about fluency and literacy disorders. Looking at her long-term goals, Jenna sees herself working with pediatric clients in a medical setting, yet she is open to pursuing fieldwork and ultimately a career in any type of setting. Wherever her career may take her, Jenna will put in her whole heart into making the greatest impact she can in the field of speech-language pathology.

Speech-Language Pathology Students AND Faculty Present Around THE World

'22 QUINN KELLEY

While some may think living in Dallas, Pennsylvania, does not provide much opportunity to see the world, our students in the Speech-Language Pathology department are taking their knowledge and experience all over the globe. "Do you mean Dallas, Texas?" is a question our student researchers often get asked when attending conferences. Most people outside of Northeastern Pennsylvania have never heard of Dallas, but our researchers and faculty members are putting Misericordia University on the map.

Over the last four years, 132 students and faculty have presented at 19 conferences around the world. In 2015, Tia Spagnuolo '15, Erin Roberts '15, and Abriel McCann '16 presented at The 8th World Congress on Fluency Disorders in Lisbon, Portugal. In 2017, four of our students presented research at the 11th Oxford Dysfluency Conference in Oxford, United Kingdom, one of the leading conferences in the field. Student researchers D'manda Price and Danielle Spagnuolo discussed cortical changes during speech. First-year graduate student Cara Imbalzano revealed findings about stress responses when observing stuttered speech.

In June 2018 first-year graduate students, Cara Imbalzano, Jordan Seprosky, and Elizabeth Heinmiller traveled to Rome, Italy to attend The 3rd International Conference on Stuttering. Elizabeth notes, "Not only did we meet students

from other universities in the United States, but we also got to explore a beautiful city and experience a new culture." Elizabeth explained that attending an international conference allowed her to make connections with top researchers and clinicians in the field and learn techniques she now utilizes in her therapy sessions. Our students greatly benefit from attending these types of conferences. They learn new techniques that they can apply clinically.

First year graduate students, Cara Imbalzano and Brianna Spilsbury traveled to Tokyo, Japan to present fluency research at the Biennial Meeting of the Society of fNIRS Conference in October of 2018. Brianna discussed her experiences at the conference and stated, "Attending the fNIRS conference was a once in a lifetime opportunity. I had never traveled outside of the United States before this trip, so it was an incredible experience to share research with colleagues from all around the world. During our poster presentations, I discussed findings with professors from India, China, Germany, and Japan. It was an overall amazing opportunity that I am so thankful I could take part in." In July 2018, many students also presented at the Joint World Congress of the International Cluttering Association (ICA), International Fluency Association (IFA), and International Stuttering Association (ISA) in Hiroshima, Japan.

In January, two student researchers, Danielle Spagnuolo and Chantal Whiteduck traveled to Honolulu, Hawaii, to present research at the Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities under the mentorship of Dr. Cari Tellis. The presentation was focused on how one's voice is not often deliberately considered important in the realm of interpersonal effectiveness along with why it should be and how to combine the art and science of voice. First year graduate student Chantal Whiteduck



'20 Elizabeth Heinmiller, '20 Jordan Seprosky, and '20 Cara Imbalzano visit Pio Monte della Misericordia in Naples, Italy.

explained her experience at this conference and noted, "It was definitely very interesting and different because it was unlike any other conference I have attended because this was a humanities conference and most of the conferences we typically attend deal directly with the field of speech-language pathology."

Dr. Glen Tellis, the Department Chair stresses the value of giving students the opportunity to attend these conferences. "I believe that it is important for students to travel internationally and present at conferences because it provides them with the opportunity to discuss their work with researchers from different countries. The students can not only learn from experts in the field but can also share their research with others."

Clearly, our students are greatly rewarded for the countless hours of research studies by having the opportunity to present internationally. Many of these studies are published in professional journals. Our faculty and students are constantly coming up with new ideas and studies. There is no limit to new discovery or where in the world our students will take their research.



'19 Danielle Spagnuolo and '20 Chantal Whiteduck explore Honolulu, Hawaii

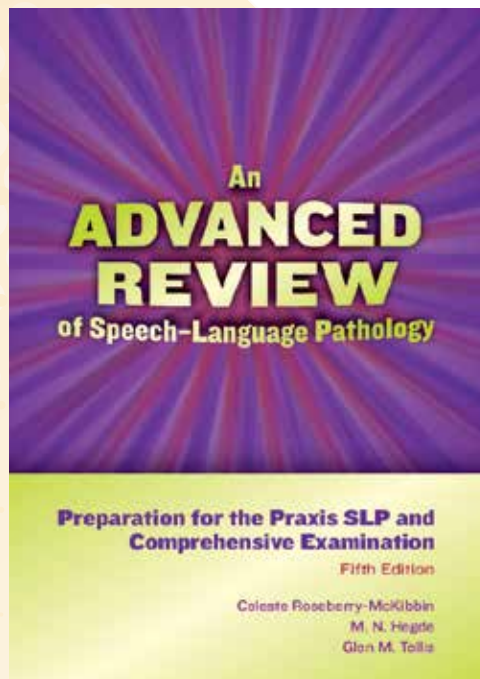
Dr. Glen Tellis Co-authors New Textbook TO HELP Students Prepare FOR THE National PRAXIS-SLP Exam

'20 COURTNEY MILLER

Study, eat, sleep—repeat. This is the monotonous routine of a graduate speech-language pathology student. Now, of course, there is fun sprinkled into our daily activities, including two and a half hour lectures, clinical paperwork, and if you're lucky enough, perhaps a rambunctious client who keeps you on your toes on a weekly basis.

As graduate students, we tend to slog through our course load day by day, week by week. With our jam-packed schedules, it is easy to lose sight of the bigger picture. As crazy as it sounds, our entry into the "real world" is right around the corner. Our externship placements are mere months away. Though this is an exciting step on the journey, there are many more left to take. This coming fall, the turning of the leaves will not only signify the changing of seasons, but will also serve as an unmistakable omen that yet another critical piece of the puzzle is looming in our presence—the Comprehensive Examination. Just one more demand to add to a list that never seems to subside. Right now, I know a graduate student is thinking, "I don't have time for that!" or, "How do I prepare for something so extensive?" or, "Where do I even begin with my studies?" or, "If only there was one massive guide that revealed all the knowledge one would ever need across the bountiful nine 'scopes of practice' comprising the field of speech-language pathology..."

Well, I am here to alleviate your fears and anxieties. Luckily, the book we graduate students are wishing for does indeed exist. It is equipped with all the tools necessary to not only breeze through the Comprehensive Examination, but also soar through the Praxis-SLP! It is titled, "An Advanced Review of Speech-Language Pathology 5th Edition," created by our very own Dr. Glen Tellis



along with contributions from Dr. Celeste Roseberry-McKibbin and Dr. M. N. Hegde.

The title does not lie. This 695-page tome is truly advanced. While the quantity may be a tad overwhelming in the eye of the beholder, this orchestration of information is a one-of-a-kind piece of art. The layout of the book is unique; it is embedded with an array of methods to facilitate learning. Each chapter consists of a "preview paragraph" to orient readers to the contents of the chapter. Each chapter also contains a thorough review of the chapter's main takeaways. Additionally, the text is supplemented with state-of-the-art anatomical images created in our own lab with the Anatomage Virtual Dissection Software.

Essentially, the book is a textbook and study guide, all in one. Better yet, each purchase is accompanied by an online subscription that enables students to take 12 full-length 132 question practice tests that simulate the actual Praxis-SLP exam. These interactive tests include questions from the following categories: (1) foundations

and professional practice, (2) screening, assessment, evaluation, and diagnosis, and (3) planning, implementation, and evaluation of treatment. The questions include all nine concentration areas in the field of speech-language pathology, from voice to articulation, from AAC to fluency. Jordan Seprosky and Elizabeth Heinmiller, two first-year graduate students who worked alongside Dr. Tellis to create the online practice examination questions, have spent nearly three years helping with this project. Jordan says, "Knowing what it is like to be a busy graduate student, we also appreciate the option of taking a shorter, 25-question test. You can choose to take a short test concentrating on a specific area if you want extra practice in one topic, but you can take a short test with questions in all topic areas." Elizabeth also remarked, "We even created questions that are interactive, just like the Praxis. We believe that you will walk into the Praxis examination fully prepared." Honestly, what else would you want to do in your spare time, other than take practice Praxis examinations online?

Most importantly, the text was designed with the sole intention of providing its readers—aspiring clinicians, with the most fruitful yet practical learning experience. Co-author Dr. Glen Tellis understood how precious and limited graduate students' time is and embarked on a mission to deliver a product that exceeded preparation standards and time constraints. Says Tellis, "The authors realized that many graduate students were experiencing stress over the prospect of taking comprehensive examinations, as well as the Praxis-SLP and decided to provide a go-to resource for busy clinicians to prepare for the exams or to use in the future as a reference guide."

Good luck, future SLPs!

'23 MOLLY CLEMSON, '20 CARA IMBALZANO, AND '20 ELIZABETH HEINMILLER

Throughout the 2017-2018 academic year, the members of Misericordia University's Chapter of the National Student Speech Language and Hearing Association (NSSLHA) set goals to improve the lives of others while participating in several volunteer events. Members provided service to our community through several community outreach programs. In the fall, our students participated in Misericordia University's annual September 11th flag carry on campus. A group of members promoted our Speech-Language and Hearing Center on campus at the Brighter Journey's Special Needs Expo. Students worked to fill backpacks with school supplies to help students in need at Lake Noxen Elementary School. Some of our members traveled to the Mercy

Center, a nursing facility that works closely with the Misericordia University campus community. NSSLHA members transported residents to the community room and helped them play Bingo. At Misericordia University's Health Fair, members provided education to the community about speech and language disorders. Our Chapter also "adopted" four foster children and provided them and their mother with Christmas presents.

During the spring semester, members traveled to Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, and volunteered at the Tim Tebow Foundation Night to Shine, a country-wide prom night experience for teens and adults with special needs. Additionally, we volunteered at St. Joseph's Trinity Day Care Center, Community Options Cupid's

Chase, and Brighter Journeys' 3rd Annual Fundraiser at Mohegan Sun Casino. Our students participated in Misericordia University's Relay for Life. Our NSSLHA relay team sold cookie dough during the event and individually fundraised for the American Cancer Society. Impressively, our members organized and volunteered at the 4th Annual NSSLHA Benefit Concert. We generated enough funds to cover the cost of an adaptable bike, a scooter board, and a donation to the St. Joseph's Center in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

The SLP department is proud of our students' ongoing efforts to positively impact our campus and local community!



NSSLHA members volunteering at the 2018 Benefit Concert

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: '20 Jordyn Donnelly

– A three sport Athlete who does it all successfully
– sports, clinic, academics, and research

'20 JESSICA HANLY

Jordyn Donnelly is a first year graduate student in the Speech-Language Pathology Department at Misericordia University. Impressively, she has been a three-sport athlete for the four years she has been at the university. In the fall semester, Jordyn runs cross country, and in the spring she participates in outdoor track and field. She also participates in indoor track and field which takes place during the fall and spring semesters. Back when Jordyn was applying for colleges, she sought a school that would allow her to continue her passion for athletics and pursue a Master's degree in speech-language pathology. She found that perfect balance of academics and athletics at Misericordia University.

When she made the decision to attend Misericordia University, she reached out to Christopher Wadas, the cross country and track coach. Jordyn states that, "Coach Wadas was very encouraging about my love for speech-language pathology and running." As an undergraduate student, she was supported by our graduate students who were also on the cross country and track teams. Jordyn notes that in our department, professors and clinical supervisors are very supportive of her and her fellow athletes.

The Speech-Language Pathology Program at Misericordia sets high academic standards for its students. It requires maintaining a minimum 3.5 grade point average, completing 17-18 credit hours per semester, and treating clients at the Misericordia University Speech-Language and Hearing Center. These standards come with a cost as students must spend time to meet the demands of the program. Now that Jordyn is in the graduate phase of the program, she finds that she is often running from classes or clinic to practice and vice versa. If she cannot practice with her team because of her academic schedule, she gets her workout in by completing the team's workout at another time in the day. On top of her courses and clinical expectations, Jordyn spends an average of 12-20 hours practicing and competing. Jordyn states that, "Being an athlete in college has helped me to time-manage better and forces me to prioritize." Jordyn notes that she feels satisfied after a long

week of classes and competing when she spends time with family and friends.

Jordyn not only manages her academic workload and athletic responsibilities, but also goes above and beyond in both areas. She has been a member

of the Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) Cross Country Championship Team (2015, 2017, 2018), MAC Indoor Track and Field Championship Team (2016, 2018), MAC Outdoor Track and Field Championship Team (2016), and Eastern College Athletic Conference Outdoor Track and Field Championship Team (2017). Additionally, she has been named to the MAC Fall Sportsmanship Team (2018), MAC Cross Country All-Academic Team (2017, 2018), MAC Cross Country Second Team All-Conference (2017, 2018), and MAC Outdoor Track and Field 10 Kilometer Third Team All-Conference (2018).

Jordyn was also a research assistant for Dr. Ruixia Yan, CCC-SLP from May 2016 to November 2017. Their studies focused primarily on narrative use in children with autism spectrum disorder and ADHD; autism awareness in China; SLPs working with culturally and linguistically diverse children; and iPad use in the clinical setting. Jordyn completed 14 poster presentations in total. She was able to attend and present her research at the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association (ASHA) conference in 2016 and 2017, and the Pennsylvania Speech-Language and Hearing Association (PSHA) conference in 2017.

Jordyn attributes her success to her time management skills and her ability to meet the expectations of herself, classmates, teammates, coaches, professors, and clinical supervisors at Misericordia University.



'20 Jordyn Donnelly

Dr. Scaler Scott's RESEARCH RECEIVES *National Recognition*

'20 ANNETTE RITZKO

During the 2018 American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Convention, in Boston, a research poster by one of the student-faculty research teams was one of 51 submissions to receive the "Meritorious Poster" recognition. Impressively, their poster was chosen out of 2,122 posters at the convention.

The research team consisted of students Emily Gurtizen, Katrina Giacumbo, Bailey Hartung, Taylor Header, Jenna Reed, Lisa Giuffre, and Kayla Thorpe. The team was supervised by faculty mentor Kathleen Scaler Scott, Ph.D., CCC-SLP. Their study, "Discourse Analysis in Adults with Cluttering: Implications for Language vs. Executive Functioning," examined the efficiency of communication in people who clutter.

The Meritorious Poster recognition is for proposals judged by the Convention Program Committee to show "extraordinary, exceptional, and innovative work." Meritorious posters are distinguished in the ASHA Convention Program book with a ribbon icon. Research teams are given a certificate and a ribbon to mark posters with the achievement during their presentation.

Dr. Scaler Scott mentioned, "People often wonder whether those who clutter have a language disorder. We are trying to explore whether what is perceived to be a

language disorder is truly a language disorder or a difficulty with planning and organizing." The results for their group of 14 participants, seven who do not clutter and seven who do, showed that those who clutter were less efficient in getting their message across than controls, or those who do not clutter. The findings also pointed toward more problems in planning and organizing rather than toward a true language disorder. Dr. Scaler Scott finds it an honor to receive recognition for research, but to receive it for a study related to cluttering was an added privilege and not common. She notes, "That doesn't happen every day, since less is known about cluttering than many other communication disorders. Any honor we receive increases the awareness of cluttering, which is part of my mission to help others with this communication disorder."

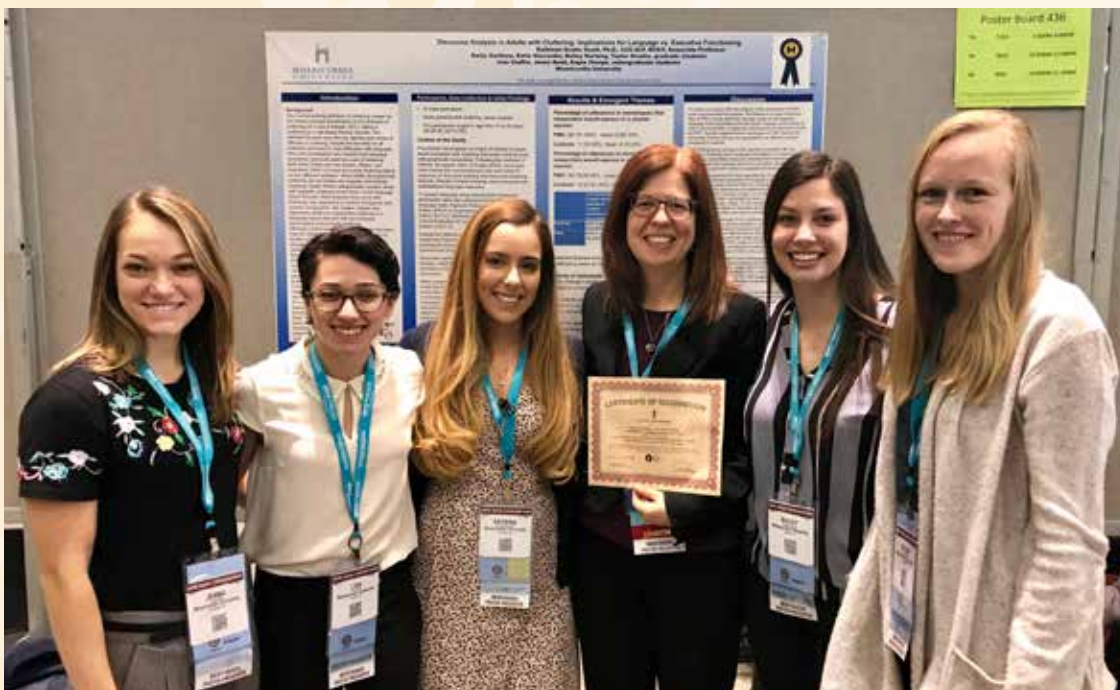
Lisa Giuffre, a second-year student, mentioned that the team had little free time during their presentation as there was a steady stream of people approaching them during the poster session. Fortunately, it was not a challenge to keep up with the crowd due

to the number of student presenters. Taylor Header, a first-year graduate student mentioned, "There were many people who were amazed to see so many presenters at our poster. They were surprised to see the number of students interested in research from our school."

Team members said that high student interest in research may be partly attributed to visibility of research in our department. Giuffre says, "I joined the team as a freshman. I have friends who are in speech-language pathology programs in other schools and they don't have this kind of opportunity as an undergraduate." Bailey Hartung, a first-year graduate student added, "We were never pressured to join research teams, but I approached Dr. Scaler Scott because I was interested in the topic." Reed stated, "As a freshman, I just wanted to make use of any opportunity given to me, especially opportunities related to research."

It is apparent from the enthusiasm of these students that there is robust interest in research. ASHA definitely got it right by selecting their study for "Meritorious Poster" recognition.

'21 Jenna Reed, '22
Lisa Giuffre, '19 Katrina
Giacumbo, Kathleen Scaler
Scott, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, '20
Bailey Hartung, and
'20 Taylor Header



SLP Department

WELCOMES
NEW FACULTY
MEMBER

Dr. Tara O'Neill

'23 DRU HARLACHER

It did not take long for Tara O'Neill, Ph.D., CCC-SLP to fall in love with the field of speech-language pathology. Upon taking an introduction class as a first-year student at The Pennsylvania State University, Dr. O'Neill had her mind set on becoming a speech-language pathologist. After joining the Communication Sciences and Disorders program at Penn State, she became involved with research that strengthened her passion for speech-language pathology. Dr. O'Neill obtained all three of her degrees at Penn State University, including her undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral degrees. For three years after graduating with her Master's degree in speech-language pathology in 2012, Dr. O'Neill worked at the Delaware County Intermediate Unit as a school-based speech-language pathologist. She soon realized that there was a "huge need for more evidence-based practices in our field, especially when serving students with complex learning and communication needs." This realization, along with her fondness for research and her clinical experience, led Dr. O'Neill to return to Penn State and pursue her research doctorate. She graduated in the spring of 2018.

This fall, Dr. O'Neill was welcomed as a faculty member to the Misericordia University speech-language pathology department. With the support of the administration, faculty, and students, she found the transition to teaching to be a great experience. During her first semester, Dr. O'Neill



Dr. Tara O'Neill

taught all levels of students, ranging from first-year students in the Introduction to Communication Disorders course to graduate students in their online Comprehensive Seminar. Dr. O'Neill finds the small class sizes enjoyable as they allow her to get to know her students and make her student's learning environment

more effective.

In addition to teaching, Dr. O'Neill also conducts research. She is currently investigating how individuals visually process and respond to various features in AAC displays. Taylor Hirneisen, a graduate student on Dr. O'Neill's research team, notes, "My eyes have been opened to different areas of the field of speech-language pathology. I have been pushed to become a better student, clinician, and person. Dr. O'Neill embodies all aspects of a dedicated and influential professor."

Dr. O'Neill particularly likes that our entry-level, five-year combined undergraduate and master's degree program will provide her with the opportunity to work with the same students over an extended period of time to prepare them for their future careers. Dr. O'Neill stated, "It is so exciting to be helping to prepare the next generation of clinicians and researchers!"

The Speech-Language Pathology Department at Misericordia University is delighted to have Dr. O'Neill as a part of our program!

Samantha Buldo '18 - AWARDED THE VON DRACH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

'20 CARA IMBALZANO

Samantha Buldo, 2018 graduate of Misericordia University's speech-language pathology program, was awarded the Von Drach Memorial Scholarship at the 2018 Pennsylvania Speech-Language Hearing Association (PSHA) Convention last April. The Von Drach Memorial Scholarship is awarded annually to one student studying speech-language pathology or audiology from Pennsylvania who has demonstrated participation in professional activities, a desire to grow professionally, and leadership qualities. She was recognized as the scholarship recipient at the Awards Luncheon during the 2018 PSHA Convention. Students and faculty who attended the PSHA Convention with Samantha looked on with pride as she delivered an inspiring acceptance speech. She thanked all who aided in her development as a researcher and clinician, including fellow classmates, clinical supervisors, professors, and her mother. Samantha noted that her life experiences have provided her with empathy and compassion for her patients and their caregivers. She explained, "Having been a caregiver for an ill family member myself, I can relate to feelings of hopelessness and frustration that I see in many of my patients."

Samantha's compassion and drive to serve others is the foundation for her love of speech-language pathology. She first learned about the field when she shadowed her aunt, a school-based speech-language pathologist with 25+ years of experience. After learning about the neuroanatomy of the brain its functions related to language, speech, and cognition in high school, she began to take even more interest. Samantha attended our department's Speech Exploration Camp in high school and solidified her decision to pursue a Master's degree in speech-language pathology.

As recipient of the Von Drach award, Samantha demonstrated participation in professional activities, a desire to grow as a professional, and leadership qualities. Her leadership was evident throughout her graduate and undergraduate years at Misericordia University. She was our NSSLHA Chapter Vice President during her second year in the program. As Vice President, she organized various volunteer activities for the chapter. Additionally, she conducted research under Dr. Hunter Manasco in the areas of motion capture technology for Parkinson's disease and autism spectrum disorder. Samantha traveled to present her research at the state and national level. By the end of her last year of graduate school, Samantha was trusted to help with textbooks for Dr. Manasco and Dr. Glen Tellis.

Samantha credits our department by stating, "Misericordia University's



Samantha Buldo '18

program provided me with incredible experiences that I do not think I would have received anywhere else as an undergraduate and graduate student. This program shaped me into a well-rounded researcher and clinician through a supportive environment, high academic expectations, and unique clinical opportunities."

A large part of Samantha's current case work is performing bedside swallow evaluations and swallowing and feeding therapy. She also serves patients in cognitive-linguistic therapy by targeting functional memory and problem solving skills to promote safety and independence for activities of daily living. Samantha will soon complete her clinical fellowship as a full-time speech-language pathologist. We wish her the best in her future career.

WE WOULD LIKE TO ***acknowledge*** THE ***following*** FOR PROVIDING ***grants***
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This is the 12th year of our newsletter and our student editors have 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. Even though our department is only in its 16th year of existence, 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 2018, 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 Chapter Honors. NSSLHA held many fundraisers and events and achieved great success.

Our 2018 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. Samantha Buldo, 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 2018, we also welcomed Dr. Tara O'Neill as a new tenure-track faculty member. She graduated with her Ph.D. from The Pennsylvania State University. Dr. O'Neill specializes in Augmentative and Alternative Communication.

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 2018, 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 2017-2018. We received funding from various sources, including, Community Foundation of the Endless Mountains, First National Community Bank, Gabriel Bernabeo Initiative, LiquidHub, Landmark Community Bank, M&T Bank, Philadelphia Insurance Companies, and Weis Markets, Inc. The department received other external funds as a sub-award from: RERC on Universal Interface and Information Technology Access (UIITA) (Funding from NIDILRR). This grant, through the University of Maryland, 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 was also 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 enjoy this edition of our newsletter. Please take a moment to browse through our department website (www.misericordia.edu/slp) and learn more about our program.



Glen Tellis, Ph.D.
Professor and Department Chair



Glen Tellis

Letter FROM THE Chair

GLEN TELLIS, PH.D.
PROFESSOR AND DEPARTMENT CHAIR



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