



Articulator

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Fall 2014

Letter FROM THE Editors

'16 SARAH RIZZOLO AND '16 MARYBETH RISSINGER



Thank you for taking the time to read our 2014 edition of the Misericordia Speech-Language Pathology Department's annual newsletter. In this edition you will read articles about some of our outstanding students and faculty members. We hope that you find the articles interesting and thought provoking. We were very excited when we were selected to become the editors of the eighth edition of the *Articulator*. The newsletter has evolved since its fledgling start in 2007 and we were eager to continue the tradition. It was such an incredible experience to be able to choose the articles that were to be featured and to share the accomplishments of our program.

As graduate students, we are very grateful to be a part of such an insightful program. After completing this edition, we became even more appreciative of the quality of our program and believe that when we graduate, we will be ready to encounter the challenges of our field. We have numerous opportunities for students in our program and have featured a few in the articles in this edition.

In this newsletter, we discuss the latest research in our field, future grants, and the accomplishments of our students and professors. As we reflect on our experiences in this program, we believe that we have truly received an excellent education and are fortunate that we have so many opportunities to succeed. We would like to thank everyone who contributed to this newsletter. As you read some of the stories in this newsletter, we hope you get a glimpse of what a remarkable speech-language pathology program we have at Misericordia University.

Warmest Regards,

Sarah Rizzolo Marybeth Rissinger
Sarah Rizzolo and Marybeth Rissinger
Class of 2016

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DID YOU Hear That?

'15 HILARY HOOVER

Northeastern Pennsylvania has one of the highest concentrations of elderly persons in the country. Because many of these citizens are losing their hearing, we need to provide them with appropriate hearing education and screenings. In our county, we also have numerous Head Start programs and children in these programs need to be screened for their hearing annually. Two grants received by our department have provided us with the resources necessary to provide hearing screenings and education.

In honor of their uncle, Gabriel Bernabeo, Misericordia President Thomas Botzman, his wife Vanessa, and their family have generously provided a grant to assist with hearing education and screening. The Gabriel Bernabeo Initiative has helped us launch new hearing screening and assessment programs for our community and has also created service learning opportunities for our students. Dr. James Ziegler is one of our adjunct faculty and current President of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Academy of Audiology. In spearheading the 4-year Bernabeo grant, he brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to this initiative. During the first year of the grant, Dr. Ziegler has already provided training in assistive listening device access through a T-Coil Loop system. He has also coordinated hearing screenings for seniors in the community. For the remainder of the grant, Dr. Ziegler will continue to coordinate and supervise

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ASHFoundation AWARD WINNER:

Midori Rodriguez

'17 CARLY GALLAGHER

On November 15, 2013, at the ASHFoundation's Annual Founder's Breakfast at the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) Annual convention in Chicago, Illinois, Midori Rodriguez '14 was awarded one of the 16 graduate student scholarships of \$5,000. Rodriguez received the only Minority Student Scholarship Award, sponsored by the ASHFoundation's Minority Scholarship Fund.

The Minority Student Scholarship fund was formed by Lorraine T. Cole, Ph.D., former director of ASHA's Office of Minority Concerns. Being a former minority student, Dr. Cole wanted to acknowledge the hard work of current minority students. As a result, she encouraged other minority professionals to create an endowment for students of American Indian, Asian, African American, and Hispanic descent, thus forming the scholarship. Our faculty recommended that Midori apply for the scholarship based upon her extensive clinical, research, and academic achievements.

Midori was one of the few master's level applicants to receive the award. Midori feels "absolutely honored to be chosen as a recipient of this scholarship." She added, "The scholarship has allowed me to pay tribute to not only my successes, but also to my family, professors, and role models who have shaped my pre-professional career."

One of the most significant motivating factors for Midori is her family. She finds her grandparents' immigration from Puerto Rico to America to be particularly inspiring. In her application to the ASHFoundation Scholarship Committee, she stated "My work ethic and passion to help people communicate comes from their [her grandparents'] struggle and is strengthened by their perseverance."

Midori became interested in research when she received a position as a graduate student researcher. She was immersed in many research projects, when she began working alongside Dr. Hunter Manasco. One of the projects included the use motion capture technology (MCT) to study the norms of velocity and range of motion of mandibular and labial movements during speech of both impaired and unimpaired individuals. Dr. Manasco says, "Midori was responsible for recruiting subjects, running subject testing, documenting procedures, analyzing data, and assisting with the development of materials for presentations to discuss the usefulness of MCT in speech-language pathology."

Following her first two clinical rotations at Misericordia, Midori developed a passion for working with people who stutter. Her work with a particular client evolved into a much larger effort to provide support and optimal therapy to those with fluency disorders. She and her client worked together to establish the National Stuttering Association's Northeast Pennsylvania Chapter. In her application to the ASHFoundation Scholarship Committee, Midori stated that "becoming a leader of our chapter has both inspired and allowed me to immerse myself in the many aspects of stuttering."

Midori's varied accomplishments have not gone unrecognized. The scholarship has impacted her life positively, allowing her "increased opportunities to network with students and professionals nationwide who are also involved with the ASHFoundation." As a result of her positive experience, Midori urges other Misericordia Speech-Language Pathology majors to apply for the award as well. Midori encourages her successors to "Go for it! We are capable of having just as many accomplishments

when compared to students from large research schools." She says that our students have won an ASHFoundation award twice in the past three years. At the

2014 Pennsylvania Speech-Language Hearing Association (PSHA) convention, Midori also received the Von Drach Memorial Scholarship that is awarded to the outstanding graduate student from the entire state of Pennsylvania.



Did You Hear That?

continued from page 1

hearing screenings in the community. He plans to conduct a hearing workshop for Health Sciences students and develop collaborative programs with residents at Mercy Center and the Commonwealth Medical College. He will also include a service learning component for graduate students in our hearing seminar class. As part of the grant, Dr. Zeigler will prepare hearing information for nursing and physician assistant programs as well as develop protocols for hearing assessment for Northeastern Pennsylvania.

We also recently received a grant from the Blue Ribbon Foundation of Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania to conduct hearing screenings for children who attend Head Start programs in Luzerne County. The funding from the foundation has allowed us to collaborate with the Luzerne County Head Start program and the Family Hearing Center to complete over 300 hearing screenings. Our goal was to help to identify any undetected ear infections or hearing loss that could potentially affect hearing. In total, about 9% of the children failed the hearing screenings and were referred for further evaluation.

NEW Outlook ON Voice Therapy AND Motor Learning

'16 TIA SPAGNUOLO

Our Speech-Language Hearing Center at Misericordia has become a premier location in Northeastern Pennsylvania for the diagnosis and treatment of voice disorders, with referrals from local physicians and doctors from surrounding cities. This coming year, our clients with voice disorders will have the opportunity to participate in a research study to test a novel treatment approach. In the voice lab at Misericordia, our research team, led by Dr. Cari Tellis, has been developing and implementing a voice therapy protocol that integrates implicit and explicit learning processes. This approach differs from traditional voice therapy that employs primarily an implicit learning model. Recent literature has indicated that the dropout rate for individuals participating in voice therapy is on the rise; for those who stay in therapy, generalization and maintenance of techniques has decreased. While there are number of possible reasons for this decline, attention needs to be paid to the voice therapy techniques themselves.

Traditional voice therapy approaches employ primarily an auditory-perceptual, implicit learning approach to voice therapy, whereby individuals are presented an auditory stimulus by the clinician and are instructed to mimic that stimulus. The idea is that with repeated

practice, the stimulus will be learned implicitly and generalized to other tasks. While found to be effective, these traditional methods may be strengthened by the incorporation of explicit learning models. Our innovative voice therapy protocol combines implicit and explicit learning processes by utilizing an individual's auditory-perceptual skills to introduce a new skill and then by using explicit instruction to help an individual to better understand and learn a new complex motor task.

To determine the efficacy of this integrated voice therapy approach, our team is conducting a study that compares our new protocol with the more traditional auditory-perceptual, implicit approach. The two groups will be evaluated pre- and post-treatment in their acoustic, aerodynamic, quality of life, and perceptual measures. Empirically, through retrospective data, we have determined that the majority of our voice clients have shown substantial improvement when being treated with our novel integrated treatment approach. We suspect that the group that received the integrated treatment will initially find the approach more difficult than the traditional methods, but that they will generalize the skills faster and have better retention of the new skills.

Another study we are conducting examines the effect that our integrated voice training has on the overall quality of voice in graduate students in Misericordia University's Speech-Language Pathology program. Data are collected prior to, during, and at the

conclusion of the graduate-level voice class; this sequence allows us to analyze the progression of change in each individual's vocal quality as a result of direct instruction from Dr. Tellis and practice of various voice techniques. These voice



Near Infrared Spectroscopy (NIRS)

techniques include similar training modules used in our novel treatment approach, one being the Estill Figures for Voice. Dr. Tellis is a certified course instructor in the Estill Voice Training System™ and has spent the past eight years adapting the Estill Model for application to voice therapy.

Additionally, we are conducting a study that uses Near Infrared Spectroscopy (NIRS) to examine the changes in hemoglobin concentration in the brain as a result of our integrated voice training protocol. NIRS operates using small infrared lights that are placed in contact with the scalp and shine through the skull onto superficial brain tissue. The light that reflects off the brain is picked up by detectors. Based on the reflection of light, we are able to determine the hemoglobin concentration changes in various areas of the brain. In our study, we are using NIRS to compare changes in hemoglobin concentrations in individuals before and after vocal training has been implemented. There has been limited research using NIRS as it relates to voice production, making this research very innovative and promising.

The results from these studies are expected to continue to validate a novel integrated implicit-explicit voice therapy protocol, which we believe will be an effective option for clinicians who treat voice disorders and individuals who receive voice therapy.



Phonatory Aerodynamic System (PAS)

Cutting IT FINE— AN Interview WITH A Neurosurgeon

'16 SARAH RIZZOLO
AND '16 MARYBETH RISSINGER

Our students are getting a rare opportunity to observe neurosurgery, thanks to Geisinger Wyoming Valley Hospital neurosurgeon Dr. John Cantando, who is also a member of our department's Advisory Board. He welcomes students to observe him performing surgery and discusses with them the importance of speech-language pathology services post surgery.

Dr. Cantando believes that the major benefit of students observing surgery is that they get a firsthand look at the anatomy and the structures in a patient and not a cadaver or a textbook. The surgeon believes that students can get

a better understanding of the road to recovery if they observe surgery in an operating room.

A large part of the neurosurgical practice of Dr. Cantando involves cervical disc disease, head trauma, and other brain surgery. Students get to observe him perform multiple types of neurosurgery and during surgery, he points out the areas that are related to speech, language, and swallowing functions. Overall, Dr. Cantando believes that it is important that all professionals work as a multidisciplinary team. Dr. Cantando stated "When all members of a team understand each other's roles, they are able to provide optimal care to the patient."

Dr. Cantando said, "I love to teach and pass on information." After interviewing Dr. Cantando, we wanted to get a student perspective as well. Gina Grant, one of our graduate

students said that she had a phenomenal time observing the surgery; she said "I don't know if there are other speech-language pathology students in the country who can regularly observe neurosurgery." Gina mentioned that Dr. Cantando and his team created a welcoming atmosphere for her and explained what was happening step by step during surgery. Gina also mentioned that being able to see the anatomy first hand benefited her because it was completely different from looking at pictures or models of the structures. She recommends this invaluable experience to any future student because it is a unique opportunity to have the support of your professors and local surgeons helping you become the best possible professional. We were grateful to have had the opportunity to talk to Dr. Cantando about his practice and to discuss the experience with us.

Farewell to Michelle Donato



The SLP department would like to thank Michelle Donato, our former Department Administrative Assistant, for everything she did for the program and wish her the best in her new position as the Executive Assistant to the President of Misericordia University.

NSSLHA YEAR IN *Review*

'17 ABRIEL MCCANN

Our National Student Speech-Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) chapter strives to fulfill our university charisms of mercy, service, justice, and hospitality. Our chapter participates in countless service activities. A few of those include the Martin Luther King Jr. service day on our campus, American Cancer Society's "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" walk, Color Mania run in Scranton, Pennsylvania, Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Northeastern Pennsylvania Regional Food Bank service, Relay for Life, and donating used toys for underprivileged children. Our members participated in Head Start of Luzerne County in-service on Phonological Awareness and Literacy, Back Mountain Library Story Hour, Apple Tree Teacher In-service on Spelling, West Pittston Library Story Hour, Back Mountain Library Parent Workshop on Language, Wyoming Seminary Teacher's in-service on test Evidence in Spelling Approaches, and Story Hour with Adventures in Learning.

NSSLHA adopted a family through the Catherine McAuley Center in Scranton, Pennsylvania to provide the family with holiday items from a wish list. The chapter also wrote letters to soldiers for "Holiday Mail for Heroes" in Capitol Heights, Maryland, and provided holiday crafts to members of the Mercy Center, a geriatric care management center on our campus. NSSLHA co-hosted the first annual "Don't Tell Me to Slow Down" 5k walk/run.

To assist in raising funds for our chapter, we held a clothing drive for members and sold rubber bracelets with a speech-language pathology related saying. While this helped to spread awareness of Speech-Language Pathology, NSSLHA members also provided information on stuttering and cluttering through videos, brochures, and posters at a table on Misericordia's campus. We made donations to Allied Services in Scranton, Pennsylvania, where funds were used to benefit Ryan's Run, a marathon held in New York City that benefits children and adults with disabilities and debilitating injuries. We donated to the 2013-2014 NSSLHA Loves Campaign, "Small Steps in Speech," to help provide funds and awareness for those living with communication disorders. Other



donations included Operation Smile, Muscular Dystrophy Association, American Cancer Society, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Alzheimer's Association, and American Autism Society. Our chapter also participated as NSSLHA Experience Ambassadors at the ASHA convention and won the "Charge Up Your Chapter" category for the chapter with the most student memberships in Special Interest Groups. For the 7th year in succession, our chapter of NSSLHA received the Pennsylvania Speech-Language Hearing Association (PSHA) Membership Award for 100% membership.



ONE OF A KIND

Performing Arts Academy

'16 ERIN ROBERTS

In the summer of 2014, Dr. Cari Tellis gathered a group of talented professionals to help her run the Performing Arts Training Academy, a two-week camp that provided instruction in voice, acting, dance, and musicality. Dr. Tellis, with a background in performance herself, began planning the Academy after seeing a need for a performing arts camp in the area that taught kids the mechanics and technical skills involved in the various parts of performance. The Misericordia Speech-Language and Hearing Center treats many singers for voice therapy after injury due to improper technique. The aim of the Performing Arts Training Academy was to make sure this did not happen to its performers down the road. This goal was not restricted to voice, though. All of the coaches kept proper technique at the forefront of their instruction and were selected to be part of the Academy because of this very trait.

These talented coaches were from various backgrounds. The music coach, with over 10 years of teaching experience has her master's degree in music education. She is a classically trained pianist with a background in piano pedagogy and music direction.

She brought a wealth of experience to the Academy after having played with various bands and choral ensembles. The dance coach is a professional dance instructor and performed on Broadway in "The Nutcracker" and "Cinderella." She was also the cheer captain for the New York Jets and was a performer for Disney. The acting coach for the Performing Arts Training Academy is an executive leadership and performance coach for students at the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. In addition, he had over 25 years of experience as a director, coach, trainer, consultant, author, and presenter on interpersonal effectiveness. He has a background in directing plays and musical performances. Dr. Tellis was the voice and singing coach, as well as the founder of the Academy. She is a certified master teacher and course instructor in the Estill Voice International Training System—a training protocol used by professional singers and actors. She has over 15 years of experience working with professional singers and speakers, and worked to educate the performers in the Academy about their voice and how to keep it healthy.

Thirty-three children between the ages of 5 and 17 with varying levels of experience attended the Academy. They made the experience something

to remember. On the first day, few of the performers knew one another and many were nervous and excited to see what the camp would bring. They were asked that day to go up on stage and give a brief performance—like reading a poem, dancing, or singing—in front of the coaches and their peers. Naturally, many were reluctant to perform in front of strangers, but the audience was super supportive, and everyone did a great job. The experience really brought the performers together. After the initial ice-breakers, the performers trained every day, went through the audition process, had professional quality headshots taken, rehearsed, and performed in a show. "Getting It Right," the song-to-script show written by the acting coach was a smash hit! After 10 short days of instruction, the cast captivated the audience of over 300 attendees with every number. The confidence that each and every performer gained during the Academy was evident—not the slightest reluctance this time! The performers walked away with their heads held a little higher, their smiles a little brighter, and their minds a little fuller.

Needless to say, the Academy will not be a one-time event. Not only will the camp be coming back in the summer of 2015, but additional workshops are also planned.

For more information about the Performing Arts Training Academy, check out their Facebook page at facebook.com/performingartstrainingacademy, or contact Dr. Cari Tellis at ctellis@misericordia.edu.

We would like to acknowledge

THE FOLLOWING FOR **providing grants** TO THE **SLP Department:**

LANDMARK BANK, PNC BANK, FIDELITY DEPOSIT AND DISCOUNT BANK, FIRST NATIONAL COMMUNITY BANK, FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF PENNSYLVANIA, FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS, UGI CORPORATION, M&T BANK, PENNSYLVANIA SECURITY CHARITABLE FOUNDATION, PNC FOUNDATION – GROW UP GREAT FOUNDATION, BLUE RIBBON FOUNDATION OF BLUE CROSS OF NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA, GABRIEL BERNABEO INITIATIVE.

We would like to thank THE FOLLOWING FOR **giving generously** TO THE
SLP Student Fund: EMMA MULHERN, SYLVIA MASS

A BRIGHT

Future Awaits

'16 THERESA KLAUS

Each year, our department accepts transfer students into our graduate program. Since we are a 5-year combined undergraduate and graduate program, our department only accepts a few transfers. These exceptional students transfer from other colleges and universities. Our transfer students come to our program from all over the country and internationally. They transfer in either having completed a bachelor's degree in Speech-Language Pathology or in another field. Our current transfer students include Lina Buali, Ryan Burdick, Alexis Dolena, Karen Doughty, Brianna Edgar, Laura Hughes, Kenslie Kerestes, Maggie Lavelle, Karly Riden, Midori Rodriguez, Maura Skelton, Stephanie Sutkowski, Sarah Tokach, and Mindy Whitaker.

Brianna mentioned to me that she wanted to "make a difference in the lives of people by giving them care and more independence." When asked about adjusting to our speech-language pathology program, Brianna stated, "The faculty, staff, and my classmates welcomed me right away and made me feel like a part of their program." Laura agreed with Brianna's statement, saying, "From the second I stepped foot in my first class at Misericordia, I immediately felt welcome. The speech-language pathology class of 2014 has become like another family to me."

It is the general consensus that our small class sizes, friendly students, and intelligent professors all contribute to the extraordinary experience that transfers receive. Laura also commented on the helpful nature of the admissions department when it came to applying to Misericordia University's Speech-Language Pathology program. She believes that



the admissions department eliminated some of the difficulty of the transferring process and it made her transition into Misericordia easier in general.

Karly explained that she was interested in our program because we offer many students a unique opportunity to complete a full semester of off-campus clinical placement in an early intervention setting before even starting fieldwork. This is a rare aspect of Misericordia University's Speech-Language Pathology Program that puts these students a step above the rest. What Brianna particularly liked was that each professor has a specialty and that students can consult with the professors on specific clinical and research issues. She believes that this is just one of the many reasons that make the speech-language pathology

program at Misericordia University well-rounded and valuable. Throughout Karly's graduate school research process, she stated: "I heard nothing but good things about the program [at Misericordia]. I knew right away I wanted to finish my education here."

Many of our transfer students did not initially have undergraduate degrees in Speech-Language Pathology. Though many had undergraduates in our field, others have degrees in Philosophy, English, Fine Arts, Communications, Engineering, Psychology, and other fields. Though our transfer students come from different walks of life and varied educational backgrounds, they all have common views about the quality of the instruction they receive in our program.

Insight

FROM *Ann Roman*

'16 STEPHANIE LAMANNA



In our department, we are fortunate to have one of our clinical supervisors, Ann Roman, serve on the State Board of Examiner's for Speech-

Language Pathology. Ann was appointed in 2012 to the State Board by the governor of Pennsylvania and will hold the position for three years.

The State Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology was created to be responsible for all aspects related to the licensing of speech language pathologists and audiologists. These responsibilities include delineating, revoking, suspending, and renewing licenses. Currently the board is involved in writing regulations for the practice of speech language pathology and audiology relative to the new law (Act 106, 2014) that was recently passed for the practice of the professions.

Ann stated that some of the benefits of serving on the board include preserving the integrity of the profession, maintaining high standards of professional conduct, and supporting lifelong learning via continuing education. Overall, Ann stated, "It's a good idea to serve on Boards. People don't think they will like the

experience, but it helps you to understand professionalism and be involved in your profession."

Once a professional has been issued a license, the reapplication process occurs every two years on the even year. When professionals reapply for their license, they need to state in writing that they have completed the required number of continuing education courses. There is an audit process to validate that the continuing education courses were achieved.

Overall, the mission for the State Board is to protect the public by making sure that speech-language pathologists and audiologists attain and renew their licenses through continuing education and meet the standards set by the board.

Don't TELL ME TO Slow Down!

'16 SARAH RIZZOLO
AND '16 MARYBETH RISSINGER

Misericordia's Northeast Pennsylvania National Stuttering Association (NSA) Chapter, Misericordia's National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA), and Students Spreading Disability Awareness (SSDA) hosted our first 5K Run/Walk: Don't Tell Me to Slow Down on our campus. This run was organized to support the NSA. The aim of the 5K run/walk was to increase stuttering awareness in our community and nationally. The purpose of the event

was also to inform the public about some facts related to stuttering.

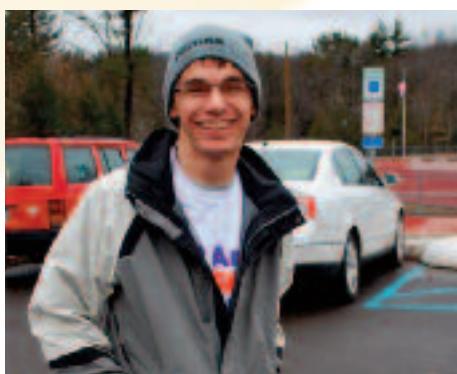
About 168 children, adolescents, and adults participated in the event including several from around the country who participated by running/walking at their own location. Terrence Murgallis, who is a graduate student in our department and co-chapter leader of the Northeast Pennsylvania Chapter of the NSA said that organizing this 5K run for the first time was a daunting task. Murgallis stated, "Though the event was very successful, we made mistakes; however, we learned from them and will fine tune the process for the next 5K run/walk." Midori Rodriguez, another graduate student in our program and a co-chapter leader, commented that this was a "once in a lifetime experience that I will always cherish."

Midori was most thankful for all of those who came out to help pull off such a large event. Midori said, "We had about 30 official sponsors, and over 20 people volunteered their time to make the event a success." Midori mentioned to me that without these donations this

event would not have been possible. The money that was raised supported the NSA and was also used by the Northeast Pennsylvania NSA Chapter to send a few members who stutter to the annual NSA Conference. Funds were also used for media outreach to promote the local support group.



Terrence said that one of his best experiences of this 5K was "seeing all the hard work pay off." The organizers are looking forward to the next run/walk to support stuttering awareness. The group has already begun planning for next year's event. All the organizers hope to attract even more participants next year and perhaps provide a model for other NSA chapters to host their own 5K run/walk.



Students present at an International Conference

'17 COLLEEN DEIGNAN

Three of our graduate students, Caitlin Vitale, Sarah Nelson, and Terrence Murgallis, flew to England to present their research at the 2014 Oxford Dysfluency Conference at Oxford University. At this international conference, the students presented seminars and posters to showcase their research on fluency disorders. The students were accompanied by two faculty members, Dr. Kathleen Scaler Scott and Dr. Glen Tellis who are both Board Certified Fluency Specialists. The faculty also presented papers at this conference. The topics of their individual and group presentations encompassed several areas. Near-infrared spectroscopy (NIRS) as a way to measure hemoglobin concentration changes in the brain

during stuttering and fluency was presented. Another topic included the benefits of university-based sustainable support groups for persons who stutter. Students also gave presentations on clinician training, treatment efficacy for cluttering, and word-final disfluencies in autism. The faculty mentioned that the students did a wonderful job presenting their work to the international specialists at this conference.

The students stated that they were very excited to present their research at this forum and were also thankful for the opportunity to learn about the current research and clinical practices from around the world. The students mentioned to me that presenting their

research at this venue was an incredible experience and helped them grow as students, researchers, and future professionals. Sarah describes the entire trip as "an amazing learning experience." Caitlin said, "I am so grateful to attend and present at such a prominent conference as a student, while some professionals in the field never get this kind of opportunity." Conducting their research and applying to the Oxford Dysfluency Conference was an enormous task. Their hard work did not go unnoticed. The students were invited to submit their research in the conference proceedings: Science Direct, Procedia Social and Behavioral Sciences that is published by Elsevier.



Letter FROM THE Chair

GLEN TELLIS, Ph.D.
PROFESSOR AND DEPARTMENT CHAIR



This is the 8th year of our newsletter, and our student editors have done a wonderful job of providing many interesting articles for this edition. Each fall semester when I read

the newsletter, I am interested in finding out about all that has taken place in the department during the previous year. Our relatively new department is only in its 12th year of existence, and I am amazed at the growth of this program as well as the quality of each cohort of students.

Our incoming first year class has students who were again in the top 10% of their high school graduating class. Other students in the program have also excelled. For example, in April 2014, at the Pennsylvania Speech-Language Hearing Association (PSHA) convention in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, our National Student Speech-Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) Chapter once again received the PSHA Membership Award. At the convention, for the seventh year in succession, one of our students, Midori Rodriguez, received the Von Drach Memorial Scholarship, awarded to the outstanding graduate student from the entire state of Pennsylvania. Midori also received the American Speech-Language-Hearing (ASH) Foundation graduate scholarship at our national convention in 2013. Our students have received this award two of the past three years. Mary Gulotta, our recent graduate, was the Misericordia 2014 valedictorian. She graduated with a perfect cumulative GPA of 4.0. Many of our students also presented numerous papers with faculty members at state, national, and international conferences.

In July, 2014 three students presented at the Oxford Dysfluency Conference in England. 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. Our faculty received several grants in 2013-2014. We received funding from various sources, including, Landmark Bank, PNC Bank, Fidelity Deposit and Discount Bank, First National Community Bank, First National Bank of Pennsylvania, Frontier Communications, UGI Corporation, M&T Bank, and Pennsylvania Security Charitable Foundation. The department received other external funds from: PNC Foundation – Grow Up Great Foundation, the Blue Ribbon Foundation of Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania, the Gabriel Bernabeo Initiative, and 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. We also received a subcontract with Raising the Floor for our work on the RERC. Funding has allowed us to provide cutting-edge services and maintain state-of-the art clinic and research facilities. On our department website, we now have a virtual tour that showcases our technology, labs, clinics, and other aspects of our program.

In 2014, the SLP department co-sponsored with the Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18, the Hazleton Area School District Early Intervention Department, and the Liv with Autism Foundation, a full-day seminar that was attended by over 100 professionals and students. In 2014, for May is Better Speech and Hearing Month, our

department hosted the fourth Exceptional Art Exceptional Artists event to showcase artwork created by many of our clients with disabilities. The event was a success with over 150 people in attendance. I would like to thank all our benefactors and sponsors for continuing to generously support this event.

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, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, and the Bureau of Disabilities. 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.

On a final note, we say goodbye to our Administrative Assistant Michelle Donato who was with us for eight years. Michelle was a true team player who kept the department functioning smoothly at all times. She has accepted a position as the Executive Assistant to our President. It was a pleasure to work with Michelle. She will be missed here but we are sure she will do an exceptional job as she pursues her new endeavors.

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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script.

Glen Tellis, Ph.D.
Professor and Department Chair

EXCEPTIONAL *Art-*
EXCEPTIONAL *Artists*

MAY 2014





Department of Speech-Language Pathology

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You can give a gift in the following ways:
On-line at misericordia.edu/makeagift
please put SLP Student Fund in the designation section under "Other."

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

Credit card payment (mail to the above address)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone (day): _____ (evening): _____

E-mail: _____

\$15 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 Other \$ _____

Check Enclosed

Please charge my credit card: Visa MasterCard Discover

Card #: _____ Expiration: _____

Name on card: _____

Signature: _____