

1956 - 2009

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Spring 2009

Communication Sciences & Disorders

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

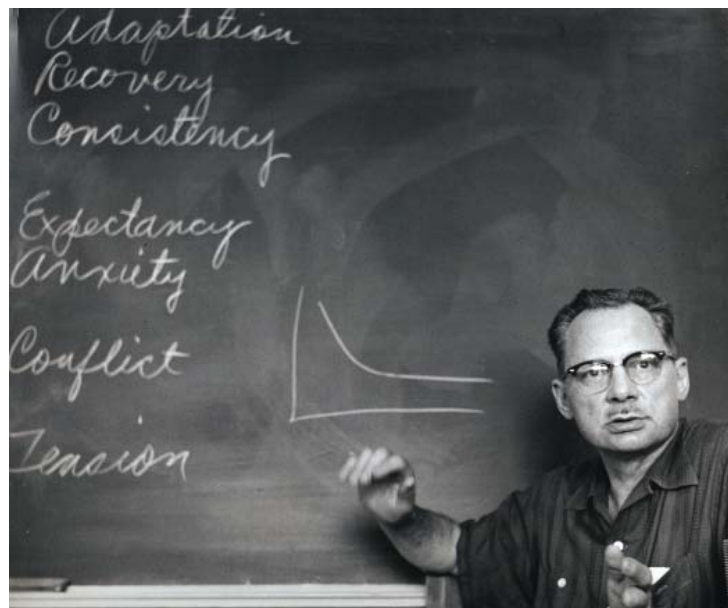


message from the chair

Spring is always a great time of year in Iowa City. The weather – at least for a couple of days – has been perfect, and the activities surrounding graduation and the celebration of student accomplishments are always heartening.

Graduation this spring includes the largest BA class in recent memory, with a total of 42. We also congratulate our 18 MA, 6 AuD and 4 PhD graduates. We wish them well in their careers and expect great things from them.

I recently received a letter from Donald Miller, a photographer from New York City who spent some time in Iowa City in the 50's and took a series of photos of Wendell Johnson teaching in the classroom. Mr. Miller was kind enough to give to us many of the photos, which truly capture the enthusiasm and professorial techniques with which Dr. Johnson approached teaching. An example of those photos is reproduced below, showing him with the relevant topics for that day's discussion. The rest of the series is now in our department archives; let us know if you are interested in seeing more of the photographs. *(continued on page 2)*



Photograph of Wendell Johnson, taken in the summer of 1955 by Donald Miller. Mr. Miller went on to pursue a career in photography, teaching and public service.

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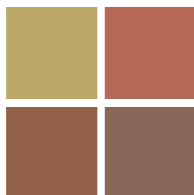
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Message from the chair (continued)

We began the spring with a visit from Dorothy Craven from the University of Hawaii who received our Distinguished Alumni Award. Many of us met her for the first time and enjoyed her reminiscences of Iowa as well as her discussion of her pioneering work in speech pathology in Hawaii. She entitled her talk, "*Challenges and Opportunities: From Iowa to Hawaii.*" We also look forward to another of our alumni receiving the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Alumni Fellow award this fall. Michael Tanenhaus of the University of Rochester will be visiting the campus in September to receive the award and to meet with students and faculty.



Dorothy Craven

2009 Distinguished Alumnus

Despite our continuing optimism, the University (along with the rest of the world) is facing some tough financial times. Within the College and the Department, we are anticipating significant challenges in the coming months and years. How can we maintain excellent programs under great financial constraints? We will be looking to faculty for innovative solutions, but I am also reminded on a regular basis of the importance of contributions from Department alumni and friends. These contributions help us reward excellent students with scholarships and maintain and develop important educational opportunities within the Department. We all express our continued appreciation for your thoughtfulness.

- Paul Abbas

Research: does age really bring with it wisdom?

Jean K. Gordon is conducting a new study on the topic of language in aging. The study is part of a larger inter-disciplinary multi-center project, entitled *Defining Wisdom*, and is funded by the John Templeton Foundation and the University of Chicago.

Gordon's project investigates some of the conflicting perceptions of older age. Although aging frequently entails a gradual decline in cognitive and linguistics abilities, we also tend to think of age as bringing wisdom. To address this paradox, Gordon and her research team (Honors undergraduate students Grace Pang and Nicole Kindred; Research Assistants Megan Sikes and Elizabeth Toal) are examining aspects of language decline in older speakers and how they affect listeners' perceptions of the speaker.

If you are interested in learning more about this project, please contact the Language in Aging and Aphasia Lab at neuro-lang-lab@uiowa.edu or Jean Gordon at jean-k-gordon@uiowa.edu.

Abbas named Collegiate Fellow

Paul Abbas, Department Chair, was one of four University of Iowa professors named 2009 Collegiate Fellows of the UI College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

“This award recognizes senior faculty whose distinction in teaching and scholarship is matched by exceptional leadership in service to the University, the College, and their Departments,” said Dean Linda Maxson. “All of these professors have displayed a deep commitment to the College and the University as a whole, giving generously of their time, talents and energy for many years.”

Abbas is internationally known for his contributions to auditory physiology. He currently participates in two National Institutes of Health funded projects related to cochlear implants and is an elected fellow of the Acoustical Society of America and a past recipient of the M.L. Huit Award for Excellence in Teaching.



personnel

Faculty

Abbas, Paul, *Department Chair*
Akeson, Marcia
Alipour, Fariborz
Bass-Ringdahl, Sandie
Bentler, Ruth
Brown, Carolyn J.
Bryant, Karen
Cilek, Toni
Fennell, Ann
Finnegan, Eileen
Fleckenstein, Stephanie
Gfeller, Kate
Goodman, Shawn
Gordon, Jean K.
Holte, Lenore
Hurtig, Richard
Junkins, Sally
Karnell, Michael
Kelsay, Danielle
Klemuk, Sarah
Louko, Linda
McGregor, Karla
Miller, Charles
Moon, Jerald
Niebuhr, Diane
Owen, Amanda
Reiss, Lina
Titze, Ingo
Tomblin, J. Bruce
Turner, Christopher
Tyler, Richard
Wallace, Anne
Wu, Yu-Hsiang
Zebrowski, Patricia

Professional / Scientific Staff

Arenas, Rick
Berns, Amanda
Eden, Nichole
Ferguson, Connie
Fick, Wendy
Lehrman, Kelvin
Lu, Xiaoying
O'Brien, Marlea
Ostrem, Julie
Rebal, Kathy
St. Clair, Marcia
Wald, Arik
Walker, Eliazbeth
Wood, David

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Miller, Kathy
O'Keefe, Joanne
Thomason, Sharon
Yotty, Mary Jo

online class is launched

Earlier this year, the Iowa Department of Education funded an initiative to provide online versions of undergraduate classes in speech-language pathology to individuals who might be interested in eventually obtaining a graduate degree and pursuing a career in the profession. The first class debuted this spring, a four-credit class entitled *Speech Production: Anatomy and Physiology*. The web-based ICON course delivery software is the same used as part of the 'in house' version of the class; the online course simply adds the lecture component. Weekly office hours for online students use an interactive web-based software system called Adobe Connect. Cadaver dissections viewed as part of the in-house class are presented to online students as recorded in two- and three-dimensional videos. Exams are taken by students at local sites, overseen by approved proctors.

Fifteen students from Iowa and surrounding states enrolled in the spring 2009 offering. While students in the online class do not benefit from the interactive nature of in-house lectures, the online class has proven to be successful and of great benefit to students interested in pursuing speech-language pathology, but do not have access to required undergraduate classes. The course will be offered each semester through Iowa's Department of Continuing Education. Enrollment details for the class (3:122 *Speech Production: Anatomy and Physiology*) are at <http://isis.uiowa.edu>.

— Jerry Moon

Hurtig Lab supports broad communication goals

Understanding and enhancing communication for children and adults is the focus of research activity in the Psychology of Language Lab. Richard Hurtig, his colleagues, and his students have been developing and assessing intervention tools in the areas of emergent literacy and augmentative and alternative communication.

The Climbers Project (Chicago Literacy Initiative: **Making Better Early Readers**), funded by the U.S. Department of Education, is now in its sixth year. The overarching purpose of the Climbers study is to provide evidence for the effectiveness of a reading intervention, *Breakthrough to Literacy* – developed by UI graduate Carolyn Brown – when taken to scale in the Chicago Public Schools. The study uses both classroom observation and individual assessments to evaluate student development as well as the fidelity of curriculum implementation. Working with Carolyn and her husband-business partner Jerry Zimmerman, the lab is also looking at implementation of the program in other urban areas such as West Des Moines. A key component of the curriculum is early writing. To that end, Drs. Hurtig and Brown and their colleagues have developed a computer-assisted coding system to systematically examine emergent writing in children between kindergarten and third grade.

The Iowa E-book Project: Lap reading is an important activity that supports early literacy and language development. It is a natural activity that establishes parent-child interaction and supports vocabulary development through visual scaffolding using the graphics embedded in children's books. The structure of the text and the lap reading setting supports the adult in assisting and facilitating the child's development and ability to respond in a linguistically relevant manner. Lap reading also supports the development of thinking and problem-solving skills through collaborative thought processes. For children who are not given the opportunity to engage in early lap reading, a critical early language and literacy experience is lost. Hurtig and his colleagues, Vannesa Mueller and Arik Wald, developed the Iowa E-book. The E-book simulates lap reading for a range of children with developmental disabilities or hearing loss or for children who may not – for a variety of other factors – have the opportunity to engage in natural lap reading. The E-book provides a natural learning environment, supporting interactions that provide considerable practice and appropriate feedback in a challenging yet entertaining manner.

Vannesa Mueller and Aicha Rochdi both recently completed their doctoral projects examining the impact of early lap reading experiences on children. Vannesa utilized the Iowa software to develop E-books that enhance sign language development in hearing-impaired children. Aicha developed a series of children's books to address the diglossia problem facing young children in her native Morocco. Working with WJSHC student clinicians, Hurtig's students have produced over 100 E-books that have been used with children with a range of disabilities which can limit or constrain natural lap reading. Version 3 of the Iowa E-book software will be released soon; the updates will serve as a multilingual AAC platform that can be implemented on conventional laptop computers.

AAC in Acute and Critical Care: Working with Debora Downey and Lauren Zubow, Hurtig has developed a system for implementing Augmentative / Alternative Communication in acute care settings with both children and adults. This work has entailed a range of technology development projects as well as tutorials to enhance the ability of hospital staff to effectively communicate with their patients. Both Downey and Zubow are working on their PhDs in this subject area. Downey is focusing on developing on-line tutorials for nursing staff, and Zubow is interested in understanding the barriers to implementing AAC that speech-language pathologists face. Working with Dave Wood in the Department's electronics shop, Hurtig continues to design custom AAC systems to facilitate patients' abilities to control a range of devices in their environments.



Richard Hurtig and Deb Downey have just published Augmentative & Alternative Communication in Acute & Critical Care Settings (Plural Press Inc). It provides a how-to guide to implementing AAC in hospital settings. - Dick Huber photo

faculty profile

Anne Wallace, a clinical associate professor, earned her master's degree from Iowa in 1979. She worked in the public schools in Iowa and Minnesota, and a 0-3 program in Wisconsin before returning to Iowa City in the early 80's. After working for the Grant Wood AEA for two years, she was hired by the Department on a part-time basis to work in the area of clinical teaching in aural rehabilitation.

Since that time, the position has evolved on a number of levels, and Anne's responsibilities have increased and diversified. In the 80's, the majority of her work was with pediatrics and children with hearing aids who were seen in the Summer Residential Program (SRP). SRP was the six-week training program for children ages 8-12 which provided training opportunity for graduate students in speech pathology and audiology; Anne participated in SRP for about 15 summers.

Gradually – with the growing usage of cochlear implants, the new implantation program at UIHC, and the Department's strong affiliation – she became involved with adult and children implant patients, which in turn, brought about the development of other programs within the Department. Anne said she's been particularly proud of several programs she has developed (along with other faculty members Dani Kelsay and Sandie Bass-Ringdahl and former colleague Linda Spencer) including the family based program *FOCUS* (for newly identified families of children with hearing loss who are amplified or implanted) and the preschool, *Listen And Speak Up!* This preschool is offered in the summer and provides an oral option for children and another valuable training opportunity for students. *Listen and Speak Up!* is in its fifth year, and due to demand, will expand to two programs for the first time in 2009.

In the past few years, Anne's role has again "evolved" into a full-time position. In addition to her primary responsibilities in clinical teaching of aural rehabilitation, she supervises graduate students in the area of diagnostics and preschool speech / language. The department now has clinical courses which Anne co-teaches for first-semester graduate students in speech pathology as well as one in the spring for AuD students. She has co-taught the rehabilitative audiology course for the past six years as well as lecturing in other departmental and related courses.

Additional areas of interests are regular consulting in the Pediatric Specialty clinics at UIHC, where she sees patients with Fascioscapulohumeral Dystrophy, who have concomitant speech/language and/or hearing problems. Last summer, Anne presented at the international conference of the FSHD society and participated in a multidisciplinary clinic as part of this conference for many FSHD patients in attendance.

On the "home front", Anne's husband Bill is in private practice as a small animal veterinarian. Their older son Jake graduated last year from UNC / Chapel Hill (working in a lab, applying to medical school); Daniel is a junior in mechanical engineering (interested in wind energy); and Hanna is a junior in high school. They have a loving – but not-so-big brained – dog named Millie. Anne used to be heavily involved in her kids' sports (read that: soccer mom), but now gets to enjoy gardening, her longtime book group, and a new hobby – hot yoga.



student publications, posters and presentations

ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

Bentler, R., **Wu, Y-H.**, **Kettel, J.**, Hurtig, R. (2008). Digital Noise Reduction: Outcomes from field and lab studies. *International Journal of Audiology*, 47(8): 447-460.

Bentler, R.A. and **Wu, Y-H.** (2009). Developments in hearing aid technology and verification techniques. In *Advanced Practice in Adult Audiologic Rehabilitation: International Perspectives*. San Diego: Plural Press.

Dunn C.C., **Perreau A.**, Marciniak K., Macpherson B., Tyler R.S., and Kordus M. (in press). Performance Outcomes for Adult Cochlear Implant Users. In M. Marschark and P. E. Spencer (Eds.), *Oxford Handbook of Deaf Studies. Language, and Education. Volume 2*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Hong, Robert S. and Turner, C.W. (in press). Auditory stream segregation using temporal periodicity cues in cochlear implant recipients, *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*.

Mueller, H.G., Bentler, R.A., and **Wu, Y-H.** (2008). Maximum output in hearing aids. *Hearing Journal*, 61(2), 40-47.

Ou, H., Bentler, R.A., and Dunn, C. (2008). Comparison of unilateral cochlear implant adult users and those that use hearing aids and cochlear implants in opposite ears by Satisfaction with Amplification in Daily Life (SADL) scale. *Journal of the American Academy of Audiology*, 19(11).

Peng, S. P., Tomblin, J.B., and Turner, C.W. (2008). Production and Perception of Speech Intonation in Pediatric Cochlear Implant Recipients and Individuals with Normal Hearing, *Ear and Hearing*, 29.

Perreau, A.E., Tyler, R.S., Witt, S., and Dunn, C. (2007). Selection strategies for binaural and monaural cochlear implantation. *American Journal of Audiology*, 16, 85-93.

Stiles, D., Bentler, R., and McGregor, K. (2008). Effects of directional microphone on children's recognition and fast-mapping of speech presented from the rear azimuth. *Hearing Journal*, 61(11), 22-25.

Tyler, R.S., Witt, S.A., Dunn, C.C., and **Perreau, A.E.** (2008). A daily alternating method for comparing different signal-processing strategies in hearing aids and in cochlear implants. *Journal of the American Academy of Audiology*, 19(5), 443-454.

Tyler, R.S., **Perreau, A.E.**, and Ji, Haihong. (in press). The Validation of the Spatial Hearing Questionnaire. *Ear & Hearing*.

Wu, Y-S. and Bentler, R.A. (in press). Using a signal cancellation technique involving impulse response to assess directivity of hearing. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*.

POSTERS AND PRESENTATIONS

Bentler, R.A., **Stiles, D.**, **Kirby, B.** and Chalupper, J. (2008, June) Impact of digital noise reduction on pediatric performance. NHS 2008 Conference: Beyond Newborn Hearing Screening: Infancy and childhood hearing in science and clinical practice. Cernobbio (Como Lake), Italy.

Guo, L., Tomblin, J.B., and Spencer, L. (2009, June). Tense marking in English-speaking children with cochlear implants: The role of speech production, speech perception, and length of auditory deprivation. Paper to be presented at The 12th Symposium on Cochlear Implants in Children, American College of Surgeons, Seattle, WA.

Guo, L., Owen, A., and Tomblin, J.B. (2009, June). The effect of subject types on the production of auxiliary 'is' in young English-speaking children. Poster to be presented at The 30th Annual Symposium on Research in Child Language Disorders, University of Wisconsin-Madison, WI.

Hsu, H. and Owen, A. (2009, September). Sublexical phonological representation deficits in SLI, British Psychology Society Developmental Psychology Section 2009 Conference, Nottingham, UK.

Hurtig, R. **Downey, D.** and **Zubow, L.** (2009) Implementing AAC in Acute Care Settings: Progress Report. Assistive Technology Industry Association Convention, Orlando FL.

Lewis, J.D., McCreery, R.W., Neely, S.T., and Stelmachowicz, P.G. Comparison of in-situ calibration methods for quantifying ear-canal sound level, University of Iowa, Boys Town National Research Hospital, Omaha, NE.

Mertes, I. and Goodman, S. (2009). Delays and Growth Rates of Early and Late CEOAE Components. Poster presentation at the American Auditory Society Meeting, Scottsdale, AZ.

Mueller, V. and Hurtig, R. (2008) Technology Enhanced Shared Reading for young Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students, ASHA Convention, Chicago, IL.

Ou, H., Bentler, R.A. & Goodman, S. (2009). The impact of bilateral gain reduction on localization and speech perception in spatially separated noise. Poster presentation at the American Academy of Audiology, Dallas, TX.

Perreau, A.E. and Holte, L.A. (2009). High-Frequency Tympanometry in Newborn Infants. Poster presentation at the American Academy of Audiology conference, Dallas, TX.

Tumanova, V., Zebrowski, P., Throneburg, R., and Kayicki, M. (2008). Articulatory rate of preschool children who stutter and its relation to disfluency types, duration and temperament. Poster presentation at ASHA Convention, Chicago, IL.

Tumanova, V., Zebrowski, P., and Brown, B. (2009). Language Dissociation in Preschool Children Who Stutter. James F. Jakobsen Graduate Conference, Iowa City, IA.



Greta Stamper, a fourth-year AuD student at Iowa, was honored at the American Academy of Audiology in Dallas in April. Her poster was chosen for the Jim Jerger Award for Excellence in Student Research. Greta is shown here with Jim Jerger, PhD.

Alumni Updates

Thomas J. Hixon (MA 1963, PhD 1965), died on March 21, 2009, in Tucson, Arizona. He joined the faculty at the University of Arizona in 1976, where he successfully served as a scientist, research director, teacher and administrator. His primary research interests focused on the speech and language disorders caused by diseases of the nervous system. Early in his career, he pioneered new investigations linking human respiration and speech. Dr. Hixon was named the Distinguished Alumnus at Iowa in 1998. He was 69.

Charles D. Parker (PhD 1953), died in December 2008, in Missoula, Montana. His mentor at Iowa was Professor Earl Schubert, and after completion of his doctoral degree, Dr. Parker served on staff at Iowa for four years before moving back to his native Montana to found the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology at Montana State University. He devoted several decades of teaching, mentoring and clinical work before his retirement. He was 84.

Megan J. (Haney) Handzlik (MA 1999). Current Job: SLP for Bellingham School District in Bellingham, WA.

Thomas and Judith (Sofen) Kovacs (both BA, 2004: Thomas, MA 2006 University of Colorado; Judith, MS, 2006 Rockhurst University). Judith, SLP in private practice; Tom, a speech scientist and PhD student at the University of Pittsburgh. "We were classmates in undergrad. We've recently gotten married and moved to Pittsburgh, where Tom as started work on his PhD in AAC, and Judy has joined a private practice."

2009 SENA

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Wendell Johnson Speech and Hearing Center
Iowa City IA 52242

connections

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