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Spring 2011

Communication Sciences & Disorders



COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES
THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

message from the chair

It has been some time since the last newsletter and a lot has happened. We began the fall semester 2010 by welcoming the largest graduate class in recent years: 32 MA-SLP, 8 AuD, and 6 new PhD students. Our enrollment in the undergraduate program has also been increasing, reaching a total of 227 this fall. Fortunately we have been able to recruit a number of new faculty to the department since the last newsletter (see profiles in this newsletter). Karen Kirk and Melissa Duff joined the faculty in Fall 2009. Liz Delsandro started as a new clinical faculty member in Fall 2010. These additions have helped to open up some new areas of teaching and research increasing the opportunities for our students. We also have been happy to have Alison Scheer-Cohen as a visiting professor, helping with both didactic and clinical teaching this year.

The annual ASHA convention was a busy one. It is always nice to see old friends but this year was eventful in that two long-time faculty members, Ingo Titze and Bruce Tomblin, were recognized with Honors of the Association. In addition, Mellissa Duff received an Early Career Contributions in Research Award. Also, several former graduate students were named ASHA Fellows: Ken Bleile and Carol Hammer. These awards remind us how fortunate we are in the department to benefit from excellent colleagues and students. Congratulations to all!

(continued on page 2)



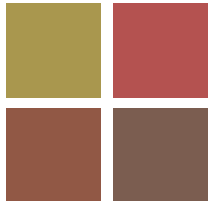
Bruce Tomblin, Melissa Duff, Ingo Titze

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In Fall 2009 we were pleased to welcome Michael Tanenhaus (BS, 1973, speech and hearing science) to campus where he was recognized by Dean Maxson as a College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Alumni Fellow. This past fall we hosted a visit by Michael Gorga who received the department's annual distinguished alumni award (photo on page 7). That visit was especially important to me since Michael was my former student here at Iowa. While it reminded me of how old I am now, it also is an important indicator of how rewarding our jobs can be as teachers and mentors in this field.

It is always great to have alumni back in Iowa City. I certainly encourage everyone to come by the department whenever you are close by. George Haskell and Rich Tyler organized a group this summer for "The More or Less 35th Year Reunion of Wendell's Kids". It was a fun time with great food, entertainment and, of course, awards. I also want to acknowledge the generous gift to the department scholarship fund. After a hat was passed to help pay for reunion expenses, the organizers graciously donated the proceeds toward student scholarships.

Finally, this will be my last newsletter as departmental chair. The last six years have gone by quickly, but I look forward to going back to spending more time in teaching and research. Being chair is not the easiest job, but the skilled staff, helpful faculty and excellent students make it much more enjoyable. I feel very fortunate that Ruth Bentler has agreed to take over as chair beginning in August. While I think things have gone well the past few years, Ruth is a person who can bring some new ideas to the table and provide excellent leadership in an important time for the department and profession. I congratulate her and look forward to working with her in future.

- Paul Abbas



A group of campers from the 2010 UI SPEAKS (University of Iowa Summer Program to Educate Adults and Kids who Stutter) program take a field trip to Carver-Hawkeye Arena. Each year, 20-25 elementary-aged and teens who stutter are served by the UI SPEAKS summer camps.

Student scholarships and awards

UI Foundation funds and awards established over the years attract excellent students and help them achieve their educational goals. Information about how you can contribute is available on page 7. The following awards were made in Fall 2010.

Kristen Lodge Miller \$1000 Award to **Laura Bohnenkamp**
Ogdahl Grad \$1000 Award to **Lindsay Van Elk**
Laurel Stanzel \$1000 Award to **Jacqueline Hackbarth**
Salmon \$1000 Award to **Hayley Ellis** and **Tara Gjerstad**
Spriestersbach \$500 Award to **Kristen Adrian**
ISHA Speech Pathology \$500 Award to **Laura Bohnenkamp**
ISHA VerHoef \$500 Award to **Ian Mertes**

Additional awards and honors

Alison Bean was given an international research travel award from ASHA to attend the Global Solutions in Research and Clinical Practice in Communications Sciences and Disorders Conference, (part of the 28th International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatrics Congress in Athens, Greece), August 2010.

Debora Downey won first place award in the student scientific paper category, Clinical AAC Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, October 2009.

Melanie Green was given the Paula Menyuk Travel Award to attend the Boston University Conference on Language Development, November 2009.

James Lewis, **Ian Mertes**, and **Rachel Schepeler** were all awarded grants for the 2011 Resident and Graduate Student Poster Session from the National Institutes of Health and American Auditory Society.

Ian Mertes was awarded the 2010 Student Research Grant in Audiology from American Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation.

Stephanie Nielsen was awarded the \$10,000 Dennis R. Washington Achievement Scholarship.

Ann Perreau received an ASHA Audiology/Hearing Science Research Travel Award, November 2009.

Lauren Zubow won a University of Iowa (WISE) Women in Science and Engineering travel award to attend the Assistive Technology Industry Association conference, Orlando, January 2010.



Health Fair at WJSHC: The clinical faculty and graduate students offered free screenings and information to the public about communication health at the 2010 Hawkeye Speech & Hearing Fair. The event preceded the Iowa spring football game across the street at Kinnick Stadium.

personnel

Faculty

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

Faculty Emeriti

Anderson, Charles
Davis, Julia
Hall, Penelope
Luschei, Erich
Moll, Kenneth
Morris, Hughlett
Small, Arnold
Spriestersbach, Duane

Professional / Scientific / Secretarial Staff

Albright, Dorothy
Arenas, Rick
Berns, Amanda
Eden, Nichole
Eldridge, Lauren
Ferguson, Connie
Fick, Wendy
Lehrman, Kelvin
Lu, Xiaoying
Miller, Kathy
Nichols, John
O'Brien, Marlea
O'Keefe, Joanne
Ostrem, Julie
Rebal, Kathy
St. Clair, Marcia
Walker, Elizabeth
Wood, David
Yotty, Mary Jo

Department welcomes new faculty members Delsandro, Duff and Kirk



Elizabeth (Liz) Delsandro joined the clinical faculty as an assistant professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at The University of Iowa in July 2010. Prior to joining the faculty, Liz worked as a speech–language pathologist and autism consultant in the Grant Wood Area Education Agency (AEA 10) in Iowa. Liz has worked as a district-wide assistive technology trainer for the Loudoun County Public Schools in Northern Virginia and as an augmentative communication specialist in the Baltimore County Public Schools and the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, Maryland.

Currently, Liz is supervising graduate student clinicians in the Wendell Johnson Speech and Hearing Clinic. Her clinical interests include implementing and developing strategies for adults and children with autism spectrum disorders, behavioral and emotional challenges, and cognitive impairments. Liz also has a strong interest in instructional design, adult learning, and technology integration which aligns well with her current responsibility in developing new coursework centered on interventions for individuals with autism and teaching a course with concentration on speech-language pathology in the public school setting. Since 2009, Liz has served on the educational board of the Autism Society of Iowa.

In the future, Liz plans to develop programs at the Wendell Johnson Speech and Hearing Clinic to support children and adults with autism or with cognitive impairments, with a primary focus on functional communication, social interaction, and emotional regulation. Liz is also interested in building collaborative relationships with local school districts and other community agencies.



Melissa Duff joined the faculty in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at The University of Iowa in 2009. After receiving her PhD from the University of Illinois in 2005, Melissa was a postdoctoral fellow in the Division of Cognitive Neuroscience of the Department of Neurology at The University of Iowa College of Medicine. She currently holds a joint appointment in the Department of Neurology and is a member of the Neuroscience Training Program faculty and is the director of the Communication and Memory Laboratory.

Melissa has long-standing interests in the interaction of cognition and communication dating back to when she worked at a residential rehabilitation center for adolescents and adults with traumatic brain injury as an undergraduate student. Since then she has worked clinically with individuals with cognitive-communication disorders in hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and nursing homes.

For the past ten years, her research has focused on the effect of memory disorders on language use and communication by studying new learning and the interactive discourse abilities of individuals with profound memory deficits result-

ing from focal injury or Alzheimer's disease. Findings from this line of work have offered new insights into the interdependent relationship of memory and language. This work also guides the development of new treatments for those with concomitant impairments in memory and language.

Returning to her clinical interests in traumatic brain injury, Melissa has created the Iowa Traumatic Brain Injury Registry, a repository of demographic information and extensive neuropsychological and neuroanatomical data on individuals who have sustained a traumatic brain injury. In addition to conducting basic empirical studies on memory, language, and learning, the group aims to study long-term recovery and outcome, and to develop and validate effective treatment approaches for those suffering from traumatic brain injury.

Melissa frequently presents her research findings on the topic of traumatic brain injury and concussion at state association and national meetings. She teaches the graduate courses in Neurogenic Disorders of Speech and Acquired Cognitive-Communication Disorders and the undergraduate course, Introduction to Speech and Hearing Processes and Disorders.



Karen Iler Kirk joined the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at The University of Iowa in 2009. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in Speech and Hearing Sciences from the University of California, Santa Barbara, a master's degree in Speech Science and Technology from the University of Southern California, and a doctoral degree in Hearing Science from The University of Iowa. Karen is clinically certified in Speech-Language Pathology.

For nearly 30 years, Karen's research has examined speech and language outcomes in children with cochlear implants. Her interest in this area began in 1981 when she joined House Ear Institute's pioneering pediatric cochlear implant program as its first speech-language pathologist. After receiving her Ph.D., she spent 12 years as director of the DeVault Otologic Research Laboratory at the Indiana University School of Medicine. Prior to joining the faculty at Iowa, Karen was Professor of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences at Purdue University.

Karen's other line of research concerns the development of spoken word recognition tests for adults and children with hearing loss. Her spoken word recognition tests, The Lexical Neighborhood Test and the Multisyllabic Lexical Neighborhood Test have been used extensively in FDA clinical trials of new cochlear implant systems. Most recently, she is developing new sentence recognition tests that incorporate multiple talkers in an audiovisual presentation format. This work is translational in nature; the long-term goal is to develop and collect normative data on these new sentence tests.

Karen's research has been supported continually by the NIH since 1996. She also has received funding from the American Hearing Research Foundation, the Deafness Research Foundation, and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation.

Karen was named a Fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association in 2007. She is a member of the ASHA Board of Directors, serving as Vice President for Science and Research for 2010-2012.

student publications, posters, and presentations

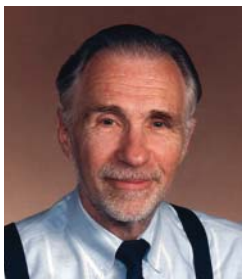
ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

- Barker, B.A., Kenworthy, M., & Walker, E.A. (in press). How We Do It: Employment of Listening-Development Criteria During Assessment of Infants who use Cochlear Implants. *Cochlear Implants International*.
- Dunn, C.C., Perreau, A., Marciniak, K., Macpherson, B., Tyler, R.S., and Kordus, M. (2010). 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.
- Gordon, J.K. & Kindred, N.K. (in press). Word retrieval in aging: An exploration of the Task Constraint hypothesis. *Aphasiology*.
- Lewis, J.D., Goodman, S.S., & Bentler, R.A. (2010). Measurement of hearing aid internal noise. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*. 127 (4): 2521-2528.
- Lewis, J.D., McCreery, R.W., Neely, S.T., & Stelmachowicz, P.G. (2009). Comparison of in-situ calibration methods for quantifying input to the middle ear. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* 126 (6):3114-3124.
- Perreau, A., Tyler, R.S., & Witt, S.A. (2010). The effect of reducing the number of electrodes on spatial hearing tasks for bilateral cochlear implant recipients. *Journal of the American Academy of Audiology*, 21(2), 110-120.
- Ramachandran, V., Lewis, J.D., Mosstaghimi-Tehrani M., Stach, B.A., & Yaremchuk K (in press). Communication outcomes in audiologic reporting. *Journal of the American Academy of Audiology*.
- Rost, G.C. and McMurray, B. (2010). Finding the signal by adding noise: The role of non-contrastive phonetic variability in early word learning. *Infancy*, 15(6), 608-635.
- Turner, C., Gantz, B.J., Karsten, S., Fowler, J. Reiss, L. (2010). "The impact of hair cell preservation in cochlear implantation: Combined Electric and Acoustic Hearing," *Otology and Neurology*, 31:1227Y1232 2010.
- Tyler, R.S., Witt, S.A., Dunn, C.C., Perreau, A.E., Parkinson, A.J., & Wilson, B.S. (2010). An attempt to improve bilateral cochlear implants by increasing the distance between electrodes and providing complementary information to the two ears. *Journal of the American Academy of Audiology*, 21(1), 52-65.

POSTERS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Bean, A.F., Stiles, D.J., & Walker, E.A. (2010, November) Life after the dissertation. Presentation at the American Speech-Language Hearing Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- Goodman, S.S., Mertes, I.B., Sheffield, S.W., Scheperle, R.A., and Koehlinger, K.M. (2010, March). MOC suppression of extended high-frequency TEOAEs. Poster presented at American Auditory Society, Scottsdale, AZ.
- Green, M. (2009, November) The role of lexical frequency, velocity, and phonological factors on regular past tense production in children with SLI and their typically developing peers. Presentation at Boston University Conference on Language Development, Boston, MA.
- Jeon, E. (Julie) (2010, March) Electrically Evoked Compound Action Potentials for Advanced Bionics Users. Presentation at American Auditory Society, Scottsdale, AZ.
- Jeon, E. (Julie) (2010, March). The effect of programming method on most comfortable levels. Poster at American Auditory Society, Scottsdale, AZ.
- Kirby, B.J., Kopun, J.G., Tan, H., Neely, S.T., and Gorga, M.P. Do 'Optimal' Conditions Improve Distortion Product Otoacoustic Emission Test Performance? Poster at American Auditory Society, Scottsdale, AZ.
- Koehlinger, K.M. and Owen, A. (2010, June). The relationship between verb-related omission errors and the use of temporal and non-temporal adverbial clauses in children's spontaneous language. Poster at Symposium on Research in Child-Language Development. Madison WI.
- Rost, G.C. and McGregor, K.K. (2010, June). Adjudicative competence in young adults with Specific Language Impairment. at the 31st Annual Symposium for Research on Child Language Disorders, Madison, WI.
- Perreau, A., Tyler, R., Witt, S., Haihong, J., and Dunn, C. (2010). Comparing cochlear implant and hearing aid user profiles using the Spatial Hearing Questionnaire. Poster Presentation at the 10th International CI2010 Conference in Stockholm, Sweden.
- Shune, S.E., & Duff, M.C. (November, 2010). Verbal play in the discourse of elderly individuals with and without Alzheimer's disease. Paper presentation at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), Philadelphia, PA.
- Shune, S.E., Karnell L.H., Karnell M.P. (2010, November) Dysphagia Predicts Survival in Patients With Head & Neck Cancer. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- Sobiesiak Mussoi, B. and Bentler, R.A. (2010, March) Impact of Frequency Lowering on Music Perception. Poster at American Auditory Society, Scottsdale, AZ.
- Stiles, D.J. (2010, November) "Pure tone average and aided speech intelligibility index as predictors of vocabulary size." Poster presented at Sound Foundation through Early Amplification, Chicago, IL.
- Zubow, L. (2010, January). Developing Eye Gaze: A Look at Treatment Progression. Presentation at Assistive Technology Industry Association Conference, Orlando, FL.

Alumni Updates



Martin Young (BA 1952, MA 1958, PhD 1960) died in his home in St. Louis, Missouri, in October. Dr. Young served as the inaugural chairperson of Illinois State University's Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology when it became an independent academic unit in 1970. Under his leadership, the department grew to become one of the largest terminal-masters programs in the country with over 20 full-time faculty and staff members. Upon his retirement in 1994, he was one of the longest-serving department chairpersons in the university's history. Martin enjoyed a long and prestigious career as one of the country's preeminent scholars in the field of fluency disorders.

Kate DeVore (MA 1995) and **Starrlett Cookman** (MA 1996) authored *The Voice Book: Easy Exercises and Advice for Anyone Who Speaks or Sings for a Living*. The 225-page soft-cover book comes with a CD to help users understand concepts and exercises within the book. *The Voice Book* is available from Amazon's website.

1950's

Lawrence (Larry) John Smith, Jr. (MA 1950). Retired from Dupont Co. after 30+ years. Taught speech at St. Louis University prior to working for Dupont.

Joan Livingston Prouty (BA 1954). Part-time teaching at Sam Houston State University. "Finished PhD at Texas A & M (in Reading-Writing-Ed Psych) – Professor at SHSU seventeen years in Huntsville, TX. Now semi-retired in Curriculum and Instruction in the College of Education."

Shirley Nichols Sparks-Greif (BA 1955) published a co-authored book, *The Art and Practice of Home Visiting: Early Intervention for Children with Special Needs and Their Families*, Cook, R. & Sparks S. (2008) Paul Brookes.



Michael Gorga (PhD 1980), at right, was named the 2010 Distinguished Alumnus. He is shown being congratulated by Department Chair Paul Abbas at a reception in Gorga's honor.

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connections

We're committed to keeping the communication channel open between alumni, friends, and former faculty of the Department to our current students, faculty, and staff. We hope you will read, enjoy, and respond to this newsletter. We also encourage you to visit the department website at www.uiowa.edu/~comsci to keep up to date with your former colleagues and current departmental news. If you have not already done so, consider returning the completed form below to us via mail or FAX (319.335.8851). You may also Email speech-path-aud@uiowa.edu, using "my news" as a subject line. We'd enjoy hearing from you, and if you agree, we will publish your news in the Alumni Updates section.

keep in touch

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Degree / year earned _____

Current job _____

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