

save the dates

May 4-5,
2007

department to
celebrate half-
century mark

50

years of excellence

Speech Pathology and Audiology

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES, THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

For the next year, The University of Iowa's Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology will be celebrating its 50th anniversary. A variety of activities will take place over the year, concluding with a reunion and conference on May 4-5, 2007. This brief historical overview should serve as a reminder as to the role of The University in the development of the *field*, as well as the official recognition of the department within the university. The primary source of this historical synopsis is Dorothy Moeller's *Speech Pathology and Audiology: Iowa Origins of a Discipline* (University of Iowa Press, 1975). The reader is encouraged to take a literary stroll through Moeller's insightful and detailed chronicle of events, summarized briefly here.

The beginning of the field of Speech Pathology and Audiology may be difficult to pinpoint. G.T.W. Patrick (BA-UI, 1878) offered a course called Empirical Psychology from the Department of Mental and Moral Science and Didactics in 1887. His "squandering" of all \$50 of start-up funds for laboratory equipment was considered the beginning of a culture at The University of Iowa. He named Carl Seashore to be director of the Iowa Psychological Laboratory in 1897. As history has it, Seashore spent his first summer supervising the building of a soundproofed room in the department's new headquarters (now Schaeffer Hall). This "giant thermos bottle" was believed to be the first of its kind in the world. *(continued on page 2)*

message from the chair

I began as Department Chair in August 2005. It is a big responsibility to take on that position for a program with the reputation that ours enjoys, especially looking back at those who have served before. Those of you who know me probably realize that it is not a

job that I have been trying to get. Nevertheless, here I am. Richard Hurtig had put in a lot of time and hard work into the position, and he wanted to spend more time on his teaching and research. I thank him for his long service to the department, all the help that he

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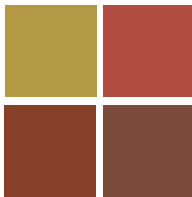
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By 1900, Seashore had the first prototype audiometer...although it was never patented. At about the same time, the Program in Mental and Moral Science and Didactics was renamed the Department of Philosophy and Psychology with the express goal of training specialists in the areas of "...reading disabilities and speech pathology." Lee Edward Travis was chosen to be trained as the "psychologist of psychiatry," and his Plan (roughly the equivalent of a doctoral plan of study today) allowed for a small stipend and access to any classes on campus. Contemporaries included Wendell Johnson, Scott Reger and Don Lewis. When he completed his postdoctoral training in 1927, Travis was hired as an Associate Professor of Psychology and Speech, the psychologist for the Psychopathic Hospital, and Director of the Psychological and Speech Clinic...all in an effort, apparently, to keep him from accepting an offer to teach at Northwestern University.

By 1940, The University of Iowa became a "mecca for graduate students interested in the pioneering work being done in the scientific study of speech and speech disabilities." Legends such as Charles Strother (1939-47), Wendell Johnson (1947-1955), and James F. Curtis (1955-1968) led the program through its infancy until enrollment exceeded all expectations. By the end of the Curtis era, more than 25 PhD students were in training, in addition to the BA (approximately 100) and MA (approximately 50) majors. It was not until 1956, however, that the degree was actually *from* the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology. The official record acknowledges July 1, 1956 as the establishment of the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology, following several years of increasing autonomy within the University. From a Program, to a Council, to a Department in the first half of the century, faculty, staff and promising students were already making professional waves in the field. James Hardy (PhD '61), Kenneth Moll (PhD '60), Duane Spriestersbach (PhD '49), Hugh Morris (PhD '60) taught and mentored future professionals, and contributed to the national prominence of the discipline.

Jim Curtis was especially concerned about the housing of the national office of the American Speech and Hearing Association, as it was then known. He sought alternatives to the rented space in *downtown* Washington, DC, and during his own presidential year saw the purchase and financial planning of the new facilities in Rockville, Maryland. It was also at the end of his tenure as departmental chair that the contract for the new Speech and Hearing Center was approved by the Board of Regents in August of 1965. The building, now named the Wendell Johnson Speech and Hearing Center, was constructed for 1.5 million dollars, of which half came from state funding and the rest from government agency grants. With an additional \$492,000 spent on equipment, the department assumed its new, and current, home on Hawkins Drive in the fall of 1967. Dedication week was held June 11-15, 1968, commencing with a conference focusing on doctoral training issues in speech pathology. Join us in May of 2007 to celebrate 50 years of past excellence and a future of continued promise.

- Ruth Bentler

New faculty joins WJSHC



Shawn Goodman will join WJSHC as an Assistant Professor in August 2006. He graduated from Indiana University in 2003 with a joint PhD degree in Speech and Hearing Sciences and Neural Science. He has been a post-doctoral fellow at Boys Town National Research Hospital for the past 3 years. He studies otoacoustic emissions and middle ear reflectance and will be teaching courses on instrumentation, signal and systems, and evoked potentials.

Karla McGregor obtained her PhD from Purdue University in 1992 and then served as a member of the Northwestern University Speech and Language Pathology faculty for 12 years. She joined our faculty in January 2005 as an Associate Professor. Dr. McGregor is interested in how children learn words. She teaches courses on autism and developmental disabilities, language disorders in children ages 0-18 years, and scientific writing.



Amanda Owen is a more recent PhD graduate from Purdue University. Dr. Owen completed her degree in 2004 and joined our faculty as an Assistant Professor in January, 2005. Her research is directed at understanding how children develop syntax and morphology. Dr. Owen teaches courses in language development, developmental speech and language disorders, and phonological development and disorders.

personnel

Faculty

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

Professional / Scientific Staff

Fick, Wendy
Goode, Danielle
Lehrman, Kelvin
Haley, Jim
O'Brien, Marlea
Ostrem, Julie
Rebal, Kathy
Wald Arik
Wood, David

Secretarial Staff

Albright, Dorothy
Miller, Kathy
Thomason, Sharon
Yotty, Mary Jo

student honors and awards

Hsin-jen (Julie) Hsu received a travel award to the 2006 Symposium for Research on Child Language Disorders at Madison. Her dissertation advisor is Dr. Bruce Tomblin.

Elizabeth Collison Walker was first author on the 2004 Editors' Award for the *Journal of Speech, Language and Hearing Research*. She is a doctoral candidate mentored by Dr. Sandie Bass-Ringdahl. The article, entitled "Relations among linguistic and cognitive skills and spoken word recognition in adults with cochlear implants," was written by Collison, Benjamin Munson and Arlene Earley Carney.

Fuh-Cherng Jeng received a Student Investigator Research Award from the American Academy of Audiology and the American Academy of Audiology Foundation for his work entitled, "Electrically Evoked Auditory Steady-State Responses in Guinea Pigs." He was also awarded The Thomson Delmar Learning Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences & Disorders (CAPCSD) Award for outstanding research conducted by a PhD Student. His mentors are Drs. Carolyn Brown and Paul Abbas.

Sarah Klemuk, a doctoral candidate, was awarded a two-year NIH Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award. The title of her research proposal is 'Improved Measurements of Vocal Fold-Related Tissues'. Sarah's mentor is Dr. Ingo Titze. The award depended not only on the research proposal but also on the sponsor's reputation for research and training and the research facilities of the institution. She was also given an American Speech-Language-Hearing Association award to attend the 4th Annual Research Conference in May 2006.

Hua Ou was awarded a Mentored Doctoral Student Research Poster Session grant from the National Institutes of Health and the American Auditory Society. Her project, "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" was mentored by Drs. Ruth Bentler and Camille Dunn (UIHC).

Derek Stiles and **Jerrica Kettel** presented a podium paper at the NHS (Newborn Hearing Screening) 2006 meeting in Cernobbio (Lake Como), Italy, on June 1, 2006. The theme of this biennial meeting was *Beyond Newborn Hearing Screening: Infant and Childhood Hearing in Science and Clinical Practice*. Derek's paper was entitled, "Impact of directional microphones on novel word learning in children." Jerrica's paper was entitled "Digital noise reduction and the pediatric population." Mentor for both is Ruth Bentler, PhD.

Yu-Hsiang Wu, a doctoral candidate, was chosen to receive a student scholarship to the International Hearing Aid Conference (IHCON) to be held in Lake Tahoe, CA, in August 2006. His research presentation is entitled, "Using a signal cancellation technique with impulse responses to assess adaptive directivity of hearing aids." He is working with Ruth Bentler, PhD, on this and related research.

help us maintain our tradition of excellence

Our department's support of graduate students is an important way for us to attract excellent students and help them achieve their goals in a reasonable time. Certainly support from the University in the form of teaching and research assistantships has been important as well as support from grants. Those sources have been supplemented through several UI Foundation funds and awards that have been established over the years.

Dorothy Sherman's estate has provided for a fund that has been financing student travel for many years. Student travel has been supplemented in recent years by donations from former graduates. We consider the ability to regularly attend meetings, present research, and make contacts an essential part of our students' education. A fund in Jim Curtis' name has been used to support graduate student research projects. Additionally, several funds have been established over the years to support scholarships for individuals in specific areas of study. An award in memory of Kristin Lodge-Miller is given to an outstanding Iowa graduate in speech pathology, one in memory of Bette Williams for a student in clinical fluency, and one in memory of Laurel Stanzel is awarded to an outstanding student in audiology. More recent scholarships to speech pathology students have been gifts from Leland and Esther Ogdahl, and one from Shirley and Thomas Salmon. Another that honors Bette R. Priestersbach has just been established. Such scholarships provide an important way in which we recognize excellent students and assist financially in their education. Recent winners of those scholarships are:

- Valerie Flemmer, 2004, Lodge-Miller scholarship**
- Kristin Musser, 2005 Ogdahl Undergraduate scholarship**
- Stacy Meyers, 2005 Ogdahl Graduate scholarship**
- Jill Buckingham, 2005 Stanzel scholarship**
- Danette Sumerford, 2005 Williams scholarship**
- Rebecca Bartlett, 2005 Salmon scholarship**

faculty profile



Jean Gordon has been an assistant professor in the department since 2001 and is poised to go up for tenure this fall. Her research focuses on the processes of word retrieval in adult speakers without brain damage, and in those with aphasia. One project, funded through an R03 from the NIDCD (NIH), investigates the variables which make words easier or harder to produce and recognize.

Jean is also involved in the WJSHC Clinic, and she organized a presentation by students at the Iowa City Senior Center to mark Aphasia Awareness month. Jean was recently interviewed about aphasia on KXIC's University of Iowa Health Care Today.

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Message from the chair (continued)

has given me in the transition and the assistance that he and other members of the faculty continue to provide. The transition has been made much easier by knowledgeable and efficient staff as well as lots of help from the faculty.

Because of the hard work of many individuals in the past, our four instructional programs are flourishing. The undergraduate program has more majors than in recent history. The AuD program continues to be modified as we deal with growing pains, but we had two graduates in May and continue to have excellent candidates applying to the program. We have instituted an interview day in February that has been successful in allowing prospective students to learn more about our program and that seems to help us recruit our best prospects. Our applications to the SLP program continue to be excellent, and this year we were fortunate to have most of our initial offers accepted. We recently instituted an "Introduction to Research Course" into the PhD curriculum that brings students from all areas together to discuss papers, develop research skills and learn about other important issues such as grants. Karla McGregor also has begun teaching a new course, "Scientific Writing," particularly designed for doctoral students. Finally, we also look to expand our doctoral training to include opportunities for more training in molecular biology and genetics, following research efforts of faculty such as Bruce Tomblin and Ingo Titze.

It has been a good year for many of our faculty and former faculty. I went to my first ASHA meeting in many years and was fortunate to help celebrate Julia Davis being honored as a Fellow of ASHA. Recently the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences announced that it will honor Aquiles Iglesias (PhD '78) as Alumni Fellow at a ceremony this September. It was a happy time here last month when we heard that the Cochlear Implant Clinical Research Center grant was funded for another 5 years (25 years of continuous funding). This area of research continues to be a big focus for student as well as faculty research, including Sandie Bass-Ringdahl, Carolyn Brown, Chris Turner, Bruce Tomblin, Rich Tyler and me. This is clearly not the only one. Despite cuts in NIH funding, almost all of our tenure-track faculty have significant support from research grants; such support is a major part of our funding for students.

There have been many changes to the building over the past few years as we recruit new faculty and "old" faculty move in new research directions. Our group in child language expanded a year and a half ago with the addition of new faculty, Karla McGregor and Amanda Owen. The basement of our building now houses the Iowa Collaboration on Child Language. They, along with Bruce Tomblin and Richard Hurtig, are developing a system to measure eye movements in young children. Such data allow inferences about language comprehension in the moment. Tricia Zebrowski's group in stuttering has recently installed a system for tracking movements of articulators that will be useful for characterizing movements during normal and disordered speech. Another new development in the department has been Ingo Titze's shift in research emphasis from macromechanics of voice production to micro-mechanics of tissue, specifically tissue engineering. He has significantly renovated lab space to investigate cell response to vibration at low audio frequencies as well as the use of cellular and molecular biology techniques to investigate causes for voice disorders. We are also very happy to have Shawn Goodman join the faculty in August; he is setting up a laboratory for measurements of middle ear reflectance and otoacoustic emissions.

Despite these many positive aspects we do face some challenges. Foremost from my point of view is the long-term funding of students. Changes in the university have resulted in reduction in the number of teaching assistants allotted to the department as well as a reduction in the research assistant funds. That makes us more dependent on grant funds to support students. As a result we are looking at many new options for continuing student support.

We have recently begun discussing plans to host a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the department. Please note the "save the date" announcements in this newsletter. We would like to see as many of you as possible back in Iowa City for the event.

- Paul Abbas

Report on CHINA Project

China has a population of 1.3 billion people. According to the 1995 census, 26 million of those suffer from hearing loss; among them, 1.84 million are children. Since the beginning of the first graduate programs in Audiology in China five years ago, there are still fewer than thirty audiologists available to serve that population (compared to the 6,000 audiologists in the U.S.).

In May of 2004, a team of speech and hearing specialists first traveled from The University of Iowa to China to provide services to a small segment of that large population. That trip has been repeated twice with an additional interim follow-up trip. This year, the team was made up of Linda Louko (Clinic Director and Co-Director of the Project), Danielle Kelsay (Clinical Associate Professor of Audiology), Ray Zebrowski (physical therapist), and Li Chiou and Jerrica Kettel (clinical doctoral students).

The group traveled to Nanchang, where the Nanchang Social Welfare Institute (the orphanage) is housed. The choice of that particular orphanage was originally made because another Iowa faculty member (Carolyn Brown, PhD, CCC-A) adopted a daughter three years ago from that site. The orphanage is large, caring for almost 600 residents and foster children. This year, 53 children from four orphanages were tested, and four were fit with hearing aids.

The trips are funded through donations to The University of Iowa Foundation and the generosity of hearing aid manufacturers (Starkey, Oticon, Unitron, Phonak) and other audiologic suppliers (Westone Labs, Medical Technologies), and the International Lion's Club Shenzhen District 380. This year, NSSLHA also contributed through their own fund-raising. It is the goal of this initiative that more teaching and training will be carried out so that service provision can continue through the course of the year. - Ruth Bentler and Linda Louko, Co-Directors



Li Chiou (a third-year AuD student) is shown here testing OAEs on a young child, shown with her foster mother.



Danielle Kelsay (clinical faculty at the University of Iowa) is shown here testing infants in the nursery of the orphanage.

Stuttering Foundation Workshop - In June 2005, Tricia Zebrowski and Toni Cilek taught a two-week workshop for specialists sponsored by the Stuttering Foundation. This is the second time the workshop has been offered at the University of Iowa; the next is scheduled for June 2007. The course is designed for speech-language pathologists who are interested in specializing in the treatment of stuttering in children and adults. Admission is by application only, and selected participants are funded through the Stuttering Foundation which covers room, board, tuition and travel expenses. This most recent course was attended by 20 speech-language pathologists from the U.S. and around the world, including Japan, Taiwan, New Zealand, Italy, Russia, Turkey and Thailand.

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology
Wendell Johnson Speech and Hearing Center
Iowa City, IA 52242

connections

We hope that the regular publication of newsletters will help maintain contact with alumni, friends and former faculty of the Department to our current students, faculty and staff. In addition to reading and responding to this newsletter, we encourage you to visit the department website: **www.shc.uiowa.edu**. The website is regularly updated with plans for the 50th anniversary celebration as well as other news in the Department.

Let's hear from you. Please return the completed form below to us, or if you prefer, FAX it to 319 / 335-8851. You may also Email speech-path-aud@uiowa.edu, using "my news" as a subject line.

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