

CSD CONNECTIONS



IOWA

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION SCIENCES
AND DISORDERS ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

Spring 2022

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SO MUCH EXCITING NEWS TO SHARE

A message from Carolyn Brown, Department Executive Officer



It has been a while since our last newsletter. My apologies. Time just got away from me. Who expected that we would STILL be dealing with COVID? Certainly not me! It has been a challenge, that is for sure. However, we are moving forward, and I want to shift the focus to other, more exciting topics and update you on what has been happening in our department during the past year or so.

1. Our faculty has evolved

As many of you know, during the past decade or so, we have had a great deal of faculty turnover. This has been due, in part by a number of retirements, both in the tenure- and clinical-track ranks. Many of the individuals who left or who retired were GIANTS in our field! They left very big shoes to fill and will be missed! However, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has been very supportive, and we are now well on our way back toward full strength. Our new faculty are brilliant, energetic, hard-working, excited, and creative. They will lead the department in exciting new directions and shape the future of our profession in ways we never imagined. It has been a long time since I have seen faculty morale better than it is today. Please turn to page 4 to meet our newest faculty members.

2. We have a move in our future

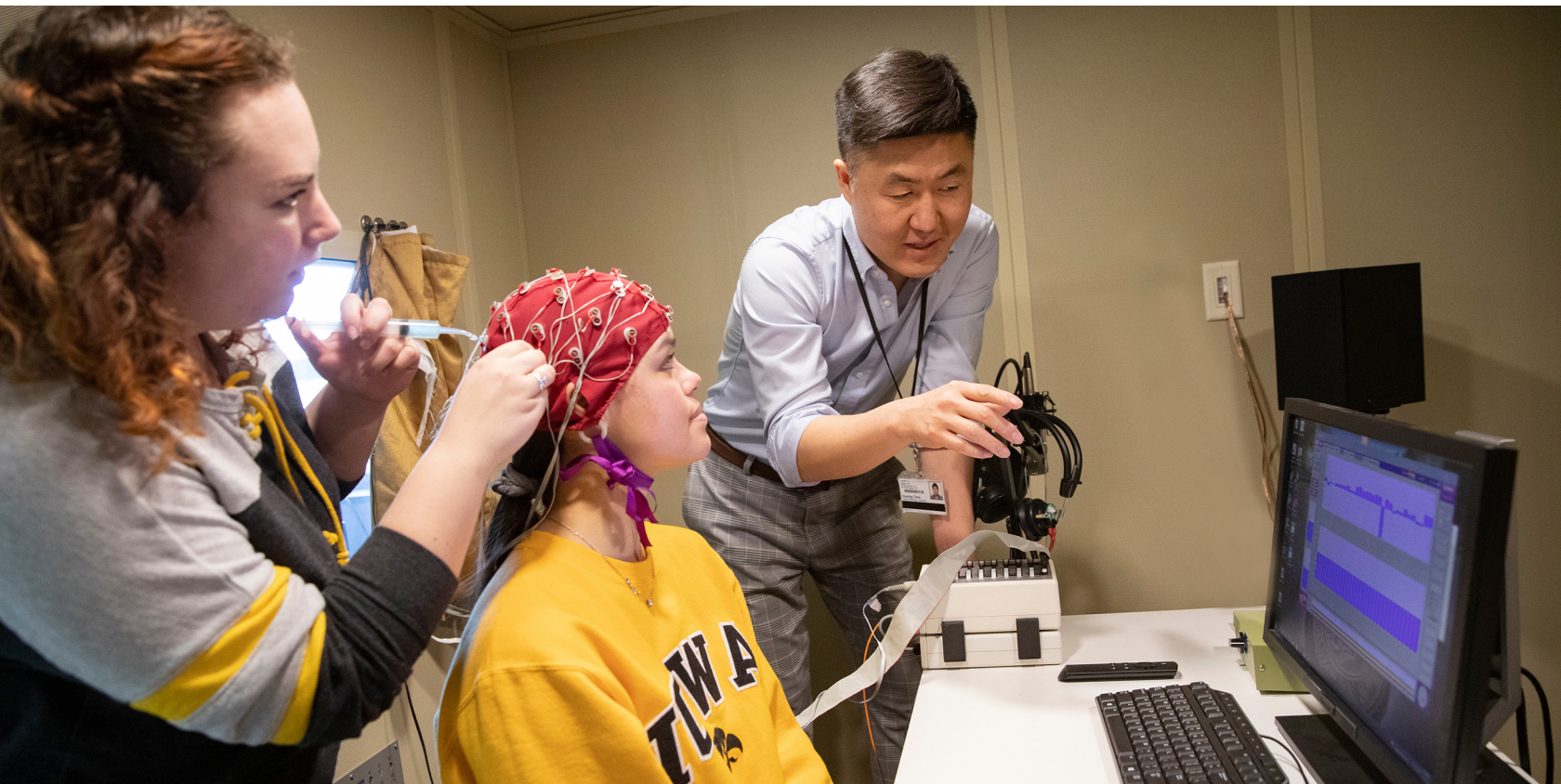
Recently, UI President Barbara Wilson announced a \$70 million gift to the UI from the Richard O. Jacobson Foundation. Those funds will allow the University to begin an ambitious 10-year plan to modernize the healthcare campus. A new inpatient tower is planned at the site of the Wendell Johnson Speech and Hearing Center (WJSHC)! That means CSD will soon have a new home! The new building (yet to be named) will house classrooms, laboratories, clinic spaces, and yes, we hope it will also have an anechoic chamber. While the details are still being hammered out, the faculty are excited at prospect of designing spaces to better meet our needs for teaching, research, and clinical care. As Chair, I am most excited about the party we plan to host where we take one last walk through the hallways of the WJSHC before embarking on a tour of the sparkling new facilities that will house CSD for decades to come. I hope you will come join us!

3. Our educational programs are thriving

Our undergraduate program is larger, stronger, and more diverse than ever. We have long had a vibrant undergraduate honor's program but historically, much of our focus has been on our graduate students. We are working to change that! Our faculty now actively recruit undergraduate students to intern in their labs. The students not only gain valuable experience, but many have won honors, awards, and/or scholarships at the college and university level for their efforts. You will see their faces on banners celebrating their accomplishments downtown. While other programs across the country

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AUDITORY NEUROSCIENCE



In a lab inside the Wendell Johnson Speech and Hearing Center, a college-aged research subject sits at a computer, wearing an electrode-encrusted cap and headphones. The research team ensures brain activity is recorded as the subject virtually pilots her spaceship to grab coins on the computer monitor. There is a twist: while the spaceship needs to go “up” on the monitor to successfully capture coins, auditory messages tell her to steer “down.”

What does her brain decide to do?

Recording and then interpreting brain activity involved in experiments such as this inform the big questions at the heart of research in the Human Auditory Neuroscience Group (or HANG) Lab. Dr. Inyong Choi, CSD Associate Professor, directs the research aimed at understanding the plasticity of auditory components within the human brain.

“Scientists used to believe that human brains went through a critical developmental period at a young age,” Choi

explained. “Now we know that actually brains develop – including the auditory centers – throughout the lifespan.”

There is a wealth of research questions at the heart of this principle. How much can people control their native brain plasticity? What are the best ways to intervene if heightened plasticity is desired? Can science create tools to help those with disorders characterized by difficulties managing multiple and competing auditory messages – such as autism or attention-deficit-disorder – prioritize messages? Does auditory perception change as our brains develop but the ability to hear decreases?

In the HANG Lab, Choi and the research team use a combination of neuroimaging techniques with psychophysics of auditory cognitive functions to better understand the brain’s role in auditory perception. Tools such as electroencephalogram (EEG) allow the research team to interpret the activity of cells within the brain.

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NEW FACULTY



Philip Combiths

Philip Combiths joined CSD as an Assistant Professor in Fall 2021, following his doctoral work at San Diego State University / University of California, San Diego. His main interest is the diversity of language and multilingual language acquisition to better understand developmental speech and language impairments and to provide improved clinical services to all individuals with communication disorders, including those within minoritized and understudied groups, through linguistically informed assessment and intervention tools and approaches.

He teaches Language Disorders: Birth to Five, Phonological Development and Disorders, Phonetics: Theory and Applications, and Multilingualism in CSD.



Meaghan Foody

Meaghan Foody is a speech-language pathologist whose specialization is early literacy and language development and aural rehabilitation across the lifespan. She provides diagnostic and treatment services in both pediatric and adult populations, primarily for individuals who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. She joined the faculty as a Clinical Assistant Professor following six years at Boys Town National Research Hospital, specializing in aural rehabilitation across the lifespan with both cochlear implant and hearing aid recipients.

She mentors graduate student clinicians on the aural rehabilitation team and teaches Manual Communication.



Louise Pinkerton

Louise Pinkerton, Clinical Assistant Professor, is a performance voice specialist who coordinates services and supervises graduate student clinicians on the voice team. In addition to vocal performance degrees and a master's degree in speech-language pathology, she earned a certificate in vocology. Her professional and research interests include voice and upper airway disorders across the lifespan, singing and performance voice, gender affirming/transgender services, the voice and Parkinson's Disease, and voice perception and training perceptual skills for rating voices.



Hayo Terband

Hayo Terband joined CSD as an Assistant Professor in Spring 2022. His main research interest is speech-language acquisition in normal and disordered development. More specifically, he studies how phonological and sensorimotor impairments relate to underlying deficits and adaptive strategies and how these express themselves in symptomatology. Prior to his hire, he was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Language, Literature and Communication at Utrecht University in the Netherlands.

He teaches Anatomy & Physiology of Speech Production, Basic Acoustics for Speech and Hearing, and Developmental Speech Disorders.



Kingsbury sisters serve audiology clients a double dose of care

Talk with sisters Sarah and Hailey Kingsbury and one thing you won't hear is a single decibel of sibling rivalry. Sarah is in her third year of Iowa's AuD program, while Hailey started her AuD graduate studies in the fall. It's highly unusual to have siblings pursuing the same graduate degree and even more rare in a program as small as the clinical doctorate of audiology, which has a competitive admission process and typically only accepts 6-12 students each year.

Sarah, who is Hailey's elder by 29 months, didn't originally anticipate studying audiology.

"I initially was thinking about becoming a large-animal veterinarian," Sarah said, while Hailey's experiences as a child participating in speech therapy piqued her interest in the field of communication sciences and disorders.

"Even as a three-year-old, I was excited to go to speech therapy," Hailey said, adding that her articulation problems as a young child "extended to almost every letter of the alphabet."

"Those positive experiences made me want to become a person who could powerfully impact someone's life," she continued.

Their journey to audiology was also shaped by stints on the high-school speech team, and for Hailey, learning American Sign Language. Both earned an undergrad degree in Speech Pathology and Audiology at Miami University in Ohio, their mother's alma mater, which paved the way to grad school at Iowa.

After submitting applications to more than a half-dozen graduate programs of audiology, it was Sarah's personal interview that hooked her on the University of Iowa.

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STAYING CONNECTED TO ALUMNI

Ani Danelz (MA 2017), a Cleft and Craniofacial Speech-Language Pathologist at Nemours Children's Hospital, was awarded a Distinguished Early Career Professional Certificate from ASHA.

Lauren Brown (MA 2021) given the Most Promising Pediatric Clinician award by Chicago Speech Therapy.

Michelle Hodel Eppley (MA 1997) joined the Parkinson Voice Project as a Speech-Language Pathologist and Clinical Music Coordinator.

Hope Gerlach-Houck (PhD 2019) was chosen to receive an ASHA Advancing Academic-Research Careers Award.

Subong Kim (PhD 2020) completed his postdoctoral fellowship at Purdue University and will become an assistant professor at Montclair State University.

Kelsey Klein (AuD, PhD 2020) was selected as the Fall 2020 University of Iowa Commencement Speaker.

Kevin Kock (AuD 2020) was honored with an Early Career Professional Certificate from ASHA. He works as an audiologist for Audiology Consultants.

Kerry Callahan Mandulak (MA 1998) was named Assistant Editor at the Teaching and Learning in Communication Sciences and Disorders journal. She is an Associate Professor at Pacific University in Forest Grove, OR.

Sarah Labaz Marshall (MA 2014), a clinical speech pathologist in the Communication Aids and Systems Clinic and the Neuro-motor Development Clinic at the Waisman Center, was awarded a Distinguished Early Career Professional Certificate from ASHA.

Pat Stelmachowicz (PhD 1980) died in January 2021, following a long illness.

Duane R. VanDemark passed away in Kentucky in May 2021.

Harris Winitz (MA 1956, PhD 1959), retired from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, reports his book, *Comprehension Strategies in the Acquiring of a Second Language*, was published by Springer-Verlag.

ALUMNI PROFILE



Brienne Hennessy (MA, 2007)

Looking back, what were the keys Iowa provided to you that contribute to your professional success? The intensive studies during the master's program can lay such a rich foundation, and it helped me discern my strengths as well as what I find thrilling about my chosen specialty of voice. I learned to respect the knowledge of those who came before me, to be enlivened by the passion of those who still felt enjoyment in the work.

What's your current position, and how have you applied what you learned? I am fascinated by how our lives unfold. Over the past 14 years, I have had the immense privilege of working at 3 top academic voice clinics, serving in leadership roles for ASHA SIG3, mentoring 5 outstanding Clinical Fellows, being an invited speaker and published author, and cultivating relationships I will forever cherish. In September 2020, I took the big leap from my Senior Speech Pathology Clinician role and started my entrepreneurial journey with my business, *Your Vocal Vitality, LLC*. I am now on a mission to elevate the communication and self-worth of women through their voices, guiding them to see and protect the voice for the vital asset that it is, and align with their inner voices to be truly heard as they share their unique messages. Thank you to each of you for the role you played in my journey.

Anne Wallace looks back and moves forward



Last August, Anne Wallace said farewell to CSD in a talk entitled, "Looking back and moving forward," after 37 years as a CSD faculty member. If you missed it, search for "Anne Wallace retirement talk" on YouTube. Here are a few of her parting thoughts.

When you graduated from Iowa, did you ever imagine you'd be spending most of your career here? Not really. I hadn't planned to move back to Iowa, but eventually my husband and I did to be closer for family. I was fortunate to be hired...and I stayed.

Do you remember your first day as a supervisor? Was it difficult to switch roles from grad student to teacher? I don't specifically remember the first day. But I do

remember that I was welcomed by the faculty and staff and just jumped in! Initially it was hard to call my colleagues by their first names, though...

Were there challenges you didn't anticipate? Since I was hired to supervise in AR as well as other areas, it was challenging to keep current on research. I was learning myself about cochlear implants for pediatrics and that had not been part of my own education, so I did a lot of extra training in research labs at UIHC and extra clinical education relative to CI's that I could find.

Tell us about one of your proudest achievements.

I'd have to say having my graduate students tell me I challenged them to problem solve, but was always fair in assessing them. Also that I helped them become more confident, independent clinicians but modeled how to treat clients and their families.

Of course, it never gets old seeing a child respond the first time to sound in an initial CI stimulation or hearing their first words.

People often believe that college professors work in ivory towers. Will you tell us an incident that proves it isn't always a glamorous job?

I have a vivid memory of Dani Kelsay and I out on the loading dock on our hands and knees with a bucket of bleach scrubbing a rug after a preschooler in Listen and Speak Up had gotten ill.

Another time, I was trying to demonstrate a specific strategy to a graduate student, and the client was very difficult. With my grad student watching from the observation room, the client grabbed my hair and smashed my head repeatedly on the table (until I was rescued by my student).

Does it seem real yet that you've retired? No. I'm figuring things out and taking care of people both young and old who need my help.

Your retirement talk brought laughter and tears to the audience members. What was going through your mind as you presented it? Bittersweet. That was the last time I would see my students, colleagues, friends, and family in that context. But it did feel good to put together some things I wanted them to remember about my long career as a clinical professor at Iowa.

"I tried to teach my students what they needed to do to be successful with their clients and to always be a good colleague. I hope I accomplished that, but we're never done learning, right?"

-Anne Wallace



Scenes from the NSSLHA-REACH partnership

It was a Movie Night that did not include a movie. But even with a technical glitch nixing film-watching plans, the UI REACH and NSSLHA social event at Currier Hall met its win-win goal. Movie Night and other evening gatherings provide a way for REACH students to develop and deepen friendships with other college students. The get-togethers also allow NSSLHA members to socialize with college-aged peers who have autism, intellectual disabilities, or learning disabilities.

REACH stands for Realizing Educational and Career Hopes and was created in the UI College of Education. It's the first program of its type at a major public university. REACH began admitting students in 2007. NSSLHA is the award-winning Iowa chapter of the National Student Speech, Language and Hearing Association. The groups gather periodically during the school year. Their activities range from restaurant outings to Art Night and always feature fun, food, a welcoming atmosphere, and a much-appreciated break from homework.

"A major emphasis in speech-language therapy is teaching skills that have real-life applications. By interacting with REACH students as peers, NSSLHA members develop an awareness of how their future clients may be impacted in settings outside the therapy room," said Stacy Robinson, CSD Clinical Assistant Professor whose specialty is diagnostic and treatment services for speech and language disorder populations.

"No movie tonight!" cheerfully announced Leah, NSSLHA Vice President. "Instead, let's get in small groups, eat popcorn, and talk about our favorite movies."

Technical tanks and paint splatters aren't the only challenges that have the NSSLHA volunteers do some quick thinking on their feet.

One REACH student – after chatting with her conversational partner for some time – abruptly said, "I just need a little break." Her NSSLHA counterpart, who did not seem at all flustered, responded, "well I respect that," and patiently paused to allow time for a few deep breaths.

Further down the table, another group started a lively game of "Funemployed," with one gamer trying his best to convince the others he was just the right candidate for the job of Reality Show Contestant.

Meanwhile, NSSLHA students worked the room, making sure REACH students were successfully connecting to conversational partners.

"Interactions between these individuals shape NSSLHA students – future speech-language pathologists and audiologists – into supportive communication partners for individuals with disabilities," Robinson said.

More joint gatherings are planned in 2022, and no matter what the A-V equipment may do, the NSSLHA-REACH show will go on.

FACULTY & STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

Jenny Brodell was named State Advocate for Reimbursement Liaison (STAR) for Speech-Language Pathology.

Jenny Brodell served on a special committee for the Autism Society of Iowa, which organized a conference on Autism, Gender and Sexuality Identity.

Karen Bryant was named recipient of a Parkinson Voice Project 2021 SPEAK OUT! & LOUD Crowd Grant, which includes graduate student clinician and instructor training.

Kellsie Busho was appointed as VP for Public Relations/Liaison to the Iowa Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Stephanie Fleckenstein was elected to the Committee of Ambassadors for Audiology with the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Stephanie Fleckenstein was named VP for Audiology to the Iowa Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Stephanie Fleckenstein was named State Advocate for Reimbursement Liaison (STAR) for Audiology.

Danielle Kelsay was voted Honors of the Iowa Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Kristi Hendrickson wrote an R03 grant, "Word recognition in dual language learners: The mechanisms underlying listening and reading in two languages," that was funded by the NIH.

Kristi Hendrickson was awarded an R01 grant from the NIH, entitled, "Language outcomes, mechanisms, and trajectories in adults with and without Developmental Language Disorder." Co-Investigators include: Philip Combiths, Stewart McCauley, Bruce Tomblin, and Si On Yoon.

Louise Pinkerton was appointed as Continuing Education Administrator for Pan American Vocology Association.

Bobby Rodriguez was welcomed as the Clinic Support Services Specialist in the Wendell Johnson Speech and Hearing Clinic.

Anu Subramanian was elected a SIG 11 Coordinating Committee member.

Rich Tyler was named an Iowa Carver College of Medicine Impact Scholar.

Beth Walker has been honored as one of the 2021–2023 Dean's Scholars in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Beth Walker was named a Board Member at Large in Audiology for ASHA.

Beth Walker garnered an NIH R01 award entitled, "Factors associated with reading comprehension in adolescents who are hard of hearing."

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Four faculty earn promotions



Associate Professor Inyong Choi



Clinical Associate Professor Stephanie Fleckenstein



Clinical Professor Anu Subramanian



Associate Professor Elizabeth Walker

BRAVO CSD STUDENTS!

Madalyn Anderson is winner of the 2021 Continued Achievement Scholarship from the American Academy of Audiology Foundation.

Madalyn Anderson won a 2021 scholarship from the Iowa Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation.

Emily Forsythe is a winner of a 2021 scholarship from the Iowa Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation.

Emily Garcia received a grant from the Public Policy Center's Summer Policy Research Program (SPRP) for her research on bilingual word recognition.

Larissa Jordan successfully defended her dissertation and earned her PhD in December 2021. Her mentors are Kristi Hendrickson and Karen Bryant.

Erik Jorgensen was chosen for the VP for Research Dare to Discover rising star banner campaign.

Jina Kim received a DeLTA Center interdisciplinary grant for her research on the role of cognitive control in sentence processing.

Sarah Kingsbury was awarded a Student Impact Grant for her capstone project, "Investigating the Role of Diet and Nutrition

in the Etiology of Tinnitus."

Bianca Munoz-Robles was selected by the Vice President for Research as a 2021 Dare to Discover scholar.

Anna Sagan was awarded Student Impact Grant for her master's thesis on bilingual adult word recognition. She is mentored by Kristi Hendrickson.

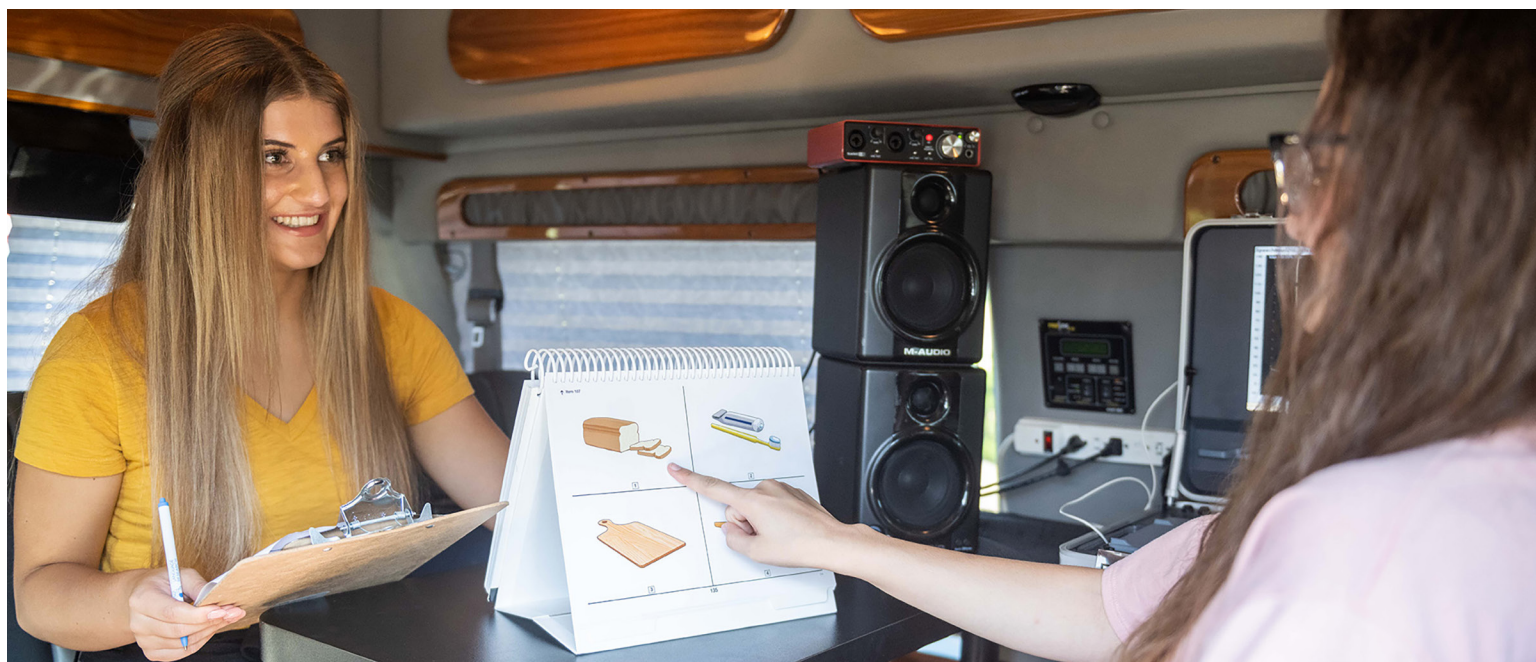
Abigayle Shekleton won an Iowa Center for Research by Undergraduates (ICRU) summer 2021 fellowship.

Evita Woolsey was one of five students to receive an ICRU Excellence in Undergraduate Research Award. She was honored for outstanding accomplishments.

Evita Woolsey won a national NSSLHA scholarship. She works as an undergrad research assistant in the Pediatric Audiology Lab, where she is mentored by Beth Walker.

Evita Woolsey was awarded a grant from the DeLTA Center for her project, "Learning to Read Despite Auditory Challenge: Real-time Word Recognition in Cochlear Implant Users."

Soumya Venkitakrishnan won an Ada Louise Ballard and Seashore Fellowship to fund the writing of her dissertation, "Effect of hearing loss on facial expressions of emotion."



Evita Woolsey was featured in an IowaNow article about her experiences as an undergraduate research assistant helping conduct assessments of children with hearing loss for the Pediatric Audiology Lab. Recently, Evita was honored with a Dean's Achievement Award, presented to outstanding graduating seniors served by the Center for Inclusive Academic Excellence.

CELEBRATING SCHOLARSHIP

Audiology Assistantship

Sam Smith

Bruce Tomblin Scholarship

Jina Kim

Carol & Gerald Nordquist SLP Scholarship

Thea Cornwell, Lexi Keegan

H.L. Morris Scholarship

Cheyenne Hofmann, Allison Smith

Iowa Scottish Rite Masonic Foundation Scholarship

Kelly Gerlich, Meghan Wickham

Iowa Speech-Language-Hearing Association Scholars

Madalyn Anderson, Danielle Ernest, Emily Forsythe,
Kelly Gerlich, Mary Nevins

Kristin Lodge Miller Memorial Scholarship

Danielle Ernest, Hailey Verdick

Laura Mueldener Memorial Scholarship

Min Kyeong Kim

Laurel Stanzel Memorial Scholarship

Olivia Adamson, Adelaide Bock, Sarah Kingsbury, Sam Smith

Leland and Esther Ogdahl Scholarship

Madison Kroehler

Paul Abbas Scholarship

Erik Jorgensen

PhD New Investigator Award

Soumya Venkitakrishnan

PhD Service Award

Larissa Jordan

Ray & Alice Barkmeier Scholarship

Jackie Cano, Laurel Coddington, Chaewon Park

Ruth A. Bentler Scholarship

Megan Dorfler

Sassine Graduate Scholarship

Anna Sagan, Jeff Shymanski

Scottish Rite Scholarship

Kelly Gerlich, Meghan Wickham

Sertoma Graduate Support Award

Leah Gibbs, Kristen Syvertsen Hyland

Shirley & Thomas Salmon Scholarship

Bethany Frederick, Emily Forsythe, Alexis Mansour, Haley Vaughn

Spriestersbach/Hurtig Award

Margaret McGrath, Mary Wille

FEATURED DONOR



Olga Sassine

About her bequest: Olga Sassine and her late husband Nagui provided this endowed award for deserving CSD students in either speech pathology or audiology.

What else you should know about Olga Sassine: As a fundraiser, working with a number of Deans – especially the late Julia Davis – Olga learned first hand the importance of the financial needs of students at Iowa. She initially considered including CSD in her will, but instead established a scholarship so that during her lifetime, Olga can enjoy the pride in the students' accomplishments and also wish them great success.

Alyssa Thompson wins Megan Kearney scholarship

The Megan Kearney Scholarship was established by Megan's parents, Matt and Lisa. Megan earned her BA in Speech and Hearing Science at Iowa before passing away unexpectedly in 2020. The scholarship perpetuates Megan's lifelong goal to make a difference.



Alyssa Thompson, a third-year undergraduate major in Speech and Hearing Science, has been named the inaugural winner of the Megan Kearney Memorial Scholarship. Alyssa is currently a University Honors student and on Dean's list. After graduation, she plans to enroll in graduate school to earn a master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology. Alyssa initially became intrigued by the field as her mother is a closed captioner and often works with the Deaf community. "She mentioned the idea, and I went for it, and I am so glad that I did!" said Alyssa.

Congratulations, Alyssa, and thank you, Matt and Lisa.

(Sisters, continued from page 5)

"Although I considered other schools and had positive impressions of them, I felt that the faculty would truly support me at Iowa," she said. "It was the people – both faculty and other students – that sealed my decision."

Other factors that steered her toward Iowa included opportunities to become a teaching and research assistant, a positive vibe associated with the University of Iowa (their grandpa played football for the Hawkeyes), and the program's prestigious ranking. Iowa's AuD program is ranked #2 by *U.S. News and World Report*.

Hailey also cites Iowa's focus on student success as a major reason for coming to Iowa, but also includes the relative ease of traveling to their home in Naperville, IL, for weekends and semester breaks. Although she seriously considered AuD programs other than Iowa, she couldn't be happier with her decision.

"I was a little nervous that some may assume that I was accepted into the program because Sarah is here," she said.

Hailey has paved her own way in the program, with the support of her biggest fan, Sarah.

"We do sometimes talk shop, but I don't coach Hailey about audiology," Sarah said, "because quite frankly, she doesn't need my help."

Each sister has her own strengths and interests, they both say, and have benefitted from a lifetime of encouragement from their parents to pursue hobbies ranging from equestrian skills to singing to American Sign Language. They also agree that their different personality strengths affect their approaches to clinical audiology.

"Sarah is a big picture person, who is spontaneous, creative, and loves problem-solving," says Hailey, while Sarah calls Hailey "a natural leader who is clear-headed and a master at resolving conflict."

The culmination of their kind spirits, intellect, and clinical know-how greatly benefit – along with their fellow graduate clinicians – the 700 clients seen each year in the Wendell Johnson Speech and Hearing Clinic.

Next year, Sarah will further expand her audiology skillset at Mayo Clinic in Arizona for her fourth-year outplacement. Hailey won't be far behind, but does that mean Iowa's CSD program won't have a Kingsbury within its ranks?

There is another sibling, a younger sister named Katie, who is currently doing her undergraduate work in Speech Pathology and Audiology at Miami University. Is she interested in grad school at the University of Iowa?

Sarah and Hailey shrug their shoulders as they look at one another. "Katie may be the most independent one of us all, so who knows?"

Wide-ranging research questions arise from the desire to better understand the brain's mechanisms to make sense of the world and its mixture of sounds. Thus, it's not surprising that a broad swath of stakeholders can potentially benefit from his research. Choi's success in procuring grant funding for the HANG Lab reflect this diversity. The HANG Lab receives or has received funding support from nine sources. Those include the National Institutes of Health (including the long-running Iowa Cochlear Implant Project), American Otological Society, Hearing Health Foundation, private industry (Samsung), and, perhaps surprisingly, the Department of Defense.

"It's important to understand how exposure to extremely loud noises impacts a soldier's performance in the field," Choi explains. "The safety of not only himself, but fellow soldiers' lives, depend on the listener's ability to correctly interpret speech signals despite noise exposure."

Factors that continue to fascinate and challenge the HANG team as they progress with research include 1) individual biologic and environmental differences among people, and 2) the complexity of hearing perception, as compared to vision, for example. "Vision is focused on the world in front of us," Choi says, "while hearing occurs on all sides of us."

One real-world situation illustrates the auditory competition for dominance: imagine an Iowa football game, whereby a fan's ears pick up the Hawkeye band, roars from the crowd, cheerleaders' chants, and the voice of a fellow fan next to him. A remarkable fact Choi shares: faced with competing sounds, the football fan's brain perceives the desired input -- his seatmate's voice -- so that competing sounds are perceived at 10 decibels quieter, or ten times less, in volume.

It is the remarkable abilities of the human brain and the breadth of auditory neuroscience research that motivate Choi and his colleagues to urge their research steadily forward.

"I am so fortunate to have duplicate labs: one in the Wendell Johnson Speech and Hearing Center for those with non-disordered hearing and another at UIHC for those who wear cochlear implants," he said, adding that patients from the Veteran's Administration Hospital as well as UIHC further broaden the populations that serve as study subjects.

With ample funding and seemingly endless research questions, are there limitations to what the HANG Lab might accomplish? "My fatigue level as I age," laughs Choi. "For me, pulling all-nighters is a thing of the past."



A current, real-world example of competing cognitive auditory demands occurs for many during the ongoing COVID pandemic. As employees work from home, they often complete work tasks side-by-side with their school-aged children. All too often, the home-bound workroom leads to competition for the adult's auditory attention.

"In doing multiple things at the same time, the cognitive demand is great," Dr. Choi says. "In switching back and forth between a child needing help and a work meeting, messages get lost. It seems that somebody is always disappointed."

(Faculty kudos, continued from page 9)

Beth Walker was voted unanimously the 2022 Early Career Research Award from the American Auditory Society by its Board of Directors. She accepted the award and gave a presentation at the February meeting.

Beth Walker served on a panel of experts for the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery to revise clinical guidelines for tympanostomy tubes in children.

Yu-Hsiang Wu garnered a Facebook research grant entitled "Ecological Momentary Assessment and Wearable Augmented Reality Devices."

Si On Yoon is Co-PI of an R03 award funded by the NIH, "Understanding social communication abilities in individuals with Alzheimer's disease," collaborating with Dr. Eun Jin Paek at Tennessee.

Si On Yoon, along with co-director Semin Park, won an Obermann Center Interdisciplinary Research Grant for their project, "The Effect of Third-Party Presence in Conflict Perceptions."

Mary Jo Yotty won the 2021 Richard E. Gibson Merit Staff Award for innovation and excellence in customer service.



Louise Pinkerton started a Spanish conversation group, Spanish Language Application to Speech-Language-Hearing (SPLASH), open to all CSD students and faculty (at any fluency level) who wish to maintain their language skills and work on Spanish for health-care.

The number of people in the United States that primarily speak Spanish far outnumber the healthcare providers able to provide services in Spanish.

"Whether our students can create a welcoming environment through greetings and small talk in Spanish or become multi-lingual providers doing direct service in Spanish, we can help reduce some of the barriers these clients face when seeking healthcare," she said.

(Chair's message, continued from page 2)

are struggling, applications to our MA and AuD programs are up! In fact, enrollments in our clinical graduate programs are at an all-time high.

The word is out: the University of Iowa is the place to be! Finally, our PhD program, a jewel in the crown of our department, struggled during the past few years when faculty turnover was at its peak. Today, those numbers are starting to rise again too. This is a healthy sign for our department and for our profession! I can only imagine how they will increase after we move to our new building!

4. Our Speech and Hearing Clinic is thriving

Our in-house clinic provides state-of-the-art, client-centered care to individuals from across the state of Iowa using both face-to-face visits and teletherapy. Students learn from experts in the field and work with clients of all ages and with a range of different communication disorders. Read about one of our young clients on the following page of this newsletter.

Indeed, we do have much to celebrate and much to be thankful for!

CB

How one small client is making a huge impact



For five-year-old client Nile Kron, life's challenges have loomed large since day one of his premature birth. But the commitment shown by him, his family, and Iowa's healthcare team whittle away at those challenges one treatment session at a time.

His ability to communicate with others plays a major role in that journey. Nile was born with a bilateral cleft lip and palate and absent right ear; his left ear canal was also surgically closed to prohibit infection. He now wears cochlear implants and receives speech, language, and auditory therapy at the Wendell Johnson Speech and Hearing Clinic.

"Getting to work with families like the Krons make me a better provider because I want to keep improving my own skills to rise to challenges the way that they have done for their son," said Meaghan Foody, Clinical Assistant Professor. "I am so proud of how far Nile has come and am looking forward to seeing the ways he takes the world by storm in the future."

Katlyn Bay, one of Nile's grad student clinician on this semester's aural rehab team, said, "Working with Nile has been one of my favorite experiences as a student clinician. Seeing him continue to grow has reminded me why I'm so passionate about this field of work."

"There is nothing but love from his Audiology Team!" say grad student clinicians Neila Bell, Priyanka Gupte and Sam Anderson, along with their mentor, Clinical Assistant Professor Julie Jeon. "We truly learned that it takes a village, and we appreciate having the opportunity to work alongside with other professionals and to support his auditory access, training, and advocacy for his hearing needs."

What do Nile's parents say about WJSHC's services?

"We see great changes in Nile every day, thanks to programs like Listen and Speak Up and the aural rehab and audiology teams," says his mom, Brittany. "We are more than happy to continue this great partnership."



Nile Kron was named the new Ace Cares for Kids All-Star, raising awareness for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals nationwide and generating funding for other children facing illness. We in CSD agree: Nile is an all-star.

Let's hear from you!

Please share your updates, new contact info, or suggest a feature:

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From the archives



Circa 1950