

# Wavelength

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
SPEECH AND HEARING SCIENCES

SPRING 2012

FOCUS ON ALUMNI

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

DOCTOR'S CORNER

IN THE FOREFRONT

FACULTY AWARDS

TRANSITIONS

STUDENTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

NOTES FROM NSSLHA

NEWS OF OUR FRIENDS

HONOR J. RICHARD FRANKS

## FOCUS ON ALUMNI

I have learned many lessons from my clients during my career as a speech-language pathologist (SLP). Probably the most important is that, what matters most in life, is what a person can do, not what a person "can't" do. I have come to appreciate the fact that the best way to improve an area of challenge is to find an area of strength, and build on it. I have also learned that I am as much the student, as I am the teacher, if I am willing to learn.

My plan never included working with adults. For my first 13 years as an SLP, I worked in the schools. For the next seven years, I worked exclusively with the birth-to-three population. Any thought of working with adults was far from my mind. I knew what I wanted to do.....I knew where I wanted to do it.....I knew what population I wanted to serve. I guess you could say that I "had my plan." And my plan was going along well-- that is, until things began to change.

In October 2007, I found myself faced with an improbable diagnosis: Young-Onset Parkinson's disease. Parkinson's disease affects neurons in the part of the brain called the substantia nigra, where the neurotransmitter dopamine is produced. As the level of dopamine decreases, a person becomes less able to control movement normally. At 41 years-old, I found myself in the 4% of persons diagnosed with PD under the age of 50.

*Continued to page 2.*



Jenny Davis (M.A. '92) lives in Richland, Washington, with her husband of 23 years, Tom, and their six daughters. Jenny continues to work with adults who have Parkinson's disease, and with children as she is able.

One of the symptoms of Parkinson's disease that commonly occurs later in the progression of the disease involves the voice becoming softer, impacting intelligibility and sometimes resulting in hoarseness. For me, later was occurring rapidly. Within one year of my diagnosis, my voice was already showing signs of decline. I was now not only having difficulty physically keeping up with the 'little ones' whom I so loved to work with, but I was also facing my own, personal, barrier to communication.

Through the encouragement and support of my colleagues, as well several professors at the Spokane WSU/EWU campus, I eventually accepted the fact that I, the SLP, needed voice therapy. I sought out a local SLP who was certified in the Lee Silverman Voice Therapy (LSVT) method, a method designed specifically for treating the voice problems associated with Parkinson's disease. Through that therapy, I regained my voice, and have been able to maintain it by using the techniques that I learned while in therapy. 'Use it or lose it' has taken on a whole new meaning.

Because I firmly believe that 'when life gives you lemons, you make lemonade,' I took the necessary 3-day training, two years after my Parkinson's diagnosis, to become certified in the LSVT method. Working with adults, which, two years before had been far from my mind, now seemed to be a natural progression. If, as an SLP, I could use my diagnosis and training to help others facing similar challenges, then I would be able to change my challenge into an opportunity to help others.

Since my diagnosis of Parkinson's disease in 2007, and another challenging diagnosis of advanced colon cancer, two years later, I have come to more fully understand the lessons taught by my clients. What matters most is what I CAN do, not what I can't do. I have experienced first-hand that building on strength is the most effective way to overcome obstacles. And as I continue to strive to be as much the student, as I am the teacher, I hope that for me, and for the clients of all ages whom I serve, that together, we can make all of our challenges seem less formidable.

A good friend summed up my job in this way: "You are a bridge-builder. You build bridges that allow yesterday's stories to be told, and the telling of tomorrow's stories to be possible."

May each of us find ways to continue to learn, and to build bridges for those clients whom we serve. And may each of us recognize, that in doing so, we build bridges not only for them, but for ourselves as well.

## FROM THE CHAIR



The 2011-2012 academic year marks our first year with both undergraduate and graduate speech and hearing sciences programs consolidated on the Riverpoint campus within the new Division of Health Sciences. It

has been a truly exhilarating and productive year marked by our students' and faculty's participation in the growing number of interprofessional health sciences education, research, and outreach opportunities available on this vibrant campus. The energy and vision surrounding WSU's designated health sciences campus is palpable. In next year's message, I look forward to highlighting the health sciences academic plan, about which a campus-wide conversation has just begun.

Despite the many changes, this issue of *Wavelength* continues our tradition of giving you a snapshot of the many accomplishments of our faculty, students, and alumni during the past academic year. Students and faculty are working together to make a difference in our communities by translating classroom knowledge, clinical experiences, and research findings into evidence-based clinical treatments to improve the lives of those with disabilities. As you will read, many of our undergraduate and graduate students were recognized for their academic and clinical excellence, as well as for their involvement in community. Our faculty continued to earn recognition for their exceptional contributions to professional education, clinical practice, and research. As measured by a range of metrics-- awards, honors, scholarships, grants, publications, presentations, and consultations-- our faculty, students, and alumni continue to excel.

While WSU's and the Health Sciences' budgets remain under significant pressure, we are pleased that the budget approved by the Legislature and signed by the governor did not further reduce funding for higher education in the upcoming biennium. We are also pleased to have recently completed our tenure-track faculty search culminating in the hire of **Dr. Mark VanDam**, who comes to us from Boys Town National Research Hospital. Mark joins us next fall to continue building his research program on the linguistic and cognitive development of children with hearing impairment, as well as teach in the graduate and undergraduate programs.

On a somber note, we lost a dear colleague last June 2011-- **Dr. John Richard "Dick" Franks**. Dick joined Washington State University in 1964 as one of two founding members of the communication disorders program, which grew into the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences. For the next 31 years, he taught classes in Pullman, and beginning in 1989, commuted to Spokane to teach graduate courses in audiology as we built our department's programs which are now based on the Riverpoint campus. Dick officially retired in 1995; however, he continued to teach audiology part-time until 2005. Among Dick's major achievements is the professional preparation program he founded in 1985 with funding from the U.S. Department of Education, providing Native Americans access to higher education. Our efforts to prepare Native American students for careers in speech-language pathology have continued unabated to this day.

We invite you to browse through our department website ([spokane.wsu.edu/academics/SHS](http://spokane.wsu.edu/academics/SHS)) to learn more about our ongoing work. You will find a link to the 2012 issue of *Wavelength* posted there as well. Also, we would like to include your news in our next issue, so please e-mail me at [chermak@wsu.edu](mailto:chermak@wsu.edu). As always, I welcome your ideas and your feedback.

In closing, I wish to thank each of you who has given so generously to the department during the 2012 fiscal year. Your name will be prominently displayed in the 2011-2012 *WSU Foundation Annual Report*, which will be published in fall 2012. Once again, please accept my deep appreciation to you, our loyal alumni and friends, for your deep and shared commitment to the success of our students and our faculty. Your gifts enhance the department's academic programs by allowing us to provide student scholarships, promote student research efforts, defray travel expenses for students presenting at conferences and participating in faculty-led trips abroad, and provide small grants to support faculty engaged in innovative teaching, clinical, and research activities. Your generous gifts help us move into the future with strength and confidence, and they make a world of difference to our students and our faculty.

With warm regards and best wishes,

*Gail D. Chermak*



Clinical Associate Professor  
Sandy Bassett

### Babies can't talk, so why are speech-language pathologists active in the neonatal intensive care nursery?

In the past several decades, clinical interests in the birth-to-three population have broadened the role of speech-language pathologists (SLPs) to include working with complex, medically fragile children. In 2005, the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association published a position paper on the Roles and Responsibilities of Speech-Language Pathologists in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, which provides guidelines for SLPs regarding the knowledge and skills necessary for treating infants in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU).

The key principles guiding the SLP's work in the NICU are:

**Family-centered care:** The compassionate, total inclusion of the family in the care and decision-making process for their baby.

**Developmental care:** SLPs typically evaluate infants with a focus on promoting successful feeding and caregiver-infants interactions, including the parent's ability to understand their infant's cues or communication patterns, and the development of strategies to support the infant's physiological stability, self-regulation, and calm behavioral state.

**Culturally appropriate care:** SLPs who work in the NICU provide care that is sensitive to family's cultural beliefs, values, and practices. They understand that these factors shape a family's response to information and instruction regarding their infant's care and support, and influence access to medical care and intervention for their infant in the NICU.

SLPs play an important role in the evaluation and intervention of feeding and swallowing skills. This includes a pre-feeding assessment, readiness for oral feedings, evaluation of breast and bottle feedings, along with instrumental swallowing evaluations. Roles and responsibilities for the SLP related to feeding and swallowing evaluation / intervention are:

**Clinical Evaluation:** SLPs perform developmentally appropriate clinical assessment of feeding and swallowing behavior, including the diagnosis of suck, swallow, and breathing problems that impact oral intake. Referrals are also made to other medical professionals, such as otolaryngologists, to rule out additional problems that may be impacting the feeding process.

**Swallow Studies:** SLPs perform instrumental assessments that delineate structures and dynamic functions of the sucking/swallowing and breathing problems that impact oral intake. Instruments for evaluation of swallowing function include videofluoroscopic swallow studies (VFSS) and endoscopic assessment of the swallowing function (FEES). The instrumental examination should answer specific diagnostic questions regarding the infant's oral movements and swallowing abilities. The results of these studies guide management decisions.

**Intervention:** After completing the assessment, SLPs establish a feeding plan to facilitate developmentally appropriate feeding and swallowing skills. This feeding plan needs to be based on safe, but adequate nutrition for the infant and mutually agreed upon by the physician and caregivers. If aspiration or inadequate growth is a concern, the need for an alternate feeding source such as tube feedings will be recommended.

SLPs working in the NICU require specialized coursework and training for team collaboration and direct patient care. It is essential that the therapist possess the knowledge and skills necessary to be proficient in the delivery of team-based services to pre-term and medically compromised infants. This is a very exciting yet challenging area in which SLPs work, and as medical advances continue to improve, the need for highly trained SLPs to serve this population will increase. SLPs working with these medically fragile infants early on are helping to build the underlying skills babies need to develop oral communication skills in the future.

If you have questions or topics you would like discussed, send them to the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences at [spehrsci@wsu.edu](mailto:spehrsci@wsu.edu).



## IN THE FOREFRONT

The Speech and Hearing Sciences faculty continued to earn commendations for their exceptional teaching and mentoring, as well as their significant contributions in research, clinical innovation, and outreach. Faculty published 14 refereed articles, one research report, one invited article, and one book chapter and presented 17 refereed papers, one keynote address, and 16 invited papers, seminars and workshops at international, national, regional and state professional and scientific conferences and institutes.

Associate Professor **Ella Inglebret** was elected a Fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Inglebret also received the 2012 WSU Faculty Diversity Award in recognition of her long-standing commitment to the success of American Indian and Alaska Native students through years of teaching, research and service. Professor **Charles Madison** remained on the Fulbright Senior Specialists Roster and was elected to the Board of Directors of the ASHA Council on Academic Accreditation. Clinical Associate Professor **Amy Meredith** received the 2012 WSU Martin Luther King, Jr. Distinguished Service Award in the faculty category for her accomplishments in blending strong teaching, engagement, and community service. Meredith also received the 2012 WSU Distinguished Teaching Award for outstanding achievements and contributions to undergraduate education. Professor **Gail Chermak** served as program chair for the first global conference on central auditory processing disorder held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Academy of Audiology in Boston.

Faculty and current and former graduate students presented papers and seminars at several national and state conferences. Assistant Professor **Teresa Cardon** delivered two papers on methods to train imitation in children with autism at the annual meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development. Cardon also presented the keynote address at the 6th annual Autism Conferences of America. Associate Professor **Nancy Potter** presented a workshop on interprofessional journal clubs at the Collaborating Across Borders III conference. Many faculty presented at the annual ASHA convention in San Diego. Clinical Associate Professor **Sandy Bassett** presented a poster on the collaborative approach to providing services to young children with hearing loss. Bassett, UPCD Clinic Director **Doreen Nicholas**, and SHS alumna and UPCD supervisor **Lindsay Williams** co-authored a poster on singing therapy for Parkinson's disease. Inglebret presented three posters at ASHA, including one with alumna **Alyssa Drevniak** on infusing culture in intervention for American Indian children. Inglebret's poster reporting a national survey on Native American educational success was honored with an ASHA Merit Award. Madison participated on a panel of experts focused on enhancing the skills of CAA accreditation site visitors. Meredith co-presented a session on the need for speech, language and hearing services in developing countries and with alumna **Khadro Haro** presented a poster on factors promoting retention of African Americans in communication sciences and disorders programs. Meredith and Potter presented a poster examining whether the ASHA documents on childhood apraxia of speech (CAS) have affected the diagnosis of CAS. Potter also participated on a panel of experts on the clinical management of speech sound disorders in challenging contexts. Chermak presented on the neurobiology, differential diagnosis, and treatment of comorbid CAPD and ADHD.

Faculty continued to serve as international, national and regional practice consultants in the areas of: assessment and intervention with multicultural populations; augmentative communication; autism; central auditory processing disorder; maxillofacial anomalies; motor speech disorders in children and adults; and pediatric and adult swallowing disorders. Bassett served on a statewide committee developing protocols for evaluating and treating deaf and hard of hearing children, birth-to-five years. She provided many outreach clinics and consultations on pediatric feeding and swallowing disorders to parents, speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, nurses, dietitians, preschool teachers, and birth-to-three coordinators across the region. Bassett also served on the Spokane Early Intervention Network for Families and the Sacred Heart Feeding and Growth Team. Bassett and Madison volunteered their time and expertise to the Spokane County Maxillofacial Review Board and the children and families they serve. Inglebret served as a consultant to speech-language pathologists across the nation regarding cultural issues in service delivery and multicultural issues impacting special education service delivery to Native Americans. Meredith served on the professional advisory boards of the Children with Apraxia Association of North America and the Kids International Early Childhood Initiative Organizing Committee and she participated on the Southeastern Washington Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) Diagnostic Team. Potter consulted with educators in school districts across the United States on appropriate programming for students with galactosemia and, for the fifth consecutive year, she organized the campus-wide multidisciplinary forum on living with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) for professionals, students, and individuals and families of individuals with ALS. Clinical Professor **Leslie Power** served as the UPCD lead liaison with the Spokane Public Schools.



## FACULTY AWARDS

Professor **Ella Inglebret** received Washington State University's 2012 Faculty Diversity Award in recognition of her demonstrated commitment to diversity for over 20 years. Inglebret may be best known for her long-standing commitment to the success of American Indian and Alaska Native students through years of teaching, research and service. WSU Provost **Warwick Bayly** said Inglebret has been honored by state, national and international organizations for her demonstrated commitment to diversity over the past 20 years. Now it's WSU's turn. "She was chosen from 17 highly qualified nominations," said Bayly. "I am very pleased she is receiving the award, and I am very encouraged by the high level of diversity work being done by our faculty on all our campuses." Nominator SHS Clinical Associate Professor Amy Meredith noted that nothing brings Inglebret "more joy than seeing others succeed, especially her students."

"Receiving this award is a great honor," said Inglebret. "It comes as a result of collaboration with many faculty and students of color over the years. I consider it a tribute to them as well."

Clinical Associate Professor **Amy Meredith** received a 2012 Martin Luther King Jr. Distinguished Service Award for her innovative teaching, mentoring, and outreach. Meredith has been recognized nationally for her innovative strategies to educate students, including students from diverse backgrounds. Meredith has devoted much of her life to providing services to children with disabilities and their families. She has taken students to China, and to Guatemala where she returned earlier this spring to assist children with communication disorders as part of the worldwide Hearts in Motion project. Meredith and her students have educated hundreds of children in elementary school through college on ways they can prevent traumatic brain injury. Ana Rodriguez-Vivaldi, College of Liberal Arts associate dean, said Meredith's positive impact is immediate and effective as she works tirelessly to raise awareness of acute social issues. "In truth, I am in awe of all she does and continues to do every single day to make the lives all around her so much better" Rodriguez-Vivaldi said.

## TRANSITIONS

Clinical Professor **Leslie Power** was named director of off-site clinical programs assuming responsibility for both the off-campus practicum and internship programs.

Congratulations to **Lauri Sue Torkelson** our former undergraduate academic coordinator who assumed similar responsibilities last summer 2011 in the History department. We thank Lauri Sue for generously assisting us as we searched to fill her position. That search ended most successfully with the hire of **Georgina Lynch**, who most recently served as a learning specialist with the Central Valley School District in Spokane.

We extend a warm welcome to Georgina Lynch who joined the department in Spokane in fall 2011 as our undergraduate coordinator. Georgina holds a Master of Science degree in Speech-Language Pathology from Eastern Washington University. In addition to advising, recruiting, and mentoring undergraduate students, Georgina will teach undergraduate courses and supervise graduate students in campus clinic. Finally, we bid farewell and extend our best wishes to **Connie Rodeen** as she embarks upon the next chapter following her retirement in spring 2012. Connie served the department for 17 years as our administrative manager in Pullman.

## STUDENTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Speech and Hearing Sciences students were recognized for outstanding scholarship, leadership, and service in 2011-2012. **Alyssa Anderson** was named the Outstanding Senior in Speech and Hearing Sciences. Senior **Kaitlynn Knol** is a Distinguished Regents Scholar and seniors **Alysha Barry**, **Belinda Crowson**, **Hayley Mortimer**, and **Jessica Schmidt** are Regents Scholars. Senior **Erin Sebring** is a WSU Distinguished Presidential Scholar. Knol received a WSU Honor's College Development Fund Scholarship. Senior **Margeaux Nowack** was awarded a WSU Future Cougar of Color Scholarship and Senior **Kelly Wiegardt** was awarded a Scottish Rite Scholarship. Seniors **Shealyn Comstock** and Sebring received Auvil Scholars Fellowships from the WSU University College in recognition of their research projects. Sebring's poster on animal-assisted therapy earned second place at the 2012 WSU Showcase for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities

(SURCA). Senior **Stella Ong** is a McNair Scholar, a select group of undergraduate students who are heavily recruited by graduate programs across the country. Ong also was awarded a McNair Summer Research Fellowship in 2011. Junior **Hannah Visscher** was awarded the Maynard Lee Daggy Scholarship.

The following seniors participated in study abroad: **Amanda Dionne** (Australia), **Jessica Besteman** (Costa Rica), Crowson (China), and Knol (Ecuador). Alysha Barry, Comstock, Crowson, Knol, Sebring, and Visscher are enrolled in the Honors College. Seniors Anderson, Crowson, Knol, **Elisa Romaneschi**, Schmidt, and Sebring graduated summa cum laude; Barry, **Elizabeth Boorujy**, **Hannah Leonard**, **Tayrn Marion**, and Ong graduated magna cum laude; Comstock, **Cassandra Cook**, **Rachael Krager**, and Wiegardt graduated cum laude.

Graduate students and alumni also received recognition. **Aimee Stormo** received the Outstanding Speech and Hearing Sciences Graduate Student Commencement Award. **Breanna Hansen** was honored with the Lynn Larrigan Clinical Excellence Award. **Jamie Foster** was awarded a Blankinship Fellowship in Childhood Language Disorders and **Christine Caldejon** and **Allison Gilbert** were each awarded a Scottish Rite Scholarship from the Scottish Rite Foundation of Washington. Alumna **Billie Higheagle (M.A., '96)** is a member of the Native American Leadership Council of the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA). She also served on the planning committee for ASHA's 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Native American Caucus.



## NOTES FROM NSSLHA

-Belinda Crowson

Transitioning from Pullman to Spokane during the 2011-2012 academic year, the WSU chapter of the National Speech-Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) successfully carved out their niche, establishing a presence on the Riverpoint campus through a variety of activities that communicated the students' passion for the field of speech and hearing sciences.

WSU Spokane NSSLHA officers **Belinda Crowson** (President), **Kelly Wiegardt** (Vice President), **Alyssa Anderson** (Treasurer), **Taryn Marion** (Secretary), **Kaitlynn Knol** (Public Relations Coordinator), and **Hannah Visscher** (Junior Liaison) worked hard developing opportunities in the areas of community service, education, and social bonding for the Speech and Hearing Sciences (SHS) department.

### Publicity/Recruitment

Thanks to the aid of **Georgina Lynch** (Program Coordinator) and **Emily Dennison** (NSSLHA Chief Distance Recruiter), NSSLHA was able to reach out to Pullman students during recruitment fairs in the fall semester. In November during Thanksgiving Break, NSSLHA officers **Taryn Marion** and **Belinda Crowson** participated in the Imagine U Program for WSU, encouraging higher education and spreading awareness of communication science and disorders to high school students in Federal Way, WA.

In the spring semester, **Georgina Lynch** and **Hannah Visscher** journeyed to Pullman to speak to the underclassmen about the department and extend an invitation to participate in the annual NSSLHA Spring Conference at the Riverpoint campus. The students were very excited to be able to ask questions and get involved.

### Education

In October, officers **Belinda Crowson** and **Alyssa Anderson**, as well as NSSLHA members **Jessica Schmidt**, **Nicole Ball**, and **Jessica Besteman** spoke at the Washington Speech-Language-Hearing Association Convention (WSLHA) in Wenatchee, WA. Under the supervision of NSSLHA Advisor **Dr. Amy Meredith**, the students gave the presentation, "*Service Learning for Speech and Hearing Sciences Students in Guatemala.*" This presentation was based on the group's experience during a cleft-lip and palate surgery medical mission trip Spring Break of 2011. The small cohort of SHS students and Dr. Amy Meredith traveled

with fellow Cougars to Guatemala through a non-profit organization called Hearts In Motion. Their presentation identified the need for international outreach, addressed the benefits for students to participate in service learning abroad, and listed services that can be provided by an SLP in the international settings.

In the Spring, NSSLHA officers collaborated with Eastern Washington University's NSSLHA chapter to host the annual NSSLHA Spring Conference for students studying speech and hearing sciences and communication disorders. Panels of guest speakers provided the students with opportunities to ask questions and learn more about what the vast fields have to offer. Students also benefitted from graduate student speakers and informational presentations about the graduate school application process.

### Community Service

WSU NSSLHA members began the academic year by participating in the annual Walk to Defeat ALS in Spokane in September with their new EWU classmates. The UPCD team 'The Speak EZees,' comprised of both students and professors, raised over \$950 to donate to the ALS Association. Many NSSLHA members volunteered on an individual and group basis in local Spokane organizations, including but not limited to the Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery, Catholic Charities, Free Rein Therapeutic Riding and Sally's House.

In the fall, NSSLHA held a bake sale to fundraise for Sally's House, Spokane's only emergency foster care home. The chapter was able to raise \$300 to help with the cause. Three teams of NSSLHA members also prepared and served dinners at the Ronald McDonald House, a place of temporary lodging for families of children accessing medical services. Several students also volunteered to supervise children from the HOPE school in structured play activities while the children's parents were attending the Families in Support of Hearing (FISH) meeting, a support group that provides informational and networking opportunities for families with children who have hearing loss. In December, NSSLHA celebrated the season by Christmas caroling at Cooper-George Senior Living to residents of the assisted living community. They of course, practiced good vocal health by warming up and hydrating prior to performing.

NSSLHA members volunteered in two auctions during the spring semester, hosted by ISAAC Foundation and Free Rein Therapeutic Riding. The ISAAC Foundation provides grants to local families who have children with autism. Free Rein provides hippotherapy to individuals with physical, emotional and mental disabilities. **Dr. Amy Meredith** organized the Riverpoint Talent Show as a fundraiser for the 2012 Spring Hearts In Motion trip. NSSLHA members helped with the event and even performed! This very fun and engaging evening raised \$400 to help support the trip.

### Social

NSSLHA enjoyed a beginning of the year mixer that involved pizza and human bingo! This was a great opportunity for the WSU and EWU students and professors to meet and discuss the fun topics of their bingo cards. The termination of the fall semester signified a huge check mark for juniors who just survived their first semester of upper-level classes; seniors who finished graduate school applications; graduate students who just survived their first semester of having clients; and professors who were finished with writing letters of recommendation. These accomplishments created the necessity for the ice-cream party celebration in January, where members of UPCD gathered to socialize and de-stress with sweets and piñatas.



## NEWS OF OUR FRIENDS

**Brenda Arend** (MA '89) is raising three children with her husband Jack and works part-time at Providence St. Peter Hospital in Olympia, WA in the acute therapy department (with another alumna Sarah Newboles [MA '08]).

**Allen Cent** (B.A. '11) is completing his first year of his master's work in the UPCD graduate program in Spokane. In addition to enjoying his classes and clinic, Allen participated in the Hearts in Motion trip to Guatemala in May 2012, led by Professors Amy Meredith (WSU) and Robbie Jackson (EWU).

**Nora (Bachman) Cohoe** (B.A. '00) just moved to Bellingham, WA from Port Angeles. Nora spends much of her time raising her 6 year-old son and 2 year-old daughter; however, she fills in part-time as a speech-language pathologist in the Chima-cum School District, WA.

**Melissa (Rosscup) Crawford** (B.A. '07) works in administration for the research division of Swedish Medical Center in Seattle, WA. Melissa and her husband (whom she met at WSU) recently purchased their first home, and adopted a kitten.

**Kimberly Dale** (BA '07) earned her AuD, Summa Cum Laude, from the University of Arizona in spring 2011 and married that summer. Last we heard, Kim was working at a private practice in Anchorage, AK.

**Abby (Sudbery) DesJardien** (BA '05; MA '07) and her husband have twin girls born in 2010. Abby is an SLP in the Everett School District.

After earning her Au.D., **Anna Diedesch** (B.A. '04) worked as a research audiologist at the National Center for Rehabilitative Auditory Research (NCRAR) in Portland, OR. Last August, she moved to Seattle to pursue her Ph.D. at the University of Washington.

**Courtney Eggert** (B.A. '10) is working as a speech-language pathologist for the Grandview School District in rural, central WA. She also Language-Hearing Associations with four speech-language pathologists from Portland, OR through The Hello Foundation, which provides speech-language, occupational and psychology services to children in rural schools districts.

Since moving back to Japan with her husband in 2010, **Izumi Furukawa** (M.A. '99) has been working part-time as a clinical research manager with Med-El Japan (a cochlear implant company), and part-time in an ENT clinic.

**Lisa Greenwald** (B.A. '96) is chief program officer with Kinderling in Bellvue, WA. Kinderling is the only early intervention center serving urban East King County and is the largest intervention center in Washington State, one of the three largest centers in the nation, and notably the most comprehensive.

**Jeong-Eun Kim** (B.A. '09) worked in an outpatient clinic and skilled nursing facility for a few years prior to the birth of her daughter. Jeong-Eun and family live in Iowa City, IA, where her husband has begun a doctoral program. Jeong-Eun also hopes to pursue a doctorate in speech and hearing sciences.

**Cindi Knight** (M.A. '97) is a speech-language pathologist in the Spokane Public Schools and daughter Heidi (Marvicsin) Farr (M.A. '10) is a speech-language pathologist with the Central Valley School District in Spokane, WA.

**Britt (Elstrom) Lewis** (M.A. '03) has been working with adult and geriatric patients in acute care at Deaconess and Valley hospitals in Spokane, WA. Over the past year, she has trained in the NICU as a developmental therapist. Britt reports that she is enjoying the change in focus and experiencing first-hand "how our profession expands across the continuum."

**Kevin Liebe** (B.A. '05) and his wife Megan (Engebo) Liebe (B.A. '05) welcomed their second child into their lives--Audrey Mae Liebe-- born April 13, 2012. Megan teaches kindergarten and Kevin is an audiologist in the Tri-Cities, WA.

**Rebecca 'Becki' Mulalley-Thacker** (M.A. '88) is entering her 30th year as a speech-language pathologist. Becki works in a middle school and also in private practice. She offers social cognition communication groups for young adolescents and adults on the autism spectrum. On a personal note, Becki and her husband enjoy hiking, fishing, skiing, and snowmobiling outside their forest service cabin on Mt. Hood, as well as diving, snorkeling, and exploring the Caribbean islands.

Speech-language pathologist **Trisha Nance** (MA '01) directs the outpatient head injury program at Mercy Therapy Services in St. Louis, MO. She coordinates services and acts as the liaison between patients and their employers and school districts for those who will return to work or school. Trisha recently founded the Brain Injury Foundation of St. Louis, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing innovative community-based solutions to meet the social and vocational needs of individuals with acquired brain injury.

In her 41st year as a speech-language pathologist, **Carol (Stasak) Pokrifchak** (B.A. '70) finds her work at Chief Leschi Schools in Puyallup, WA to be inspirational and rewarding. Chief Leschi is the largest Bureau of Indian Education/ Bureau of Indian Affairs school in the country. Carol and husband Fred have three adult children, each of whom is a college graduate. Angela graduated from WSU with a degree in marketing and now works in Seattle. Casey is an actor in Hollywood, and Jeff works in video production.

**Dayna Porter** (MA '92) is an SLP in both a school setting and a private practice in Anchorage, AK.

**Lynn Reberger** (BA '07) earned her master's degree at the University of Redlands, CA and works as an SLP in the Kennewick School District, WA.

**Brian Shute** (M.A. '86) recently received his National Board Certification in teaching (NBCT) as an Exceptional Needs Specialist. He continues to serve patients with voice and fluency disorders through his private practice (Inland Speech Pathology) in Spokane, WA. Brian, his wife Michelle and their son Austin live on a 31 acre farm on which they have a small fruit orchard.

**Cheryl Thompson** (B.A. '94) has enjoyed many positions over the years, including work in outpatient pediatrics, skilled nursing facilities, home health, and schools. Currently, Cheryl is the supervisor of the Pediatric Rehabilitation Program at Harrison Medical Center in Silverdale, WA. Cheryl provides specialized services to children on the Autism spectrum, and those with behavioral disorders resulting from abuse, neglect, and other traumatic experiences. Cheryl and her husband have two children—10 year-old Abigail and 7 year-old Benjamin.



# HELP US HONOR THE LIFE OF J. RICHARD FRANKS

*(June 15, 1930 to June 18, 2011)*

J. Richard ("Dick") Franks was a visionary. He saw that Native Americans were vastly under-represented in the fields of speech-language pathology and audiology and took action to change this. Dick secured U.S. Department of Education funding which established the foundation for the Washington State University Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences' (SHS) Native American professional preparation program. Over a 25-year period, Dick oversaw the department's efforts to recruit and graduate Native American students with both Bachelor's and Master's degrees. These efforts were of considerable success: 42% of all nationally-certified (American Speech-Language-Hearing Association) Native American speech-language pathologists and audiologists in the Northwest are graduates of the SHS department. However, the recent economic downturn and a drastic decline in available funding resources have resulted in a sharp decrease in the number of Native American students able to enroll in the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences. To honor the life of J. Richard Franks, we are building the J. Richard Franks Scholarship Endowment for Native American Students in Speech and Hearing Sciences. It is our intention to carry on Dr. Franks' legacy as a leader in the education of Native students. We ask for your help in building the J. Richard Franks Scholarship Endowment.

Please give at: [www.spokane.wsu.edu/shs](http://www.spokane.wsu.edu/shs)  
and click on "I Want To Give"

A former student, A. Noelle (Phillips) Miller, M.A. '07, says of Dr. Franks, "You could tell from the labs how much Dr. Franks loved teaching, and particularly teaching about the ear and things related to audiology..... The truth of the matter is that Native Americans are not well represented in higher education or in the health sciences, and the other truth of the matter is that there is a lot of health care need in various Native American communities. Dr. Franks saw those issues and took steps to do something about it, a fact which directly impacted my life, as well as others."



Wavelength is published annually by Washington State University, PO Box 645910, Pullman, Washington 99164-5910, for the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences, Washington State University, P.O. Box 1495, Spokane, WA 99210-1495. Volume 19, Issue No. 1.