

Wavelength

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
SPEECH AND HEARING SCIENCES

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FOCUS ON ALUMNI

Kristin Cutler (M.A. '94)

Since graduating with my Master's in 1994, my professional journey has had some twists and turns. I started working in a small, rural community hospital practicing in skilled nursing, acute, outpatient and home health. I loved the different settings that the small community hospital had to offer. As my skills grew, I found that my passion was to work with geriatric patients in the skilled nursing setting. I loved the variety of patients and diagnoses, while allowing me the most flexibility of all the settings I had worked in previously. Skilled nursing facilities serve patients with a variety of challenging diagnoses and needs, such as dysphagia, cognitive deficits, aphasia, apraxia, and augmentative and alternative communication. I have treated a wide

variety of patients with intriguing diagnoses such as Alzheimer's disease, cerebrovascular accidents, traumatic brain injury, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's chorea, Guillain-Barre syndrome, and many others. Ultimately, I found myself managing a rehabilitation department in a skilled nursing facility for approximately 6 years. In 2005, I was offered an opportunity to move from a direct service speech-language pathology role to recruiting for physical, occupational, and speech therapy positions in skilled nursing facilities. This was a fairly fluid transition as I had 11 years of experience working in skilled nursing facilities up to that point.

Continued to page 2.



Kristin Cutler (M.A. '94)

During the next 7 years, I found myself working for both large and small rehabilitation companies. It was interesting to learn how different companies presented with both positive, yet challenging opportunities. I quickly realized that recruiting was similar to being a psychologist; it required me to analyze personalities and perspectives of the therapists I served and recruited. I had to ask questions to determine exactly what therapists were searching for in a company, the types of patients they wanted to treat, what setting they preferred for a career, and what they needed to be successful. I found a good recruiter needs to take the time to invest in the person they are interviewing and establish a professional level of trust. No matter if the therapist is interviewing for a first job or a fourth job, it can be incredibly stressful for that therapist. The prudent recruiter will not offer a job if it is truly not the right fit for both parties; doing so usually leads to discontent and unhappiness.

Throughout my years of recruiting, I became friends with therapists across the country and am fortunate to still stay in touch with them. At times they will call me for advice and I am humbled and honored to be a resource for them. I would have to say the highlight of my job was hiring therapists whom I knew would make a positive impact on the quality of the patients' lives they were going to touch on a daily basis.

Although I enjoyed recruiting, I knew it was not a long-term career for me. Fortunately, in our field, we have many options and vocational opportunities. Thus, in May of 2012, I returned to my love and passion working as a full time speech-language pathologist in skilled nursing facilities. Currently, I am also supervising a clinical fellow. I was surprised how much I truly missed it. I strongly feel that my 7-year hiatus made me a better therapist, for I appreciate how important my job is to my patients, my company, and my self-worth.

FROM THE CHAIR

We have just completed our second academic year with both undergraduate and graduate speech and hearing sciences programs consolidated on the Washington State University Health Sciences campus in Spokane. Faculty and students have been engaged in the many interprofessional opportunities in education, research, and outreach available on the campus. These opportunities enrich our students' education and contribute to the evidence-base needed to advance clinical treatments and improve the lives of those with disabilities whom we serve.

As many of you know, **Lisa Brown**, who served in the Washington State Legislature for 20 years, was appointed chancellor of WSU Spokane and assumed that leadership role in January 2013. While in the Legislature, she helped to lay the foundation for WSU health sciences in Spokane by supporting first-year medical education at Spokane and leading the successful effort to secure funding for the new pharmaceutical and biomedical sciences building, which will be completed by fall 2013. Chancellor Brown, WSU President **Elson Floyd**, and Health Sciences Vice Provost **Gary Pollack** are shaping the health sciences programs on the Spokane campus into a coherent organizational structure that will support continued growth and collaboration.

The efforts of our Speech and Hearing faculty throughout the academic year are grounded in two primary questions – how can we best prepare the next generation of speech-language pathologists and how can we make a difference in the lives of the people we treat? In this issue of *Wavelength* you will read about some of those efforts and the many accomplishments of our faculty, students, and alumni during the past academic year. Once again, a number 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.

We invite you to browse through our department website, which we refreshed this year (speechandhearing.wsu.edu) to learn more about our ongoing work. You will find a link to the 2013 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. As always, I welcome your ideas and your feedback.

I hope you will find the work cited in this issue of *Wavelength* as compelling as I do. As I look ahead to the future of our professions, I am filled with optimism for what we can accomplish. The debate about health care will continue in Washington, D.C., but whatever the political and financial future ahead, we are poised to achieve great things through education, research, and clinical practice.

In closing, I wish to thank each of you who has given so generously to the department during the 2013 fiscal year. Your name will be prominently displayed in the 2012-2013 WSU Foundation Annual Report, which will be published in fall 2013. Once again, please accept my deep appreciation to you, our loyal alumni and friends, for your shared devotion to the success of our students and our faculty. The Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences continues to believe in its Cougar family, with a strong commitment to developing the best and brightest professionals and leaders for the future. Your gifts, which make a world of difference to our students and our faculty, reflect your confidence in our ability to prepare professionals and change lives.

With warm regards and best wishes,

Gail D. Chermak

DOCTOR'S CORNER

Why do I need Speech Therapy? I talk just fine!



Patsy Seipp
MS, CCC-SLP, Speech Therapist
St. Luke's Rehabilitation Institute
Spokane, Washington

This is an all too common reaction heard by speech therapists in the inpatient rehabilitation setting upon entering a patient's room. In the rehabilitation setting, speech therapy (ST) staff often encounter a group of patients who may not have received ST services in the acute care setting, as they did not exhibit swallowing difficulties, aphasia, dysarthria, or apraxia. So, who are these patients who react with surprise, and at times, suspicion? I am speaking of patients with right cerebral vascular brain injury (RCVA). These patients often present with basic language skills that are intact and cognitive deficits that go unnoticed by physicians on an initial visit with the patient. Family, too, may not notice cognitive changes as these patients often get by with familiar conversation and social interaction with family.

I have worked on the neuro-stroke unit at St. Luke's Rehabilitation Institute for many years and in medical speech pathology for over 20 years. One of the greatest challenges I face is evaluation and treatment of patients with right brain injury. The challenge often arises because patients with RCVA lack insight into their deficits, and are unable to appreciate the need for cognitive rehabilitation.

Patients with RCVA often attempt to refuse our services, are argumentative, and attempt to justify their difficulties with a variety of excuses that are unrelated to the situation. The right brain injury leaves them unable to appreciate that the injury has impacted their ability to think in the way they did before, often leading to statements such as, "I've never had trouble reading before," or "I've always been able to balance my checkbook to the penny," or "I never forget to take my medications." New struggles with these day-to-day tasks in therapy are often blamed on being tired, poor lighting, unfamiliarity with therapy tools such as checkbook registers, or that I'm just trying to trick them. To compound these problems with familiar cognitive tasks, I often hear from the physical or occupational therapist that the patient with RCVA is easily distracted and inattentive, impulsive and unsafe, and cannot learn new basic skills such as transfer sequences (e.g., from bed to wheel chair). So how does this impact what I do with a patient? In such circumstances, my role typically becomes one of educating the patient about ways to improve performance during physical and occupational therapy sessions by focusing my sessions on specific supportive tasks. For example, I may focus more on auditory attention and working memory by working with patients to write out the transfer sequence and having them use it in physical therapy sessions. Sessions also commonly focus on establishing strategies to curb impulsiveness, while providing repetitive education to patients and families regarding how impulsiveness and impaired judgment impact safety at home, and heighten the need for supervision.

Not all patients with RCVA present with such challenges; they perceive their cognitive difficulties right away. In addition, this right brain injury profile is increasingly being recognized in the schools as "Non-verbal Learning Disability." This underscores a need for speech therapists to increase understanding of this complex disorder and how to best evaluate and treat it.

TRANSITIONS

Georgina Lynch, who has served as our undergraduate academic coordinator since August 2011, is transitioning into a new role as clinical assistant professor next fall 2013. We look forward to more fully involving Georgina in undergraduate and graduate education and research.



We are delighted to welcome **Mark VanDam** to our faculty. Prior to joining our faculty in August 2012, Mark was a research associate at Boys Town Research Hospital.



Mark is continuing to build his research program on the linguistic and cognitive development of children with hearing impairment and teaches both undergraduate and graduate students.

Finally, we bid farewell and extend our best wishes to **Teresa Cardon** who accepted a position earlier this year as a Visiting Scholar in Autism at Utah Valley University.

IN THE FOREFRONT

The Speech and Hearing Sciences faculty continue to foster an environment in which education, research, and clinical practice converge to ignite a passion for discovery and service in our students and to make a difference in the lives of the people we treat. Once again, our faculty earned commendations for their exceptional teaching and mentoring, as well as their significant contributions in research, clinical innovation, and outreach.

Faculty published 7 refereed articles, 2 research reports, 1 invited article, and 4 book chapters, and presented 11 refereed papers, and 15 invited papers, seminars and workshops at international, national, regional and state professional and scientific conferences and institutes, including meetings of the Acoustical Society of America, American Cleft Palate Association, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, and the Washington Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Professor **Charles Madison** was elected chair of the Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology and with the support of a Fulbright Senior Specialists grant worked in Malaysia to complete the standardization of the Malay Preschool Language Assessment Tool. Associate Professor **Nancy Potter** received the 2012 WSU Spokane Faculty Excellence Award in recognition of her outstanding research, teaching, and outreach. Potter is a co-investigator on a National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant to study the pathophysiology of galactosemia, a rare metabolic disorder. Associate Professor **Ella Inglebret** was recognized by the WSU Tribal Liaison on the occasion of the 15th anniversary celebration of the signing of the memorandum of understanding with nine Plateau tribes. Faculty disseminated their research and teaching innovations in a number of top tier journals. Inglebret, Clinical Associate Professor **Amy Meredith**, (former) Clinical Professor **Carla Jones** and graduate student **Shana Bailey** published on international research and variations in views of ethnicity in *Perspectives on Global Issues in Communication Sciences and Related Disorders*. Inglebret also coauthored a research report on developing an effective relationship between Native Seattle (community) and the Seattle public schools. Meredith, Potter, Clinical Professor **Leslie Power** and colleagues coauthored a prospective delineation of the adult galactosemic phenotype in the *Journal of Inherited Metabolic Disease*. Potter also coauthored a paper in *Nursing Online* describing an interprofessional (speech-language pathology and nursing) simulation of a clinical swallow examination and another paper on a versatile model for interprofessional education in *MedEdPortal*. Assistant Professor **Mark VanDam** coauthored a paper on the quantity of parental language in the home environment of hard of hearing two-year olds in the *Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education*. Professor **Gail Chermak** coauthored a paper on the efficacy of auditory interventions for central auditory processing disorder in *Language, Speech, and Hearing Services in Schools*.

Faculty engaged in extensive outreach to local, regional, national, and international communities in the areas of: assessment and intervention with multicultural populations; augmentative communication; autism spectrum disorder; central auditory processing disorder; hearing disorders in children; maxillofacial anomalies; motor speech disorders in children and adults; and pediatric and adult swallowing disorders. Clinical Associate Professor **Sandy 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, Madison, and Meredith 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 to Native Americans. Clinical Assistant Professor **Georgina Lynch** was an invited panelist for a Spokane television program—KSPS Health Matters: Understanding Autism— which explained the nature of autism, and most importantly, informed families of resources and available services. Meredith and five students traveled to Guatemala as members of a Hearts in Motion cleft palate mission, providing crucial information and instruction to 100 families to improve feeding, communication, and the self-esteem of their children. Meredith also 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 Diagnostic Team. Potter served as a consultant to the Galactosemia Foundation of America, consulted with educators in school districts across the United States on appropriate programming for students with galactosemia and, for the sixth consecutive year, she organized a multidisciplinary forum on the Riverpoint campus focused on living with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) for professionals, students, and individuals and families of individuals with ALS. Power served as the UPCD lead liaison with the Spokane public schools, as well as with our network of off-site master clinicians who supervise our students placed in clinical rotations across the state, region, and nation.

SERVICE LEARNING: LOCAL AND ABROAD

By Clinical Associate Professor Amy Meredith



Pictured above is the speech and hearing sciences group at the senior center.

We are excited to report an increase in service learning opportunities for our students, both locally and globally, during the 2012-2013 academic year. This is the third year faculty brought students to Guatemala with Hearts in Motion (HIM, heartsinmotion.org). Beginning in March 2011, I led speech and hearing sciences students to Zacapa, Guatemala, as part of a medical mission trip for surgical repair of cleft lip and palate with Dr. Mark Paxton. What started out as assisting with hearing screening and educating families of children with cleft lip and palate on feeding and speech and language development techniques expanded into something more. While there, our services also were requested at HIM rehabilitation and nutrition centers, as well as in public special education programs. Although speech language pathology exists in Guatemala, regions like Zacapa are greatly underserved. The second year, an additional group went down in May 2012 with EWU Graduate Program Coordinator Robbie Jackson. This group followed up with children seen the previous year and tested hearing for two HIM Senior Centers. They also participated in the first social event for families of children with cleft lip and palate.

In 2013, there will be a total of three speech and hearing groups participating with HIM; two from UPCD and one from University of Washington. In the coming years, we hope to continue sending additional speech and hearing sciences teams to establish better continuity of care. Follow-up services have included sending educational materials on working with children with disabilities and helping children who are deaf (hesperian.org) in addition to information related to aphasia ("*¡Sigo Siendo Yo!*" - *It's Still Me: A Guide for People with Aphasia & Their Loved Ones* - buzzzco.com/Educational/Aphasia.htm). These resources are specifically produced for the lay person and are in Spanish.

While volunteering abroad is an exciting and rewarding experience, it also requires us to be culturally responsive and to keep our hearts and minds open. Students are prepared prior to traveling to Guatemala by attending a weekly seminar to discuss ethics involved in volunteering abroad, cultural considerations, language, and Guatemalan attitudes and laws regarding people with disabilities. The students also practice the skills they will use when in Guatemala. For our most recent trip, we trained with WSU nursing students, which provided a wonderful interprofessional learning opportunity. It is impossible to prepare for everything, as the day-to-day schedule can change in a minute, teaching students and teachers from all disciplines to be flexible.

Not every student has the opportunity to go abroad and we know there are underserved people in our own neighborhood. Thus, it is also important to provide service learning locally. In spring of 2013, we accomplished just that. Our seniors worked weekly with adults with intellectual delay and disabilities at Arc of Spokane and the L'Arche community and they visited with residents in skilled nursing facilities. These service learning opportunities were offered in conjunction with two undergraduate courses: Senior Seminar and Neurogenic Communication Disorders. Student feedback confirms their appreciation for the chance to work with 'real people' and put their knowledge into compassionate action. Being able to provide these experiential learning opportunities requires effort on the part of the instructor and the community. We are extremely grateful to our community and global partners for enabling us to provide these life changing experiences.

STUDENTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Speech and Hearing Sciences students were recognized for outstanding scholarship, leadership, and service in 2012-2013. **Hannah Visscher** was named the Outstanding Senior in Speech and Hearing Sciences. **Sarah Story** was awarded the Maynard Lee Daggy Scholarship. **McKenzie Desjarlais** was named the first recipient of the Edward and Diana Gwin Scholarship. A number of seniors graduated with honors: **Breanna Lindahl** graduated summa cum laude; Hannah Visscher, **Kim McPartland**, **Lauren Burrows**, and **Leslie Williams** graduated magna cum laude; and **Samantha Sevedge**, **Kelsey Rollinger**, and **Kaitlin Woychick** graduated cum laude. **Daniel Morales** was recognized at commencement for his compelling story of overcoming great odds, dedication, sacrifice, and commitment. **Mackenzie Lauber** received the Outstanding Speech and Hearing Sciences Graduate Student Commencement Award. **Shana Bailey** was honored with the Lynn Larrigan Clinical Excellence Award and the WSU Spokane Chancellor's Award.

In addition to academic achievements, Speech and Hearing Sciences students demonstrated leadership and dedication to the university and profession this past year in various service and recruitment activities. Senior Samantha Sevedge and Junior **Alyssa Hartman** represented the department in the Associated Students of Washington State University Spokane (ASWSUS) student senate. Seniors Lauren Burrows and **Terri Runquist**, along with post-baccalaureate **Ann-Marie Misko-Kennedy**, participated in the "Imagine U" student outreach program, highlighting the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology to students in high schools across the state. **Esmeralda Arellano** and Daniel Morales joined nursing students and medical students on inter-professional health sciences teams demonstrating the benefits of helmet protection and the potential consequences associated with traumatic brain injury to high school students in the Wellpinit region of Washington. Graduate student **Kelly Wiegardt** supported our state professional organization by volunteering at the annual Washington State Speech-Language Hearing Association Conference held in Tacoma, WA.

NEWS OF OUR FRIENDS

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

Allen Cent (M.A. '13) 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 Chimacum School District, WA.

In her 22nd year as a speech-language pathologist for the Asotin-Anatone School District, Asotin, WA, **Suzy (Hall) Cowdrey** (B.A. '85; M.A. '87) continues to love her work and raising her sons with husband Stephen.

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 Washington. She also teams 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.

Izumi Furukawa (M.A. '99) has returned to southern California recently from Japan where she 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 Kindinger in Bellvue, WA. Kindinger 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.

Cody Maasen (B.A. '09) and his fiancé live in Perth, Western Australia working at a natural gas plant. Cody notes that he has been able to apply a lot of what he learned in his audiology classes as his work requires him to diagnose, troubleshoot, and calibrate plant equipment. Having learned the importance of hearing conservation in his undergraduate audiology classes, Cody serves on the plant safety committee pushing for greater hearing protection in the work environment.

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

Lynn Reberger (B.A. '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.

Danielle Srsen (M.A. '12) works in the Steilacoom Historical School District, Steilacoom, WA. Her husband Jason is a physical therapist for Providence St. Peter's Hospital. During summers, Danielle works on her photography business and is on call at area skilled nursing facilities.



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.

Phyllis Von Ebers (M.A. '11) moved to Florida with her family last summer and is working in the Marion County School District with elementary school children and preschoolers.

Bill Ukropina (B.A. '79) is executive vice president for Coldwell Banker Commercial in Glendale, CA where he lives with his wife and three sons, one of whom played for Stanford in the 2013 Rose Bowl.



NOTES FROM NSSLHA

The 2012-2013 academic year was the first in which the NSSLHA chapters of Washington State University and Eastern Washington University merged resources and energies under the helpful guidance of our faculty advisors, **Georgina Lynch** (WSU) and **Elizabeth Wilson-Fowler** (EWU). With their support, and the enthusiasm of our members, the 2012-2013 NSSLHA officers were able to meet the challenges associated with this new organizational structure. We are happy to report that the University Programs in Communication Disorders NSSLHA Chapter (UPCD NSSLHA) enjoyed a very successful year, as you will read below.

We began the year with an ice cream social that allowed students to become acquainted with each other, as well as with the NSSLHA organization. Several seniors volunteered their time and ran ice-breakers at individual tables, as well as served ice cream. The NSSLHA officers mingled with students and gave a brief presentation on their ideas for the semester. We moved quickly to identify three common goals: fostering philanthropy, involvement in our community, and discipline within our program. These goals helped to shape our focus and

our activities throughout the year. We also held a NSSLHA holiday party during finals week. Our officers prepared an 'ugly sweater' holiday party where members could enjoy hot cocoa, holiday music, and decorate sugar cookies, as well as drop off gifts they had purchased to donate to Anna Ogden Hall, a women's and children's crisis center in Spokane.

Philanthropy

On October 5th, approximately 15 of our members volunteered for the Hoedown for HOPE, an auction raising funds for the Spokane HOPE School (Hearing Oral Program of Excellence) School). Our members sold raffle tickets and assisted with catering and clean up. This event was attended by the HOPE School families, faculty members, and members of the community, and was a wonderful way for our members to be involved with the program.

For the holiday season, our members wanted to use our resources to give back to the community in a meaningful way. After NSSLHA Officer **Hannah Visscher** researched different organizations in the Spokane area, the group decided to adopt a family at Anna Ogden Hall, and provide them with winter holiday presents. The family consisted of a mom and three boys and our members enjoyed shopping for items on their wish list, as well as providing gift cards for a family outing. **Kristin Milton**, our secretary, also organized a book drive where gently used picture books were donated with early literacy information included in the front cover. Many other members provided miscellaneous items such as socks, pajamas, shampoo, and body wash.

As future professionals, involvement and support of our community is important, and we felt there was no better organization to support in spring 2013 than the Special Olympics, especially given that many of us will be working with children with disabilities as future speech-language pathologists and audiologists. NSSLHA Secretary **Kristin Milton** contacted the Spokane Special Olympics branch and volunteered members to help with the 'Polar Plunge,' an all weekend event which raises money to support the Special Olympics. In addition, a NSSLHA UPCD team participated in the 2013 Relay for Life event on April 12th, at Gonzaga University. Relay for Life is the main volunteer-driven cancer fundraising event of the American Cancer Society in which teams walk all night to raise money to fight cancer. Public relations officer **Elsa Eierdam** led a subcommittee of members to organize and fundraise for the team.

Fundraising

In fall 2012, NSSLHA members helped run a bake sale at the second annual campus wide talent show, which is produced, organized, and moderated by **Dr. Amy Meredith** with the help of UPCD students. Funds raised from the bake sale went to support the Inland Empire Maxillofacial Program. In the spring, NSSLHA hosted the second annual Hearts for HOPE bake sale. NSSLHA members baked dozens of delicious treats that spanned three tables! One person reported that it was the largest and most impressive bake sale she'd ever seen. The generosity of individuals on campus was truly unbelievable as all goods were sold on the basis of donation and over \$650 was raised. One-hundred percent of the proceeds were donated to the Spokane HOPE School.

Education

During the fall semester, three of our members approached the officers about starting a Multilingual Special Interest Group under the umbrella of UPCD NSSLHA. Their goal was to raise awareness about how we as professionals should interact with other cultures, as well as give students an opportunity to practice common professional terms in other languages. The group has been meeting since the beginning of spring semester and has been able to promote their meetings to our members. On April 5th members had the opportunity to attend the NSSLHA spring conference. The motivational keynote address was given by a person with disability who has benefited from therapy and spoke to her experiences with professionals like us. In addition, students attended informational sessions on graduate school and other options after graduation.

UPCD NSSLHA is happy to have participated in another wonderful year in the University Programs in Communication Disorders at WSU and EWU.



Sincerely,
UPCD NSSLHA officers
Hailey Malm (President)
Hannah Visscher (Vice-President)
Lauren Burrows (Treasurer)
Kristin Milton (Secretary)
Elsa Eierdam (Public Relations)



TRUE STORIES



Dana Algeo (M.A. '06)

I graduated from Washington State University Spokane with a degree in Speech and Hearing Sciences in May 2006. The two years I spent at University Programs in Communication Disorders (UPCD) were challenging and incredible. I felt a strange sense of loss when I left the halls of UPCD after learning so much from the rigorous course work, research experience with Dr. Jane Pimentel, and working with wonderful clients in the clinic. The last six years have been full of blessings.

Upon graduation, I was fortunate to be hired as a full-time speech language pathologist (SLP) with the Spokane Public Schools. The professors and instructors at UPCD supported my full time public school choice, but they also encouraged me to work part time at local hospitals and assisted living facilities around the Spokane area. Medical speech pathology is a fascinating specialty area within the profession, and thanks to having my summers free, I have been able to satisfy my desire to work with the adult population in the medical field. The flexibility and variety of my work has nourished my professional appetite. I constantly learn from my students, patients, peers, and supervisors.

The Spokane Public Schools has been a great professional home base for me over the last six years. Working with an exciting group of SLPs, I have had the opportunity to integrate new technology and therapy ideas. I have co-facilitated our SLP meetings, participated in a Response to Intervention (RTI) task force, contributed to our contract language task force, and participated in an emergent language and literacy collaboration and intervention group. The emergent language and literacy group was facilitated by two SLPs, a Spokane Public Schools special program

coordinator, and the Title 1 Reading Recovery Leader. This year-long project was the precursory factor for my next adventure, pursuing a doctoral degree. I was enthralled with children's literacy skills and wanted to focus more of my efforts on emergent literacy in the classroom.

In the fall of 2011, I returned to the halls of Washington State University seeking a doctoral degree in education. With my interest in children's emergent literacy skills and public education, a doctoral degree in language, literacy and technology was an ideal fit. My course work has been challenging and exciting. Once again I have the opportunity to work with professors who challenge my thinking and excite my spirit. I was fortunate to receive a teaching assistantship. For the last year and a half, I have taught a class in early literacy to undergraduate elementary education students in Pullman. The growth that I have experienced learning how to teach young adults has been extensive. Facilitating a community of learners is a drastic change from my background of explicit instruction of speech and language skills to young children.

Looking ahead I see the years of 2013 and 2014 as a true challenge of myself. With the vast knowledge I have gained from UPCD, my career with Spokane Public Schools, and now with my coursework nearly completed for my doctorate, I plan to focus my research on children's emergent literacy skills in the classroom. Promoting effective and efficient teaching strategies and contributing research that promotes students' individual qualities and achievements in literacy will be my focus. I feel excited, as well as nervous, but most of all I feel supported by the friends and colleagues whom I met at UPCD.