

Wavelength

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MARKING 25 YEARS OF TRAINING SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS

By Doug Nadvornick



Faculty and staff from the University Programs in Communications Disorders gathered for a group photo in 1996.

This year, Washington State University and Eastern Washington University are celebrating an unusual silver anniversary.

For 25 years, their University Programs in Communications Disorders (UPCD) have trained speech-language pathologists by combining WSU's Speech and Hearing Sciences (SHS) and EWU's Communications Disorders programs.

On March 7-8, UPCD marked the anniversary with two receptions and a daylong conference on the Spokane campus.

The back story

The UPCD consists of separate programs on the same campus that compete for the same students. And yet, they work together pretty well.

"It's the only program in the country that is cooperative with two partners as equals," said

Roberta Jackson, EWU's graduate program director for Communications Disorders.

That 'get-along' attitude has worked despite years of mistrust at higher levels between the two universities that have shared the downtown Spokane campus for 25 years.

WSU moved its graduate Speech and Hearing Sciences program from Pullman during the late 1980s.

"Some of my colleagues realized it might be better for students if the program was based in Spokane because there were far more opportunities for clinical practice here," said Professor **Charles Madison**, who has been with WSU for 43 years and coordinates its SHS graduate program.

At the time, EWU's program was based in Cheney.

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"It wasn't in our best interests to compete with them," said Madison.

He says administrators from the two universities began to talk. In the fall of 1988, UPCD was born when students from both programs took a class together on the campus of a third university, Gonzaga, where students received instruction via a televised distance learning system.

For the next 14 years, the two graduate programs had a variety of homes. In 2002 both moved into the new Health Sciences Building on the Spokane campus.

Gail Chermak, the chair of the WSU Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences, says UPCD has since grown considerably, in students, faculty and research capabilities. It's one of the largest programs on campus.

A few years ago both universities consolidated their programs in Spokane by moving their undergraduate programs. WSU students spend their first two years in Pullman, then shift to Spokane for their final two years.

"The UPCD program has grown in a sophisticated manner since I've been here," said Jackson, who came to EWU in 1999. "We've mushed students together. Faculty have taught together. Half the time teachers don't know what school their students are from. It's irrelevant."

Madison and Jackson say the collaboration has other benefits. It gives students exposure to a broader range of faculty. Instructors cover for each other in case of illness and sabbaticals. They jointly operate a clinic in the Health Sciences Building that's open to the public.

Jackson says the 25th anniversary celebration was "an opportunity to step back and appreciate each other." It was held in conjunction with two events on campus: the Inland Northwest Research Symposium and "The Celebration of a Partnership", a clinical supervision conference for speech-language pathologists, physical and occupational therapists.

FROM THE CHAIR

It has been an exciting time of growth and transition for Speech and Hearing Sciences and our partners in Medical Sciences on the Washington State University health sciences campus in Spokane. With a vote this spring by the Faculty Senate and, most recently, by the Board of Regents, the WSU College of Medical Sciences was officially created. We, as a part of the new college, expect to begin a new chapter in the department's and the university's evolution! We are delighted to be part of this education and research enterprise focused on professions and disciplines that impact the quality of human health and well-being and we look forward to continuing to advance our tripartite mission of research, clinical excellence, and outreach from our new home within the new college.

The efforts of our Speech and Hearing Sciences faculty are directed to the improvement of patient care through education, research, and practice. Our innovative teachers are exploring new ways and places to teach-- taking our students on global educational adventures and building international learning communities. Innovative learning opportunities, including service learning in diverse settings, interprofessional student simulations, and case-based problem solving anchor our students' knowledge and skills. Our faculty's research serves WSU's land grant mission -- exploring cross-disciplinary collaborations and partnerships and taking what we learn to Spokane and beyond.

In this issue of *Wavelength* you will read about some of 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. For those of you who were not able to join us on campus on March 7-8 for our UPCD 25th anniversary celebration, we are fortunate to be able to include a terrific piece by Doug Nadvornick to catch you up on the event.



Gail Chermak, Chair

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 2014 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. Despite the debate about health care in Washington, D.C., 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 2014 fiscal year. Your name will be prominently displayed in the 2013-2014 WSU Foundation Annual Report, which will be published in fall 2014. Your gifts are continuing to make a significant difference in the life of WSU for generations to come. We know that our alumni and friends embody WSU's spirit of "paying forward."

So as the 2013-2014 academic year comes to a close, I wish you an enjoyable summer season with family and friends. Thank you for being a part of the SHS family. Our alumni remain our best friends, strongest advocates, and our ultimate legacy.

All the very best—

Gail D. Chermak

DOCTOR'S CORNER

What are the challenges in working with patients with right brain injury?*



Patsy Seipp, MS, CCC-SLP
Speech Therapist
St. Luke's Rehabilitation Institute
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This patient population presents with a complex disorder that disrupts both cognitive and communicative functions. It takes a team of dedicated, experienced therapists to help these patients succeed.

Cognitive deficits may affect one or all of the following areas: attention (including visuospatial inattention/neglect), memory, problem solving, reasoning, organizing, planning and awareness of deficits. These deficits impact communication by decreasing the efficiency and effectiveness of comprehension, expression and pragmatics. In this column, I focus primarily on insight/awareness, communication, and the importance of the multidisciplinary team approach to treatment.

One of the greatest challenges of this population is increasing their awareness of deficits and helping them develop insight into the impact of deficits on daily functioning. Early treatment must focus on this awareness. To help patients develop awareness and insight we often use prediction of performance and review of actual performance. Unfortunately, we encounter patients who never come to appreciate their cognitive deficits and how they impact daily living. These patients may be unable to benefit from cognitive rehabilitation. On the other hand, for those who do develop awareness, treatment may be quite effective in developing strategies to overcome them. Increasing awareness and understanding are of such significance that they will determine a patient's level of independence, safety, and their ability to be left unattended. If insight is not gained, these patients are often

unsafe to be left unattended as they have difficulty responding appropriately to both novel and common events. They often over-estimate their abilities or fail to understand their limitations.

Communication deficits include difficulty with pragmatics, prosody, discourse and conversation. Patients with right brain injury have difficulty with conversational turn taking, making eye contact, and maintaining topic. They exhibit topic digressions and tangentiality, inappropriate topic choices, egocentricity and disorganization of thought. These patients may have trouble interpreting prosody to deduce meaning. Therefore jokes, sarcasm, and emotionally ambiguous sentences are often misunderstood. Expressively, they may not be able to use prosody to convey meaning, express emotion, or convey correct sentence form.

The complexity of this disorder and the challenges these patients present require the team approach, perhaps more than any other patient population. This team is commonly composed of physical (PT), occupational (OT), speech (ST), and recreational therapists, the physiatrist, and other support staff. The multidisciplinary team must work together to assess, treat, and create a plan of care including counseling and education. The patient and family must come to appreciate that decreased awareness/insight and cognition can be more disabling than the physical impairment and can lead to less independence. Treatment must consist of practice and training in multiple settings and contexts. Varying types of tasks must be utilized. For example, in ST we commonly work on sequencing tasks on pen and paper, and using verbal rehearsal, including those specific to transfer sequences being trained by PT and OT for transitions from wheelchair, toilet, shower, car, etc. All disciplines must teach the same strategies to encourage learning and increase the chance for generalization. As another example, ST's commonly teach strategies to reduce impulsiveness, such as use of self-talk. This is then utilized by other disciplines to increase learning and safety with activities of daily living, such as transfers, ambulation, and dressing.

*Avid readers of this column were so intrigued by Patsy's column last year on right cerebral vascular brain injury, that we invited her back to contribute a follow-up column on treatment with this population for the 2014 issue of *Wavelength*. Thank you, Patsy!

TRANSITIONS

We are delighted to welcome **Katie Smith** to our team. Katie joined us in April 2013 as our new undergraduate academic coordinator replacing Georgina Lynch, who accepted a position



Katie Smith

on our faculty as a clinical assistant professor. In addition to academic advising, retention, and recruitment, Katie has been integral to interprofessional event planning for the health sciences. Students truly appreciate her open door policy, her energy, and her enthusiasm!



Sandy Bassett

We extend our best wishes to Clinical Associate Professor **Sandy Bassett** who will retire in summer 2014 after 16 years with our department. Sandy has served as our clinic coordinator and clinical supervisor and a driving force in developing campus and satellite clinics in Spokane. In particular, she was pivotal in establishing and growing the HOPE School (Hearing Oral Program of Excellence), a premier multidisciplinary, university-community partnership for children with hearing impairment. Sandy also has been a lead member of the Spokane County Maxillofacial Review Board. We will miss Sandy's gentle and kind spirit, not to mention her exceptional clinical expertise, her outstanding clinical mentorship skills, and her vision for the department.

Finally, we bid a warm welcome to **Karen Simpson**, who assumes the post of clinic coordinator this fall. Karen has extensive experience as a speech-language pathologist in the schools, most recently the Spokane School District. She also has been a consultant and an adjunct faculty member of several universities, including WSU and EWU.



Karen Simpson

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. Our faculty's inexhaustible energy, expertise, and devotion to our students and our professions have once again earned them commendations for their exceptional teaching and mentoring, as well as their contributions in research, clinical innovation, and outreach. Their efforts ensure that future generations of professionals are prepared to provide the best possible health care.

Faculty published five refereed articles, two research reports, one invited article, 14 book chapters and two books; and presented 16 refereed papers and 12 invited papers, seminars and workshops at international, national, regional, and state professional and scientific conferences and institutes. They include meetings of the Acoustical Society of America, American Academy of Audiology (AAA), American Cleft Palate Association, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), the International Congress on Cleft Lip and Palate and Craniofacial Disorders, the International Congress on Acoustics, and the International Federation of Oto-Rhino-Laryngological Societies World Congress.

- Associate Professor **Ella Inglebret** authored a report titled, *Oregon Tribal Histories and Sovereignty Curriculum Design Project: Working Resource Document*, which has catalyzed statewide curriculum design efforts and was disseminated at two curriculum design summits held at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, as well as on the reservation of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Indians.
- Inglebret presented a poster on place-based, multiliteracies learning spiral, a guide for intervention with Native American students.
- Inglebret, Clinical Associate Professor **Amy Meredith**, and **Shana Bailey** (MA '13) presented a poster on the reporting practices of socioeconomic status in pediatric speech-language pathology research. Their poster was conferred the ASHA Meritorious Poster Award for "extraordinary, exceptional, and innovative work."
- Meredith and **Kathryn Haasch** (MA '13) presented a seminar on issues in international outreach, describing ethics and outcomes, and a need for guidelines.
- For the third consecutive year, Meredith led a group of UPCD students to Guatemala as part of the Hearts in Motion mission to assist children and their families before and after cleft palate surgeries.
- Clinical Assistant Professor **Georgina Lynch** secured a WSU Spokane seed grant to examine pupil dilation as a potential biomarker of autism spectrum disorder (ASD).
- Professor **Charles Madison** presented a poster on collaborative teaching of vocal hygiene in Washington State schools.
- Madison and **Sanaz (Farzan) Amini** (MA '12) exhibited a poster presenting normative and comparative data on nasalance in Arabic and speakers of Standard American English.
- Associate Professor **Nancy Potter** co-authored articles on motor and speech disorders in classic galactosemia, describing a clinical swallow exam for dysphagia, and on interprofessional journal clubs published in the *Journal of Inherited Metabolic Disease*, *Clinical Simulation in Nursing*, and the *Journal of Interprofessional Care*, respectively.
- Potter delivered an invited presentation highlighting her galactosemia research at the WSU Spokane Chancellor's Research breakfast.
- Potter, Clinical Professor **Leslie Power**, and Meredith were co-authors of a 2012 paper published in the *Journal of Inherited Metabolic*

Disease which was conferred the Archibald Garrod Award from the Society for the Study of Inborn Errors of Metabolism. This award recognizes research "that provide(s) a comprehensive, representative analysis of the clinical features, treatment and outcome of an inborn error of metabolism published in the preceding year in the *Journal of Inherited Metabolic Disease*."

- Potter and Assistant Professor **Mark VanDam** presented a paper on the functional impact of incidental orofacial muscle activity.
- VanDam co-authored a seminar reporting new findings on the interaction of hearing and language in children with hearing loss and in typically developing children in challenging listening situations.
- VanDam delivered several presentations on a wearable real-time vocal biofeedback device; characteristics of automatic and human speech recognition processes; multilevel models, covariates, and controlled factors in experimental speech research; precision and error of automatic speech recognition; and the fidelity of LENA vocal activity labels.
- VanDam chaired a session on digital signal processing at the 165th meeting of the Acoustical Society of America.
- Professor **Gail Chermak** co-authored a technical session reporting a factor analysis of central auditory processing test performance in children evaluated for central auditory processing disorder and co-authored a poster comparing two tests of auditory temporal resolution in children and adults.
- Chermak published the 2nd edition of her co-edited two volume *Handbook of Central Auditory Processing Disorder*.

Speech and Hearing Sciences faculty also served in leadership roles in Washington state and nationally.

- Madison served as chair of the Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology.
- Power served as president-elect of the Washington Speech-Language-Hearing Association.
- Chermak served as program consultant for the 2013 ASHA central auditory processing disorder (CAPD) online conference and program chair for the 2014 Global CAPD Conference held in conjunction with the AAA annual convention.



ALUMNI NEWS

Faculty engaged in extensive outreach to local, regional, national, and international communities in the areas of: assessment and intervention with multicultural populations, 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** 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.
- Lynch was an invited participant to a statewide working group of multidisciplinary experts in ASD charged with reviewing evidence-based practices and existing research related to early intervention in ASD. The partnership she initiated and coordinates with the Northwest Autism Center, which provides interprofessional clinical training and community outreach, was featured in the Spokane Journal of Business.
- Meredith organized the seventh multidisciplinary forum focused on living with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) for professionals, students, and individuals and families of individuals with ALS on the Riverpoint campus.
- Potter served as a consultant and grant reviewer for the Galactosemia Foundation and was an advisory board member of the ALS Association-Evergreen Chapter.
- Power served as the UPCD lead liaison with Spokane's 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.

Anna Diedesch (B.A. '04) transferred last year from the University of Washington to Vanderbilt University to continue her doctoral work in speech and hearing sciences with her major professor who accepted a position at Vanderbilt. Prior to pursuing her PhD, Anna worked as a research audiologist at the National Center for Rehabilitative Auditory Research (NCRAR) in Portland, OR.

Cheri Turnupseed Fjare (M.A. '80) recently retired after 34 years working in most of her career in one K-8 grade school in Montana, becoming an integral member of the school's staff. Cheri lives in Big Timber—a great small town with a population of about 1600- but not too far from the amenities of the larger communities of Bozeman and Billings.

Patty Johnson (B.A. '86) lives and works near Boston. She has been a classroom teacher for nearly 20 years- mostly second grade after earning a master's degree in elementary education. Presently, Patty is pursuing a doctorate in educational leadership. She comments that through the years, she has found her training at WSU to have been tremendously helpful in working with students who have learning issues. She notes that her undergraduate training in speech and hearing sciences has been invaluable, but that her first love is teaching in the classroom.

Marty Larson (M.A. '01) reports that she was recently hired as the support services/birth to three manager at the Muckleshoot Tribal School, Auburn, WA.

Brian Shute (M.A. '86) presented on emergency action for laryngectomies at a workshop sponsored by Providence Regional Cancer Center in Spokane in June 2013. Brian continues to serve patients with voice and fluency disorders through his private practice (Inland Speech Pathology) in Spokane, WA.

Chellis Swenson (B.A. '57) is the proud author of children's books which have been read in many parts of the world. In addition to writing for children, Chellis enjoys singing in a small swing band in Tacoma, WA.

SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENTS

Speech and Hearing Sciences students were recognized for outstanding scholarship, leadership, and service in 2013-2014. **Bianca Verduco** was named the Outstanding Senior in Speech and Hearing Sciences. Senior **Adriana Uribe** received a Kiwanis Club of the Horse Heaven Hills Foundation Scholarship and a WSU Spokane Chancellor's Award. Senior **Hailey Butler** was awarded a Carrie Welch Trust Scholarship, a H.A. Trippier Scholarship, and a WSU Cougars of Color Scholarship. Junior **Hannah Matalone** was awarded the Maynard Lee Daggy Scholarship in Speech and Hearing Sciences. Junior **Jessica Jones** received a WSU Cougar Academic Award and was named the Edward Gwin Scholar in Speech and Hearing Sciences.

These seniors graduated with honors: **Suzanne Matson** graduated summa cum laude; **Jennie Browse, Rachael Edwards, Johnna Knapp, Sarah Story, Bianca Verduco, and Mercedes Yates** graduated magna cum laude; and **Viktoriya Barabin, Hilari Bosma, Rachal Brown, Cassandra David, McKenzie Desjarlais, Nicole Roberts, Molly Shearer, and Carson Smallbeck** graduated cum laude.

Graduate students also earned honors and awards. **Erin Sebring** received the Outstanding Speech and Hearing Sciences Graduate Student Commencement Award. **McKenzie Childs** was honored with the Lynn Larrigan Clinical Excellence Award. **Courtney Vorholzer** was awarded a Blankenship Fellowship and **Karamia Powell** was awarded a scholarship, both from the Scottish Rite Foundation of Washington.

Speech and Hearing Sciences students also participated this past year in various service and recruitment activities. Senior Nicole Roberts represented the department in the Associated Students of Washington State University Spokane (ASWSUS) student senate. Seniors **Adriana Uribe, Lucio Barajas, Bianca Verduco and Shelbi Polk** provided leadership in the UPCD Multicultural Club, which hosts community fundraisers on Riverpoint Campus, such as Talent Night and Parade of Nations. Seniors **Sarah Story and Molly Shearer**, along with juniors **Rachel May, Jessica Jones and Hannah Matalone** answered questions from Pullman students considering certifying in our Spokane-based undergraduate program at our annual Spring Celebration held in Pullman. Seniors **Hailey Butler and Nicole Roberts** provided the public with information about swallowing disorders and the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology at the Spokane Falls Community College Health Fair.

UPCD STUDENTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE



WSU and EWU speech-language pathology students work together to create a picture book for Alejandro.

By Clinical Associate Professor Amy Meredith

It is a typical hot and humid day at the Hearts in Motion (HIM) Zacapa Rehabilitation Center. Alejandro, an intelligent, bright-eyed, non-verbal, 12-year-old boy, is wheeled in by his dedicated mother. Alejandro is one of the many children with cerebral palsy who come for physical therapy on a regular basis. Unfortunately, speech therapy is not available at this center; however, since the UPCD (University Programs in Communication Disorders) team from Washington State and Eastern Washington Universities is on site today, Alejandro's communication needs will be addressed as well.

When we discuss picture communication, his mother lets us know that he has pictures to communicate yes and no. After we informally assess his comprehension, visual field, and pointing abilities, we know he is capable of much more than that. The photo printer is broken, but the colored pencils, paper, and one dollar photo album we brought will do the trick. The students, with assistance from Alejandro's mother (the best artist in the group), quickly put together a picture communication book for him for Alejandro to express desired foods, activities, places to go, and emotions. Seeing how basic picture communication books can be made, Arlyn, a former Los Angeles social worker and current volunteer for HIM, springs into action to find more materials for other children who are in a similar situation. This is what we call 'sustainability' in international outreach and is one

example of how we attempt to achieve this goal.

HIM provides care and medical treatment for children, families, and communities in culturally respectful ways. They assist children and their families before and after cleft palate surgeries and complement resources that are already in place. In 2011, UPCD was the first speech and hearing team (faculty and students) to work with HIM on an annual basis. Now, there are up to five teams that go throughout the year, two of which are from UPCD.

Clinical Associate Professor **Amy Meredith** (WSU) leads the March group. This year's UPCD team included two Spanish speaking seniors and three first-year graduate students. We expanded our team to include five nursing, two pharmacy and two dental hygiene students.

Senior Instructor **Roberta (Robbie) Jackson** (EWU) leads the summer group. During last year's trip she took a record number 12 UPCD students. They worked with occupational and physical therapy students from Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, Michigan and social work students from University of West Florida. They were able to go out in teams providing rehabilitation services in special education programs, home visits, and rural mountain community clinics.

Before they leave, the students attend a seminar to explore international outreach, ethics, culture, management of cleft palate, dental hygiene, views on disability, and other topics in an interprofessional manner.

During our March 2014 trip to Zacapa, our interprofessional team split into smaller groups and went to community clinics to offer dental and medical care and a hospital to provide post-operative care and education regarding speech, hearing and feeding for patients having cleft surgery. In addition, the speech-language pathology students went to two rehabilitation centers, a nutrition center, and a new special education program to assess and consult with caregivers and special educators, as well as provide resources.

In a typical day, under Meredith's and Jackson's supervision, students develop picture communication systems for nonverbal children and provide families with crucial information and instruction to improve swallowing, feeding, communication, and self-esteem.

During last summer's trip, we assisted in implementing a new patient documentation system. This allows each team to see what the previous team has worked on and what resources and education were provided. It also makes it possible to see the progress a patient has made, which is deeply rewarding to share with the families. After telling one mother how much progress was observed regarding her son's speech, language and literacy skills and praising them both for the hard work they had done over the past year, they left us beaming and walking a little taller.

We are often asked if we go to the same region every year. Yes we do and this is why.



NOTES FROM NSSLHA

The 2013-2014 academic year has been a busy and exciting one for the UPCD National Student Speech-Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA). Our goals have been to direct our efforts towards fundraising and volunteering for organizations and events focused on community impact in areas related to the disciplines of speech-language pathology and audiology. Everything accomplished to date has taken hard work and diligence from all the students and faculty in our collaborative program.

UPCD NSSLHA officers: **Molly Shearer** (president), **Katrina Beuchler** (vice president), **Sarah Story** (treasurer), **Paije Balthazor** (secretary), **Stephanie Hoilman** (public relations coordinator), and **Hannah Matalone** and **Jessica Schmidtlein** (junior and post-baccalaureate class liaisons) worked hard in developing opportunities in the areas of community service, philanthropy, fundraising, education, and campus involvement for the UPCD NSSLHA with guidance and encouragement from assiduous advisors SHS Clinical Assistant Professor **Georgina Lynch** and ComD Clinical Instructor **Lindsay Williams**.

Community Service and Philanthropy

In September 2013, several chapter members and officers completed the Walk to Defeat ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis) and donated \$100 toward the cause. It was a great way to set the tone for the year focusing on community volunteer activities and philanthropy. This walk is an annual event embraced by our student organization to help promote awareness and offer support to those with ALS in our community.

In the area of philanthropy, students have become very aware of the impact of homelessness and poverty on the clientele served by

speech-language pathologists and audiologists. In December 2013, NSSLHA members collected new pajamas, clothes, and gift cards for families in need in the Spokane area, and donated these items to the Union Gospel Mission and Anna Ogden Hall. With the help of our staff and families of chapter members, we were able to provide more than 50 pairs of new pajamas and almost \$200 in gift cards for groceries and other necessities. We hope to continue donations to this worthy cause in the future.

Fundraising

Our first fundraiser of the year focused on designing UPCD sweatshirts for students and faculty, and creating apparel promoting the collaboration between WSU and EWU programs. In addition to getting some snazzy clothing to represent UPCD, NSSLHA raised and donated more than \$250 to the Starkey Foundation, a non-profit organization providing scholarships for aural rehabilitation services to families in need. This foundation is close to the hearts of our faculty and individuals who have received services through the University Hearing and Speech Clinic on campus.

February 2014 and Valentine's Day marked the annual Hearts for Hope Bake Sale to raise money for the HOPE (Hearing Oral Program of Excellence) School, an early intervention program serving children with hearing impairment in a preschool setting.

This program helps children and families access services critical to language development, while offering training for future speech-language pathologists as part of the clinical training offered through UPCD. NSSLHA was proud to present almost \$1,000 to the hardworking staff of the HOPE school.

Fundraising efforts have proven fruitful over the past year and financial contributions will be made to the Stuttering Foundation, as well as our local Isaac Foundation to help families access services for children with autism. We participated in the 2014 March of Dimes in April to raise awareness and funds to promote care of premature infants.

Education

Once again, we organized the annual Spring NSSLHA conference, which has been a great way to help inform UPCD students about career options and hear from some inspiring guest speakers. This year we welcomed a traumatic brain injury survivor, **Charity Miller**, and an attendee from EWU's Successful Stuttering

Management Program, **Jason Young**, to hear about how their lives have been impacted by speech-language pathology. We also heard from a private practice speech-language pathologist, **Michelle Coppes**, about her career and passion for this field. Many prospective students attended this event on the WSU Spokane campus as a way of meeting the faculty and getting to know more about the program and possible career options. This year's conference was a great finish to a very busy year!

Campus Involvement

Last year NSSLHA was pleased to incorporate a subgroup to our club, following ASHA's Special Interest Group (SIG) model. The Multicultural Group has grown this year and is becoming an independent registered student organization (RSO), serving as an outlet to encourage education about diversity and provide academic help to those in need. This new RSO will cross disciplines, joining the efforts of the ASWSU (Associated Students of Washington State University) leadership to promote multicultural activities for all students on campus. This past year, the multicultural group was involved in creating online resource pages, planning and volunteering at the annual Riverpoint Talent Show, and fundraising for student trips to Guatemala. Under the guidance of Clinical Associate Professor **Amy Meredith**, the Multicultural Group organized the second annual Parade of Nations here at the WSU Spokane campus. This event showcased the diversity on our campus and within our community, offering an evening of fashion, food, and entertainment.

NSSLHA has grown to include 86 diligent SHS and ComD members who have worked together to extend our presence on the Spokane Riverpoint campus. Participation in pre-professional student leadership activities has been a great way to learn about our profession, identify areas of need, and learn how to collaborate with one another to promote positive student engagement. Students in the UPCD program know how important it is to help those in need and it will always be a priority for us. NSSLHA is proud of all the work accomplished this year and members look forward to future community outreach opportunities.



FOCUS ON ALUMNI



Kevin Liebe (B.A. '05)

I never grew up wanting to be an audiologist. It just sort of happened.

Like many people in the profession, I kind of stumbled across audiology by accident. In fact, as a psychology major, I was

simply looking for an interesting elective to fulfill my degree requirements to graduate when I came across audiology in the WSU course catalog. Little did I know at the time, the “interesting” course I signed up for would eventually become my career. Within two short weeks of my first introductory audiology class taught by **Dr. J. Richard Franks** in Pullman, I dropped my original plans and became a speech and hearing sciences major.

Since my graduation from WSU, almost a decade ago now, my professional journey into audiology has taken me halfway across the country and back. In the fall of 2005 I began my studies at Western Michigan University (WMU) as part of their Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) program in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Having never lived outside the state of Washington, it was quite an experience moving 2,000 miles to a place I was completely unfamiliar with and where I didn't know a single person. Despite some initial reservations I may have had in the beginning, I had a wonderful experience during my time at WMU and made many great friends.

My clinical rotations in the Au.D. program included the Michigan Commission for the Blind, local hospitals, ENT offices, private practices, non-profit clinics, and the Veterans Administration. When I wasn't in the classroom or the clinic, I worked part-time as a research assistant for **Greg Flamme**, Ph.D., in his acoustics lab. Most of that time was spent on data collection and analysis of impulse noise, some of which would ultimately lead to the publication of a pair of journal articles I co-authored with Dr. Flamme in the journal *Noise and Health*.

While I enjoyed many of the different clinical experiences I'd encountered as a student, I ultimately decided that my talents were best served in a private practice setting. Seeking to return to Washington, I found an externship opportunity with a multi-practice audiology group in the Seattle area and started work there in the spring of 2008. Shortly before the start of my externship, I became engaged to my former speech and hearing sciences classmate, **Megan Engebo** (B.A. '05), and we were married in the fall of 2008.

In our search for greater opportunity and the chance to be closer to family, we moved to the Tri-Cities in the fall of 2009, when I began working at Columbia Basin Hearing Center. Since then, our family has been blessed with the addition of two beautiful girls, ages 2 and 4, who continually keep us on our toes.

Outside of the day to day work in the clinic, I've found myself becoming more involved in professional and consumer issues at the state level. I joined the Washington State Academy of Audiology (WSAA) in 2012 and began working as the chair of the Government Relations Committee. With a group of WSAA members, I helped create

the Washington Children's Hearing Aid Alliance (WCHAA), a volunteer advocacy group seeking the passage of a pediatric hearing aid insurance mandate in Washington state. In early 2013, we were excited and optimistic at the introduction of a bill (HB 1356) that would require partial coverage for children's and adults' hearing aids; unfortunately, there has been little political will to push the bill beyond committee since its introduction. In the fall of 2013, I was voted President-elect of WSAA and continue to be very active with issues impacting audiologists at the state level.

In 2013, I also discovered a newfound appreciation for blogging. After writing a four-week series discussing the cost of audiology education with **Dr. Holly Hosford-Dunn**, I accepted an offer to join the editors of HearingHealthMatters.org. I currently serve as the editor of “Hearing Views”, the op-ed section of the website, which is read by both professionals and consumers.

Audiology is an incredibly rewarding profession. In what other profession could you witness a child laugh with pure joy after hearing his footsteps for the first time? Or how about being able to provide an effective cure to someone plagued by vertigo episodes for years? These are the types of experiences that are by far the most gratifying part of being an audiologist for me.

When I began my journey into audiology more than 10 years ago, I couldn't have imagined it would have provided me with as many amazing opportunities and challenges that it has so far. Without a doubt, I wouldn't have considered audiology as a viable career option had it not been for the wonderful experience I had as an undergraduate in the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences at WSU.