Dr. Barbara Mathers-Schmidt has announced her retirement for the spring of 2014. We will honor her 23 years of service to our department and WWU with a retirement celebration on May 17th during the Back to Bellingham 2014 Weekend. It is hard to imagine the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders without the steady hand of Dr. Mathers-Schmidt at the helm. But it is easy to imagine the wonderful festivities, remembrances, and highlights that Dr. Mathers-Schmidt’s “CSD Family” will share on May 17th with WWU colleagues, family, friends, students and alumni. There will be food, fanfare, song and scholarly speeches along with a few cheers and a few tears. We look forward to celebrating Dr. Mathers-Schmidt’s next chapter in her book of life.

**Use of Telepractice with the Autism Program**

Under Dr. Baharav’s direction, this program at Western’s Speech-Language Clinic has offered training for parents of preschool children with autism for four summers in a row. The Hanen program “More Than Words” teaches parents the use of strategies to enhance communication and interaction within the home and community settings. An innovative aspect of this approach combines training parents along with training graduate students in CSD to hone their skills in working with this challenging disorder. A unique innovation of this program is the use of telepractice (distance delivery of SLP services). Once parents have learned to use new communication strategies with their children in the home environment, clinical sessions are delivered via the Internet. Clinicians are stationed at a computer in the clinic to monitor and coach parents as they implement new strategies in the home. The use of
advanced Internet technology enables parents to review and de- 
brieﬁ the recorded home session together with the clinician by 
observing the played-back session. Data are being collected analyz- 
ing the effectiveness of using this clinical service protocol in terms 
of both the progress made by the children with autism in their 
interactions and communication, and the parents’ attitudes and 
skills as promoters of effective communication.

Serving Diverse Clinical Populations

A Spanish-speaking family of a child with autism was 
accepted for participation in the Autism Program’s parent training 
offered last summer through the Speech-Language Clinic at West- 
ern. In spite of the lack of translated written training materials, 
with the help of a Spanish-English bilingual graduate student cli- 
nician and an interpreter this family was able to fully participate 
in this program, including the follow-up telepractice service delivery. 
Their son is experiencing impressive gains in language and commu- 
ication as evidenced in his school mainstreaming into a Kindergar- 
ten class and the parents indicate deriving the full beneﬁt of the 
training program. The ability to serve culturally and linguistically 
different parents of children with autism indicates the efﬁcacy of 
the Hanen program model of parent training offered at Western. 
Culturally and linguistically different populations view the disability 
of autism through the lens of their culture, which often is different 
from the western medical model view. Therefore, examination of 
how such families adopt the intervention model offered through 
WWU’s Autism Program is of interest to investigations of service 
delivery models to non-English speakers who are afﬁicted by au- 
tism. This case study was presented at the ASHA Convention in 
Chicago last November and is being prepared for publication.

Ricko Darling, Ph.D.

Dr. Darling has been granted one quarter of professional 
leave during the 2014-2015 academic year and plans to take the 
sabbatical during the fall 2014 academic quarter. During this time 
she hopes to complete data analysis, manuscript preparation, and 
submission of a multi-year study of knowledge and attitudes about 
aging by undergraduate and graduate students in Communication 
Sciences and Disorders program at WWU. She also hopes to rede- 
sign and reinitiate a study on the impact of FM system use on older 
individuals with auditory and early stage dementia and/or mild 
cognitive impairment.

Michael Fraas, Ph.D.

Dr. Michael Fraas has begun research investigating 
whether speech changes are evident in the concussed athlete. 
Along with second year graduate students Juliana DeBurgo and 
Mary Turner, Dr. Fraas has been collecting baseline speech record- 
ings and neurocognitive data on athletes afﬁliated with WWU 
Sport Clubs including men’s and women’s rugby, equestrian, and 
men’s ice hockey. Athletes, who have sustained a concussion, re- 
port back to Dr. Fraas’ lab for follow-up data collection. It is hoped 
that subtle changes in speech, if identiﬁed in the concussed ath- 
lete, can be used to diagnose injury and make informed return-to- 
play decisions. In addition, Dr. Fraas has been working with second 
year graduate student Jennifer Anspach to detect factors that ena-
ble survivors of brain injury to reestablish identity following trau-
ma or stroke. Dr. Fraas is building on previous work he conducted 
on the east coast, prior to coming to Western. Ms. Anspach travel-
ed to Portsmouth, NH during the winter break to interview survi-
ors of acquired brain injury. Their work is helping to gain a better 
understanding of how ‘narrative medicine’ can be used to facilitate 
the recovery process.

Barbara Mathers-Schmidt, Ph.D.

Dr. Mathers-Schmidt continues to conduct research and 
engage in clinical projects with people who have Parkinson’s Dis-
ease (PD). She advised the research and thesis of Elizabeth Lewis 
(Class of 2013) who completed a time series design study of the 
efficacy of respiratory muscle training in three adults with PD. 
They presented their work in poster sessions at the fall 2014 
WSLHA and ASHA conferences. Under Dr. Mathers-Schmidt’s ad-
visement, Daniel Shubert recently completed his time series design 
study of the efficacy of intensive stuttering therapy based on neu-
roplasticity and motor (re)learning principles. This involved a hy-
brid treatment approach with clients meeting on site once per 
week and via Skype three times per week.

Kimberly Peters, Ph.D.

Dr. Peters is completing two research papers in collabo-
ration with Jessica Beer and David Pisoni at Indiana University 
School of Medicine. The ﬁrst paper describes the predictors of 
social understanding and social competence in the classroom in 
children who are deaf with cochlear implants compared to children 
with normal hearing; the second paper proposes and tests a com-
plex model for social understanding in children which includes 
contributions from emotion understanding, executive functioning, 
language skills, and hearing status. Dr. Peters is also collaborating 
with Dr. Marc Marschark at Rochester Technical Institute on a 
review of the current literature on Theory of Mind (ToM) in chil-
dren who are deaf. In addition, Dr. Peters will be traveling to 
Rochester in the fall to plan a study on development of advanced 
ToM in deaf college students with Dr. Marschark. Dr. Peters plans 
to begin data collection this summer on a longitudinal study of the 
differences between maternal mental state input to early versus 
later implanted toddlers compared to children with normal hearing 
and impact on ToM development.
After a week of preparation and bonding, fourteen women began their Latin American adventure. We landed in Guatemala City, and took a bus ride down windy mountain roads to our new home, Antigua Guatemala. With the coming of dawn, the beauty and the colorful culture of Antigua really started to come to life.

“Antigua’s buildings are so beautiful, a perfect juxtaposition of old and new.” - Megan Wood

Daily, we walked the cobblestone streets to our volunteer destination at the God's Child Project (La Asociación Nuestros Ahijados, ANA). Our volunteer activities varied weekly as we participated in the numerous ANA programs. We volunteered in the classrooms of the Dreamer Center (elementary school), helping the teachers with materials, helping the students with projects, and most importantly, playing with the children during recess. We also worked in the weekly food distribution where the mothers of students at the Dreamer Center come to collect weekly groceries.

“These kids come from the poorest conditions, and this (The Dreamer Center) gives them a place to learn, play, and flourish without worrying about anything else. The ANA also provides services to mothers, offering classes twice a week, that they can attend and then receive a coupon for free vegetables on Friday.” - Megan Hilby

One week of service was also spent in Casa Jackson, which is a center for malnourished infants. We arrived every morning to bathe, clothe, feed, and play with the babies currently inhabiting the center. The mothers of the infants in the center are also a part of the workforce and are encouraged to participate often.

“I spoke with one of the mothers, as best I could, who was visiting and staying with her son. She asked if I had kids. I felt insignificant in my life experiences, and unworthy of my position. I would never understand what it’s like to be in her position: a young mother in deep poverty, hoping that her son will survive and thrive.” - Brailey Murray- Kraft

On the weekend we hit the road exploring the Guatemalan countryside. Hiking the active volcano Pacaya, boating on Lake Atitlan, visiting the vibrant market of Chichicastenango and trekking through the Mayan ruins of Tikal, we experienced the culture in many ways.

“The entire three days that we were building, the two oldest girls from our family worked side-by-side with our crew and were such an inspiration. Every time I got tired of mixing concrete or digging a ditch, I would look over and find one of these girls next to me working just as hard, barefoot and without gloves, to build her future home.” - Jamie Hitchcock

“In those three days I not only learned how to build a house, but also a great deal about the people of Guatemala and how grateful I am that I had the opportunity to give this amazing family a house.” - Lauren Busch

The streets were lined with colorful textiles that were intricately woven by local women and paintings of our colorful new home. We ate traditional foods such as pepian, fried plantains and hand-made tortillas; needless to say, our appetites were satisfied. Throughout all of these amazing experiences, we learned through studying, but more so, through experiencing how important a culture is in influencing people and their lives.
¿Puede Usted Ayudarnos?
Can you help us?

We are excited to announce that this year another team of students will be going to Guatemala with Dr. Michael Fraas and Carly Reiser (CSD Alumna) to experience their own adventure! Moving forward in the preparation for the trip, the team needs to raise money in order to fund the house building projects. Your donation will be put toward the materials and local labor. We are hoping to raise $6,000 to build three more houses for three more families in need. With your contributions you will help not only these families but will enrich the education of the students involved. This narrative was written and brought to life by us through our own self reflections and journal entries. We hope to share these wonderful experiences with many groups to come. Your support is much appreciated.

2013 Guatemala Global Learning Program Students
Program Leader: Dr. Barbara Mathers-Schmidt

Gifts can be made online at www.wwu.edu/give (Please indicate CSD Guatemala Trip.) Or by phone at (360) 650-3027.

Or checks made payable to the WWU Foundation (Please write CSD Guatemala Trip on the memo line.) can be mailed to:

WWU Foundation
516 High Street, MS 9034
Bellingham, WA 98225-9034

¡Muchas gracias por su atención!

Comings and Goings in CSD

Farewell

Professor Emeritus Lina Zeine, Ph.D.

Dr. Lina Zeine retired in the summer of 2013. We celebrated her retirement with a feast and festivities that included a skit and musical numbers performed by Tim Kraft, Dr. Eva Baharav, Karen-Margrethe Bruun, Terry Sacks, Gail Noble-Sanderson, Jennifer Gruenert and a fine cast of graduate students in stunning cat costumes. Dr. Zeine has dedicated herself to exceptional teaching and learning for the past 30 years. She is a scholar who handled an impressive range of subjects in our curriculum while consistently engaging students in stimulating lectures, rich discussions, reflection, and clinical problem solving. Dr. Zeine has a keen awareness of how far to push students for optimal learning and when to inject a bit of her whimsical sense of humor for comic relief. Student feedback recently included the following comments: "Zeine’s classes are always among my favorite. She has the ability to take a complex subject and make it understandable. I loved all the examples she had during class and all the chances for hands on experiences, especially going to the ENT." "I love Dr. Zeine. I love her classes. I always learn in classes you teach. Don’t leave us.” Fortunately she didn’t leave us. When we were unable to find a suitable replacement for her fall quarter courses, she returned to teach the Voice Disorders course and Anatomy and Physiology. We certainly appreciated this ongoing commitment to the department. Departmental members and students also value Dr. Zeine’s sustained service as a trusted graduate student advisor and an 18-year member on Western’s Graduate Council. In these roles she shared her expertise, time, and institutional memory with grace and finesse, to the benefit of the entire Western community. We wish her all the best in her retirement years.

Kate Blizzard

Kate served as our Administrative Services Manager for almost two years. She has moved to the Design Department in the College of Fine and Performing Arts in June 2013 as the Administrative Services Manager and was excited to try a new challenge here on campus. She was also excited to welcome her son to campus when he transferred to Western this fall. We all wish her well with her new department.

Derek Attwaters

After serving as the office supervisor in the clinic for over 5 years, Derek has officially retired. Within weeks of leaving us in September, he and his wife were off enjoying travels in California and other locations. He managed the clinic office through many changes and developed the business side of the clinic. We appreciate his time with us and wish him “happy trails.”

Linda A. Beckman

Linda was with us a short time in the clinic greeting clients as they checked in. She enjoyed the smiling faces of the clients and was a kind, gentle face of the clinic. She also retired in September and after enjoying some time with friends moved south to Olympia to be closer to her family. We miss her sweet nature and wish her well.

Julia Cheng

We bid a fond farewell with hugs and gifts to Julie Cheng (aka Julie Reynolds Garber Cheng) at the end of summer 2013 academic quarter. Julie left Washington State to join her husband, Frank Cheng, a professor of
Comings and Goings in CSD (Continued)

chemistry at the University of Idaho. She continues to provide excellent audiological services in a dispensing practice she helped to establish in Moscow, Idaho. 
It is a “bo hoo” because we still miss Julie but a “yay” because we are happy John is with us. –Dr. Darling

Gail Noble-Sanderson

Gail accepted a position with the Conway School District and began working as their Speech-Language Pathologist this fall. We will miss Gail in many ways including her clinical experiences and leadership. She contributed to the department in such varied ways which included: teaching courses as a non-tenure track (NTT) faculty member, providing supervision to graduate clinicians as a clinical educator, and expanding the Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) inventory while developing a process that made this inventory accessible for student education and client benefit. Gail is now close to home and works three days or so per week and enjoys being back in a school setting. Now she has time to cook candle-lit dinners for her husband and that makes life very sweet. We are happy for Gail and wish her all our best.

Welcome

John Young

We officially and warmly welcomed John Young, MA, CCC-Aud to our department with hugs (but no gifts) at the beginning of the fall 2013 academic quarter. John is an alumni of our Master’s Audiology program (graduating class of 2005). We are very fortunate and happy that he accepted our offer to join us so that we can continue to provide the best audiological care to our patients and the best clinical education to our students.

Jasmine Rubert

Jasmine Rubert, MA, CCC-SLP, is the latest addition to the CSD team. She was hired as a clinical educator and started supervising in the clinic during winter quarter 2014. Jasmine graduated from our program with her masters in speech pathology in June of 2003. Since that time she has worked at SPARC (Skagit Preschool and Resource Center) with birth to 3 and preschool students as well as in the Sedro-Woolley Schools with preschool and elementary school students. Her supervisory experience is also noteworthy as she has supervised graduate student clinicians from WWU (of course) in their final internships. In addition, Jasmine worked at our clinic for a whole school year (2009/10) as a maternity leave replacement and as an assistant to Dr. Eva Baharav and the Autism Program. At that time she assisted with telepractice sessions, working closely with families implementing Hanen strategies and with clients and their families within our lovely confines. Jasmine and her husband have 2 adorable children, Jonah age 7, and Amelia age 5. She has written a novel which she reports is a cross between Jane Austin and fairy tales. It is not yet published but you may want to keep an eye out for it. WELCOME Jasmine. We are thrilled to have you back.

Karen Peila

Karen comes to CSD from the Career Services Center where she had the pleasure to work with Karen-Margrethe Bruun on the CSD and Rehabilitation Services Career Fair as well as daily contact with employers recruiting Western students. Prior to joining us, Karen also had the pleasure of being a client of the clinic with her son, who is dyslexic. She attributes his current success to the excellent work of the graduate students and his clinical supervisors. Her background includes state legislative experience and public policy development and volunteering with the PTA and in the schools.

Michele Foster

Michele brings a wealth of clinical experience to our clinic as the new office supervisor and billing manager. Her career encompasses small practices to a large multi-surgeon orthopedic surgery center. She came in and tackled the complexity of our billing system and the many changes we will be facing with the Affordable Health Care Act implementation. We love her energy, take-charge attitude and good nature. She loves working with the clients and our students.

Lorna Bower

Lorna also has worked in medical clinics in Whatcom County and contributed to our business practice from day one. In her earlier career she had also worked as a teacher and later as a family service worker in a combined Head Start, special education program in Oregon. She has an affinity for our clientele and enjoys both the smiling faces of the clients and working with the students.

Karen - Margrethe Bruun

We reported last year that Karen-Margrethe Bruun joined the CSD family in January, 2010, taking on the roles of in-
ternship coordinator, clinical supervisor, and instructor of the Communication Disorders in the Schools course. This year we added a new role: SLP graduate program coordinator. Karen-Margrethe has worked closely with Dr. Lina Zeine, outgoing graduate program advisor, to learn the ropes. Karen-Margrethe competently wears many hats, including dealing with the 200+ applications to the program, and guiding graduate students through the ins and outs and ups and downs of graduate school.

**News from the Speech Clinic**

**Director - Terry Sacks**

Hello again from our lovely clinic. This year was a year of staff changes and new procedures. No new programs have been initiated but there are a couple in the works. Tune in to the next newsletter and see if they are in full force.

We have been busy establishing the use of Calipso which is a new web-based application which manages clinical education and training. This application helps to reduce the paper and yet keep track of student hours, grades and skill acquisition. We have also rewritten and upgraded our HIPAA policies.

We are starting to see more groups and some of our groups (specifically our adult group) are getting bigger. What fun is that?

I also wanted to share the results of our latest satisfaction survey with you. On a scale of 0-to-5, we received an average score of 4.8 on the question: I would suggest WWU Speech and Hearing program to friends and family. As always it is so rewarding to be part of a program that does such great work for our students, our clients and their families. Thank you for having been a part of it.

**Career Fair**

We are always look forward to the annual CSD Special and Rehabilitation Services Career Fair that we co-sponsor with Career Services Center’s, Karen Powell, Coordinator Job Search Services. As always, it provides an opportunity for our students to talk with potential employers and learn more about the opportunities available in our profession. As well, vendors have an opportunity to inform future graduates of the benefits and rewards at their particular worksite. We enjoy seeing our alumni at this event as they return to the Fair representing their particular worksite. Feel free to contact the department, if you or your particular worksite is interested in participating in the CSD Special and Rehabilitation Services Career Fair. The fee is minimal, we provide a great lunch, and you get to share your passion and enthusiasm for the field and your worksite with students who may be prospective employees. This year the Career Fair was held on Tuesday, Febru-

ary 25th and you can learn more about the event at Career Services website:


**Internship Program**

Thanks to the dedication and professional support of varied off-site internship supervisors who represent private clinics, schools, and medical settings, our students continue to participate in exceptional internship experiences. As I noted last year, although the majority of our students complete their internships in Washington state many continue to intern in various locations in the U.S. and Canada. Last spring we had interns in Montana, Idaho, Utah, and British Columbia, Canada to name a few out-of-state locations. I always appreciate my internship site-visits and the opportunity to see our students as they begin their first guided experiences in our profession.

As alumni, if you are interested in supervising a student intern, please feel free to contact me. I would be happy to talk to you about the experience and the positive rewards of working with an intern, which include: 1. Developing and recruiting future employees; 2. Staying current and learning what the students are learning; 3. Enhance your clinical skills by teaching someone else; 4. Develop your mentoring and supervisory skills; 5. Feel good about giving back to the profession.

**Philanthropy News**

**Scholarship Awards 2013-2014**

- **The CSD Undergraduate Scholarship** in the amount of $500 was awarded to Sarah Knudsen and Mara Yatsik
- **The CSD Graduate Scholarship** in the amount of $500 was awarded to Jessica Bower
- **The Scottish Rite Blankinship Fellowship** in the amount of $5,000 was awarded to Melinda Buttles
- **The Sene and Louella Carlile Scholarship** in the amount of $1200
The NSSLA club is looking forward to hosting a fundraiser on May 1st in support of WWU’s clinic scholarships and funding for the CSD study abroad trip in Guatemala to afford building 3 homes for families in need. 40% of the earnings will be donated for clinic scholarships for families struggling to afford speech and hearing services, 40% contributes to the $6000 needed to build 3 homes in Guatemala, and 20% will be passed on to the next academic year’s NSSLHA club. The CSD Benefit Gala event will be held at Windows on the Bay, a waterfront location in Squalicum Harbor on May 1st at 6:30 pm. Tickets are $35 per person and $20 for students. Guests are invited to take in the lovely scenery while enjoying a meal and drinks with good company and entertainment. A few fun activities will be incorporated with the opportunity to win from an assortment of prizes, as well as an opportunity to donate to our causes. Invitations will be mailed shortly.

We hope to see you all there!
NSSHLA Update

NSSHLA has been working hard this year to provide a lot of support and inspiration for students pursuing the CSD major. Students attended many guest speaker lectures detailing a variety of passions within the field that sparked some interests and provided encouragement for a rigorous field of study. Members of NSSHLA are also making it a priority to involve themselves in the community by volunteering at local organizations that provide services to populations they will work with as future speech-language pathologists and audiologists. The Whatcom Center for Early Learning and Max Higbee Center are only two of the many locations students have volunteered this year.

In the Fall, NSSHLA raised money in support of the Brain Trauma Foundation, a national organization that works to extend research, education, and the quality of care for brain injury patients.

Thank You for your Support!

CSD Donors January 2013 – January 2014


Lesley Stephens, Janice and Gerald Stowers, Jeni and Ben Strom, Deborah Suther, Sylvia Tag, Brad and Margaret Tangeman, Gordon and Vickey Tebb, Reed and Barbara Tindall, Timothy and Laurel Tolonen, Rick and Naomi VanderGriend, Nanci and Robert Vivian, Cheryl and John Waide, Brian and Christine Weeda, David and Patricia Weeks, Weitzel Construction Inc., Diana Wheeler, Pat Whitmore, Vaughn and Corinna Wine, Carolyn Wolfe, Evelyn C. Wright, Kenton Yockey, Lina Zeine

Donations Always Welcome
to support our programs and students. Donate at: Make a gift to Communication Sciences and Disorders. By phone at (360) 650-3027. Or, mail checks payable to WWU Foundation. (Please indicate CSD in the memo line) to:

WWU Foundation
516 High Street, OM 430
Bellingham, WA 98225-9034

Save the Date!