News from the Chair
Barbara Mathers-Schmidt, Ph.D.

We have had a great year with many changes in CSD: As we welcomed new faculty members, Dr. David Evans and Dr. Kelli Evans, we transitioned to a time of thoroughly reviewing the curriculum and beginning to implement changes that enhance the quality and focus of our course offerings. As we supported Lesley Stephens moving into the Speech-Language Pathology Clinic director position, we have continued to explore possibilities of clinic restructuring and alternative clinic service delivery and supervision models. Of course, some things stayed the same. This continues to be a highly respected academic program and essential clinical services provider in the region. We are impressed by the quality of our undergraduate and graduate students, and we continue to marvel at all they contribute to their learning experiences.

After retiring in June, 2014, I was fortunate to be asked to serve as department chair through June, 2015. I am honored to have been here one more year as the department transitions to a new constellation of faculty members, clinical educators, and new leadership. I am certain you will enjoy reading about the people, and programs, and projects that continue to inspire all of us to make our CSD Department a fabulous place to work and learn.

Beginning June 13, 2015, Dr. Kimberly Peters will be the chair of the department. Dr. Peters has served as a CSD faculty member since, September, 2002. She was promoted to associate professor in 2008, has served in many leadership roles on campus and in the department, and is a highly respected faculty colleague. We look forward to having her at the helm of CSD!

CSD Research Corner

Eva Baharav, Ph.D.

Research

Research on serving culturally and linguistically different parents of children with autism continues to be a focus of interest for Dr. Baharav, who has been conducting parent workshops for families with autism at WWU’s Speech-Language Clinic since 2009. Her publication on this topic is currently under review. Dr. Baharav plans to continue to examine how 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. Investigations of this nature can potentially direct efforts to serve these populations in a culturally responsive manner, and inform theories of language universals relating to parent-child interactions.

Dr. Baharav has been granted a summer 2015 research grant titled Individualized Parent Training in Early Autism via Telehealth Services, which aims to design an individualized parent training program in early autism, based on the Hanen method More Than Words, to be delivered via telepractice (services delivered at a distance) and examined for effectiveness through a treatment adherence protocol developed especially for this purpose. When children show early signs of autism (ASD), their parents are best positioned to treat them since they spend the most time with their children. Parent-mediated intervention in autism is an evidence-based practice; however, very few adaptations have been made for individualized Internet applications of these services. Designing such a program would enable WWU to expand its services to families affected by autism.

Community Outreach

WWU’s Speech-Language (S-L) Clinic participates in the Whatcom Taking Action initiative designed to streamline community services for children with special health care needs. Dr. Baharav is a Care Coordination Committee member, and is instrumental in bringing together services offered through WWU with other services offered in Whatcom to help families of children with special needs. Recently, WWU’s S-L Clinic collaborated with the University
of Washington in training early childhood intervention teams in our community to administer a screening tool for toddlers at risk for autism. This effort has enhanced the capacity of service providers in our community to identify children at risk early.

Grand Rounds
In an effort to create a platform for discussion of clinical cases that warrant in depth perspectives, the department of CSD has launched a series of grand rounds on campus. We are hoping that this forum would position our clinic as a “meeting of the minds”, where research and practice can be cross-referenced.

David Evans, Ph.D.
Dr. David Evans began advising Tad Miller this Fall for her master thesis on stuttering, which is in his area of research. Data has been collected from over 200 younger adolescents that will soon provide insights about their perceptions of people who stutter and if positive and negative portrayals of people who stutter in major motion pictures influence their perceptions. In addition to advising student research, Dr. Evans is currently setting up his research lab to investigate the impact of social factors on stuttering in virtually immersive speaking tasks.

Michael Fraas, Ph.D.
Dr. Fraas was invited to conduct a workshop presentation on Cognitive Rehabilitation Manual in Oslo, Norway fall quarter. He traveled to Norway with two members of the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine – Brain Injury Interdisciplinary Special Interest Group (ACRM – BI-ISIG) to present a two-day workshop on Cognitive Rehabilitation at Sunnaas Rehabilitation Hospital. The workshop was attended by 130 participants. Fraas spoke specifically about evidence-based treatments for Attention and Social communication deficits following acquired brain injury. He was a co-author on an article on cognitive rehabilitation (Cicerone et al., 2011) that contributed to the development of the Cognitive Rehabilitation Manual.

Dr. Fraas also presented for the Dean’s Lecture series fall quarter. He lectured on concussion and suggestions for return-to-play and return-to-learn guidelines for student athletes. View the presentation at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOgaUxkuVI4.

He was also interviewed by Chris Roselli on the topic of concussions with Chris Roselli for Western Window TV. View the interview at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRj_lbRPSig&feature=youtu.be

Kelli Evans, Ph.D.
Dr. Kelli Evans is excited to continue her research program at Western. She is currently collaborating with colleagues at the University of South Alabama to determine if auditory event related potentials (ERPs) are a sensitive marker of information processing deficits in adults with traumatic brain injury (TBI), using a language task that requires listeners to process the meaning of words. Specifically, do adults with TBI demonstrate delayed or reduced brain activity on the N400 and/or P300 ERP components, using an experimental auditory word processing task, as compared to an age-matched control group? In addition, she is continuing to work on her primary line of research examining social cognition in adults with TBI; specifically, how adults with TBI interpret the non-verbal cues of others. She also plans to launch a new research program in the scholarship of teaching and learning examining the effects of teaching based on situated learning theory on the acquisition of knowledge and skills of graduate students.

Kimberly Peters, Ph.D.
In December, Dr. Peters presented research on social competence in children with cochlear implants at the International Symposium on Pediatric Cochlear Implants in Nashville, Tennessee. She recently submitted for publication a research paper on predictors of social competence in children with cochlear implants in collaboration with Jessica Beer and David Pisoni at Indiana University School of Medicine. She has second manuscript in preparation that proposes and tests a complex model for social understanding in children which includes contributions from emotion understanding, executive functioning, language skills, and hearing status.

In collaboration with The Listen and Talk Preschool in Seattle, Dr. Peters received a two-year grant in the fall from the Oberkotter Foundation to investigate predictors of formal and functional communication outcomes for children who are deaf or hard of hearing who attend oral education programs. For this study, Dr. Peters and co-investigators are reviewing and analyzing data from the Listening and Spoken Language Data Repository, a national data repository maintained by Vanderbilt University. Presently, she is working with speech-language pathology graduate student, Nathan Keogh, on analysis and preparation for dissemination of these data.
Entering the fields of speech pathology and audiology, students hear that what is truly phenomenal about helping others is how much more we end up receiving. We began our journey in Guatemala with a bus ride to a private home in Jocotenango, a pueblo about two miles from the beautiful city Antigua. The entire group stayed together in the home of the Rivera family for three weeks.

All 14 students, Dr. Fraas and Carly Reiser (WWU SLP Graduate) were beyond spoiled to be living under Edgar and Doris Rivera’s care. Every morning, Doris would go to the farmers market for the freshest ingredients for the three meals provided six days a week. She and her sister-in-law, prepared their own family recipes and traditional comida Guatemalteca, such as tamales, fried plantains and many hand-made tortillas! We admit, the days that she wasn’t cooking, we weren’t looking forward to ordering delivery. Our routines of walking to Antigua and sharing meals became rituals as we began to fall in love with Guatemala.

“I have never felt so fulfilled and honestly happy as I did in Guatemala. Every day was a new opportunity to help others and to live in such a communal culture. My time with the Rivera’s, not only tripled my Spanish vocabulary, but made me a real part of their family. I am so amazed by the love they provided us. I’m still in contact with them, but I can’t wait to return!” — Adolpho Dominguez IV

At Casa Jackson we administered basic child care, such as changing diapers, feeding and bathing the children as well as playing with them. Despite the distance from their families, these babies were so joyful and socially connected to anyone they met. The amount of love suspended in the tiny nursery is palpable and the experience changed us forever.

“I never pictured myself as the girl who falls in love in a foreign country. But as soon as I made one of the toddlers laugh in Casa Jackson, he had my heart forever. Nothing has inspired more passion for why I chose my career than the love I received from this child, and knowing that I can help so many kids like him.” — Noelle Pingree

Every day, we would walk the narrow cobbled road to La Asociación Nuestros Ahijados (ANA) and Casa Jackson, educational facilities and a clinic for malnourished infants and toddlers, respectively. The bonds we each created with the people we connected with changed our lives. We helped students with their schoolwork and played with them at recess, and in return they embodied the freedom that an education provides when life seems to keep us tied down. They were able to forget hardships and inequalities of life and embrace a playful nature which captured us in song and dance on many occasions.

“The inclusion, love and pure joy by the kids was unlike anything I had experienced in the states. The fact that it happened even with minimal mutual language made it more special and genuine. These kids had so little but you would never know it by the way they lived in the moment, hanging out with their friends and eager to show us their newest dance moves. I really was heartbroken to leave and can’t wait until I have a chance to go back to Antigua.” — Laurel Graham

One of the most rewarding projects we completed was building three houses for impoverished families. Three days of intense labor in the sun went into building a safe and dry place for these incredibly welcoming people. We hand mixed concrete for the floor and foundation, assembled a roof with gutters, a window and skylight, and a locking door to ensure a dry and safe place. We would return to our homestay covered in dust and with battle scars, but at the end of those three days, the gratitude and love we felt from the families made it all the more worth the effort.

“The opportunity to experience and be included in this culture was incredible. Building the home for the family and being welcomed into their home changed my life. They were incredibly gracious and happy. I’ve never met people so beautiful and generous. Helping them build a safe, durable and dry home for their family was so inspiring. I am so blessed to have had this opportunity and I will always hold a
We were fortunate to further explore the beauty and diversity of Guatemala through excursions during the weekends. After a week of routine, the excitement of the group always brewed for an adventure. Dr. Michael Fraas organized a perfect assortment of excursions for his students to enjoy and bond over. From the Mayan temples in the jungle of Tikal, to the beach in Puerto San Jose, the brightly blue Lake Atitlan, the busy market of Chichicastenango, a hike to the top of Volcan Picaya, and a tour of the local coffee plantation in Jocotenango, excursions were a much anticipated treat. They provided a learning experience that brought our group closer together while expanding our knowledge of life, work, leisure, and history in Guatemala.

The time we spent in the beautiful country of Guatemala held some of the most impactful and beautiful moments of our lives. We grew as a group and as individuals. Our lives were enriched by the people we came in contact with. Needless to say, we can’t wait to return!

Welcome to CSD

Ann Quinn

The CSD Faculty and Clinical Staff were delighted to welcome Annie Quinn to the team as a Clinical Educator/Supervisor in October 2014. Annie hails from the Northeast and relocated to Bellingham from New York City. She received her Master’s Degree in Speech-Language Pathology from the University of New Hampshire. Her career has allowed her to work in a variety of settings, including public schools (with 3rd – 8th graders), skilled nursing facilities, early intervention, and with private clients, both adult and pediatric. Annie is an avid runner (she’s run 5 marathons and many half marathons). She also loves to read and spend time with friends, family, and dog. When asked about any delightful discoveries she’s made since moving to Bellingham, she answered, “the coffee really is better out here!” Her contribution to the department has already been wonderful as she serves to supervise therapy and diagnostics for both pediatric and adult clients in the Clinic. We are sad to say that Annie returned to New York after winter quarter to reunite with family and friends. She is always welcome to return!

Drs. David and Kelli Evans

The CSD Department is excited to announce the arrival of two new faculty members in speech-language pathology. Dr. David Evans and Dr. Kelli Evans moved to Bellingham from Mobile, Alabama in July. Dr. Kelli Evans grew up in Maine and earned her M.A. at the University of Maine and her Ph.D. in Communication Disorders at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Her areas of interest include cognitive-communication disorders and adult language disorders. She enjoys teaching the topics of aphasia and other adult communication disorders. Her research has included exploring how people with brain injury comprehend the non-verbal communication of others, comparing types of word-finding treatments for people with aphasia, and collaborating with colleagues on different aspects of dysarthria assessment. She is currently collaborating with colleagues to better understand if adults with TBI demonstrate delayed or reduced brain activity on ERP components using an auditory word processing task.

Prior to coming to Western Kelli was an Assistant Professor at the University of South Alabama. Kelli is enjoying Bellingham and loves every minute that she is able to spend exploring the area with her family.

Dr. David Evans grew up in Colorado and received his B.A. from the University of Colorado-Boulder, his M.A. from the University of Maine, and his Ph.D. in Communication Disorders from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He has been a speech-language pathologist for 11 years and has worked in a variety of settings. Before accepting this position at the Western Washington University, David was on faculty at the University of South Alabama. David is a person who stutters and his research and clinical interest is stuttering. David’s broad research objective is to better understand how social factors mediate stuttering. His current research identifies factors that influence how listeners perceive stuttering, and relations between automatic nervous system response and speech production using virtually-immersive environments. David is married to the other Dr. Evans in the department – Kelli. They have two, 3 year-old twin girls and a 7 year-old son. Having skied much of his life, David can’t wait to ski Baker on a regular basis. David is very excited to join the CSD department and is ready to explore Washington!
A Fond Farewell

Professor Emeritus Barbara Mathers-Schmidt, Ph.D.

Dr. Barbara Mathers-Schmidt officially retired at the end of spring 2014. Her 23 years of service to Western Washington University were celebrated on May 17th during the Back to Bellingham 2014 Weekend. There was food, fanfare, and scholarly speeches along with a few cheers and a few tears. It is hard to imagine the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders without the steady hand of Dr. Mathers-Schmidt at the helm.

Dr. Mathers-Schmidt is a scholar and an exceptional teacher who has always engaged her students and colleagues in stimulating lectures, rich discussions, reflections, and clinical problem solving. Some of the highlights of Barbara’s career include chairing the CSD department while teaching graduate and undergraduate courses; advising undergraduate students; directing several graduate student theses; leading a support group for patients with Parkinson’s disease; conducting her own research; and most recently, developing and leading an international service learning project in Guatemala for undergraduate students. Students who participated in this service learning experience spent 4 weeks in Antigua building houses, providing support in orphanages, and growing as students and global citizens. This wonderful project is heading into its third year.

Dr. Mathers-Schmidt was instrumental in the planning, design, and oversight of the construction of the Academic Instruction Center and beautiful new home of CSD; she shepherded the department through annual reports to the Dean, Higher Education Surveys, and many ASHA annual accreditation reports; and has spent countless hours writing and revising the decision package to fund the Audiology Doctorate degree at Western. Stay tuned for updates about audiology at WWU!

She accomplished all of this with kindness, good humor and a deep sense of service. The CSD department and Western Washington University are richer for her contributions and leadership. Our best wishes accompany her in her retirement and continued life serving the Bellingham community and beyond.

Georgetta Lilley

Georgetta Lilley retired in summer, 2014 after have served as an SLP supervisor for 27 years. Georgetta brought a clinically diverse background to the department, and participated in many opportunities to update and expand her clinical expertise. As such she provided countless hours of excellent mentoring for our graduate students. Throughout her years at Western Georgetta was a valued contributor to CSD clinic policies and supervisory practices that were supportive and fair. A letter from a student she supervised sums up the sentiments of many: “I cannot adequately express my deep appreciation for Georgetta’s guidance, supervision, and support. I am certain I am a better person and a better clinician because of her. She has been an outstanding role model for me and I hope to emulate her when I am out working in the real world.” We will miss Georgetta’s endearing sense of humor, her office decor that enchanted children and colleagues alike, and above all her commitment to educating the next generation of SLP clinicians.

Terry Sacks

After over 8 years of leading the Speech-Language Clinic, Terry decided to return to her love of working directly with children. She accepted a position with the Blaine School District and began work in the fall of 2014. She jumped into the transition of working as a speech-language pathologist (SLP) in a school setting and enjoys collaborating with teachers and specialists in the district. As well, she is delighted that she can work with former students who are now also employed as SLP’s in the Blaine schools.

She will be missed at the clinic for her nurturing care of the graduate students and passion for pediatric SLP services. However, she continues to support WWU students by providing internship and observation opportunities at her new site. She never misses a chance to help mentor and supervise students. We are lucky to have her in the community and actively supporting the next cohort of graduate students. We wish her well, and many colleagues enjoy the occasional lunch with Terry and get a chance to catch up with her. It is always fun to hear what new acting role might be on the horizon!

Speech Clinic News—Director Lesley Stephens

The summer of 2014 we said good-bye to long time clinic director Terry Sacks and hello to our new clinic director Lesley Stephens, a clinical educator from our program. Lesley admirably took on the new role and hit the ground running fall 2014. Lesley brings experience from our own program, as well as adult rehabilitative experience from the outpatient hospital setting.

The academic year 2014-2015 welcomed 20 new faces to our Graduate Program. Department and clinic orientation were held over two long and productive days. We welcomed Annie Quinn to our Clinical Educator staff. Annie completed her graduate degree at the University of New Hampshire. She has a diverse background in serving clients across the life span and has worked in a variety of settings. We are very fortunate to have Annie join our diverse team of Clinical Educators to continue to give students a broad clinical training experience.

We continue to use CALIPSO, a web-based application that manages key aspects of clinical education designed specifically for speech-language pathology training programs. This is our second year using CALIPSO in our clinic and we are continually getting used to the grading and clock hour features it provides. This
winter we invited internship supervisors to enter internship evaluations as part of the grading component in CALIPSO.

This fall we incorporated a Voice Clinic that provides services to people with Voice Disorders. Referrals from physicians go directly to Yarrow Pospisil with the aim to have those clients seen within 1-2 weeks. The department has also launched a series of grand rounds, where cases of individuals with communication impairments are discussed with medical providers in our community to work in a more collaborative fashion to better serve clients. These forums will also provide our graduate students with a platform to hone their clinical decision-making skills.

In November, eight graduate students from the second year class, travelled to Orlando to attend the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Convention. They were very excited to attend a professional conference, start job searching, attend continuing education sessions but they were also in search of a little sunshine. We were proud to share in their professional experience so early in their careers.

We look forward to a new year. Some upcoming changes to watch are: disorder specific grand rounds and electronic medical record documentation. Stay tuned!

**Career Fair**

We 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 worksites. This year’s fair was February 25 and included pre-majors in OT and PT, special and general education, and the new nursing program majors. We enjoyed seeing our alumni at this event as they returned representing a variety of employers.

Feel free to contact the department, if you or your particular worksite would like to participate in the CSD Special and Rehabilitation Services Career Fair next year. 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. Watch for announcements on our website or Career Services Center website in early January.

**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 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. We always appreciate internship site-visits and the opportunity to see our students as they begin their first guided professional experiences in our profession.

As alumni, if you are interested in supervising a student intern, please feel free to contact Karen Margrethe Bruun at Karen.Margrethe.Bruun@wwu.edu or Karen Powell in the Career Services Center at Karen.Powell@wwu.edu. The positive rewards of working with an intern include: 1) Developing and recruiting future employees; 2) Staying current and learning what the students are learning; 3) Enhancing your clinical skills by teaching someone else; 4) Developing your mentoring and supervisory skills; 5) Feeling good about giving back to the profession.

**Viking CareerLink**

Did you know you have free access to online job postings for WWU students and alumni? You can also post jobs for free for students and alumni. Check it out at http://www.wwu.edu/careers/viking_careerlink.shtml. We continually have employers looking for our students and alumni!

**Philanthropy News**

**Scholarship Awards 2014-2015**

The **CSD Undergraduate Scholarship** in the amount of $500 was awarded to Adolpho Dominguez and Samantha Jung

The **CSD Graduate Scholarship** in the amount of $1000 was awarded to Alison Hofmann

The **Scottish Rite Blankinship Fellowship** in the amount of $5,000 was awarded to Shandra Knapstad

The **Sene and Louella Carlile Scholarship** in the amount of $1000 was awarded to Nicole Frieszell, Sara Rhodes, Brianna Rosenberg

The **Sene and Louella Carlile CSD Graduate Fellowship** in the amount of $1,000 was awarded to Heather Michael

The **Petchthalt Family Scholarship** in the amount of $1,200 was awarded to Renee Hoemann
The Loren Webb Scholarship in the amount of $1,500 was awarded to Haley Prins

The Sam Polen Memorial Scholarship in the amount of $1,000 was awarded to Natalie Bellows

The Fairhaven Lions Scholarship in the amount of $500 was awarded to Natalie Bellows and Haley Prins

Gifts can be made online at www.wwu.edu/give (Please indicate CSD or a scholarship listed above.) Or by phone at (360) 650-3027. Or checks made payable to the WWU Foundation (Please write CSD or scholarship name on the memo line) can be mailed to:

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

Your educational support for our students is greatly appreciated.

2014 Auction News

Students, faculty, staff, families, and community members spent their evening entertained by the incredible talent of our own CSD students for a benefit gala supporting Western Washington University’s Speech and Hearing Clinics and supplies to build three homes in Guatemala. Undergraduate students in the Communication Sciences and Disorder Department who were also members of Western’s chapter of the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association organized the auction. They spent months seeking out donors, catering, and entertainment. The night was filled with delicious food from Windows on the Bay catering, views of Bellingham harbor and a gorgeous sunset. Students organized a silent and live auction conducted by our own Tim Kraft. Auction items were donated by local Bellingham businesses as well as by faculty and staff. Proceeds supported clients receiving services at the Speech and Hearing Clinics and building materials for houses in Guatemala.

2015 Fundraiser Announcement

This year, the annual CSD Spring Gala is to be held at Windows on the Bay. NSSLHA staff are crossing their fingers for a beautiful sunset over the sailboats as we listen to CSD musical talent throughout the night. Please keep the evening of May 7th open as the "Night at the Ossicles" will be here before we all know it. With live music, auction items, and beautiful views over the marina, it is looking like a promising night of laughs with friends and dashes to our favorite desserts. Please RSVP at WWUNSSLHA@gmail.com. Latecomers welcome!
sports, IEP funding in schools, access to resources that students need to succeed in school but may not be receiving.

We are hoping that these events will get students interested in getting involved in the speech and hearing community. Club goals and events that can be used in future years can be a treat for students and faculty to look forward to together.

Thank You for your Support!

CSD Donors January 2014 – January 2015

Thank you to our donors for 2014. CSD received over $41,000 in donations and scholarship funds.


Donations Always Welcome
Make a gift to Communication Sciences and Disorders
Gifts can be made online at www.wwu.edu/give
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Your educational support for our students is greatly appreciated.

View outside Academic Instructional Center—East Building of Stone Enclosure: Rock Rings, 1977-78 by Nancy Holt