

Department of COMMUNICATION SCIENCES and DISORDERS



News from the Chair *Kimberly Peters, Ph.D., CCC-SLP/A*

Greetings from CSD and happy spring! This biggest news from Western's Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders is that the AuD has arrived! After many years of dreaming, planning, and budgeting, we welcomed our first cohort of Audiologist students in the fall of 2017. They are an amazing bunch and we are thrilled they chose us to learn from and grow with over the next four years.

Along with a cohort of AuD students, we added two new faculty members and a clinical educator to our ranks. Dr. Douglas Sladen and Dr. Anna Diedesch joined the faculty of CSD in the fall. Dr. Sladen completed his undergraduate and graduate degrees at Western, after which he spent several years at Vanderbilt University, first as a doctoral student and then as a research associate. Most recently, Dr. Sladen served as the Director of the Cochlear Implant Program at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Dr. Sladen brings years of teaching, research, and clinical experience in pediatric audiology, cochlear implant candidacy and programming, and adult aural rehabilitation to the Pacific Northwest. He also has 19-month old twins who visit us occasionally and delight us with their cuteness and brilliance! Dr. Anna Diedesch also completed her doctoral training at Vanderbilt University after which she completed post-doctoral training in psychoacoustics at Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland, Oregon. Anna's areas of research include adult hearing aid fitting and verification, listening in complex acoustic environments, and binaural hearing. Dr. Diedesch is a running and an outdoor enthusiast, so a perfect fit for our department and our region. We certainly feel lucky to have two such amazing scientists and teachers in our program!

Dr. Megan Bennet, Audiologist, joined our group of clinical educators in the fall as our AuD Clinical Internship Coordinator.

Dr. Bennett finished her graduate degree at Western in 2000 and completed her AuD training through ATSU in 2014. Dr. Bennett worked for several years at Bellingham Ear Nose and Throat Clinic as a pediatric audiologist before coming back to her home in Western's CSD program. Dr. Bennett supervises CSD graduate students part time and coordinates the AuD offsite clinical placements. Dr. Bennett is also a runner, and in collaboration with a handful of graduate students and our new Speech-Language Pathology Clinical Internship Coordinator, is planning a 5k fundraising race in the fall to benefit the Speech-Language-Hearing Clinics.

Western's CSD program will also be celebrating the retirement of Karen-Margrethe Bruun, SLP, at the end of July. Karen-Margrethe has served as our Internship Coordinator and SLP Clinical Educator for the past 10 years. We are sad to see her go, but excited to follow her future adventures! Karen-Margrethe will be passing the torch as well as her wisdom and brilliant organizational systems to Dawn Burgess, SLP, and certified teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing. Dawn completed her masters degree at the University of Southern Mississippi after teaching for several years in the United States and Great Britain. She and her family moved here last summer and are excited to join the CSD family!

Finally (this is so exciting), we are coming to the end of our first year as a donations-based "pay it forward" Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic. Adults, children, and their families are now able to access high-quality, intensive, evidence-based, speech-language-hearing services at no cost, thanks to the generous donations of community members, clients, faculty, and staff. Individuals with significant communication needs and their families are faced with time, energy, and financial limitations. Accessing high-quality, individualized speech-language-hearing services can stretch families to their limits. We are dedicated to eliminating barriers to access for these clients and their families. We are also dedicated to giving back to our community through supporting individuals and families, and through training graduate student clinicians to be highly skilled Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists. Consider supporting our mission through a tax-deductible donation to the CSD Clinic. Give the gift of communication! It is truly life-changing.

Spring 2018
Volume 14, Issue 1

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Audiology News— Dr. Rieko Darling, Director

Au.D. Program

The first cohort of Au.D. students (2017-2021) are about to finish their first academic year! Our “Fabulous Five” Au.D. students (Haley Prins, Destinee Halverson, Steve Brazel, Nicole Vanderzanden, and Rachel Miller) make us proud with their positive attitudes, excitement about learning, and their ability to persevere.



Pictured (left to right): Haley Prins, Destinee Halverson, Steve Brazel, Nicole Vanderzanden, and Rachel Miller

We are ready to welcome and pass on the excitement to the next cohort (2018-2022) of Au.D. students!

Audiology Clinic and Hearing Bank

As of fall 2017, the Audiology Clinic (along with the Aural Rehabilitation and Speech-Language Clinics) moved from a fee-based to a donation-based system. This “pay it forward” model enables us to serve more community members who would not otherwise be able to access high-quality hearing healthcare services. The newly initiated WWU Hearing Aid Bank Program is housed within Western’s Audiology (Hearing) Clinic and also operates on a donation-based system. Making clinical services and amplification technology available to the community also serves the educational needs of our graduate students in the Clinical Doctorate in Audiology program.

The number of individuals served by the Audiology Clinic and WWU Hearing Aid Bank Program will depend on the availability funds as well as additions to the Hearing Aid Bank inventory. So . . . Please donate! You can donate online (see page 8 of your newsletter) or call (360) 650-3143 for information on how to donate funds, hearing aids, and associated equipment.



Mr. Luis Gomez is the very first happy recipient from the WWU Hearing Aid Bank Program.

CSD Research Corner

Jennifer Thistle, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

Dr. Thistle’s research examines aspects of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) display design with a goal of identifying practices that reduce the cognitive demands of using AAC. Her recent focus has explored theories of motor learning. Motor learning occurs when a motor skill is repeated to the point of automaticity and no longer requires conscious thought to complete. In October 2017, Dr. Thistle and a colleague published a paper in *Assistive Technology* describing how motor learning could be evident in AAC use: *An exploration of motor learning concepts relevant to use of speech-generating devices*. Related, in February 2018, the American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology accepted a manuscript describing a study with preschoolers without disabilities that examined motor learning. Specifically, children more quickly located targets when searching an array of symbols that did not change locations than when the location of symbols changed each time the child saw the array. Dr. Thistle is excited to have received a summer grant to work with two Western students on the next study in this series that will examine motor learning in preschool children with autism. Finally, Dr. Thistle is working with SLPs in the community who specialize in AAC to identify areas of need related to professional development.

Michael Fraas, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

Dr. Michael Fraas has been asked to be a contributing author on the second edition of the Cognitive Rehabilitation Manual: Translating Evidence-Based Recommendations into Practice published by the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine. The first edition, which consisted of six chapters that serve as a “how to manual” for the rehabilitation of memory, attention, executive function, visuospatial deficits, and social communication, developed out of the findings from three published systematic reviews conducted by Keith Cicerone and members of the Cognitive Rehabilitation Task Force, the third of which Fraas was a contributing author. The revised manual will consist of updating the existing chapter with findings from the most recent Cicerone systematic review (in press), and an additional six chapters including topics in brain injury mechanisms, applying single case methodology in clinical practice, and group treatment. Dr. Fraas will be contributing to an updated chapter on treatment of social communication, and writing a new chapter focusing on pedagogical and clinical resources. The ACRM hopes to publish the revised manual in the fall of 2018. More information on the Cognitive Rehabilitation Manual can be found at <https://acrm.org/publications/cognitive-rehab-manual/>.

Dr. Fraas was awarded sabbatical for Fall 2018 and Winter 2019. The focus of his project will be to develop a concussion management program for the Western sport club teams. Dr. Fraas is hoping to implement a protocol that would have student athletes baseline tested prior to beginning their sport, and identified when they have been concussed and removed from competition. The protocol would also ensure that concussed students are seen by a Student Health Center physician and then tracked throughout the recovery process. When necessary, concussed students would be provided with academic accommodations, and cognitive, visual, and/or vestibular treatment if symptoms persist.

Kimberly Peters, Ph.D., CCC-SLP/A

Dr. Peters is collaborating with Dr. Marc Marschark from the National Technical Institute of the Deaf, and Dr. David Pisoni at Indiana University in completing a research paper on theory of mind in preschool age children who received cochlear implants prior to 18 months of age. In addition, she recently submitted a paper with Dr. Karen Anderson from *Supporting Success for Children with Hearing Loss* on hearing aid and classroom technology use and non-use by children who are deaf or hard of hearing; this paper has been accepted and is under revision. Dr. Peters will be presenting at the Clarke Mainstream Conference in the fall on working memory, language, and background knowledge deficits in children who are deaf and hard of hearing.

Anna Diedesch, Au.D., Ph.D., CCC-A

Dr. Diedesch has been collaborating with Dr. Frederick J. Gallun from the National Center for Rehabilitative Auditory Research (NCRAR) in Portland, OR. She was awarded a summer research grant for 2018 and plans on finalizing the set-up of her lab, collect pilot data at Western this spring and summer, and foster her collaborations in Portland over the summer. Her current research focuses on the weighting of sound localization cues in quiet and reverberant settings and with different hearing aid coupling (open-fit vs. occluding). One goal of her research is to optimize hearing aid fittings based on her findings. Her data collection includes utilization of NCRAR's anechoic chamber to collect recordings of high-end hearing aids on an acoustic manikin. The recordings made in the anechoic chamber are used to quantify binaural cue information across hearing aid features and will be used to collect behavioral testing at Western. Dr. Diedesch is currently working on a binaural hearing chapter for the [Springer Handbook of Auditory Research](#) book series with Drs. Frederick J. Gallun and Nirmal Srinivasan (Towson University). She has also been busy planning upcoming Acoustical Society of America (ASA) meetings as ASA's current technical planning of meetings chair for psychological and physiological acoustics. She will be presenting some of her hearing aid research at the 175th meeting of the Acoustical Society of America in Minneapolis, MN this spring.

CSD Service Learning in Guatemala, 2017

Last summer, Dr. Michael Fraas and Western CSD alumna Carly Reiser journeyed back to Guatemala for the fourth straight year, this time with 15 Western students, their largest group yet. Carly and Michael partnered with Brillo de Sol, an elementary school in San Gaspar Vivar, a small community about a 10-15 minute "chicken bus" ride from Antigua. The school was started ten years ago by Leticia "Letty" Lopez, a Guatemalan speech therapist. Letty was frustrated that the public school system was unable to sufficiently meet the needs of her son, who struggled with ADHD. So, she started her own school. Brillo de Sol now has about 100 students with a range of learning abilities, including typically developing children, children with Down's syndrome, cerebral palsy, autism, and those who are deaf and blind. Letty indicated that, due to time constraints and work load – there are just eight women, who teach all 100 students – she had no way to track student pro-

gress. So over the course of two weeks, armed with three basic assessments created by Letty, the group from Western learned how to administer the assessments (in Spanish!) and collect baseline cognitive-linguistic data on every child at Brillo. The data was then stored in an excel spreadsheet so the women of Brillo can conduct analysis and track progress.

In addition to the service component of the trip, Western students climbed an active volcano, explored the beautiful waters of Lake Atitlan, learned about the rich culture of Guatemala, visited Mayan ruins, learned how coffee gets from bean to cup, and traveled to a variety of historically and ecologically significant sites throughout the country.

"This culturally enriching experience not only allowed me to fuse my interests in both Spanish and Communication Sciences, but inspired me to continue to seek opportunities to volunteer both in my community and abroad. I hope I will be able to apply my skills in a similar way in the future, whether it be as part of my graduate program or in my career."

- Abby Tadlock, CSD student

Another group of Western students are traveling this summer to continue supporting the teachers and students of Brillo de Sol. This year, Western CSD alumna Tessa Moeckel will help facilitate the adventure. The group is hoping to raise funds to support their volunteer activities. If you are interested in contributing, please contact Karen Peila at (360) 650-3881.



The group at Pacaya Volcano in Escuintla, Guatemala.

Welcome to CSD

Dawn Burgess, M.S., CCC-SLP, incoming SLP Internship Coordinator

Dawn's education and career have been centered around pediatric language and communication development. In 2004, she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Education of the Deaf, in 2010, a Master of Science in Early Oral Intervention, and in 2015, a Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology, all from The University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

Since 2010, Dawn has worked as part of multidisciplinary teams providing comprehensive services for children with language and communication needs. Her experiences have expanded across multiple settings to include working with young children and their families in home, school, community, and clinic-based settings. At The Children's Center for Communication and Development, a clinical division of the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences at The University of Southern Mississippi, Dawn specialized in providing listening and spoken language services to children with hearing loss. During this time Dawn also provided clinical supervision, mentorship, and training at the graduate level to students in Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology, and Early Oral Intervention (Education of the Deaf).

Dawn, her husband Robbie, and two young children moved to Bellingham last summer where she began work as a speech-language pathologist at Kornerstone Kids Therapy Center. In October 2017, she also became the clinic manager. Dawn was again part of a pediatric team providing comprehensive therapy services (physical, occupational, and speech) to children ages birth to 18. At Kornerstone Kids, Dawn also helped develop the Developmental Assessment Program, which provides mid-level assess-

ments by a nurse practitioner for behavioral and developmental concerns. Dawn understands the need to grow strong community ties across professional disciplines in order to create and provide best services for children and their families. She looks forward to continuing to cultivate community relationships through her work at Western in order to help train quality speech-language pathologists.

Megan Bennett, Au.D., CCC-A, Audiology Internship Coordinator

Megan Bennett joined the WWU Communication Sciences and Disorders department in fall 2017 for the inauguration of the department's clinical doctorate in audiology (Au.D.) program. She was born and raised in Northern Nevada, graduating from UNR in 1997 with a B.S. in Speech Pathology and Audiology. She relocated to Bellingham, sight unseen, in 1997 and completed her M.A. at WWU in 2000. After working in the Bellingham area for 14+ years, she obtained her Clinical Doctorate in Audiology from A.T. Still University in 2014 and continued to practice audiology in the community until joining WWU in 2017.

When she isn't poking around in ears, Megan enjoys running, backpacking, rafting, skiing, gardening and virtually all other activities in the Northwest. She can also be found hunting Pokémon, playing with Legos, making stained-glass art, reading and spending time with her husband Stan, daughters Sydney (15), Lily (12), son Nick (25), dogs Cooper and Vivienne, chinchilla Pig, and 3 chickens. Megan's primary interest is pediatric diagnostics, but she enjoys all aspects of



hearing science and disorders. As the internship coordinator, she matches 3rd and 4th year graduate students with placements in the community where they can further their audiology training. As a clinical educator, she oversees graduate students as they gain experience in practicums within Western's hearing and aural rehabilitation clinic.

Anna Diedesch, Ph.D., Au.D., CCC-A

Dr. Diedesch, a Washington native, moved to Bellingham from Portland, Oregon where she had been working on a postdoctoral fellowship at the Oregon Health & Science University. She received her B.A. from Washington State University, Au.D. from Wichita State University, and worked for a few years as a research audiologist at the National Center for Rehabilitative Auditory Research at the Portland VA Medical Center before pursuing her Ph.D. She began her Ph.D. at University of Washington and received her degree from Vanderbilt University.



Dr. Diedesch is happy to be back in Washington and close to her family and significant other, Nathan, who recently relocated to Bellingham. She is incredibly excited to be a part of Western's new Au.D. program and to train future audiologists while continuing her hearing aid and psychoacoustics research in Bellingham. When she's away from work, Dr. Diedesch enjoys several outdoor activities that the Pacific Northwest has to offer:

hiking, biking, backpacking, kayaking and running, to name a few. She is currently training for her first full marathon race in June.

Douglas Sladen, Ph.D., CCC-A

Dr. Sladen moved here with his husband, Steve, and their 19-month old twins, Sawyer and Rhys. They moved all the way from Minnesota, though Dr. Sladen, a Canadian, still considers British Columbia his "home." Dr. Sladen received his master's degree in Audiology from Western in 1995 and was thrilled to find teaching opportunities for both his husband and himself at Western. After completing his studies at Western, Dr. Sladen completed his Ph.D. at Vanderbilt University and stayed on as a research associate. He comes to us after serving as Director of the Cochlear Implant Program at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

Dr. Sladen's research is in the area of speech perception among children and adults with cochlear implants. He plans to build a strong research program at Western in implants, with a focus on outcomes for patients who have unilateral hearing loss. Currently, he is working with CSD senior, Rachel Tennant, on a survey-based research study. The study targets the experiences of families of children with hearing loss with the goal of finding out what barriers they faced in finding and receiving services.



We welcome all of our new faculty and staff to the CSD program!

A Fond Farewell

Karen-Margrethe Bruun, M.A., CCC-SLP

Karen-Margrethe graduated with her Master's in 1997 and worked in school and medical settings until she returned to her alma mater in 2010 to work as the Internship Coordinator for the Graduate SLP Program. It has been a remarkable full-circle trip.

She has worked with nine Graduate Speech-Language Cohorts and five Post-Baccalaureate Program Cohorts. Watching students grow and develop professionally and personally as they proceeded through these rigorous and highly respected programs has been a pleasure. She enjoyed working with students who sought out and contributed to their own learning experiences.

Last but not least, she worked with Speech-Language Pathologists in various locations and sites who have provided off-site supervision and clinical education to our students during their internships. It has been her pleasure to work with these supportive professionals and complete site visits across Washington, Oregon, California, Montana, and British Columbia. Thank you for opening your doors to the next generation as they hone their professional skills and prepare for their Clinical Fellowship Year. We were all given this support, and it is nice to reach back and help the next one succeed. It is good for us individually and good for the profession as a whole.



Her last day in the department will be July 26th. With her lovely husband, Larry, they will then begin travels in South-west Alaska and Europe. Hopefully, this will make her retirement transition easier, although we will miss her calm and humor.

Highlighting Exceptional Students

The SLP and Au.D. faculty were asked to nominate a student that they believed demonstrated exceptional qualities within the clinic and beyond. The following Au.D. and SLP students were nominated by their professors or clinical educators as an exceptional student in the department:

Nicole Vanderzanden, 1st year Au.D. student

"Nicole is a natural with pediatric patients in the clinic and makes sessions fun while also being productive. She is always eager to help her fellow clinicians when they are sick or need a helping hand for a difficult case... She inspires me to continually add to my knowledge base and to seek out new information whenever I see opportunity. Essentially, Nicole makes me love teaching."

-Dr. Megan Bennett, Au.D., CCC-A

Emily Galante, 1st year SLP student

"Emily is a grad student who has shined this quarter. Emily eagerly took on an additional client starting week 3. She quickly warmed up to both the client and his mother and dove right into therapy without hesitation! Emily's passion for learning, connection with clients, and sense of humor make her a valued member of her cohort. Big ups, Emily!"

-Tony Thompson, M.S., CCC-SLP, Clinical Educator

Speech-Language Clinic News— Director Lesley Stephens

Once again, we welcomed 21 new faces to our Graduate Program for 2017-2018. Department and clinic orientation were held over one and a half days. Second and first year SLP graduate students mingled and settled into a new year. Several of the new graduate students were not only from outside our program but from outside the state.

Since the change to a donations-based model, we have been able to make some changes to our clinic and aim to provide services across the lifespan and disorders. We continue to provide a few therapy groups for adults with communication differences. Our aphasia group meets weekly and, at the same time, spouses and family members have started their own support group. Dr. David Evans continues to host a monthly self-help group, affiliated with the National Stuttering Association, for adults who stutter. This year we added a weekly social skills group for adults led by Dr. Michael Fraas.

We continue to see a lot of athletes in our Voice Clinic. We have made arrangements with Wade King Student Recreation Center for the supervisor, clinician, and client to use the facilities during therapy sessions to incorporate exercise as it relates to issues of the vocal cords and upper airway management.

We look forward to finishing the academic year and planning ahead for our site visit by ASHA for re-accreditation. Looking back over the past year, I am honored to be a part of an amazing group of speech-language pathologists and audiologists. The addition of audiology faculty and graduate students has contributed to collaboration, interprofessional practice, and education. Personally, I look forward to continuing to train graduate students and to provide a variety of services to members of the community.

Education and Health Career Fair— 2018

Over the past several years, we have collaborated with the Career Services Center's Karen Powell, Coordinator for Job Search Services, and the Woodring College of Education, to support our annual career fair. On February 23, 2018, over 80 school districts, hospitals, private clinics, and state and federal programs sent representatives to discuss internship and career opportunities with students from education and health programs on campus. This is an amazing opportunity for our CSD, SLP, and AuD students to

learn about available opportunities around Washington state. Conveniently, our students (graduate, post-baccalaureate, and undergraduates) are able to learn about professional opportunities and network with recruiters here on campus. As part of their professional education, resumes and “elevator speeches” are prepared for the event and students are able to:

- ◆ Find out about available jobs and anticipated openings and internship opportunities in educational and healthcare settings;
- ◆ Compare departments, work settings, and hiring policies;
- ◆ Ask about mentoring/supervision, type of clientele/students, caseload caps, and a typical workday;
- ◆ Learn about compensation plans and signing bonuses.

We always enjoy connecting our students with the professionals in the field. As well, we enjoy seeing our alumni at this event as they return representing a variety of employers.

Feel free to contact Career Services or our department if you, or your particular worksite, would like to participate in the 2019 Education and Health Career Fair.

SLP Internship Program— Karen-Margrethe Bruun, Internship Coordinator

It’s that time of year, when our second year SLP graduate students are participating in their capstone 10-week full-time internship. Off-site clinical educators provide wonderful opportunities as students transition and prepare for their first professional job in the field—the clinical fellowship year—all while preparing for graduation.

This spring, student interns are again placed in varied school settings, private clinics, and medical centers with the majority in Washington State. However, we do have a student with Rady Children’s Hospital in San Diego, CA and a student with MOSAIC Rehab MT in Belgrade, MT, and a placement in British Columbia, Canada. As I have noted before, these internships would not be possible without the dedication and professional support of varied off-site internship supervisors and their sites. We always appreciate our site-visits and the opportunity to see our students as they begin their first guided work-setting experiences. It is such a wonderful opportunity to be part of the next generation’s education, clinical growth, and professional training.

If you are interested in supporting an internship experience, please contact Karen-Margrethe Bruun at 360.650.3197 or karen-margrethe.bruun@wwu.edu before July 26, 2018. After July 26, contact csd@wwu.edu or 360-650-3197 to connect with Dawn Burgess, the new Internship Coordinator. We would love to hear from you!

Viking CareerLink

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

Are you looking for great Western talent? Do you have an internship or CFY? As an employer you can post positions for free. Contact the Career Services Center at careers@wwu.edu for more information or go to the link above.

Philanthropy News

Scholarship Awards 2017-2018

CSD Graduate Scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 were awarded to Steve Brazel, Aman Sekhon, and Hannah Whitten.

Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders Waivers in the amount of \$600 were awarded to Grace Barr, Kelsey Franklin, and Caitlyn Medina.

Scottish Rite Blankinship Fellowships in the amount of \$6,000 were awarded to Rachel Dunlap and Natalie Fleischer.

Sene and Louella Carlile CSD Graduate Fellowships in the amount of \$1,357 were awarded to Mileah Smith and McKenzie Hendricks.

Diana Pechthalt Endowed Graduate Scholarship in the amount of \$1,432 was awarded to Tasha Farabee.

Loren Webb Scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 were awarded to Destinee Halverson and Rachel Miller.

Sam Polen Memorial Scholarship for Audiology Students in the amount of \$1,280 was awarded to Haley Prins.

The Fairhaven Lions Scholarship in the amount of \$500 was awarded to Kayla Adams.

Eva Baharav Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,500 was awarded to Yaachna Tangri.

Dr. Barbara Mathers-Schmidt Scholarship for Speech Pathology in the amount of \$824 was awarded to Christy Swan.

NSSLHA Update

This year, NSSLHA has 10 senior officers and 3 junior class representatives, making it possible to tackle a variety of outreach opportunities, fundraising events, and work to include all NSSLHA members participation in engaging meetings that include many professional and academic resources. The event coordinators kicked off the year with a fall social with over 100 NSSLHA student members attending.

Members of NSSLHA are learning about different fields within Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, as well as becoming more involved in the Bellingham community by attending events such as the showing of the documentary, "When I Stutter", at the Pickford Film Center. NSSLHA members also volunteer at a variety of organizations throughout the community, including the Whatcom Learning Lab, Whatcom Center for Early Learning, and Arne Hanna Adapted Aquatics.

NSSLHA also partnered with Hands and Voices this year, providing volunteer support at meet and greet events. As stated by their website, "Hands & Voices is a non-profit, parent-driven organization dedicated to supporting families of children who are deaf or hard of hearing. From American Sign Language to cochlear implants, our organization represents people from all different approaches to, and experiences with, deafness or hearing loss." We are proud to have a relationship with such an amazing organization.

NSSLHA has worked hard this year to actively fundraise for the department and clinic. We have conducted bake sales, t-shirt sales, and ticket sales, created a "snack shack" for staff and students in the clinic materials room, sent candy grams throughout the department, and our first penny drive. Each class contributed their loose change to earn points—the winner will receive special treats during finals week. Since October, we have raised over \$840!

2018 Fundraisers

NSSLHA Better Speech and Hearing Celebration

Alumni, faculty, staff, students joined with clients and the community to raise funds for the clinic during Better Speech and Hearing Month. The event was once again at Boundary Bay Brewery's outdoor beer garden on May 11, 2018. The evening was dedicated to raising awareness and funds for the WWU Clinic and associated programs. Individuals and businesses generously donated items including Mariner's tickets, Pacific Science Center tickets, hand-blown glass bowl from Tacoma Glass Museum, wine, beer, bowling, Mt Baker Theater tickets, Starbucks coffee, just to name a few. NSSLHA raised close to \$3,000. Consider joining us next year. You can even make a reunion of it!

5K Run from Here to Hear

Keep your eyes (and ears) open for information regarding the upcoming 5k run that Dr. Bennett is currently organizing to benefit the WWU Hearing Aid Bank Program! Details and additional information will be shared via a Facebook page at the end of May. If you would like to volunteer at this exciting community event, please contact Dr. Bennett (360-650-2137; megan.bennett@wwu.edu) or Nicole Vanderzanden (vandern5@wwu.edu) for further details. Everyone is encouraged to donate, run, or volunteer to support this program. The WWU Hearing Bank Program offers donated hearing aids to those who would not otherwise be able to afford the expense of purchasing and maintaining their devices. It is housed within Western's Audiology Clinic and is donation-based. Please come and show your support!

2nd Annual WWU Give Day

On this day, Vikings around the globe will again unite online for a 24-hour blitz dedicated to supporting students. Last year, supporters, families, friends, and alumni helped raise over \$380,000 for WWU! Donations can be made to your favorite department, program, or scholarship on campus. A percentage of every #WWUGiveDay gift will be matched by the WWU Foundation Board, the WWU Alumni Association, and alumni like you! For more information please visit www.wwugiveday. Help make your dollar go further with matching funds this Friday June 1st!



Thank You for your Support!

CSD Donors January 2017 – April 2018

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Communication Sciences and Disorders

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