

Department of

COMMUNICATION SCIENCES and DISORDERS



Spring 2019
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News from the Chair *Kimberly Peters, Ph.D., CCC-SLP/A*

Happy **Better Speech and Hearing Month**, from your friends in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders! We are just a couple of weeks from the end of spring quarter, and it feels like the year has flown by. Five Audiology Doctoral students are preparing for their third year, part-time internships; six AuD students are completing their first year of graduate studies; twenty speech-language pathology graduate students are completing their spring internships at various clinics, hospitals, and schools in Washington, Canada, Oregon, and even Texas; and 19 SLP graduate students are preparing for their second year of graduate school. We passed our American Speech-Language-Hearing Association accreditation site visit with flying colors and are grateful to the many community members who participated enthusiastically in that process on our behalf. The site visitors were impressed with our facilities, our “pay it forward” clinic model, and the enthusiasm and passion of our undergraduate and graduate students.

Dawn Burgess is wrapping up her first year as the SLP Graduate Program Clinical Internship Coordinator. I’m sure she feels (as we all have at some point) that she has stepped onto a moving train! Dawn’s background in deaf education, speech-language pathology, and listening and spoken language has been a perfect fit for our department. Dawn splits her time between the Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic and the Aural Rehabilitation Clinic. She works with infants, toddlers, and families of children who are deaf or hard of hearing; as well as children with speech and language disorders. Dawn completed her second master’s degree in speech-language pathology at the University of Southern Mississippi after teaching for several years in the United States and Great Britain.

We are excited to announce the arrival of Dr. Heather Moore in the fall of 2019! Dr. Moore comes to Western from the

University of Oregon; her areas of expertise are early intervention and child language. We have been hoping to expand our curricular offerings in early intervention and clinical coaching for several years and we are so thrilled that Dr. Moore will be joining our CSD team.

Hillary Edwards also recently joined the Speech-Language Clinic at Western as a Clinical Educator. Hillary has 10 years of experience as a medical speech-language pathologist in home health care, skilled nursing, and acute care settings; we look forward to increasing our services for individuals in the community with aphasia, traumatic brain injury, and concussion. In addition to supervising students, Hillary will teach our graduate level dysphagia course this summer. We are so excited to be able to expand our clinical services and academic experiences in the coming years.

We are coming to the end of our second year as a donations-based Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic. Adults, children, and families have received hundreds of hours of high-quality, intensive, evidence-based, speech-language-hearing services at no cost, thanks to the generous donations of community members, clients, faculty, and staff. We remain 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. There is no better time to give than WWU Give Day on May 30th, when a percentage of every donation will be matched. **Give the gift of communication!** It is truly life-changing.



<https://wwugiveday.wwu.edu/csd19>

Audiology News— Dr. Rieko Darling, Director

Au.D. Program

Can you believe it? We are almost at the end of the second academic year of the WWU Au.D. Program! The “Fabulous Five” (2017-2021 cohort: Steve Brazel, Destinee Halverson, Rachel Miller, Haley Prins, and Nicole Vanderzanden) were joined by the “Sensational Six” (2018-2022 cohort: Ian Cox, Makayla Dordan, Britt Gibson, Amanda House, Jamie Song, and Courtney Wendt).



Pictured (left to right):

*Back row: Rachel Miller, Nicole Vanderzanden, Steve Brazel, Haley Prins, Destinee Halverson
Front row: Makayla Dordan, Brit Gibson, Amanda House, Courtney Wendt, Jamie Song, Ian Cox*

During this second year we were fortunate to have Dr. Neil Shepard, Professor Emeritus of Audiology Mayo Clinic School of Medicine, share his expertise. Dr. Shepard taught the Balance Disorders Assessment and Treatment courses during the winter and spring 2019 academic quarters. He was accompanied by his lovely wife, Janis, who graciously joined Dr. Shepard to demonstrate various assessment and treatment protocols.



Even more exciting learning opportunities are planned for the current students as they progress through the Au.D. Program. In addition, we are all ready to welcome to the next cohort (2019-2023) of Au.D. students.

Audiology Clinic and Hearing Bank

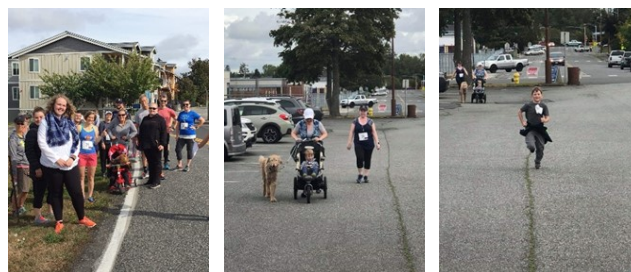
As of fall 2017, the Audiology Clinic (along with the Aural Rehabilitation and Speech-Language Clinics) moved from a fee-based to a donation-based system. Many patients have “paid it forward” with modest as well as generous donations of funds so that other patients can be served.

Donations also occurred in non-monetary forms. For instance, Dr. Charles Fulmer a WWU alumnus (1980 Master’s degree in Audiology) and owner of Ballard Speech & Hearing Center donated an Otometrics/Neurocom dynamic posturography system.



The addition of this system significantly enhances Au.D. student education and training but also enables provision of excellent services to patients seen in the Audiology Clinic for balance and dizziness issues.

In other news, Dr. Megan Bennett, WWU Au.D. Program clinical educator, Au.D. student Nicole Vanderzanden, as well as others in the Au.D. Program (students, faculty, clinical educators) donated personal time to organize and participate in the first annual “WWU Here to Hear” 5k Fun Run to support the Audiology Clinic and Hearing Aid Bank. Participants/donors/sponsors included those who were serious runners as well as others who were serious watchers.



New and used hearing aids were donated by various individuals, clinic patients, as well as dispensing audiologists in Whatcom and other adjacent counties. To date, we have fit 8 patients with hearing aids and we currently have 70+ more ready to be dispensed!

Donations of funds, hearing aids and devices allow us to serve more community members who would not otherwise be able to access high-quality amplification technology and related services. The number of individuals served by the Audiology Clinic and WWU Hearing Aid Bank Program will depend on the funds available as well as the devices logged in the hearing aid bank inventory. So . . . [Donate today!](#) You can go on-line or call (360) 650-3143 for information on how to donate.

CSD Research Corner

Doug Sladen, Ph.D., CCC-A

Dr. Doug Sladen has developed a new cochlear implant program at WWU. This program offers clinical services to members of the community, and also helps drive his research program. Dr. Sladen's research investigates the speech perception abilities of adults and children with cochlear implants. Specifically, his work examines how speech perception abilities vary across patient groups and how speech perception can be improved when modifying speech coding of the device. Most recently he has been exploring difficulties experienced by adults and adolescents who have single-sided deafness and use a cochlear implant. In this area of study he has been exploring the cues used for speech understanding and sound source localization. Dr. Sladen has a special interest in understanding the factors that drive performance outcomes among this population and how to use this information to remediate speech perception difficulties.

Additionally, Dr. Sladen continues to study audiologic testing in environments that simulate real-world listening situations. In a collaborative effort with Drs. Anna Diedesch and David Evans, Dr. Sladen is developing a virtual reality test environment to evaluate the speech perception abilities of adults and children with cochlear implants. His ultimate goal is to demonstrate that results obtained using a virtual reality test environment have greater ecological validity than results obtained using conventional methods.

Dr. Sladen will be using virtual reality within the 8-speaker array (pictured below) to measure outcomes among cochlear implant listeners. His current line of study examines speech understanding in noise abilities among adults and children who have single-sided deafness (SSD) and use a cochlear implant. In the future Drs. Sladen and Diedesch will be collaborating to assess spatial hearing outcomes in this population.



Rachel Miller, Au.D. Student, demonstrates the use of virtual reality in an 8-speaker array

If you would like to make a clinical appointment please call the WWU Hearing Clinic at 360-650-3881. If you would like to volunteer for research, please email the CI Research Team at ci-research@wwu.edu. You can also visit the Cochlear Implant website at <https://wp.wwu.edu/dougsladen/> or follow the lab activities on twitter at <https://twitter.com/CochlearWestern>.

To read more of Dr. Sladen's current research please see the following recent publications :

- Cochlear Implantation in Adults With Asymmetric Hearing Loss: Speech Recognition in Quiet and in Noise, and Health Related Quality of Life (Sladen, et al., 2018)
- Investigating Speech Recognition and listening effort with different device configuration in adult cochlear implant users (Sladen, Nei, & Berg, 2018)
- Mechanisms of Localization and Speech Perception with Colocated and Spatially Separated Noise and Speech Maskers Under Single-Sided Deafness with a Cochlear Implant (Dirks, Nelson, Sladen, & Oxenham, 2019)
- Cochlear Implantation for Single-Sided Deafness in Children and Adolescents (Zeitler, Sladen, DeJong, Torres, Dorman, & Carlson, 2019)

Jennifer Thistle, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

Dr. Jennifer 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 the past year, Dr. Thistle and several students published a paper in American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology 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 enjoys working with students on this research and continues to encourage student involvement in either her or their own research. In the past year, one student had her Honor's thesis accepted for presentation at the annual ASHA convention.

Dr. Thistle is currently laying the groundwork to bring more AAC knowledge and skill to the community. She is excited about two projects toward the end of this year. First, she will be surveying local SLPs to identify areas of need related to professional development in AAC. Second, she is building connections with area parent support groups through her role as a board member for the ARC of Whatcom county and exploring the feasibility of offering regular drop-in AAC consultations.

Dr. David Evans, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

Dr. David Evans investigates how contextual factors influence speech fluency and how stuttering is perceived by the listener and the speaker. One goal of his research is to better understand the impact of the social context on speech fluency and communication by using 360-degree video displayed via a HTC Vive head mounted system (pictured left) with headphones. To this end, his lab has been busy this past year pilot testing stimuli for research and clinical applications.

Also this past year, Dr. Evans published a research article with Dr. Kelli Evans in the International Journal of Language & Communication Disorders that examined how the type of nonverbal relationship cues produced by an unfamiliar communication partner impacts feelings of relationship closeness by people with and without TBI. Related to fluency disorders, a forthcoming research article will shed light on the characteristics of a rare fluency disorder, word-final repetition. This past fall, Dr. Evans was a

member of an expert panel on stuttering for the 2018 International Stuttering Awareness Day online conference.

More recently, Dr. Evans has been busy as a member of the topic committee for Fluency and Fluency Disorders for the 2019 ASHA Convention helping to plan sessions and review proposals. Lastly, in collaboration with the National Stuttering Association, Dr. Evans continues to lead a self-help and support group for adults who stutter that meets the first Tuesday of the month from 6:00-7:30pm. Please contact Dr. Evans for additional information about this group.

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

Over spring break Dr. Anna Diedesch went down to Portland to collect data at the National Center for Rehabilitative Auditory Research's (NCRAR) anechoic chamber, located at the Portland VA Medical Center. There, she used a KEMAR manikin fit with hearing aids to evaluate binaural cues for open-fit and occluded hearing aids across anechoic and reverberant environments, while systemically evaluating "spatial hearing" features in advanced hearing aid products.

This summer, Dr. Diedesch will return to Portland to collect a similar dataset in a cocktail party environment. These data will be presented at the American Auditory Society and the International Hearing Aid Conference in 2020 and are part of her NIH LRP grant and her quest for clinical verification and validation of binaural digital signal processing features in hearing aids.

Aphasia Awareness Event

Last year, a group of CSD undergraduates designed, organized, and completed an aphasia awareness event at The Filling Station restaurant in Bellingham. The students were inspired by an assignment in their CSD 470 course, which covers the topics of acquired disorders in language and cognition.

They partnered with the Filling Station to host an awareness/fundraiser in which they designed visual displays of aphasia facts and altered the menu to be more aphasia friendly. The funds raised by this community event were donated to the WWU clinic for the support of clients with acquired disorders.

The students did an amazing job with this event, and have inspired a small group of current undergraduates to organize the event this year! It will likely be held at the beginning of June, and will feature a staff training related to supported communication. We are hoping this becomes a yearly tradition!

Education and Health Career Fair 2019

Wade King Recreation Center successfully hosted the Education and Health Career Fair at WWU for a second year with over 80 vendors present. This valuable time for CSD, SLP, and AuD students afforded the opportunity to connect with school districts, hospitals, private clinics, and state and federal programs in Washington state as well as regional neighbors including Colorado and British Columbia. Students explored career and internship options, gained networking experience, and became more comfortable with the job search process.

Thanks to Jenny Spurgin, the assistant director in Em-

ployees, Relations, & Outreach at the Career Services Center for working tirelessly to provide a great opportunity for students, alumni, and vendors. This was Jenny's first time managing the Education and Health Career Fair and it was well received by all.

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 Center or our department if you, or your particular worksite, would like to participate in the 2020 Education and Health Career Fair.

Au.D. Internship Program— Megan Bennett, Au.D., CCC-A, Internship Coordinator

The first audiology cohort will be starting their internship rotations in the Fall of 2019. Potential internship rotations for these students include: the VA hospital, Virginia Mason, Evergreen Speech and Hearing, Puget Sound Hearing Aid and Audiology, Listen and Talk, Spencer Audiology, Bellingham Ear Nose and Throat, Mary Bridge Children's Hospital, Seattle Children's Hospital, Seattle School District, Edmonds School District, Issaquah School District and Federal Way School District. Through these opportunities, our students will be exposed to a wide range of skill sets and work environments.

SLP Internship Program— Dawn Burgess M.S., CCC-SLP, Internship Coordinator

A tremendous THANK YOU to Karen-Margrethe Bruun, former Internship Coordinator of the SLP graduate program, for establishing a solid foundation for me to step in and continue placing second year graduate students in their full-time internships. Karen-Margrethe was an asset to the CSD program developing lasting relationships between WWU and community sites.

This Spring, 20 second-year SLP graduate students began their 10-week full-time internships in a variety of off campus settings around Washington state. Several out-of-state placements were established as well to include Roundrock School District in Roundrock Texas; Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria; Providence Children's Development Institute in Portland; and Monarch House in British Columbia, Canada.

These experiences provide an opportunity for each student to refine and expand basic clinical skills by participating in a supervised full-time work experience in a professional setting. We are so thankful for all the talented and dedicated field supervisors who provide this valuable training for our program.

If you are interested in supporting an internship experience, please contact Dawn Burgess at (360) 650-3197 or dawn.burgess@wwu.edu.

Viking CareerLink

Did you know you have free access to online job postings for WWU students and alumni? Check it out at http://www.wvu.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@wvu.edu for more information or go to the link above.

Philanthropy News

Scholarship Awards 2018-2019

CSD Graduate Scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 were awarded to Grace Barr, Kaylee McElroy, and Haley Wainwright.

Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders Waiver in the amount of \$1,800 was awarded to Hannah Burch.

John D. Blankinship Fellowships in the amount of \$6,000 were awarded to Jeremy Nolan and Violet Kawale.

Sene and Louella Carlile CSD Graduate Fellowship in the amount of \$2,757 was awarded to Emily Galante

Sene and Louella Carlile CSD Scholarships in the amount of \$1,203 were awarded to Mileah Smith, Krysty Welch, and Thessaly Prentiss.

Diana Pechthalt Endowed Graduate Scholarship in the amount of \$1,441 was awarded to Kristen Engels.

Loren Webb Scholarship in the amount of \$998 was awarded to Haley Prins.

Sam Polen Memorial Scholarship for Audiology Students in the amount of \$1,291 was awarded to Brittany Gibson.

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

Dr. Barbara Mathers-Schmidt Scholarship for Speech Pathology in the amount of \$1,000 was awarded to McKenzie Hendricks.

SAA Update

This year, students Haley Prins (President) and Nicole Vanderzanden (Vice President), initiated the inaugural Student Academy of Audiology chapter at WWU. SAA is a national organization branching from the American Academy of Audiology serving as a “collective voice for students and advances the rights, interests, and welfare of students pursuing careers in audiology.” The SAA introduces students to lifelong involvement in activities that promote and advance the profession of audiology, and pro-

vides services, information, education, representation, and advocacy for the profession and the public we serve” (SAA).

Goals of our SAA chapter include; spreading awareness about hearing loss and preventative measures, raising money for the WWU donation-based hearing aid bank, and becoming more involved within the community.

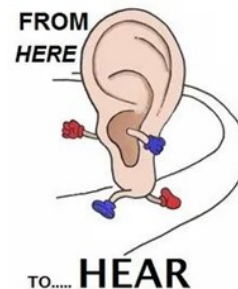
If you know of any volunteer opportunities, or would like more information about our chapter and organization, please contact Haley Prins at prinsh@wvu.edu or Nicole Vanderzanden at vandern5@wvu.edu. Additionally, you can check us out on Facebook @[wwusaa](https://www.facebook.com/wwusaa) to get updates about what our club is doing and various events within the greater Bellingham area!

2019 Fundraisers

5K Fun Run from Here to Hear

Our first annual 5k Run From Here to Hear was a success! Overall, we had 28 runners sign up. With our entry fees, incredible sponsors, and raffle sales, we raised over \$1,500 which has helped support our hearing aid bank. This year, our goal is to double that amount. We will be opening the event to be a hearing health expo with outside vendors/exhibits, and hope to offer free hearing screenings.

2018 5 K FUN RUN



NSSLHA Better Speech and Hearing Boundary Bay Fundraiser

It was a beautiful evening once again at Boundary Bay in Bellingham, May 3, 2019. Students, faculty, staff, and community members raised \$1,900 for the WWU Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic. The students arranged for face painting for the younger guests and music for all to enjoy.



Thank You for your Support!

CSD Donors January 2018 – May 2019

20th Century Bowling, A Lot of Flowers, AB Crepes, Inc., Gail Adele, Adobe Systems, Inc., Michele Adrian, Robert and Marsha Alan, Apple Yarns, Adedamola F. Atiroko, Dan Baharav, Patricia Banas, Barnes Communications, Stephen and Kathleen Barrett, Erica Welder Batjer, Joan Beek, Bellingham Bells Baseball Club, Bellingham Fairhaven Lions Club, Megan Joanne Bennett, Ethelyn Bishop, Catherine and Michael Bronsdon, Mark and Julie Brovak, Christine and Bob Brown, Casa Que Pasa, Nona Chitwood, Ericka and Dennis Christensen, Chuckanut Brewery, Coach House Cellars, Christina Elizabeth Copey, Julie Costello, CreativiTea, Daisy Café, Donald and Nancy Davis, John L. Doornbos, Sherri and Dike Drummond, Alan and Susan Dunlap, Breanna J. Earnest, Kara and Todd Eck, Eclipse Bookstore, Elements Hot Yoga, LLC, Emerald City Smoothie, Eva Salon, David Evans, Fairhaven Runners, Fairhaven Toy Garden, Gloria Jane Fish, Dawn W. Forbes, Ann Freeman, Carol A. Gavareski, The Great Harverst Bread Co., Tim Hanika and Leslie Catto, Monika Heiting & Robert Smith, June and Lew Hensley, Renee and Mark Hoemann, Vicki Hsueh, Kate and Kevin Jablonski, JDub's Filling Station, LLC, Kara and Robbie Johnson, Peter and Janet Johnson, Danielle Schulz Jones, Joy Tribe LLC, David and Lisa Kettleison, Susan W. Kosiur, Cathy LaCroix, La FIAMMA Wood-Fire Pizza, Langley and Lindsay Wells, Dennis and Debra Larsen, Laurie and Robert LeMay, Cindy and Tim Lopez, Virginia Lynch, Michael and Laura Mallahan, Mallard Ice Cream, Barbara Mathers-Schmidt & Bob Schmidt, Pamela and Robert McCauley, Lilly Ann McCaffrey, John and Susan Melvin, Eleanor Mischaikow, ModSock Shop LLC, Joann Morin and Dave Reynolds, Mount Baker Theatre, Jack and Patricia Myers, Thomas Nelson, Network For Good, Julee M. Neuhart, Megan L. Noren, Carlee Nadeene Oliver, Larry Olson, Philip and Heidi Parody, Karen Peila, Pickford Film Center, Patricia Pike, Arlene Evertz Pilcher, LaDawn and Chad Ramsey, Raptor Group, Elfie E. Reeve, Ziva Retter, Rook & Rogue, Milton Ross, Vickie Ross, Carolyn Russell, Carrie Saad, Jeretta Scott, Scottish Rite Foundation of Washington, Scotty Browns Restaurant, Seafair Foundation, Seattle Mariners, Seeking Health / Optimizing Life, Roger Shimer, Julie Shore, Sirena Gelato Café, Skylark's Hidden Café, Donna Southland, SPARK Museum of Electrical Invention, Pamela Spencer, Starbucks Coffee at Sehome Village, Rilie S. Stewart, Janice and Gerald Stowers, Keri Swedelius, Sylvia Tag, Kristina Ellen Taylor, The Black Drop Coffeehouse, The Trampoline Zone, The UpFront Theatre, Thrivent Financial For Lutherans, Juana Tingdale and Cliff Parsons, Faith M. Tomlinson, Andrew Toop, Charlotte Trent, Lisa and Ken Vanderzanden, Veritas Massage Studio, Village Books, Chuck and Diane Robinson, Mark and Ginger Wacker, Wander Brewing Company, Charles H. Waters, George Werkema, Diana Wheeler, Whole Foods Market, Inc., Dean and Susi Wight, Dan P. Wilson, Corinna and Vaughn Wine, Carolyn Wolfe, Larry R. Wonnacott, Chao-ying Wu, Christine Youtsey, Lina Zeine

-Thank You!-

Donations Always Welcome

Gifts can be made:

- ◆ Online at <https://foundation.wwu.edu/csd>
- ◆ By phone at (360) 650-3027.
- ◆ By checks, made payable to the WWU Foundation (Please write CSD or scholarship name on the memo line) mailed to:

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

Your educational support for our students is greatly appreciated.

Need to update your contact information?

- ◆ Email csd@wwu.edu
- ◆ Or, go to <https://alumni.wwu.edu/> and click on Update Info at the top near search icon.

5K Run 2019—Save the Date!

**WWU
5K
FUN
RUN**
From Here to HEAR!



WESTERN
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

WWU is an equal opportunity institution.
For disability accommodation, please contact (360) 650-2137.

Saturday, October 26, 9 am - 3 pm
Pioneer Park
2004 Cherry Street
Ferndale, WA 98248

<https://chss.wwu.edu/events/here-hear-5k-run>

Check out our Facebook page, *WWU 5K Run from Here to Hear*, to get up to date information. For more information or to volunteering, email fromheretohear@gmail.com.