

ApplAUSe

IPFW Department of Audiology and Speech Sciences

Summer 2007

Notes from the Chair

Lucille Hess, Ph.D.

The 2006-07 academic year has been a good one for Audiology and Speech Sciences. The Purdue Board of Trustees approved the master's degree in speech-language pathology for IPFW in February. Now the final step for approval is with the Indiana Commission of Higher Education. All hope that they will act on the proposal within the next months. After that approval, we must submit accreditation paperwork to the ASHA Council of Academic Accreditation. That process can begin only after the state Commission approves the degree. It will take a minimum of 18 months beyond the Commission approval date before the first students can be enrolled.

Simultaneously while we prepare the accreditation submission, we must secure funding for three new faculty positions and larger space to accommodate the clinical and academic needs. The process is a long one and not always without frustration. However, we have come this far and the question now is when the master's degree will begin not if.

As you will read in the rest of the newsletter, besides the development of the master's degree, there are many things happening within the department. Please stop in when you are in town or when you come to the campus. We are delighted to visit with alums and other friends.

Congratulations to a Former Limited Term Lecturer

Linda Sickman received her Ph.D. in speech-language pathology from the University of Cincinnati in June. She was inspired to continue her education because of teaching the Introduction to Communicative Disorders course for AUS about five years ago. Dr. Sickman's research is in literacy with the focus on pre-reading skills. She accepted a position as an Assistant Professor at Towson State University in Maryland. We wish her the best and who knows maybe she will return to IPFW someday to teach for us again.

Kudos to the AUS Faculty

Four AUS faculty members received a certificate of appreciation for participating in the Academic Student Achievement Program. This venture is designed to assist

students who are at risk for poor academic progress.

Kudos to Dr. Dalby, Sharon Egly, Lynn Frye and Chanda Lichtsinn who took the time to help young people achieve.

Dalby Awarded Summer Research Funding

Jonathan Dalby has been awarded a grant from the Purdue Research Foundation to study the intelligibility of foreign-accented English speech. He plans to conduct experiments which compare the intelligibility of native American English speech to that of Spanish-accented English speech presented to listeners in both quiet and noisy conditions. Previous studies have shown that while listeners can adapt very effectively to accented speech presented in optimal listening conditions, they are much less able to do so when listening conditions are difficult. The present study aims to explain this effect and to quantify it more precisely than has previously been done.

From the Speech and Hearing Clinic

Thirteen students completed their first "clinic" at the IPFW Speech and Hearing Clinic, serving 14 clients this spring semester. One student did an extra practicum in order to earn a gerontology certificate. All of the students came away with the realization that preparing for the client took more time than they had expected but that the rewards of seeing the progress made was worth it. This year we did not serve articulation and the general language populations we usually do. While the clients needed these types of skills, several of the student clinicians had to dig deeper in order to develop activities and techniques that would meet the need of the ever increasingly diverse populations we are coming to serve. All of the students realized how important the fundamental classes are for developing the skills they used in therapy.

Sign Choir

The PAH! American Sign Language Club choir performed this year in November for the Friends of the University and again in April for the Indiana Speech and Hearing Convention in Indianapolis. A few of the members gave an impromptu performance of the National Anthem at a luncheon on the IPFW campus as well when AUS students attended to lobby our local legislators for money to be designated to IPFW and for support of the master's in SLP

development. The Sign Choir was formed nearly two years ago and members are looking forward to performing in the future at graduation and during sporting events.

AAC Class

Members of the AAC class were able to do more than just listen to lectures last fall when a young man offered to come to the class as a guest speaker. He demonstrated how he uses his big toe to access his device. He later returned when the Prentke Romich Company allowed the department to keep devices (sent to be used for a remote broadcast) for a few days so that he could be evaluated for a new device. Students took an active role in taping the event, helping set up equipment, and discussing positioning possibilities along with the high school student's parents, teacher, occupational therapist, and speech/language pathologist. Theory and practice came together with the active problem solving that is so often needed in this type of speech/language therapy.

AUS LIBRARY NEED:

Please consider donating your journals when you are finished reading them to the AUS library. Students use these unbound copies to take home to read as they prepare reports. You can claim a tax deduction with such a donation, particularly if you donate the most recent year's journals. Contact Lucy (481-6411) if you are interested in supporting future SLPs and AUDs in this way.

Visitors to the AUS Library (a. k. a. acoustics laboratory) will notice the installation of an array of four brand-spanking new computers. The new machines look cool with their black cases, large flat-panel LCD displays, and fabulous blue LED lights, but actually they are HOT, incorporating the latest in fast processing speed, gobs of memory, and huge hard drives. We don't have actual usage data, but observation says students are using the new machines WAY more than they used the old clunkers that have been replaced.

ALUMNI NEWS

Mystee Eagleson (BS 01), lives in Fort Wayne, and works for IPFW as a research analyst. She and her husband are expecting a second child, a son, in June. Mystee's husband also started his own construction business, Evergreen Remodeling earlier this year.

Sharon Egly (BS 90), lives in New Haven, and works for IPFW in the Audiology and Speech Sciences Department. Sharon reports that she could be a grandma again later this year.

Teri (Ousley) Fields (BS 00), lives in Columbia City, and works as Lead Speech Therapist for Parkview Hospital. Teri is vital-stim certified and has received training for laryngectomy patients. She and her husband Chad are celebrating their 4th wedding anniversary in June.

They have three horses (Sadie, Levi, and Sunny) and a Sharpei (Bowser). Teri and Chad have recently built a horse barn and have had a lot of fun designing and decorating the interior.

Anissa Khouri (BS 06), lives in Bloomington, and is attending Indiana University's graduate program. She plans to graduate May 2008. Khouri is enjoying her classes and notes her areas of interest are early language development, cleft palate, and dysphagia.

Chanda Lichtsinn (BS 96), lives in Fort Wayne, and works for full time as the Lead Pediatric Therapist for Turnstone Center for Disabled Children and Adults, part-time teaching two sections a semester of the Introduction to Communicative Disorders course at IPFW, and works PRN for Harborside Healthcare. In her spare time, she spends each precious moment with her granddaughter, Kerrigan. Soon grandma will have even more to love, son Steven and daughter-in-law Nicole are expecting late this year! Chanda and her husband Bill are again planning a vacation in paradise, Sanibel Island, Florida for their 27th wedding anniversary this June.

Terri McLaughlin (BS 01) lives in Wheeling, Illinois, and works in the Educational and Life Skills program at Northern Suburban Special Education District in Highland Park. She provides services to junior high and high school students with moderate to severe disabilities. Terri presented at the Illinois Speech Language Hearing Association in February on animal assisted therapy. She is also co-teaching a choir class with regular and special education students, with a focus more on participation rather than performance. Terri is also taking a distance learning class on reading and literacy skills for students who use AAC.

Kristi (Loy) Miller (BS 04) lives in Fort Wayne, and works for Theracare Inc. at the Heritage Point United Methodist home. She graduated with her master's degree from Indiana University and is in the process of obtaining her certification and licensure. Kristi is looking forward to celebrating her first wedding anniversary in October. She and her husband are currently remodeling their home.

Hope Snyder (BS 04) lives in Fort Wayne, and works at the Hearing Center. She is in charge of the assistive listening devices, as well as managing the new east office. Hope received her hearing aid dealer license in September. She has two boys, Conan (2 ½) and Liam (6 months).

Kristen (Miller) Thiele (BS 97) lives in Fort Wayne, and is working (her sixth year) as a mild disability teacher for Maple Creek Middle School in Northwest Allen County Schools. Kristen and Randy are expecting their first baby, due August 10th.

A heart-felt thank you to the alumni that took time out of your busy lives to share your personal and professional information.

Sincerely your Editor, Chanda Lichtsinn (BS 96)

The graduates were Dawn Barrett, Diana Barrientos, Stefanie Fisher, Justin Harber, Sarah Hobbs, Theresa Jehl, Michelle Jones, Michael Jones, Kara McCrory, Anna McKinney, Carley McCullough, Andrea Rodocker, Liz Ransbottom, Kurt Schmelz, Amanda Van Zant, and Sally Winters. Melissa Otterstedt, who had a BS degree in Communication, completed a year's work of undergraduate courses in the major to prepare herself for graduate school. Otterstedt was accepted at Emerson College in Boston.

McCrory graduated with highest distinction and Barrientos graduated with distinction. Kudos to both of them. McCrory was awarded a monetary prize from the IPFW chapter of Phi Kappa Phi Honorary for the National Fellowship competition.

The AUS graduates who plan to attend graduate school in the fall for speech-language pathology are McCrory and Rodocker who will attend IU, McCullough will attend Miami of Ohio, Ransbottom will attend Ball State, Schmelz will attend University of Wisconsin at Madison, and Harber, Hobbs and Mike Jones all plan to attend Ball State University for their AuD degree. We are going to miss this delightful group of graduates and we wish them well as they begin new chapters in their lives.

AUS Scholarships and Awards 2007

Eight of the department's outstanding students were honored at the 2007 College of Arts and Sciences Honors Banquet April 18. All have their names added to the honor roll of plaques that hang in the department office.

Graduating seniors Kara McCrory and Sally Winters were named the Outstanding Audiology and Speech Sciences Majors for 2007. This year AUS had a large group of outstanding seniors so the selection was difficult. The award acknowledges a high standard of scholarship and demonstrated effectiveness in leadership or mentoring roles. Both McCrory and Winters have served as leaders: Kara was President of the ASL PAH (American Sign Language Club) and Sally served both as President of the ASL PAH Club last year and this year as President of the Speech and Hearing Club. Both women were founding members of the ASL Choir and continued their involvement with the Choir this year. Winters served as the department lab/library assistant and she was the "queen" of bulletin boards. McCrory served as a sign interpreter for the public schools and she tutored a young boy who needed special sign assistance. A cash award was given to both McCrory and Winters as a gift from the Psi Iota Xi Theta Sigma Chapter in Syracuse, IN and the department.

Seniors Missy Drapac, Karrie Fredrickson and Tiffany Roberts shared in the generous scholarship from the Anne M. Balentine Foundation. The scholarship funded by the Conrad Balentine family of Bluffton, IN is in honor of

their daughter and sister, Anne, who is deaf, blind and physically challenged. The women were selected for meritorious scholarship and their interest in serving persons with multiple disabilities. Drapac wants to assist young children who face multiple challenges. She was a founding member of the ASL Sign Choir; Fredrickson became interested in speech-language pathology because of family members who confronted communication challenges; Fredrickson also was awarded the Robert Wise Scholarship at the Honor's Banquet, named after the Physics professor. Roberts, learned English as a second language having been brought up in Central and South America. Her ambition is to learn how to assist all persons to communicate to their highest level of achievement. Roberts hopes to one day teach at a university. She is a tutor in several subjects at IPFW.

Junior Jennifer Hart was awarded the Downtown (FW) Sertoma William Doctor Scholarship for her demonstrated high scholarship and for her unflinching desire to assist children who have autism or other challenging disabilities. The award was named for a founding member of the Sertoma Club. Hart knows first hand what obstacles persons with communication challenges confront since she is the mother of two children with autism.

Senior Shelley May received the Psi Iota Xi Delta Gamma (FW)-Donald Doster Memorial Scholarship. This award provides tuition reduction for a SPHT major who has demonstrated academic excellence. May is the type of student who is enthusiastic about her education and volunteers in class with answers as well as good questions.

Senior Bobbie Morhart was awarded the Psi Iota Xi-Eta Rho Chapter (New Haven, IN) Scholarship. In addition to academic success, she is a tutor for a child who needs assistance with pre-literacy skills. Morhart became interested in speech-language pathology as a career after a family member required extensive services from an SLP.

Senior Brandy Weaver received the Psi Iota Xi-Theta Theta Chapter (FW) annual AUS Textbook Award for her scholarship and for her interest in teaching young children how to communicate. Weaver is beginning work in the summer of 2007 for a group home for adults with multiple disabilities.

Independent Study

Allison Hurley studied the progress of a 54 year-old woman who received a cochlear implant. Allison followed her through the "switch on" to four months after receiving the implant. The woman was successful and motivated to use her new "hearing". Allison compared her progress and experiences to other adults who received implants. The results of the study were shared at the AUS Research Forum in late April and Hurley presented her findings at the annual conference of Indiana Speech-Language and Hearing Association in mid-April.

American Sign Language PAH Club

The ASL PAH! Club continued into the sixth year participating with the deaf community through contact with the Hoosier Connection. The Club designed a T shirt-the Hands Say it All with ASL symbols. They sponsored several events to earn money to send someone to Deaf Camp. They also supported the movie caption project Motion Picture Access (MoPix) that allow deaf persons to see captioning without it showing on the screen for everyone. Again this year, the Club sponsored the Deaf Deaf World event in March. Everyone must communicate using ASL or through nonverbal means during most of the evening. ALS "police" make sure those rules are obeyed. The event brings the community to IPFW to learn and help educate students. More than 80 people attended the event. Under Kara McCrory's leadership, several speakers were invited to attend Club meetings and after the business was discussed the members played a variety of fun games using their sign skills. Graduating seniors who served as officers are: McCrory, President; Kurt Schmelz, Vice-President. Officers for next year are: Missy Drapac, President; Jenni Schultz, Vice-President; Erin St. Myers, Secretary; Brandy Weaver, Treasurer and Shelley May, Historian.

Speech and Hearing Club

Under the leadership of Sally Winters, the SHC had an active year. Two make-it-take events were scheduled, one in the fall and one for the spring semesters. Make-it/Take-it day is when students came together to make materials for clinic. Students from all levels of the program came and for a nominal fee enjoyed lunch as well as took home therapy ideas and games they had made. Again this year, Cindy Gerard of the Communication and Learning Clinic donated the laminating materials for the day. She and Linda Hartman spent the morning laminating while the students colored, cut, and pasted their new materials. The materials made will be useful in future clinic sessions.

Speakers came to campus to discuss their clinical experiences. Cindy Gerard (an alumnus of the department) was invited to share what one should know to start a private practice. The Club participated in the campus Health Fair by screening hearing and by providing information about stroke and voice problems. Graduating officers include: Carley McCullough, Vice-President; Andrea Rodocker, Secretary; Kurt Schmelz, treasurer, Diana Barrientos, Publicity. Add make-it-take-it information from Sharon here.

T-shirts were designed this year to have the SHC club logo on the front and the top 10 ways to recognize a speech-language hearing professional on the back. The Club raised money to send a teenager to AAC summer camp. The teen came to campus to help demonstrate augmentative devices for the AUS 405 (AAC) class in the

fall. The students all became acquainted with him and wanted to offer him a special summer experience. Club officers for next year are: Jenni Schuldt, President; Missy Drapac, Vice-president; Karrie Fredrickson, Secretary; Shelley May, Treasurer; and Beth Hinson, Historian.

IPFW Prevention Clinic Participation

Beginning in January 2007, students who have taken the Audiology class, AUS 460, were invited to screen the hearing of persons who come to the clinic located at 2700 South Lafayette Street. Most of the folks using the clinic have limited resources for health care. On the first evening, as Tiffany Roberts began to screen the hearing of a client, she discovered that the client only spoke Spanish. Roberts then talked to her in Spanish helping her understand what she needed to do and to understand the results of the screening. Fortunately, Roberts was there that evening to help although most of the folks who attend the clinic do speak English. A supervisor and at least two students attend the clinic which is offered the third Wednesdays of each month from 5-7 in the evening. To date, four students have participated in the clinic screening.

THANKS TO SERTOMA FOUNDATION and the DOWNTOWN SERTOMA CLUB

Every year the Sertoma Foundation generously supports the continuing education of AUS faculty with a stipend to attend ASHA. This stipend helps defray registration expenses for the faculty. We are grateful for the support of both the Foundation and the Downtown Sertoma Club that has the AUS department as an affiliate of its Club. Many thanks and kudos to the Downtown Sertoma Club for the past twenty years of financial support through the scholarship for IPFW speech and hearing majors.