

THE COMMUNICAT

FALL 2023



From the Department Head

Welcome back to Western! Welcome back to a community where we hope you feel like you belong. That is our university campus theme: Community and Belongingness. Of all the programs on this campus, ours has a key role to play in sharing this theme because community requires communication. Just by being a part of this program and a part of this discipline, you are a major player in creating community and belongingness for people with communication disorders around the world. Yes, a huge responsibility. And an equal honor. As we approach our students, clients, and families, we can spend a few minutes talking about community and belongingness. Perhaps their stories will inspire us to learn, teach, and motivate change for the better here at WCU and everywhere our education takes us. Many thanks for all your commitments to communication and community, and go Cats!

Leigh Odom, CSD Department Head

What's in this newsletter:

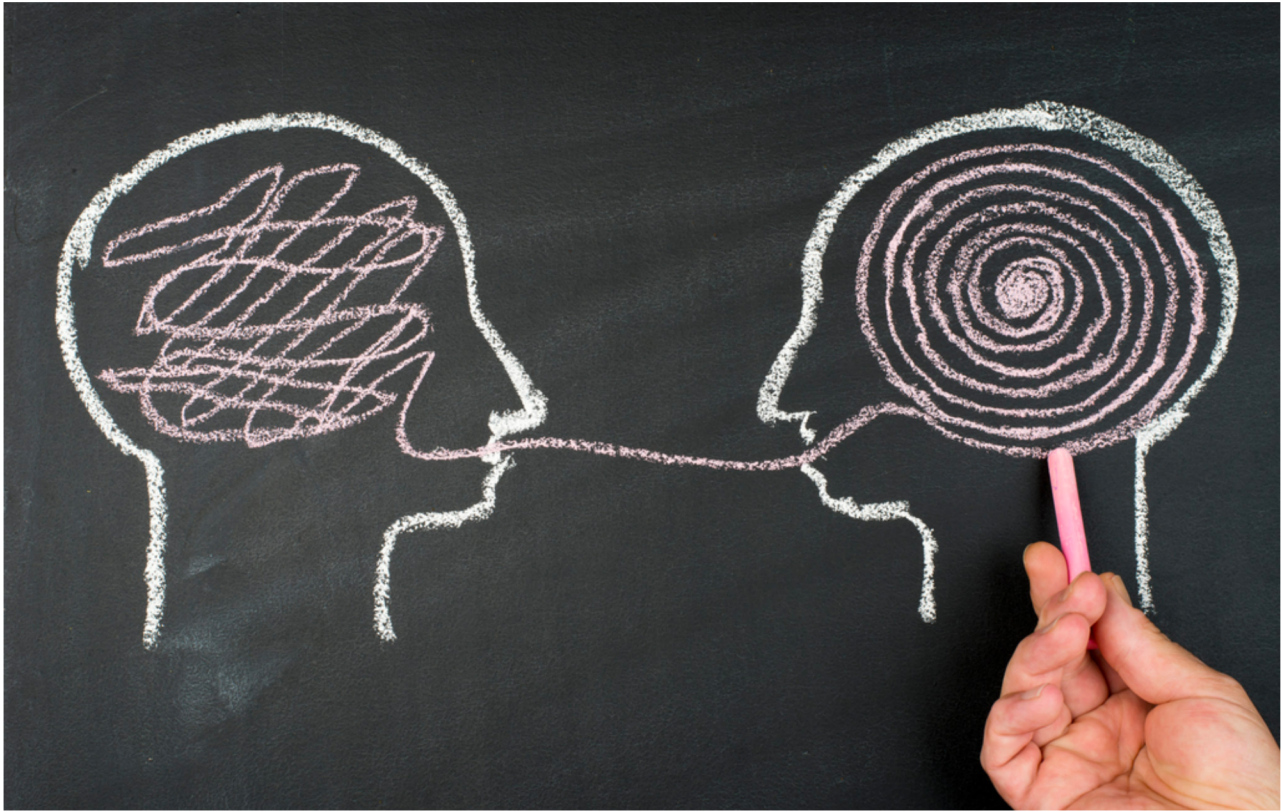
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Camp LEAD

With the generous support of NC RiteCare, the WCU Speech and Hearing Clinic conducted Camp LEAD for the third consecutive summer. At Camp LEAD, we provide Literacy/Language Engagement And Development for children in our area with speech, language, and/or literacy disorders. Camp LEAD is a morning program from 9am to noon, which runs every weekday for four weeks. That is 60 hours of intervention for each child who attends! This summer, we served eight wonderful children, ages 8-12 years, and provided training for four graduate clinicians (Taylor Ingle, Daija Irizarry, Andrea Mastores, and Gillian Scruggs) and two undergraduate volunteers (Zoie Lucksavage and Hannah Potochnik). Our aim is to support each child's individual speech, language, and literacy needs in a fun and supportive environment, while also promoting positive reading experiences with peers. In our work with individual children, we supported needs ranging from sounding out words to articulating sounds correctly. We also enjoyed a read aloud, *The One and Only Ivan*, that gave us a great avenue for learning new vocabulary words and comprehension strategies like prediction and compare/contrast.



One of the highlights of Camp Lead was regular visits with a certified pet therapy team – dog Bailey and his trainer, a member of the Cullowhee community. Children could choose to practice reading and narrating stories to Bailey, and we saw increases in their motivation and confidence. Another highlight was our visit from Paws, the WCU mascot! Of course, we also enjoyed snacks, free play for letting our imaginations run wild, and games like corn hole, ring toss, Uno, and Break the Ice. We ended Camp LEAD with a cookies and lemonade celebration of our campers and all we learned. Camp LEAD could not happen without the support of NC RiteCare, the Valley of Franklin Scottish Rite, the WCU College of Health and Human Sciences (especially Dean Lori Anderson), the WCU Speech and Hearing Clinic (special thanks to clinic directors Dr. Tracie Rice and Mabelle Cathey), the WCU Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders (special thanks to Department Head Dr. Leigh Odom), professor and clinical supervisor Dr. Amy Rose, and our dedicated Camp LEAD parents!! We also thank our special visitors Bailey and his trainer, as well as Paws (thank you, Tyler Pope, Chad Garrity, and WCU Athletics). To all these parties, THANK YOU!



Fall Adult Language Conference

This year's WCU CSD Fall Adult Language Conference will take place 9am to 4pm on October 13, 2023, in room 209 of the Health and Human Sciences Building. Featured speakers are Drs. Maryann Ronski and Rose Sevcik, two experts in communication-based services for adults with intellectual disabilities. They will address myths used to deny

services to this special population and discuss communication strategies to promote effective daily interactions. Do not miss this unique opportunity for continuing education! To attend, email Dr. Ogletree at ogletree@wcu.edu. This event is free and sponsored by the Catherine Brewer Smith Endowment.

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A Familiar Face in a New Role



After many years, CSD's Dr. Tracie Rice stepped down as the program's clinical director effective July 1, 2023. The CommuniCat joins all associated with WCU CSD to say, "Well done Dr. Rice." Tracie will be staying on to teach and provide audiological services in the WCU Speech and Hearing Clinic. Moves of this sort necessitate new opportunities for others. Ms. Machel Cathey, a current CSD supervisor and the INTERACT grant manager, has assumed the Director position and certainly hit the ground running. Machel is a WCU graduate and has extensive administrative and leadership experience including a longtime stint at Mission Hospital. Good luck Machel!

WCU CSD Student Works in Thailand

Sam Hubbard, a CSD undergraduate, had the experience of a lifetime as he and others traveled to Thailand this summer to be a part of an immersive program in Augmentative and Alternative Communication. Hubbard's adventure was a specialized two-week program intended for undergraduate or graduate students interested in pursuing a career in speech-language pathology. The program collaborates with government organizations, non-governmental organizations, private clinics, universities, and charitable organizations to bring services to children in Chiang Mai. The group worked with a specialized children's hospital providing medical services to children with developmental delays and diagnoses such as autism, ADHD, Cerebral Palsy, learning disorders, and intellectual developmental disorders.



For details on Sam's trip refer to <https://www.wcu.edu/stories/posts/News/2023/07/communication-sciences-and-disorders-student-travels-to-thailand-for-therapy-abroad.aspx>

Wonderful job Sam!

New Scholarship in CSD

Dr. Ogletree and his wife Julie have initiated a process to fund the Bill and Julie Ogletree Scholarship in Communication Sciences and Disorders. Long time Cullowhee residents and members of the Western Carolina University family, the Ogletree's have targeted funding undergraduate or graduate students who are in good academic standing and have financial need. They also would like to support students with expressed interests in intellectual disabilities.



Checks Payable to:
WCU Foundation
1 University Dr.
HF Robinson Bldg. Ste 201
Cullowhee, NC 28723
**please indicate Ogletree Scholarship
in the memo line.*

For more information about the scholarship and to give directly use the included QR code. To mail a check, see the address to the right. Thank you for supporting the Ogletree scholarship and WCU CSD students!

Dr. Rice Going the Extra Mile

WCU audiologist Tracie Rice is not one to let needs go unaddressed. A few years back, upon learning that many local individuals struggled with hearing aid maintenance, Tracie jumped into action by offering a free weekly hearing aid repair and consultation day. Each

Wednesday, Dr. Rice meets with patients having questions or specific problems and, most often, attendees leave with repairs completed. Dr. Rice's repair consultation and service is just one way she and others "go the extra mile" to help others. We are extremely glad Tracie is a Catamount.

2024 Cullowhee Conference on Communicative Disorders

This year marks the thirtieth anniversary of the Cullowhee Conference on Communicative Disorders. In celebration, the event, scheduled for April 11th and 12th, will feature Drs. Walt Wolfram and Nancy Brady.

Dr. Wolfram is the William C. Frady Distinguished Professor at North Carolina State University where he directs the North Carolina Language and Life project. Professor Wolfram is particularly interested in the application of sociolinguistic information to the public, as executive producer of fifteen television documentaries, the overseer of six museum exhibits, and the developer of innovative formal and informal materials related to language diversity. He has received two Emmy awards for documentaries and has received numerous awards, including the North Carolina Award (the highest award given to a citizen of North Carolina), Caldwell Humanities Laureate from the NC Humanities Council, the Holladay Medal at NC State, and the Linguistics, Language, and the Public Award from the Linguistic Society of America. He has served as President of the Linguistic Society of America, the American Dialect Society, and the Southeastern Conference on Linguistics, and has been inducted into the prestigious American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He will be speaking about dialect and its importance for SLPs.



Dr. Nancy Brady is a professor in the department of Speech Language and Hearing Science at the University of Kansas and an ASHA Fellow. Dr. Brady's research focuses on understanding how pre-speech communication develops, identifying aspects of pre-speech communication related to language development, and developing interventions aimed at promoting language by strengthening these foundational skills. Dr. Brady's research informs clinical practice, particularly for individuals with severe autism, Down syndrome, fragile X syndrome, rare disorders associated with intellectual disabilities, and children with sensory impairments such as deaf-blindness. Dr. Brady's research program has resulted in over eighty peer-reviewed journal articles plus an edited book, numerous book chapters and conference presentations. She is the creator of the Communication Complexity Scale (CCS), an innovative tool for measuring emergent communication. She will be sharing her research and its clinical applications.

A flier will be out in early 2024. See you there!

UPDATES

Where Are They Today?

When you were a WCU student or a regular program stakeholder, did you have a professor you looked up to or found particularly enjoyable? Recently, the CommuniCat searched out former WCU professors asking, "Where are you Today?" Our results are below.

Linda and Bill Bowers continue to live in Cullowhee while taking opportunities to be with grandchildren when they can. Linda does her best to follow all things Western and to enjoy retired life.

Trish Davis is thoroughly enjoying retirement by hiking and visiting with friends. She resides in Cashiers, North Carolina and hopes to keep traveling and "doing".

Ruby and Gerry Drew spend their time at their home on a local lake. Ruby continues to help those with aphasia find services, and Gerry pursues his side business making and selling knives. When possible, they find time to escape to Indiana where they deer hunt.

Marty and Alecia Fischer retired near Portland Oregon where they manage their wine orchard and check in periodically with Rachel (daughter) who is working with Master Clinician. For those who do not know, Master Clinician is Marty's business that provides observation opportunities for students in CSD.

Georgia Hambrecht reports she is currently residing 235 miles southeast of Cullowhee in Summerville, SC. In her words, "I am enjoying life after work - also called retirement". She does many of her favorite things daily including walking, playing in the swimming pool, reading for fun, visiting with family and friends, and hand stitching baby quilts. Dr. Hambrecht hopes CommuniCat readers are enjoying their current stages of life!

Bill and Monica Harn have relocated to North Georgia where Monica heads Piedmont University's new SLP program. She is busy helping Piedmont with their MS program rollout this year. Bill has "kind of" retired (still providing instructional support at Piedmont) and continues to enjoy playing guitar and keyboard. The Harns love the North Georgia Hills.

Nancy Helm-Estabrooks

(Professor Emerita) has enjoyed finishing an addition to her home in Asheville and working with her co-authors on the second edition of the Test of Integrated Language and Literacy Skills (TILLS-2). The beta version is now in a "try-out" stage in the U.S., Canada, England, Australia, and South Africa. She also loves time with visitors. This summer guests came from Louisiana and Boston.

Beverly Jacobs lives in Arkansas near Little Rock and grandchildren. She enjoys seeing the children regularly and being a part of their care.

Kimberly Crawford Lackey is currently an SLP in Lancaster, South Carolina.

Finally, **David Shapiro** (Professor Emeritus) is spending retirement time in Cullowhee with his wife, Kay. They camp and travel frequently and enjoy the entertainment and wine scene throughout the region.

UPDATES

Faculty and Staff

Kim Carver reports that she and her husband have enjoyed their summer getting in some camping, fishing, and lake days with their kids and grandkids! Also, their newest addition to the family just turned one!

Machelle Cathey enjoyed a busy summer in the Speech and Hearing Clinic. She did not do any traveling this year but appreciated living in beautiful western North Carolina during this season. She is excited for new opportunities in the fall semester, including teaching the undergraduate Phonetics course and continuing to grow into the role of Speech and Hearing Clinic Director.

Dr. Thales De Nardo had a busy summer with conferences and clinic. The inaugural Catamount Intensive Stuttering Program was a success and funding for next year has been secured. He also got to enjoy quality time with family and friends on a trip to Colombia.

Dr. Kathryn Dorney spent this summer supervising graduate students in the Speech and Hearing Clinic. On the weekends, she explored more hiking trails and downtown Asheville with Timmy, her dog.

Kate Kelleher spent the summer adventuring around Asheville and enjoying time with her family. She has been continuing to work toward her doctoral degree while still managing to get outside and fit in some fun.

Dr. Leigh Odom is settling into her role as Department Head but managed to have fun with her kids and Rion this summer. She continues to serve as a CAA site visitor.

Dr. Bill Ogletree spent a slow relaxed summer being Grampy to little Margot. He also found time to travel, teach in INTERACT courses, and see two papers accepted. See this issue's story about the new Ogletree Scholarship.

Dr. Johanna Price kept busy with summer teaching, Camp LEAD (see story), and revising papers with Project INTERACT and other colleagues. She also enjoyed a great family vacation in Colorado, visiting friends in Virginia, and spending time with tween and teen children!

Dr. Tracie Rice stepped away from being clinic director and handed the reins over to the very capable and amazing Machelle Cathey. Tracie is excited to focus more on expanding audiological services in the clinic and teaching. Tracie and Merritt are also new to being empty nesters as Sydney is a junior at NC State and Olivia is a freshman at Western!

Kate Roellgen gardened with Neil this summer, and their efforts provided fresh produce for CSD faculty and staff. She also enjoyed summer travel and family.

UPDATES

Faculty and Staff continued

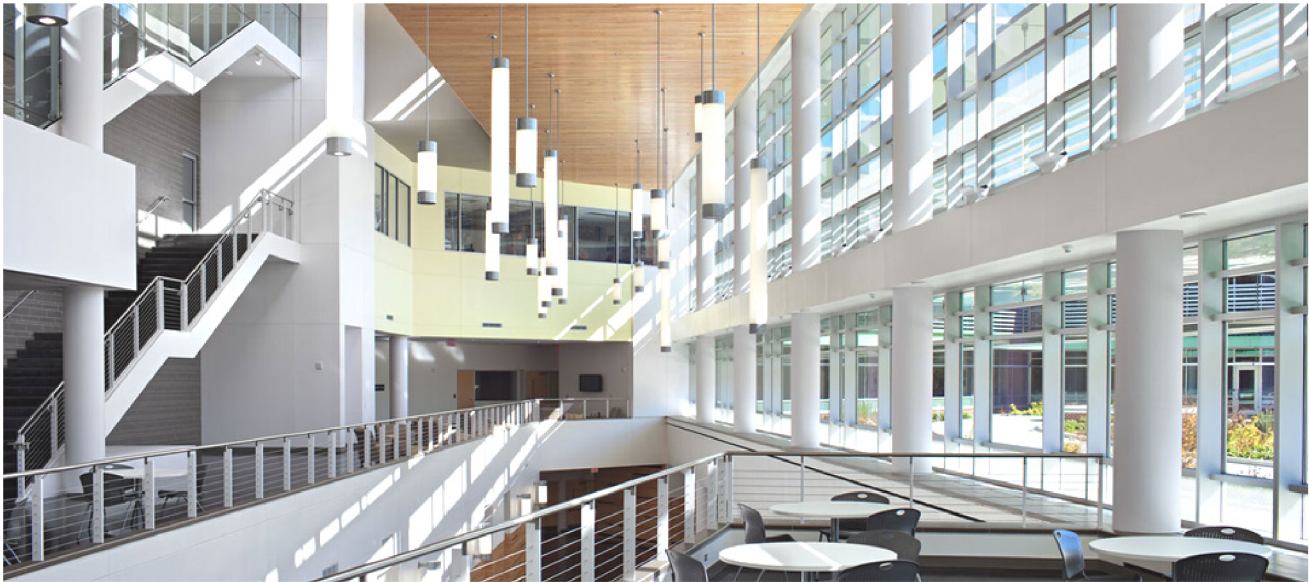
Dr. Amy Rose had a very full summer teaching the Project INTERACT Assessment course, providing clinical supervision for Camp LEAD, and teaching a new online Introduction to Autism course. She was happy to have an article accepted in School Psychology with the Project INTERACT team. Dr. Rose was also busy moving into her new house in East Asheville, relearning how to mow a lawn, gardening, observing bears in the neighborhood (from a safe distance), and enjoying time with her family.

Laura Trivette did her summer thing enjoying time with Todd and Lincoln, who is 13. Laura is happy to be back after a nice break.

Dr. Claire Wofford spent the summer close to home working on research with colleagues and students. She and her husband Scott renovated their house in preparation for the arrival of their first baby boy.

Sarah Young's summer was fast and furious as she supervised students full time with adults and children in the clinic. She enjoyed traveling almost every weekend to see friends in SC, TX, and family back home in Henderson, NC. She and her fiancé are excitedly anticipating and preparing for their wedding later this fall!





CAA Visiting This Fall

WCU underwent a successful CAA accreditation during the COVID 19 pandemic. Accordingly, site visitors were limited to Zoom meetings and reviews. This fall, WCU CSD will entertain visitors for a verification of findings. We are excited to have CAA on campus to show off our wonderful program!

Giving Opportunities

Remember to consider supporting scholarships in CSD, including the Ruby Drew Scholarship in Communication Sciences and Disorders, the Developmental Pediatric Therapies Scholarship for Communication Sciences and Disorders, the David and Kay Slattery Shapiro Scholarship for Specialists in Fluency Disorders, and the Yvonne Saddler Nielsen Scholarship in Communication Sciences and Disorders. Giving is managed by Kathleen De La Torre at kdelatorre@email.wcu.edu

Program Statistics

Spring 2023 program graduates (MS) posted a 95% pass rate for the Praxis exam. As of the publication of this CommuniCat issue, all graduates seeking employment have been successful. Congratulations graduates!

View From the Other Side

Martina Siemon, M.S. CF-SLP



Hello from the other side! This past August was the first in a while that I hadn't been preparing for classes and clinical rotations. Instead, I was preparing for my own therapy caseload. After graduation, I accepted a clinical fellow position at a skilled nursing facility in Marion, NC. Going from graduate clinician to CF was a huge transition. That said, my clinical experiences and classroom knowledge allow me to feel well prepared for the working world. I exercise an openness to learning each day in order to continue to build my clinical skills. After passing the Praxis, wrapping up classes, and walking across the stage, I was excited to become a CF-SLP!