

CommuniCat

February 2016

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Happy New Year from your WCU CSD program. Our Department enjoyed a wonderful fall, and we are eager to gear up for the spring term. It is this time of year that I usually take inventory of my blessings. While my list can be somewhat predictable (family, health, friends...), I'm particularly grateful to be a part of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Western Carolina University. I'm midway through my 24th year, and the CSD joys keep coming. First, we are blessed to have a tremendous faculty that is both productive and student-centered. In addition, our students/alums are amazing and so dedicated to the betterment of people with communication impairments. You are fortunate when coming to work is something you enjoy each day. Well, I'm fortunate!



This issue of the *CommuniCat* has some special stories. You'll want to read about the upcoming Cullowhee Conference April 7th and 8th. Also, take a little time to learn about interprofessional efforts in CSD, new grants supporting Drs. Price and Rose, the first IDEALL CSD Ph.D. cohort, Dr. Shapiro's nomination for a prestigious UNC system-wide award, and a host of faculty and student activities. As always, this issue provides pass rate, graduation, and employment data on our most recent students. Finally, this *CommuniCat* includes a tribute to a beloved former CSD faculty member, Yvonne Saddler Nielsen who died in October of 2015 after a protracted illness.

Happy reading, and, as I always say, don't be a stranger!! -*Bill Ogletree*, Professor and Head, WCU CSD

In this Issue

From the Department Head	1
Cullowhee Conference Scheduled	2
New Grant Activity in CSD	3
Let's Get Together	3
Interprofessional Education and Practice	4
IDEALL CSD a Reality	4
Shapiro Nominated for Oliver Max Gardner Award	5
Program and Faculty Happenings	5
Program Statistics	6
A Program Friend Remembered	7

CULLOWHEE CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 7TH AND 8TH

The 24th Cullowhee Conference on Communicative Disorders will occur April 7th and 8th. Speakers will include Drs. Jeff Black, Ron Gilliam, and Sandi Gilliam. The theme of presentations will be language learning impairments.



Dr. Black is the medical director of the Luke Waites Center for Dyslexia and Learning Disorders at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children and clinical professor of Pediatrics at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. He has held faculty positions with the departments of pediatrics at the University of Maryland, the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) and the University of California at San Diego. He practiced general pediatrics part-time in Baltimore and taught ambulatory pediatrics at MUSC.

Dr. Ron Gilliam holds the Raymond and Eloise Lillywhite Endowed Chair in Speech-Language Pathology at Utah State University, where he serves as the Director of the Language, Education and Auditory Processing (LEAP) Brain Imaging Lab in the Emma Eccles Jones Early Childhood Education and Research Center. His research, which has been funded by the National Institutes of Health and the US Department of Education, primarily concerns information processing, language assessment, and language intervention with school-age children with specific language impairments.



Finally, Dr. Sandi Gilliam is an associate professor in the Department of Communicative Disorders and Deaf Education at Utah State University. Her primary research interests are in the areas of acquisition and disorders in language and literacy, multicultural populations, and assessment and intervention in school age children. She has produced numerous publications in peer-reviewed journals on the topic of evidence-based practice and making evidence-based decisions about language intervention with both preschool and school-age children. Sandi has served on a number of ASHA Convention planning subcommittees in child language, reviewed for professional journals, and acted as guest editor for LSHSS. She has been the recipient of both internally and externally-funded grants. Please look for a conference flier in the next several weeks. See you all in April!

NEW GRANT ACTIVITY IN CSD

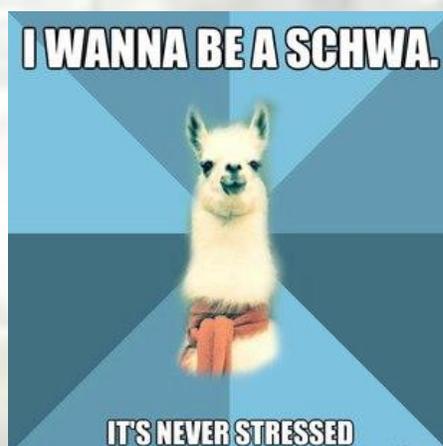
Dr. Johanna Price received a grant award of \$8210 from the WCU Provost's Internal Funding Support Grant. This funding mechanism is designed to support WCU faculty and staff for the pursuit of external funding. Price will use her award to fund an investigation of the writing skills of adolescents with autism spectrum disorder, across argument, informative, and narrative genres and in comparison to typically developing adolescents. The grant will also provide support for two graduate assistants.



Dr. Amy Rose received a \$5,000 Advancing Academic-Research Careers (AARC) Award from ASHA which supports both teaching and research-related activities for new faculty. With this award, Dr. Rose traveled to Denver in November for the ASHA national convention where she presented a technical research session on quality of friendship in students with learning disabilities with Dr. Alan Kamhi and a poster session with two WCU graduate students (Liz Rose and Jocelyn Turner) on the critical steps necessary for the establishment of friendships. Dr. Rose also had the opportunity to attend the Program for the Education and Enrichment of Relational Skills (PEERS) training during the first week of December. This evidence-based social skills intervention training was held at the UCLA Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior and will provide Dr. Rose with increased research opportunities in the areas of social skills and friendship development.

LET'S GET TOGETHER-ON SOCIAL MEDIA, THAT IS

WCU CSD has expanded our digital presence through our involvement on Facebook and Twitter. These sites will provide faculty, alumni, current and prospective students with the most up-to-date news and information while offering opportunities for networking and sharing a passion for serving those with communication disorders. Like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Western-Carolina-Communication-Sciences-and-Disorders-1079608685396406/?fref=ts> and follow us on Twitter at @wcu_slp.



INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND PRACTICE



We would all have to have our heads in the professional closet to have not heard the buzz about interprofessionalism. Most of us who have practiced as Communication Disorders specialists don't need convincing when it comes to how important other stakeholders are to clinical practice. Two (or more) heads are typically better than one, right? While we have embraced this perspective individually, our profession has begun to emphasize it both in preservice education and professional practice – hence, the birth of interprofessional education (IPE) and interprofessional collaborative practice (IPCP).

WCU CSD and the WCU College of Health and Human Sciences are both committed to the provision of IPE opportunities for existing and future students. This academic year alone, WCU CSD sponsored fall continuing education events for community and allied health providers dedicated to Parkinson's disease as well as interpretation and use of the 2013 Diagnostic Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders. These activities were coordinated by Ms. Emory Prescott and Dr. Leigh Odom and attended by individuals from throughout the region representing all disciplines and stakeholder groups. WCU CSD undergraduate and graduate students learned

from and contributed to interprofessional dialogue in a way not before available in more traditional studies. Other interprofessional activities occurring this year include the Spring Cullowhee Conference featuring medical and Speech Language Pathology perspectives on language impairment and Dr. Ogletree's coordination of a special clinical forum issue of the *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology* dedicated to interprofessional practice and severe disabilities (likely in print next Fall). Keep your eyes open for these and other opportunities and products.

IDEALL CSD A REALITY

UNCG and WCU's Inter-institutional Distance Education Agreement for Learning and Leadership in Communication Sciences and Disorders (IDEALL CSD) is a reality. The doctoral collaborative, designed to maximize resources on both campuses while providing professionals in the west with the opportunity to pursue the Ph.D. in Speech-Language Pathology, will offer its initial classes Spring of 2016.

**HIP HIP
HOORAY!**

In the Fall of 2015, three doctoral students were admitted who will begin their studies while continuing to work and live in Western North Carolina. The program is intended for part-time students who can complete their studies in as few as five years. For more information contact either Dr. Bill Ogletree (ogletree@wcu.edu WCU) or Dr. Robert Mayo (r_mayo@uncg.edu UNCG). Dr. Ogletree has partnered with UNCG to submit for grant funding to support students with this important endeavor.

SHAPIRO NOMINATED FOR OLIVER MAX GARDNER AWARD

Each year, universities in the UNC system can forward a nominee for the Oliver Max Gardner Award (OMG). The OMG is awarded to the faculty nominee who has made the greatest contribution to the welfare of the human race. This year's WCU OMG candidate is our own Dr. David Shapiro, the Madison Distinguished Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders at WCU.

David's nomination materials describe a strong record of expressive scholarship (75 published works, 200 professional presentations, and over 1 million dollars in grant funding), and highlight his international involvement in stuttering research and clinical service across seven continents. To quote the lead nomination letter "David's international efforts have created an incredible web of interconnectivity that has benefited students, international therapists, and, most importantly, individuals who stutter and their families."



We wish David the best in this award process!

PROGRAM AND FACULTY HAPPENINGS

Mrs. Linda Bowers has continued her roles as WCU CSD continuing education director and program planner for NCSLHA conference speakers. Thanks for all you do Linda!

Ms. Trish Davis and Dr. Amy Rose are busy putting the final planning touches on a 2016 Botswana trip May 16th - 30th. These two will travel with 15 undergrad and graduate students from CSD and SPED. While in Botswana the WCU group will visit several schools and work with children with special needs.

Dr. Georgia Hambrecht presented a poster session at ASHA and has a publication coming out with Dr. Ogletree, several program friends from the Iverson Riddle Developmental Center, and two former students, **Abby Guenigsmann Quass** and **Claire Wofford**. The paper will appear in a special 2016 AAC issue of the *Journal of Physical and Developmental Disabilities*. Dr. Hambrecht also served as a reviewer for WCU's Geology Program and mentored undergraduate student **Leah Bush** with a research project studying ESL adults and their use and understanding of stress in heteronyms.

Dr. Leigh Odom continues with thesis direction for graduate student **Chandler Barnes** and is conducting two research projects with undergraduate students (**Sarah Cox** and **Rachel Cox**). Dr. Odom co-authored an article from **Claire Wofford's** thesis last year that has been accepted for publication in the *National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association* journal. Leigh also has applied to be a Council on Academic Accreditation site visitor.

Dr. Bill Ogletree has a publication coming out this spring in the *American Journal on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities* describing changes to guidelines for communication services for persons with severe disabilities. This update is co-authored with members of the National Joint Committee for the Communication Needs of Persons with Severe Disabilities— a group Dr. Ogletree continues to chair. Dr. Ogletree also just learned of the acceptance of a paper on interprofessional practice in the *American Journal of Speech Language Pathology*. Finally, Bill is being featured as a speaker in an upcoming ASHA “e” conference event on literacy and severe disabilities. Look for conference information from ASHA in the next few weeks.

Ms. Emory Prescott continues her work for CSD providing instructional and clinical support in the areas of adult speech and language disorders. Emory is in her final year of doctoral studies.

Dr. Johanna Price continues her work with Literacy camp and has initiated a research project associated with her new grant (see separate story). Dr. Price has a paper in early publication with the *Speech, Language, Hearing Services in the Schools*, a top tier ASHA journal. She also presented at ASHA with graduate students **Virginia Weaver** and **Emily Lacy**.

Dr. Tracie Rice worked with Dr. Elizabeth Wark to realign WCU Speech and Hearing Clinic fee schedules and billing practices. She also has provided significant program support with administrative tasks as the Departmental office has been in transition (searching for a new full-time secretary). Finally, Dr. Rice continues several leadership roles with the North Carolina Speech Language Hearing Association.

Dr. David Shapiro saw three papers published on the International Stuttering Association conference site (<http://isad.isastutter.org>) this fall. One of these contributions was co-authored by CSD graduate student **Tessa Byrd**. In October 2015, he also coordinated Session 6 (Onset, Recovery, Persistence, and Assessment) at the 2nd International Research Conference on Stuttering in Rome, Italy. Dr. Shapiro is awaiting the publication of a paper in the Proceedings of the International Fluency Association’s 8th World Congress, and he just received print copy of an article in *Specialusis Ugdymas*, a Lithuanian Special Education Journal. Finally, David presented at the North Carolina Speech Language and Hearing Association’s fall meeting and made “e” presentations in the Czech Republic and in Lebanon.

Mrs. Laura Trivette continues to teach CSD 683 and coordinate clinical opportunities in Swain County. When asked for a tidbit for the *CommuniCat* she replied – “I have been hammering it out in Swain.”

STUDENT OUTCOME REPORTING DATA

In December of 2015, six master’s students completed their degrees. All six passed the *Praxis* exam (100% pass rate) and were employed or had job offers as of January 1st.



A PROGRAM FRIEND REMEMBERED (TRIBUTE BY DAVID SHAPIRO)

Every CSD Department needs one renaissance faculty member who enables the program to shine. That person does it all, thanklessly attending to details about which the rest of us remain unaware. That person may go unrecognized, serving the greater good. As 2015 came to a close, our CSD Department lost one such dear friend.

Professionally, Professor Yvonne Saddler Nielsen invested 26 years of invaluable service into WCU as a teacher and as a servant of people of all ages with communication disorders and of students from all geographic locations. She was a safe haven. Challenges did not deter her; she enabled each to achieve his or her best potential. She was an SLP, an academic and clinical advisor, and a faculty sponsor of NSSLHA. Prof. Saddler Nielsen routinely taught Introduction to Communication Disorders, Phonetics, Seminar in School Practice, and Professional Communication Skills for Special Educators. The value of teaching introductory courses too often is overlooked. For years, when I asked my students to share the events that led them to pursue a career in SLP, invariably I was told that it was the nurturing, guidance, and encouragement received from Yvonne in the earlier courses. Prof. Saddler Nielsen co-authored a book chapter on interdisciplinary practice and presented workshops addressing communication development and disorders, team building, and journeys through grief. Prof. Saddler Nielsen's experience and historical perspective helped our CSD Department achieve ASHA accreditation in 1992. Prof. Saddler Nielsen retired in 1997, received the NCSHLA Honors in 1998, became WCU Professor Emeritus in 2001, and launched the Saddler Nielsen Scholarship for CSD in 2007.

Personally, I worked with Yvonne for 14 years and treasured her friendship for 31. Although Yvonne relocated some years ago to be with her son Larry in Texas, my memory of her is fresh. She resides in a place of affection forever. One of the reasons I decided to come to WCU in 1984 was to work with someone as special as Yvonne. We met when I interviewed. I was moved at once by her professionalism and her humanness. Across time, she was my colleague; she was a mentor; she was at times a sister and at others a mother; she was always my friend. I share with many a sense of loss at Yvonne's passing and a happiness and thankfulness for the fond and lasting memories. Larry left me a phone message that after a period of declining health, Yvonne is now in a better place. From his faith, I feel certain that she is there, helping everyone in need with nourishing snacks, a helping hand, a joyous smile, and an affectionate touch, all of which I received regularly and not one of which I ever took for granted. To be Yvonne's friend was truly an honor of a lifetime.

When Yvonne retired, I shared publicly in her honor, "What do you say to someone who has significantly impacted positive change in a profession, in colleagues, in students, and in friends? I am not about to say goodbye. Retirement, I would imagine, is about reaping what one has sown, about peaceful endings and exciting, fresh new beginnings. It is not about leaving. I am reminded of a little word that means hello; it means goodbye; it means friendship always; it means peace. That word is *shalom*."

Cullowhee, indeed, is a lily in the valley because of people like Yvonne.

Shalom, Yvonne,

From your many friends always