

CommuniCat

Fall 2016

WELCOME BACK!!!

Well, it's happened again – another school year is here. While the summer months are relaxing and slower paced, there is something exciting about a new academic year. When the CSD offices were on the main campus in the Killian Building, I vividly remember sounds of fall – the WCU Pride of the Mountains' drum line, new students walking the halls finding their classrooms for the first time, laughter associated with student and faculty reunions... I've long



associated these sounds with the joy of learning. This fall brings new students, clients, and learning opportunities. On the undergraduate side, CSD will welcome a host of new majors. As for graduate students, a new first-year cohort will start its CSD journey. Of course, familiar faces (returning undergrads, second-year graduate students, faculty, and staff) will provide that continuity that makes school a little less scary.

This issue of the *CommuniCat* shares both happenings of the past spring/summer and upcoming events for the academic year. Take the time to read about Dr. David Shapiro's big UNC system honor, and Dr. Rose and Ms. Davis' Botswana trip. Learn about Penney Marshall Parker, the newest face in the CSD Departmental office. Find out what Drs. Price and Ogletree will be doing for ASHA this year and the Department's plans for continuing education for the fall and spring. Also learn more about IDEALL CSD doctoral students, the CSD Advisory Board, faculty updates, and program outcome statistics. Finally, read Emily Lacey's post-graduation reflection on her WCU CSD experience.

I say it every time but- don't be a stranger. Come be a part of a CEU event in the HHS building or just stop by for a visit. Consider giving to one of several CSD scholarship opportunities (see highlighted section in this issue). You are- Catamount CSD Nation! **-Bill Ogletree, WCU CSD Department Head**

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OMG! DAVID SHAPIRO WINS OLIVER MAX GARDNER AWARD

The Oliver Max Gardner (OMG) Award is the highest recognition that can be bestowed on any University of North Carolina faculty member. Named for a former North Carolina governor, the OMG recognizes the UNC faculty member whose career accomplishments have made the greatest contributions to the human race. Each year, UNC system universities submit one name for consideration. In the prior 67-year history of the award, a WCU faculty member had been honored only once.

Dr. David A. Shapiro received the OMG Award from Margret Spellings (UNC University President) and Louis Bissette (UNC Board of Governor's Chairman) during the May session of the UNC Board of Governors' meeting in Chapel Hill. Dr. Shapiro was accompanied by family members and several career colleagues. A video tribute, shown during the ceremony and subsequently aired on UNC TV, shared specifics regarding Dr. Shapiro's local to international work in stuttering.

All of David's WCU colleagues congratulate him on this significant honor! Graduates and friends wishing to honor Dr. Shapiro are invited to contribute to the David A. and Kay Slattery Shapiro Scholarship in Fluency Disorders. This award will support WCU graduate studies in speech-language pathology for deserving students interested in speech fluency disorders.



Photograph by Mark Haskett



Photograph by Mark Haskett

Contributions can be made through Bill Norris of WCU's Development office - wmnorris@email.wcu.edu - 828-227-7124.

STAY CONNECTED

Keep up with the most up-to-date news and information, network, and share your 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.

BOTSWANA

Over a year ago, Dr. Amy Rose and Ms. Trish Davis began planning for a collaborative teaching/service project in Botswana, Africa. Fall discussions/meetings with government representatives led to a summer 2016 trip with 10 WCU students (eight SLP MS students). While in Botswana, Rose, Davis, and CSD students provided consultations in the country's national resource center in Gaborone and offered direct services in regional schools and hospitals. When not busy in clinics or learning elsewhere, the WCU Botswana team enjoyed a once in a lifetime safari (see photo)! Dr. Rose and Ms. Davis also took advantage of the visit to speak with local university faculty about future collaborative opportunities.

When asked to describe the African adventure, Cady Drummonds (rising 2nd year CSD graduate student) used one word- "inspiring." Cady shared that "we learned to think on our feet" in clinical situations and "truly enjoyed interacting with the people of Botswana." Korie Bennett (also a 2nd year CSD graduate student) summed up the opportunity with, "My experience was eye-opening. I never thought I would be able to work with populations so different from those I'd seen in the USA. I learned so much."



ASHA HIGHLIGHTING WCU FACULTY

Drs. Johanna Price and Sandra Jackson's article, "Procedures for obtaining and analyzing writing samples of school-age children and adolescents," published in 2015 in *Language, Speech, and Hearing Services in Schools*, has been selected for inclusion in an ASHA journal self-study program on adolescent language. ASHA's journal self-study programs provide CEUs for SLPs and are designed to assist clinicians in their daily work. In other associational news, ASHA will be recycling the national 2016 "e" conference on Preschool Literacy during the fall of 2016 - <http://www.asha.org/events/lang-conf/>. Dr. Ogletree's presentation on literacy practices for children with severe disabilities will be a part of this event. Congrats to Drs. Price and Ogletree for extending WCU's CSD reputation to the broader national SLP community.

IDEALL CSD UPDATE

Kaylan Evans, Megan Schmidt, and Summer McMurry all began their quest for the doctoral degree in Speech Language Pathology last January as WCU officially announced its Inter-Institutional Distance Education Agreement for Learning and Leadership in Communication Sciences and Disorders (IDEALL CSD) collaborative with the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG). This spring, IDEALL CSD students took three credit hours from WCU and three from UNCG while maintaining their lives and SLP practices in western North Carolina. This summer, Evans, Schmidt, and McMurry participated in an advanced seminar in Augmentative Communication led by Dr. Bill Ogletree. Their course culminated in presentations at the second annual WCU Summer CSD Symposium: Living and Learning in the Mountains. By the end of this calendar year, the three students should have just over 20% of their program completed. For more information about IDEALL CSD, including how to apply, contact Dr. Bill Ogletree at ogletree@wcu.edu or Dr. Robert Mayo r_mayo@uncg.edu.

As an extra IDEALL CSD aside, Dr. Ogletree is working with UNCG faculty on grant support for current and future students. Look for more as this effort progresses.

MEET PENNEY MARSHALL PARKER

WCU CSD achieved a milestone – we hired Penney Marshall Parker as our first full-time secretary (Can you hear the celebration bells and whistles?). After obtaining Departmental status in 2007, CSD relied on the capable but part-time secretarial services of Darlene Stonesifer and Debbie Allison. Penney was hired this spring and comes to CSD from WCU Facilities Management. She has extensive office experience and has brought a new energy and organizational skill set to the Departmental office. Penney is married to Chet Parker, a WCU employee, and has one adult daughter (Patricia). A fun fact about Penney is that she is a licensed massage therapist – keep your requests to a minimum please ☺. Take time this term to welcome Penney to CSD.



CHECK OUT THE MANY WAYS YOU CAN GIVE BACK TO YOUR PROFESSION!

PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH!

Do you have a child or teenager between **10 and 16 years old**?

Does your child or teenager have **High Functioning Autism Spectrum Disorder**? Is your child or teenager **typically developing**?



We are currently conducting a research study to better understand the writing skills of children and teens with High-Functioning Autism Spectrum Disorder, as well as the writing skills of children and teens who are typically developing.

We need your help!

Participation in the research study will include:

- The child/teen completing writing and thinking tasks (about 1 ½ - 2 hours)
- The parent completing a questionnaire and/or interview (about 30 minutes)
- Scheduling at time and place of your convenience
- **\$20 compensation for the child/teen** who completes the tasks
- **\$20 compensation for the parent** who completes the questionnaire/interview

Please contact **Johanna Price** for further information: jprice@wcu.edu or 828-227-3795

Johanna Price, PhD, CCC-SLP
Assistant Professor
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
Western Carolina University



SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS!

Consider giving to CSD scholarships including: The Ruby Drew Scholarship; The Yvonne Saddler-Nielsen Scholarship; and the David A. and Kay Slattery Shapiro Scholarship. Tax deductible contributions can be made through Bill Norris of WCU's Development office - wmnorris@email.wcu.edu - 828-227-7124.



ATTEND CEU OPPORTUNITIES!

There will be at least two large CEU events this year. This fall the CSD Department, with the assistance of the College of Health and Human Sciences Educational Strategies Committee, will host its 2nd Annual Panel and Round Table Discussion on an Adult Treatment Topic. This year's topic, stroke intervention, is free and open to the public, students, and area professionals. If you have an interest in stroke, are a stroke survivor, or work with stroke patients, this event is for you! Look for a date and time soon.

In the spring, WCU CSD will host the 25th annual Cullowhee Conference on Communicative Disorders. Dr. Bess Sirmon Taylor will offer our half-day session on the SLP's role in head injury management. Bess is on faculty at the University of Texas at El Paso where she teaches and provides clinical services related to adults with communication impairments. Our full-day session will be led by the internationally acclaimed Dr. Amy Wetherby. Amy directs the Florida State University Autism Institute and is the FSU College of Medicine's Distinguished Research Professor of Clinical Sciences and the FSU School of Communication Sciences and Disorder's Laurel Schendel Professor of Communication Disorders. Needless to say, we anticipate a wonderful silver anniversary!! Look for more information and opportunities to reserve seats as the New Year arrives.

PROGRAM AND FACULTY HAPPENINGS

Linda Bowers provided CEU support for the WCU CSD Summer Symposium: Living and Learning in the Mountains. She also found time to vacation with her family.

Trish Davis supervised in the WCU Speech and Hearing Clinic this summer after returning from her Botswana trip (see Botswana article in this issue).

Dr. Georgia Hambrecht brought Toby Stephan as a guest speaker on the Hanen program to campus in the spring. Students and college faculty benefited from this effort. In addition, Drs. Hambrecht and Rice saw their book *Clinical Observation: A Guide to Students in Speech, Language, and Hearing* re-published in Korean.

Lindsay Heim and **Nicole McRight** supervised a team of graduate students this summer as part of the Preschoolers Acquiring Language Skills (PALS) program, an intervention effort for young children with autism and/or language disorders. Heim began PALS in the summer of 2014 to provide children with individual treatment paired with group play opportunities in natural contexts. Graduate clinicians planned both individual sessions and group play sessions, which included a brief circle/snack time followed by a host of themed activities that provided gross motor, fine motor, sensory, and dramatic play experiences. This year, PALS partnered with Full Spectrum Farms and Anna Walls of the SCC Occupational Therapy Assistant program for two weeks at the farm. SCC's OTA students collaborated with CSD graduate students to serve PALS participants. This partnership not only created lasting memories for participants, but a unique interprofessional learning opportunity for clinicians and OTA students.

Dr. Nancy Helm-Estabrooks, our Brewer-Smith Professor Emerita, spoke at the Third International Congress of Aphasia in Mexico City on June 27 and 28. Her topics were "Aphasia and Cognition: An Historical Perspective", and "Evaluation of Cognition in Presence of Aphasia and Implications for Treatment." The congress was held at ABC Hospital-Sante Fe, a nonprofit institution supported by Mexico, Great Britain, and the U.S.A.

Dr. Leigh Odom provided faculty leadership for MS graduate Chandler Barnes' successful thesis defense in the spring and is working with Chandler on an article submission from this work.

Dr. Bill Ogletree enjoyed the publication of three book chapters this spring and summer. His chapter titled "Measuring Communication and Language Skills in Individuals with Severe Intellectual Disabilities" was published in Sevcik and Romski's *Communication Interventions for Individuals with Severe Disabilities* by Brookes. Ogletree and UNC Chapel Hill professor Elizabeth Crais also had a chapter titled "Prelinguistic Communication Development" published in Keen, Meadan, Brady, and Halle's *Prelinguistic and Minimally Verbal Communicators on the Autism Spectrum* by Springer. Finally, Ogletree's revised "The Communicative Context of Autism" appeared in the 5th edition of *Educating Children and Youth with Autism*, a volume edited by Simpson and Smith Myles and published by Pro-Ed. Ogletree also appreciated the spring 2016 publication of an article in the *American Journal on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities* coauthored

with colleagues on the National Joint Committee for the Communication Needs of Persons with Severe Disabilities, a group that he continues to chair.

Emory Prescott completed the training and certification for LSVT Loud – voice treatment for those with Parkinson’s disease. WCU boasts two faculty certified in this technique: Dr. Leigh Odom and Ms. Emory Prescott. Emory is also working to complete her dissertation project. The National Aphasia Association has been distributing her research questionnaire nationwide via a link to the survey within the NAA e-newsletter. Emory’s research is focusing on natural methods that benefit treatment outcomes in patients with aphasia and cognitive deficits.

Dr. Johanna Price continues her research project, Writing across Genres in Adolescents with and without Autism Spectrum Disorder, with research assistants Megan Black (2nd year masters student) and Megan Schmidt (IDEALL CSD doctoral student). Thanks to the help of many friends of the WCU CSD department, recruitment and testing of participants continues to be successful. Stay tuned for preliminary findings!

Dr. Tracie Rice continues to add clinical sites, expanding student experiences. She also was a co-author with Emily Lacey, Bill Ogletree, and Amy Rose on a journal article submission based on Emily’s MS Spring ‘16 project.

Dr. Amy Rose traveled to Botswana (see article in this issue). In addition, she presented two posters at the 2nd Annual Southeastern Interprofessional Education Conference in Asheville (June) describing collaborative projects with WCU Nursing and the WCU Health Educators Academy (HEA). Dr. Rose also is involved in writing projects with CSD and Nursing faculty and continues to pursue writing with HEA peers and on her own. Finally, Amy is working to start collaboration with University of Botswana and Camphill, a special needs school in Botswana.

Dr. David Shapiro was a speaker at the spring conference of the Speech and Hearing Association of Alabama (SHAA), where he presented a session titled, “Achieving Communication Freedom for Teens and Adults Who Stutter: A Process of Collaboration, Success, and Fun.” This spring, Shapiro also traveled to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette where he presented a keynote address titled, “The Value of Stories Shared: Breaking Taboos and Understanding What it Means to Stutter” and collaborated with faculty, doctoral students, and master’s students on clinical and research projects in fluency disorders. Of course, Dr. Shapiro received the Oliver Max Gardner Award in May (see article in this issue). After receiving the award, David and second year graduate student Amanda Glover made a presentation to the WCU Board of Trustees on June 3rd sharing David’s work and describing collaborative opportunities he has created for students. David also has met with numerous media outlets, resulting in print, electronic, and radio spots addressing WCU, our CSD Department, and his work with people who stutter.

Laura Trivette supervised in the WCU Speech and Hearing Clinic this summer while enjoying family time with her husband Todd and son Lincoln.

STUDENT OUTCOME REPORTING DATA

Twenty-eight of twenty-nine (96.5%) second-year 2016 WCU CSD graduate students passed the Praxis on their first take, and 100% percent of students ultimately reported passing Praxis scores. All students from this cohort were employed or had employment offers at the time of this publication. One student originally in this cohort dropped out of the program for personal reasons (96.5% retention).

THANK YOU ADVISORY BOARD!

The WCU CSD Advisory Board is a critical resource for CSD faculty and students specific to Departmental offerings and activities. Board members agree to one face-to-face meeting each the year and provide ongoing support with issues as needed. Below is a list of current CSD Advisory Board members.

If you have questions or comments about CSD at WCU, please do not hesitate to contact the board through Nicole McRight nmmcright@gmail.com . If you have interest in serving on the CSD Advisory Board, contact Dr. Bill Ogletree at ogletree@wcu.edu.

Patrick Bartholomew
Beth Baxley
Hunter Payne Behrman
Beulah Shaw
Janaye Houghton
Ann Nicholson

Sandra Hogshed
Summer McMurry
Lindsay Heim
Nicole McRight (contact person)
Natalie Norman

Diane Gayer



THE VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDE-EMILY LACEY, M.S., CLASS OF 2016

It is hard to believe that it's been over two months since graduating from the CSD program at WCU. Those three years proved to be some of the most transformative years I have ever experienced. The coursework was critical, but just one part of that development. Our professors shared their expertise freely, and I already miss the conversations and mentorship they provided. I was afforded opportunities to collaborate in research with other students and professors, and exposed to exercises and ideas I never would have encountered otherwise. The friendships I made in school have become lifelong friendships and formed my first group of colleagues in this new career.

Since graduating, I've accepted a position at a local public school district working with pre-school and school-age children. I've also helped a family this summer access AAC resources and services through the ATRC (Assistive Technology Resource Center). These types of experiences will keep me close to the populations I love so much, children and adults with significant intellectual disabilities.

I was just sitting on the porch with one of my new SLP colleagues last week, drinking a cup of coffee, marveling that we were already done. I will miss my carpool sisterhood, and the support of my professors and clinical supervisors. I am, however, confident that based on my training at WCU, I will be able to provide quality services to the children I will be serving!