

# CommuniCat

Western Carolina University Communication Sciences and Disorders

## THAT TIME AGAIN?

Yes, it's that time again. Although there is no hint of fall in the air, WCU is gearing up for the new semester. That means it's time for another issue of the CommuniCat, WCU CSD's vehicle for catching you up on happenings in Cullowhee.

This is a particularly news-dense issue, so my comments will be short. To new undergraduate and graduate students, I offer a big Catamount welcome. To returning students and faculty I simply say, glad you are back. Finally, to those of you out there in CSD Catamount Nation, I offer an open-ended invitation to visit. We miss you! Remember you can follow student and program activities via Twitter and Facebook ([https://twitter.com/search?q=wcu\\_slp](https://twitter.com/search?q=wcu_slp) & <https://www.facebook.com/Western-Carolina-Communication-Sciences-and-Disorders-1079608685396406/>).



What's in this issue? The stories that follow share information about the retirements of two longtime CSD faculty members, Dr. Ogletree's receipt of the Brewer Smith Professorship, new faculty appointments, awards for two CSD faculty, impending administrative transitions in the program, a strategic plan update, a Cullowhee Conference sneak peak, faculty and student activity in Botswana, and student and faculty updates. Of course, there is also a recent graduate's view "from the other side" as well as program outcome data.

Thanks again for all you do representing us as students, graduates, and program friends. We can't do what we do without you! Claws out!

-Bill Ogletree, Department Head, CSD

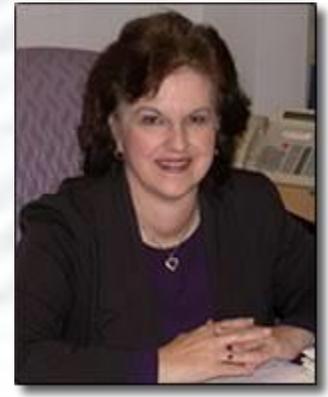
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## RETIREMENTS

I've heard it said that all good things come to an end. In the case of WCU CSD faculty longevity, I guess it's true. In the spring of 2018, just two weeks apart, I had unexpected visits from Mrs. Linda Bowers and Dr. David Shapiro announcing their intentions to retire effective early summer. To say I was surprised would be an understatement.

Linda's WCU life began 40 years ago. Throughout her WCU tenure, she provided administrative leadership as Speech and Hearing Clinic Director, taught graduate and undergraduate courses, supervised clinic, published, and provided service throughout the program, college, and university. Linda's work life extended well beyond the walls of WCU. She served the North Carolina Speech, Language, and Hearing Association (NCSLHA) in myriad capacities, including completing a term as president. Linda's state leadership was recently recognized with her receipt of NCSLHA Honors.



At Linda's retirement dinner in May, friends and colleagues gathered to recount wonderful stories, and Linda's contributions were recognized with a 40-year service plaque.



Dr. David Shapiro found his way to Cullowhee in 1983. He and Kay were newlyweds and, like many others signing on as WCU faculty members, had no idea they would become Catamounts for life. David quickly climbed the WCU faculty ladder to become a full professor by the early 1990s. His scholarship, teaching, and service set the bar for colleagues in the Department of Human Services. David's early meaningful scholarship in clinical supervision soon gave way to a new focus on fluency disorders. By the late 1990s, Dr. Shapiro had published his leading book on the management of fluency disorders (now in its second edition) and was an ascending star in fluency on the national and international stage. During this period, he travelled extensively, participating in and leading clinical and research efforts across the globe. Dr. Shapiro was elected president of the International Fluency Association in the early 2000s and expanded this organization's membership and influence during his term. David's career efforts were recognized in 2007 with his receipt of the Robert Lee Madison Distinguished Professorship. Over the next decade and until his retirement, Dr. Shapiro continued his prolific career, eventually publishing over 100 professional papers and presenting over 300 sessions at workshops and conferences worldwide. His efforts resulted in myriad recognitions, including Honors of NCSLHA and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Possibly his most notable recognition was David's selection as the 2016 Oliver Max Gardner (OMG) award recipient. The OMG is awarded annually to the faculty member in the North Carolina university system who, through his or her career, has made the greatest contribution to humanity.

You just can't say enough about Dr. Shapiro and his contributions to CSD at WCU. He has been named the Robert Lee Madison Distinguished Professor Emeritus and, aside from typical retiree pursuits, will maintain a limited presence in WCU CSD (HHS 163—sharing with Kate Kelleher), writing and working with colleagues and students. Thank you Linda and David for careers well served!!!

## THE CATHERINE BREWER SMITH PROFESSOR



In March of 2018, Dr. Billy T. Ogletree was named the Catherine Brewer Smith Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders. Dr. Ogletree has been a faculty member at WCU since 1992 and held the position of Department Head since 2007. His professional interests include the communicative abilities and needs of individuals with severe intellectual disabilities, including autism. Dr. Ogletree has published over 80 professional articles, chapters, and books, and has made well over 100 presentations at local, national, and international venues. He has received over \$2.4 million in external support for his research. Dr. Ogletree currently chairs the National Joint Committee for the Communicative Needs of People with Severe Disabilities. He plans to use the professorship to create a severe-disabilities clinic at WCU and to pursue external funding to support students interested in this area of professional practice.

The Brewer Smith Professorship is the result of a generous financial gift from Catherine Brewer Smith in honor of her late father who experienced communication challenges. The prior holder of the Brewer Smith Chair was Dr. Nancy Helm-Estabrooks, a nationally renowned expert in adult language impairment who retired in 2011 but continues to support WCU CSD in an emerita faculty role.

## NEW FACES IN CSD

WCU CSD is pleased to announce the arrival of two new faces in the department. Dr. Chagit (Ha-geet) Clark, an Assistant Professor and our fluency expert for the 2018-19 year, and Ms. Annette Rockwell, our newest supervisor in the Speech and Hearing Clinic. In the way of introduction, each provides a brief bio below.

Please drop by and welcome Dr. Clark (HHS 190) and Ms. Rockwell (HHS 161).



**CHAGIT CLARK, PH.D., CCC-SLP** I am a new Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. The majority of my career has focused on stuttering, a disorder I continually seek to better understand through ongoing collaborations with researchers in the field and by working with the experts themselves—that is, people who stutter. My current research interests relate to how multiple variables might contribute to the development and persistence/recovery of childhood stuttering. I am a co-investigator in *The Early Childhood Onset Stuttering (ECHOS) Research Project* with colleagues at Vanderbilt University and the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. The ECHOS project involves an extensive 10-year repository of diverse clinical data, which will hopefully provide insight into possible diagnostic predictors of chronicity as well as effective treatments for early childhood stuttering. I also teach undergraduate- and graduate-level courses at WCU (Introduction to Communication Sciences & Disorders; Fluency & Voice Disorders; and Fluency Disorders). It is a privilege being part of students' professional journeys, watching them become excited about certain topics and gain confidence in their clinical skills. Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my husband and two daughters. You will find me traveling when time allows, cooking or tasting new food often, and reading anything Sci-Fi or fantasy (*The Lord of the Rings* being one of my favorites).

**ANNETTE L. ROCKWELL, M.A., CCC/SLP** My career as a Speech-Language Pathologist began at All Children's Hospital in Florida, where I started and led the Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Team while providing services for in- and out-patient pediatrics. I moved to HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital so I could work with both children and adults on an in-patient basis, and there served as a member of the Aphasia Team. I then started working in the public school system and was the AAC and medical liaison for students returning to school from medical placements, while also providing speech and language services for students in Kindergarten through high school. The position I held prior to coming to WCU was in Phoenix, Arizona, where I was the Manager of Speech/Language Services and the AAC Unit for the Department of Developmental Disabilities for the State of Arizona. Although my career emphasis has been with service provision for individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities, I enjoy all aspects of speech-language pathology and working with all ages.



My childhood was primarily spent in Slidell, Louisiana. I am a proud graduate of Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. When not working, I enjoy spending time with my two daughters and our dog, reading, and watching college football. Geaux Tigers! Having moved from Arizona, I am looking forward to watching WCU sports, rain, and cooler weather! Go Cats!

## AWARD WINNERS!



What have we always known that the College of Health and Human Sciences (CHHS) now knows? That CSD has award-winning faculty members! That's right, Drs. Georgia Hambrecht

Johanna Price both received awards at the annual faculty award celebration this April. Dr. Hambrecht was named the CHHS Board of Governor's Teaching Award recipient, and Dr. Price received the CHHS Faculty Scholar award. Take time out this fall to congratulate Drs. Hambrecht and Price!

## THINGS ARE CHANGING IN CSD!

After 12 years as Department Head on June 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 Dr. Bill Ogletree will step back into a faculty role to devote his time to the Brewer Smith Professorship. Of course, one move typically necessitates several others. Accordingly, Dr. Tracie Rice will assume the Department Head position for the program upon Dr. Ogletree's departure, and there will be additional announcements in 2019 specific to the naming of a new Speech and Hearing Clinic Director and a Clinical Placement Coordinator.

What remains the same is WCU CSD's commitment to students, clients, and stakeholders. Change is inevitable, but can be cathartic. CSD is proud of its accomplishments of the past and looking forward to new opportunities in the future.

## STRATEGIC PLANNING

In 2009, some two years post becoming a department, WCU CSD completed its first strategic planning exercise and posted a 10-year plan that has served as a strong guide to program growth. Amazingly, the last year in this plan is 2019. During the 2018-19 year, CSD will participate in a new strategic planning effort to chart the course of the department's future. WCU CSD will be inviting stakeholder feedback on the upcoming plan by working with students and the CSD advisory board as well as posting a draft in the spring edition of the CommuniCat. Below is the executive summary for our current plan provided in the 2018 CAA annual report.

Executive Summary - The WCU CSD Strategic Plan is entering the final year of its 10-year cycle and includes the following four areas of focus: Academic/Scholarship, Clinical, Outreach, and Strategic Alignment with CHHS. In area 1 (Academic/Scholarship), WCU CSD is focusing on activities including international outreach, the development of varied academic electives, and the promotion of expressive scholarship. Outreach is occurring primarily with funded efforts in Botswana led by Dr. Amy Rose, her students, and Ms. Trish Davis. Academic elective development has most recently included the offering of a genetics course in CSD. Finally, expressive scholarship is being promoted at all levels but is most obviously evident in Dr. Rose's Fulbright Hayes grant for Botswana, increased faculty publications, and Dr. Ogletree's receipt of the Catherine Brewer Smith Chair (allowing for his greater focus on scholarship). In area 2 (Clinical), WCU CSD is focusing on developing or continuing steeples of excellence (in the areas of stuttering, literacy, international services, and severe disabilities), hiring supervisory support for the WCU SHC (replacement for Mrs. Linda Bowers, who retired-Annette Rockwell hired and beginning the 18-19 year), the infusion of an assessment module to promote stronger assessment skills in the clinic, and the provision of continuing-education opportunities for supervisors regarding the supervisory process. In area 3 (Outreach), WCU CSD is broadening clinical offerings in Asheville through the provision of some supervised therapy at WCU's Biltmore Park Campus and continuing to pursue ways to attract diversity in all aspects of the program. Finally, in area 4 (Strategic Plan Alignment with CHHS) WCU CSD is initiating a process to expand its current strategic plan for the next decade and working to assure that it aligns with college and university priorities.

## 27<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CULLOWHEE CONFERENCE ON COMMUNICATIVE DISORDERS

April 4 2019 April 5

The 27<sup>th</sup> annual Cullowhee Conference on Communicative Disorders will occur April 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> in CHHS Rm. 204. Our speakers include Mr. Perry Flynn of NCDPI and UNCG fame, and Drs. Hugh Catts and Betsy Crais. Dr. Catts is the Director of the School for Communication Sciences and Disorders at Florida State and a well-known expert in language and literacy. Dr. Crais is a professor in Speech and Hearing Sciences at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a national expert in the areas of early intervention and Autism Spectrum Disorders. We look forward to seeing Catamount CSD Nation in April!!!

# SAVE THE DATE

### BOTSWANA: A REAL ADVENTURE



Dr. Amy Rose, Ms. Trish Davis, and Dr. Karena Cooper-Duffy led 12 current and future speech-language pathologists and special-education teachers from NC public schools and WCU on a life-changing journey through Botswana, Africa. This 4-week adventure was made possible through the Fulbright-Hays Group Project Abroad (GPA) program and through a partnership with the Department of Special Support Services, Ministry of Basic Education, in the Republic of Botswana. Participants worked very hard to meet the objectives of the project, including 1) enhancing participants' knowledge of Botswana history, culture, and language; 2) developing

participants' intercultural competence and cross-cultural communication skills; 3) strengthening the collaboration between Botswana and US teacher educators and teacher candidates; and 4) developing accessible curricular activities to enrich the integration of African culture and language instruction in K-12 area studies. Specifically, participants worked alongside teachers and students at eight schools in the cities of Gaborone, Francistown, and Maun; presented workshops at the Autism Botswana Seminar with 130+ attendees; learned some Setswana words and phrases; gained knowledge about Botswana's history, traditions, culture, and educational system; met with administrators and other stakeholders; engaged in cultural activities, including visits to Mokolodi Nature Reserve, Bahurutshe Cultural Village, Three Chiefs Statues, and Victoria Falls; participated in game and boat drives in Chobe National Park and the Okavango Delta; presented curricular activities and lesson plans at the culminating event; and purchased classroom materials for the eight target schools. One participant expressed in her final journal entry "the trip exceeded my expectations and has been nothing less than amazing."

## FACULTY/STUDENT UPDATES

**Dr. Chagit Clark's** summer largely involved chasing her two young daughters around the beach, zoos, swimming pools, lakes, the library, theaters, and birthday parties. During her grandmother-in-law's ("Grandmama") 90th birthday party, Grandmama proudly announced to the nursing home that her granddaughter-in-law joined the WCU faculty—clapping ensued. In between chases and parties, Dr. Clark and her colleagues at Vanderbilt University and the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center continued developing the *Early Childhood Onset Stuttering (ECHOS) Research Project*. The ECHOS project will be presented at the annual ASHA convention this November in Boston, MA. Drop by and meet Dr. Clark in HHS 190.

**Trish Davis** enjoyed her time in Botswana with Dr. Amy Rose and CSD students. Their month-long visit was enough to become immersed in the culture and joy of Botswana as well as make solid strides towards achieving the aims of the Fulbright-Hays Project grant. Of course, Trish also enjoyed time here in the Speech and Hearing Clinic and in her garden.



**Dr. Georgia Hambrecht** reported a fine summer with walks on the Green Way, visits to family in Summerville, S.C., and joy in her garden. The Assessment Workbook she is authoring with **Dr. Tracie Rice** is near completion, and she is grateful for the meaningful contributions made by so many students. Here is the book's acknowledgement page: "The authors would like to acknowledge the following individuals for their help with manuscript editing and/or sample assessment examples: **A. G. Bradshaw, D.E. Carter, R. A. Cox, A.D. Frady, N.T. Greenway, E.E. Lait, A.N. Manz, K.L. McDonald-Coxen, T.D. McKinney, and M.E. Momphard.** Your help was truly appreciated."

**Kate Kelleher** received notification of the acceptance of her poster session for the ASHA conference in Boston. The poster's title is "Local Access in the Global Community of Visual Multi-Media Presentations." Kate was also one of 20 attendees at the workshop "Using Cognitive Approaches to Working with People who Stutter." The event was sponsored by The Stuttering Foundation and Boston University and occurred in Boston this summer. Kuddos to Kate on all accounts!

This summer **Dr. Leigh Odom** provided a seminar in Raleigh on neurogenic communication disorders and communication strategies at the 2018 LPCANC (<https://lpcanc.site-ym.com/>) conference. The focus of the conference this year was integrative care. She is also pursuing additional continuing-education opportunities for dementia training/care. Some of these will be provided with other disciplines in HHS.

**Dr. Billy Ogletree** found time this summer to walk on the beach with family and visit his 94-year-old mother. He also participated in several signings for his new book "*Mean Christianity: Finding Our Way Back to Christ's Likeness*" (available at [www.meanchristianity.com](http://www.meanchristianity.com) and through Amazon—



soon to be available on Audible.com). On the professional side, Dr. Ogletree saw a paper accepted for publication with the IDEALL CSD doctoral students on new directions in AAC and enjoyed the publication of a chapter with **Dr. Johanna Price** in the new *Diagnostic Manual-Intellectual Disability: A Clinical Guide for Diagnosis of Mental Disorders in Persons with Intellectual Disability*. The latter was an abridged version of an earlier textbook chapter on the same topic.

**Dr. Johanna Price** was awarded the American Summer/Short-Term Research Publication Grant from the American Association of University Women. This grant supported Dr. Price during the months of July and August as she drafted a manuscript: *Writing Skills of Adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Preliminary Look at Sex Differences*. She also co-authored a chapter on Communication Disorders with **Dr. Ogletree** in the *Diagnostic Manual-Intellectual Disability: A Clinical Guide for Diagnosis of Mental Disorders in Persons with Intellectual Disability*. She found time over the summer to enjoy the beach, a train ride, and baseball games with her family (which now includes a new puppy, Lucky!).

**Dr. Tracie Rice** has been celebrating the completion of the writing portion of the assessment workbook that she has been working on with **Dr. Hambrecht** as well as the acceptance of a poster presentation for ASHA this fall. She has been very busy in clinic with evaluations and hearing-aid fittings for veterans in Western North Carolina. On a personal level, Dr. Rice enjoyed a beach trip with her family in June and is learning to cope with having a 13-year-old (Olivia) and a new driver (Sydney turned 16 this July!) in her house.

**Annette Rockwell** spent her summer finding her way to Cullowhee. As is detailed in her bio (see earlier story), Annette moved to WCU from the hotter and more arid climate of Arizona. She is learning her way around HHS and the SHC. Drop by to meet Annette in HHS 161!



**Dr. Amy Rose** has been very busy with Botswana-related activities, including the Fulbright-Hays Group Project Abroad and presentations at the TASH conference in Atlanta, the Sylva Rotary Club, and the Autism Botswana seminar in Gaborone, Botswana. Her work with colleagues in the CHHS Health Educators Academy has continued to be productive, with a presentation at the Summer Institute for Learning and two publications related to competency-based education and learning communities. Dr. Rose continues to partner with Dr. Kelly Kelley in Special Education in offering a weekly PEERS social skills group and a course on social coaching. They are currently revising a manuscript and

hope to present their work at the 20<sup>th</sup> annual DADD conference in Maui. Check out Dr. Rose's podcast on Huntington's Disease and speech therapy – here's the link:

<http://www.blogtalkradio.com/help4hd/2018/07/25/amy-rosespeech-therapy-hd>

**Laura Trivette** found time this summer to play at the beach, knee board at the lake, visit with family, and go camping. She also enjoyed treating her preschool clients in Swain County.

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDE – TAYLOR SIGMAN SHOOK

I'm Taylor Shook, a 2018 graduate from the CSD program at WCU. I am excited for the opportunity to reflect a little on my experience at Western and share what I've been doing since graduation. I was blessed to complete both my undergraduate and graduate degrees in the beautiful mountains of Cullowhee. Western will always hold a special place in my heart because of all the memories I made with the wonderful people I met there. Many of those people were either students or professors in the Department of CSD. I cannot say enough positive things about the program and my experiences. My cohort and I received a quality education from supportive professors who did everything they could to prepare and empower us to be effective SLPs. They built a safe learning environment that enabled us to be creative and work through different scenarios similar to the ones we would eventually encounter in the workplace. Additionally, they provided constructive feedback to allow us to understand each concept we studied more deeply. I also enjoyed building relationships with my classmates throughout the course of the program. I know we were all drawn to this profession to help others, and although I already miss them terribly, it excites me to think about all the clients we will be reaching between the thirty of us. I am also grateful that I was able to create such a wonderful network of friends and colleagues. Although I am going to miss Cullowhee, I am eager to begin my career as an SLP. I fell in love with school-age children during my clinical placements at Western, and I am excited to work with this population in my new job as a contract therapist in an elementary school. Good luck to all the new students! You couldn't be in better hands! GO CATS! Taylor Shook M.S., CF-SLP



## PROGRAM OUTCOME DATA

All CSD MS students finishing in the 2017-18 cohort passed their Praxis exam! In addition, WCU CSD is thrilled to report 100% graduation and employment rates for this group.

## SCHOLARSHIP REMINDERS



Remember that students benefit from scholarships that are largely funded by you! Give to the Ruby Drew Scholarship in Communication Sciences and Disorders; the David A. and Kay Slattery Shapiro Scholarship for Specialists in Fluency Disorders; and the Yvonne Saddler Nielsen Scholarship in Communication Sciences and Disorders by contacting Emily Reback at [ereback@wcu.edu](mailto:ereback@wcu.edu).

Become a  
*Certified  
Dementia  
Practitioner*

This seminar is the required seminar for those pursuing CDP(R) certification through the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners.

Visit the NCCDP website,  
[www.nccdp.org](http://www.nccdp.org),  
for more details.

## 4th Annual Workshop on Adult Communication Disorders

hosts

### **THE ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND DEMENTIA CARE SEMINAR**

Presented by

Leigh Odom, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, CDP, CADDCT

Cullowhee, NC

Friday, October 5th, 2018

8:30 AM-4:30 PM

College of Health & Human Sciences, Room 204  
Western Carolina University

**Topics covered include:** Overview of dementia & Alzheimer's; Communication strategies; Verbal & physical aggression; Repetitive behaviors; Paranoia, hallucinations, delusions; Wandering & hoarding; Intimacy & sexuality; Staff & family support; Environmental changes & activities; Diversity & cultural competence; and Spiritual care & end of life care.

\$85 registration fee includes handout notebook and CDP application fee!

Register online at  
[www.leighdomslp.com](http://www.leighdomslp.com).

Last day to register is  
September 24th.

- 7 contact hours of continuing education available for nursing, and pending approval, speech pathology and recreational therapy
- Full-day attendance required to receive certificate of attendance.
- To take advantage of the discounted CDP application fee, attendees should bring the completed and notarized application to the seminar. Application available at [www.nccdp.org](http://www.nccdp.org).
- Questions can be directed to Leigh Odom, [KModom@email.wcu.edu](mailto:KModom@email.wcu.edu) or 828-227-3834.