

CommuniCat

Fall 2014

WARMING UP

Hello from Cullowhee! While we all have been warming up this summer; the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorder is “starting our engines” for the fall term. Several good things are happening. First, we will welcome 30 new and 30 returning graduate CSD students. For the second year in a row, our applications for graduate school have approached 300, and the qualifications of applicants have been impressive. Needless to say, we’re attracting top notch students! In related student news, it is worth noting that our undergraduate numbers are also at an all-time high. Second, we will be seeing a couple of new faculty faces this fall (see story titled “New Faces”). Emory Prescott, a regular teacher of our Dysphagia class, will work with and supervise adult services in the Speech and Hearing Clinic, while Amy Rose, a new Assistant Professor, will start her WCU career. Third, we will host our 2nd fall *Issues in Adult Services Conference* in October (see story inside) and our 23rd *Cullowhee Conference on Communicative Disorders* in March (see “Continuing Education Opportunities” story). Finally, while many other things will be occurring in CSD, we will take time this year to help WCU celebrate its 125 anniversary as an institution of higher education. I know I speak for all WCU CSD stakeholders when I say, “It’s great to be a Catamount.”



Aside from the stories previewed above, this issue of the *CommuniCat* shares faculty happenings, award news for one CSD faculty member, IDEALL CSD collaborative news, and a new graduate’s view from the “other side.” Data specific to program completion rates, employment, and *Praxis* pass rates are also provided. You hear me say this each issue, but let me say it again – please come see us. We are your CSD family, and we’d love to reconnect. Have a great fall!!

-*Bill Ogletree*, Department Head

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NEW FACES



CSD welcomes two new faculty members this fall. Ms. Emory Prescott will be working two days a week as a clinical provider and supervisor as she completes her doctoral studies through the University of Natural Medicine in San Dimas, CA. Emory has a long career as a speech language pathologist in Western North Carolina. Most recently she was employed at Angel Medical Center where Emory was the Director of Speech Pathology Services. Emory is Vital Stim certified and has accrued several other continuing education experiences in the area of adult services. She has taught the CSD graduate Dysphagia course for two years.

Ms. Amy Rose will also be joining CSD in the fall. Amy is completing her doctoral studies in speech language pathology at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and hopes to defend her dissertation before Christmas. A long-time speech language pathologist, Amy has experience in medical and school settings and has participated in telepractice, a new innovation in clinical service delivery. Amy's dissertation considers the social and communicative abilities of older children with learning disabilities. This summer, she completed a manuscript describing treatment tips for teachers working with children on the spectrum (submitted to *Intervention in School and Clinic*) with Drs. Ogletree and Price and Mrs. Julie Ogletree.



OGLETREE NAMED UNIVERSITY SCHOLAR

Dr. Bill Ogletree, Head of WCU's Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, was named the University Scholar in WCU faculty awards ceremony last April. Ogletree was recognized for his career in scholarship which has

resulted in 63 publications and well over two million dollars in external grant receipts. The award was commemorated by a plaque and a check for \$1000. Dr. Ogletree reports he used the money to support his new bike riding obsession. As a side note, CSD is one of only a handful of WCU Departments who can claim two university scholars. Dr. David Shapiro received the award in 1997.

CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Don't miss this year's Department sponsored continuing education opportunities. Last year over 250 individuals enjoyed learning in the mountains during CSD sponsored events. In the fall, Ms. Emory Prescott will present at this year's *Issues in Adult Services Conference*. Her presentation titled *Integrating Wellness Concepts into Traditional Speech Pathology Treatment* will feature clinical procedures and perspectives associated with a whole person view of wellness. This event will occur in 175 of the HHS building **October 23rd from 4 to 7 p.m.** Cost for the event is a five dollar CEU charge plus a donation to the Ruby Drew Scholarship in Communication Sciences and Disorders. Checks can be made out to WCU NSSLHA and mailed to Bill Ogletree at 4121 Little Savannah Road, 158A HHS Building, WCU, Cullowhee, NC 28723. Attendees can also pay at the door.

The 23rd annual *Cullowhee Conference on Communicative Disorders* will feature Drs. Bill and Monica Harn. Bill and Monica are former faculty members at WCU who now work at Lamar University in Beaumont, TX. The conference will occur **March 26th and 27th** in room 204 of WCU Health and Human Sciences building. Keep your eyes open for more on this exciting event.



IDEALL CSD COLLABORATIVE

In 2008, WCU CSD began initial dialogue with CSD at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro about a joint doctoral program in speech language pathology. The resulting program idea, named the Inter-Institutional Doctoral Education Arrangement for Learning and Leadership in Communication Sciences and Disorders (IDEALL CSD), will allow interested parties in the western part of North Carolina to pursue doctoral studies while remaining in the west. IDEALL CSD combines the resources of WCU's and UNCG's CSD programs to create a tailor-made student experience. Students will accrue about half of their credit through WCU and half through UNCG (primarily online). The program is essentially an expansion of UNCG's existing doctoral program in CSD.

The memorandum of understanding for IDEALL CSD is being signed by both universities this summer and will be presented for consideration by the University of North Carolina's general administration thereafter. With appropriate approvals, the collaborative should be soliciting applications from potential doctoral students very soon. For more information, contact Dr. Bill Ogletree at ogletree@wcu.edu.

FACULTY AND STUDENT HAPPENINGS



Dr. David Shapiro is preparing materials for conference presentations and workshops in Norway (Bergen and Oslo) and South Africa (Cape Town and Johannesburg). The presentations all will occur this October. Some of the presentations will be for speech-language pathologists; others will be for people who stutter and their families. As President of the International Fluency Association, Dr. Shapiro continues to coordinate an international leadership team of speech-language pathologists, speech scientists, and researchers, all committed to understanding fluency disorders and serving

people with fluency disorders worldwide. Shapiro is also continuing his work with an IFA team that is coordinating IFA's 8th World Congress on Fluency Disorders, scheduled for Lisbon, Portugal, July of 2015.

Lindsay Heim, Nicole McRight, Laura Trivette, and Trish Davis all joined forces this summer to initiate the PALS program (Preschoolers Acquiring Language Skills), a treatment group for children on the Autism spectrum. PALS has offered intensive summer treatment services to children and their families and is meeting a real need in Western North Carolina. Congrats to PALS and its organizers and participants!!!



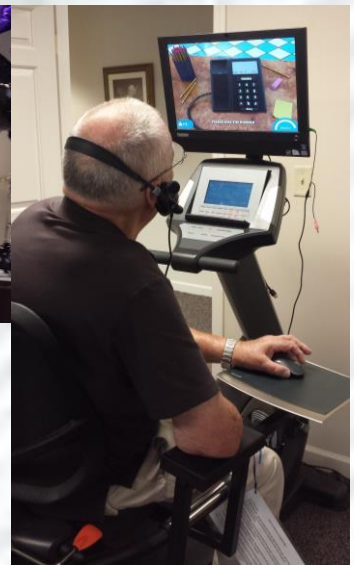
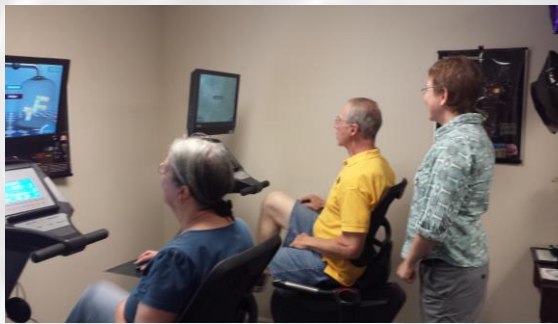
Emory Prescott is in her 3rd year of doctoral studies of integrating wellness concepts (e.g., nutrition, meditation, visualization, prayer, exercise, and yoga) into treatment. Her dissertation and research is specifically focused on the complementary addition of botanicals to standard Speech Pathology care and its impact on treatment outcomes.

This June, **Dr. Bill Ogletree** led the National Joint Committee on the Communicative Needs of Persons with Severe Disabilities in their ASHA sponsored national e-conference event. Over 270 attendees participated in five conference strands related to interprofessional practice and serving persons with complex communication needs. Dr. Ogletree provided the plenary session, narrated a team case discussion, and participated in several conference e-chats. A transcript of one of his chat sessions will be published in September's *ASHA Leader* and conference presentations are under consideration for a special issue of the *American Journal of Speech Language Pathology*. This summer, Dr. Ogletree also submitted a chapter for an upcoming ProEd text on autism and articles for *Intervention in School and Clinic* and the *American Journal on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*.

Those of you attending ASHA in Orlando should look for presentations by **Dr. Bill Ogletree**.

This summer, **Dr. Leigh Odom** supervised incoming graduate students Bree Branch and Kristin Cross in a service/research project through the Haywood County Senior Resource Centers. The project

involved exercise with “brain bikes,” recumbent bicycles with computers. The students received a small grant through the WCU Honors College and put together a BrainGym 5-Week Challenge to explore ways to optimize bike use. Dr. Odom reports that the project was very successful and may be continued in the fall.



Linda Bowers continues to work with CSD at WCU and other local groups to coordinate ASHA sponsored continuing education experiences. With last year’s Cullowhee conference CSD at WCU has provided over 2500 ASHA CEU units! Mrs. Bowers is also serving as Education Chair for NCSHLA. Speakers for this year’s fall conference include Janet Sturm from the Mayo Clinic, Katarina Haley from UNC-CH, Lissa Power de Fur from ASHA’s ethics board and Barbara Fernandez the owner of Smarty Apps. Speakers for the spring conference include John Rosenbek at University of Florida, Joan Arvedson in children’s swallowing in Milwaukee, Sue Hale a past ASHA president and faculty at Vanderbilt, Tim Brackenberry from Bowling Green, and Lynn Williams from East Tennessee State

In the spring, **Dr. Georgia Hambrecht** worked with **Dr. Bill Ogletree** and **Ms. Trish Davis** to submit project IMPACT, another personnel preparation grant in the area of severe disabilities and autism. IMPACT emphasizes interprofessional preparation for participants.

Dr. Tracie Rice has been working hard as clinic director to implement both billing/fee structure changes and CALIPSO, the new tracking program for students. CALIPSO significantly streamlines and simplifies all aspects of clinical documentation. Specifically, it assists with time intensive tasks such as calculating hours and verifying certification.

Dr. Johanna Price and **Amy Rose** paired with **Bill and Julie Ogletree** to submit an article *to Intervention in School and Clinic* titled “Five things every teacher must know about their student with autism.” Dr. Price also submitted a paper to *Speech Language and Hearing Services in the Schools* with her colleague Dr. Sandra Jackson from North Carolina Central University. This paper described the clinical use of writing samples as a criterion-referenced tool for assessment of children’s and adolescents’ writing skills. **Dr. Price** received a CHHS Faculty Research Grant this summer and, with the help of graduate assistant Erica Campbell, analyzed the persuasive essays of third graders

Finally, **Dr. Kimberly Lackey** ended her faculty position in CSD this spring to take on the role of full-time mother. While at Western, Kimberly was best known for her exemplary classroom teaching and service to the schools as the organizer of Literacy Camp, a school-based clinical placement to assist struggling readers. The entire CSD community wishes Kimberly the best in her new endeavors.

SCHOLARSHIPS NEAR FUNDING GOALS

The Ruby Drew and David and Kay Slattery Shapiro scholarships are nearing their funding targets as the new term begins. That said, both need about \$3,000 to become active for students. Please consider giving to one or both of these scholarships in the next few months. The sooner they are funded, the sooner worthy CSD graduate students will receive financial support. To give, contact Brent Thomas at blthomas@email.wcu.edu or send a check care of Brent Thomas to WCU Office of Development, 201 H.F. Robinson Building, Western Carolina University Cullowhee, NC 28723.



A VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDE: PROGRAM AND PROFESSIONAL PERCEPTIONS FROM A NEW GRAD

First and foremost, I would like to say thank you to my professors, supervisors, and staff in the CSD department. Without you and the program you have provided and built at WCU, I would not be where I am today. I am at the IU Health La Porte Hospital as the main Speech-Language Pathologist, working in the acute setting, along with ICU. I am also the primary SLP working in radiology doing modified barium swallow studies. Along with this position, I am also one of three Speech-Language Pathologists working at Playtime Pediatrics – a pediatric outpatient center that provides a variety of therapies to children.

Although I have only been working a month, I feel like I have seen and done so much already. My patients are incredibly diverse with respect to age, backgrounds, and needs. Not only do I help teach children the proper ways to articulate and increase intelligibility, but I also help adults after a hemi glossectomy relearn speech, and after a tracheostomy learn how to use their voice again. I help people of all ages learn how to swallow, giving compensatory strategies and exercises to strengthen the muscles involved. I have worked with patients with Parkinson's disease, Autism, Neurological Neglect, laryngeal cancer, strokes, dementia, aphasia, language disorders, and so much more. I know there is still much more to see and learn, but I am so thankful and excited for all the new challenges that have come my way.

Seeing that I have such a range of patients and coming right out of school, I initially felt a little intimidated, wondering if I could truly do this. I had to learn how to speak with nurses, dieticians, PT, OT, and doctors – many of whom have been working for years. I had to share my findings and recommendations, upgrade or downgrade diets, order swallow studies or recommend something different from what may have been ordered because it was not appropriate for the patient at that time. I have opened up my text books, flipped through and re-read chapters, searched ASHA's website, and even gone on Blackboard to look at class notes to make sure I am giving my patients the best care possible, with the most appropriate strategies and

therapies. After I began seeing my first patients, I realized that I knew a lot more than I was giving myself credit for. Instead of feeling intimidated by my new job, I now welcome the new patients and difficult cases because it can only help me grow stronger in my practice.

I have learned and taken away so much from this department. There are so many things that I appreciate and admire about the CSD program at WCU. These things help make you stand out from others. You all, as professors, supervisors, and staff focus on making sure your students know and remember that the patients we will be working with are individual human beings who have their own stories and reasons for being where they are today. You also work hard to make sure we gain diverse learning and clinical experiences in a variety of places with both children and adults – something that many programs do not require or even offer. You focus on building relationships with your students, and your care and devotion to our success shows. It helps us grow stronger as professionals and feel more confident that we can be successful. I think about you all often and what you provided for me – education, experience, friendships, and so much more. I am forever grateful and excited to have made it through school and on to the other side.

Hrefna Czaja, MS --- May 2014

STUDENT OUTCOME REPORTING DATA

In May of 2014 25 graduating students received their Master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology. By the end of May, 25 of 25 these students had passed the *Praxis* for a program pass rate of 100%. In addition, 23 of 25 students seeking immediate work were employed for an employment rate of 92%. Congrats to our latest graduates!



Summer Fun Collage! Dr. Bill and Julie Ogletree enjoy the summer trails. Trish Davis finds a new pet. Todd Trivette designed a new pathway to Dr. Hambrecht's beautiful flower garden. Dr. Price, Josh and Mary Frances take in a day at the park. Colin and Rachel Odom keep growing up-where does the time go?!