

THE COMMUNICAT

WCU Communication Sciences & Disorders | Newsletter



WELCOME ALL!

A MESSAGE FROM TRACIE:

It sure is nice to turn our calendar pages to 2021! Here in CSD at WCU we are excited about a new year and a new term. In this issue of the CommuniCat, we share articles about the upcoming Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) visit in February, the 28th Cullowhee Conference on Communicative Disorders in April, a new faculty search, Dr. Ogletree's 2021 AAC book, an INTERACT Celebration, and faculty/staff updates. There is also a summary of recent program statistics and reminders about how you can support WCU CSD through departmental scholarships.

Just like last semester, I hope to see you in the halls of HHS this term or virtually during the Cullowhee Conference. Thank you for all you do to make us great! Mask up and rock on, CSD Catamount Nation!

Dr. Tracie Rice,
Department Head, WCU CSD

IN THIS ISSUE:

**THE 28TH CULLOWHEE
CONFERENCE:
APRIL 8TH AND 9TH**

**NEW BOOK BY DR.
OGLETREE ON AAC**

**FACULTY SEARCH: ARE
YOU INTERESTED?**

**CAA ACCREDITATION
UNDERWAY**

JOIN US VIRTUALLY ON APRIL 8TH & 9TH

After being sidelined by last year's COVID shutdown, the Cullowhee Conference on Communicative Disorders is back with a vengeance! This year's event is slated for **April 8th and 9th** with speakers including UNC-G and NCDOE's Perry Flynn, WCU's Drs. Hambrecht and Wofford, and UNC-CH's Katarina Haley. Topics will include trends in service delivery, ethics, multicultural practices, and apraxia. The event will be virtual this year and sponsored by the Catherine Brewer Smith endowment. Due to our sponsorship, the day and a half event will occur at a reduced \$25 fee and will be free to those supervising WCU graduate students during Fall 2020 or Spring 2021.

A flier providing conference details will be out by mid-February and registration will begin soon thereafter. We look forward to seeing you all at this year's virtual event.



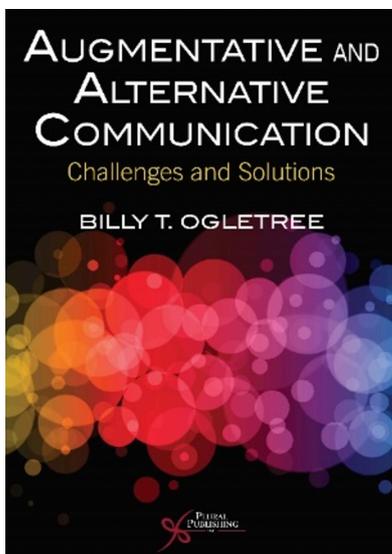
The Council on Academic Accreditation (ASHA accrediting arm), will be conducting a virtual site visit February 25th and 26th. The site visit team, chaired by Dr. Nancy Craighead, will meet with students, faculty, and program stakeholders. An open public forum will occur via Zoom on February 25th.

There will also be opportunities for alumni and program supervisors to speak with CAA site visitors. If you would like to participate, please contact Dr. Tracie Rice at trice@wcu.edu. As a reminder to readers, the CAA serves the public by promoting excellence in the graduate education of audiologists and speech-language pathologists. Through a peer-review process, the CAA establishes accreditation standards and facilitates continuous quality improvement of the programs it accredits. Graduates of CAA-accredited and candidate programs are educated in a core set of skills and knowledge required for entry into independent professional practice. The CAA is committed to quality and dedicated to audiology and speech-language pathology programs' success in preparing future professionals. CAA standards are found here: <https://caa.asha.org/wp-content/uploads/Accreditation-Standards-for-Graduate-Programs.pdf>



FACULTY SEARCH

This semester, WCU CSD will be conducting interviews for our open faculty position created by Dr. Georgia Hambrecht's impending retirement. Ads have been placed and applications are being received. A little later in the term, we anticipate conducting virtual interviews and, hopefully by the semester's end, hiring our newest faculty member. It is likely that applicants will be providing Zoom sessions illustrating their teaching. If former students or stakeholders are interested in attending these events, please notify Dr. Tracie Rice.



ANOTHER FACULTY BOOK

Over the past 20 years, WCU CSD has seen the publication of several texts by faculty members. There was Dr. Shapiro's stuttering text, *Stuttering Intervention: A Collaborative Journey to Fluency Freedom*, and its subsequent second edition. There were also books on supervision and clinical assessment by Drs. Hambrecht and Rice and an autism series manual by Dr. Ogletree and his WCU SPED colleague, Dr. Tom Oren.

This spring, Dr. Ogletree's edited book on AAC is available through Plural Publishing. The book, titled *Augmentative and Alternative Communication: Challenges and Solutions*, highlights chapters by

nationally/internationally recognized AAC scholars who share practice challenges and solutions encountered throughout their careers. Dr. Ogletree reports he is "exceptionally pleased with the contributions by active AAC researchers and practitioners, many of whom include user/stakeholder voices throughout their works." He also states, "I was happy that Kelsey Williams, WCU's own 2nd year graduate student, joined me as an author on one chapter." Check out this new offering at

<https://www.pluralpublishing.com/publications/augmentative-and-alternative-communication-challenges-and-solutions>.

INTERACT

CELEBRATION



Our very own Department of Education interprofessional grant in autism and moderate to severe disabilities (Project INTERACT) saw its first cohort complete training this past December. The project concluded with a “graduation” event hosted by project PIs and attended by Drs. Lori Anderson (the HHS Dean) and Tracie Rice (CSD Department Head). Students completed all requirements and reported strong support for INTERACT activities.

A special congratulations to WCU CSD graduate students Emily Clifford, Lauren Farnham, Josh Mintz, and Emily Wilson, who finished training. They, and other INTERACT graduate students completed 5 academic courses in addition to team-based assessment and intervention experiences with children with autism and their families. A worthy accomplishment indeed! A new cohort begins this spring. Visit Project INTERACT online at <https://affiliate.wcu.edu/projectinteract/>.



Program Outcome Data All fall 2020 WCU master's students in Speech-Language Pathology passed their PRAXIS exam and those seeking employment were successful. Special congrats to our fall 2020 graduates!



Linda Bowers reports that she and Bill are doing well, noting they are both officially retired, though Bill continues to work with the fire and rescue teams on a regular basis. Linda continues to keep her certification active and has finished her continuing education for her next cycle. She notes that ASHA made that so much easier with free access to their continuing education site. As you may know, Linda and Bill have four grandchildren now, and are enjoying time with them on FaceTime, keeping up with pursuits and accomplishments. Linda reports she and Bill have been assisting with care for her 91-year old mother, alternating turns with her sister in Florida. Linda says that she misses seeing all of you every day and hopes you are well!

Georgia Hambrecht was fortunate to have spent a prolonged time in South Carolina over the break. She is looking forward to her last semester at WCU before retirement. She hopes you all attend the virtual Cullowhee Conference, where she will be speaking on Ethics - a topic near and dear to her - and enjoying the presentations of the other speakers. She loves getting messages from former students and hopes you will send her your updates.

Leigh Odom enjoyed a wonderful Christmas with family. She reports that she will be piloting use of the Canvas instructional platform this spring as one in a group of 14 WCU faculty members. Leigh looks forward to seeing students in the new term.

Kate Kelleher is back at WCU in the role of adjunct professor, teaching Introduction to Communication Disorders this spring. She enjoyed teaching Phonetics last semester while taking classes for her PhD program (IDEALL CSD) through UNCG and WCU. While she misses the clinic greatly, she is gaining some experience in social-media management through a land conservation organization on the side. Kate has been busy hiking, mountain biking, and keeping up with her daughter Molly (see picture), partner, and 2 lovely dogs.



Nancy Helm Estabrooks continues her active life in Asheville enjoying family and friends as COVID allows. In defiance of the gloom of the pandemic, she celebrated her birthday for a month this year, as colleagues from around the country offered good wishes via various social media platforms. Nancy continues to contribute professionally on several projects.



Bill Ogletree enjoyed a relaxed holiday break (lots of Harley walking - pictured here after a walk) and is now looking forward to teaching 1st year graduate students in Infant Toddler. He also eagerly awaits the 2021 publication of his Augmentative Communication book (see article in this issue) and has taken on a section editor's role for AJSLP managing submissions in Autism and Severe Disabilities.



Johanna Price enjoyed a white Christmas with her family, especially Mary Frances and Josh (Todd liked the snow too). She also spent considerable time working on Project INTERACT'S IRB paperwork to allow for data collection and eventual expressive scholarship efforts from INTERACT faculty and students.

Laura Trivette enjoyed a fall where she was outdoors as much as possible, spending time with Lincoln and Todd. This semester she is hopeful about face-to-face clinical opportunities and adding new sites during the difficult time of COVID.

Tracie Rice was pleased to have her two girls home, although Sydney had to endure Clemson's loss to Ohio State. Tracie enjoyed exposing Olivia to 80/90s movies over the break, with Uncle Buck and/or Steel Magnolias being her favorites. On the work side of life, Dr. Rice is busily preparing for the CAA site visit in February.

Kate Roellgen enjoyed her holiday but was happy to return to HHS as the new year began. Kate looks forward to more clinical activities and seeing students/clients.

Amy Rose enjoyed time with friends, family, and her dog Ben. The holidays gave her an opportunity for rest and reflection.

David and Kay Shapiro enjoyed the wedding of their son Aaron this past fall. The event was small but festive and officiated by Dr. Ogletree's daughter Sarah. On the professional front, Dr. Shapiro saw his new chapter "Professional Development: A Process in Progress" published.





Tiffany Taylor was happy to see the first INTERACT students finish successfully and looks forward to a productive spring.

Claire Wofford recently received a Provost Scholarship Development Grant to assist in a project investigating vocabulary development and home language environments in bilingual sibling pairs. She continues to work with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in CSD committee as they learn about ways to address racial inequities in the field. She also got engaged to her partner, Scott, and they hope the pandemic will be over soon so they can get married!

Annette Rockwell reports that the clinic now has a room dedicated to teletherapy, with state-of-the-art equipment. This timely update is due to a generous donation from the Michael and Phyllis May Foundation. The clinic is currently providing approximately 40% of its speech and language services via teletherapy, following the onset of COVID-19.



Erin Shepard reports a wonderful Christmas break with cute Chloe (see picture) and holds high hopes for the term ahead!



GIVING BACK

Please remember the wonderful opportunities to support CSD students through contributions to program scholarships! From this point forward, the CommuniCat will feature one existing scholarship per issue. This issue highlights the Shapiro Scholarship.

The David A. and Kay Slattery Shapiro Scholarship for Specialists in Fluency Disorders is named for long-time and now retired WCU faculty member David Shapiro and his wife. Dr. Shapiro is internationally renowned for his work in fluency disorders and recipient of Honors of the American Speech-Language Hearing Association. He is also a former recipient of the Oliver Max Gardner award, the UNC system's highest honor for faculty members. Students working toward a graduate degree in communication sciences and disorders who demonstrate exceptional promise and passion are eligible to receive the Shapiro scholarship.

Give to the Shapiro or other scholarships (Saddler Nielsen, Ruby Drew, Excellence, Cheshire Center, and Pediatric Developmental Therapy) by contacting WCU's Emily Reback at ereback@wcu.edu.