The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders received a $1.5 million grant from the Department of Defense to research technology to assist veterans with traumatic brain injury (TBI). The focus is on developing a computer software system to document and track the functional health problems of veterans who have had a Traumatic Brain Injury during Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Since 2000, there have been over 220,000 diagnosed cases of TBI in the U.S. armed forces. It is essential to provide these individuals with the best rehabilitation and support services. Dr. Travis Threats (pictured left) will serve as investigator for the study. Consultants for this grant include: Yolanda Evans (CSD), Rosemary Norris (Physical Therapy), Julie Henderson Kalb (Occupational Therapy), and a graduate student Kathleen Hatke from the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. The grant will be done in collaboration with Principal Investigator Allen Tien, President and Director of Applied Research for Medical Decision Logic, Inc. They will use the World Health Organization’s International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health (ICF) to develop the software. This software program would be used by the Department of Defense to track functional health and disabilities in these veterans.


About this newsletter

This publication will be published twice yearly concerning news and events of the department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Saint Louis University.
New faculty in the Communication Sciences and Disorders

Angela Adrian, M.A. began in spring semester 2013 as the Speech-Language Pathology Clinic Coordinator and Clinical Instructor. Ms. Adrian graduated with a BA from the University of Notre Dame with a major in Sociology and a minor in German. She graduated from Saint Louis University in 1998 with a master’s degree from our very own department. She has been a First Steps provider since 2000. Her areas of expertise include the birth-three population and individuals with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorders. She also enjoys working with children with motor speech planning difficulties. When asked about Saint Louis University, Ms. Adrian said, “My favorite thing about SLU is the students. The energy and quest for knowledge makes coming to work exciting and NOT feel like work.” We are very excited to have Ms. Adrian’s knowledge and experience as a part of our department!

Summer Institute 2013 Chris Dollaghan, Ph.D. on evidence based practice

Chris Dollaghan, Ph.D. was the distinguished lecturer for the Communication Sciences and Disorders Summer Institute July 29-August 2, 2013. Dr. Dollaghan is a professor at the Callier Center for Communication Disorders in the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences at the University of Texas at Dallas. The course focused on the framework of evidence-based practice (EBP). This course helped make certain that students will demonstrate the necessary knowledge and skills outlined in the Standards and Implementation Guidelines for the Certificate of Clinical Competence.


Communication Sciences and Disorders: What is it?

The discipline of communication sciences and disorders is comprised of two distinct professions: speech-language pathology and audiology. These professions are concerned with human communication and its disorders.

Speech-Language Pathologists (SLP’s) help prevent, identify, assess and provide treatment for communication and swallowing disorders.

Audiologists help prevent, identify, assess, and treat hearing disorders.
Two faculty members were recognized at the 2012 ASHA Convention. Travis Threats, Ph.D. received the Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Contribution in International Achievement. This award is designed to recognize distinguished achievements and significant contributions in the area of communication disorders, revealing great international impact from their work. Deborah Hwa-Froelich was awarded Fellow. Fellowship is one of the highest honors the Association bestows. To be awarded Fellow, the nominee must have made outstanding contributions to the discipline of communication sciences and disorders. The key word for this award is “outstanding:” the nominee must truly stand out among one’s peers. The term implies contributions that are significant and would be so regarded within and beyond one’s community or state. While there are thousands of members who fulfill their professional responsibilities competently, only a small percentage have, by virtue of the quality and amount of their contributions, distinguished themselves sufficiently to warrant recognition. (retrieved from http://www.asha.org/about/awards/)

We are very proud to have these two faculty members representing the department. Both awards are highly prestigious and respected.

Congratulations
Dr. Threats and Dr. Hwa-Froelich!
Two new camps were offered this summer at the Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic to facilitate the development of speech and literacy skills in children. The Speech Summer Camp was a two-week program for three to six year old children with Childhood Apraxia of Speech, phonological disorders, and other speech disorders. These participants received beneficial small group therapy. The Power of Words was also a two-week program open for third to sixth graders to facilitate reading comprehension skills, enhance note taking skills, and strengthen writing skills. The workshop was individualized, intensive, and creative. The clients were exposed to a variety of genres, including fiction, nonfiction, and personal narratives, through a variety of activities. Both camps were designed and supervised by Angela Adrian, M.A., Speech Language Pathology Clinic Coordinator. The camps were deemed successful, and are expected to continue next year.

Carol Ackerson, M.S. received the Missouri Speech-Language-Hearing Association (MSHA) Most Outstanding Clinician award at the 2013 MSHA Convention. Ms. Ackerson has been Director of Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic’s Early Childhood Language and Literacy Center (ECLC) for over 15 years. She has conducted research, including long-term outcome concerning the children who have been in the ECLC. She strives to instill in her students the fundamentals of evidence-based practice in action. Past students would all agree that Ms. Ackerson is a truly inspirational mentor.
Alumni spotlight

Amanda Hettenhausen (pictured left), Masters class of 2009, accepted a position as an Assistive Technology Consultant for Saltillo Corporation. This company develops, manufactures, and distributes assistive technology devices to help individuals communicate. Her role is to provide support, education, and training for people in Missouri and Southern Illinois.

Class of 2000 Masters Graduate, Younghee Park (pictured right), has a private practice called the Progress Speech & Language Center. This program specializes in intervention with the bilingual populations. The Progress Speech & Language Center has a full collaborative team of Speech-Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, and Physical Therapists. Way to go Younghee! A link to her website: http://www.progressspeech.com/index.jsp

Student develops drama camp for individuals with special needs

CSD sophomore Emily Smith co-founded the Exceptional Arts Drama Camp for persons with special needs in Mobile, Alabama this past summer. Smith and her friend directed the camp and play. She said that she got the idea to start the camp when she learned in one of her speech pathology classes the importance of theatre skills in improving communication and social interaction in individuals with special needs. "Once I’ve graduated and have become a real speech-language pathologist, I hope to start a program that will incorporate more therapy goals in with the dramatic arts. For now, Exceptional Arts Drama Camp is just about the experience of being in a real theater production and having fun," said Smith. The cast included 22 members, ages 9 to 58 years. They performed “Peter Pan” at the Azalea City Center for the Arts in August.

Senior Legacy Symposium 2013

Seniors Alli Reimer, Katie Walsh, Natalie Miller, Nicole Pain, and Colleen Feldewert presented their capstone projects at the Senior Legacy Symposium at Busch Student Center this past year.
The 2013 MSHA Convention was held at the Lake of the Ozarks in April. Several undergraduate and graduate students attended representing Saint Louis University.

We are very proud of our department for these honors!

Pictured above, Sumeja Seferovic presenting her research project entitled "Prosody of Sarcasm by Gender: Acoustic and Perceptual Contrasts"

Pictured below, Marilynn Pathiyil holding her certificate for the MSHA Minority Student Leadership Award
Current research and publications


Master Theses: 2012-2013

Margaret Burke. *Development of a Core Set for Aphasia Using the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health*. Thesis Chair- Travis Threats, Ph.D.


Melissa Jostes. *Self-Perceptions of Reading, Writing and Social Abilities in Middle School Children With Language Impairment*. Thesis Chair- Sara Steele, Ph.D.

Mary Hoehl, *Analysis of sentences containing novel words produced by children with language impairment*. Thesis Chair - Sara Steele, Ph.D.

Megan Knæble, *Verbal Working Memory in Internationally Adopted Children*. Thesis Chair- Deborah Hwa-Froelich, Ph.D.