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Congratulations Tenured Associate Professor Steele!
We are delighted that Dr. Sara Steele was promoted to rank of Associate Professor and given tenure in April 2015. Dr. Steele has eight publications and numerous national presentations. Her work has focused on vocabulary learning as an essential factor for academic success. Her scholarship seeks to ascertain why school-age children with language disorders experience vocabulary learning difficulty and to discover what interventions lead to the most positive vocabulary outcomes. Her line of research began with an investigation of how well children with language disorders were able to figure out the meanings of new words when reading a short passage. Her work was among the first to demonstrate that this kind of indirect learning is a cornerstone of vocabulary development in the school years and can have significant academic consequences. Her groundbreaking articles have been recognized by several journals as among the most downloaded articles for a given year. To receive tenure at Saint Louis University, the faculty member must demonstrate excellence in teaching, scholarship and service. In all three areas, Dr. Steele has excelled as evidenced by her strong letters of support from students and scholars in child language.

Welcoming Our Newest Faculty Members
The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders has experienced significant growth this year. In addition to expanding our clinical and academic space and increasing our incoming graduate class, we are also pleased to welcome our four newest members of the CSD team - Tara Battles, M.A., CCC-A., Maureen Fischer, M.S., CCC-A., Rebecca Frisella, M.S., CCC-SLP, and Whitney Postman, Ph.D, CCC-SLP. These four full-time faculty members will bring great academic and clinical possibilities to our department. For the first time, we have two full-time 12 month clinical audiology faculty. With Ms. Frisella joining the team, our Early Childhood Language Literacy Center (ECLC) will expand with more children and additional intervention approaches. Dr. Postman is bringing her unique educational background in linguistics and speech-language pathology to do innovative research designed to improve the lives of those persons with acquired neurogenic communication disorders. Inside this newsletter you will learn more about each new faculty member, as well as the accomplishments of our faculty and students.

L to R: Rebecca Frisella, Maureen Fischer, Tara Battles, and Whitney Postman

Congratulations Tenured Associate Professor Steele!

We are delighted that Dr. Sara Steele was promoted to rank of Associate Professor and given tenure in April 2015. Dr. Steele has eight publications and numerous national presentations. Her work has focused on vocabulary learning as an essential factor for academic success. Her scholarship seeks to ascertain why school-age children with language disorders experience vocabulary learning difficulty and to discover what interventions lead to the most positive vocabulary outcomes. Her line of research began with an investigation of how well children with language disorders were able to figure out the meanings of new words when reading a short passage. Her work was among the first to demonstrate that this kind of indirect learning is a cornerstone of vocabulary development in the school years and can have significant academic consequences. Her groundbreaking articles have been recognized by several journals as among the most downloaded articles for a given year. To receive tenure at Saint Louis University, the faculty member must demonstrate excellence in teaching, scholarship and service. In all three areas, Dr. Steele has excelled as evidenced by her strong letters of support from students and scholars in child language.
Welcoming our Newest Faculty Members

Tara Battles, M.A., CCC-A
Ms. Battles is our new clinical audiologist and instructor. Receiving her undergraduate and graduate degrees from University of Illinois—Champaign/Urbana, she moved to the Saint Louis area practicing in medical centers and private ENT offices. In addition, Ms. Battles served as the former Chief Audiologist for the Center for Hearing and Speech as well as the former educational audiologist for St. Louis County's Special School District. With an expertise in aural rehabilitation and auditory processing disorders, she will be involved in the clinical education of the graduate students. Ms. Battles will definitely be an integral part of the transformation of the audiology program to better serve pediatric clients.

Maureen Fischer, M.S., CCC-A
After 5 years of serving as part-time adjunct faculty, Ms. Fischer has officially become a full time 12 month faculty member and the new Audiology Coordinator for our Speech Language Hearing Clinic. Ms. Fischer received her undergraduate degree from Saint Louis University and received her graduate degree in Audiology from Washington University here in St. Louis. Before becoming a part time faculty at SLU, Ms. Fischer was an audiologist at the Center for Hearing and Speech and at Mercy Medical Center. Ms. Fischer will be teaching Audiology, Advanced Audiology and Hearing Science. Ms. Fischer has been a great teacher and audiologist for us and now we get to experience even more of her talents, intelligence, and warmth as she takes a leadership role in the development of our audiology clinic. The Audiology Clinic has recently had a significant expansion in the programs we offer, our equipment and our physical space. She is especially interested in working towards expanding our services to both the uninsured and the under-insured populations across the lifespan and expanding our services within the SLU community.

Rebecca Frisella, M.S, CCC-SLP
Ms. Frisella is the new Early Childhood Language Literacy Center (ECLC) Coordinator and clinical instructor for additional pediatric clients. Ms. Frisella received her undergraduate and graduate degrees from Fontbonne University in St. Louis. She is well known to our department having been the Chief Speech-Language Pathologist for Center for Hearing and Speech from 2003 - 2010, where we placed many of our graduate students with her for their externships. Since 2011, Ms. Frisella has been a part-time adjunct clinical supervisor for our Head Start contracts and also provided clinical instruction to students in the CSD clinic. Her other professional work experience was at Howard Park Early Childhood Center where she provided services to a variety of children including those with autism, Down Syndrome, and Fragile X Syndrome. In that setting, she worked with physical, occupational, and developmental therapists and the children’s parents to produce coordinated real life functional goals for these children. Her plans for our ECLC include making it more interdisciplinary, and to also develop different types of group sessions in the afternoons. Although she has worked with children of all ages, she is especially drawn to work with pre-school age children on their communication, social, and early literacy development.

Whitney Postman, Ph.D, CCC-SLP
Dr. Postman is our newest tenure track Assistant Professor for our department. She obtained her undergrad degree in Linguistics and Philosophy from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, her Masters degree in Speech Language Pathology from Temple University, and her doctorate in Linguistics and Philosophy with a minor in Cognitive Studies and Southeast Asian Studies from Cornell University. Dr. Postman completed a three year post-doctoral fellowship at the National Institute of Health where she did research on persons with chronic aphasia using the neuroimaging technique fMRI. This work earned her the NIH Fellows Award for Research Excellence in the Division of Neuroscience. Before becoming a faculty member at SLU, Dr. Postman was a SLP at Magee Rehabilitation Hospital in Philadelphia. Her research and clinical interests include: acquired neurogenic communication and cognitive disorders, neuroimaging, and culturally and linguistically diverse issues. Dr. Postman will play a role in the continued development of scholarly tradition within the department.

One of our distinguished faculty members, Dr. Deborah Hwa-Froelich, released yet another book on December 8, 2014! This volume is the first to describe developmental areas associated with social communication and competence while providing evidence-based practice for individuals with social communication and interaction disorders. This book is divided into two main sections, the first section about social communication theory with associated developmental domains and the other about evidence-based practices for social communication disorders. The text provides sample case studies and additional resources for assessment and intervention. This text is ideal for a range of professionals working with children with social communication difficulties including: SLPs, educators, psychologists, and occupational therapists. With the must—know information and resources regarding social communication development and disorders, it’s an ideal text for courses in Speech-Language Pathology.
CSD Welcomes More Students!!

We would like to welcome the class of 2017 to the department! It is the largest incoming graduate class to date with a total number of 39 students! With the expansion of the department, we are able to welcome a higher number of bright students into the program. The diverse class is comprised of many different backgrounds, universities, and personalities. They come from 22 universities across the Midwest as well as Brigham Young University, San Diego State University, University of Pittsburgh, University of Arkansas and Texas Christian University. We know that this promising group of students have bright futures ahead of them!

Student Volunteer

Jamie Norrenberns, a second year graduate student, has been volunteering with an organization called ADAPT4Autism in Southern Illinois for many years. Since her senior year of high school, Jamie has volunteered her time in order to assist with pro-social interactions and situations for children affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Her responsibilities included taking children on field trips, providing sensory activities and giving them real life experiences in their communities. She found that this is not only beneficial for the children with ASD, but amazing for those in the community, adult and typically developing children alike. Through her work with the organization, she developed a love and respect for those affected by ASD. In particular, her interactions with non-verbal children with ASD led to her decision to become a speech language pathologist. After 3 years of working with ADAPT4Autism, she created a similar organization with the same mission called Assist with Autism (AWA) in Cape Girardeau, MO. AWA’s mission is to raise ASD awareness in the community. Presently, Jamie continues with her volunteer work on her own time to assist local families affected by ASD. Through increased social interaction, she found these children becoming more verbal. It has now been 6 years since Jamie started working with these ASD families and patients. Through her services with ADAPT4Autism and AWA, she plans to use her degree to help those with ASD improve their and their parent’s quality of life.

Senior Symposium

Each year, the university has a showcase of the senior capstone projects of all its students, having each department select up to three of its best and brightest. Although it was a tough decision, those that represented the department were Lauren Mueller (top) Katelyn Seroka (middle) and Victoria Cardone (bottom).

Lauren Mueller

“Effect of Language Impairment and Socioeconomic Status on Academic Vocabulary Knowledge”

Katelyn Seroka

“Language Performance of Children with and without Older Siblings”

Victoria Cardone

“Lexical Diversity: Is NDW Enough?”

AWARD WINNERS

- Oluwatoni Ogundare - 1st year masters student was awarded the ASHA Minority Student Leadership Award which is a nationally competitive award that will provide leadership training at the 2015 ASHA Convention.
- Ariana Jolley - yet again, another CSD student was awarded the Cathy Golden Scholarship 2015.
- Jenny Ernst - Senior in CSD was one of 18 seniors to receive the Sprit of the Billiken Award.
Alumni Spotlight

Abby Carlisle

Abby Carlisle, graduated from SLU’s CSD department in 2006. After graduation she worked for St. Louis’ Special School District for 5 years. With dreams of receiving a Ph.D. in Special Education she obtained another Master’s degree in Educational Policy at Harvard University. Carlisle found a passion in education policy and found ways to better serve students. Soon after, she enrolled in the University of Missouri — Columbia’s Special Education Ph.D. program. Carlisle says she still remembers being on the diagnostic team here at SLU CSD and building a sense of community between the students and faculty, as she still keeps in touch with many of her former classmates and faculty. She recalled that SLU’s faculty encouraged her to pursue her endeavors and interests. She advises grad students who are about to begin their fellowship to reflect and learn from the experiences like she did. Don’t be afraid to use your clinical expertise: “You know more than you think you do.”

Kitsa Antonopoulous

Kitsa received her Master’s from SLU in 2005 funded by a grant to research early intervention. After working in the field for a couple years, she wanted to have more responsibility with her position. So with the desire to have her own business she developed her own private practice, Step By Step Care Group, which provides early intervention services and intervention for school-aged children in Chicago. The practice not only provides a service-delivery model for speech and language but has been extended to occupational and physical therapy. Step By Step Care Group also provides an opportunity for recent graduates to be supervised during their fellowship year. Looking ahead, Kitsa plans on expanding the company to provide services for families to provide better emotional counseling and support to families that have recently had a child diagnosed with a disorder. To this day, Kitsa fondly recalls the support the faculty gave her to pursue her interests stating, they are “some of the most supportive” people she has ever met.
This year, three faculty members have retired or left the department; Dr. Richard McGuire, Ms. Kerri Helms and Ms. Carol Ackerson. These accomplished individuals have given years of dedicated service to the university as well as provided instruction to our students aspiring to be successful speech-language pathologists or audiologists.

**Richard McGuire, Ph.D, CCC-SLP**
Dr. McGuire has been a part of the SLU community for 15 years, having served as a professor and chair of the department. He has taught an array of undergraduate and graduate level courses, including: Fluency Disorders, Motor Speech Disorders, Speech Science, Neurological Bases of Communication, Alternative and Augmentative Communication, Professional Issues, and Integrating Technology into Clinical Practice. His research interests: acoustic analysis of speech and voice, technology in clinical practice, fluency, and vocal cord dysfunction in athletes. After witnessing the department growth and expansion of the past decade, Dr. McGuire has left our department in order to develop a new graduate program at Concordia University - Wisconsin as the new Department Chair. Dr. McGuire is looking forward to his new role and is excited to move closer to his grandchildren. He recently started his position with Concordia this past July.

**Kerri Helms, M.A., CCC-A**
Ms. Helms has resigned as an audiology faculty member after service for the past 15 years. She has taught several undergraduate courses, including: Aural Rehabilitation, Advanced Audiology, Counseling, and Basic Audimetry. Furthermore, she has also served as a clinical supervisor for undergraduate and graduate students. Ms. Helms has inspired and assisted many students with their aspirations of becoming an audiologist. This past spring, Ms. Helms played a key role in designing the brand new audiology suites and selection of the new audiology equipment during the renovations. With her assistance and guidance, the audiology program will be able to grow and better serve the community.

**Carol Ackerson, M.A., CCC-SLP**
Ms. Ackerson has decided to retire from her position after being a clinical instructor with CSD for 18 years. Over the years Ms. Ackerson has taught the undergraduate course, Survey of Language Disorders, and has been a clinical supervisor for both undergraduate and graduate students. Some of her clinical interests and areas of focus included: early childhood intervention, child language disorders, severe phonological impairments and intervention, apraxia, shared storybook reading activities for literacy, and techniques for supervising student clinicians. In addition, Ms. Ackerson was a driving force in developing the department’s Early Childhood Language/Literacy Center (ECLC). Over the years similar programs across the nation have referenced ECLC’s intervention model and requested Ms. Ackerson’s expertise. Ms. Ackerson is happy and proud of her contributions to the department, university, and SLP community. Upon her retirement, she looks forward to having more time for recreation and traveling as well as spending more time with her grandchildren.

These former faculty members have played an integral part in the expansion and growth of the department. We are grateful for their contributions to the department and they will be missed. We wish them the best of luck!

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### Saying Goodbye to our Retired Faculty

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### Summer Institute with Chad Rose, Ph.D.

Each summer, the department hosts a Summer Institute with a special guest speaker. It is a week long course, offering 2 credit hours for SLU students and CEU’s for working professionals. This year, the department was honored to have Chad Rose, Ph.D. from the Department of Special Education at the University of Missouri - Columbia. He discussed the bullying of children with disabilities and how it can affect the students through different dynamics and systems. It was a pleasure to have Dr. Rose as our guest lecturer!

### Lynda R. Campbell Memorial Lecture Series: Topics in Diversity

On April 10, 2015 our department hosted its Spring Campbell lecture. The guest speaker was Yvette D. Hyter, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, a faculty member at Western Michigan University. Dr. Hyter specializes in developing intervention programs for children and families at risk for marginalization in systems and macro level structures that affect full participation of daily life. Hyter’s lecture, *Understanding Your World, Crossing Boundaries, and Engaging Sustainable Practice: Lessons from the African Continent*, focused on the effects of globalization on countries in Africa, the importance of culturally and globally responsive services across disciplines, and developing frameworks to help service various populations.
New Changes to the Department

We are pleased to announce that the department’s space has been physically doubled, taking over the 2nd floor in addition to the lower level of McGannong Hall.

The lower level is now dedicated to the Paul C. Reinert CSD Clinic, clinical faculty offices, and labs. The specific changes are as follows:

- New student computer lab with 30 computers (former McGannon 25 Classroom)
- Dr. Sara Steele’s research lab tripled in size
- Addition of two new research labs, including speech physiology lab
- Large adult group therapy room with two-way mirror
- Relocation of Director of Clinical Education, Mrs. Evans, office to former Chair’s office suite
- Soundproofing of clinic rooms
- ECLC - Carpeting one-third of room, new furniture, remodeled restroom
- “The Dungeon” is now clinical storage space, with entire back wall dedicated to ECLC supplies and materials
- Former Director of Clinical Education office now for Clinic diagnostic materials
- Former materials room expanded in size, with shelves and new organizational system
- Clinic waiting room—new carpet, furniture, and renovated reception area
- Two state of the art audiology suites, including new booths, furniture, audiology equipment and ability to provide new services such as auditory brainstem response testing
- Restrooms—Gut renovation of both restrooms and additional family restroom
- Two clinic confidential family conference rooms
- Carpeted entire lower level, including clinic rooms and observation areas
- Extra clinic storage in former student file and copy room

New Computer lab, old classroom 025  
Sara Steele’s newly expanded lab  
One of two new family conference rooms

ECLC Fall 2015  
Former “dungeon” now large clinical storage  
Newly constructed materials room

New waiting room  
One of two newly constructed audiology suites  
State of the art adult south booth
New Changes to the Department

The newly acquired second floor is now complete with:

- Four classrooms seating 32, 40, 50, and 80 students, with CSD having first priority to schedule classes
- New student break room with full size refrigerator, two microwaves, two coffee pots, cabinets and a kitchen sink
- Lounge area outside the student break room with two couches, two chairs and new tables
- Two conference rooms, one with state of the art AV equipment
- Full sized department library
- Gut renovation of existing bathrooms
- Much larger chair’s suite
- Offices for administrative and Ph.D. faculty
- Enough extra offices for future faculty growth and possible future Ph.D. student offices

Both floors were also updated with higher speed internet wiring and enhancement of wireless signal support, new furniture for most of the faculty, a total of four new printer/copiers, increased space and furniture for student work and interaction.
Message from the Chair

On New Years Eve of 2013, I could have never predicted what is now true in October 2015.

In Spring of 2014, the university announced that there would be a retirement buyout of eligible faculty. Three faculty members, Pat Miller, Marty Brennan, Dennis Fuller agreed to take the deal along with administrative assistant, Vicki Scott. Thus we had to find three faculty and one crucial staff member in two months. We were blessed to not only be able to fill all four positions but with the individuals perfect for the job. All four our top picks. Those faculty members were Dr. Mitzi Brammer, Mrs. Saneta Thurmon, and Dr. Yi-Fang Chiu and the new star administrative assistant was Cheryl Follmer.

The four new members of the team quickly established themselves and now it seems as if they have always worked here. They were left with a solid foundation by their predecessors and all have taken their positions beyond even my high expectations.

In the same Spring of 2014, I was informed that we were having our physical space doubled and were going to have a major renovation. Very basic plans were laid that Spring but in Fall of 2014 our attentions were coming up with a master plan. The amount of detail was frankly overwhelming for me so the department was lucky to have the talents of Cheryl Follmer and Jean Evans to not only plan but track the development of the plan, troubleshoot, and modify plans.

On December 5th, the renovations began. The renovations were not complete until the middle of March. During that time, we were displaced and shifted and many faculty in temporary offices. Clinic had to open several weeks late. Audiology was not up and running until after Spring Break. But, it was worth the chaos. The total cost of the renovations was $800,000. I thought now time to relax.

Then we were faced with the resignations of Dr. Richard McGuire, Mrs. Carol Ackerson, and Mrs. Kerri Helms. Once again three positions that not approved to fill until the summer. With now two functioning audiology booths, we wanted to expand our audiology services. I thought, could lightning strike twice? Could we repeat and get superstar faculty for two years in a row? The answer turned out to be an emphatic YES!!! As you can see from this newsletter, we struck gold.

So compared to New Years Eve of 2013, we now have six new full time faculty and a new administrative assistant. I am grateful for the important work of past faculty and staff. They put us in the position to have a solid base, posed for growth. In fact, it was their exemplary work that earned us having our space doubled.

But now I gaze towards a future that seems almost limitless with the talent we have. As the 1986 hit song by Timbuk 3 said “The Future’s So Bright, I Gotta Wear Shades.”

- Travis Threats, Ph.D.
  Professor and Chair

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