



# Articulator

[www.misericordia.edu/slp](http://www.misericordia.edu/slp)

Fall 2011

## Letter FROM THE Editor

BY MARISSA CIRILLA  
'13 GRADUATE STUDENT

A few moments after I made the decision to accept the position as the editor of the 2011 issue of the Articulator I asked myself, "why did I say yes to this assignment?" I have never had any experience in editing a paper or newsletter, nor did I see myself as the best writer. One thing I knew for sure, however, was that I am not afraid of a challenge, and this task was a great opportunity for me.

To become a successful clinician in any field of the health sciences, it is essential for students to do more than just remember the valuable information taught in the classroom. Recalling the anatomy of the brain or larynx can only take one so far. The professors in our department encourage their students to take the extra steps as they prepare to work with others. The members of the of the National Speech-Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) chapter at Misericordia University have done exactly that this past year. Time spent volunteering and fundraising has led to the accomplishment of both local and international goals. The hard work and dedication have paid off. Our chapter won the 2011 Pennsylvania Speech-Language Hearing Association (PSHA) Membership Award and the 2011 Chapter Award at the PSHA convention this year.

My experience here at Misericordia confirms the belief that the faculty definitely prepares students for life after school. Carly Jo Hosbach and Amy Ruda, both graduates of our program commented that the faculty in our department encouraged them to hold leadership roles and apply what they have learned to their work. The department and

faculty as a whole inspired both of these women to accept challenges. Dr. Yan and Dr. Cari Tellis recently completed interesting research projects. The results of their work are highlighted in separate articles in this newsletter.

Since the health care fields revolve around accepting challenges and dealing with uneasy times, there is one thing that none of our own majors can say has been an obstacle: it is enjoying Passan Hall, the new College of Health Sciences building. The addition of this new space has been an extraordinary improvement. The move from Mercy Hall to Passan has allowed students to gain easy access to state of the art equipment, new clinic rooms, high tech labs, and even a sensorimotor gym. The expanded space for clinic rooms has allowed the department to offer more students the option to become engaged in the clinical process sooner than in the past. Because of this increased space, in the spring of 2011, for the first time, all juniors in our program were given the option to work directly with clients—not a single student turned down this opportunity.

The three years that I have spent here at Misericordia have been a challenge that I have happily accepted. The additions to the facilities and the skill level of the faculty have given me the tools to succeed in what I can happily say is my chosen profession. The program has served to push me to be the best that I can be in a nurturing environment. It has been my honor to work beside the wonderful people at Misericordia for this edition of the newsletter. After having communicated with recent graduates for this newsletter and learning about their successes, I am encouraged by the opportunities that exist beyond the walls of our classroom. It is my sincere hope that you enjoy this newsletter. It was a pleasure to work with all the contributors.

## EXCEPTIONAL ART - *Exceptional Artists*

BY ABBEY MITCHELL  
'13 GRADUATE STUDENT

Whimsy is the trademark of the Verve Vertu art studio and also the theme of the studio's latest art show, "Exceptional Art—Exceptional Artists," that was held in the Department of Speech-Language Pathology at Misericordia University. The rotating collection of artwork is featured on the walls of our Speech-Language and Hearing Center and includes the works of artists from the Deutsch Institute's Verve Vertu Art studio. The Deutsch Institute offers art classes and activities for people of all ages with a wide range of disabilities.

The Verve Vertu art studio serves approximately 20 local artists on a regular basis. This art studio celebrates the talents and the creativeness of people with developmental and intellectual disabilities. The art collection on our department walls consists of many individual works and gives each artist a chance to work on his or her own pieces. There is also a special

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# Fulfilling A Dream

BY AMANDA BRATH

'13 GRADUATE STUDENT

*Traditionally, most people go to college right after high school, graduate with an undergraduate degree, and then enter the work force. Kaitlin Marino was one of those people. She worked in New York until she decided that she wanted more out of life and opted to return to college and pursue a career in Speech-Language Pathology. I interviewed Kaitlin to find out why she came back and why she chose to attend Misericordia University.*

**AB:** What made you want to come back to school?

**KM:** My decision to go back to school had been weighing on my mind for quite some time. The question that constantly gnawed at me was work or school? I was in a profession that was challenging; however, I was exhausted and unfulfilled. At the end of the day, something was missing. I wanted a more interesting position that I could be excited about every day—one that would allow me to work with others

on a deeper level and provide a career path that would make me proud.

**AB:** Why did you choose Misericordia?

**KM:** Besides the legacy of having five family members who have attended Misericordia over the years, including a sibling now, it was the reputation of Misericordia's Speech-Language Pathology program that I was drawn to. After making the decision to further my education, I did a lot of research on schools and their programs to make sure I was making the best choice, and this program stood out to me. I was very fortunate to have guidance and assistance, which allowed me to begin classes last fall. I have not looked back since. It's very difficult closing a chapter of your life—hoping you have made the right decision and not question every aspect of the new path you've chosen, but it's comforting to know that the support of the department is behind you.

**AB:** What is your favorite thing about being here?

**KM:** My favorite part about being at Misericordia is the willingness of the department faculty to help and the desire to ensure that each student develops into

the best professional. That was lacking at my previous college. Maybe you look at it a little differently as an adult student, but to me, it's very apparent that you are not just a number. You're here because you have proven yourself as a driven young worker, but you stay here because of the encouragement of the faculty. The reputation of the department and the school rides on every student, so the challenge to be the best extends the legacy of the program that has been built.

**AB:** What made you decide on Speech-Language Pathology?

**KM:** I chose Speech-Language Pathology because it is a field that seems to have so many opportunities. There are several types of speech-language pathologists with many unique roles all geared toward helping individuals and their families. I wanted to be a part of that profession. I wanted the challenge of figuring each client out, what works, what doesn't? I wanted to ask myself, how can I motivate this person? How can I bring out the best in that person? I believe this is a field of compassion and inspiration, and I feel very fortunate knowing that eventually I will be the one guiding and motivating others.

# Breaking THROUGH THE Scope

BY HOLLY LESAGONICZ

'13 GRADUATE STUDENT

Dr. Cari Tellis, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, and her colleagues completed research on a ground-breaking procedure to detect the amounts of hemoglobin and oxygen in the human thyroarytenoid muscle. Dr. Tellis used an endoscope along with visual light spectroscopy (VLS) to determine the levels of oxygen and hemoglobin in the thyroarytenoid muscle without having to come in contact with the actual muscle in the vocal folds.

This instrument works by placing the endoscope through a tube with a camera at the end. The camera is slid through the nasal cavity and is positioned above the vocal folds. The VLS probe is inserted into a channel-port in the endoscope, and light flashes on the muscles. This light reflects

back and detects the levels of hemoglobin and oxygen which are two factors involved in the study of muscle function.

Dr. Tellis started this project when she was working on her doctoral degree at the University of Pittsburgh. As a doctoral student she was interested in voice and the musculature involved in producing voice. She teamed up with Dr. Tom Carroll, a laryngologist and director of swallowing and voice at Tufts University in Boston, Massachusetts and Dr. Clark Rosen, another laryngologist from the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In addition to these specialists, Dr. Tellis also worked with Dr. James Sciote, a specialist in the musculature of the larynx and professor in the Department of Orthodontics at the Kornberg School of Dentistry at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Spectros Corporation provided Dr. Tellis and her colleagues with the initial endoscope to start their project. Nine years ago when

the project first began, the endoscopes were bigger and more uncomfortable for the patients to endure; however, modern technology has decreased the size of the endoscope and increased the comfort level of the patients.

Her findings constitute a major breakthrough for people who have voice disorders such as people with dysphonia or muscle atrophy. The results of her research are validated when similar results are achieved during the Laryngeal Electromyography (LEMG) procedure. Dr. Tellis is part of the first group to retrieve this information from the larynx. They presented their study "Use of a Novel Instrument to Determine Oxygen Consumption and Hemoglobin Levels in Human Thyroarytenoid Muscle Pre and Post Exercise" at the American Laryngological Association Conference in Chicago, Illinois, earlier this year. Their peer-reviewed paper has been accepted for publication by the journal *The Laryngoscope*.

A YEAR OF

# *Excitement* AND *Hard Work* - **NSSLHA**

BY JILL CLINE

'13 GRADUATE STUDENT

The 2010-2011 academic year has been an exciting journey for our National Student Speech-Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) chapter. We came together as a united force, and because of our hard work we won the Pennsylvania Speech-Language Hearing Association (PSHA) 2011 NSSLHA Membership Award and the 2011 Chapter Award at the PSHA convention in April. This is exciting because it is the first year Misericordia has won the Chapter Award. As the Misericordia University Speech-Language Pathology program has grown, the NSSLHA chapter at Misericordia has also increased its members.

As a club, we believe that it is important for us to serve adults and children in need around the world as well as in our own community. During the 2010-2011 academic year, our chapter organized and participated in a variety of fundraising events and service projects. We administered speech-language and hearing screenings to preschoolers at Mercy Learning Center and New Story; participated in a Senior Expo by administering hearing screenings to retired individuals; attended the annual Health Science Career Day at Misericordia; educated high school students about our profession; and donated to and participated in a local Apraxia Walk for Apraxia research.

We also donated 35 Thanksgiving dinner items for a local family in need; packed shoeboxes with crayons,



books, hygiene products, and small toys and sent them to less fortunate children around the world for Christmas; donated pasta products, an i-pod, and \$200 for a spaghetti dinner for a Speech-Language Pathology alumnus who was battling cancer; raised \$1,160 selling candy for the 2011 Memory Walk instituted to remember loved ones with Alzheimer's disease; raised \$200 selling cancer awareness shirts; contributed \$200 to the American Speech-Language Hearing Foundation 2010 Annual Giving Campaign; sold autism awareness shirts to raise funds to participate in the Autism Walk in Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania; donated \$500.00 to the 2011 NSSLHA Loves National Campaign; participated in the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) Adopt Program; and participated in several service learning events that involved speaking to preschool teachers and parents about normal language development, language processing, and literacy.

We raised \$2,873 in another fund raiser. Part of the proceeds were used for an international project to assist the Rotary Club of Bombay Central

and SHARE in implementing a rainwater harvesting project in a village in Raigad District, Maharashtra, India. We also sold water bottles for this project. The village undergoes a severe drought every March and because of the elevation of the village, streams, rivers, and other sources of water are difficult to access. It forces many women and children to walk 7 miles up and down a mountain in search for water. The money we raised was invested to install pipes and a water tank in the village. The remaining funds were donated to various local charities during the 2011-12 school year.

In summary, we had a very fulfilling year as a club and were happy that we could help many in need.



INTERVIEW WITH

## Carly Jo Hosbach

BY KEARSTON HEALEY  
'13 GRADUATE STUDENT



Carly Jo Hosbach, a 2009 Misericordia University Speech-Language Pathology graduate, is currently working at an Inpatient Rehabilitation facility at Bayhealth Medical Center in Milford, Delaware. This is the same facility where Carly Jo completed her Clinical Fellowship Year (CFY).

When I interviewed her, Carly Jo commented that the education she received at Misericordia better prepared her for applying book-knowledge to real world situations—even though learning in the classroom is different from learning in the field. She insists that “you cannot have one without the other.” She noted she saw the best evidence of this when learning about the different types of aphasia in the classroom and then receiving a heavy case load of patients with post-cerebrovascular

accidents (CVAs). She was fascinated to see how everything started to come together. She also commented that the professors who teach in the Speech-Language Pathology program do an extraordinary job preparing students for life in the “real world” because of their diverse backgrounds and experiences. Though one thing she learned on her own was “the importance of educating patients and families about the role of the Speech-Language Pathologist in rehabilitation.”

Carly Jo is in the process of becoming certified in Estill Voice Training, which she has been interested in since she received vocal training at the age of 14. That training is also where her interest in Speech-Language Pathology began as she learned about the laryngeal anatomy and physiology. She commented that “the certification process is intense, though anyone who completes the program is able to explain from an anatomical standpoint what is happening vocally.”

She is also in the process of applying to doctoral programs with a research focus on voice. She said, “For as long as I can

remember, I knew I wanted to pursue a doctorate...I’ve always enjoyed academia and research.” After completing a master’s thesis entitled, “What constitutes authority in the voice: A focus on group perspective” under Dr. Cari Tellis, she cemented her decision to pursue doctoral studies. Carly Jo recommends completing a master’s thesis because it “shows potential doctoral programs that you have a general understanding of the research process and are able to write scientifically.” Though the process of selecting a doctoral program is overwhelming at times, she often obtains advice from the Misericordia Speech-Language Pathology faculty, as well as other alumni in the process of completing Ph.D. programs. She mentioned to me that she “looked at every school that has a Ph.D. focus on voice, talked to mentors about research, and printed out two or three of their most recent publications to get a better sense of their research.” Carly Jo wants to make an impact on the field of Speech-Language Pathology, and I have no doubt that she will succeed in her endeavor.

## SLP IN China Does It EVEN Exist?

INTERVIEW WITH DR. RUIXIA YAN

BY MARISSA CIRILLA  
'13 GRADUATE STUDENT

I interviewed Dr. Ruixia Yan, one of our faculty members who traveled this summer to China to work on a project that has been of interest to her for years. Two years ago, Dr. Yan attended the first Speech-Language Pathology convention in China. This past summer, she conducted her own research about the awareness of communicative disorders in China. On this occasion, she learned firsthand about the lack of knowledge about the discipline and the need to expand the profession in China. Dr. Yan’s research included a survey about the awareness of communicative disorders and the field of Speech-Language Pathology.

Dr. Yan stated that the results were not shocking to her, but to me they were. She explained that many clients with communicative disorders in China are handled in hospitals. Some cases are not even addressed, so children and adults have to live with a communication problem for the rest of

their lives. The results of her study indicated that only 10% of the participants were able to name a communicative disorder and only 4% of them reported that they had heard of the profession of Speech-Language Pathology. Out of a list of 12 communicative disorders, 100% of the participants had heard of hearing disorders and 95% of them had heard of stuttering. Most respondents had not heard about language, voice, articulation, and phonological disorders. A majority of respondents also had not heard about traumatic brain injury, autism, apraxia, dysarthria, aphasia, and dysphagia. Dr. Yan’s study indicates that there is a serious lack of public awareness of communicative disorders in China.

She discovered that there was not only a lack of awareness about communicative disorders but also of the profession of Speech-Language Pathology. She found no shortage of need for the profession. There is, however, a lack of appropriate assessment, and therefore there is a limit to the treatment that is offered. Further complicating this issue is the presence of so few Speech-Language Pathologists in China.

In all of China, there are only three universities that offer undergraduate and

graduate programs in Speech-Language Pathology. Training is limited to Beijing Union University, East China Normal University, and Capital Medical University. In addition to the lack of training institutions, there is no national association of Speech-Language Pathology in China to provide awareness of the need for additional facilities. Currently, there are approximately 1,000 fully trained Speech-Language Pathologists in China in addition to 5,000 teachers who work with the deaf and hard of hearing. This is an astounding statistic for a country that has over 1.3 billion people. In contrast, the United States has over 120,000 Speech-Language Pathologists for a population that is about 1/3 the size of China.

Dr. Yan is optimistic that her research will be helpful for those who are trying to develop greater awareness and understanding of the discipline in China. She is encouraged to note that there are physicians at the Rehabilitation Center at Boai Hospital in Beijing who are taking necessary steps to raise public awareness. They are also trying to develop a national association, and hope to begin the publication of a national journal which would serve to increase awareness that is so desperately needed.

## CATCHING UP WITH

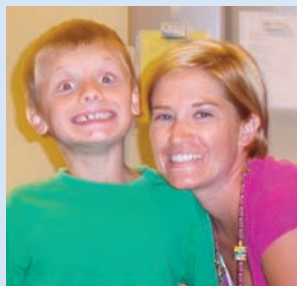
# Amy Ruda

BY AMBRIA ANDRASI  
'13 GRADUATE STUDENT

Since graduating from Misericordia University's Speech-Language Pathology Department in 2008, Amy Ruda has consistently exhibited the service and leadership ideals that Misericordia instills in all students who attend the university.

Amy attributes much of her success as a practicing speech-language pathologist to the faculty at Misericordia. Amy told me that while she was at Misericordia, the opportunities to learn through clinical experience have allowed her to become a confident professional as she moved into the working world.

After graduating from Misericordia, Amy completed her Clinical Fellowship Year at Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Center—an inpatient and outpatient facility in Allentown, Pennsylvania. After successfully completing her certification requirements, she has remained at Good Shepherd for the past three years. Her typical caseload consists of 40 to 45 children a week who exhibit a variety of disorders ranging from developmental delays to strokes. Although



the predominant disorder seen at her location is autism, Amy says that she has become increasingly interested and involved in treating individuals who suffer from traumatic brain injuries.

Amy's interest in traumatic brain injuries extends to her participation in several groups of patients who suffer from this type of injury. Recently, Good Shepherd reinstated its Brain Injury support group for teenagers. Amy is involved in Brain Steps, an organization that acts as an "intermediary" between the school and the families of children with traumatic brain injuries. She advocates for these children to receive accommodations that they may not have otherwise been able to obtain. Amy also participates in the Brain Safety Fair which organizes events to raise awareness about brain injuries. In June, Amy worked at Camp Cranium, a summer camp for children with traumatic brain injuries.

Along with fulfilling the responsibilities of her caseload, Amy exhibits strong

leadership and service skills through her participation in an array of other activities. Currently, she and another Misericordia graduate are co-representatives of their multidisciplinary team that consists of two occupational therapists, a physical therapist, a clinical supervisor, and other professionals at Good Shepherd. This position requires Amy to resolve operational issues that arise when treating patients. To add to her busy schedule, Amy is a member of Sib Ships, which is a support group for siblings of children with disabilities. She also provides early intervention treatment once a week.

Amy regards the Misericordia Speech-Language Pathology faculty as a major source of inspiration for her success. She continues to admire how well they were able to influence and accommodate her while she was in school, and how they remain as approachable mentors now that she has graduated. Amy's advice for students currently enrolled in Misericordia's Speech-Language Pathology program: "Don't become complacent." She explains that, while it is easy to develop routines, there will always be something new to learn. She suggests that we continue to examine new aspects of the field and move beyond what is in our comfort zone.

## Exceptional Art -Exceptional Artists...continued from page 1

piece that 14 Verve Vertu artists worked on together. This multi-media piece includes many interesting textures, such as dyed cheesecloth, handmade paper clay flowers, and a three-dimensional needle-felted doll on a swing, made from mohair, and dyed using organic jewel weed.

Some of the local artists had their artwork on display and recognized at our Speech-Language and Hearing Center on Thursday, May 5, 2011. We chose this month to coincide with national "May is Better Speech and Hearing Month." Over 150 people came to support the artists at this sponsored wine and cheese reception. The artists along with their guests were excited to see their works of art being displayed on our walls.

Many of the artists had a piece or multiple pieces in the art show. In addition to paintings, the artists also made wallets, scarves, hats, and pillows that were available for purchase. We have a unique



and special relationship with some of the artists. Several of these artists attend speech-language therapy at our clinic and were thrilled to hear that their artwork would be displayed. Adina Rosenthal, M.S. C.C.C.-SLP, one of our clinical supervisors stated that, "The exhibit is a great way to showcase the talents of these exceptional individuals who demonstrate many of the communication needs that are similar to those of the clients we serve."

## We would like to thank the following for sponsoring the evening:

Earl and Sedor Photographic; iGourmet; Metz Culinary Management

## We would like to thank the following for giving generously to the event:

Advocacy Alliance; Anonymous; Anne Gill; Artworks Gallery & Studio; Msgr. John Bendik; Lori Cimino; CK's Authentic Mexican Food; Dr. Francis J. Collini; Mary Culkin; Nina Davidowitz; Michelle Donato; Erwine Hospice Care; Kate Farrigan '10; Mr. & Mrs. William J. Gerrity; Dr. Joan Gruelick; Mr. and Mrs. Sandy Insalaco, Sr.; J.H. Williams Co. LLP; Ms. Eleanor M. Kruk; Mr. & Mrs. Larry Lebenon; Merrill Lynch; Mr. & Mrs. A. Robert Lynch; Mr. & Mrs. Al Martin; Kelly McAndrew; Misericordia Speech-Language Pathology student volunteers; Ochman Jewelers; Dr. Dwaraki Bai Penugonda; Plains Italian American Citizen's Club; Erik X. Raj '08; Joseph Redington; Charles A. Riscavage; Mitchell Rock; Mr. and Mrs. Steven Rosenthal; Dr. Midori Yamanouchi Rynn; Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Salaway; Salon NouVeau; Scranton School for the Deaf; Step By Step; Sunny Slope Farm; Drs. Glen & Cari Tellis; Times Leader; Murray Ufberg, Esq.; Villa Foglia; Robert Wilson.

REAPING THE BENEFITS:

# Opting FOR Undergraduate Optional Clinic

BY HAZLEY WILLIAMS

'13 GRADUATE STUDENT

Spring 2011 was the first semester that Undergraduate Optional Clinic was offered to all third year students. Last year only selected students were offered Undergraduate Optional Clinic. I asked graduate students Julianne Curry and Katie Lawlor, and undergraduate students Andrew Gromelski and Gina Yocum, a few questions about what they learned and believed was helpful about Optional Clinic.

**HW:** What has Optional Clinic taught you?

**KL:** Optional clinic allowed me to figure out how to organize myself and learn how to complete all the paperwork necessary for one client. It also taught me that all our professors really are here to help and they will do anything they can to make your session successful. Do not be afraid to go to them if you need help because they do not expect us to know everything—especially for optional clinic.

**HW:** How did starting in Undergraduate Optional Clinic prepare you better for Graduate Clinic? Why?

**JC:** It taught me to be creative and overly prepare for all of my sessions in Graduate

Clinic. By having one client, I had ample time to understand the paperwork before getting 4-6 clients the following semester.

**HW:** What did you like best about Optional Clinic?

**JC:** I liked being able to prepare my own sessions and then handing in my lesson plans to a supervisor to get feedback. I liked how my supervisor gave me room to get experience and to try different techniques, while guiding me in the right direction. One of the hardest but best things for me was handling temper tantrums in a session. It is something that I will have to deal with in the future.

**KL:** My favorite part was actually getting to work with a client and feeling like you are making a difference in a client's life. It really makes you excited for what you are going to do in the future.

**HW:** What advice would you give for those entering Optional Clinic in the future?

**KL:** My advice is to just enjoy the experience. It really is a great experience and it will help you so much for the rest of your semesters in clinic. Also, make sure that you are confident about what you are doing because it will make your clients and their families comfortable knowing that you know what you are doing.

**JC:** My advice is to approach it with an open mind. I really learned to think outside the box and go with the flow when activities that you had planned do

not work. It's a great opportunity to put your classroom skills into action while having a supervisor give you feedback to improve your treatment skills. When given recommendations about your therapy by your supervisor, do not take it too personally, but instead, take the constructive criticism and learn to better your skills. We cannot improve ourselves unless we know what we need to work on.

**HW:** What do you think Optional Clinic has taught you?

**AG:** The most important thing Optional Clinic taught me was to roll with the punches.

**GY:** It was a great opportunity to learn how to do all of the documentation and to understand what was expected of me by the supervisor. It was helpful to be able to find my way around the clinic. It made it a lot easier to work and know what materials are available.

**HW:** Are you glad that you got to start with 1-2 clients rather than a caseload? Why?

**AG:** Absolutely. It was so nerve racking to be introduced to all the paperwork needed for just one client.

**GY:** Having one client was a lot less pressure than a caseload. It was challenging to make my first lesson plan and to time my lessons correctly so I'm thankful that it was just for one instead of 5 clients.

## Make a gift TO THE SLP Student Fund

Please consider making a gift and helping students in the SLP program defray costs for clinical materials and activities, travel to conferences, research, and other activities. You can support this effort by contributing to the SLP Student Fund. All contributions are tax deductible. Also, check with your place of employment for a Matching Gift Program.

You can give a gift in the following ways: On-line at [misericordia.edu/makeagift](http://misericordia.edu/makeagift) please put SLP Student Fund in the memo section.

Call 570-674-6354 between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM to make a gift over the phone.

**SEND A CHECK MADE OUT TO:** Misericordia University, by mail to Development Office, SLP Student Fund, 301 Lake Street, Dallas, PA 18612

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\$15     \$25     \$50     \$100     \$250     Other \$

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# Letter FROM THE *Chair*

GLEN TELLIS, Ph.D.

PROFESSOR AND DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Our department is in its infancy and every year when I write this letter, I am amazed at how far we have come in such a short time. Our department is only in its ninth year of existence and 2011 produced the fourth accredited class that has graduated from our program. When our program first began, our students were mainly from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York. Now, our students come from Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. The number of students enrolled in our program also continues to grow and so does the quality. For example, this year, students in our incoming freshmen class were in the top 10% of their high school graduating class. Also, once our students have graduated with their master's degrees, many have begun to pursue their doctorates. One of our 2007 graduates, Jessica Sofranko completed her second year of doctoral studies in Communication Sciences and Disorders at The Pennsylvania State University. In fall 2010, Kelly DeHaven one of our 2008 graduates began her Doctor of Education program in Special Education at Arcadia University, and in fall 2011, Erik Raj another one of our 2008 graduates began his doctoral program in Communication Sciences and Disorders at Wayne State University in Detroit.

At the Pennsylvania Speech-Language Hearing Association (PSHA) convention in Pittsburgh in April 2011, our National Student Speech-Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) Chapter once again received the PSHA Membership Award and for the first time received Chapter of the Year honors. At the convention, for the fourth year in succession, one of our students received the Von Drach Memorial Scholarship that is awarded to the outstanding graduate student from the entire state of Pennsylvania. Many of our students presented numerous papers with faculty members at state, national, and international conferences and also published papers with faculty members. This summer, three of our students presented papers at the Estill World Voice symposium, in Rome, Italy.

Our faculty received several internal and external grants. Funding from various sources, including, the Luzerne Foundation, EITC Contribution from First National Community Bank and PNC Bank has allowed us to provide cutting-edge services and maintain state-of-the art clinic and research facilities. The faculty have published papers, DVDs, book chapters, books, and presented at numerous conferences. Faculty also chaired prestigious national and international conferences and served as reviewers and editorial consultants for premier journals in our discipline.

The SLP department in collaboration with the Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18, co-

sponsored our second Distinguished Speaker Series workshops on campus. Two world renowned authors and researchers were invited to present on two separate days. Both workshops were a resounding success. Participants attended from all over the east coast. This year, for May is Better Speech and Hearing Month, our department hosted the first Exceptional Art Exceptional Artists event to showcase artwork created by many of our clients with disabilities. The event was a success and over 150 people attended.

The Speech-Language and Hearing Center continues to provide a valuable service to the community. We continue our partnership with the Hazelton Area School District Special Education Department to provide speech and language assessment and therapy to eligible preschool children in the Hazelton Area School District sponsored preschool programs. Our department also was featured in several newspaper articles and radio and television interviews—raising the profile of the program locally and nationally. This publicity has increased the awareness of the department in the community and has resulted in a significant increase in the number of clients who receive services in our Speech-Language and Hearing Center.

I hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter. Please take a moment to browse through our department website ([www.misericordia.edu/slp](http://www.misericordia.edu/slp)) and learn more about our program.

## *We would like to acknowledge*

THE FOLLOWING FOR *providing grants* TO THE *SLP Department:*

THE LUZERNE FOUNDATION, FIRST NATIONAL COMMUNITY BANK, AND PNC BANK

## *We would like to thank*

THE FOLLOWING FOR *giving generously* TO THE *SLP Student Fund:*

MR. AND MRS. ARTHUR C. BAIR; MS. COURTNEY BEGANI '08 GRADUATE; MR. AND MRS. JOHN O'CONNOR; MRS. MARILYN CONSTABLE; MR. AND MRS. HENRY D. LAUBE; MR. AND MRS. LARRY LEBENSON; MR. AND MRS. EDMUND J. PERUCCA; ERIK RAJ '08 GRADUATE; MR. AND MRS. ANTHONY SANTORY.



## A Great Addition TO OUR Clinic: Sensorimotor Gym

BY AMANDA BRATH  
'13 GRADUATE STUDENT

New equipment, new clinic rooms, high tech labs, and a centralized location are all features of the new Speech-Language and Hearing Center in Passan Hall that were lacking in the old location in Mercy Hall. What truly makes this new location stand out is the sensorimotor gym located in our clinic. A swing, ball pit, tons of toys and games, and plenty of room to run around are all facets of the sensorimotor gym that can make therapy more fun and functional for clients of all ages. Graduate students Brittany McKeown and Margaret Constable use the gym for the clients as reinforcement and to conduct fun and creative clinic sessions. I interviewed both students to elicit their thoughts about the gym.

**AB:** Do you think the gym is effective in treatment?



**BM:** I believe that the gym is definitely a great addition to the therapy process. I use the gym with my fluency clients as a reward for fluent speech and for hard work, and with my articulation clients for accurate productions of sounds. I also conduct full sessions in the gym with my language clients.

**AB:** What makes the gym effective?

**BM:** The amount of space that is available in the gym is great. It lets the clients run around and release some energy after working hard in therapy.

**AB:** What is your favorite part of the gym?

**BM:** My favorite part of the gym is the amount of room and all of the interactive games. Even if I am conducting my therapy session in a different room, I try to make a visit to the gym an aspect of every one of my therapy sessions so that my clients do not get tired of sitting at a table.

**MC:** The ball pit. It provides positive reinforcement for the child after therapy. I also love the huge one-way mirror for parents to observe. The stadium seating allows several families an unobstructed view of group therapy. The one-way mirror is one of the largest that I have seen in any therapy room.

**AB:** What type of clients do you believe benefit the most from the gym?

**MC:** Those with autism who need the stimulation.

**AB:** Should there be any equipment added to the gym?

**MC:** More balls to the ball pit!!