



Articulator

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Fall 2012

Letter FROM THE *Editor*

BY DANA GRIESBACK
'14 GRADUATE STUDENT

Three years and one edition of the Articulator into my academic career here at Misericordia University, I have learned a great deal about the Speech-Language Pathology department. We have a truly exceptional group of faculty and staff. Our professors have conducted and presented numerous research studies, written multiple books, and implemented service programs that aid the communities surrounding our school.

We also have a vibrant group of students in this program. We have numerous student athletes, dedicated

National Student Speech-Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) officers and members, hard-working graduate students who present research at state, national, and international levels, and alumni whose achievements continue to demonstrate how valuable and vital a Misericordia education is for their future. Alumni accomplishments also inspire younger students to persevere, so we can use our skills to make lasting contributions to the field of Speech-Language Pathology.

Our state-of-the-art facilities here in Passan Hall are outstanding. We may be a small university, but our technology is cutting-edge and constantly evolving thanks to the dedication of our professors who write grants to purchase the equipment so we can have top-notch training. Apart from the current labs and therapy rooms, we recently added a new sound treated booth, Near Infra-Red Spectroscopy (NIRS) equipment, and Eye Scan technology.

When you browse through this newsletter, you will read about many of the above topics. Soliciting and editing the articles was a challenge, but one that has provided me with an opportunity for professional, personal, and academic growth. I would like to thank all of my fellow students who contributed articles for your reading pleasure. This newsletter would not be possible without their hard work. I would also like to thank our faculty and staff for their collaboration on the production of our newsletter. I sincerely hope you enjoy this edition of the Articulator.

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Estill World Voice Symposium,

ROME, ITALY AND

World Congress on Fluency Disorders,

TOURS, FRANCE

BY HEATHER ARNOLD &
DANA GRIESBACK
'14 GRADUATE STUDENTS

Students and professors from our department frequently conduct research and present their findings at state, national, and international conferences. Last year was no exception. Our students and faculty presented at numerous state and national conferences as well as at the Estill World Voice Symposium in Rome, Italy, in 2011 and the World Congress on Fluency Disorders in Tours, France, in 2012. Three graduate students presented with our professors in Rome, and three students presented with our professors in France. This was a unique opportunity for our students to participate in an international conference and present their research.

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Exceptional Artists

BY DANA GRIESBACK
'14 GRADUATE STUDENT

For the second year in a row, our Speech Language Pathology Department had the privilege of hosting the Exceptional Art—Exceptional Artists wine and cheese event. This art show displayed the colorful and whimsical artwork provided by the Verve Vertu Art Center of The Deutsch Institute—an organization that offers art classes and many other activities for individuals with special needs and a wide range of disabilities. Silk batik and bright water colors are characteristic of this collection, but, in addition to paintings, felt works, pillows, and scarves were also displayed and available for sale.

Misericordia's Speech-Language and Hearing Center has a special relationship with the artists of the Verve Vertu Art Center. Clinical Director Lori Cimino reported that several of the artists are also clients who receive weekly speech-language therapy at the Misericordia clinic. Many of the artists had the opportunity to attend the event and see their own work displayed and sold to admiring guests. Artist Lisa Zavada was proud to see one of her works, a silk batik of flowers in a vase, displayed at the show. She stated, "The people are all so nice and helpful at the Deutsch Institute; they allow me to express my creativity and emotions through art." The combination of art classes at the Deutsch Institute and speech-language therapy at our clinic provides the two organizations with a venue to celebrate the talents of these unique individuals and enhance their quality of life.



The art displayed on the walls of our department is a rotating exhibit, so we encourage regular visits to enjoy all of the pieces created by the exceptional artists of the Verve Vertu Art Center. The event was a resounding success, with over 150 people attending to admire this remarkable artwork and enjoy refreshments provided by numerous sponsors.

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

Coca Cola Refreshments; Earl and Sedor Photography; iGourmet

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

Apple Tree; Artworks Gallery & Studio; Brown Barn Café; Dr. & Mrs. James R. Bruno; Charlie K's Pizza; Lori Cimino; CK's Authentic Mexican Food; Dr. Francis Collini; Dave Aikens Law Firm; Mrs. Ann Marie Decker; Domino's Pizza; Michelle L. Donato; Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Dougherty; Dunkin Donuts; Eastern Insurance Group; ENT Surgical Group, P.C.; Erwine Home Health and Hospice, Inc.; Kate Elizabeth Farrigan, '10; Fast Signs of Scranton; Fresco Grill; Frontier Communications Solutions; Gastroenterology Consultants, Inc.;

Mr. & Mrs. William J. Gerrity; Dr. Thomas W. Byron and Dr. Joan E. Greulick; Griswold Home Care; Gwen's Avenue Salon; Dr. & Mrs. George Hammerbacher; Gwen Harleman; Dr. & Mrs. Harold V. Hartley; Holly Hircko; Nancy L. Hontz; Mr. & Mrs. Sandy Insalaco, Sr.; Italian American Citizen's Club; Keystone Community Resources; Frank Kluk & Betsy DeCosmo; Dr. & Mrs. Eric Kruger; Eleanor M. Kruk; Lackawanna Coal Mine; Mr. & Mrs. Larry Lebonson; Nancy Lynch, '68; Mr. & Mrs. Leo G. Malsky; Mr. & Mrs. Albert Martin; Kelly McAndrew, '79; Mary Jule Purcell McCarthy, '52; Merrill Lynch and Company, Inc.; Metz Culinary Management; Olde House Café; Original Italian Pizza; Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Puhalla; Quality Collision, Inc.; Rainbow Jewelers; Erik J. Raj, '08; Mary F. Rinaldi; Elizabeth Roberts; Mr. & Mrs. Stephen J. Rosenthal; Dr. & Mrs. John A. Rothschild; Kevin J. Salaway; Salon NouVeau; Louis R. Sieminski, Ph.D.; June Sukus; Drs. Glen & Cari Tellis; The Graham Academy; Thomas Family Markets; Dr. Stephen M. Timchack; Attorney & Mrs. Murray Utberg; Villa Foglia; Weiss Markets; J. H. Williams & Co., LLP; Robert P. Wilson; Dr. Midori Yamanouchi; Zeigler Ashby Associates.



NSSLHA

BY JILLIAN DUNN
'14 GRADUATE STUDENT

The 2011-2012 academic year has been an exciting one for Misericordia University's National Student Speech-Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA). Following their elections in late spring, the new officers started working right away to plan activities and service projects for the entire year.



As a club, we believe it is important to serve others by fundraising and volunteering within our community and elsewhere. During the 2011-2012 academic year, our chapter raised money by selling raffle tickets, candy bars, and clothing. We assisted graduate students with their travel expenses to present at the Estill World Voice Symposium in Rome, Italy; we covered the costs for a reconstruction surgery through Operation Smile; and we donated to organizations that are dedicated to helping others such as: the Mercy Leadership Program, National Family Literacy, Hollydell Tops Program, American Diabetes Association, and Ruth's Place Shelter along with many more.

Our service activities turned out to be some of our members' favorites this year. We continued the mentoring program for the incoming freshman by holding a pizza party and tie-dye/movie night. We also held a story hour with children at a local Intermediate Unit and preschool where members promoted learning, literacy, language development, and language processing to parents and teachers. We collected toys, hygiene products, and small gifts to fill 28 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, which sends shoeboxes to less fortunate children all around the world during the holiday season.

NSSLHA members collected canned goods for the local Dallas Food Bank, distributed products to local flood victims in the Wilkes-Barre area, created and delivered holiday cards to the Meadows Nursing Home, went Christmas caroling in neighborhoods around campus to spread holiday cheer, and participated in runs and walks to benefit organizations including the American Diabetes Association, United Cerebral Palsy, LiveStrong Foundation, and many more. Our members also had the opportunity to administer speech, language, and hearing screenings at schools and at the Unity Health Fair. We also participated in our school's annual Relay for Life, and collected and donated 81 books and 15 movies to the Schenk Memorial Library in Noxen, Pennsylvania. The remaining funds will be donated to organizations and local charities during the upcoming 2012-2013 school year.



For the fifth year in a row, at the state convention in Lancaster, Misericordia University chapter of NSSLHA received the Pennsylvania Speech-Language Hearing Association (PSHA) Membership Award for 100% membership participation. At the convention, one of our students, Maria Kidron, also received the Von Drach Memorial Scholarship that is awarded to the outstanding graduate student from the entire state of Pennsylvania. For five years in succession, one of our SLP students has received this award. At the state convention, for the second time, our NSSLHA Chapter received Chapter Honors for their service activities.

In summary, each member had a year full of fun, service, and volunteering. Misericordia's NSSLHA officers and members are happy that through our efforts we could help so many in need.



Award Winner *Nicholas Barone*

BY DANA GRIESBACK
'14 GRADUATE STUDENT

In November 2011, the American Speech-Language-Hearing (ASH) Foundation awarded 12 Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) graduate students \$5,000 scholarships. Many of these award winners attended large and well-known universities including Florida State University, University of Kentucky, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Maryland, University of Washington, and Vanderbilt University. Out of over 100 applicants, one of our own graduate students, Nicholas Barone, was selected to receive one of these prestigious scholarships. The scholarships are awarded to "masters or doctoral students in communication sciences and disorders who demonstrate academic achievement and promise." Barone has done just that and more.

Throughout his academic career here, Barone has helped numerous professors conduct research on stuttering, cluttering, autism,

attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, voice, and aphasia. As a graduate student, Barone also published a peer-reviewed article with a professor in our department. In his three years at Misericordia, Barone presented on numerous occasions at Pennsylvania Speech-Language-Hearing Association (PSHA) and American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) conventions, as well as at the 5th Estill World Voice Symposium in Rome, Italy. His final achievement was completing a master's thesis on the acoustic and aerodynamic properties of true vocal fold body cover conditions.

Barone believes that apart from his regular studies, the research he chose to conduct and assist with contributed heavily to winning the award. "A person can be a great student and a fine clinician, though he or she may not be able to stand out when applying for an award. For graduate students to stand out among the competition, they have to go above and beyond the work they are expected to do and achieve at a high level."

This award is not only important to Barone personally, but is also an achievement for Misericordia's entire SLP program. Barone stated, "It was extremely rewarding to receive the award, not only for myself, but for the program and the university as

well. When I compare Misericordia's SLP program with the other applicants and the universities they came from, we are by far the smallest." Through his hard work, Barone has managed to bring recognition to Misericordia's small, but impressive, SLP program.

He completed fieldwork placements at Dallas School District in Dallas, Pennsylvania and at Johns Hopkins Rehabilitation Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. When I interviewed him, Barone mentioned to me that he planned to continue his education and complete his doctorate after he graduated from our program. True to his word, he began his Ph.D. in fall 2012 at James Madison University under the mentorship of voice and swallowing specialist, Dr. Christy Ludlow. Barone stated, "I would like to be a researcher and professor and to emulate the people that embedded in me a passion for communicative sciences and disorders." By conducting and assisting with numerous research projects, maintaining an impressive 4.0 GPA, and receiving this prestigious scholarship from the ASH Foundation, Barone has become a model of the academic excellence that future SLP students can strive to achieve. We look forward to seeing all that he will accomplish in his career.

Student Athletes

BY MICHELLE BRUNO
'14 GRADUATE STUDENT

Many students on our campus can be heard venting about their hectic schedules and demanding majors. All majors and extracurricular activities require dedication and focus. Being a swimmer and a student in the Speech Language Pathology (SLP) program, I myself have a personal interest in learning how my fellow classmates balance the demands of both a collegiate sport and a major with one of the highest GPA requirements on campus.



We decided to find out how our athletes managed to play a sport and be successful in academics, so we sent a survey to our SLP student athletes with a list of questions about academics and sports. An overwhelming number of students stated that time-management skills were the most important aspect of

achieving success. Many students indicated that the hardest part of being an athlete in the SLP program is the need to successfully juggle class, clinic, practices, group projects, and games, all while maintaining a level of professionalism and the required GPA.

Typical of the 'MU family' that pervades our entire campus, what many students said they like most about being an athlete in the SLP program is the sense of community they experience by being so involved. Our athletes also receive great support from their professors and coaches. Graduate student Jennifer Lozier stated, "The professors were all very helpful and supportive in my decision to be a 3-sport athlete while in the program." It is largely understood and acknowledged that academics come first; many coaches are extremely flexible with practice time in an effort to accommodate student athletes. Some even plan practice time around the individual athlete's class schedule.

Another acknowledged benefit of being an athlete in the SLP program is the intrinsic sense of accomplishment it brings. Achieving success at balancing the demands of a rigorous major and a competitive sport is extremely rewarding. Frank Nutt, a graduate student and 2-sport athlete, said his favorite part of being a student athlete was "being able to say that I had the ability in the classroom and on the court to be able to do two things that I loved, and be able to do them at a high level." Plus, the practices provide a much needed built-in stress reliever for students.

As hard as being an athlete in the SLP program can be, not one of our SLP student athletes spoke with any sense of regret or advised against participating in a sport. Jennifer was involved in many campus activities here at Misericordia and said, "If I



was somehow able to manage my time to get all my extra-curricular activities done along with my coursework, then anyone can play a sport while in the program." Many of the athletes surveyed explained that participating in both academics and sports is a personal decision that should be taken seriously. Frank's advice for SLP students considering playing a sport is "to make sure you really love the sport you're playing because college is about getting an education and sports should be secondary to your SLP life. It's not an easy thing to do and takes a great deal of hard work to play 4 years of a college sport and complete a 5 year master's program." Balancing both school and sports is difficult, but possible. It is worth the effort if you love your sport and your major.

MEASURING *Blood Flow* AND *Blood* *Concentration* FOR *Persons Who* *Stutter* AND *Fluent Speakers*

BY MARIA MAAS
'14 GRADUATE STUDENT

Many students in the Speech Language Pathology department at Misericordia University participate in research studies. Two of our students, Claire Cellary and Mary Gulotta, have been working with our department chair, Dr. Glen Tellis, and a group of researchers from the University of Pennsylvania to measure blood flow and blood concentration levels in the brain. Dr. Tellis, Mary, and Claire, use diffuse correlation spectroscopy (DCS) to

measure blood flow and near-infrared spectroscopy (NIRS) to measure blood concentration in the brains of persons who stutter (PWS) and fluent speakers during speech and non-speech tasks.

Mary and Claire have done a lot of research for this study and are conducting the study at Penn. They have already completed their testing on PWS and are now running the study on fluent speakers. Mary and Claire agree that they are at the cutting-edge of fluency research. Mary said, "I've learned a lot! I enjoy learning about different aspects of stuttering and how to measure dysfluencies. I also learned a lot about the research process and all the work that goes into it." Both students also hope to do more research in the future, since we just purchased our own NIRS equipment. "I wouldn't mind continuing to do research. I have learned a lot, and I am glad to know that this research



can positively impact a lot of people and lead to more studies that can help us to better understand stuttering," Claire reported.

Dr. Tellis and the team from Penn recently published their initial findings in a peer-reviewed journal in our discipline. They will be presenting information about the study at our American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) convention in Atlanta, Georgia in November 2012.

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 please put SLP Student Fund in the memo section.

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Catching Up WITH Jessica Sofranko

BY ALLISON KIRBY
'14 GRADUATE STUDENT

Jessica Sofranko, one of our 2007 graduates, completed her Ph.D. at The Pennsylvania State University in August 2012

and accepted a faculty position at the College of St. Rose in Albany, New York. Dr. Sofranko is the first of



our graduates to complete her doctorate. I interviewed Dr. Sofranko to gain insight into her educational pursuits and to ask her to offer advice to our current students.

AK: Why did you decide to pursue a doctorate in this field?

JS: Obtaining a doctoral degree was

always a goal—even as a freshman I was interested in my doctorate, but it wasn't until Drs. Glen and Cari Tellis came to the department that I realized this was the right choice for me. I was given the opportunity to work with both of them and begin learning about the research process and all of the contributions I could make to the field.

AK: How did your education at Misericordia prepare you for the academic challenges you were presented with when obtaining this degree from Penn State University?

JS: Like any graduate student new to the field, I was nervous about my newfound independence; however, I quickly began to realize that my education at Misericordia highly prepared me for all of the challenges to come, including: difficult cases, leadership opportunities, and my eventual return to school. My experiences at Misericordia also gave me the confidence to participate in leadership opportunities, present to large

audiences, and teach or supervise students.

AK: What advice do you have for current Speech-Language Pathology students thinking about pursuing a doctorate?

JS: I would advise students to take advantage of the many opportunities the Misericordia Speech-Language Pathology program has to offer. The faculty members conduct all of their own research and encourage student participation in their labs. This experience would include an introduction to the research process (such as participant recruitment, literature review, data collection, etc.) that usually leads to possible presentations at state and national conferences. Also, I would recommend that students complete a Master's Thesis.

AK: What are your plans for the future?

JS: I plan to teach, supervise clinic, research, publish, and present.

We would like to acknowledge

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

CVS CHARITABLE TRUST, DEMPSEY LINEN SUPPLY, ERIK RAJ, '08, FIRST NATIONAL COMMUNITY BANK, FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS, LANDMARK BANK, LEXUS, MOTOR WORLD, PNC BANK, PNC GROW UP GREAT FUND, RJACK FUND OF THE LUZERNE FOUNDATION.

We would like to thank

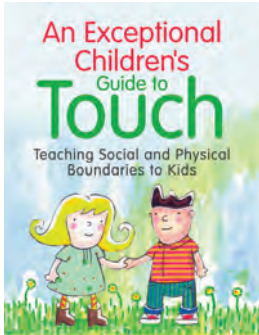
THE FOLLOWING FOR *giving generously* TO THE *SLP Student Fund:*

DR. & MRS. JOHN ROTHSCHILD, KATRINA EMERICK, '09.

AN *Exceptional Children's* Guide TO *Touch*

BY REBECCA LARUSA
'14 GRADUATE STUDENT

In July 2012, Dr. Hunter Manasco published his new book—*An Exceptional Children's Guide to Touch: Teaching Social and Physical Boundaries to Kids* (Jessica Kingsley Publishers, London, UK). This book is a valuable tool for parents, educators, professionals, and speech-language pathologists. It is illustrated by his wife, Katharine Manasco. I sat down with Dr. Manasco to ask him a few questions about the book.



RL: What is your book about?
HM: This book explains appropriate and inappropriate touching to children. In this book, my focus was to tackle social problems that kids with special needs have, such as hugging strangers. I also wanted to explain when touch is normal and when it is not. Child abuse with special needs children is rising because we do not educate them. They do not understand what is normal touching, or what actions to take when inappropriate touching occurs. Another main point in this book was to explain to children with special needs how important it is to recognize abuse and what to do when it occurs.

RL: What is the set up for this book?
HM: There are six illustrated stories that parents can read with their children.

RL: Who is the book geared towards?
HM: The book is geared towards anyone who cares for children with

special needs, such as parents, caregivers, educators, and counselors.

RL: What kind of research did you conduct to write this book?
HM: I used my experience with special needs children, mostly gained during my previous work at a school.

RL: Why did you choose to write this book?
HM: There have been books that explain to typically developing children what is appropriate and inappropriate touching; however, I wanted to focus more on familiarizing and explaining these issues to children with special needs.

RL: Did any child in particular inspire you to write this book?
HM: No. I used my experience with many special needs children.

RL: Where can this book be purchased?
HM: This book is available at Barnes & Noble and online at Amazon.com.

Serving THE Community WITH Literacy Education

BY NATHAN FINN
'14 GRADUATE STUDENT

Misericordia University is an institution founded on the charisms of mercy, justice, hospitality, and service and, as a result, is well-known for the outstanding selfless service its students provide to nearby communities. Many classes that students take here at MU include service learning components where students complete many hours of community service as part of their coursework. Something new and noteworthy in Misericordia's Speech-Language Pathology program is a service learning project. Created and implemented by Dr. Kathleen Scaler Scott for her Seminar II in Speech-

Language Pathology course, students are able to get hands-on experience in informing others on the importance



of literacy to language development. These students are going into the community and educating parents, teachers, and professionals about this important connection.

For the program, students are divided into groups of 3 or 4 and assigned to a local school, library, or daycare facility. The students then work together to create posters,

pamphlets, and learning materials to facilitate an educational experience for their audience. Students focus on stressing the importance of literacy and the connection it has with language. They also teach parents how they can foster literacy by getting their children engaged during reading.

Dr. Scaler Scott wanted to create this project because she believes that community-based service learning would be extremely beneficial to our students. Through this program, she hopes that our students will become more comfortable with literacy in our field and with educating others. Not only are our graduate students fostering important professional development through this service learning program, but they are also voluntarily providing an invaluable service to the community.

Estill World Voice Symposium and World Congress on Fluency Disorders

...continued from page 1

The voice conference occurs every two years and serves as an international forum to discuss voice with professionals from all over the world. The Voice Symposium is not only a forum for speech language pathologists, but is also for laryngologists, singers, actors, and vocal coaches to present their research and conduct workshops. Dr. Cari Tellis, Misericordia's voice



specialist, attended the voice conference with graduate students Nicholas Barone, Katie Lawlor, and Amanda Brown. The group gave three presentations based on research conducted at Misericordia. Their presentations included findings

on voice measures taken before and after training for belt voice, changes in vocal intensity with and without anchoring, and the use of Estill figures in a physiological approach to voice therapy.

Dr. Tellis believes this symposium is especially important for American students and speech-language pathologists. Says Dr. Tellis, "Voice awareness is not as prevalent here as it is internationally." She stated that this conference was a unique experience because "Everything we said had to be translated into Italian and we only had a certain amount of time to give the presentation. We had to be conscious of our word choice and style of presentation to accommodate the translator."

The World Congress on Fluency Disorders is held every 3 years. Our students Jennifer Lozier, Maria Kidron, and Amanda Tomaselli attended the conference with Dr. Kathleen Scaler Scott. The conference is dedicated to exploring stuttering and its subtypes in light of



new information that has emerged from recent research. The aim of the Congress is to discuss the impact that new research has on diagnostic and assessment procedures, treatment, and professional education. Our group presented information on advances in stuttering and cluttering. Dr. Scaler Scott mentioned that this exposure for students is crucial for their development as scientists as it provides them with an opportunity to present to an international audience and receive feedback from noted researchers in the field.

The students reported that their presentations were very well received, and they were encouraged to attend and present their research at future conferences.

iTherapy IN Speech-Language Pathology

BY KENSLIE KERESTES
'14 GRADUATE STUDENT

When thinking of all the things one could do with an Apple iPad, the first tasks that come to mind are probably using infinite numbers of fun apps, surfing the internet, and creating and storing photos, music, and documents. Many people are unaware, however, that the iPad is also a new technology used with increasing frequency in the field of Speech-Language Pathology (SLP). Many student clinicians here at Misericordia University are incorporating the iPad into their therapy sessions. There are multiple programs SLPs can use when treating articulation, language, fluency, dysarthria, and apraxia.

Our graduate student clinicians shared many of the ways they currently use the iPad in therapy. For instance, they mentioned that the iPad offers clients auditory feedback that is supplementary to the feedback provided by the clinician. Many clinicians also use a fluency counter on

the iPad as a new and more efficient way to collect data when treating clients who stutter. Of course, the iPad has many games that clinicians use as positive reinforcement; clients enjoy doing puzzles and playing games such as Angry Birds and Fruit Ninja.

One student clinician, Amanda Brath, shared a specific program she uses: Proloquo2Go. The program combines words with pictures and sounds, so the client can see exactly what word is being said. Amanda uses the program as reinforcement for the correct production of sounds in initial, medial, and final word positions. Proloquo2Go also provides supplementary auditory feedback for correct production of words.

Another student clinician, David Baker, said that one of his clients uses Proloquo2Go as an augmentative alternative communication device. According to David, the iPad has provided the client with a new modality for communicating with others. David finds that his client is now able to communicate effectively without aides looking over her shoulder to see where she points on a letter board. She can press the



appropriate icon and the iPad can produce the words she wants to use, but cannot say herself. David has set up Proloquo2Go to fit the specific needs of his client. The program is stocked with common phrases she uses during activities of daily life.

The iPad has other features that can aid clients. There is a stylus that clients can employ if they have difficulty using their fingers to touch buttons. The icons can also be enlarged for ease of selection. The iPad has multiple features and programs that are appropriate for all age groups and can be used both as treatments and rewards for greatly enhanced therapy sessions. The field of Speech-Language Pathology will continue to grow with the new technology the iPad brings to therapy sessions.

Letter

FROM
THE *Chair*

GLEN TELLIS, Ph.D.

PROFESSOR AND DEPARTMENT CHAIR

This is the sixth year of our newsletter, and we have now reached a point where alumni, students, clients, and those in the community regularly ask us when the next edition is due. Each year, around fall, when I receive the newsletter from our SLP student editor, I find that I too am eager to read about all the exciting things that happen in our program. Our department is in its 10th year of existence, and as the number of students enrolled in our program grows, so does the quality. For example, this year, students in our incoming freshmen class were again in the top 10% of their high school graduating class. At the other end of the spectrum, our alumni continue to impress. Many of our graduates have gone on to pursue their research doctorates. Dr. Jessica Sofranko, our 2007 graduate completed her Ph.D. in Communication Sciences and Disorders at The Pennsylvania State University in 2012. She is now a faculty member at College of St. Rose in Albany, New York. Following in her footsteps are other graduates of our program who are pursuing their doctorates, including Kelly DeHaven who is completing hers at Arcadia University, Erik Raj who is pursuing his at Wayne State University, Carly Jo Hosbach who is enrolled at Syracuse University, and Nicholas Barone who is at James Madison University.

At the Pennsylvania Speech-Language Hearing Association (PSHA) convention in Lancaster in April 2012, our National Student Speech-Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) Chapter once



again received the PSHA Membership Award as well as the Chapter of the Year honors. At the convention, for the fifth year in succession, one of our students, Maria Kidron received the Von Drach Memorial Scholarship, awarded to the outstanding graduate student from the entire state of Pennsylvania. Nicholas Barone received the American Speech-Language-Hearing (ASH) Foundation scholarship at our national convention in San Diego. Many of our students also presented numerous papers with faculty members at state, national, and international conferences. Last summer, three of our students presented papers in Rome, Italy and three students presented in Tours, France.

Our faculty received several grants. Funding from various sources, including, CVS Trust, Dempsey Linen Supply, First National Community Bank, Frontier Communications, Landmark Bank, Lexus, Motor World, PNC Bank, PNC Grow Up Great Fund, and the RJACK Fund of the Luzerne Foundation has allowed us to provide cutting-edge services and maintain state-of-the art clinic and research facilities. We used some of the funding to purchase and install a sound-treated hearing testing booth, near infrared

spectroscopy technology, motion analysis software and hardware, and ISCAN technology. The faculty have presented at numerous conferences, published papers, and written books. Faculty also served as reviewers and editorial consultants for premier journals in our discipline.

In summer 2012, the SLP department sponsored a week-long Estill Voice Training Level One and Two workshop that was conducted by Dr. Kimberley Steinhauer, an Estill Certified Course Instructor and Dr. Cari Tellis, an Estill Certified Master Teacher. In 2012, for May is Better Speech and Hearing Month, our department hosted the second Exceptional Art Exceptional Artists event to showcase artwork created by many of our clients with disabilities. The event was a success with over 150 people in attendance.

The Speech-Language and Hearing Center continues to provide a valuable service to the community. We continue our partnerships with numerous agencies including the Hazelton Area School District's Office of Special Education Early Intervention Program, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, and the Bureau of Disabilities. 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) and learn more about our program.



Mentoring OUR SLP Freshmen

BY KATIE KUGLER
'14 GRADUATE STUDENT

The mentor/mentee program, part of the Speech Language Pathology (SLP) program at Misericordia University, is an outstanding aspect of the major. Each freshman in the SLP program is assigned a mentor who is an older SLP student. The mentors and mentees meet periodically throughout the course of the mentee's freshman year. The mentor helps the new student adjust to the program and to the MU campus in general.

When I was a freshman, I had a very helpful mentor, Nicole Kazmerick. We still keep in touch whenever I

have questions, most of which concern my upcoming year of graduate school. I remember asking Nicole all kinds of questions, and she was always willing and able to answer all of them—back when I was a freshman and now in my senior year.

I recently sought the opinion of one of my fellow classmates on the mentor/mentee program. Tori Florman said, "My mentor freshman year was Julianne Curry, and she was wonderful! She answered our most basic questions and was always willing to meet if we needed or wanted to. It was great to get suggestions on what to be involved in on campus and how to study for certain classes. All in all, I think having a mentor is invaluable." This connection with an older student can

make a huge difference in how successfully freshmen adjust to the SLP program and to the campus in general.

My mentor was a valuable part of my freshman year, and now that I am one myself, I have found that the experience is a great way to execute and improve skills like communication and leadership that will be vital in my future career. As a mentor, I try to give the best and most helpful advice that I can impart. I could not have imagined when I was a freshman that I would soon be in Nicole's place giving a new SLP student advice and tips similar to those Nicole gave me. The mentor/mentee program here at Misericordia University is indeed an instructive and unique experience.