



*Department of  
Communication  
Sciences and  
Disorders  
Syracuse University*

#### *Special Interest Articles:*

- New Faculty Member
- AuD Program Starts
- News from the Gebbie Clinic
- Audiology Clinic Renovation
- Alumni Spotlight on
- Faculty Presentations

**Alumni Reception  
at the  
ASHA Convention**

**Thursday, November  
18, 2004  
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

*The Marriot, Rm 408*

## **Our Newest Faculty Member**

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Kathy Vander Werff as an assistant professor in Audiology this fall. Dr. Vander Werff brings a wealth of clinical and research experience into our department. She obtained her BA degree from Northeast Missouri State University in Kirksville, Missouri, and got her Master's degree in audiology at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa. She worked as a clinical audiologist in California and Missouri. Dr. Vander Werff moved back to Iowa City in 1995 and became a clinical and research audiologist at the VA Medical Center, where she was involved with the NIDCD/VA Hearing Aid Clinical Trial. In 1998, she returned to the University of Iowa as a doctoral student. The main focus of her studies was auditory electrophysiology. She was involved with cochlear implant research and conducted projects using Auditory Steady State Responses in infants and adults. Dr. Vander Werff received her PhD degree in 2002, and took a postdoctoral research associate position at Syracuse University with Dr. Beth Prieve for 18 months. She used various methods to diagnose hearing loss in infants under 12 months of age to improve the efficiency of diagnosing hearing loss in infants. In addition, she conducted studies on a new technique, wideband reflectance measures of the middle ear, in very young infants. Dr. Vander Werff starts the school year already collaborating with various professors in the department and in the college of engineering. Her main interest is in electrophysiological measures of hearing, and she is teaching courses in evoked responses of the auditory system, cochlear implants, and instrumentation. In her spare time, she decorates her new house, plays with her cat "Phoebe" and knits amazing sweaters and slippers for herself and family members. During the summer, she's the toughest 2<sup>nd</sup> basewoman in the recreational softball league at SU, playing on the Bioengineering/Audiology team. (And just to let you know: The team won the championship in 2004!) So, when you see a new face in the faculty, make sure you warmly welcome Dr. Kathy Vander Werff.

## **AuD Program Starts**

In compliance with ASHA standards, we now offer a clinical doctoral program in Audiology, so that students graduating from our program will be eligible for certification when the standards change in 2007. We carefully studied existing programs around the country and crafted an 82-credit program that fits well with Syracuse University's mission and meets ASHA standards. The program can be completed in three years and was given accreditation by ASHA's Council of Academic Accreditation in September. Our department no longer offers the MS degree in Audiology, but maintains its MS degree in Speech-Language Pathology. In addition, it continues to offer the BS degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders and the PhD degree, with emphasis in Speech-Language Pathology or Audiology.

## Hearing Aid Testing Suite Renovated

Joe Pellegrino, Clinic Director



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You can contact Joe at [jtpelleg@syr.edu](mailto:jtpelleg@syr.edu) or at 315-443-2352

You can contact Mitch at [mwilli07@syr.edu](mailto:mwilli07@syr.edu) or at 443-9618



The past year has been an exciting time for the Audiology Clinic. Thanks to the continued and generous support of our alumni, we have completely renovated the hearing aid dispensing lab. The lab now encompasses a larger carpeted space, with separate workstations for hearing aid repairs, programming, and consultations.



We also have additions to our staff to tell you about. LuFeng Shi, a graduate of our master's program and current PhD student, has been completing his CFY in the clinic two days per week. LuFeng's knowledge of hearing aids and pleasant demeanor with patients have been great assets to the clinic. We have also recently hired Lea Georgantas as a part-time clinic supervisor. Lea is also a graduate of SU. She completed her CFY in Boston and has returned to CNY. We are so pleased that Lea has decided to come back to SU! I am happy to tell you about a research project we have recently been involved with. We have collaborated with the Psychology department to look at the effects of an initial diagnosis of hearing loss on senior citizens. This study brought 75 new patients into the clinic this summer. These patients, along with our established patients, have certainly kept us very busy.

## Speech-Language Clinic News

Michelle Williams, Clinic Director

The 2003-04 academic year proved to be another busy one filled with new innovative programs and collaborative efforts with SU and the Syracuse Community. Last year several clinical faculty and students participated in a new collaboration with ENABLE and West Side Nursery School. Our speech-language pathology students provided direct classroom-based intervention to three and four year olds at their inclusive West Side Nursery School location in Camillus, NY. The children developed important IEP based skills and truly enjoyed the interactions and special attention they received from our students. Our speech-language pathology students learned functional classroom-based therapeutic skills in addition to the ins and outs of working in an inclusive preschool setting. The Gebbie Speech-Language Clinic also added dysphagia to its diagnostic and therapeutic services available to members of our community. Graduate Students, under the direct supervision of clinical faculty and consultation with Dr. Cathy Pelletier, participated in the evaluation and treatment of patients with feeding and swallowing disorders through a supervised, clinic-based assignment.

(Continued on Page 4)

## CSD at the 2003 ASHA Convention

We were there. The department sponsored a booth at the Doctoral Information Center, as well as at the Graduate Information Days in Chicago. All members of the faculty who attended the convention put some time in at the booth talking with prospective students. At right, Cathy Pelletier sits at the booth. Also helping out were Karen Doherty, Linda Milosky, Mary Louise Edwards, Beth Prieve, and Ray Colton.



## Alumni Reception at 2004 ASHA

If you are planning to attend the ASHA convention in Philadelphia this year, be sure to include in your plans our Alumni Reception to be held on Thursday November 18, 2004 at the Marriot hotel in room 408, starting at 6:00 p.m. and continuing until 8:00 p.m. Please come by and meet your classmates, other alumni and the department faculty.



## Lufeng wins 2003 ASHA Travel Award

Lufeng Shi was awarded the ASHA 2003 Travel award to present a paper titled *Loudness Growth as a Function of WDRC Amplification*. Lufeng accepts the travel award from Sharon Moss of ASHA.



## **Faculty/Student Presentations at ASHA 2004**

- Calandruccio, L. and Prieve, B., TEOAEs and Negative Tympanometric Peak Pressures in Infants and Toddlers, poster# 0024, Thursday, November 18, 2004, 2:00PM - 3:30PM , C/Hall D
- Colton, R.H., Paseman, A, Kelley, R and Casper, J.K., Spectral Moments or Vocal Fold Paralysis, poster# 1441, Thursday, 8:30-10:00, C/Hall D
- Doherty, K., Shi, L., Kordis, T & Pelligrino, J., Hearing aid fitting protocols: adjustments in amplification and patient satisfaction, poster# 0068, Friday 2:00-3:30, C/Hall D
- Edwards, M.L., Beyond Phonetic Transcription 101, poster# 109, Friday November 19, 2004, 8:30-10:00 am, C/Hall D
- Ford, Janet and Milosky, Linda. The time course of emotion inferencing: The role of language. Poster# 0768, Saturday, Nov. 20th, 10:30 - 12:00, C/Hall D

## **Faculty/Student Presentation at the Dysphagia Research Society**

- Dhanaraj, G. & Pelletier, C. "Effect of Taste on Lingual Pressure during Swallowing", Thirteenth Annual Dysphagia Research Society Meeting in Montreal, Canada, October 14-16, 2004

### **SLP Clinic (Continued from Page 1)**

The speech-language clinic also continued its screening programs with several preschool and elementary schools within the central New York region. CS&D students provided speech, language, and hearing screenings to preschool through 6<sup>th</sup> grade children under the guidance of local school based speech-language pathologists. Our speech-language and audiology students obtained real world experience and made some valuable connections with professionals within the community.

During the 2003-2004 school year, our speech-language students participated in the standardization of a new diagnostic tool entitled the Diagnostic Evaluation of Language Variation (DELV.) Under Anita Lightburn's direction, our students administered this test, designed to distinguish between language differences and language disorders in African American children, in local schools throughout the Syracuse community. The information and experience obtained through this project provided significant insight into many aspects of our field.

The 2003-2004 year also brought a few changes to our clinical facilities. Although renovations and relocations are a far away dream for the speech-language clinic, the facilities underwent a thorough cleaning and complete reorganization this past summer. We finally disposed of old equipment, toys and unused materials that haven't been used in years! Many materials were relocated, systems were revamped, and several more tests and pieces of equipment were purchased for student and client use. We are especially thrilled to have a new computerized speech lab that has been useful in the diagnosis and treatment of clients with articulation, voice, and fluency disorders.

The 2003-2004 year also brought with it a few staffing changes within the Gebbie Speech-Language Clinic. Melissa Heyward, and Eileen Curinga are no longer with us and Mary Ellen Massaro has taken a leave of absence. We welcome Denise Lytle and Laura Bates to our clinical staff. We are thrilled to have Denise as our energetic clinic secretary and Laura (Wacob) Bates as a temporary, part-time supervisor for our adult population. Danielle Rinaldi and Anita Lightburn continue to provide exceptional teaching opportunities for our students and maintain the highest level of care for our clients. We are fortunate to have each of these dedicated professionals working with our students in the Gebbie Clinics.



## Good News/Bad News

Over the years, many of you had the advantage of being supervised and/or being taught by **Janet Ford**. We have been fortunate to have Janet as a full-time member of the CSD instructional staff for 10 years, and she taught as an adjunct for 2 years before that. During that time, she taught 7 different courses, and she received recognition both at the department and the university level for her outstanding teaching and supervisory skills. As many of you may know, Janet has been working on her Ph.D. in our department. In fact, at last year's ASHA convention, the American Speech Language Hearing Foundation presented her with the Arlene Matkin Child Language Research award for her dissertation proposal, and now she's almost done with her dissertation. As a result, though, it is also time for her to spread her wings. The Speech Pathology and Audiology department at SUNY – Cortland has hired her as an assistant professor, and she began her full-time position there this fall. She hopes to complete her dissertation this coming spring. We wish her much success, and we are very grateful for the many fine contributions of time and talent that she has made to the department and to our students.

Before Janet left us in the summer, the faculty and staff gave her a going away party at the Goldstein Alumni and Faculty Center.

Thank you, Janet, and good luck in your new endeavors



## Alumni Spotlight On..... **Melissa Dorsett-Felicelli**

Melissa Dorsett-Felicelli (Melissa Dorsett, M.S., 1991) has been very busy since receiving her degree from SU. She founded the Pyramids Child Development Center Morrisonville, NY (Pyramids Preschool, Inc.) and has been in practice for ten years with a therapeutic, educational, child care and support staff of 92 women and two men. The number-one mission has focused on meeting the needs of both the families served and the needs of the staff. The result is quality like-minded professionals who are committed to excellent early childhood practices.

Melissa recently wrote grants that resulted in awards amounting to \$1,100,000 from OCFS/DASNY (New York State Office of Children and Family Services and The Dormitory Authority State of New York) to purchase and renovate a former Catholic school. This renovation resulted in a beautiful and progressive child care facility located in the western region of Clinton County. The building was officially opened in September of 2002 and provides quality and affordable child care to 96 children. The facility focuses on using sustainable and environmentally friendly resources. The facility is one of three public facilities in the northern region dependent on solar energy.

Overall, Melissa reports that she has had a great ten plus years and looks forward to getting involved with public policies that impact decisions about children, sustainable energy, and preventative healthcare. She states that "as a founder and as an administrator, I could not be happier with my professional endeavors. Please express my gratitude to the Communication Disorders Department for a great graduate education."

Thank you, Melissa, for keeping us informed and we wish you the best of luck with your new facility and in the continued practice of speech-language pathology.

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about yourself at this site. We  
would love to hear from you.

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## ALUMNI

We'd like to hear from you! If you have changed jobs or moved or have personal achievements or honors to report, please fill out this form and send it to Judi Emmi, 805 S. Crouse Ave., Syracuse, NY 13244-2280 or email it to [jpemmi@syr.edu](mailto:jpemmi@syr.edu). Please let us know if you do NOT want information about your activities to be published in the alumni newsletter. We'd especially like to hear from alumni with whom we've lost contact.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Current name and name used when you graduated from S.U)

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (work) \_\_\_\_\_ (home) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of S.U. Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_ Degree: \_\_\_\_\_

Area: SLP \_\_\_ AUD \_\_\_

Do you wish to receive the newsletter via email? \_\_\_\_\_

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Other news / comments:

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