



THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS

It is hard to believe that it has been a whole year since our last newsletter! Your alumni committee has been busy organizing our annual lecture, gathering material for this newsletter, and trying to come up with creative ways we can keep in touch with one another. To this end, the alumni committee has created a Facebook page. Search for "Emerson Speech-Language Pathologists," and send us a request to join our group. We now have over 60 Emerson 'friends' and hope to have many more join us.

We are excited about our next annual lecture, scheduled for Thursday, November 5th from 6 to 8 pm. The topic is *Supervision Demystified*. We are planning to have round table discussions on supervision, perhaps moderated by several CSD Clinical Instructors. Given ASHA's new guidelines on preparing to become a supervisor (of graduate students, SLPAs, staff, etc.), this will be a timely and lively discussion. So mark your calendars now and save the date!

Message from the Chair

The good news is that the outlook for employment in Communication Disorders is strong. The bad news is that the ripple effects of high national unemployment, changes in health insurance and disappointing investment returns have been felt by many of us — personally, professionally or both.

We each discover our own ways of getting through rough times. I rely greatly on social and emotional support from my network of friends, many of whom are also colleagues. Whether we see each other daily at work or annually at the ASHA convention I feel very fortunate to have a strong and still growing network of colleagues — who I count among my closest friends. I receive regular emails from alums, to ask me a question about a patient, discuss job options or to go out for a drink to catch up. Colleagues shout "hello" across the escalators at the ASHA convention. These connections comfort me. Our professional networks are among our best support — in good times and bad. I hope this newsletter serves as one piece of that network for you and reminds you that we all have a professional and personal community that can help address challenges and enhance the celebration of life's positive events. Please remember that if you want to get in touch with a colleague, announce an important event, find a referral for a client, or are looking for a clinical fellow, you can rely on Emerson. We can always be reached at cdalumni@emerson.edu or through the new Emerson Alum Facebook page.

This year has seen Emerson continuing to change and to grow. Krista Wilkinson, who was part of our faculty starting in 1999, has relocated to Pennsylvania State College where she and her husband

You might be interested to know that in response to requests to raise funds for the CSD Department and it's students, Emerson now allows for donations to the College to be earmarked for specific programs. Next time you receive a donation request, be sure to earmark your contribution to CSD. The easiest way to direct your gift is through the alumni giving website: <https://www.emerson.edu/alumni/giving/>, using the drop down menu under "Fund Account Designation" to select CSD.

Finally, the alumni committee has said good-bye to some and welcome to others. Angela Kao Pierce, G'01, has stepped off the committee due to the demands of raising two small children. But, Angie Conant, G'08 has graciously joined the group. We could always use more assistance and fresh ideas so please consider joining the committee.

With all best wishes,
—Your CD Alumni Committee



Alumni Committee From left: Heather Lomax G'06, Angela Conant G'08, Betsy Casper Micucci G'76, Melissa Zabala G'05, Debra Ludwig Finn G'76, missing: Jena Casbon G'05, Jessi Seay G'05

found terrific jobs. Maria Mody, who joined us in 2007, will be returning to full-time research. Both Krista and Maria made valuable contributions to our teaching and research programs — we truly appreciate their contributions and wish them continued success.

While our departing faculty will be missed, we've been fortunate to be able to recruit top candidates to join us this fall. Here's a bit about them:

Belinda Fusté-Hermann (Ph.D., University of South Florida) comes to us with a wealth of clinical experience as a bilingual specialist in schools; her research has focused on the relationships between reading and bilingualism.

Ruth Grossman (Ph.D., Boston University) has spent the last several years investigating processing of prosody and facial expression by children and adolescents with autism.

Alisa Morgan (Ph.D., University of Kansas) has worked as a Research Speech Pathologist at the Boston University Aphasia Research Center and has particular expertise in aphasia and adult motor speech disorders.

I hope this finds you enjoying a happy, healthy summer. Please be in touch.

Best,

Dan



**ALUMNI PROFILE: Maia Sternbaum Magder, MS, CCC/SLP, G'01***What led you to the field of SLP?*

I have always loved language, literature, and communication, and I majored in English literature in college. Later, I served as a legislative assistant for a lobbying firm in Washington, DC where I used language — both verbal and non-verbal — to communicate our mission. I enjoyed my work, but something was missing.

My mother, who was a physical therapist for severely disabled children, had always spoken fondly of the intimacy and rewards of the allied health fields. So, taking inspiration from her, I made a logical transition and began a career that blended a helping profession with my love for language and communication.

How did you become a member of NIH and what roles do you play?

My role at NIH is unique, as I have both research and clinical duties. Clinically, I serve the Clinical Center, the free-standing hospital at the main campus of NIH, for ANY patient enrolled in a protocol with speech, language, cognitive, or swallowing disorders. So, for example, if a National Heart Lung and Blood Institute patient admitted to the Clinical Center for a drug trial to combat aplastic anemia had a stroke, I would evaluate and treat him or her. I also work with many tracheostomy and ventilator-dependent patients in the ICU, as well as those with brain cancer and patients who have neurodegenerative diseases like spinocerebellar ataxia.

One of my favorite clinical duties is my work on the Pediatric Behavioral Health Unit. I have the privilege of being part of the Childhood Onset Schizophrenia Team, which tracks cognition and language as patients advance through the treatment protocol. It is truly “think outside the box” stuff, and because there is little preceding research done by SLPs for this population, there could be some interesting findings coming out of our team’s efforts.

In terms of the research side of my job, I work with the Rehabilitation Medicine Department, helping to design studies, collecting and analyzing data for projects that focus on cholesterol metabolism syndromes with phenotypic symptoms of disordered cognition, speech, language, and swallowing. The department also looks at some neurological disorders in adults, and I recently had the opportunity to teach a course on neurogenetically-acquired disorders to the Neuroscience Nursing Program.

How did Emerson prepare you to be a speech-language pathologist?

Emerson’s holistic, family-centered view of treatment is paramount in my work. The families that come to NIH are amazing to work with; they are so invested in treatment — so involved — and my training at Emerson taught me to include them to the fullest. I learned how to get family members on board, how to listen to their concerns, how to act, and how to make changes when needed. My therapy is effective because of that. It’s what makes an Emerson therapist!

I’ve often had family members ask if they should step out while I engage a patient in a therapeutic activity, and I say, “Oh, no! We need you here!” Learning how to communicate effectively with my patients’ caregivers and family members helps ensure carryover and compliance (especially with dysphagia patients!).

Emerson is an amazing place, and I can literally pick an Emerson clinician out of a crowd.

What do you see as your next challenge/adventure in the field?

I would absolutely love to go on for another degree, be it a Ph.D. in CSD, or possibly a Master’s in Public Health. I love asking “big picture questions” that affect our field. I’d also be excited to work in an international capacity with a medical mission when my family life calms down a bit (I have an 18-month-old, and a newborn).

What’s great about living in the District of Columbia is that I have continued my role in “politics” by being elected to the ASHA Advisory Board Council for DC. We meet with our local Congressperson (I often accompany the Maryland and Virginia delegation too!) and lobby for laws that benefit the field of SLP and Audiology. It’s a great feeling to be involved in lobbying for policies that can benefit thousands of therapists and their patients!

Can you name one major highlight of your professional career?

Working on the Childhood Schizophrenia Team with the most renowned and respected professionals in the field is a real honor. There are also many day-to-day stories of triumph among the people I meet; working with them is truly the highlight of my career.

What are your strongest memories of Emerson?

Definitely the smell of Subway in the Grad Room as we all chowed down before Cindy’s evening lectures! Seriously, the spirit and camaraderie among all of my classmates and professors was unmatched. The facilities are just amazing, and I still call the friends I met in grad school all the time to pick their brains. Emerson is a special place — an incubator where all of these amazing SLPs are disseminating their craft to the new generation. It rocks!

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Alumni Committee *Heather Lomax G'06, Angela Conant G'08, Betsy Casper Micucci G'76, Melissa Zabala G'05, Debra Ludwig Finn G'76, Jena Casbon G'05, Jessi Seay G'05*

Contributors:

Daniel Kempler, Gregg Clapham

Contact Us!

cdalumni@emerson.edu

**ALUMNI LECTURE**

This year’s Annual CD Alumni Lecture was presented by Emerson alumna, Dr. Mary Sweig Wilson, G’64. She is the founder and president of the educational software company, Laureate Learning Systems. She spoke about *The Importance of Syntax*. Dr. Wilson briefly reviewed current linguistic theory, as well as research in language acquisition and disorders, highlighting the importance of syntactic competence. She explained and demonstrated how her research based, syntax related, software can be used with children who are struggling to master sentence comprehension and use. The software was developed with support from Small Business Innovation Research grants from the National Institutes of Health and National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD). Dr. Wilson generously provided all participants with a syntax assessment CD.

Left: *Debby Ludwig Finn G'76, Presenter Mary Sweig Wilson G'64, Jena Casbon, G'05*

THE INSIDE SCOOP

2008

Rebecca Therriault lives in the Fenway area of Boston and works at the Franciscan Hospital for Children in Brighton. At work she divides her time between the Kennedy Day School (a school for children with intensive medical and special needs), outpatient therapy, and the Augmentative Communication and Assistive Technology Clinic...

Jen Thistle works at the Merrimac Collaborative and did a poster presentation at ASHA based on her Master's Thesis: *Effects of Background Color on Speed of Locating a Symbol*...*Amanda Wydeveld* lives and works in the Chicago area.

2007

Jeanan Al-Haddad is engaged and will be married in Jordan, where she will live... *Jessica Gutai* works as an SLP in Syracuse, NY...*Katie James* works for the Wellesley, MA public schools...*Aja Mula* just bought a house in the Poughkeepsie, NY area, near where she works...*Carrie Oliviera* works in the Lynnfield, MA public schools.

2006

Leida Middleton Barman and her husband welcomed the birth of their first child. Leida lives and works in Northampton, MA where she provides SLP services at a long term care facility...*Angela Flintoff MacFarland* was married last October and lives in Winthrop, MA. She continues to work at the MGH Revere HealthCare Center...*Delphine Herrmann* works as an SLP at Hebrew Rehab, in Roslindale MA, where she supervises graduate students from different programs, including Emerson College. She presented a seminar at the ASHA convention in 2008 in Chicago on breathing techniques for adults with neurological disorders. She is currently working on a poster for the 2009 convention on the efficacy of written cues for dementia patients...*Alison Ramsay* works with preschoolers in a North Reading Public School program. She continues to follow some families associated with her previous position at the Criterion-Stoneham Early Intervention Program in Woburn. She will be married in October of this year...*Erica Shackley Peck* and her husband welcomed a daughter in January...*Valerie Simonson* lives in California and has been busy planning her two weddings — one in Chicago and one in India!

2004

Lee Hoffman Paul lives in Evanston, Illinois and works in the Chicago area.

2005

Kristen Mahon Kudaruskas lives in Alexandria, VA with her husband and dog. She works as a Senior SLP with a geriatric population at acute, sub-acute and long term care facilities in the area...*Meghan Selleck Roberts* is in the doctoral program in the Special Education Department at Vanderbilt University in TN...*Dara Schatt Rogoff* lives in Israel with her husband and baby daughter, born in

April... *Sara Puckett O'Connor* continues to work for the Boston Public Schools in Dorchester. She has also been designing and making jewelry which can be seen on her website: www.sarajettjewelry.com.

2003

Barbara Brenner is getting married in August 2008 and *Jennifer Nannes* will be her maid of honor!...*Lena Williams* has been working in New Zealand for the past two years as an SLP. She currently has two part time positions: working at Starship Children's Hospital in Auckland, mostly with infants and feeding, as well as doing language assessments with older children. She also works with adults at the Auckland City Hospital doing dysphagia and communication assessment and treatment.

2002

Amy DiBattista is currently at Northeastern University as a graduate student in the Department of Psychology, working toward a Master's Degree and ultimately a PhD. She is doing research in sentence processing, specifically dealing with errors in language production and what they may tell us about the organization of linguistic processes. She reports that her communication disorders background has been helpful as she investigates non-disordered language, but, "It has been a challenge to switch gears from therapy to research, but a very happy and exciting one."...*Erika Dowdy Howard* had a baby girl in September 2008...*Julie Gates Rockefeller* continues to work at the Tammy Lynn Center in North Carolina, a school and residence for children and adults with severe to profound special needs. She and her husband welcomed home a baby boy in December...*Andrea Martin Walsh* gave birth to a baby girl last July and after having the year off, will return to work with preschoolers in the fall...In May 2008, *Ann Mueller Wilde*, her husband, and daughter welcomed home a baby boy. Ann plans to return to work as an SLP in the Marblehead Public Schools in September.

2001

Allyson Bram has started a private practice serving Fairfield County, CT and Westchester County, NY called Bram Speech and Language Consultants, LLC. She would welcome any Emerson grads to call or email her if they are looking for a job! www.bramconsultants.com...*Michelle Marquis* lives in Merrimack, NH and works in the Nashua School District full time. She also works in the local hospital's rehab department part-time...*Amy Sleeper Matson* lives in North Chelmsford, MA and works in the Tewkesbury Public School's integrated pre-school program. She and her husband welcomed a baby boy last July...*Dana Russell Rimer* works as an SLP part-time at OTA-Wakefield, a pediatric clinic. She has also established a small private practice in the North Shore area where she lives (Danvers, MA) with her husband and young daughter.

2000

Natalie Diorio Guerin works as an SLP at an Early Intervention Program in Lowell, MA. She is excited to report the birth of her son in April 2008.

1999

Since graduating from Emerson, *Miriam Fein* has held a number of positions as an SLP: working with school-aged children in a collaborative program, working in a small private school and finally, working in a large diverse public school district. She developed an interest in reading disabilities and became certified in the Orton-Gillingham approach. She lives in Brookline, MA and stopped working 3 1/2 years ago when her first son was born and now takes care of him and his brother, aged 22 months, full time. She is eager to hear from any alums who focus on reading skills in their practice...*Christine Yannone* lives in Arcata, CA and was married last July. She works as an Assistive Technology Specialist for a special education collaborative and has a small private practice focusing on dysphagia and AAC.

1997

John Gould received his PhD in Speech-Language Pathology from Boston University in August 2008. He then began teaching full time at Elms College in Chicopee, MA in September. He teaches 4 courses per semester (speech science, phonetics, normal language development, introduction to linguistics, introduction to normal language development, rehabilitation of speech disorders and rehabilitation of language disorders) and is "thoroughly enjoying the work."...*Kristen Wixted* is not currently practicing as an SLP. She is busy at home with her three children, ages 10, 8, and 3 and pursuing her next career, writing children's novels. She hopes to have some good news in that area to report soon.

1996

Sarah Wakabayshi lives in Boston with her husband and two daughters and works for the Boston Public Schools.

1987

Kerry Howland will officially be awarded her PH.D from the Behavioral Neurosciences program in the Division of Graduate Medical Studies at BU Medical School In September. Her research was on the development of lexical representations in adults with dyslexia. The title of her dissertation is *Spoken and Written Novel Word Learning in Adults With and Without Dyslexia*. She plans to continue her work at BU in the Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences Program after graduation.

1968

Joan Morgan Lunn, retired 4 years ago after a 30 year career as an SLP for a visiting nurse agency. She has been spending her retirement locally with her grandchildren, visiting family in CA, volunteering and traveling.



Dr. Cynthia Bartlett

SPOTLIGHT ON CINDY BARTLETT

From her sunny office at 216 Tremont Street, Dr. Cynthia Bartlett sends out a message to CD alumni: You are our best ambassadors! "We love you. Keep giving Emerson that great reputation," she says, with obvious enthusiasm and pride.

Cindy joined the Emerson faculty in 1985 as an Assistant Professor. Her doctoral advisor at the University of Pittsburgh had worked at Emerson and once told Cindy that it was her favorite place — so when a position

in adult neurogenics became available, Cindy knew it was where she wanted to be. Capitalizing on her research interests in neurogenic communication disorders, Cindy developed and taught the Department's first course covering TBI, right-hemisphere damage and dementia. Over the years Cindy has taught most of the core courses related to adult disorders including Aphasia, Motor Speech Disorders, Cognitive Communicative Disorders and Neurologic Bases of Communication.

Throughout her nearly 25 years at the College, Cindy has been an integral part of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. She has served as a teacher, chaired several committees, was the special assistant for accreditation, and three times has held the role of Interim or Acting Chair of The Department. Currently, she is the Graduate Program Director and maintains her position as a tenured Associate Professor.

When she isn't involved with academic pursuits, Cindy can likely be found enjoying the multitude of cultural offerings in Boston, dealing with condominium issues as a member of the condo association, and traveling.

ASHA CONVENTION 2008 CHICAGO

At the past ASHA Convention in Chicago, Emerson was well-represented by both alumni and faculty as conference presenters and attendees. The following people were sighted, in alphabetical order:

ALUMNI:

- Jeanan Al-Haddad '07**
- Kathleen Browning '93**
- Amy Chase '07**
- Christina Duggan '06**
- Debby Ludwig Finn '76**
- Delphine Herrmann '06**
- Kristin Hovis '97**
- Rebecca Kaufman '04**
- Rik Lemoncello '99**
*presentation: Maximizing Home Exercise Program Completion for Adults with Acquired Cognitive Impairments.
- Amelia Lien '07**
- Aja Mula '07**
- Sara Puckett O'Connor '05**
- Jenny Orfuss '04**
- Lee Hoffman Paul '04**
- Amy Pell '07**
- Erin Redle '00**
*presentation: Supervision Research: Past & Present
- Megan Selleck Roberts '05**
*poster: A Comparison of Three Language Sampling Elicitation Methods.
- Jordan Sadler '97**
- Frank Sampey '07**

Kathy Scaler Scott '93

- *presentation: Treatment of Cluttered Speech in Asperger's Disorder: Focus on Self-Regulation
- *poster: Providing Worldwide Cluttering Education: Accomplishments of the International Cluttering Association.
- Valerie Simonson '06**
- Jen Thistle '08**
*poster: Effects of Background Color on Speed of Locating a Symbol.
- Marnie Ross Weinberg '07**
- Mary Sweig Wilson '65**
*poster: Gender Typicality in Children's Speech 2: Acoustic & Perceptual Measures of Gender in Children's Narratives.
- Amanda Wydeveld '08**

FACULTY:

- Cindy Bartlett**
- Sandy Cohn-Thau**
*posters: Clinical Supervision: An Inter-Institutional Look at Supervisors' Attitudes,

- Practices and Conducting Inter-Institutional Research: Examining the Process.
- Dan Kempler**
- Shelley Lipschultz**
- David Maxwell**
*poster: The Predictive Value of the N-Back Complex Span Measure;
- *presentation: Evidence-based Statistics for Clinicians & Researchers: Current Problems & Possible Solutions.
- Betsy Casper Micucci '76**
- Krista Wilkinson**
*short course: Low Technology AAC Applications for Persons With Developmental Disabilities; *presentation: Designing Effective AAC Systems: Research Evidence & Implications for Practice and *poster: Qualitative Analysis of Decision-Making by Clinicians During Design of Aided Visual Displays.

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