

### Spotlight on Dr. Mark Parker



Dr. Mark Parker

Dr. Mark Parker joined the CSD faculty in the fall of 2005 to teach science and audiology courses. For him audiology is a family affair: his grandparents were deaf; his grandfather worked as a hearing aid dispenser, his father was an audiologist, while Mark and his two siblings have all gone on to study audiology.

Mark received his undergraduate degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders from San Diego State University and his Master's Degree in Speech and Hearing Science from Portland State University. After completing his CF in a private practice in Los Angeles, Mark returned to academia and completed his Ph.D. in neuroscience at Louisiana State University.

With the help of a National Institutes of Health research grant, Mark completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the Harvard Medical School, investigating the relationship between stem cell biology and hair cell regeneration in the inner ear. Mark has continued his research through funding from a New Investigator Award from the Hood Foundation at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary.

Mark hopes that his research will one day lead to the therapeutic use of stem cells to treat hearing loss.

### Dr. Dorothy Aram Retires



Dr. Dorothy Aram

Professor Dorothy Aram has had a long-term commitment to the field of communication sciences and disorders. With an already illustrious research and professional record at Case Western Reserve University, she came to Emerson College where she has spent the last 15 years excelling in scholarship, teaching, and administration. She has held the posts of faculty, Chair, Dean and Chief Academic Officer. Her scholarship on neural plasticity in language development, as well as reading and language disorders in children, has contributed greatly to our discipline. Her clear and direct manner in her teaching and interactions added to her success in the classroom and board room. In retirement, Dorothy will be active with her family, volunteer work, community service, and pursuing interests that full-time work had not allowed. She and her husband will divide their time between their homes in Seville (Spain) and Boston. All of us at Emerson feel privileged to have had her as a colleague and mentor and we wish her well. She will be greatly missed.

### Career Services

Career Services at Emerson College is available to all CD alums. They will help you in job searches, provide you with resources, direct you to job listings, and post positions if you are an employer. Contact Career Services at [www.emerson.edu/career\\_services/alumni](http://www.emerson.edu/career_services/alumni) or call (617) 824-8586.

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This is the CSD Alumni Committee's third year of working together. Our focus is on building ties between the department and alumni as well as creating mechanisms to keep graduates in touch with one another. We believe the establishment of an annual newsletter is one important way to keep us all "connected."

In this issue, you will find a message from the CSD Department Chair, Daniel Kempler; a profile of a 2006 graduate, Miggie Shum; a brief review of the Third Annual CSD Alumni Lecture; the *Spotlight* on Mark Parker, a new audiologist in the department; and *The Inside Scoop* provides brief information about your classmates.

Please check out our newly created CSD alumni website, where you can post and respond to questions related to Speech-Language Pathology. You can log on by going to <http://webcms.emerson.edu>. Enter your user name: **alumni\_cd** and password: **boylston**. We ask that you

read and adhere to the rules of the website. We hope to make this a useful and interesting forum for all. The website will also link you to a "Frappr Map" on which you can post your geographic location so alums can locate each other.

**Save the date!** The evening before the ASHA Convention, *Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>*, there will be an alumni get-together at Emerson College (216 Tremont Street) for an early dinner and re-connecting. We will contact you with more information in the Fall.

Thank you to those alums who have offered feedback regarding the Alumni Committee's various efforts. We welcome your ideas and suggestions. If you would like to join the committee, update your personal information, or find your classmates, let us know at [cdalumni@emerson.edu](mailto:cdalumni@emerson.edu). We look forward to hearing from you.

—Your alumni committee

## A message from Daniel Kempler, Chair of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

Dear Alums,

This last year was one of movement and excitement for the Department.

To start with, about this time last year, we were proudly represented by **Sarah Allison** (class of '06) who was chosen as the grad commencement speaker for the college. She wowed the audience, and sent our class out with a smile on their faces.



**Professor Krista Wilkinson** was awarded several important honors including: grants from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation and National Institutes of Health to pursue her research on manipulation of visual parameters to enhance the use of augmentative communication displays. In addition, her recent article, "Assessing Semantic Organization and Category Membership in Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders and Receptive Vocabulary Limitations," was voted the most significant research article in the 2006 volume of the journal *Augmentative and Alternative Communication*. Krista continues to collaborate with our students in data collection and analysis as well as presentations at national meetings.

**Professor Amit Bajaj** was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure, in recognition of his excellent teaching across the curriculum and valuable scholarship in the area of fluency disorders. A special thanks to all the alums who took the time to write letters of support for Amit – they really helped!

**Dr. Maria Mody** will join our faculty in the Fall. Dr. Mody earned her doctorate in Speech and Hearing Sciences from CUNY Graduate Center (NY) and brings a distinguished record of research on the behavioral and neural bases of reading and language disorders in children.

We continued to expand **Continuing Education** opportunities through 2-day seminars offered in January and May. These are open to the community so if you'd like to come back, earn CEUs and learn about what's new in the field, please find out about current offerings from the Emerson office of Professional Studies and Special Programs at 617-824-8280.

We continued our Fall semester series of **lectures and movies** for students, staff, faculty and the community. We had a standing room only lecture by Carol Padden, co-author of *Deaf in America: Voices from a Culture*, and *Inside Deaf Culture*. She spoke about her exploration of the newly discovered and recently evolved grammar of Al-Sayyid Bedouin Sign Language, which serves as an alternative language of a community of about 3,500 deaf and hearing people in a small community in Israel's Negev Desert.

And finally, **Dr. Dorothy Aram** retired this year after 15 years at Emerson. We will greatly miss her ever-present guidance and valuable contributions to the Department and we wish her well in her retirement (see article on back of this newsletter).

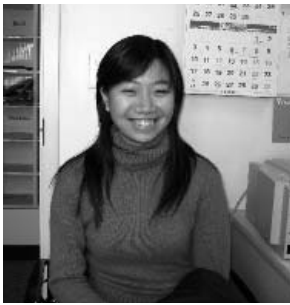


With that summary of some of last year's important events, we're ready to sit back, take stock of what we have done, anticipate what lies ahead next year – and maybe take a few days off. High on our list for next year is seeing you all at the ASHA convention here in Boston.

*Until then, have a wonderful, relaxing and productive summer!*

*Dan*

Daniel Kempler



Miggie Shum

**ALUMNI PROFILE:  
Miggie Shum**

An Inside Perspective on Emerson...

**Why did you choose to come to Emerson for graduate school?**

I grew up in Hong Kong and came to the US to attend the University of Wisconsin. I wanted to stay in the US for my graduate degree and became interested in Emerson's CSD program because it was highly recommended by one of my professors. I visited the Department and was excited to learn that if I came to Emerson I could possibly have a placement in Chinatown, speaking my own language (Cantonese). I was sold! Once here, I was not disappointed. The array of interesting and varied clinical opportunities was amazing. For example, I was part of the Thayer Lindsley Parent Support Group, I was at the Perkins School for the Blind, the Josiah Quincy Elementary School in Chinatown, the Robbins Center at Emerson, and more.

**What led you to Special Education Consulting Services in Shanghai?**

While I was in graduate school I began thinking about my career and places to look for employment. I thought I had been in the states long enough and I wanted to return to Asia. It would have been hard to finish my CF in Hong Kong because no one there has their ASHA C's. Faculty in the Department told me about an alum, Shari Diamond, who had begun a private practice in Shanghai. It seemed like it would be the perfect place to work since my father was also living there. Fortunately, my interview with Shari went well and I was thrilled to be part of her program, Shanghai Special Education Consulting Services.

**Did you feel prepared for your CF experience?**

Yes, for the most part, I did. I had a strong preference for work with preschoolers and I am now able to see mostly preschoolers in the on-site program. I have a caseload of 20 and it includes children with CP, MR, dyslexia, autism, Down Syndrome, and other genetic disorders. I have also been sent out to different international schools in the Shanghai area to provide private, individual treatment services for children aged 3 to 12 years. These children also have similar disorders, including autism, apraxia, articulation, fluency, and global delay. The geographic area is so

vast that it is hard for the population to get information, let alone have any SLP resources. I feel quite alone sometimes and it's a very busy job.

Living and working in Shanghai has meant other changes also. I live with my parents now after so many years of living independently. It's an adjustment. I also find that I hang out with mostly English speaking people and I feel different from mainland Chinese people due to my many years spent in the US. I seem to have adopted a more western lifestyle in terms of food, culture, and language.

**What do you see as the future of services in Shanghai?**

Besides Shari and me, there are two SLPs in all of Shanghai - one works in a hospital and the other provides services in German. I haven't been able to reach out to the local Chinese population due to their inability to pay for SLP services, but I'm working on creative options to get around that. It's exciting to be part of this program at the start up level, but also there are frustrations and stumbling blocks. The effort is well worth it though.

**What are your career goals?**

I plan to stay in Shanghai for at least the next two years. I am thinking about expanding speech-language services to other cities and countries. For example, Beijing, Thailand, Japan, etc. It's an exciting career!

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**Contributors**

- Daniel Kempler
- Kate Brooks G'07

**Contact Us!**

CDAlumni@emerson.edu

**The Role of Counseling addressed at the Third Annual CD Alumni Lecture**



Betsy Micucci, presenter  
Rick Sanders, Jena Casbon,  
Melissa Zabala



Lecture Attendees. How many people do you know? Next time, your picture should be here.

This year's CD Alumni Lecture was presented by Rick Sanders, senior SLP at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital. CD alumni and faculty members were present for the lecture which also included dinner and opportunities to socialize. Rick's talk, titled *"The Essential Counseling Relationship: Implications and Applications for the Speech-Language Pathologist,"* highlighted the importance of counseling patients as one aspect of the services provided by SLPs. He emphasized that clinicians should convey an attitude of unhurried listening, view patients as partners in the treatment process and recognize that patients have knowledge about their diagnoses. He offered several counseling strategies which included using written journals as counseling and coping tools and using a group approach for counseling patients and their families.

## The Inside Scoop...

Thank you to all who responded to the call for your news. We were delighted with your responses but due to space constraints we were forced to edit your remarks. We hope we at least provided the essence of your message.

**1969 Anthony Salvatore** (PhD) is Professor & Chair of the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences, the SLP Program, and the Voice and Brain Lab at the University of Texas at El Paso.

**1970 Honore Weiner** (BS '68, G '70; Ed.D.) has recently retired from CASE Collaborative in Concord, MA and is the recipient of the first annual Ellen Kurtzer-White Distinguished Service Award. She has a private practice, and is currently an Educational Specialist for The Decibels Foundation.

**1976 Lea Watson** has been a consulting and training professional in Auditory-Verbal Therapy at the Cora Barclay Centre in South Australia. She and her husband plan to travel before moving home to Gloucester, MA later this year.

**1981 Marlene Faust** lives in Salem, MA. She retired from the public schools and works part time for the North Shore Consortium. She has four adult children and 3 grandchildren. **Debra Ford Mondello** works in two middle schools in Billerica, MA.

**1982 Rita Murphy Williams** and **Randi Chudnow Loeb** '87 celebrated 15 years of partnership in their private group practice, Children's Speech and Language Services in Lexington, MA. Other alumnae who work with them are **Claire Butterfield Bigley** '02, **Brooke Collier** '98, **Kelly Steen** '04 and **Nicole Stewart** '06.

**1988 Bonnie Singer** is CEO and president of Architects for Learning in Wellesley, MA. The educational consulting firm focuses on literacy and testing performance on standardized tests such as the SATs. She helped to develop the EmPOWER writing program with Dr. Anthony Bashir from Emerson.

**1990 Micaela Cornis-Pop** is a rehabilitation-planning specialist at the H.H. McGuire Veterans Administration Medical Center in Richmond, VA. She works with veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars and has helped to develop the TBI rehabilitation program at the VA.

**1992** Before getting a second Master's Degree in Psychotherapy, **Dawn Guderian Larson** worked as a clinical instructor at the University of Colorado, Boulder. She is currently a partner at "Colorado Therapies & Aquatic Center, LLC."

**1993 Kathleen Browning** lives in South Boston, works in the public schools and has a robust private practice. **Kathy Scaler Scott** is working on her doctorate at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and has been certified as a fluency specialist. She spoke in Bulgaria at the First World Conference on Cluttering in May.

**1994 Suzanne Ducharme Harris** founded a private practice, South Shore Speech Pathology Partners, specializing in pediatric speech-language and feeding disorders. She is the current President of the Massachusetts Speech-Language-Hearing

Association. **Sue Savarese** works in acute care and rehabilitation with adults and is a volunteer children's story time leader at her local library in Massachusetts. She has two sons ages 10 and 6.

**1995 Arleen Hess** lives in Brooklyn, NY and works as the supervisor of speech services at Kings County Hospital. She also supervises graduate SLP students from Brooklyn and Touro Colleges. **Jason Valdes Greenwood** and his husband, adopted a little girl. The book, Homo Domesticus, documents their marriage and the adoption.

**1997 John Gould** lives in the Boston area and is in his fourth year of doctoral studies at BU in the Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences. He and his wife have 2 children, ages 5 and 9 years old. **Lynnett Harris-Scott** was married in April '06. She lives in the Philadelphia area where she is working on her doctorate in Reading, Writing, and Literacy at the University of PA. **Christina Pompeo** lives in Simsbury, CT and is working in the Avon Public Schools.

**1998 Elina Kotlyar** works in an EI program in Germany serving military families stationed overseas.

**1999 Erin Pearson Silverman** is married, has a 12 month old daughter, and works at Shands Rehabilitation Hospital in Gainesville, FL. She is working on her Ph.D. at the University of Florida. In January '07, **Kristen Russo Victorino**, advanced to candidacy (all but dissertation) in the Ph.D. program at the CUNY Graduate Center. Her dissertation topic is "Auditory Selective Attention and Language Processing in Children with and without SLI." She lives in New York City with her husband and young son and has a part-time private practice. **Christine Yannoni** lives in rural Arcata, California. She works in the schools and has a private practice specializing in AAC and dysphagia. She enjoys international travel.

**2000 Sarah Kaplan** recently moved to N.C. with her husband and 3 boys, a toddler and infant twins.

**2001 Mindy Niloff Backler** has a part-time private practice and spends her non-work time caring for her daughter age 3 and son 16 months. **Emily Blumberg** has a 10 month old daughter and works part time at the Minute Man Early Intervention Program in Concord, MA while building her private practice. **Andrea Edelstein Dewhirst** just had her first baby, a girl, born in January '07. **Kate Moot Eichstadt** is expecting her first baby, a boy, in July. She has tenure at a school in suburban Chicago and works part-time in early intervention. She attended the Stuttering Foundation's week-long workshop in Philadelphia. **Michelle Marquis** lives in Nashua, NH and works in the public schools with a diverse caseload. **Andrea Ostrosky** works part-time at Samoset Middle School in Leominster, MA. She spends her non-working time with sons ages 6 and 3. **Jessica Cash Shoenberg** had a baby boy in November '06. **Kim Rainey** moved from San Diego to Maryland. **Maia Sternbaum** taught a graduate-level course in acquired neurogenic communication disorders, and was elected an ASHA Legislative Councilor for Washington, D.C., where she lives. She is expecting a baby boy in

April '07. **Liz Wilson Tomer** returned to Massachusetts and works in the Marlborough Public Schools, grades K-3.

**2002 Alyssa Dubin Gusenoff** is taking a break from working in EI to take care of her 5 month old son. **Leena Mishra Brisch** has worked in a private speech and language center in Houston, TX since graduating. She recently married. **Julie E. Gates Rockefeller** has worked in New York, North Carolina, Maryland, New Mexico and Washington State since graduating. She was married last fall. **Caitlin Shanley** is living and working in California, but is thinking about moving to Michigan or finding a job as a traveling SLP.

**2003 Shannon Hennig** recently relocated to New Zealand with her husband for a job at TalkLink Wellington, an assistive technology assessment center. Before choosing to move abroad, she worked for Easter Seals in MA providing AAC services to local schools. She also had taught a course at Fitchburg State College. **Lena Williams** is working in New Zealand too! She works for the District Health Board in Auckland as an SLP on their Child Development Team. She sees lots of premies for feeding and swallowing difficulties and very handicapped children.

**2004 Erin Shanley** lives in the Boston area and works as an SLP at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, primarily on the Brain Injury unit. **Cheryl Anselmo** relocated in January to Washington D.C. and began work at the Children's National Medical Center where she divides her time between the D.C. hospital and the Regional Outpatient Center in Rockville, MD.

**2005 Megan Selleck Roberts** has been accepted into the doctoral program at Vanderbilt University and will begin in August. She says that her time at Emerson played a large part in her acceptance! **Dara Schatt** works in NYC and married in December. **Alison Schmitz** is working at St. Vincent Catholic Medical Center of Manhattan where she often uses interpreter services in order to give directions, evaluations, treatment, and modified swallows in Polish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Russian, Spanish, and French. **Allison Skelly** is working at North Shore Children's Hospital in Salem, MA. She is expecting her first child this summer.

**2006 Kristen Bourque** is living in the Boston area and working for Rehab Choice, a national company, in 2 SNF's where she mostly sees patients with dysphagia. **Clara Chu** is working at the Thom Mystic Valley Early Intervention Program in Woburn, MA and part-time at a private practice in Framingham. **Angela Flintoff** finished her CF at MGH. She will be married in October '08. **Yael Garfinkle** is enjoying her work for Easter Seals in the Boston area. Her caseload is varied in both age range and disorder. **Michele Giacoia** currently works for the CASE Collaborative in Concord, MA. She works in two preschools; one with children who have developmental delay and the other with children who have hearing loss. She is getting married this October and moving to Southern California. **Deidre King** works as an SLP in the Intensive Learning Program at Fiske Elementary School in Lexington, MA.