



THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS

We are glad that this newsletter has reached you! Did you know that we have a growing network of over 900 alums in our CSD alumni database? This is an exciting commentary on how many of us desire to keep our CONNECTION to the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD). This also means that there are a lot of us to keep track of as we change our addresses, emails, or names. Please keep the alumni committee informed of these important changes so we can be sure you continue to receive our mailings and emails at:

CDALUMNI@EMERSON.EDU.

Related to our network, we are very excited that during the past year we have helped fellow alums find jobs in other parts of the country by connecting one alum to another. This has resulted in new jobs for several people relocating to different states as well as first time job seekers right out of graduate school. Thank you to those of you who agreed to be contacted. Contact information is shared with job seekers only with permission. We hope that more of you will take advantage of our extensive professional community and help each other when changing jobs, moving out of state, or maybe even seeking each other out for a professional exchange of information.

This past year your alumni committee, with support from the Department of CSD and Emerson's Department of Alumni Relations, had the opportunity to host a mini reunion, taking advantage of the ASHA Convention being held in Boston. Many alums from all over the U.S. as well as Canada, Israel, Shanghai and New Zealand attended. Old connections were rekindled

and new ones forged. There will be a review of this event elsewhere in this issue of this newsletter. You will also find a message from Cindy Bartlett, who was Acting Chair this spring while Dan Kempler was on sabbatical. He is the featured faculty member in our Spotlight column. Of course we have continued to provide you with snippets of information about your graduate school classmates in the Inside Scoop and we only wish we had more space to elaborate on all the exciting life events shared.

Please save the date: On Thursday evening, November 6th from 6-8 pm, our annual alumni lecture will be held on the Emerson campus in the Emerson Room within the Little Building. The featured speaker will be Dr. Mary Sweig Wilson (G '65) on the topic of Syntax Across the Life Span. We will send out more detailed information about this event as the time gets closer so please be sure to keep your contact information up to date at:

CDALUMNI@EMERSON.EDU.

As always, we welcome your feedback, suggestions and participation on the CSD Alumni Committee. We look forward to hearing from you.

~Your Alumni Committee



THE CONNECTION

A Message from Cynthia Bartlett, Acting Chair of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

Greetings to our Alums!

It is now summer in Boston. If you've moved away from the city, you may remember the Swan Boats, the marathon, the Magnolias blooming along Beacon, Marlborough, and Comm. Ave. This academic year will soon be over and we look forward to launching yet another outstanding class. In typical fashion, many of these people already have jobs.

As many of you know, our Department Chair, Daniel Kempler has been on a much deserved sabbatical leave for the spring 2008 semester. During that time I've had the opportunity to serve as Acting Chair. Not unexpectedly, great things continue to take place. I'd like to let you in on a few.

As of January, the graduate program in Health Communication has officially become part of CSD, having moved over (administratively, but not physically) from the Department of Marketing Communication. Their "home" is still in the Walker Building.

We have more and more of our alums now in doctoral programs. I suspect that my list isn't complete, as I've composed it only by word of

mouth, but I do have 22 alums that have completed, are in progress, or are accepted to doctoral programs. Institutions include Penn, Florida State, Vanderbilt, BU, Northeastern, Oregon, Florida, Pittsburgh, Louisiana (Lafayette), Ben-Gurion, CUNY Graduate Center, Cincinnati, Albert Einstein Medical Center (M.D.), and Nova. If you or anyone from your class is aware of others from our program who have earned doctorates (Ph.D., Ed.D., Sc.D., M.D., etc.) please email me with their name and email address and I'll get the specifics to add to the list. I'm sure there are more of you out there!

In keeping with our tradition, we have another especially bright, accomplished graduate class entering our master's program in September. We look forward to their joining your ranks!!

Do keep us posted on what you're up to. We love hearing from all of you and keeping up with your lives.

~Cindy





Lea Donovan Watson

ALUMNI PROFILE:

Lea Donovan Watson, MS, '76
The 2007 Helen H. Beebe Scholarship Recipient
for Mentors in Auditory-Verbal Therapy

Another Inside Perspective on Emerson...

Why did you choose Emerson for grad school?

My Professors at the University of Vermont encouraged me because Emerson was known for its excellence in Communication Disorders. I remember them saying; "If you can get into Emerson, go!"

What role did Emerson play in preparing you to be effective in your profession?

Emerson allowed me to investigate every aspect of speech-language pathology. Emerson grounded me in the science of Communication Disorders. The emphasis placed on thorough clinical evaluation gave me a strong foundation in planning and executing therapy. I learned to be accountable for everything I did. My advisor, Dr. Klim, had high expectations, believed in me and demanded critical thinking. These practices helped me develop my work ethic to be honest, hard working, evidence-based, and thoughtful of others. From this I developed clear professional choices, opinions, and convictions.

What led to your interest in Auditory-Verbal Therapy?

My family. My younger sister had a brain aneurism at age 10. Two of my cousins were profoundly deaf. They communicated through sign language. Observing my sister re-learn language and my cousins struggle to communicate, I learned the value of spoken communication and family centered practice.

My husband Jim's family also impacted my thinking. Jim's grandfather was profoundly deaf. Jim's great-great grandparents were Mabel and Alexander Graham Bell. Mabel was also profoundly deaf. Jim's relatives were strong advocates for spoken language.

After graduate school, my husband studied Aural Rehabilitation with Dr. Daniel Ling of McGill University and I worked in the nursery at the Montreal Oral School for the Deaf. While in Montreal, we met many people who mentored us in the developing field of Auditory-Verbal Therapy (AVT). Auditory-Verbal Therapy teaches children with hearing loss to develop spoken language through listening.

AVT pioneer Helen H. Beebe offered us employment at the Beebe Center. I saw how successful the children at The Center were. I realized that there was a need for professionals trained to do this extraordinary therapy. Working with "Beebe" gave me confidence as an Auditory-Verbal Therapist. It was exciting to be part of a new frontier, trained by the pioneers.

In 1980 we moved to Massachusetts. Jim started a public school inclusion program in Gloucester. Parents who wanted their babies to learn to listen and

speak contacted me. That was the beginning of our program, the Auditory-Verbal Communication Center.

How has your Auditory-Verbal practice evolved?

I set up my private practice 28 years ago when the family of a 10 month old girl with a profound hearing loss requested my services. My next student was six weeks old. Effective parent guidance and focus on the use of hearing as the primary signal for learning spoken language helped the children develop their ability to listen.

Technology made a big difference. In the early 1990's, families had to travel to New York for cochlear implant surgery and mapping. AVT was the desired therapy after implantation and our clients were the first to receive cochlear implants in this region. Consulting with other Certified Auditory-Verbal Therapists all over the world kept us knowledgeable about opportunities for our clients.

In January 2006, because of an increase in identification of newborns with hearing impairment, my husband and I were funded by the Paul Newman Foundation to consult to the Cora Barclay Centre in Adelaide, South Australia. During the nine months we were there, we trained therapists, helped form a parent group, created an Early Intervention newsletter, and established a family-centered parent guidance program. We taught families how to facilitate natural language in their home setting during daily routines. Currently, I provide training to professionals in Australia, Hong Kong, Maine, and Massachusetts.

Now that there is early detection of hearing loss, digital hearing aids, and cochlear implants, hearing is more accessible for many children. Treatment and school programs have become more auditory-verbal and parent focused. Deaf and Hard of Hearing children are now often included in regular education classrooms.

What advice do you have for grad students or SLPs who may be interested in providing AVT?

Visit the Alexander Graham Bell Academy to find the Listening and Spoken Language website (www.agbell.org) and learn more about certification in Auditory-Verbal Therapy, find a Certified AVT mentor, and attend AGBell conventions.

Newsletter Staff

Alumni Committee:

- Jena Casbon G'05
- Debra Ludwig Finn G'76
- Heather Lomax G'06
- Betsy Casper Micucci G'76
- Angelo Kao Pierce G'01
- Jessi Seay G'05
- Melissa Zabala G'05

Contributors:

- Cindy Bartlett
- Ashley Brack G'08
- Jill Petruichik G'09

Contact Us:

CDAumni@emerson.edu

Emerson CSD Alumni Return to Campus

With the most recent ASHA Convention held in Boston, the Alumni Committee took advantage of this opportunity to invite all CSD alums back to the Emerson campus. With help from the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders and the Department of Alumni Relations, a reception and buffet dinner were offered, complete with a slide show of previous staff, faculty and students on display in the background. Between the renewed friendships, networking, and good food, everyone enjoyed the evening. The event was held in the Bill Bordy Theatre at 216 Tremont Street, home to the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders and the Robbins Speech, Language and Hearing Center since 1998.



These people attended the reception. Do you know who they are?

CD Alumni and Faculty Present at ASHA Convention

Many CSD alumni and faculty presented papers, posters, seminars and technical sessions at this year's ASHA convention. A sampling of alumni presenters and topics included: **Micaela Cornis-Pop ('90): Brain Rehabilitation Following Blast Injuries: Caring for Our Soldiers**, **Rik Lemoncello ('99): Assistive Technology for Cognition: What Every Clinician Needs to Know**, **Marjorie Nicholas ('98): Pocket C-Speak Aphasia: Handheld AAC Program for People with Aphasia**, **Erin Redle Creach ('00): Parents' Accounts of the Impact of Feeding & Swallowing Disorders**, **Kathleen Scalar Scott ('93): Disfluency & Autistic Spectrum Disorders: Treatment Considerations for the Clinician**, **Sharon Shaham ('05): PowerPoint & AAC: Assessment, Intervention & Evidence-Based Practice**, and **Bonnie Singer ('88,'97): Efficacy of EmPOWER: A Systematic Approach to Teaching Expository Writing**. Faculty presenters included: Anthony Bashir, Amit Bajaj, Sandra Cohn Thau, Lynn Conners, John Costello, Laura Gluffing-Tham, Arden Hill, Vinoth Jagaroo, Shelley Lipschultz, Amy Litwack, Betsy Micucci, and Krista Wilkinson.

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.

2007:

Amelia Lien lives in Los Angeles, CA and works in the public schools. During her spring break, she was in the audience of the Ellen DeGeneres show and won a trip to Disneyworld in a contest!

2006:

In August, **Sarah Allison** relocated back to the Indianapolis area. She is working for Hancock South Madison Joint Services with preschoolers and school age students with multiple severe/profound disabilities. Her most recent project has been helping to coordinate a school-wide disabilities awareness program.

Karen Kelly is currently living in NYC and working at Mount Sinai Hospital in acute rehabilitation. She is to be married in October '08.

Katie Tison is working in a preschool in Brooklyn, NY that uses a collaborative teaching model. She has one classroom of 12 with a variety of speech and language problems and one classroom of 8 with autism.

2005:

Karen Albertine lives in San Diego and for the past two years has happily worked with preschoolers in the Poway Unified School District under contract with EBS Healthcare.

Cheryl Anselmo is currently at the Children's National Medical Center in Washington, DC where she splits her time between the inpatient units and the Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders, a program specializing in the assessment and intervention planning for children with high-functioning autism and Asperger Syndrome.

Jena Casbon is working at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in Boston with children and adults who have acquired brain injuries. She received the 2007 Partners in Excellence Award in the areas of Leadership and Innovative Treatment from the hospital.

Kate Galvin Mahon lives in Philadelphia and works full-time for Easter Seals and per diem for Early Intervention.

Ethan Treglia and his wife live in Framingham and had a daughter in February. He has worked for the B.L.O.C.K.S. Preschool in Framingham for the past 2 1/2 years.

Melissa Zabala works at a skilled nursing facility in South Boston, which had been recommended by fellow CSD alum, **Kristen Mahon Kudrauskas '05**. She also works at Mt. Auburn Hospital in Cambridge with fellow CSD Alum, **Jessi Seay '05**. She is contemplating a move back to her hometown of San Diego, CA for fall '08 and will miss her friends, CSD professors/staff and the CSD Alumni Committee, but looks forward to a new adventure back on the West Coast.

2004:

Shannon Brooke has been living and working in Chicago for the past 4 years. She recently eloped with her long term boyfriend with whom she is moving to live and work in Ireland.

2003:

Lisa Bove Baldelli is working in Connecticut. She and her husband welcomed a daughter in March.

After spending 2 years working in the Winston-Salem Forsyth County School System in North Carolina, **Rebecca Goncalves** is back in MA. She currently works in the Dedham school system in an elementary school position.

Staci Pilger Handler and her husband welcomed a baby girl in November.

2002:

Alyssa Dubin Gusenoff wrote a book while pregnant last year: 'Margarita Mama — Mocktails for Moms-to-Be.'

Michelle Haak Hannon is working at Occupational Therapy Associates — Wakefield part-time and doing private work part-time. She is expecting her first child, a son, mid-July 2008.

Tanya Panin has been living and working on Long Island since 2003 and works for two different agencies. She specializes in trach/vent care, loves her job, and reminds herself that she gets paid for what she does. She is to be married in September of this year.

Melba River is to be married in August in San Juan, Puerto Rico. She will be moving to New Jersey to join her husband-to-be as he finishes his graduate studies at Rutgers University.

2001:

Amy Futernick is marrying in July in Cambridge, MA.

Erica Habert Bell lives in Easthampton and has been working primarily in public schools in western MA since she relocated there in 2002. She has a 2 year old son.

Catherine Jeffries is living in Silver Spring MD, with her husband and 2 children, ages 5 and 2. After staying home for a year, she is returning to work part-time for the Montgomery County Public Schools, working with moderately disabled elementary school children in their classrooms.

After having attended the first 2 days of the Boston ASHA Convention, **Angela Kao Pierce's** daughter arrived 6 weeks early. She's an ASHA baby!

Kate Murphy La Croix lives in Dedham, MA and had a baby boy in December. She works part-time in **Bonnie Singer's MS '88, PhD '97** private practice in Wellesley, MA

Mindy Niloff Backler is still living in Montreal and continues her part-time private practice. She has three children, ages 4, 2, and 6 months.

Theresa Palmer has returned to Albuquerque, NM with her husband. She is working for the Autism Programs at the Center for Development and Disability at UNM.

Eileen Pupa Malec is working for the West Hartford, CT school district at the elementary and middle school levels. She is raising her 2 year old daughter to be bilingual in Polish and English.

Dana Russell Rimer has been working at Occupational Therapy Associates — Wakefield since moving back from Los Angeles in September '06. She and her husband had a daughter in February.

1999:

Rik Lemoncello finished his PhD at the University of Oregon, specializing in assistive technology for adults with cognitive impairments. He has accepted

an Assistant Professor position at Portland State University in Oregon for the fall.

1998:

Laurie Lennon Thompson lives in Orange County, California with her husband and 2 year old son. She works part-time at the For OC Kids Neurodevelopmental Center at the University of California, Irvine for children with autism and other neurodevelopmental disabilities.

Rachel Meltzer Morgenstern is a stay-at-home mom in Uxbridge, MA. She has two daughters aged 2 and 6 months.

1997:

Hope Dickinson lives in Quincy with her partner of 10 years and has been at Children's Hospital Boston as a staff speech-language pathologist for almost as long. She specializes in receptive language and autism spectrum disorders, and language learning disabilities. She is in contact with fellow alums **Kristin Hovis, Jacqueline Harvey Keane, Julia Nutt, Jordan Sadler, Jocelyn Ledger, Lauren Healy.**

John Gould will start work teaching undergraduates in September at Elms College in Chicopee, MA. Since he lives in Arlington, it will be quite a commute!

Christina Pompeo works for the Avon Public Schools in Avon, CT

Jody Sastry lives in Westford, MA with her husband and 2 daughters, age 6 and 4. She works per diem at Emerson Hospital, mostly doing bedside dysphagia evaluations as part of a weekend emergency stroke protocol. She also occasionally provides private articulation therapy to children in her town.

1996:

After 10 years working in a hospital, **Susan Magee Grandaw** now works for St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES in Northern New York. She has 2 children, ages 7 and 4. She would love to connect with any other Emerson grads in the northern New York area.

1995:

Kerri Behringer Stroka is the Director of Special Education for the Orange-Ulster Board of Educational Services, 60 miles north of NYC. She would love to hire Emerson CD alums!

1994:

After graduation, **Kristin Schnarr Corbett** returned home to Chicago and spent four years working at Children's Memorial Hospital as an Aural Habilitation Specialist on the Cochlear Implant Team. Since 2000, she has worked in private practice specializing in pediatric aural (re)habilitation. In 2002, she co-authored research on vocal development in young children with cochlear implants with Dr. David Ertmer from Purdue University. Kristin has four children, ages 10 months to 8 years.

1989:

Kevin Eldridge lives in Illinois and completed his doctorate last spring. He is in private practice, primarily seeing children with fluency disorders.

1961:

Roberta Binder Aungst is semi-retired, but still doing audiologic consulting for ENT specialists in South New Jersey. She has served as a member of ASHA's Council for Clinical Certification and is currently the Vice Chair for Audiology as well as a member of the ASHA Committee on Honors.

New Scholarship Given to the Robbins Center

The **Decibels Foundation**, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting programs for children with hearing loss and their families, held its Spring Gala and Fundraiser on April 5.

At the Gala, **Karissa Drumm '09** received the first **Decibels Scholar Award**. Karissa is a current graduate student in CSD and is interested in pursuing a career working with children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. With the support of this scholarship, she will complete an internship in the Thayer Lindsley Program, part of Emerson's Robbins Speech, Language and Hearing Center.

Awards were also presented to individuals for their outstanding work and partnership with the Decibels Foundation. The **Ellen Kurtzer-White Lifetime Achievement Award** was presented by **David Luterman**, Professor Emeritus, to **Julie Rubin Goldberg** for her years of work helping children with hearing loss and their families. Julie spent many years assisting children with hearing loss as part of the Thayer Lindsley Program. **Honore Weiner, BS '68, G '70**, was the first recipient of this award, which was given last spring.

Spotlight on Dr. Daniel Kempler

Dr. Daniel Kempler joined the CSD Faculty in fall 2002 as Professor and Department Chair. His journey into the CD profession began at the University of California at Berkeley, where he obtained his bachelor's degree in Linguistics and then to UCLA, where he completed his master's and Ph.D. in Linguistics. While completing his Ph.D., Dan also pursued and earned a second master's degree in Communication Disorders from California State University, Los Angeles.

Dan began his clinical experience at the VA Medical Center in Sepulveda, CA where he saw adults with aphasia, voice, and motor speech disorders. He then accepted a position at the LA County/USC Medical Center as the Director of the Speech Pathology division, where he provided direct care across the lifespan and supervised a staff of clinicians.

In addition to his clinical and administrative responsibilities at the USC Medical Center, Dan held faculty appointments in both the School of Gerontology and



Dr. Daniel Kempler

Department of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery. He was also promoted to the rank of Full Professor. At USC, Dan's instructional responsibilities centered around supervising clinical speech pathology staff, speech pathology externs from local university programs, medical students and residents as well as teaching an undergraduate course in Gerontology. Since coming to Emerson, Dan has taught graduate courses in aphasia, cognitive-communication, and voice disorders.

Dan's specific area of interest in the CD field has been on adult neurogenetics and voice disorders. His current research is focused on evaluating the effectiveness of two types of aphasia treatment, in particular, modifying one model of treatment known as constraint induced therapy.

During Dan's sabbatical leave, he had many objectives. First on the list was to finish analyzing data from his current study as well as to finish and submit a publication. He also took time to read and think about future projects and he visited colleagues at the University of Toronto, Leman College in New York City and James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. In addition, Dan traveled to the University of Florida, Gainesville, where he presented a lecture on normal and abnormal aging to students. And finally, Dan met colleagues at San Diego State University for possible collaboration on future research projects. Although he accomplished a lot while away, Dan was pleased to return to Emerson to welcome the new and returning CD students as well as resuming his duties as Chair.

Upcoming Emerson College Continuing Education Events:

October 3, 2008: Mr. Steve Wilson and Colleagues, Teaching Reading Strategies in Reading Comprehension Across the Grades, Holiday Inn, Dedham, MA.

November 6, 2008: Dr. Mary Sweig Wilson, Syntax Across the Life Span. At Emerson College, Emerson Room, 6-8 pm.

April 3, 2009: Dr. Anne van Kleeck, Preschool Foundations for Later Reading Comprehension, Holiday Inn, Dedham, MA.

Career Services

Career Services at Emerson College is available to all CD alums. They will help with job searches, provide resources, job listings, and post positions for employers. Contact Career Services at: www.emerson.edu/career_services/alumni or call (617) 824-8586.

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