Spring is here! The flowers are up. The trees are green. The caps and gowns are out! As I say every spring at this time, where did the year go? In answer to my own question, we saw 106 graduate students through another academic season, bid adieu to Kathy Rebal (after 23 years) and Fari Alipour (after 33 years) and are getting our party favors ordered for Lauren Zubow and Linda Louko who will be leaving us July 1st! Lauren and family are moving to Charlotte, NC, where her husband has accepted a faculty position at Queens University of Charlotte. Linda is retiring in order to pursue other interests that any full-time job makes difficult! We wish them both the best.

We welcomed Bonnie Kinkead as our new Departmental Administrator in April. We also welcomed Meredith Saletta last fall, our new Assistant Professor in Language and we are awaiting the arrival this fall of two more Assistant Professors in Aural Rehab and Hearing Science: Beth Walker (PhD Iowa 2010) and Inyong Choi (PhD 2010). The current faculty continue to excel, and the current student body continues to impress as you will see inside this newsletter. In that vein, our undergraduate student body has now doubled in the past 10 years, with over one third of those CSD majors being honors’ students. So, in some ways, nothing has changed.

As we momentarily pause and take a few deep breaths as the semester ends, our two in-house preschools are about to dismiss the young attendees for a summer of play and our summer intensive programs such as UI SPEAKS (Stuttering), BeSocial (Autism), Listen & Speak Up Preschool (Hearing), and the Voice and Yoga program for those with Parkinson’s Disease are preparing to take off! This place never really rests. The student energy feeds the faculty energy and vice versa. If you can join us for our September 11 BIG event, that energy will be obvious. Bob Keith (BA 1962, MA 1964, PhD 1967) will receive our distinguished alum award. The students will put on an amazing fundraising event of silent and live auction activities and student awards – from alum and other UI Foundation sources - will be plentiful. Come help us celebrate the excellence!

-Ruth Bentler

SAVE THE DATE: September 11, 2015: Robert W. Keith Distinguished Alumnus presentation / NSLHA dinner & benefit auction
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alumni updates

Hughlett Morris (BA 1952; MA 1957; PhD 1960) wrote, “The Cass Street Kid,” the book has been named by the Arizona Star as one of the ten best titles published during 2014. The “Kid” is Hugh’s seventh published work of fiction.


Megan (Comerford) Adler (BS 2000; AuD, Pennsylvania College of Optometry, 2006). Current job: Audiologist at Midwest Ear Nose and Throat Consultants, Ltd. in Winfield and Naperville, IL.

Kristin Musser Gravel (BA 2007) earned national certification by successfully passing the Pediatric Audiology Specialty Certification exam from the American Board of Audiology.

Gabrielle Watson won an Outstanding Poster Presentation Award in the Spring 2014 Undergraduate Research Festival. Her honors poster was also chosen as one to present at the “Research at the Capitol” day March 24. She will begin Iowa’s AuD program in the fall.

John “Mick” Hanley (PhD 1980), left, was named the 2014 Distinguished Alumnus at the Fall NSLHA auction and fundraiser. He is shown here with Mike Kiely.
Melissa Duff was one of three College of Liberal Arts and Sciences faculty to be named a 2015-2017 Dean’s Scholar. Her research interests include the cognitive processes and neural substrates supporting real-world learning, complex communication, and social interaction. The ultimate goal is to translate this scientific knowledge into clinical application, helping to improve the lives of individuals with impairments in memory and social functioning.

Melissa will also be promoted to the rank of associate professor, effective July 1.

Linda Louko and Tricia Zebrowski were honored with a CLAS Outstanding Outreach and Public Engagement Award for creating and continuing the Columbus Junction Project, an engagement program using UI undergraduate students to teach young children important pre-literacy skills.

Bob McMurray was named a 2015-2017 CLAS Collegiate Scholar. He studies language, development, perception, and learning in normal and impaired individuals, using behavioral techniques, eye-tracking, infant methods, computational modeling and cognitive neuroscience techniques.

Tricia Zebrowski was elected as a member of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Executive Committee.

faculty put a spin on their scholarship

Six teams of CSD faculty members got creative with their professional interests and developed first-year seminars for Fall 2015. First-Year Seminars are designed to introduce undergraduates to the intellectual life of the University and to help students transition to college-level learning through active participation in their own learning. Two were chosen for honors designation (*). CSD offerings are:

*What’s in a Word?* Jean K. Gordon
*iPods, High Fidelity, Music, and Hearing* Rich Tyler
*Can You Hear Me Now?* Danielle Kelsay and Stephanie Fleckenstein
*Critical Concepts in Community Volunteerism* Alison Lemke
*Communication Disorders in the Cinema* Anne Wallace and Toni Cilek*
*Lights, Camera, Action! A Video/Audio Project on Culture* Ann Fennell & Liz Delsandro*
CSD welcomes new faculty

Inyong Choi

Inyong Choi will join the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Iowa in fall 2015. His expertise lies in neuroimaging, computational modeling of central auditory processing, and psychoacoustics. He received a PhD degree in 2008 in electrical engineering and computer science at Seoul National University, South Korea. His PhD thesis work developed computational models of spatial hearing. After receiving his PhD degree, he worked for Samsung Electronics for three years as a Senior Engineer. Most of his industry projects applied his knowledge of auditory perception to hearing devices. In 2011, he left Samsung and joined Boston University as a post-doctoral associate where he extended his skill sets into neuroimaging (Magneto- and electro-encephalography, MRI). Currently he is a Research Assistant Professor at the Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences at Boston University until he moves to Iowa in August. Currently, he teaches an undergraduate course and a graduate course at the Department of Communications Sciences and Disorders at Northeastern University.

Inyong investigates the neural mechanisms of auditory processing, specifically as it applies to how the human brain segregates a target sound from a mixture of interfering sounds, and how the ability degrades in hearing loss or damaged brains. His research goals are 1) to develop neuroimaging diagnosis techniques of auditory processing disorders, 2) to make neurofeedback rehabilitation paradigms that can strengthen the efficacy of the neural networks controlling auditory attention, and 3) to develop BCI-based hearing-aid algorithms that selectively enhance target sources.

Meredith Saletta

Meredith Saletta joined the faculty in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Iowa in August, 2014. She earned her bachelor’s degree from Hebrew Theological College (Chicago, IL), her master’s degree from Rush University (Chicago, IL), and her doctoral degree in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences from Purdue University (West Lafayette, IN). Meredith also holds AHSA’s Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology.

Meredith’s research focuses on the multifaceted ways in which language and cognition interact with speech, balance, and other motor skills. Her research program aims at using production-based methodologies, including language and phonetic transcription and articulatory kinematics, in order to investigate this interaction. Her works have addressed the same underlying question in very diverse populations, including adults with Parkinson’s disease or dyslexia, and children with specific language impairment or typical development. Meredith directs the Language, Speech, and Movement Laboratory, which features an optotrak motion-capture system designed to track speech movement. Most recently, she has examined how individuals with reading difficulties repeat and read aloud made-up words which vary in modality (i.e., listening versus reading) and orthographic transparency (i.e., consistent versus inconsistent spelling).

Meredith’s teaching has included the supervision of graduate clinicians, the integration of undergraduate and graduate students into her laboratory, and the teaching of courses in phonological development and disorders and in school-age language development and disorders. She is looking forward to expanding her teaching repertoire to include courses on reading development and disorders. Finally, through collaborations with students, Meredith is planning to conduct a project bridging the boundary between clinical practice and research: writing and illustrating books for adolescents and adults with developmental disabilities.
Elizabeth Walker, PhD, CCC-SLP/A, will join the faculty as assistant professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Iowa in 2015 and will direct the Pediatric Audiology Lab. Elizabeth received her PhD in Speech and Hearing Science from the University of Iowa in 2010. Previously, Elizabeth was an assistant research scientist in the Departments of Otolaryngology and Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Iowa, serving as an investigator on several NIH-funded grants on outcomes of children with cochlear implants or hearing aids. Her research has focused on identifying child- and family-specific factors that contribute to individual differences in speech perception and language outcomes for children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Prior to her time at Iowa, Elizabeth received her master’s degree in Communication Disorders from the University of Minnesota, and then worked clinically as an audiologist and speech-language pathologist on the cochlear implant team at Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis. She has presented her research at international, national, and state association meetings, and is on the board of directors for the Iowa chapter of the AG Bell organization. Elizabeth currently teaches the undergraduate course, Rehabilitative Audiology, and will be teaching the graduate courses in Educational Audiology and Advanced Aural Rehabilitation for the clinical doctorate in audiology program.

student honors and awards

Amal Akbik, Jackie Smith, and Laura Swenson were named Iowa Speech-Language-Hearing Association scholars at the annual ISHA convention.

Rebecca Alper received a grant from the Fahl-Beck Foundation to support her dissertation research.

Lauren Bricker, Elizabeth Walker, and Mary Pat Moeller’s poster "Factors That Predict Theory of Mind in School-Age Children Who Are Hard of Hearing," was designated as a Meritorious Poster Submission at the 2014 ASHA Convention.

Lauren Bricker’s poster won a Distinguished Poster Presentation award in Social Sciences at the University of Iowa Spring 2014 Undergraduate Research Festival.

Jessica Hall received a Symposium on Research in Child Language Disorders Student Travel Award. She was also given a 2015 Graduate and Professional Student Government Research Grant, and a DeLTA Center Interdisciplinary Research Grant.

Tess Haverkamp was honored with an Outstanding Poster Presentation award in the Spring Undergraduate Research Festival. She is mentored by Hsiang Wu.

Alycia Hopp and Amber Kearney were awarded Iowa Scottish Rite Masonic Foundation scholarships.

David Kessler won a Phi Beta Kappa scholarship that covers the cost of in-state undergraduate tuition.

Sarah Labaz, Lauren Zubow, & Richard Hurtig presented a poster which was awarded a Meritorious Poster Submission at the 2014 ASHA Convention. The poster was entitled "Enhancing Communicative Interaction by Training Peers of Children With Autism."

Zoe Lin, won a 2015 summer Iowa Center for Research by Undergraduates fellowship. She is mentored by Karen Bryant.

Bruna Mussoi received a 2015 Council of Academic Programs and in Communication Sciences and Disorders Ph.D. Scholarship. In addition to the cash award, she received conference registration to CAPCSD Annual Conference. Her mentor is Carolyn Brown.

Bruna Mussoi was selected as a recipient of an American Academy of Audiology grant for a Student Investigator Research Grant, “Age-related changes in temporal resolution revisited: Findings from cochlear implant users."

Rachel Raupp, Elizabeth Walker, & Mary Pat Moeller presented a poster, "Narrative Performance of Children Who Are Hard of Hearing" that was designated as a Meritorious Poster Submission at the 2014 ASHA Convention.
student posters, presentations, and publications

Posters


Hall, J.E. & McGregor, K. K. (2015, June). Lexical-Semantic Differences between Young Adults with Language Learning Disorders and Their Peers. Poster to be presented at the Symposium on Research in Child Language Disorders Madison, WI.


Schneeberger, G., & Lemke, A. (2015, March). Aphasia Reading Club (ARC) Outcomes and Best Practices. Poster presentation at the Spring Undergraduate Research Festival, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA.


Papers


UI Foundation Scholarships Award winners

Kristen Lodge Miller Award to Kimberly Andersen, Sarah Phillips, and Jaclyn Smith

Ogdahl Graduate Awards to Amal Akbik, Allison Alpers, Molly Cook, Samantha Crooks, Ani Danelz, Emily Eilers, Kelsey Kruse, Laura Swenson and Gabrielle Watson

Laurel Stanzel Awards to Abbigail Julius, Megan Palmer, and Nathaniel Wisecup

Salmon Scholarship Awards to Julia Gupta and Arianna Morgart

Spriestersbach Awards to Brandon Eddy and Maggie Leonard

Stephanie Mueller (second from left), a third-year AuD student was awarded the first ever Stephen and Janet Reno Scholarship. The Renos are shown at right, along with Ruth Bentler (far left), Department Executive Officer.

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connections

We’re committed to keeping the communication channel open between alumni, friends, and former faculty of the Department and our current students, faculty, and staff. We hope you will read, enjoy, and respond to this newsletter. We also encourage you to visit the department website at http://clas.uiowa.edu/comsci to keep up to date with your former colleagues and current departmental news. Please also note that we also have a Facebook page “UI CSD Alumni.” If you have not already done so, consider returning the completed form below to us via mail or FAX (319.335.8851). You may also Email speech-path-aud@uiowa.edu, using "my news" as a subject line. We’d enjoy hearing from you, and if you agree, we will publish your news in the Alumni Updates section.

keep in touch

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Degree / year earned _____________________________________________

Current job ______________________________________________________

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