
COMMUNICATION MATTERS

Official Newsletter of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
College of Arts and Sciences, Oklahoma State University

WELCOME FROM THE HEAD

Dr. Ramesh Kaipa, Ph.D.



The temperatures are gradually soaring, the wintery chill is starting to disappear, and with the campus bustling with activities, it is starting to look like Spring. We would like to present the Spring 2019 issue of “Communication Matters”- the official newsletter of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

Some of the noteworthy content in this issue include the faculty and student spotlight, focus on our clinic, and our alumni corner. Finally, we would like to appeal to our donors to contribute to our sensory room project.

We are always happy to hear from our alumni and friends about your achievements and experiences. Please take a moment to browse through our website (cdis.okstate.edu) to know all the wonderful things we are doing.

Go Pokes!!

Sincerely,
Ramesh Kaipa, Ph.D.
Associate Professor & Department Head

SPRING 2019

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Effective communication for all

Faculty spotlight – Valerie Freeman, Ph.D.

As Director of the Sociophonetics Lab, Dr. Freeman has begun working with students on a variety of projects that use her new recording booth, field recording kits, or analysis software. Several projects involve the perception of accents, including Southern, African American, and deaf speech, and one looks at the sounds of the Choctaw language. For this, Dr. Freeman has partnered with the OSU Center for Sovereign Nations to build a long-term collaboration with the Choctaw Nation language school, which provides in-person and online classes for all ages across the state.



Dr. Freeman teaches speech science, phonetics, graduate research methods, and deaf communication and education. She has taught Spanish and linguistics in the past, and she is active with the linguistics lab group on campus, Friends of Oklahoma Language Sciences (FOOLS). She enjoys traveling abroad, trying new foods, and hiking in national parks.

Student Spotlight

We are shining the spotlight on three outstanding seniors from CDIS

Aubrey Dikes

Aubrey is a senior in the CDIS department who has taken full advantage of a unique employment opportunity. In the fall of 2017, she was hired by Mednax, a company that provides various health services throughout the United States. She currently works as a newborn hearing screen technician at Stillwater Medical Center where she performs the AABR hearing screen on newborns. Aubrey educates families about the importance of newborn hearing screens and early intervention for identified hearing impairment. She reports all newborn hearing results to the families, Mednax, and the Oklahoma State Department of Health. Providing routine direct patient care has led to a better understanding of the importance of early screens designed to identify potential challenges in a child's speech and language development and an interest in working with newborns as a future SLP. Aubrey is devoted to continuing her studies at the graduate level to pursue a career as an SLP in a NICU serving families and their newborns to improve feeding and swallowing and to provide family education.



Kiera Bolay

Kiera Bolay was selected as a McNair Research Scholar for the 2018-2019 year. The McNair Research Scholars a federally funded program which promotes the academic and professional development of underrepresented students who wish to pursue further study and research at the graduate level. Through this program Kiera has partnered with Dr. Gretchen Cole-Lade of Human Development and Family Sciences collecting data on the use of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) by a preschool aged child with cerebral palsy. They analyzed how collaboration between the child's teachers, assistants, researchers and parents influenced the child's communication via a mid-teach AAC device. She will present her findings at the McNair Scholars Banquet in April. Kiera is a senior in the CDIS department with a minor in Child Development and is looking to pursuing her dream of working with children as an SLP in the public schools of rural Oklahoma following her graduate coursework.

**Adrianna Curnutt**

Choctaw citizen and CDIS senior Adrianna Curnutt has been working with Dr. Valerie Freeman (CDIS) and the OSU Center for Sovereign Nations to form a collaboration with the Choctaw Nation language school, which teaches Choctaw in elementary, high school, college, and community classes. Last semester, Adrianna completed a pilot study of Choctaw consonant and vowel length, and she hopes to learn more about her nation's language during graduate school. She recognizes the importance of studying the diversity of the speech communities as it influences speech. Adrianna is hopeful she will one day be able to give back to her tribe which has invested in her education through employment as a Speech-Language Pathologist in the Native American Health Care System here in Oklahoma. Adrianna is looking forward to her upcoming graduation and graduate studies in Speech Language Pathology.



Focus on OSU Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic

(Speech & Language Services)



The OSU Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic serves approximately 100 clients each semester which includes providing services at the Child Development Lab (CDL) and at the Life Center Adult Day Center. The clinic has partnered with these facilities for several years to provide speech, language, and cognitive services to the community as well as to train our graduate students.

The CDL functions as an instructional program of the College of Human Sciences of OSU. The Speech-Language Clinic provides therapeutic and diagnostic services at the CDL for children that may have some form of communication disorder. First year graduate students are involved in providing therapy services twice weekly, as well as weekly communication with parents regarding their children's therapy program. Due to the large impact teachers have on communication skills, therapy goals and techniques are shared with teachers to enhance communication abilities within the classrooms at the CDL.

The Life Center, located at the First Christian Church, serves adults who are dealing with the loss of independence due to illness or disability. First year graduate students are involved in providing therapeutic services to Life Center participants that have suffered cognitive-communication losses due to a variety of illnesses or injuries (stroke, brain injury, Parkinson's Disease, Dementia, Down Syndrome, etc....) to help increase and or maintain their cognitive and communicative abilities.

We have recently established partnership with the Stillwater Public Library to provide community education related to aging and communication as well as providing cognitive-communication screenings for the adult and senior populations in the community.

Many of the clients served at the OSU Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic require alternative or augmentative ways to communicate than typical speech. Our partnership with ABLE Tech is of paramount importance for these individuals. ABLE Tech offers training and equipment to clients at the clinic. ABLE Tech assists with providing evaluations for devices as well as helping to provide or locate financial assistance for augmentative devices. Through our partnership with ABLE Tech, devices can be loaned to the clinic for use in therapy. They also provide specific training to clients and families regarding their augmentative devices and they provide training and in-services to the students and faculty of the Communication Disorders Program.



The clinic is very grateful to all our partners that help us provide the highest standard of care in speech-language pathology and audiology services regardless of the client's ability to pay.

Meet our New Clinic Coordinator- Christine Hayes, M.Ed. CCC-SLP

Ms. Christine Hayes is the new Clinic Coordinator of the OSU Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic. She comes to us with 28 years of experience as a speech language pathologist. She completed her Bachelor's and Master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology in Edmond, OK at the University of Central Oklahoma. Christine grew up in Midwest City. She has been married 21-years, has two lovely young boys ages 19 & 17. Christine is also a licensed realtor who enjoys flipping houses, decorating, reading, and politics. She grew up a Sooner, but married a cowboy alum so now she's a proud cowgirl! Christine would like to see the OSU community and Stillwater community become more aware of the services that are available for children and adults at the OSU Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic.



2019 Cimarron Conference on Communication Disorders

You won't want to miss the 2019 Cimarron Conference on Communication Disorders. The Cimarron Conference has a long-standing tradition of bringing experts in the field of speech-language pathology and audiology to Oklahoma State University for a one-day, ASHA approved learning opportunity. This year's speaker is Wendy Stacy, Director for the ReadWrite Center in Oklahoma City. She will be presenting on the topic "The Anatomy of a Dyslexia Diagnosis: How can informal and formal assessment help?" Participants will learn how to identify the components of an effective dyslexia assessment. If you or someone you know is interested in registering for the conference visit cccd.okstate.edu.



NSSLHA News

The OSU chapter of the National Student Speech-Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) is continuing an active school year. The student group participated in the Homecoming Harvest Carnival for the second year in a row and over \$1,000.00 was raised selling caramel apples during Homecoming Walk Around to provide scholarships for CDIS students.

This spring semester the chapter will hold monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of each month beginning February 12th. Topics include getting to know SLP's in the community and understanding more about the profession. Look for orange cords during graduation to signify outstanding NSSLHA members!

February 12	NSSLHA meeting	5:30 201 Ag Hall /School SLP's
March 12	NSSLHA meeting	5:30 201 Ag Hall /"What to do with a BS in CDIS?"
April 9	NSSLHA meeting	5:30 201 Ag Hall/ Private Practice, Nursing Home SLP's
April 25	NSSLHA Banquet	6-8pm @ Wesley Foundation



Alumni corner

Tiffany Turner, MS, CCC-SLP, BCS-S graduated from Oklahoma State University in 2010 and 2012 with her Bachelor's and Master's in Communication Sciences and Disorders. After beginning her career in rural skilled nursing facilities and seeing several needs in the community she wanted to fill, Tiffany opened a swallowing and voice adult rehabilitation center in 2014, Swallowing and Neurological Rehabilitation (SNR). SNR's team provides specialty adult assessment and treatment services for swallowing, voice, speech-language, and cognitive disorders to patients throughout the region at their outpatient clinic in midtown Tulsa. Tiffany is a board certified specialist in swallowing and swallowing disorders as of September of 2017, making her the 4th adult focused swallowing specialist in Oklahoma and the 11th in the OK, AR, and KS region. Board certification by the American Board of Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders is a 4 year process requiring the most extensive training in the field of dysphagia, and specialists must uphold rigorous standards through publications, leadership, and advocacy to maintain expertise in swallowing.



Tiffany is a trained endoscopist and provides fiberoptic endoscopic evaluation of swallowing (FEES) and videostroboscopy voice assessments to patients throughout the state both in the SNR outpatient clinic and on a mobile basis for several skilled nursing facilities throughout Oklahoma. She is also a proud member of Tulsa's Muscular Dystrophy Association Care Team which was launched in March of 2016. The MDA Care Center multidisciplinary team meets monthly to serves patients with ALS and other progressive neuromotor diseases.

Tiffany also writes and publishes resources for other adult clinical speech-language pathologists to use with their patients which have been purchased by thousands of SLPs worldwide. Her books cover various adult rehabilitation topics including dysphagia, aphasia, cognitive-linguistic tasks, and documentation resources and are available in [SNR's Speech Store](#). She also frequently writes guest expert articles for local and national publications including the ASHA Leader, Thrive Oklahoma magazine, Vintage Senior Newsmagazine, local newspapers, etc. She also enjoys sharing information by mentoring new clinicians and is a clinical instructor for graduate student interns each semester. Tiffany partners with several universities to host undergraduate student observers, is a clinical supervisor for speech pathology clinical fellows, and has mentored through the Student to Empowered Professional (S.T.E.P.) Mentoring Program offered by the American Speech-Language Hearing Association.

The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorder is proud of Ms. Turner's accomplishments and wish her the best for her future endeavors.

Save the Date

Cimarron Conference: April 12th 8:30-4pm @ Wes Watkins Center featuring Wendy Stacy, ASHA certified, ALTA certified, IDA certified, holds licensure in Texas, the Director and Lead Dyslexia Therapist for the ReadWrite Center in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Go to <http://cccd.okstate.edu/> for more information and registration.

Annual NSSLHA Banquet: April 25th, 6-8pm at the Wesley Foundation

Grandparent University: June 19-21 and June 26-28 Visit www.orangeconnection.org to view this year's Grandparent University brochure. Enrollment opens Monday April 1, 2019 by phone only 405.744.2OSU (2678)

Scholarship Recipients

The CDIS department congratulates the following scholarship recipients. They will be recognized at our NSSLHA Banquet on April 25th. The department would like to thank all the donors for their contributions.

Scholarship

Leone L. and William H. Monroe Scholarship
 Carpenter Early Intervention Endowment Fund
 Carpenter Early Intervention Endowment Fund
 Communication Sciences & Disorders Endowed Scholarship
 Advanced Travel Therapy Scholarship 1
 Advanced Travel Therapy Scholarship 2
 Oklahoma AbleTech Scholarship

Recipient

Melina Pinamonti
 Shelby Hensley
 Riley Stinson
 Courtney Bergman
 Caitlyn Gilbert
 Cara Greenwell
 Bethany Howard

Give to Communication Sciences and Disorders

The CDIS Department at Oklahoma State University serves hundreds of students and alumni, providing skilled and educated graduates who have significant impacts on those who seek to better understand and interact with the world around them in Oklahoma, across the US and abroad.

We can't do that without the generous assistance of supporters and alumni like you! Every dollar you give to the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders supports our mission to better understand and treat afflictions that impact the lives of thousands upon thousands of people worldwide.

Now, giving to the CDIS is easier than ever! You can give online at <https://secure.osugiving.com/cdis> or call (800) 622-4678.

If you are mailing a check, please make the check payable to the OSU Foundation. You can also detach the pledge card below and send it to the OSU Foundation via mail. Please mail or deliver your gift to:

Mailing Address:

Oklahoma State University Foundation
P.O. Box 1749
Stillwater, OK 74076-1749

Street Address:

Oklahoma State University Foundation
400 South Monroe
Stillwater, OK 74074

SENSORY ROOM PROJECT

We need your help

What is it we are doing?

The department of CDIS is developing a *sensory room to treat sensory deficits in our young patients with autism spectrum disorders.*

What are we needing?

We are needing these:

- Equipment (swing set, noise-reduction headphones, compression canoe, oral stimulation kits, etc.) - \$7,000
- Hardware (swivel hook, bars, cabinets, sink) - \$8,000
- Assessment materials - \$2,000

Total: \$17,000

"I may hit development and societal milestones in a different order than my peers but I am able to accomplish these small victories on my own time"- An individual with autism spectrum disorder

How can you help?

We would really appreciate your contribution to this noble cause.

We will gratefully accept any donations regardless how much ever it is.

You can give online to the CDIS Department Fund (22-4360) at

<https://secure.osugiving.com/cdis>

Your contribution's impact

Your contribution will help us treat several children with autism spectrum disorders who do not receive appropriate sensory integration therapy.

