Hello from the Newsletter Editor

It struck me in reading the offerings for this newsletter that our department is full of award winning and very active students, faculty, and graduates. When you read this issue, you will find that our students are truly exceptional. Note how many were elected to Who’s Who in American Universities and Colleges and won department, state association, and even national awards. Our faculty, too, are busy developing innovative clinical and research projects, publishing, and working at the state, national, and international levels. This year you will see that our faculty and students have developed international relations with colleagues in China. Many of our graduates go on to develop important clinical programs and win state and national awards. We have much to be proud of. When you do well, we do well, too. Keep up posted about the innovative clinical and research work you are doing.

Rosemary Lubinski, Ed.D, Professor
Newsletter Editor

Chair’s Letter

Another year just flew by. Our Master’s students cannot believe that they are graduating after two years. It seems as though they were just arriving, trying to figure out what they will do with their clinical patients. Another productive group of audiology students is also graduating, having recently returned from their fourth year placements all over the world, in some cases! We are happy to report that our Department’s clinical programs continue to be the highest ranked on campus by U.S. News and World Reports.

Our Clinic has two new arenas for our students. Ms. Dona Hue Ritter Schmidt has introduced a new Post-Concussion Clinic, having worked with Dr. Rosemary Lubinski, to set up the program with Drs. Leddy and Baker. In the past few years, the long-term problems of individuals who have had concussions, particularly resulting from sports, have become more widely recognized. Ms. Ritter Schmidt and her neurology colleagues are working on the latest diagnostic and treatment techniques to promote functional recovery as quickly as possible for the injured. Furthermore, Ms. Gretchen (Swartzenberg) Bennett was awarded a grant from the Tower Foundation to implement the newest in treatment paradigms for individuals on the Autism spectrum, called the Secret Agent Society. She is one of only two trained in the U.S. with this new program and is working with area school systems to implement it for many to use. The two newest programs are wonderful additions to the longer-standing sites that students have been benefitting from in addition to our own state of the art UB Speech, Language, and Hearing Clinic. Students continue their hands-on learning in the Williamsville school district, Buffalo Hearing and Speech Center with audiology and cochlear implant patients, a nursing home location, and in the Department’s nationally-known tinnitus program.

We had many students to recognize with awards this year including our Outstanding Senior, Ms. Hillary Tilton, who will be continuing in the Master’s program next Fall with us. Three students received the Tindle-Shupe award this year, thanks to the continuing support from one of our first Ph.D. graduates, Dr. Lew Shupe. His original work with Mrs. Tindle inspired the original award to thank Dr. Shupe for excellent care in our clinic after her larynx was removed due to cancer. Dr. Shupe’s continued support for our students is gratefully appreciated. The students who received the Tindle-Shupe awards were Karen Figliotti, Kaitlyn Brennan, and Carolyn Whitcomb. In addition, two students, Alyssa Gerace and
Tara Warren, received awards from the Jack Katz fund, supported by Dr. Katz, one of our well-known faculty emeritus scholars. They will be continuing in the department working on projects inspired by Dr. Katz's work in the area of central auditory processing problems. Furthermore, students Kathleen Simon and Kathryn Parcheta were also recognized with the Jack Weber award in Child Language Disorders. Stephanie Loccisano was recognized with the Wanda Frey Joiner award. This award traditionally supports women and children. Ms. Loccisano, soon to be a fourth year Au.D. student, has been an outstanding Audiology student who is looking forward to her fourth year placement. In addition, Ms. Kathleen Simon received a scholarship from the Speech and Hearing Association of Western New York while Anita Lee-Bjerke was awarded the Board of Regional President's Scholarship.

The Department is looking forward to another busy year for 2013-1014. Dr. Kris Tjaden will be returning back to the Department's active teaching fold from her sabbatical while Dr. Kristi Buckley has accepted a new position at the University of South Florida. We wish her the best while we welcome a new faculty member to take over for Dr. Donald Henderson, Dr. Soroush Sadeghi. Dr. Sadeghi specializes in vestibular disorders and will be setting up a new area of research in the Department starting in the Fall semester. He has two doctoral degrees, including an M.D. and a Ph.D. and joins us from a postdoctoral position at Johns Hopkins University. We look forward to having a new faculty member in the Department!

As always, keep an eye on our website (www.wings.buffalo.edu/cds), which we hope will be going through a makeover next year. We now have a Facebook page as well. Hope to hear from you through the year.

Joan Sussman, Ph. D., Chair and Associate Professor
Department Awards Ceremony

On Friday May 10, 2013, our department celebrated the graduation of our undergraduate and graduate students. A number of awards were also given to students including the:

**Tindle Shupe for Speech**: Kaitlyn Brennan and Karen Figliotti

**Tindle Shupe for Audiology**: Carolyn Whitcomb

**Jack Katz Award for Speech**: Alyssa Gerace

**Jack Katz AuD Award for Audiology**: Tara Warren

**SHAWNY Scholarship**: Kathleen Simon

**Board of Regional President’s Scholarship**: Anita Lee-Bjerke

**Jack L. Weber - Excellence in Child Language Disorders**: Kathryn Parcheta and Kathleen Simon

**Wanda Frey Joiner Scholarship Award**: Stephanie Loccisano

**Phi Beta Kappa**: Mary Barrett, Jennifer Bassik, Emily Bovenzi, Mary Kate Connors, Celia Mah, Angela Robotham, Grace Sokolowski, Bintu Tiambiyu, and Hillary Tilton


Awards Reception 2013 Speaker

Mrs. Cathy Skerker was the invited speaker for the 2013 Awards Reception. Mrs. Skerker talked about her daughter’s experiences in our clinic and her achievements in communication. This is the second time Mrs. Skerker has been invited to be the speaker at this event because of the power of her heartfelt comments about our clinical services, its supervisors, and student clinicians.
Beijing Summer Audiology Clinic Training Program June 2013

In collaboration with the General Hospital of PLA in Beijing, the CDS department embarked on a summer audiology clinic training program that ran from June 6th to June 30th, 2013 in Beijing. Five audiology students and four audiology faculty members participated in the program. The hosting hospital is one of the best hospitals in China. The ENT Department is very busy with inner and middle ear surgeries, including cochlear implants and middle ear device implantation. Their audiology group administers state of the art audiological tests, including auditory steady-state response test, newborn hearing and gene screening.

The students had opportunities to work with the local otolaryngologists and audiologists on clinical cases and research projects. They had hands-on experience testing patients and opportunities to observe cochlear implant surgery as well as surgery to remove acoustic neuromas.

In addition, we attended a 2-day conference on audiology, where Dr. Wei Sun and Dr. Christina Stocking were among the presenters. Dr. Nancy Stecker and Dr. Richard Salvi both gave talks to the hospital staff and research group. Both students and faculty had discussions about possible research collaborations. Aside from the unique experience our students had with clinical practice and research, this visit also provided them the opportunity to learn about the Chinese culture and their health care system. We worked side-by-side with the Chinese audiologists and physicians and enjoyed getting to know them as friends. Our hosts were very generous about introducing our group to local food, customs, and sights. They were also happy to learn about how we practice audiology in the U.S.

The General Hospital of PLA in Beijing generously supported the local cost for our students and faculty. The CDS department and a donation from the Widex Hearing Aid Company provided financial support for student travel. We hope this program will continue, with Chinese students and audiologists visiting and learning with us in CDS, and that more of our students able to have this wonderful opportunity to study in China.
Speech Faculty Visits Beijing Hospital

Dr. Rosemary Lubinski and her daughter Maggie visited the General Hospital of PLA in Beijing, China during the summer of 2012. The visit included a tour of all in- and out- patient facilities at the hospital and the hearing research center. The visit was facilitated by Drs. Wei Sun and Bohua Hu.

CDS Brown Bag Research Series – Spring 2013

Starting in the Spring of 2012, Dr. Ling-Yu Guo organized a monthly CDS Brown Bag Research Series. Three speakers presented their cutting-edge research. They included Dr. Heike Lehnert-LeHouillier (Department of Communicative Disorders, University at Buffalo), Dr. Paul A. Luce (Department of Psychology, University at Buffalo), and Dr. Peter Pfordresher (Department of Psychology, University at Buffalo). The topics covered included speech/music perception and production in typical and atypical populations.

Interprofessional Education (IPE)

Interprofessional collaborative practice is becoming a hallmark of health care in the United States and Canada. Interprofessional practice is defined by the World Health Organization as multiple health workers from different professional backgrounds working together with patients, families, caregivers, and communities to deliver the highest quality of care. Such team-based practice is also considered a critical component of the Affordable Care Act. Our Department has become involved in interprofessional educational programs developed by the Office of Interprofessional Education at the University at Buffalo. Directed by Dr. Paul Wietig, Assistant Vice President for Interprofessional Education, opportunities are being developed for educating faculty, students, and the WNY health care community regarding the knowledge and skills necessary for effective team functioning.

Dr. Rosemary Lubinski recently attended a conference entitled “Being on the Cutting Edge - Advancing Interprofessional Education for Quality Care” and a three day workshop on Educating Health Professionals in Interprofessional Care. This workshop was open to select faculty from across the University and leaders from WNY health care agencies. Attendees gained knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to advance interprofessional education and interprofessional collaborative practice in their departments and agencies. Activities included implementing collaborative scenarios in the UB Behling Simulation Center.
Understanding the Brain Conference

Ms. Dona Hue Ritter-Schmidt, MA, CCC-SLP, Assistant Clinical Professor, and Dr. Rosemary Lubinski, Professor, attended the 2013 Resource and Wellness Fair: “Understanding the Brain” held at the Buffalo Museum of Science on April 20, 2013. The fair focused on neurological functioning, concussion, head injury, and stroke in the Western New York community. Their poster featured the Post-Concussion and Cognition Clinic that is a part of our Speech-Language and Hearing Clinic. This specialty clinic began over a year ago and provides communication and cognition diagnostic and intervention services for clients who have incurred a concussion and their caregivers.

Henderson Honored In Canadian Hearing Report

Donald Henderson, Ph.D., and Professor Emeritus of the Department of Communicative Disorders Sciences, was honored with a cover photo and a celebratory article written by Dr. Richard Salvi and Ms. Carol Altman in the Canadian Hearing Report, an official publication of the Canadian Academy of Audiology. The article, entitled “Dr. Donald Henderson- Canada’s Research Maestro of Noise-Induced Hearing Loss and Otoprotection,” discussed his many contributions including an active and productive research career and grantsmanship, student mentorship, writing and publishing, national and international presentations, and involvement with numerous professional associations. Don and his wife Terri now plan to relax by visiting their children and granddaughter, traveling, and pursuing a host of other personal interests.

Department Well Represented at NYSSLHA Convention

Several faculty and students were active at the Annual Convention of the New York State Speech-Language and Hearing Association. Ms. Terri Cinotti, Clinical Assistant Professor, was Program Chair; Ms. Donna Ringholz, Clinical Assistant Professor was Chair of the Early Childhood Language Program Committee; and Dr. Rosemary Lubinski served on the Adult Disorders Program Committee and presented a two hour short course on “Strategies for Working Effectively with Caregivers of Dementia Patients.” Dr. Jack Katz, Professor Emeritus, was an invited speaker on Central Auditory Processing Disorders. Anita Lee- Bjerke, MA student, was recipient of the Board of Regional Presidents Scholarship. Dr. Kim Tillery, a graduate of our department, serves as President of NYSSLHA.
Speech-Language and Hearing Clinic Represented at UB Wellfest

Clinic Director, Dr. Sue Roberts and Au.D. student, Katie Roberts represented the Department of Communicative Disorders and Sciences at the 13th annual UB Wellfest on November 1, 2012. The fair, which was held in the Center for the Arts on UB’s North Campus, featured a variety of services focusing on improving the health and wellness of the UB community.

Au.D. Students Volunteer at Wellness Fair

Vanessa Rogers and Krystal Vera, Au.D. students, participated in the Williamsville East High School Wellness Fair on March 23, 2013. They volunteered their time with high school students and teachers to promote audiology and healthy hearing.

Department Outreach to Parkinson’s Disease Support Group

On May 9, 2013, Dona Hue Ritter-Schmidt, Clinical Assistant Professor and Kelly Richardson, doctoral student in the Department of Communicative Disorders and Sciences, gave a presentation to the Northtowns Parkinson’s Support Group. The topic involved compensatory strategies for speech and swallowing issues related to Parkinson’s Disease. The audience enjoyed many “hands on” exercises that evening.

Professional Issues in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, 4th Edition

Dr. Rosemary Lubinski recently published the 4th edition of Professional Issues in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (Delmar, Cengage, 2013). In addition to updates of all chapters, new content focused on national changes in health care and education, the history of the professions, strategies for career development, and documentation. Ms. Melanie Hudson served as co-editor of the new edition.
**Au.D. Student Joins Navy**

Jacob Valla, a 2013 Au.D. graduate of our department began his clinical career by joining the US Navy. He updates us here about his very active first year.

“In May of 2012, I was selected by the United States Navy as an Officer Candidate in the Health Services Collegiate Program (HSCP). Approximately two audiology residents are chosen each year after completing an application process that includes a lengthy background check, letters of recommendation, physical fitness test, phone and in-person interviews, and a personal letter of commitment. On June 12, 2012, I joined the Navy as a Petty Officer First Class by taking the Oath of Enlistment. Shortly thereafter I received official orders to report for active duty to the Commanding Officer, at the Naval Medical Center Portsmouth (NMCP) in Portsmouth, Virginia.

In early July of 2012, I moved to Chesapeake, VA, to live with my uncle who is a retired Navy Chief. Since then, I have been completing my residency year at NMCP, as well as a Medical Branch Clinic located at Sewells Point in Norfolk, VA. This experience has been extraordinary, and I have had the chance to teach hearing conservation classes, help certify and train corpsmen to conduct industrial hearing screenings, calibrate audiology booths, teach the Veteran Affairs (VA) approved progressive tinnitus management (PTM) classes, complete vestibular balance testing with state of the art equipment using rotary chair and posturography equipment, as well as practice surgically implanting a bone-anchored hearing aid (Baha) on a late pig. In addition, I have attended hearing aid trainings in New York City, Las Vegas, and New Orleans. Recently, I attended the Joint Defense Veterans Audiology Conference (JDVAC) in Nashville, Tennessee. JDVAC is a conference where Army, Air Force, Navy, and VA audiologists meet to learn and disseminate research in the field of audiology.

Following the completion of my Au.D, I will commission as a Lieutenant in the Navy and attend Officer Development School (ODS) in Newport, Rhode Island. This is a 5-week officer accessions program designed to introduce the Naval Officers to the military structure of the Navy, the rich history of traditions, customs, legal system, and military etiquette. After graduation from ODS I will head to Okinawa, Japan for my first duty station. During my time in Okinawa I will work as an audiologist with the Marines and serve as hearing conservation program manager.

In addition to completing my residency with the Navy, I have also been serving on the Board of Directors of the Student Academy of Audiology. On July 1, 2012, I was elected to serve a one-year term as the Chair of the Education Committee and liaison to the Accreditation Commission for Audiology Education (ACACE). At the beginning of this term I traveled to Reston, VA, to meet with fellow board members and create a plan of action. During my time in Reston, we visited Capitol Hill to meet with the House of Representatives from different states to discuss healthcare reform and direct access for audiologists. As for my duties, I chair a committee of eight extremely dedicated individuals. Thus far, the Education Committee has collaborated with Etymotic Research to sponsor their Adopt-A-Band Initiative, created several resource tools for current audiology students including an Au.D. externship guide and undergraduate information sheet, as well as contacted over 270 universities in attempt to identify prospective undergraduates interested in audiology.”

**Second Generation Graduate**

This May, Katie Simon will be the second person in her family to graduate from the University at Buffalo with a Master of Arts in speech-language pathology. Her mother, Pamela Simon, also graduated from UB’s Communicative Disorders and Sciences Department with her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1974 and her Master of Arts degree in 1975. Her mother’s career as a speech-language pathologist has allowed
her the opportunity to work for a rehabilitation center, the health department, hospitals, nursing homes, and schools. She currently provides consultative services to The ReHabilitation Center in Allegany, New York - the same agency that hired her out of graduate school thirty-eight years ago. Katie’s mother has always found her work to be meaningful and rewarding. Katie says, “As I begin my own career, I look forward to finding employment that grants me the same kind of satisfaction. It is an honor to follow in my mother’s footsteps, and I look forward to being able to call her a colleague.”

SAA Alumni Reunion at AAA

The UB Student Academy of Audiology had a very successful alumni reunion party at the AAA convention in Anaheim CA in April, 2013. Several current and former students from all over the country, along with faculty and clinical supervisors, attended.

Students Participate in the Annual Teddy Bear Clinic sponsored by the UB Dental School and Bethel Head Start

Student volunteers from the undergraduate, the graduate program in speech-language pathology, and the Doctor of Audiology program volunteered to participate in the annual Teddy Bear Clinic/Give Kids A smile Day held in Harriman Hall on February 1, 2013. The purpose of the day is to ease the anxiety that preschool children feel when interacting with a variety of health care professionals. Several stations were set up representing the health care professions, with the children rotating from station to station. Our CDS graduate students interacted with the children letting them explore an otoscope, a portable audiometer and a variety of speech and language therapy materials. This year Congressman Brian Higgins stopped in to say hello to our volunteers and to express his gratitude for our participation. It was a great event and all the participants (children, teachers and clinicians) enjoyed themselves. We are looking forward to continued involvement again next year.
ASHA Foundation Grant

Dr. Ling-Yu Guo, Assistant Professor in the Department of Communicative Disorders and Sciences and Director of the Child Language Laboratory, received a $10,000 New Century Scholars Research Grant from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation for his study “Acquisition of Tense Markers in English-speaking Children with Cochlear Implants: The Role of Speech Perception and Working Memory.” The grant will identify factors that contribute to the variability of language outcomes of children with cochlear implants. The co-investigators of this grant are Dr. Joan Sussman and Dr. JoAnn Hammer.

Clinical Professor Awarded Grant for Asperger’s Syndrome Remediation

Mrs. Gretchen Bennett, MA, CCC-SLP, Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication Disorders and Sciences, was recently awarded a $135,000 grant from The Peter and Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation. The grant will enable Gretchen and psychologists from The University of Queensland, Australia, to train and provide support to professionals in the fields of speech-language pathology, psychology, social work and special education in an evidence based practice approach, called The Secret Agent Society (SAS) Program. The two-year project focuses on best practices for the improved development of social-emotional skills and social pragmatic language in children with Asperger’s syndrome, high-functioning autism, or children who display some of the characteristics of Asperger’s (i.e., anxiety, social emotional challenges, difficulty in social situations). The SAS program uses a collaborative effort among related service professionals, families, and classroom teachers. Currently, there is no other social skills program in the world proven to be as effective in terms of published results and clinically significant change. For more information regarding the SAS program, please visit the following website: http://www.sst-institute.net.

Whitcomb Wins National Audiology Award

One of our newly graduated Doctor of Audiology students, Carolyn Whitcomb, won an award at the Student Research Forum at AudiologyNow2013!, the national meeting for the American Academy of Audiology, held in Anaheim, CA in early April, 2013. Her talk was entitled “Clinical Utility of Rotational Chair Testing in the Diagnosis of Migraine Associated Vertigo and Chronic Subjective Dizziness.” The research was completed during her fourth year externship at the Dent Neurologic Institute and Hearing Evaluation Services of Buffalo and directed by her UB CDS mentor, Dr. Richard Salvi. There are only five winners each year and close to one hundred submissions this year.
Dr. Susan Roberts Named a Health Leadership Fellow

UB Speech-Language and Hearing Clinic Director Dr. Susan Ann T. Roberts has been selected as a 2013-2015 Health Leadership Fellow of the Health Foundation for Western and Central New York. Designed for leaders of health-related organizations, the Health Leadership Fellows Program aims to build a network of professionals who will lead collaboratively from both within and outside their organizations and advocate for improved health care delivery throughout the communities of western and central New York. Acceptance into the 18-month program is competitive and is based on leadership experience, receptivity to learning and working collaboratively, and contributions to the community. The 2013-2015 Health Leadership Fellows Program will begin in September 2013. In addition to several retreats spanning two to three days each, fellows will meet monthly in small teams to develop collaborative inter-organizational projects.

Student Nominated for UB Award

Jessica Tornatore, SLP graduate student, was recommended for the “Student Employee of the Year Award” and was honored at an Awards Reception on Friday, April 19, 2013 at the Crossroads Culinary Center located in the Red Jacket Quad of Ellicott Complex, UB North Campus.

Award Winning Local Clinician

After receiving her undergraduate and graduate degrees from the Department of Communicative Disorders and Sciences in 1997 and 1999 respectively, Tracy A. Panzarella, MA, CCC-SLP, began her career at the Heritage Centers. While there, she piloted the Speech-Language Pathology Program’s Article 28 Clinic in conjunction with the Resource Center. Three years later Tracy took a position with Autism Services, Inc. as their Speech-Language Pathology Department Supervisor, leading the agency’s Speech-Language Pathology program while maintaining a full-time caseload of students. What began as a department of two full-time SLPs serving 24 students in 2002 has grown to a staff of eleven full-time SLPs serving 102 students in 2012. In 2006, Tracy was promoted to Director of Clinical Services and expanded her position to include oversight of the supervisors of the Speech-Language Pathology, Occupational Therapy, Behavior Support Services, and In-Home Clinical Support Departments. Over the years she has supervised several student interns and clinical fellows.

In addition to her administrative duties, Tracy develops and organizes the agency’s semi-annual autism workshops and fundraising projects such as “Tea for ASD.” She also coordinates the Sibling Education Program Workshop and is an instructor for the N.Y.S.E.D. Approved Coursework/Training in the Needs of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Tracy has lectured at Daemen College, Buffalo Hearing and Speech Center, and Buffalo State College.

Tracy has been very active in volunteering in the speech and hearing community at both the local and state levels. She has served in numerous roles in the Speech-Language-Hearing Association of Western New York (SHAWNY) since 2003, including President, First Vice-President, Scholarship Committee Chair, and Public Relations Committee Chair. In 2009, Tracy was elected as Secretary of the New York State Speech-Language Hearing Association (NYSSLHA), a position that she currently holds. In addition to her role as Secretary, she also served as Professional Issues Program Committee Chair for the 2012 NYSSLHA Convention, Membership Committee Chair, By-Laws Committee Chair, and Child Language Program Committee Member for the 2008 NYSSLHA Convention. She also is a member of the Buffalo
State College's Speech-Language Pathology Department’s Advisory Board, as well as the Advisory Board for the Center for Autism Support and Education (CASE).

Over the years Tracy has been honored with several awards to recognize her work, including Buffalo Business First’s 40 Under Forty Award in 2009; SHAWNY’s Honors of the Association for Outstanding Service and Dedication to the Fields of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology in 2011; and most recently, Buffalo Business First’s Healthcare 50 Award in 2013. A strong believer in continuing education, Tracy currently holds six ASHA ACE Awards and completed a certificate program through the University at buffalo’s School of Social Work Institute for Nonprofit Agencies titled, “Managing Organizational Change.” Well done and congratulations to you, Tracy!

UB Grad is Professor at Minnesota State University at Mankato

Dr. H. Sheen Chiou received her Master’s Degree from the Department of Communicative Disorders and Sciences at UB in 2001 and her Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota in 2007. Currently, Dr. Chiou is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication Disorders at the Minnesota State University, Mankato. Her research interests focus on language and cognitive communication disorders in adults with neurogenic diseases. In addition to mentoring students doing research on adult aphasia, she also facilitates the Minnesota State University Mankato Aphasia Group. She created a blog for this group that offers educational resources about aphasia and stroke and provides a list of local stroke and aphasia support group information for speech-language pathologists, brain injury survivors, and their families in Minnesota. Dr. Chiou is working with other speech-language pathologists to create an “Aphasia-Friendly” community for stroke survivors.

One of the stories that Dr. Chiou loves to share with her students is that her research and clinical interest in aphasia grew from Dr. Rosemary Lubinski’s course, Language Disorders in Adults, and her wonderful clinical experience with her clients with aphasia in the speech clinic at UB. Dr. Chiou and her husband, also an UB alumnus, welcomed their baby girl in 2011.

Ashley Gambino, Au.D. Heads Audiology Clinic at SUNY Plattsburgh

At the recent NYSSHLA Convention another one of our alumni, Dr. Ashley Gambino, described the results of how getting her Au.D. led to her current life:

“In June 2007 I left UB and headed to Duke University Medical Center (DUMC) to complete my fourth year experience. My responsibilities ranged from NICU screenings to adult diagnostics and amplification. It was an amazing position that offered me a wide variety of experiences in diagnostics and intervention. Not long into my fourth year, DUMC offered me the opportunity to stay on as a clinical audiologist after graduation. I was thrilled, but then, fate stepped in. In April 2008, I received a phone call from a former instructor at SUNY Plattsburgh. He wanted to let me know about an opening as Clinical Director of Audiology. The faculty at SUNY Plattsburgh remembered that my DREAM JOB was to come back to work as an audiologist at the college. It sure pays-off to keep in touch with former instructors!

I started here at SUNY Plattsburgh in August 2008. Though I knew I would miss my colleagues and the medical setting at DUMC, I also knew that this position was meant for me. The short list of my current responsibilities includes: clinic administration, adult and pediatric diagnostics and hearing aid fittings, teaching three undergraduate courses (Hearing and Speech Science, Audiology, & Aural Rehabilitation), supervising undergraduate and graduate clinicians, and serving as advisor to students interested in pursuing a graduate degree in audiology. My main goals as an instructor have been to build a relationship with every student and introduce experiential learning opportunities. In my clinical courses, students are required to participate in clinical labs and other activities that allow them to spend time in the clinic
and have hands-on experience to go along with the topics discussed in lecture. I also have become well known within the department for ‘converting’ many future speech-language pathologists into future audiologists. I am excited by the increase in students focusing on audiology, and it definitely fuels my fire to create more opportunities for them.” Congratulations on your dream job, Ashley.

**UB Graduate Investigates Dysphagia**

Dr. Rosemary Martino recently became a Fellow of the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association. She tells us how her interest in dysphagia began when she was a Master’s student at UB and the progress of her research in this area. Here is her narrative:

“I graduated with a MA from UB in 1987 with an interest in dysphagia. Incredibly, my first exposure to dysphagia was only a 2-hour lecture in Dr. Mary Mann’s anatomy and physiology course. Albeit brief, this was an excellent lecture that launched me on a 15-year clinical career that spanned two Canadian provinces and offered me the opportunity to head a province-wide dysphagia service. In 2004, I completed a Ph.D. in Clinical Epidemiology from the University of Toronto. I was then recruited to the department of Speech-Language Pathology in a tenure track position and am now Associate Professor and Associate Chair.

My research aims to understand swallowing impairment and its impact on the patient. I focus on adult dysphagia in patients with stroke, head and neck cancer, Parkinson’s disease, cervical spine abnormalities and critical illnesses. I developed a tool called the Toronto Bedside Swallowing Screening Test (TOR-BSST©), by which stroke patients can be screened for the presence of swallowing difficulties at hospital admission. The premise of the TOR-BSST© is that earlier identification will initiate earlier intervention, and thereby reduce medical complications while at the same time promote earlier overall recovery. This tool is part of Canadian best practice guidelines for stroke and has been implemented throughout the USA, South America, Europe, and Asia. To date, it has been translated into five languages. In addition, I have developed another tool targeting the medical outcomes of dysphagia (MOD); namely, pulmonary, nutrition and psychological impairments. The MOD is the first available to measure these complications in a standard and clinically feasible manner. The MOD is currently being psychometrically tested in a large multi-site trial. Once validated, the MOD will be important to clinicians because it will be the first tool to allow them to evaluate and compare patient health benefit from swallowing treatments.

My research is based from my two labs – at the University of Toronto and the Toronto Western Research Institute within the University Health Network. I conduct my research with the invaluable contributions from a Research Coordinator, Research Assistants and several Speech-Language Pathology clinicians and students. Currently, I have the pleasure to be the primary supervisor of three superb Ph.D. students.

In closing, I will forever be grateful to all the faculty at UB who dared to encourage me to explore my interest in swallowing disorders – an area that was then only just emerging in the field of SLP.”
SHAWNY Honors UB Faculty and Students

It was UB’s night at the Speech-Language and Hearing Association’s (SHAWNY’s) annual recognition dinner. Dr. Jeffrey Higginbotham was given the Honor of the Association for a Professional in the field for his work in Augmentative Communication. Anita Lee-Bjerke was recognized for the scholarship that was awarded to her by the Board of Regional Association Presidents at the recent NYSSLHA Convention in Saratoga Springs. Lastly, Kathleen Simon was presented with the SHAWNY Scholarship for her outstanding work as a graduate student in speech-language pathology. Congratulations to all of our CDS honorees.

SLP Graduate Students Say Good-Bye

As another chapter in our life ends, it is only natural to think back and reflect upon the past two crazy, hectic, and wonderful years together. It seems like just yesterday that we were all meeting (some of us for the first time) at our first year orientation in August, 2011. On that day, I think we all found ourselves wondering, “How will we ever get through this?” But as the saying goes, time really does fly by. Now we can all look back and breathe a sigh of relief as we realize that all those long hours spent in the clinic, classrooms, and libraries have really paid off. This program has given us all the foundation that we need to succeed in our careers and to make a real difference in the lives of those with communication disorders.

We could not have made it through without the endless support of our clinical supervisors and academic professors, who have provided us with the tools and knowledge that we needed to grow as new clinicians. And of course, who could forget our fellow “speechies?” We were not only students in a program, but part of a family. We have been through good times and bad, and through everything we have grown stronger. We could always count on each other to help pull us through, whether we needed help with a class project or therapy plan or just a shoulder to cry on or a friend to laugh with. We are grateful to have met such wonderful, inspiring young women, all of whom will make great contributions to our field. Although we are sad to say good-bye, we are excited to see what lies ahead, and we will always look back with fond memories of our time at UB together. Good luck and best wishes to the class of 2013!!
Courtney Hohl, President GSA

Department Additions

Mrs. Gretchen Bennett, Clinical Assistant Professor, and her husband Andrew Bennett welcomed Adelaide Frances to their family last June, 2012. Adelaide attended our recent Department Awards Ceremony and was a favorite among the attendees. Dr. Nancy Stecker also welcomed her first grandson, Atticus, born in July, 2013. Atticus lives in Montreal with his parents.
Awards Ceremony
Department Contribution

If you would like to donate to the Teaching, Service, and Research missions of the Department of Communicative Disorders and Sciences, please visit our website (www.wings.buffalo.edu/cds) and look for the “Donate Now” button. Your contributions help to maintain our outstanding programs and are much appreciated.