This has been perhaps the most interesting year of my 19 years at the University of Wyoming. Administrative changes and a flood have challenged us to stay flexible and continue to provide quality teaching, research, and service to the state and beyond.

Last summer, the newly-appointed president had a very short tenure at UW. By the time he and UW parted ways, most of the upper administration had left and the university was in some disarray. Dr. McGinity, a UW professor, was then appointed president. Our Dr. David Jones, who had been serving as Associate Dean for Health Sciences, stepped up to Interim Associate Provost. We are thankful David is continuing to teach his Voice Disorders and Anatomy courses.

We ended the fall semester in a watery wonderland. A water line in Health Sciences broke above our corner of the building, cascading water down five floors into offices and the clinic. We shifted into intact cubicles and crannies while a disaster recovery company...
2013 Distinguished Alumna of the Year

CARON MELLBLOM-NISHIOKA, ED.D., CCC

Dr. Mellblom-Nishioka earned her Bachelors of Arts from California State University–Fullerton and her Masters of Science in speech-language pathology from the University of Wyoming in 1981. Dr. Mellblom-Nishioka served as a speech-language pathologist for Stride Learning Center for a year and as an Adult ESL instructor for Laramie County Community College from 1982 to 1995. During that time, Dr. Mellblom-Nishioka earned her Doctorate in Education from University of Northern Colorado in special education with an emphasis on learning disabilities.

In 1995, Dr. Mellblom-Nishioka moved to California State University–Dominguez Hills. Since then, she has served there as faculty member, as chair of the program and as director of the Center for Learning and Academic Support. Dr. Mellblom-Nishioka’s scholarship has dealt with inclusive education, the needs of secondary and college students with learning disabilities, and the empowerment of personal computers for older students with disabilities. She has authored over 3 million dollars in grants and contracts to support her program’s student learning efforts.

FROM THE DIRECTOR’S DESK

Dr. Caron Mellblom-Nishioka receives the distinguished alumni plaque from Dr. Teresa Ukrainetz.

tore apart, dried out, and rebuilt our areas. We were back in our offices within a month, but had to replace our two sound booths (fortunately the university has good insurance!).

This spring, Dr. Hardin-Jones has been away on a long-overdue sabbatical that included a trip to Australia and a lot of work on the Council for Academic Programs in Communication Science and Disorders. Dr. Mary Jo Cooley Hidecker and office assistant Marinda Broomfield are new to the division this year. We will miss Dr. Mike Primus, who retired this spring after 30 years of service to UW.

Research activity is at an all-time high with numerous publications, presentations, and grants. Drs. Mark Guiberson and Doug Petersen were awarded federal grants to evaluate and develop assessment and intervention tools for Spanish-speaking preschoolers. Data collection activities are taking them and their student assistants across Wyoming and neighboring states.

On the instructional side, we have temporarily suspended admission into the distance track of the graduate speech-language pathology program. We aim to start again in fall 2016 with a new and improved structure and sequence for the distance graduate curriculum.

Finally, we hope to see some of you at our annual Kahn Summer Speaker Series. This year, Dr. Karla McGregor, from University of Iowa, will be sharing her expertise on play and vocabulary intervention. As a token of our appreciation, this event is offered at no charge to practicum supervisors and WSHA members. For more information on this event and other news about the division, check our website (www.uwyo.edu/comdis/).
AWARDS

- Dr. Mark Guiberson received the College of Health Sciences New Investigator Award.
- Michael Soriano, Alisa Konishi, Rebecca Baldwin, and Meredith Woodard were the recipients of the 2014 Wyoming Speech and Hearing Association student scholarships for a combined total of $3,000.
- Gwynn Barrows, Sherry Harris, and Marisa Yagi were the recipients of the Gordon S. and Charlott Meyers Health Sciences Scholarship for a combined total of $2,300.
- Courtney Rams, Katelynn Julian, Emily Koski, Mikala McCool, and Hannah Young received the Steve Elliot Scholarship for a combined total of $3,750.
- Jessica Cole was awarded the Aspire! Program funding of $500 for an undergraduate project.
- Ashley Hopkin was selected as a McNair Scholar and presented her research at the Undergraduate Research Day.
- Hannah Young was initiated into the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society.
- Erin Page, Ashley Grover, Danielle Riker, Rebeca Lewarchik, and Kelly Baer received Honors in Academic Excellence: Graduate Students.
- Carli Ausmann, Karlee Heitman, Kristen Jensen, Alicia Lindemood, Shaylyn Sheaffer, Michaela Stapp, Brianna Schwan, and Alyssa Schmidt received Honors in Academic Excellence: Senior Students.
- Holly Scherr and Brooke Powell received the Clinical Honors Award.
- Kelsey Mullikin received the NSSLHA Leadership Honors Award.
- Becki Baldwin, Jennifer Glodowski, Sherry Harris, Nicole Heward, Mila Lemaster, Megan Pince, Amy Schaffarzick, Emily Sonzongni, and Mike Soriano were selected for 2013–2014 state and Kahn graduate assistantships.
- $16,000 in Kahn Scholarships were awarded to the Fall 2013 graduate class.

RETIREMENT

Dr. Michael Primus retired from the Division of Communication Disorders in March of 2014 after 30 years of academic and clinical service to the University of Wyoming. His professional career as an audiologist began in 1975 at the Minnesota Regional Hearing Center in the Department of Otolaryngology at the University of Minnesota. In 1978, Mike became a clinical audiologist at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Seattle, Washington. Mike received a Ph.D. from the University of Washington in 1984, while working for the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences, at the Group Health Hospital in Redmond, and the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Seattle. Mike became an associate professor at the University of Wyoming in 1990, and was acting chair of the department from 1992–93 and in 2000. In 1994, he received the Louis M. DiCarlo Clinical Achievement Award from ASHA, and in 1999, the Editors Award from the American Journal of Audiology. At University of Wyoming, he taught a variety of classes, including basic and advanced audiology, educational and pediatric audiology, psychoacoustics and noise, auditory evoked potentials, instrumentation for speech and hearing science, and communication skills for the hearing impaired. Mike’s publications include articles in the Journal of Speech and Hearing Sciences, Ear and Hearing, American Journal of Audiology, and The Hearing Review. He has presented at ASHA, WSHA, AAA, and CAA. Mike retired to the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State where he and his wife recently bought a house in Port Angeles—just a ferry ride away from Victoria in British Columbia.
PROGRESS NOTES


April Amonson, M.S., CCC-SLP ’10. New job at Newton Middle School in Littleton Public Schools, Littleton, Colorado.

Kate Ogliby, M.S., CCC-SLP ’12. Leaving Denver for new job in Anchorage, Alaska.

Dr. Caron Mellblom-Nishioka, Ed.D., M.S. SLP ’81, travelled from California to be recognized as our 2013 Distinguished Alumna for Communication Disorders.


Anne Marie Austin Oleson, M.S., CCC-SLP ’11. Married April 2014.


Kara Lovato, M.S., CCC-SLP ’11. Moved to Madrid, Spain in 2013, certified to teach English, works as an English teacher, and provides speech therapy services as a bilingual clinician.

Stay connected with us and others. Submit your update on our website www.uwyo.edu/comdis/. Join the UW ComDis Alumnae & Alumni Facebook group.

RECENT FACULTY PUBLICATIONS


WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE UW COMMUNICATION DISORDERS STUDENTS?

2014 EXTERNSHIP SITES

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LARAMIE STROKE SUPPORT GROUP

Stacy Gupton, stroke survivor and artist, leads the Laramie Stroke Support Group in a reflective process by painting how their neurological event impacted their lives. The group meets the second Tuesday of each month at the Eppson Senior Center from 6–7:30 p.m. following the university calendar. Lynda Coyle, Director of Clinical Education, and graduate students have been facilitating this group for over seven years.
Students receive recognition for honors in academic excellence at the spring reception.

Hannah Young was initiated into the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society.

Students receive the Meyers Health Sciences Scholarship at the spring reception.

Steve Elliot Scholarship award recipients at the spring reception.

Guiberson’s research play team: Gwynn Barrows and Shaylyn Shaeffer.

May 2013 graduation Master of Science.
May 2013 graduation Bachelor of Science

Students receive summer and fall graduate assistantship awards at the spring reception

Dr. Hidecker with students at the spring reception

NSSLHA students at the 2013 CHS Homecoming Tailgate

Marinda Brumfield joined Com Di as administrative support staff November 2013

Fall 2013 campus graduate students

Students receive summer and fall graduate assistantship awards at the spring reception
RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

DR. MARY JO COOLEY HIDECKER, CCC-A/SLP, joined the faculty in the fall of 2013. She received her B.A. and M.A. from the University of Iowa. She then worked as an audiologist and speech-language pathologist in education, supported employment, long term care, and medical settings in Iowa, Minnesota, and Michigan. She received her Ph.D. from Michigan State University in 2004 with an emphasis in family-centered, early AAC intervention. Dr. Hidecker then completed post-doctoral studies in cerebral palsy epidemiology, which resulted in a M.S. in epidemiology from Michigan State University. During her post-doc, she led the development of the Communication Function Classification System (CFCS, www.cfcs.us) to describe everyday communication performance in children with cerebral palsy.

Dr. Hidecker is passionate about having undergraduate and graduate students work with her on clinical research. This spring, Dr. Hidecker has been awarded $7000 from the College of Health Sciences to collect pilot data for validating the CFCS use with adolescents and adults with cerebral palsy. Other research projects include using the CFCS with typically-developing toddlers, social communication of individuals with autism, stability studies of the CFCS, different modes of communication used worldwide (a project with UNICEF), and evaluating the Early Detection and Hearing Intervention (EDHI) results for Michigan children with cerebral palsy.

DR. MARK GUIBERSON received pilot funding from the National Institutes of Health for a study to evaluate screening and other measures that screen the language development of Spanish-speaking preschoolers. The $55,000 grant was designed to evaluate the use of technology, specifically tablets or I-pads, as part of telehealth measures in the screening process. The project is part of a larger NIH initiative to address health disparity issues in the mountain west region.

Specific telehealth measures that Guiberson is evaluating include nonword repetition (repeating pretend words), story retell, and parent report measures. As part of this project, Dr. Guiberson has been collecting data across Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico. Guiberson is also collaborating closely with his University of New Mexico (UNM) colleague, Dr. Barbara Rodriguez. As part of the project Guiberson traveled to rural communities in New Mexico and collected data with UNM students. Guiberson’s UW research team has been involved in data processing, coding, and entry. Guiberson has three graduate students and five undergraduates who are assisting with data “reduction”. Results will be presented this summer at an NIH sponsored conference, and a new study is hoped to be launched from this work.
KAMMA D. SLAUGHTER, M.S., CCC-SLP is the clinical coordinator for student externships at Swedish Medical Center. In 1989 Kamma graduated from the University of Regina located in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada with a degree in kinesiology. She hired on with Wascana Rehabilitation where she was employed as a conditioning therapist in the occupational medicine department. After meeting a speech-language pathologist at the clinic she became interested in the field of communication disorders. She traveled to Minot, North Dakota where she took classes to prepare her for the field. She was accepted into the graduate program at the University of Wyoming and graduated in 1993 with an master's degree in speech-language pathology.

After completing her clinical fellowship year in 1995, she was hired by HealthONE, (now HCA) as a speech-language pathologist at Presbyterian St. Luke's Medical Center. Being a part of HCA allowed her to float her skills to other metro hospitals owned by HCA. A few year later, she transferred to Swedish Medical Center, the nation’s first stroke center and has been part of the talented physical medicine and rehab team ever since. In 1999, she was offered the opportunity to become the clinical coordinator for student externships in speech-language pathology.

Swedish Medical Center is a Level I Trauma center located in south metro Denver and is a recognized leader in the treatment and rehabilitation of neurotrauma. Swedish is a Center of Excellence for Neurosciences and a Regional Neurotrauma Referral Center; it is the founder of “Stroke Alert.” Swedish is the first and only four-time certified stroke center in the region.

According to the UW clinic director, Kamma has routinely served as an externship clinical supervisor for UW. With each 12-week experience, she has re-affirmed her commitment to supporting our clinical education program and has received glowing feedback from students about her excellent teaching and mentorship. She, like so many communication disorders alumni, embodies the spirit of “paying it forward” when reflecting on her own graduate experience.

KYLE KIENLEN-TRUJILLO, M.S., CCC-SLP says she is a speech-language pathologist who is Wyoming born and bred! She grew up in Worland, Wyoming and attended the University of Wyoming from 1975–1978. She graduated in the spring of 1978 with a bachelor's degree in speech pathology and 350 clock hours, which was very advantageous when she entered graduate school in the fall of 1978 at Eastern Washington University. She found that her education at Laramie was equal to or surpassed that of any fellow graduate students. In the summer of 1979, she graduated from EWU with a master's degree in speech pathology and over 700 clock hours to start her first job in Red Lodge, Montana. There she completed her CFY and worked an additional year before taking the ultimate itinerant job in Alaska: flying to and serving the children of 17 remote villages. She then gratefully returned to Wyoming taking a job in the Lander school system in 1982. The next twelve years were spent in the schools with some private practice clients after school and on the weekends as there was no one else to do the work. In 1994 she began a program with Lander Valley Medical Center providing inpatient, outpatient, and contracted speech-language therapy services throughout Fremont County. The next 12 years were spent working and gaining experience in all settings allowing her the opportunity to start Sinks Canyon Therapies, Inc. in 2006.
THANK YOU,
2013–2014 DONORS!

The Division of Communication Disorders is grateful to generous donors for their contributions who have supported the division since it was founded. Due to their support, the division has been able to offer academic scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students, fund student travel to professional conferences for presentation of research, and materials and equipment for student and faculty research. The following list recognizes those individual and organizations for annual giving 2013–2014.

- Vicki L. Bernard
- R. Jerry and Janet L. Carspecken
- Kenneth W. and Susan E. Fischer
- Kent D. and Kelly E. Green
- Nancy A. Gruver
- David L. Jones and Mary A. Hardin-Jones
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- Robert S. and Diane M. Seville
- William R. Stubble Field and Simalee Smith-Stubblefield
- Kelvin P. and Sateera Thompsen
- Treasure State Hearing, LLC
- Teresa A. Ukrainetz

According to the UW clinic director, not only has Kyle routinely served as an externship clinical supervisor for UW but she has hired UW graduates keeping them in Wyoming! The breadth and variety of clinical experiences her facility offers has been a hallmark of why students want to extern with her.

Sinks Canyon Therapies provides speech-language pathology, occupational therapy, and physical therapy services throughout Fremont County, including hospitals, schools, early intervention, community based services, long term care, and outpatient services. Her business currently employs 20 people (full and part time), 10 of whom provide speech therapy services in a variety of settings. The success of Sinks Canyon Therapies can be directly related to the dedication of its professionals providing exceptional therapy to the people they serve. Kyle says, “We continue to grow and love the work that we do!”
University of Wyoming Division of Communication Disorders
11th Annual Barbara Kahn Summer Speaker

The Serious Business of Playful Learning:
A Child-friendly, Evidence-based Approach to Vocabulary Intervention
Karla McGregor, PhD, CCC-SLP

Monday, June 30, 2014 • 8:15 a.m.–3:45 p.m.
Lunch provided
UW-Hilton Conference Center, Laramie, Wyoming

This course is available for 0.6 CEUs and 0.5 PTSB credit
Conference fee: $150 pre-registration by June 12 • $170 after June 12 and on-site
*No charge to pre-registered University of Wyoming students, faculty, practicum supervisors, and WSHA members*

Registration available at www.uwyo.edu/comdis/

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☐ Yes, please send me information about planned giving (wills, trusts, etc.)
☐ Yes, UW is named in my will.
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Your gift is tax deductible as provided by law.
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Join us for the 3rd annual CHS Homecoming tailgate at Corbett PE Building 2 hours before game time. Check www.uwyoalumni.com for Homecoming date and time of football game.