The Division of Communication Disorders continues to thrive as a vibrant part of the University of Wyoming. In this newsletter, we share our division’s Mission & Vision and Strategic Plan, which is in alignment with the University’s Mission and Strategic Plan. You will see that our clinical training is a major focus for the division. The UW Speech & Hearing Clinic serves Wyoming and the region, with 2,776 audiology and speech patient visits last year.

This year we reopened our speech-language summer services by popular demand. We also have grown our tele-practice, which has an emphasis in clinical and graduate education, offering over 200 “tele” sessions to clients and families across Wyoming. In addition, division faculty including Karen Richard (committee chair), Erin Page, Erin Bush, Corri Sandoval, Melissa Denker and Mary Jo Cooley Hidecker are serving with other Wyoming Speech Language Hearing Association members on the ad hoc special WSHA tele-practice subcommittee.

Innovations in our curriculum include instituting an undergraduate clinic and the use of patient simulations, so that our graduates have a broad range of clinical experiences prior to completing internships. In spring 2019, students were enrolled in undergraduate clinical experiences that resulted in over 100 clinical clock hours. Our American Sign Language (ASL) curriculum and offerings have also have grown. We are planning to offer the Deaf Studies course again starting in the 2019-20 academic year.

There are a few other bits of division news that I would like to share. We were delighted to name Maggie Scarlett our 2018 Distinguished Alumna. Maggie has had an impressive career as a Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) in hospital and school settings and knows what it is to be a Wyoming SLP. David Jones accepted the appointment as Dean of the College of Health Sciences after serving as interim for two years. We will miss him in the division but we are glad to have Dr. Jones as our Dean. We welcome Naomi Boldon, who joined the division staff as an Office Associate, Senior.

We are looking forward to another great school year ahead, please let us know if you are in town and would like a tour of our clinic!
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

VISION & MISSION

Vision: The Division of Communication Disorders will create innovative clinical teaching and research programs that address the health and development needs of patients, clients and students.

Mission: The Division of Communication Disorders produces practice-ready speech-language pathologists, who are prepared to work in a rural state with clinical populations across the lifespan. The division engages the community, encourages interprofessional practice and conducts research that advances clinical practices across the state and region.

BREAKING THROUGH STRATEGIC PLAN (2017-2022)

University GOAL ONE: Driving Excellence
1A. Increase research that addresses the health, development and/or communication needs of Wyoming and Mountain-West region residents.
1B. Address statewide and regional shortages of speech-language pathologists by preparing “practice ready” providers, prepared to address the unique rural health needs of Wyoming and Mountain-West region residents.
1C. Develop innovative and enhanced learning opportunities in graduate and undergraduate coursework.

University Goal TWO: Inspiring Students
2B. Develop awareness of communication disorders and related careers through increasing campus ASL courses and offerings.

University Goal THREE: Impacting Communities
3A. Enhance statewide/regional community SLP practice through delivering or participating in extension efforts.

SCHOLARSHIPS
Riley Dolezal, Haley Dollerschell, Kristine Elmore, Kyliyah Ferris, Caitlan Hessley, Haley Hight, Brook Holdredge, Isabella Mijares, Brooke Mills, Clarissa Petres and Kirstee Trees received the Barbara Kahn Scholarship, a total of $18,000 was awarded.
Outstanding scholars from the fall 2019 incoming graduate class were awarded $14,000 from the College of Health Sciences Gordon S. & Charlott Myers Scholarships and Paul Stock Scholarships.
Josephine Cox, Libby Haun, Kelci Howe, Kirsten Kroplowski, Marley Newton, and Clarissa Petres received the Steve Elliott Communication Disorders Scholarship, a total of $8,000 was awarded to these students.
Graduate students Kyliyah Ferris and Catalina Pimentel Toll received the Maggie Scarlett Scholarship, a total of $6,000 was awarded.
The Maggie Scarlett Scholarship is being awarded for the first time this year from Maggie Scarlett Summer Speaker series registration fees.
Wyoming Speech-Language Hearing Association Scholarships awarded $2,500 to recipients Riley Dolezal, Kyliyah Ferris, Kyleigh Hiser and Brooke Mills.
Eryn MacDonell and Abigail Zoromski received the Janis Jelinek Memorial Scholarship, $1,400 was awarded from this newly established Communication Disorders scholarship. Dr. Jelinek became a UW professor in 1970, was the first Wyoming ASHA Fellow and served as the division chair until 1999.

Total Scholarships Awarded $49,900

Academic Excellence Awards
Undergraduate students receiving the Honor’s in Academic Excellence Award were Calbi Ausmann, Erin Buchanan, Wendy Dietz, Madison Haun, Catherine Kellar and Baillie Murray.
Graduate students receiving the Honor’s in Academic Excellence Award include Sarah Hunter, Tia Kalkowski, Chlo (ca) Kunzle, Elise Mann, Autumn Ostlund, Elaine Romenesko and Corlitan Sad.

Graduate Assistantships
The university funded 6 Graduate Assistantships for incoming 2019 graduate students, with approximately $12,000 of support. The recipients are Calbi Ausmann, Erin Buchanan, Nicole Gard, Madison Haun, Kelci Howe and Catherine Kellar.
The UW Speech & Hearing Clinic also funded 4 Fall Graduate Assistantships for 2nd year graduate students, with approximately $12,000 of support. The recipients are Riley Dolezal, Kyliyah Ferris, Brooke Mills and Clarissa Petres.

Total Number of Graduate Assistantship awards: 14
Research Awards + Funding

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES RESEARCH AWARDS

Oval Oral and Poster Presentations
- Senior Holly Trujillo – Oral Presentation, 2nd Place

Student Travel Awards to Present Research at National Conferences
- Graduate student Kyliah Ferris
- Junior Haley Dollerschell
- Junior Kirsten Kropkowski

Faculty Research Grants
- Assistant Professor, Breanna Krueger

Faculty Travel Award to Present Research at International Conference
- Associate Professor, Mary Jo Cooley Hidecker

OTHER GRANT AWARDS

Holly Trujillo, a McNair Scholar, completed a research project entitled “Speech Language Pathologists Serving Students with Traumatic Brain Injury: A Qualitative Inquiry,” with Dr. Erin Bush as her mentor. Holly will be attending the University of Kansas for her master’s degree.

Junior Kirsten Kropkowski was awarded a summer 2019 INBRE undergraduate research fellowship. With her faculty mentor Mary Jo Cooley Hidecker, Ms. Kropkowski is comparing young adults’ perceptions of their communication effectiveness and their communicative quality of life. The Idea Network for Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) program is funded by the National Institute of Health (NIH).

Division Assistant Professor Erin Bush finished out the highly competitive American Speech-Language-Hearing 2017 Advancing Academic Research Award in April. Dr. Bush also received a WyCOA mini-grant to increase support group access across the state for stroke survivors and their caregivers and family members. This is an online support group called the Wyoming Stroke and Brain Injury Support Group and welcomes participants from around the state. If you are interested in joining the online group, or would like to learn more, contact Dr. Bush for meeting details and additional information, (307) 766-5795 or ebush1@uwyo.edu.

Division Assistant Professor Breanna Krueger received a Grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences of the National Institutes of Health under Grant # 2P20GM103432. This award and Dr. Krueger’s work are more, contact Dr. Bush for meeting details and additional information, (307) 766-5795 or ebush1@uwyo.edu.

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Division Assistant Professor Breanna Krueger received an Institutional Development Award (IDeA) from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences of the National Institutes of Health under Grant # 2P20GM103432. This award and Dr. Krueger’s work are highlighted in this newsletter.

Associate Professor Mary Jo Cooley Hidecker was the lead researcher on a $150,000 feasibility research grant funded by the Mountain West IDeA Clinical and Translational Research-Infrastructure Network (CTR-IN). This research is evaluated coordinated telehealth of medication management, physical therapy and speech therapy for persons with Parkinson’s disease in rural Wyoming and rural Nevada.

Division Professor Mark Guiberson received funding from the University of Wyoming Social Justice Research Center to continue a research project on the Wind River Reservation that aims to describe culturally consistent interventions with Native American caregivers of toddlers and preschool age families.

Graduate student Kyliah Ferris

Senior Holly Trujillo – Oral Presentation, 2nd Place

INTERNSHIP SUPERVISOR SPOTLIGHT: Lisa Pauk-Murray

Lisa Pauk-Murray graduated in 1997 with a Master’s of Science from the University of Wyoming. As a new graduate student, Lisa wanted to complete her Clinical Fellowship Year as a traveling Speech-Language Pathologist. At the time, due in part to limited access to supervisors, students were discouraged from signing up for travel positions. As a non-traditional student, however, Lisa had the life experience and unwavering determination to become successful. She knew that she wanted to one-day work with adults in acute hospital or rehab settings and quickly excelled in the challenges that came with working in a variety of clinical sites, including skilled nursing facilities and hospitals.

During her UW Externship, Lisa was assigned to the Wyoming Medical Center in Casper. It was here that she was first assigned to Ms. Erin Offit as clinic supervisor. Unbeknownst to her at the time, Ms. Offit would become a major source of inspiration in Lisa’s career. In fact, after nearly two years as a traveling SLP, Lisa had gained the knowledge and skills to land her dream job and joined the team at the Wyoming Medical Center.

Now more than twenty years later, Lisa Pauk-Murray continues to inspire students of her own by providing clinical supervision at the Wyoming Medical Center. While she works with students from many different universities, she says, “Students from the University of Wyoming have been the most prepared and have made my clinical supervision of them a breeze!” Lisa enjoys observing the reactions of students as they go from being a “bundle of nerves” to saying, “I got this!” with their mannerisms, words and actions.

The Wyoming Medical Center provides a rich clinical experience and diverse patient population for SLP students pursuing their Masters of Science degrees. Coupled with Lisa’s outstanding mentorship, this is an ideal placement for students desiring to work in a medical setting after graduation. Lisa takes pleasure in supervising students and it is her hope that upon retirement one of her best and brightest will continue her legacy and take her place at the hospital.
The Phonological Understanding Lab is engaged in multiple projects that examine children's learning and understanding of speech sounds, especially in children who have difficulty learning these sounds. Under the guidance of Dr. Breanna Krueger, both undergraduate and graduate students assist in carrying out research. Two major projects are presently underway.

The first study is entitled \textit{Age-related correlates of treatment efficacy and efficiency for late-acquired sounds}. This project is supported by an Institutional Development Award (IDeA) from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences of the National Institutes of Health under Grant # 2P20GM103432. Our previous work in this area showed that treating difficult-to-learn sounds, such as \textit{/r/} or \textit{/s/} may be easier to learn at younger ages (4-5 years) than older ages (7-8 years). To extend these findings, we are presently examining whether older children's difficulties with learning difficult sounds can be eased through providing targeted treatment. To test this, we provide two speech therapy methods to children in these age groups to examine whether one method is more effective than another. With these results, we may identify methods that directly address the cause of age-related differences in children who struggle to learn speech sounds. This study is intended to promote the prevention of persistent speech sound difficulties, which may minimize the risks of social and academic difficulties.

The second study in progress is entitled \textit{Treatment Intensity for Ultrasound Visual Feedback}. This work is supported by a University of Wyoming College of Health Sciences Faculty Seed Grant. In this study, we continue our exploration of learning difficult sounds, specifically the \textit{/r/} sound. Some children struggle for years to resolve errors on the \textit{/r/} sound because it is very difficult to learn. This sound is difficult to learn because it can be made in at least two different ways using the tongue, and it cannot be seen from outside of the mouth (i.e. in a mirror or when others say it). Portable ultrasound technology uses a probe underneath the child’s chin to provide a real-time view of tongue movements within the mouth. This has been shown to be more effective than traditional methods of treatment. However, little is known about how many treatment sessions and how many practice trials are needed to promote positive change in children’s production of \textit{/r/}. Therefore, we are exploring the required amount of treatment using visual feedback by providing an evidence-based therapy protocol, using an ultrasound, for the production of \textit{/r/}. Two treatment methods are used in which children attend one session per week for 8 weeks, or two sessions per week for 4 weeks. It is our hypothesis that children who are seen twice per week will reach a higher level of accuracy due to increased frequency of practice.

The following list recognizes those individuals and organizations for annual giving 2018-19.

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Rebecca Baldwin</td>
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<td>Vicki L. Bernard</td>
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<td>Madisin Dravesh</td>
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<td>David &amp; Rebecca Evans</td>
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<td>Kent D. &amp; Kelly E. Green</td>
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<td>Mark M. Gusmeron</td>
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<td>David L. Jones &amp; Mary A. Hardin-Jones</td>
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<td>Philip W. &amp; Nancy A. Harlan</td>
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<td>Andrea Whitaker</td>
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Dr. Mary Jo Cooley Hidecker, Associate Professor, on why she gives to support the UW Division of Communication Disorders:

"I want to help undergraduate students travel to present their research at regional, national, and international conferences.

Your gift will make a difference too. Thank you.

Thank you, 2018-19 Donors!

Dr. Breanna Krueger
UW Division of Communication Disorders

Thank you for your generosity and support of UW Division of Communication Disorders. Your gift is tax deductible as provided by law.

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Your gift will make a difference too. Thank you.

Thank you, 2018-19 Donors!

Dr. Breanna Krueger
UW Division of Communication Disorders
The 2nd Annual Maggie Scarlett Summer Speaker Series was an absolute success again this year. Over 65 attendees participated in this event, which was hosted at the beautiful Marian Rochelle Gateway Center.

The remarkable presentations offered opportunities for professionals and educators from around the Mountain-West region to earn ASHA and PTSB CEUs, and allowed students to learn alongside professionals. Dr. Joneen Lowman, from the University of Kentucky, presented on *The Landscape of Pediatric Speech-Language Services in Telepractice*. Kathryn Hardin, PhD candidate from the University of Colorado, presented *Advanced SLP Practice Considerations for the Management of Mild Traumatic Brain Injury*. Division faculty and students presented nine different research posters at the event during the division open house. The outstanding presentations, coupled with delectable food throughout, free speech/language materials giveaways and spectacular summer weather all contributed to making the event a resounding success!

We would like to extend a special thank you to Maggie and Dick Scarlett for their endowed gift, which allows the division to offer this event, to grow the community of SLP practitioners in the region and connect our students with this important network.