

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Mark Guiberson, PhD, CCC-SLP Summer 2020



College of Health Sciences
Division of
Communication Disorders



With mask in place, I send you greetings from the University of Wyoming Division of Communication Disorders. With the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic, we've had to dramatically restructure both classroom teaching and clinical programs. In this year's newsletter, we are focusing on how the Division thrives despite these obstacles.

I was amazed at how well the students transitioned to online courses and telepractice in March when the University moved to a remote model. I've been especially impressed with our faculty, and how hard they worked tirelessly to make learning meaningful. This summer, many of our faculty have taken teaching workshops and redesigned courses that will be hybrid or moved to online offerings. Their investment in our students is tremendous, and it shows. We continue to produce top-notch students and exceptional clinicians.

Our clinical faculty in particular has done an incredible job in preparing our students to be telepractice-ready. Even before COVID-19, as part of the Division strategic plan, all of our graduate students had experiences with telepractice.

When the pandemic began to spread, our students were ready to pivot to telepractice. Our campus Speech & Language clinic moved fully to telepractice, and we worked with externship sites to get our students in the telepractice trenches, gaining as many experiences as possible despite the pandemic. The Division has made telepractice a priority over the last several years, and the division provided intensive telepractice training last summer at the Maggie Scarlett Summer Speaker Series. This year we are dedicating an entire day to new graduate student telepractice training, because in the fall, our first-year MS SLP students will be providing, exclusively, telepractice services. With our students fully immersed in providing telepractice services this summer and this coming fall, we are reaching patients, clients, students and families who otherwise would not be getting any speech-language services.

This summer alone, we had over 500 speech-language telepractice sessions. Our Audiology clinic opened back up for face-to face services, and has been in high demand all summer.

In terms of Division events, we held our recognition and awards ceremony before Spring Break and before physical distancing was implemented. Unfortunately, we had to postpone the 2020 Maggie Scarlett Summer Speaker Series because of the pandemic, but be assured that plans are underway to offer this event in the summer of 2021. Please refer to our website in January for details. We look forward to you joining us for this and many other future celebrations!

In addition to the pandemic, we also have been moved by the major social changes that are occurring across the country. The Division stands with the University and with ASHA in striving to be inclusive and fair to all. I personally want to 1) express my commitment to addressing equity, justice, and inclusion in the field of communication science and disorders, and 2) invite you to join me in being reflective and committed to making our field one that advances equity, justice, and inclusion.

As speech language- pathologists and audiologists, we are naturally compassionate towards others and we are especially well suited to understanding and bridging understanding.

I hope you, your family and your students/clients/and patients stay well this coming year.

2019 Division of Communication Disorders

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA OF THE YEAR



Jane Yakel, M.S., CCC-SLP, was named our Distinguished Alumni of 2019. She is from Lovell, Wyoming, but grew up in Worland. Jane received her Bachelor of Science in Speech Pathology in 1971 and her Master of Science in Speech Pathology in 1974, from the University of Wyoming.

As a speech-language pathologist (SLP), Jane has worked in a variety of settings, including acute care, outpatient clinics, home health agencies, skilled nursing facilities, independent living facilities, hospitals, and school districts. She has been a regional and national clinical specialist for physical, occupational, and speech-language therapy and a trainer for rehabilitation program directors throughout the United States.

Jane has authored clinical books about working with individuals with cognitive impairments. She has been a continuing education presenter with a specialty in neuropathology at both national and state events. She has also served as an associate professor and clinical instructor at the University of Wyoming, Utah State University, DeVry University (Phoenix and Fremont California).

Her service includes being an ASHA People-to-People Ambassador to South Africa as well as a member of the Wyoming Board of Examiners. We were delighted to have Jane and her family visit with our students and faculty during UW 2019 Homecoming.

Maggie Scarlett 2021 Summer Speaker Series

Plans are underway to offer this event in the summer of 2021. Please refer to our website in January for details. We look forward to you joining us!

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New Faculty Research

By Karen Richard

Dr. Katelyn Kotlarek joined the University of Wyoming Communication Disorders Division as an Assistant Professor in August 2019. She transitioned to UW after completing her Ph.D. at East Carolina University where she specialized in craniofacial disorders and imaging. To support her studies, she received a prestigious Ruth L. Kirschstein Predoctoral Individual National Research Service Award (F31) from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research.

She plans to further her research interests with this population by focusing on improving surgical and speech outcomes for individuals born with cleft palate. During her short stay at UW so far, Dr. Kotlarek has been busy networking and making research connections. She will engage in many collaborative projects including joining with Children’s Hospital of Colorado to assess surgical outcomes for this special population.

Dr. Kotlarek was chosen for the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association’s (ASHA) Symposium on Foundational Communication Science Disorders (CSD) Science Courses earlier this year. This exclusive symposium promotes and enhances foundational education in the CSD sciences using evidence-based teaching strategies, high-impact learning practices, and innovative instruction for diverse groups of learners.



To apply some of these research-based teaching principles, Dr. Kotlarek plans to incorporate an Anatomage table, which creates virtual images for anatomical dissection. This useful teaching tool will be available in both undergraduate and graduate courses to provide students opportunities to actively learn about and engage with typical and disordered anatomy.

“I’m looking forward to integrating the Anatomage virtual dissection table into the curriculum and evaluating how this hands-on approach impacts student learning of anatomy,” stated Dr. Kotlarek. Her interests align with her teaching schedule, which currently includes Anatomy & Physiology of Speech, Hearing, & Swallowing; Acoustics of Speech & Hearing; and Dysphagia.

With one academic year under her belt, Dr. Kotlarek reflected on her experiences teaching so far, “UW students are very unique. I enjoy teaching them and learning new ways to foster their critical thinking skills relative to our discipline,” she shared.

In addition to successfully building her teaching skills, Dr. Kotlarek will focus on initiating her own research, as she was chosen for ASHA’s Lessons for Success Program. This elite mentorship program aims to provide intensive training to promising early CSD career scientists in the areas of grants and other funding opportunities, strategies for developing and managing a successful research program, and advancing professional competencies.

Now that the 2019-2020 school year has been completed successfully, Dr. Kotlarek is looking forward to a Wyoming summer. She stated, “Laramie is absolutely beautiful! Having been raised in the Midwest, seeing the Snowies on my drive into the office will never get old. I’m looking forward to enjoying the summer and seeing what else Laramie has to offer!”



UW students are very unique. I enjoy teaching them and learning new ways to foster their critical thinking skills relative to our discipline.

– Dr. Katelyn Kotlarek

UW Approves American Sign Language Studies Certificate

The American Sign Language Studies Certificate was recently approved as a stand-alone certificate offered by the Division of Communication Disorders. The certificate provides students a foundational knowledge of Deaf Culture and basic skills in communicating with the deaf community through American Sign Language (ASL). It is a great opportunity for students or professionals from speech-language pathology, audiology, sign language interpreter, or teacher of the deaf. It also could enhance current employment in the careers of preschool and K-12 education, nursing, counseling, and many other areas.

Fourteen students will be awarded the certificate in the fall semester, and here is what some students said about their experience.

“Earning an ASL Studies Certificate highlights one of my highest college achievements. I know the knowledge received in this program will help me in my future endeavors in speech-language pathology as well as provide me the opportunity to carry conversations with Deaf relatives where previously I would rely on other family members to interpret.” – Tanner McKay (Major: Speech, Language Hearing Sciences)

“The ASL Studies Certificate has been a wonderful opportunity for me to pursue during my time at the university.... These classes have taught me that learning ASL is a true passion of mine, and I hope to some day use my skills as a teacher of the Deaf or an interpreter. It has truly been a wonderful experience.” – Haley McKain (Major: English Education)

“The ASL Studies Certificate has introduced me to a love for the expressive language of ASL and beautiful culture of the Deaf. While I’ll go on to become a speech-language pathologist, my ASL Studies certificate has set me apart from candidates for grad schools and jobs as it shows I am open to embracing new cultures and am able to implement signing into my practices which has



To celebrate the new program, The Division commissioned Deaf artist Nancy Rourke to complete an American Sign Language Studies portrait.

impacted my work with individuals with Down’s Syndrome and on the autism spectrum tremendously.” – Avery Walcher (Major: Speech, Language Hearing Sciences)

“I absolutely loved the ASL studies certificate program! It allowed me to refresh my ASL skills while also assisting the ASL instructors that taught me so much about the language. It was so much fun tutoring and helping students develop their ASL skills.” – Demi Johnson (Major: Speech, Language Hearing Sciences)

Students who will receive the American Sign Language Studies Certificate include:

Lydia Allen, Mikayla Benson, Jessica Brown, Wyatt Christensen, Ann Dahill, Meg Dickerman, Jade Gordon, Alexandra Jacobson, Kaylynn Jefferson, Demi Johnson, Emily Lamm, Haley McKain, Tanner McKay, Avery Walcher

Division Awards – Recognizing Excellence



SCHOLARSHIPS

Catherine Kellar, Kelci Howe, Ann Bunten, Madison Pass, Adan Arrendondo, Calbi Ausmann, Summer Hansen, Madison Haun, Jordan Ring, Isabella Mijares, Haley Dollerschell, Kaylynn Jefferson, Abigail Zorowski, Carley Ebert, Ann Dahill, Kathryn Sawyer, Marley Newton, Marissa LeDoux, Kiana Ayers, Regina Romanjenko, and Josie Givens received the Barbara Kahn Scholarship, a total of \$24,150 was awarded.

Outstanding scholars from the fall 2020 incoming graduate class were awarded \$12,150 from the College of Health Sciences Gordon S. & Charlott Myers Scholarships and Paul Stock Scholarships.

Catherine Kellar, Samantha Power, Kataln Rogers, Heather Casey, Rachel Forrester, Ericka Jones, Abby Brunski, Haley Dollerschell, and Josephine Cox received the Steve Elliot Communication Disorders Scholarship, a total of \$9,350 was awarded to these students.

Total University of Wyoming Scholarships Awarded: \$44,650.

The total Wyoming Speech-Language Hearing Association (WyoSHA) scholarship amount was \$2500. Recipients were Calbi Ausmann, Madison Haun, Erin Buchanan, Nicole Gard and Adam Arredondo

Graduate Assistantships

The university funded six Graduate Assistantships for incoming 2020 graduate students, for approximately \$20,640 (each) of support. The recipients are Abigail Tygart, Josephine Cox, Baillie Murray, Libby Heimbaugh, Annelisa Herold and Delani McAulay.

The College of Health Sciences funded five Summer Graduate Assistantships, for support totally over \$9,000. The recipients were Catherine Kellar, Ann Bunten, Erin Buchanan, Kyliah Ferris and Kyler Yerkovich.

Total Number of Graduate Assistantship awards: 10

Academic Excellence Awards



Undergraduate students receiving the Honors in Academic Excellence Award were Rachel Forrester, Richelle Dietz, Libby Heimbaugh and Kirstee Trees.

Graduate students receiving the Honors in Academic Excellence Award include Tess Avedon, Kyliah Ferris, Caitlan Hensley, Brooke Mills and Clarissa Petres.

Student Awards

Josephine Cox, NSSLHA Leadership Award
Samantha Power, Undergraduate Research Fellowship, Wyoming Institutional Development Award (IDeA) Networks for Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE), National Institute of General Medical Sciences (2P20GM103432) (2020) Morphology of the palatoglossus muscle in children using MRI.

Samantha Power, College of Health Sciences Research Day Award: Best Research

Abstracts, (2020) Examining Velar Stretch in Children with Repaired Cleft Palate using MRI.

Richelle Dietz, College of Health Sciences Research Day Award: Best Research Abstracts, (2020)

Assessment and Treatment of Speech Sound Errors in Cleft Palate via Telehealth: A Scoping Review.



Recognizing Excellence – Student award recipients from the UW Division of Communication Disorders.
Photo by Jon Cabrera

Featured Faculty Publications



- Bush, E. J., Singh, R. S., Kooienga, S. (2019). Lived experiences of a community: Merging phenomenology and community-based participatory research. *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*, 18, 1–12. doi: 10.1177/1609406919875891
- Guiberson, M & Ferris, K (2019). Early Language Interventions for Young Dual Language Learners: A Scoping Review. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*, doi.org/10.1044/2019_AJSLP-IDLL-18-0251
- Hardin-Jones, M.A., Jones, D.L., & Dolezal, R. (2020). Opinions of speech-language pathologists regarding speech management for children with cleft lip and palate. *Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Journal*, 57, 55-64.
- Kotlarek KJ, Pelland C, Blemker SS, Jaskolka M, Fang X, Perry JL. Asymmetry and positioning of the levator veli palatini muscle in children with repaired cleft palate. *Journal of Speech, Language, & Hearing Research*. 2020;63,1317-1325. PMID: 32402223
- Krueger, B. I., & Storkel, H. L. (2020). Children's Response Bias and Identification of Misarticulated Words. *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*, 63(1), 259-273.

Other Faculty Grants & Awards

- Katelyn Kotlarek, Mazaheri Young Professional Scholarship, American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association.
- Brenna Krueger, Age-Related Correlates of Treatment Efficacy and Efficiency for Children with Speech Sound Disorder. Institutional Development Award (IDeA) from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences of the National Institutes of Health under Grant # 2P20GM103432.



UW Division of Communication Disorders faculty celebrate at the 2020 Division Awards Reception. Photo by Jon Cabrera



An Interview with Samantha Wagner Yung

Au.D. (UW BS 2012)

By Teresa Garcia

We like to keep track of our alumni and hear all the great work they are doing. Teresa Garcia, division audiologist, recently caught up with alumna Samantha Wagner Yung, Au.D. (UW BS 2012).

Where do you work now?

I have been a Doctor of Audiology at Brant Audiology and Tinnitus since 2015.

What populations do you/will you be serving?

We have four branch locations of Brant Audiology, and I primarily work in our Torrington office. We serve all age groups, however, my personal focus is adult and geriatric populations. I specialize in hearing aid technologies, custom hearing protection and Veteran services.

What's your favorite thing about our professions (SLP + AuD)?

Helen Keller once said that loss of vision will separate you from things, while loss of hearing separates you from people. My favorite thing about my profession is I get to be a part of removing that "separation" by repairing the communication breakdown between individuals that hearing loss so often causes. When I help someone hear better it means they are able

to connect to their friends and family, perform better at their job and enjoy their hobbies more fully. It is truly fulfilling to help each person meet their individual communication goals, especially when it results in improved relationships with a spouse, child, etc.

Tell us how you selected Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences as a major at UW.

I knew I wanted to be in the healthcare field but was struggling to identify a major that fit me. Other areas I explored were dentistry, optometry and podiatry. I signed up for the introduction to communication disorders course as a sophomore and was immediately hooked!

What was your favorite class and why?

My favorite classes were my audiology courses. I was excited about the auditory system from my introductory class in the department, but when I started excelling in the focused audiology courses, I knew I was on the right path. I loved all my speech classes as well, especially anything to do with craniofacial anatomy and physiology!

Did you have any clinical experiences that shaped your decision to pursue Audiology?

My time in the UW Speech and Hearing Clinic on campus was instrumental in my decision to pursue audiology.

The observation hours and hands on experience solidified my focus between speech pathology and audiology. It is important to be able to see yourself performing the duties of the profession, and there is no better way to do that than working with real clients in a true clinical environment.

What advice do you have for students who may want to pursue careers in speech-language pathology and audiology at UW?

My advice to students is to take advantage of all the department has to offer! Form study groups with your classmates and use each other as resources. Your peers can support you through challenging times and push you to perform better in the classroom. Prioritize getting to know your professors/advisers/clinic supervisors; take advantage of office hours, research opportunities and teaching assistant positions. Finally, stay involved outside of the classroom by joining The National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) UW chapter.

If you were asked by a parent to tell their student why they should study Communication Disorders at UW, what would you say?

Audiology and speech pathology are careers where you can be a mix of clinical doctor, technology guru and educator/counselor. You will work with amazing patients of all ages that will inspire you to return day after day. You will never be bored!

The UW Division of Communication Disorders is the perfect place to start your journey towards the careers of speech-language pathology or audiology. The program provided me with all the knowledge and experience I needed to feel prepared for my doctoral program, and they can do the same for you!"



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Thank You, 2019-20 Donors!

The Division of Communication Disorders is grateful to generous donors for their contributions that have supported the Division over the years. We extend a special and warm thank you to those who have provided the Division with endowed gifts.

Due to the support of each of our donors, the Division has been able to offer academic scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students, fund student travel to professional conferences for presentation of research, fund materials and equipment for student and faculty research, and offer a summer speaker series. The following list recognizes those individuals and organizations for annual giving 2019-20.

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