Save the Date for October 2010: AAC Poss-Abilities Theatre Camp

Camp participants and their families, along with IPFW faculty, CSD students, and community volunteers, helped make the camp's inaugural year in 2009 a great success on the IPFW campus. This year's camp is scheduled for October 8–10.

The department has a new name: Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD). This name better reflects the degree and the mission of the department. We have changed course prefixes and the major's name to match with the new department name. These changes will take a few months for transition, but by next year, these changes should be accomplished and show on the Web pages for IPFW.

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As you will read in this newsletter, there are many creative things happening within the department. Please stop in when you are in town or when you come to the campus. We are delighted to visit with alumni and other friends. E-mail messages are also encouraged.

Lucille Hess, Ph.D.
hess@ipfw.edu

Notes from the Chair

Applause

2009 IPFW Poss-Abilities (AAC) Camp

A new event was “staged” during fall break 2009. In conjunction with the CSD 405 Computer Applications in Speech/Language Pathology (AAC) class, an independent study course that provides hands-on experience was developed. As a result, the CSD department hosted a weekend day camp for AAC users who were ages 6–20. The camp for the children was free thanks to a $750 grant from the Elsa Rho chapter of Psi Iota Psi and donations from the community. Four young people from Allen County, two from Ohio, and one from Michigan took part in the camp.

While the overall focus of the camp was social communication, the campers took part in a “theatre” production using their communication devices on Sunday evening followed by a reception for the actors. Campers received a T-shirt and a “Donny” award (IPFW's version of the Tony award) at the end of the weekend.

Parents were involved by painting sets and finishing simple costumes. Everyone agreed that the camp was a success!

The camp will be sponsored again this fall on the weekend of October 8–10. Please try to attend the performance on Sunday evening. The play, You Are Special, is based on the Max Lucado book of the same name.

Actors in the first annual ACC Poss-Abilities Theatre Camp in October 2009.

IPFW Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders Summer 2010
Six of the department’s outstanding students were honored at the 2010 College of Arts and Sciences Honors Banquet on April 22. All have had their names added to the honor roll plaques that hang in the department office.

Graduating senior Elizabeth Learnard was named the Outstanding Communication Sciences and Disorders Major for 2010. The CSD department continues to have a large group of outstanding seniors, so the selection was difficult. The award acknowledges a high standard of scholarship and demonstrated effectiveness in leadership or service roles. Besides being an outstanding student, Learnard was elected president of both department clubs—ASL PAH! and SHC. She also served as the department student worker for three years. Volunteering for tasks around the department is something we could always count on Learnard to do. Under her leadership, camperships were provided for the AAC camp in Wisconsin, guest speakers provided timely information about speech-language pathology, and literacy events were provided both on and off campus. She excels in all of her endeavors, yet she always seemed to have time to be a general advisor and big sister to underclassmen. Her text books for graduate school were purchased as a gift of the Pui lota Xi Theta Sigma Chapter in Syracuse, Ind.

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A volunteer project that touched my heart this year focuses on basic needs of abused/ neglected children in foster care in our area. Your professional efforts to enhance their communication skills will be critical to their success in coping effectively with very difficult life situations.

Do you volunteer anywhere? How would you like to help when you have time to reach out? Making a difference, on the job and in other quiet ways, makes hearts “sing.” It’s a wonderful feeling.

Thank you so much for your notes, e-mails, and messages relayed from time to time. You remain at the heart of my happiest IPFW memories.

Pauline Flynn, Ph.D.
Professor Emerita
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American Sign Language PAH! Club

The ASL PAH! Club continued into its eighth year by participating with the deaf community through contact with the

Chanda Lichtenhagen (B.S. ’86), lives in Fort Wayne and works for full-time as the lead pediatric therapeutic for Turmont Center for Children and Adults with Disabilities (12 years) and part time teaching two sections a semester of CSD 11500 Introduction to Communicative Disorders at IPFW. Her professional interests include AAC, apraxia and dysarthria, and theme-based speech-language intervention. Lichtenhagen and the preschool director at Turmont presented at the 2010 Abilities Expo in Fort Wayne on “Collaborating: Bridging the Gap between Therapy and the Classroom.” She and her husband, Bill, who have been married for almost 30 years, love to travel the moment possible with their grandchildren: Kenyon, 4, and Brydon, 2. This year for their 30th wedding anniversary on June 28, they are planning a special vacation trip to their favorite island, Zanzibar, for two weeks of sunshine and seashells.

Emily McIntosh (B.S. ’04) lives in Pearland, Texas, and works for Fort Bend Independent School District. Her professional interests include fluency and assistive technology. She has two children, McKale, 3, and Isla, 1.

Shelley May (B.S. ’07) graduated in May with a Master of Arts from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. She completed a thesis titled “Repeatability of Aerodynamic Measures in Children, Ages 4.0–5.11 Years.” May is currently looking for a hospital position in the Chicago area and is very excited to begin her career. Her interests include TBI, dysphagia, and stroke rehabilitation.


Tiffany Owens (B.S. ’09) is working as a speech assistant in the Wabash-Miami Area Program for Exceptional Children. She provides services to approximately 60 children ranging from ages 6–21. She has applied for graduate school. She loves her job and is excited to see where her future takes her within the field.

Sarah Schmidt (B.S. ’08) lives in Crownpoint, Ind. She graduated in 2009 with a master’s degree from Western Kentucky University and is currently working on her GFL at Gordon Community School. Schmidt is married and has three children, Morgan, 9, Rhys, 3, and Parker, 1.

Sally Winters (B.S. ’07) is working for the Wabash-Miami Area Program and completing a master’s degree online with Nova Southeastern University. She loves working with the children at her schools. Sarah, her oldest daughter, made Winters a proud grandma when they welcomed Sophia Nicole last August. She says she can’t believe how awesome it is to be a grandma. She and her husband, Mike, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in November. Winters’ mother moved in with her family last year due to illness. Winters’ daughter, Holly, is still at home and will be starting seventh grade in the fall. Her sons are sharing an apartment in Muncie. Derrick will graduate in December with a degree in business and Cam is thinking about joining the Navy.

Ashley Yoder (B.S. ’04) lives in Fort Wayne and works for Northwest Allen County Schools. Yoder works with preschool to fifth grade students. She is married and has three children, Ethan, 7; Eiko, 2; and Emili, 3 months (born in March 2010).
Kudos to the CSD Faculty

Sharon Egly (B.S. ’90), who is the CSD clinic director, was chosen to receive the 2010 Leopold Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. The committee was impressed by Egly’s commitment to BOTH the Augmentative/Alternative Communication Possibilities-Ability Theatre Camp last fall. They commented that this project continues to be one of the most innovative and resulted in deep, memorable learning for not only your students, but for the families of the camper and for the community.”

Jonathan Dalby was promoted to associate professor and was awarded tenure. The department is delighted with this recognition of his hard work.

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Senior Mariesa Rang was selected by the Greater Fort Wayne Business Weekly as one of the 20 interesting graduating seniors in the region. Rang is a unique graduate who has persisted in following her dreams in spite of many physical challenges. She was featured in the May 12 Fort Wayne Journal Gazette as an outstanding IPFW graduate.

Stacy Refner received the Gerontology Award for Excellence at the College of Arts and Sciences Honors Banquet. Part of the requirement for a gerontology certificate is providing a clinical practicum for an elderly person who has communication disorders. Refner completed this requirement this past spring in the CSD clinic.

From the Communication and Disorders Clinic

Seventeen senior students completed clinic this past spring semester with 18 clients served. One of the students has two clients for part of the practicum. Four students finished certificates in gerontology. The wide variety of clients in the clinic required the class to particularly challenge them this year; however, all of the students agreed that it was a valuable experience. Because evidence-based practice is important to us all, this year members of the class were required to research the technique each planned to use with her client and determine if the technique was based on sound research.

Dalby Directs a Student Project

Senior honors student Tanya Gamble has chosen to participate in research on foreign-accented speech intelligibility being conducted in the department by Associate Professor Jonathan Dalby. Dalby’s research focuses on comparing the intelligibility of native and accented speech when they occur in unfavorable listening environments, such as in the midst of background noise.

Work toward Gamble’s senior honors project presentation will examine the intelligibility of isolated words produced by native speakers of English and by Mandarin Chinese speakers who have learned English as adults. The project will provide her with opportunities to participate in all aspects of the research. Her first task has been to complete the education modules required by the Human Research Protection Program at Purdue. She has recently participated in the recruitment of subjects and collection of speech production data, and will be involved during the summer in presenting stimuli to listeners and in analyzing their responses. We look forward to her results!

2010 Graduating Students

The graduates were Whitney Allen, Rachel Baker, Jennifer Bell, Justin Cole, Megan Cordoba, Carolyn Dent, Ann Dutkiewicz, Heather Engler, Janette Eugenese, Kelsa Kithedge, Elizabeth Learnard, Jillian McHenry (August), Shavanna McInerney (December 2009), Ashley Parent (December 2009), Mariesa Rang, Stacy Refner, Helen Roth, Regency Sharma, Laken Shuping, Michaela Storrar, Lisa Sproat, Michelle Stevens (December 2009), Jane Marie Vasquez, Pam Wilke, and Becky Witte.

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Speech and Hearing Club

Under the leadership of Elizabeth Leonard, the SHC had an active year. Two Make-It-Take-It events were scheduled, one in the fall and one for spring semester; two guest speakers provided information about the professions; and a group participated in the Learn United Literacy Day.

SHC members raised money to purchase T-shirts or books for the fall ACC Post-Abilities Camp, contribute toward a memorial tree for Richard Hess, sponsor camperships at Tumbleb for summer speech-language therapy, and provide books for the Riley Children’s Hospital Wish List.

Heather Allen (B.S. ’96) came to share her experiences about graduate school and working in the schools. The club participated in the IPFW Health Fair by screening hearing and by providing information about stroke and voice problems.

Greetings from Professor Emerita Flynn

Hearty congratulations to our 2010 graduates. May the future hold in store all you dream and more.

For those who participated in the annual COAS Honors Banquet, I was delighted to meet you, sit with you, and discover how you are walking in the footsteps of our very talented alumni. I’m so pleased that you know the line of graduates is long now—behind Catherine Martin, our very first graduate!
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