
from the

DEPARTMENT CHAIR

On December 31, 2012, I will step down as Chair of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, and Dr. Manish Rami will replace me. I will have served as Chair for six years, and it's time for someone else to take the reins. I'm certain that Dr. Rami will be very successful in the position. I look forward to having more time to work on my teaching and to becoming more involved in research.

Faculty and staff are the heart and soul of any academic department. In this respect, CSD is a different organization from the one that took over in 2006. Overall, we've more than managed to hold our own at a time when filling faculty positions in our field has been increasingly difficult. We've kept key personnel: Drs. Rami and Seddoh on the academic side, and Mary Jo Schill and Peg Biberdorf in the clinic. We've replaced departing faculty members with excellent new hires: Drs. Cummings, Pawlowska, and Robinson. Diane Sander has fit our needs nicely in her part-time role in the clinic. It's worth noting that no faculty member has left the department

because of the enticements of another program, and this hasn't been for lack of opportunity. We still have an open line, but we can reasonably expect to fill it this year.

As everyone knows, the administrative secretary/office coordinator/accounts specialist is the most important person in the department. We've had two since Pat Nybo left three years ago, but thanks to the intelligence, competence, and good nature of the three individuals involved, the transitions have been essentially seamless. The only worry we have about the current individual, Sarah Abentroth, is how long we'll be able to keep a person with her abilities.

During my time as Chair we've continued to accomplish our basic mission, that of providing our students with the training they need to pursue a successful career in the field of communication disorders. Along the way, though, there have been some small triumphs for which we can pat ourselves on the back. We solved the puzzle of the KASA form. We survived the reaccreditation site visit and were awarded another 8 years of existence by ASHA. Dr.

Seddoh's labors were rewarded with an NIH R03 grant. Three individuals now have hard-won Ph.D. degrees in communication sciences and disorders from the University of North Dakota. The Toddler Language Circle found a home in O'Kelly Hall and flourished. An aphasia therapy group was formed, and its success led to a \$19,500 grant that will fund a weekly literacy intervention program for up to 10 individuals. We're finally obtaining significant returns on insurance billing, thanks to Sarah Abentroth. (This last point calls to mind a misstep, our adventure in clinic billing through the medical school.) In 2010, thanks to the efforts of our clinical faculty, we won the UND Community Service Award. Last but not least, a wonderful relationship has evolved between us and Colleen Martens and her husband Irwin. I think that I speak for all of us when I say that they are donors of great generosity and even greater grace and humanity.

It's clichéd to say this, but serving as Chair for the past 6 years has been a learning experience, one that I've been

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Department Chair Continued from Page 1

lucky to have at this late stage in my life. The job has not been without its challenges, but I can't imagine a better group of people to have faced them with. I've relied on the intelligence, competence, and simple good will of my fellow faculty members and staff, and I've never been let down. We each have our own interests that aren't always shared by others, but there's never been a time when we couldn't compromise amicably and get on with the business of doing what's best for the department. I think that this spirit of cooperation stems from the fact we genuinely respect and like each other. I'd also like to throw in some words of praise for the students who've graced the halls of Montgomery during my tenure as Chair. With few exceptions, they've responded to the challenges of higher education with motivation and maturity, and I've found them to be forthright individuals who admit when they're wrong but also stand up for what they believe is right. This kind of maturity and honesty is invaluable to a Chair.

All of you, faculty, staff and students, have my heartfelt thanks.

–John P. Madden

CSD Recognized for Excellence in Service

In December 2010, Kathleen Tiemann, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences nominated the CSD Department for the Departmental Excellence in Service Award that is sponsored by the UND Outstanding Faculty Awards Committee. This award honors an academic department which 1) makes a commitment to service as an important faculty role and 2) collectively makes significant contributions in the areas of academic citizenship, professional/disciplinary service, and service to the community. After a review of the all of the nominees by the Outstanding Faculty Awards Committee, the CSD Department was selected as the 2011 recipient of the Outstanding Departmental Service Award. The faculty accepted the Award at the UND Founder's Day celebration on February 24, 2011.

As part of the nomination process, the department received many letters of support from clients, family members, and directors of several agencies regarding the contributions that

the faculty and students make in providing services to the university and communities in the region. One parent wrote said, "We have encountered very bright and caring student clinicians during our daughter's treatment. She has come to love each of them. They are always concerned with how she is doing." Another parent wrote, "... my son was blessed with being part of the Toddler Language Circle for three semesters. TLC is the most impressive (treatment) program we have been a part of thus far, and we are thankful to have this service available in our very own community." The director of the East Grand Forks Head Start program said in part, "...the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders has made significant contributions to the East Grand Forks Head Start program since 1975. The services they provide to our children and families go above and beyond our Head Start performance standards... these services have created lasting

benefits for children and families in our community".

In addition, the nomination included the following data concerning the clinical services provided by the department. Each year, more than 2000 different individuals throughout Grand Forks and the surrounding region received services through various screenings, evaluations, and treatment activities. In 2010 alone, CSD students and their supervisors provided 9,517 hours of speech-language, or hearing services to members of the community, many of whom would otherwise have gone without help.

In addition to all of the clinical services provided by the department, the Award's Committee also acknowledged various faculty members' service contributions to the University, and state and national professional associations, through volunteer work on various task forces, boards, and committees.

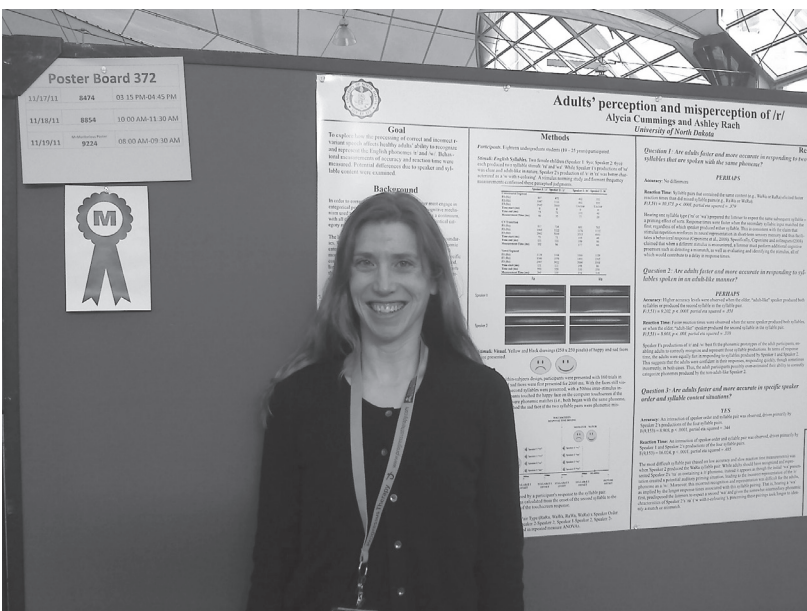
– Submitted by Mary Jo Schill



Several CSD graduate students had an opportunity to help colleagues at the Northeast KIDS Program by volunteering to help with their annual “Fall Festival.” It was well attended by the families involved in this birth to three program. This year’s theme centered on health and safety issues—the kids LOVED the fire truck! Many children from the Toddler Language Circle, (TLC) were there and were happy to spend part of the day with their clinician!

– Submitted by Peggy Biberdorf

Congratulations to Dr. Cummings



Dr. Alycia Cummings presented a poster at the annual American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) conference in San Diego in November 2011. Her poster examined adults’ perception of correctly and incorrectly produced /r/ and how that might affect communication interactions with children with speech disorders. Of the 1279 posters presented at the 2011 ASHA convention, Dr. Cummings’s poster was one of only 44 that also received recognition as a Meritorious Poster. These Meritorious Posters received the highest ratings from committee reviewers during the peer-review process prior to the convention, with each committee recommending just two posters for this recognition. Congratulations Dr. Cummings!

Alvaro Bilingual Thesis

Perhaps North Dakota does not immediately come to mind when one thinks of working with the bilingual Spanish-English speaking population. However, every year numerous families make the trip north from the southern United States and Mexico to work on farms in North Dakota. While the parents spend their days in the fields, children of the migrant workers are bussed to several Migrant Head Start centers where they play with other bilingual children and learn useful pre-literacy skills in English and Spanish.

In the summer of 2010, Aileen Alvaro, a UND graduate student, worked with the bilingual children of the migrant workers at the Migrant Head Start centers in Grafton and East Grand Forks to assess their phonological awareness skills in the two languages. Aileen set out to use the phonological awareness subtests of the *CELF-P* in English and Spanish, but soon discovered that they were not fully compatible. The Spanish subtest focused on more advanced phonemic awareness, while its English counterpart focused on the earlier rhyming and syllable-based skills. As a result, Aileen developed her own assessment tool with parallel versions in English and Spanish that allowed her to evaluate skills at the same level in both languages.

This research was the basis for Aileen's master's

thesis in which she wondered whether phonological awareness skills transfer across languages, or whether they are language specific. She found that the children she tested displayed a variety of profiles, with some children having equal phonological awareness skills in both languages, while others showing a clear difference. While working on her thesis, Aileen had a chance to both develop her own assessment tool and to administer language assessments in Spanish, a language she speaks fluently. These were certainly new and valuable experiences, as was the opportunity to present a poster summarizing her findings at UND's Graduate School Scholarly Forum.

Experiences such as Aileen's would not be possible without tremendous support from CSD's community partners. We are particularly grateful to Mary Barrett and Norma Campos, the former and current Center Managers of the East Grand Forks Migrant Head Start Program, as well as to Kellie Carignan, Center Manager of the Grafton Migrant Head Start Program, for opening their centers to us and supporting our research efforts. Aileen's research was also in part supported by a Stone Soup Fund grant awarded by UND's Center for Community Engagement to Aileen's advisor, Dr. Monika Pawlowska.

The Fall Colloquium

The CSD colloquium this fall invited speaker Sarah Ward, M.S. CCC-SLP. Ms. Ward has over 14 years of experience and a particular interest is in the assessment and treatment of executive function deficits. She talked about the executive function skills and practical strategies on Friday, September 30, 2011 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Grand Forks. The focus of her presentation at the Colloquium was on teaching students of all ages (including adolescents) practical, everyday strategies to improve executive function skills that promote awareness and how to effectively access and use forethought and hindsight. Participants learnt how to teach students to inhibit responses, to sense the passage of time, to change and maintain their pace and carry out routines.

The Annual CSD colloquium is supported by The Colleen and Erwin Martens Endowment.



Colleen Martens (left) and Sarah Ward at the UND Colloquium

PARIS Literacy Group

The UND Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders has received a \$19,500.00 community grant from the North Dakota Department of Health State Stroke Program. The grant, *Key to Success: Regaining Language and Literacy Skills*, will support a one-year program that will provide a 3-hour weekly literacy (reading and writing) intervention program for up to 10 individuals from the Grand Forks region who are recovering from the effects of a stroke or other related neurological difficulty. The grant proposal was initiated by the department due to the direct advocacy efforts of some of our clients and their families.

Named the **PARIS** (Performance and Recovery in Stroke) **Literacy Group**, a complement to the PARIS Conversation group that also meets weekly at the UND Clinic, began this fall with the first session on September 7. The **PARIS Literacy Group** meets Wednesday afternoons each week at the UND Clinical Education Center near the Medical School on the northeast side of campus. Supervisory staff includes Veronica Moen, a reading specialist, and Diane Sander, a speech-language pathologist who is a clinical



instructor in the CSD Department. Peg Biberdorf, SLP and clinical instructor will also assist with the program. Currently three graduate SLP students are assigned to the program that began by serving five clients, with the plan to add more to the group over the course of the year.

The purpose of **PARIS Literacy Group** is to provide a weekly group intervention program for individuals who have had a stroke or other related neurological difficulty. Stations for Reading, Writing, and Working with Words have been designed to provide

individualized and/or group instruction for each client at his/her current skill level. The grant also provided funds to purchase materials for practicing skills and engaging in literacy activities. Two Amazon Kindles and an Apple iPad have been purchased along with the *Reading and Writing A to Z* programs.

During the course of the program, treatment outcomes will be measured and instructional strategies evaluated, so that the program can be shared with and replicated by others in the future.

– Submitted by Diane Sander

A New Look for the Computer Lab

For the last few years, the CSD computer lab has been in need of updating. Many faculty use programs on the computers for class projects. Students regularly use the computers for clinical reports and projects. In recent years, however, mounting frustration over printing problems and computer malfunctions has limited the use of the lab. Due to a restructuring in student technology funds, the department was unable to apply for funds to update the lab. The department, intent on not raising student fees, planned to purchase two computers per year until all the computers were replaced.

Last spring, Dr. Tiemann, the Dean of Arts and Sciences, solicited proposals to fund student technology. Our grant proposal was accepted, and we purchased 8 new computers for the CSD lab. They were ordered and installed over the summer. Students, eager to enjoy the new lab, participated in sprucing up the old lab. They helped with cleaning and painting the new lab space. New chairs were ordered and art work is on the way. This fall the lab has been busy with students completing both classroom and clinical work on our new computers.



Clinical Externships: Bridging Academics and Work

Most of our CSD master's students continue to complete full-time clinical externships in both school and clinical settings. These placements are completed during the second year of graduate school and provide a transition between the world of academics and the student's first professional jobs. While most students will complete the school placement in the Grand Forks area, the limited number of clinical sites available, requires many students to complete their clinical or medical placements in other locations.

During the past year, several new sites have been added as potential externship placements. Some of these include the Fairview Medical System and Lifetrack Resources, Inc. in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area, Elks Rehab Hospital in Boise, Idaho, St.

Luke's Magic Valley in Twin Falls, Idaho, Cypress Health and Sunrise Health Regions in Saskatchewan, Speechworks, Inc. in Winnipeg, Dauphin Regional Health Centre in Dauphin, Manitoba, Manitoba Developmental Centre in Portage la Prairie, Ear, Nose & Throat Clinics of San Antonio in Texas, and Sanford Health South in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Occasionally we will hear from one of our UND alumni who is interested in supervising an externship graduate student. So, if we haven't "found" you, and you would like to work with a student in the future, let us hear from you! It's a great way to make a contribution to your university and program and to the profession as a whole.

– Submitted by Mary Jo Schill

Join Us in Grand Forks for the UND/MSUM Spring Symposium 2012

All alumni are invited to join us next April 26-27 in Grand Forks for the annual spring symposium. This is not only an opportunity to participate in an excellent continuing education opportunity, but is also a time to network and visit with others. Why not plan a "mini-reunion" with classmates from your class?

The featured presenter will be Laura Justice, Ph.D., CCC-SLP. Dr. Justice is currently on the faculty in the School of Teaching and Learning at the Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. Dr. Justice is interested in

early literacy development and intervention for children who have language difficulties. She has published a number of peer-reviewed papers on this topic as well as several books, including *Clinical Approaches to Emergent Literacy Intervention*, *Shared Storybook Reading: Building Young Children's Language and Emergent Literacy Skills*, and *Emergent Literacy, Lessons for Success*. Her current research interests focus on young children who exhibit developmental vulnerabilities in language and literacy acquisition, including

the effects of teacher or parent implemented interventions on children's learning and how aspects of classroom quality in early childhood affects children's language and literacy gains.

Registration information will be available no later than early February on the CSD web site:

<http://arts-sciences.und.edu/communication-sciences-disorders/>

To receive a brochure via email when it is available, send your name and email to: und.csd@email.und.edu

Alumni News

Heidi Lenzmann (M. S., 2010) completed her CFY and earned her C's in August 2011. She is beginning her second year working for the South Washington County School District in Cottage Grove, MN (a suburb of Minneapolis-Saint Paul). Heidi is currently working as the SLP for a K-5th grade Autism Program and is happy to be a part of a dynamic and passionate team of professionals. During November 2010, Heidi enjoyed presenting her master's thesis (The Effect of Language and Music Therapy on Children with CAPD) as a poster presentation at ASHA's National Convention in Philadelphia, PA.

Karlene Egbert (M.S. 2010) got married in May 28, 2011 in Billings, MT and is now Karlene Heinz! She has started her second year at Kelly Elementary School in

Grand Forks and she loves it.

Joanna Morrison (M.S. 2009) is engaged; has bought and moved in a house in Carman, MB, Canada. She just began a new job working in Garden Valley School Division (Winkler, MB, Canada)

Renee (Morin) Chaffee (M.S. 2005). Currently in Clark County School District (CCSD) at an elementary school and at Nevada Early Intervention in Las Vegas. For four years, she has volunteered at a camp called Camp Firefly. This camp is hosted by Candlelighter's, is a local charity helping families with children who are battling cancer. Renee has always loved working with children and Camp Firefly has truly made her appreciate life. Two years ago, she joined Riders for Candlelighter's cycling team to support this local charity.

Each member had to commit to raising \$1,000 for Candlelighter's and they trained to ride 80 miles in the Tour de Summerlin. Recently Renee has taken on another challenge and joined Runners for Candlelighter's. Each team member also has to raise \$1,000 and train to run the half marathon (13.1 miles) in Las Vegas on December 4th, 2011. Renee continues to enjoy life in Las Vegas and considers herself as very fortunate in my career choice.

Sarah Calder (B.A., 2002, M.S. 2004) is an SLP in Garden Valley School Division, in Winkler, Manitoba.

Brandi-Lynn Greig (M.S. 2000). Brandi-Lynn owns a therapy company in Colorado that specializes in Augmentative Communication and lives in Denver, CO.

— Please Contribute! We appreciate your support. —

Please consider making a contribution to CSD. Your contributions directly help the department, the clinic, and it also helps UND. Any amount is appreciated. You can make either a one time, a monthly, or a quarterly recurring gift. You can make annual recurring gift on occasions such your date of graduation, date of birth, Thanksgiving, Christmas etc. You can also give to the department or the UND Alumni Foundation in either honor or memory of a special person in your life. Such annual giving supports the department and the clinic in its day-to-day needs. Feel free to

specify an area of need. Some areas include a CSD scholarship fund, a client assistance fund, equipment, and materials for the Toddler Language Circle, and the building fund for a new clinic facility. Another way to support the department and UND is via an endowment. Endowed funds are used for enduring development of the department and the clinic.

All contributions to the Foundation are tax deductible if you itemize deductions on your income tax return. If you have any questions concerning a donation, please send them to John Madden at <John.Madden@email.und.edu> or call him at 701-777-

3728. Checks can be mailed to Communication Sciences & Disorders, Montgomery Hall Room 101, 290 Centennial Drive Stop 8040, Grand Forks, ND 58202-8040. Credit card contributions, whether one time or recurring, can be made by contacting the UND Alumni Foundation directly via their web site: <http://www.undfoundation.org> or by calling at 701-777-2611. If you have any questions about contributions or endowments for the Alumni Foundation, please contact Mike Meyer at 701-777-3669 or via e-mail at <Michael.Meyer@as.und.edu>