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## Let's Talk Speech! Volume 8 Issue 1

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# LET'S TALK SPEECH!

## A message from Dr. Schmidt...

This has been an AMAZING year for all of us here at Molloy College.

First, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) awarded the

M.S. Program the opportunity to offer teacher certification to our graduate students in speech-language pathology. This certification is commonly referred to as the TSSLD and was the result of the tireless efforts of Professor Joanne Ascher, who initiated the application and the discussions with NYSED.

Second, the Council of Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, awarded the MS degree program accreditation for a period of five years. This was the result of several years of planning and implementation. Our dedicated faculty, staff and students all contributed to this effort.

The most rewarding part of this endeavor was on September 22, 2014 when the CAA site visitors arrived on campus to complete the official inspection. Spending 2 full days interviewing administrators, faculty, staff, and students, the team of 3 professionals examined the policies, procedures, curriculum and credentials of the faculty and the College. Their anecdotal comments revealed that they found us organized, thorough, and consistent in dealing with professional preparation. At the conclusion of the 2 day visit the site visitors provided their remarks to the faculty. The faculty were pleased by the numerous positive comments and the glowing nature of their report. That initial report was submitted to the CAA who subsequently met in February to discuss the program. Dr. Bogner was notified in March 2015 that accreditation was awarded.

Thank you to the administrators, faculty, staff and students for their cooperation and participation during this time. The dedicated efforts on the part of the entire department have resulted in the provision of a rigorous, consistent, program that prepares students for professional practice in an ever changing society.



## TSSLD APPROVED

Last summer the New York State Education Department approved Molloy's Graduate Speech Language Pathology Department to offer teacher certification as an optional career pathway. We owe this welcome news to the efforts of Dr. Schmidt, Associate Dean and Chairperson and Professor Ascher, Director of the Molloy College Speech Language and Hearing Center, who worked long hours and with great dedication to complete the application process and develop this additional program.

New York State requires this teaching certificate, Teacher of Students With Speech and Language Disabilities (TSSLD) for speech language pathologists who want to work with school-aged children in the school setting, as well as those working in facilities that receive funding from the State Education Department, and may include some hospitals that offer programs for school-aged children.

Many of the requirements for the TSSLD already are a part of the Speech Language Pathology Graduate Program curriculum and are included in externships when you have completed 150 clock hours working with school-aged children. Students will need to take two additional courses, SLP 537 and EDU 502 to complete the academic requirements. Additionally, the New York State Education Department requires students to complete several workshops. Many of the workshops can be completed through the office of Molloy's Continuing Education Program at a reduced fee.

This year we are anticipating that approximately half of the MS Speech Pathology graduates will be applying for their initial TSSLD certification this May. This means that each of these TSSLD certificate-qualifying graduates will have so many more possible employment opportunities to consider. Whether you have already decided to only work with adults with acquired communication disorders you should try and remain open to the possibility of working with children with developmental language disorders. The variety of disorders within this population and the joy of working with children may actually surprise you and provide you with a career pathway that is not only rewarding but also satisfying. Find out more by going to <http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/teach/> or make an appointment to talk to **Dr. Sandy White**, TSSLD Coordinator.

## New Speech, Language and Hearing Center Director

**Joanne Ascher** began her position as the new **Director of the Speech, Language and Hearing Center** at Molloy College in August 2014. Professor Ascher has been working with the Speech-Language Pathology Department since September 2011, serving as Clinical Coordinator, Clinical Educator and adjunct faculty member. She is a seasoned professional who has a strong interest in exposing students to a diverse learning experience. An exemplary student herself, first at Hofstra University and later at Adelphi University, she enjoys sharing her broad



based knowledge with the Molloy students.

Her clinical career has included 14+ years as an independent contractor with Marion K. Salomon & Associates in the Early Intervention and CPSE Program. She is a Level II PROMPT-trained therapist in addition to having a specialty in orofacial myology. Working with individuals across the lifespan, she recognizes the need for students to be prepared to meet varied clinical challenges.

## Community Service: Health Fair

November 2014 the Speech-Language Pathology and Nursing Departments provided health information to the community in Old Bethpage. **Professor Diane Saulle** represented the department at the fair. This event provided an opportunity for community members to get valuable health care and screening information. In addition to providing valuable information at community events, the Speech, Language and Hearing Center at Molloy College provides complimentary screenings twice annually in the Center.



## Welcome New Faculty

While we are all sorry to have **Susan Alimonti** leave her position as Molloy College Speech Language and Hearing Center Director, she joined the **full time faculty** as an **instructor** in the Speech-Language Pathology Department in the fall of 2014. Professor Alimonti has provided excellent leadership at the Speech Center and has helped to grow the Center into a thriving instructional facility. Professor Alimonti, who has a varied clinical background, is a strong proponent of integrating theory and practice. An emerging researcher, Professor Alimonti is extremely interested in the area of motor speech and is currently involved in research exploring various ways of using technology to examine motor speech behaviors.

We welcomed **Professor Diane Saulle** to the department in September 2014. Professor Saulle comes to Molloy College with a strong clinical background in acute care and rehabilitation. Most recently employed at Long Island Jewish Medical Center, she has worked across the lifespan performing diagnostic evaluations and treatment to individuals with voice, speech, language, cognitive and swallowing disorders. Professor Saulle earned a BA and MA at St. Johns University, and is currently a doctoral candidate at Adelphi University, where she is examining voice in patients with Parkinson's Disease.

## Clinical Educators

We are pleased to announce that several new Clinical Educators joined the Speech-Language Pathology Department for the 2014-2015 academic year. Please join me in welcoming **Cathy Gillis, Claire Conway, Kristen Brelsford** and **Steve Langevin**. Each of these clinicians brings their own unique talents to teaching and we are fortunate to have recruited them to our program.



## Annual Department Scholarship Party

The Speech-Language Pathology Department hosted a party in November 2014 to raise funds for the **Rising Star Speech-Language Pathology Scholarship**. Students, faculty, alums and friends joined together in celebration. **Liz Gardner**, the administrative assistant for the Speech-Language Pathology Department, worked diligently to ensure that food and drink were plentiful.

The members of **NSSLHA** organized raffles for the event. A special thank you to **Gabriella Arcabascio** and **Jaelyn Gigante** for all of their hard work!

This annual event is something that everyone looks forward to. We consider it a great opportunity to spend time together for a good cause. We hope to see you there in the fall!

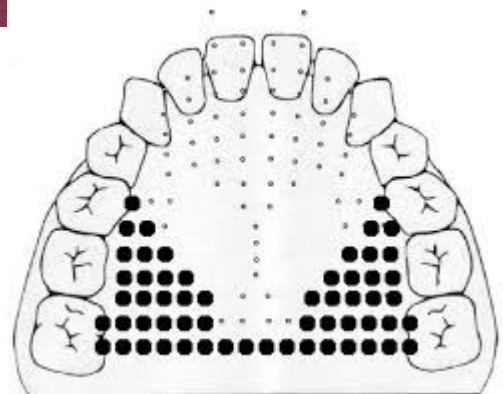


## Molloy College Speech-Language Pathology Team

For the third consecutive year the Molloy College Walk Team was presented with the **College of Excellence Award** by **Autism Speaks**. In addition to the distinction of being the College of Excellence, the Speech Language Pathology Department achieved **Gold Status** in recognition of their outstanding fundraising efforts. Students from **NSSLHA**, faculty and staff all collaborate to achieve this goal. **Professor Susan Alimonti**, team leader, works tirelessly each year to encourage participation. Autism Speaks is an organization that strives to encourage community awareness, research and support in the area of autism.

## The Department Acquires Electropalatography

The department of Speech Language Pathology has recently acquired instrumentation called **Electropalatography (EPG)**. This equipment was originally developed to assist individuals who are deaf to improve their production of speech sounds. Most recently, it is used in the examination of speech articulation disorders. The EPG is especially helpful in improving the production of non-visible speech sounds. Non-visible speech sounds include sounds (i.e., /s/ /t/, /l/, /k/ and /g/). These sounds are often the hardest to treat therapeutically, taking a great deal of time to remediate. An individualized retainer imbedded with up to 126 electrodes is custom made for each individual and placed in the oral cavity. Those electrodes, send a signal to a computer, providing a visual display on a computer screen of tongue-palate contact during the production of speech sounds. Thus the client has real-time visual feedback for correct speech sound articulation. **Drs. Buccheri, McGarr** and **Professor Saulle**, are initiating research using this instrumentation and are very excited to see it implemented as a therapeutic tool in the Speech, Language and Hearing Center at Molloy College.



## Spotlight on a Senior



**Jaclyn Gigante**, who is graduating in May 2015 with her B.S., came to Molloy College three years ago knowing she was interested in speech-language pathology. Working in the office of a gastroenterologist, she was well aware of the varied populations that experience dysphagia. She continues to be interested in working in the area of dysphagia, but realizes that as she is exposed to different populations her interests may change.

Jackie indicates that she enjoyed all of her coursework at Molloy, but found Disorders of Communication and Speech Science to be her two favorite courses. Jackie has been a curious student. In addition to her excellent academic performance, she has been an involved student and has taken advantage of all available opportunities. She has been an active participant in NSSLHA and currently serves as Vice President of the Molloy College Chapter. Additionally, Jaclyn has participated in numerous international travel opportunities, seeking to expand her personal growth and knowledge of different cultures. Jaclyn will attend Nazareth College for her master's degree in speech-language pathology in the fall.

## Joan Fox Award Recipient



Congratulations to second year graduate student **Ashley Myers**, who was selected to receive **the Joan Fox Award** from the Long Island Speech-Language-Hearing Association (LISHA). Ashley will be receiving her MS degree at the 2015 commencement. She has excelled in her coursework, as well as demonstrating mastery of skills during clinical activities. While a graduate student, Ashley traveled with members of the department to Jamaica WI, where she was able to provide much needed services to an underserved population. The award will be presented by Professor Ashcer at the May 20, 2015 LISHA awards in recognition for her exemplary work in the discipline.

## SENIOR GOES ACTIVE

Stephen Mancilla, B.S. 2015, has been in the speech language pathology program for 2 years. He has managed to make himself at home among the mostly female majors. If you are observant, you may have noticed that Steve is frequently seen on campus in a uniform, since he has been in the ROTC program. Stephen believes in making a commitment to his country and in May, immediately following graduation, he will be commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army. Stephen will begin his career at Ft. Lee, Virginia. Stephen recently presented his senior seminar project, which examined exercise and cognition. We wish Stephen all the best and look forward to hearing from him in the future.



## Speech Science Students Display Their Work!

Undergraduate Speech Science students display their semester projects. The class, under the instruction of **Dr. Buccheri**, were assigned a project that involved construction of a vocal tract. Their models were demonstrated for the department faculty at a December 2014 class meeting. Great job ladies!



## STUDENT RESEARCH DAY AT “THE GRADUATE CENTER” at CUNY

Undergraduate students **Arielle Mayer**, **Kate Pescitelli**, and **Nicole Sgambati** presented their research at the CUNY Research Day March 27, 2015. **Dr. Loraine Obler**, Distinguished Professor, was the keynote speaker at the event. The student posters were the product of a year-long research class with **Dr. Hia Datta**. The opportunity to present their research allowed them to meet other student researchers, faculty and tour the lab facilities at The Graduate Center, CUNY.



# Speech, Language and Hearing Center at Molloy College Following the Mission: Community Outreach

The Molloy College Speech, Language and Hearing Center continues to increase its community outreach each year. During the 2014-2015 academic year, students in the Speech-Language Pathology program, under the supervision of their clinical educators, conducted Language Enhancement Groups for preschool children in four different Head Start programs in Nassau County, including Eastern Nassau, Rockville Centre, Roosevelt and Freeport. The Language Enhancement Groups are designed to target those children who do not qualify for speech-language services through the Committee of Preschool Special Education in the children's school districts but still could benefit from language services. Both undergraduate and graduate students of the Speech-Language Pathology program participate in these groups as part of their clinical practicum experience. The students and clinical educators enjoy seeing the significant improvements in the children's communication skills!

In addition to the Language Enhancement Groups, students and clinical educators conducted formal speech-language screenings to all new entrants in the Head Start programs. Thus far, in the academic year of 2014-2015, the speech-language pathology students have screened over 200 preschoolers at the Head Start programs!

The speech center's community work is not limited to Head Start Programs. In November 2014, the speech center, in collaboration with the Nursing Department, hosted a Health and Wellness Fair where members of the community received complimentary speech, language and hearing screenings. Additional speech screenings were performed in April 2015 at a local preschool program in Rockville Centre. Furthermore, in June 2015, the graduate students will be administering complimentary end-of-the-year speech-language assessments to 60 students at a local universal pre-kindergarten program on the south shore of Long Island which is still recovering from the devastating effects of Hurricane Sandy.

The Molloy College Speech, Language and Hearing Center looks forward to continuing to serve the members of the community through these programs as well as other events in the future!

## Inspired Works



The Patricia Sullivan Common Reading Program Committee selected winners of the 2014 Inspired Works Contest. The students who entered this competition produced creative pieces responding to our 2014 reading selection, *One Amazing Thing*, by Chitra Divakaruni. **Cassandra Palmer**, undergraduate Speech Language Pathology major, was the first place winner with a painting, "Diversity."

Nice work Cassandra!

## Congrats M.S. Class of 2015

### M.S. Graduates

Ashley Myers SLP Academic Honors

Jenna Seganti SLP Honorable Mention



# Cultural Competency

Communication is dependent upon a shared system and a shared knowledge base. With increasing numbers of nonnative English speakers in the United States the SLP Department recognizes the need to prepare students equipped to function in a global society. To that end, the Department offers opportunities to learn about linguistic, ethnic and cultural diversity in a variety of contexts. A context that offers a unique experience can stimulate the mind and the soul. We consider travel such an experience.

During the 2014-2015 academic year students had various opportunities to enrich their cultural knowledge. In particular, in October 2014 and again in April 2015 students were invited to join **Professor Alimonti, Dr. Schmidt** and faculty and students from graduate nursing to travel on a medical outreach excursion to **Jamaica WI**. While in Jamaica, students provided clinical services and had the opportunity to experience first-hand the struggles of daily life within this underserved community.

In addition to the remarkable experience, a group of students traveled to **Paris, France** in March 2015. These students were able to visit the school for the Deaf and learn from their extensive history with this special population.

It is the philosophy of the Department to offer students diverse experiences that enhance learning and cultivate awareness that will be applied throughout their lives.





# Exploring Augmentative and Alternative Communication

By: Dianna Geneva (B.S. '11, M.S. '13)

After graduating from Molloy College's Speech-Language Pathology Masters Program in May of 2013, finishing my clinical fellowship and receiving my Certificate of Clinical Competence, I was in the market for a new adventure. I met that sought after adventure in July of 2014 when I was offered a job at CLASS, Inc. in Tacoma, Washington. CLASS, Inc. is a private clinic providing services to children and adults with various communicative needs. Shortly after being hired, I was approached by the clinic director and asked to take on the responsibilities as an Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Manager for the clinic.

At first, the thought overwhelmed me. But if you know me at all, you know I try to play it cool (even when I'm feeling less-than cool on the inside). So yes, I tried to play it cool in front of my boss. "Yes! I'm up for that job! I would love to be involved in increasing the AAC services of the clinic!"

Lucky for me, Molloy College's Speech-Language Pathology program had exposed me to hands on experience treating clients who use AAC (both at the Speech Language and Hearing Center at Molloy College, as well as through an externship at United Cerebral Palsy of Nassau). I reflected on those experiences and became motivated to take on this position.

Since July, I have conducted numerous AAC evaluations and placed several devices in the hands of those who need them. The feeling of giving a client the means to communicate is truly indescribable! Giving an individual a voice is a power I don't think I will ever get used to. But it is not only the act of acquiring the AAC device for the client that is special. When the device is put to use, I am the one left speechless. How Ironic? On countless occasions, *AAC has rendered me speechless*. The AAC users at CLASS, Inc. not only come to the clinic for individual therapy but many also participate in social groups and go on community outings. It is truly a beautiful experience to witness an AAC user express his/herself and watch as he/she is heard.

It is not only the use of AAC technology with non-verbal clients that has me eager to share my work. CLASS, Inc. has made it a mission to incorporate AAC with anyone who can benefit. Single output switches are involved in almost every session! Working on increasing MLU? Record an expanded utterance for the client to imitate. Working on literacy goals? Record a repetitive phrase and a book instantly becomes interactive. Working on pragmatic functions? Record comments or questions that go along with the activity. The single output switches, step switches, switch-boards, and low-tech devices with activity specific overlays have helped so many of our clients.

It is incredible to see how AAC can be used with individuals of all different ages and communicative needs! I am continuing to learn, continuing to experiment, and continuing to love my job as a speech-language pathologist!

## Spotlight on a Clinical Educator

**Stephanie Thomson**, a Clinical Educator and adjunct faculty member at Molloy College, earned her Master of Arts degree in speech-language pathology at Queens College and her Bachelor's degree in Speech-Language Pathology/Audiology at Molloy College. Her choice of career was the made after she started working at BOCES in 2000 as a teacher's aid and fell in love with children with special needs. Professor Thomson has worked with children at a variety of institutions, including the Kennedy Child Study Center in New York City and United Cerebral Palsy on Long Island. In addition to providing intervention she has supervised students at all levels of instruction. Students at Molloy College often comment on how generous Professor Thomson is with her time and knowledge.

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to the newly elected **NSSLHA Board**

President—Lindsay Plotkin  
Vice President—Jacklyn Barcia  
Treasurer—Dakota Giordenello  
Secretary—Dawn Lupeke  
Public Relations—Angie Elkaray  
Executive Assistant—Alissa Giannotti

**CONGRATULATIONS TO NSSLHA CLUB OF THE YEAR**  
**2015**  
**HARD WORK PAYS OFF**

The Speech-Language Pathology Department at Molloy takes pride in our focus on integration of theory and practice. It is thus not surprising that our continuing education programs are very well received, as both clinicians and academic faculty travel from near and far to attend. This past fall, we had a packed house as Leslie Faye-Davis, MS CCC/ SLP, NDT Instructor (Emeritus), provided an intellectually stimulating program titled *Evaluation and Treatment of Respiratory/ Phonatory Problems in Children with Motor Dysfunction: Beyond Oral-Motor Treatment*. Audience members in the filled to capacity room were enthralled by Ms. Davis' wealth of experience and captivating presentation style. She is always such a powerful presenter!

We are having three programs for ASHA CEUs this spring. First, Friday April 10<sup>th</sup> we were lucky to have a talented team from St. Mary's Hospital for Children presenting "**Pediatric Feeding and Swallowing: Post-Acute Care Assessment and Treatment**". Additionally, we are continuing with our inter-professional programming. We have two upcoming programs geared not only towards speech-language pathologists, but other professionals as well. Both presenters and attendees will represent multiple disciplines. Please contact Cindy Thomas in continuing education at [cthomas@molloy.edu](mailto:cthomas@molloy.edu) or 516-323-3554 to see if there are any seats available, or to be placed on a waitlist for the following program:

Upcoming on October 29, 2015, we will be lucky enough to have a presentation entitled "**Lexical processing and intervention for children with cochlear implants**". This presentation will integrate the presenters' research with clinical implications valuable to many. The presenters include: **Richard G. Schwartz, Ph.D., Presidential Professor**, Ph.D. Program in Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences, The Graduate Center of The City University of New York; **Susan Steinman**, New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai; **Elizabeth Ying**, Center for Hearing and Communication; **Zara DeLuca**, Ph.D. Program in Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences, The Graduate Center of The City University of New York; **Georgia Drakopoulou** Ph.D. Program in Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences, The Graduate Center of The City University of New York.

In addition to our own innovative programs, we continue to host other professional organizations as they provide valuable continuing education with a growing evidence base.. Please visit the PROMPT website at [www.promptinstitute.com](http://www.promptinstitute.com) for information regarding the upcoming PROMPT trainings taking place at Molloy on May 14-16 2015 (Introduction to Technique) and June 4-6, 2015 (Bridging).



## RETIREMENT

Best wishes to S. Margaret Kavanagh, O.P., Ed.D, in her retirement. S. Margaret, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Associate Professor in the Speech-Language Pathology Department, has taught phonetics throughout her career at Molloy College. S. Margaret is known to students for her fair, caring nature and as seeker of truth!. We will miss her!

# Speech Language Pathology 2014-2015





# What Our Clients Say About Us...

“In September 2014 I was referred to the Molloy College Speech Center. At that time I was becoming frustrated because people could not understand me and I began to avoid social situations.

After several weeks of speech and voice therapy my speech and voice improved.

Thank you Molloy for the caring and professional treatment. I am a new man!”

Eugene J. Murray

“I am VERY happy to have found this place. My daughter loves it, and she is more aware of how to speak. Everyone is very kind, and now my other daughter is going to start as well. As a school-based physical therapist, I know this is a great clinic!! LOVE LOVE LOVE!”

“My experiences at Molloy College Speech, Language and Hearing Center has been nothing but positive and wonderful. My son has been attending Molloy’s speech center for the past 2 years. All the supervisors and student clinicians have been outstanding and very professional. They have been able to plan each lesson to address my son’s language needs and create awesome activities to keep him motivated. After every session, the clinical would give me wonderful feedback on my son’s performance during his session and would give him homework assignments that address his areas of need. My son’s supervisors also took the time to meet with me throughout each semester to talk about his strengths/weakness/progress and goals. I also work in the field and have recommended many of my students to Molloy because I know they will receive great attention and speech therapy.”

“We have been coming to the Molloy Speech Center for three years from the time my daughter was in kindergarten. She has always loved coming to the center and enjoys the enthusiasm (and youthfulness!) of the students who have worked with her. It has made speech therapy a very positive experience for her. We have also always appreciated the professionalism of the staff and students as well as their flexibility and willingness to dovetail with the speech services my daughter gets at school.”

*Publisher*

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We're on the web!  
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**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR 2015 GRADUATES**

