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Let's Talk Speech! Volume 5 Issue 1

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Let's Talk Speech!

A Message from Dr. Barbara Schmidt

The 2011-2012 academic year has been wonderful and full of exciting changes. You are probably all getting tired of hearing me say that each semester! I cannot avoid saying it. We have new full time and part time faculty, great students, plans for an upcoming "relaxation retreat," an annual scholarship fundraiser, a 2013 trip to Ireland, and so much more.

However, as I reflect on the year and the articles that were submitted to the Newsletter, I feel compelled to point out that the Speech-Language Pathology Department is facing **one major problem**: we have too many exceptional students and faculty who are quite frankly too happy. Is it the water or the air quality that is causing this euphoria?



Since I was unable to answer that question, we contacted an independent environmental protection agency to assess the air and water quality in the department. After doing an exhaustive investigation, they were unable to

find an underlying reason for this state of joy. The conclusion of the elusive investigators, "speech-language pathology students and faculty appear to be intoxicated by the fumes that come from hard work and success."

So many wonderful people, so many exciting experiences and we are all so grateful. **Thanks to the faculty, administrators, and staff** who have contributed to the success of the 2011-2012 academic year!



Spring 2012

Inside this issue:

<i>Augmentative and Alternative Communication Equipment</i>	2
<i>Chronicles of a Graduate Student's Life</i>	3
<i>My experience as a Graduate Assistant</i>	3
<i>Continuing Education</i>	4
<i>Speech Center News</i>	4
<i>Focus of Faculty</i>	5
<i>Clinical Educator in the Limelight</i>	5
<i>Spotlight on a Senior</i>	5
<i>NSSLHA</i>	6

Special points of interest:

- *Save the date for the scholarship fund cocktail party, October 18, 2012, 6:30 PM.*
- *Join us for the Speech-Language Pathology Weekend, September 15!*
- *Congratulations to first year graduate student Dianna Geneva for the Joan Fox Award.*
- *Welcome Dr. Hia Datta, and Ms. Valerie Lau-pheimer.*
- *Kudos to NSSLHA for all the accomplishments during this academic year.*

News and Events

- The 2011-2012 academic year has been a great year. Our undergraduate students are thriving and we are extremely proud of our graduate students, who are exceeding our expectations. We have so many wonderful things to celebrate, and we are once again planning a "scholarship fund" cocktail party. Please "save the date" so that you can join us. **The donation for attending the cocktail party will go directly to the scholarship fund. The party is planned for Thursday October 18, 2012, 6:30 PM.**
- Our newsletter has a new name, **Let's Talk Speech!** Congratulations to the winner of the Newsletter Contest, **Lisamarie Ricigliano.**
- Congratulations to first year graduate student **Dianna Geneva**, who was selected to receive **The Joan Fox Award** from the Long Island Speech-Language-Hearing

Association (LISHA). Dianna has been doing an externship at United Cerebral Palsy during the spring 2012 semester and looks forward to her next externship in fall 2012. The award will be presented by Dr. Schmidt at the May 23, 2012 LISHA awards dinner, in recognition for her exemplary work in the discipline. Dianna will be completing her degree in May 2013.

- Dr. Hope Baylow presented her research "Swallowing and Neuro-muscular Fatigue in Adults with Acute Stroke: A Videofluorographic Analysis" at the 20th Annual Dysphagia Research Society meeting in Toronto, Canada, March 8-10, 2012. The conference was attended by more than 400

international researchers, physicians, and speech-language pathologists, representing over 23 countries.

- The Speech-Language Pathology Department will have 15 graduates this year. Congratulations to all the graduating seniors! The following students report being accepted to graduate school: **Megan Conway**, accepted at Hofstra University for SLP; **Victoria Cri-maudo**, accepted at Mercy College for Education; **Nikki Dietz**, accepted at Adelphi University for SLP.
- Next January 2013, 20 students will travel to Ireland to visit University College-Cork to spend the day with faculty and explore the speech pathology literature.

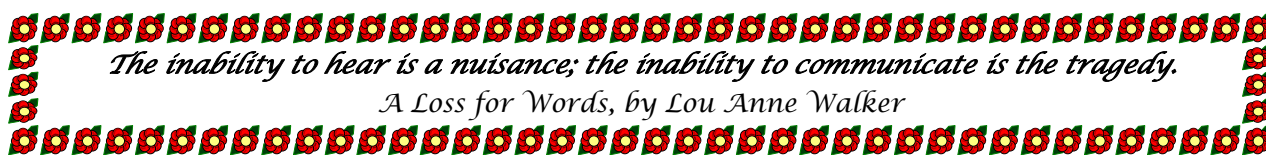


Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Equipment

The Speech-Language Pathology Department would like to thank **Mr. Edward Donnelly Jr.** and **Dynavox** for their generous support of the Molloy College Speech-Language Pathology Program. Thanks to the support of Mr. Donnelly, Dynavox donated six pieces of AAC equipment to the department. This donation will assist our faculty in providing

students with an educational opportunity that includes hands-on experience and will prepare them for clinical work with diverse populations who possess various needs. We are anxious to cultivate life-long learners who are eager to explore new communication modalities. This donation is a testament to Mr. Donnelly

and his personal commitment to the development of exemplary professionals.



The inability to hear is a nuisance; the inability to communicate is the tragedy.

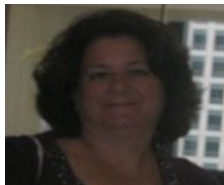
A Loss for Words, by Lou Anne Walker

More News and Events

- **Professor Carol Lynn Kearney**, along with students from the Communication Skills of the Hearing Impaired class, visited Sr. Joseph's School for the Deaf. The students had the opportunity to observe different classroom settings from Kindergarten to 8th grade, as well as the speech-language pathologist.



- We welcome **Valerie Laupheimer** to the Speech-Language Pathology Department. Valerie will be working part time as an administrative assistant in the Speech, Language and Hearing Center. Valerie was previously employed by Moody's Investors Service as a Product Coordinator, editing and proofreading research reports. Currently, she is the Volunteer Transportation Coordinator at St. Raphael's in East Meadow.
- Congratulations to Dr. Nancy McGarr for her 2012 publication in the International Journal of Speech-Language Pathology titled *Motivating factors influencing choice of major in undergraduates in communication sciences and disorders*.



Join Us!!

Speech-Language Pathology Weekend

*Manage your stress and
share a great time together!*

*Learn and practice:
Meditation and Yoga Techniques*

Take charge of your life

When: September 15, 2012 overnight

Departs: Molloy College

Time: 8:00 AM

Cost: \$75 per person*

Deposit: \$35.00 due by May 1st

**Includes room, transportation, instruction, and food.*

All attendees will be required to be part of the community events (e.g. Plan a meal, lead a discussion, etc.) and attend one brief planning meeting in May 2012.



Chronicles of a graduate student's life

By: Nicole Dobranski

On my first day of graduate school I was presented with a simple statement, "Your grades no longer matter." The over-achiever inside of me could not comprehend how this could be; after all, my life as a student was always motivated by how much grades did matter. I reflected back on my high school and college years as a student. I studied hard, I read the textbook, and I aced the tests, because I needed the good grades. I knew these grades would lead me into this very room in a graduate program. However, as almost a full year of graduate school is complete, I can now say grades are not all that matters. What matters is being compassionate, flexible, and an advocate for each client.

On days when I'm not in class, an average day looks something like this; I wake up at 7 AM, finish as much coffee as possible by 8 AM, attend clinical from 8 AM to 3 PM at ACDS in Plainview, then drive to Mitch and Toni's, where I waitress from 4 PM to close. Although this schedule is rigorous, it has become routine because I know my clinical hours provide me with the knowledge to one day be a successful speech-language pathologist, and my job provides me the gas money to get from Albertson to Rockville Centre to

Plainview and back again!

My first year as a graduate student has shown me how multi-dimensional my field of choice truly is. Everyday I am challenged to create and execute various treatment methods for clients with multiple disabilities. For example, for one client with Down syndrome, I need to provide multi-modal cues to elicit various sound combinations. On the other hand, for a client who is clinically blind and diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, I need to incorporate tactile exploration into every treatment session. Everyday I also challenge these children to reach their own individual goals, which we set for them. The ability to adapt to each circumstance is not something that a textbook has taught me; rather it is something that only hands-on experience has given me.

My academic success has been driven by the desire to be a great clinician. I have had the privilege to learn under professors such as Dr. Barbara Schmidt, Dr. Hope Baylow, Dr.

Nancy McGarr, Dr. Hia Datta, Dr. Mona El-Kady and Ms. Susan Alimonti. Each of these women has instilled in me the desire to be successful not only in the classroom, but in the professional field of speech pathology. Originally, I had believed that these women would teach me about various subjects, I would take a variety of tests and write volumes of papers, and I would be "successful." However, what they have truly taught me is that although my course work is so important, understanding the "speech pathology" that extends outside the classroom walls is truly what matters. I am no longer motivated by solely my grades in the classroom. What motivates me now is the gratification of hearing a non-verbal child say "hello."



My Experience as a Graduate Assistant

By: Danielle Mosca



I would have to say that almost all Speech-Language Pathology graduate students find themselves stressing over not having enough hours in the day to get their work done. We find ourselves sitting at a computer typing lesson plans, feeding the laminator more than ourselves, preparing new activities for our clients, and of course reading multiple peer reviewed journal articles every week. So one might ask why I would take on another responsibility, such as Graduate Assistantship when there is already so much to

do, and I would tell them that accepting my Graduate Assistantship was one of the best decisions I could have ever made.

As a graduate assistant for the Speech-Language Pathology Department, I have been given the opportunity to assist Dr. Schmidt in her research with the Education Department regarding learning disabilities in bilingual children. Going into the assistantship, I did not have a large knowledge base regarding the bilingual population. However, after many weeks researching and completing a review of the literature on the subject, I feel that I have learned so

much; not only from the articles, but from Dr. Schmidt as well. I learned more about a population that is very important in our scope of practice and improved my research skills, which is an essential skill that a Speech-Language Pathologist must have. I would recommend that every graduate student take advantage of an opportunity to become a graduate assistant because it gives you an opportunity to improve important skills and learn more about the field of Speech-Language Pathology.



Continuing Education

Molloy continues to plan and provide continuing education programs offered for ASHA CEUs. Additionally, we are pleased to host and/or provide programs cooperatively with other ASHA approved providers.

Most recently, on March 23, 2012, Dr. Cindy Arroyo and Ms. Jessica Litwack presented "New Directions in Alternative and Augmentative Communication". Dr. Arroyo and Ms. Litwack had a captive audience of speech pathologists, teachers and Molloy students. Attendees were provided with a comprehensive course covering the history of AAC devices, current devices and the newest IPAD applications. Both speakers spoke passionately about their work, augmenting their oral presentations with applicable personal experiences and video demonstrations showing therapeutic use of various AAC devices and IPAD applications. We look forward to working with Dr. Arroyo and Ms. Litwack again in the future.

In February 2012, Molloy was pleased to host an "Introduction to PROMPT Technique" course at our Farmingdale campus. This course, presented through the

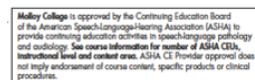
PROMPT Institute, was attended by licensed speech-language pathologists as well as of Molloy's inaugural graduate student, Ms. Dianna Geneva. Ms. Geneva was invited, along with her classmates, to complete a short research paper on the efficacy of motor based speech therapy techniques, in order to earn her seat in the course. Following completion of the course, Ms. Geneva was also required to present critically to her classmates on course content. Completion of the paper, subsequent attendance at the course and sharing knowledge gained with classmates are all consistent with the speech-language pathology program's goal to educate our students comprehensively, while having them independently research and utilize evidence based treatment practices. Having completed the course, Ms. Geneva is now able to utilize PROMPT techniques as appropriate, with her current and future clients.

- **April 18, 2012, 7:00 PM, PROMPT Study Group** - PROMT study groups are facilitated by two Certified PROMPT Instructors, Jennifer Shapiro, M.S., CCC-SLP and Tracy Delio, M.A., CCC-SLP. Study group are interactive and review PROMPT techniques and

principles. Participants are encouraged to bring video of current clients to review and all participants receive a certificate of attendance. Please contact The Molloy College Speech, Language and Hearing Center to register in advance. \$20 fee payable on April 18, 2012.

- **Fall 2012, A course is currently being planned for Fall 2012.**

Further information and registration for both of these presentations will be available soon through Molloy College's Office of Continuing Education. Online registration will be available at www.molloy.edu/ce. Registrations can also be taken by phone at 516-678-5000, Ext. 6206.



Speech Center News

Molloy College's Speech-Language Pathology student clinicians and Speech Center staff have been very busy providing quality services to our growing clientele. New and returning clients from a wide geographic area visit the center each week for evaluations and treatment services. In addition to our regularly scheduled speech and language services, we continue to provide complimentary speech-language and hearing screenings throughout the year. We are pleased to announce that we will again be opening our doors to the public for speech-language and hearing screenings this May in celebration of **Better Hearing and Speech Month**. Screenings will be available: **Tuesday May 29, 2012, 2:00 - 4:30 PM and Wednesday May 30, 2012, 4:00 - 6:00 PM**. Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are welcome!

Scheduling is underway for our fourth **"Summer Intervention Program"** which

will run for 10 weeks beginning **June 4, 2012** and ending the week of **August 6, 2012**. During the summer and throughout the year, our individual and group treatment sessions offer a variety of therapeutic settings appropriate to our clients' specific needs. We are happy to provide you with information about any of our services and our expanding adult and pediatric groups. Groups with openings still available for this summer include our **toddler and preschool language stimulation groups, our adult coffee and conversation group and an articulation group for school age children**.

We are proud to tell you that, as our first class of graduate students progresses through the program, more professionals outside of Molloy are able to see the talents of our students. This semester, five of our graduate students are completing their first outside clinical placements. Our students

interviewed for and were selected to participate in practicum at the following locations: Adults and Children with Learning and Developmental Disabilities/ACLD Kramer Learning Center; Association for Children with Down Syndrome; Seaford Union Free School District, Seaford Manor School, and United Cerebral Palsy of Nassau County.

We are thrilled with the feedback we have received thus far regarding the performance of our graduate students!

Please contact **The Molloy College Speech, Language and Hearing Center** with any questions or suggestions regarding communicative function or any of the Speech Center's programs.

516-442-1211

slhc@molloy.edu

Please look for us on Facebook!



Focus on Faculty

Dr. Hia Datta joined the Speech-Language Pathology Department in January 2012 after completing her position as a Post Doctoral Associate at the Sackler Institute of Developmental Psychology at Weill Cornell Medical College.

Dr. Datta was educated in communication disorders at All India Institute of Speech

and Hearing, where she received her B.S. and M.S. degrees. She went on to study at the Graduate Center, CUNY, receiving her Ph.D.

Her numerous publications include work in speech perception, language and bilingualism. She was invited to be the keynote speaker at the International Symposium on Bilingual Aphasia in January

2010, where she presented *Neural Correlates of Lexical Access in Language Attrition*.

We welcome Dr. Datta to Molloy College!



October 18

Save the date. Cocktail Party

Clinical Educator in the Limelight

Joanne C. Ascher joined the department as a clinical educator in the fall 2011 semester.

Professor Ascher, who was an exemplary student her-



self, first at Hofstra University and later at Adelphi University, is enjoying 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 Pro-

gram. 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.

Spotlight on a Senior: Sharlen Smith

Sharlen Smith is currently a senior in the Speech-Language Pathology Department. She came to the United States from Guyana in 2003 and quickly learned to adjust to a new way of life. She often comments on the excellent opportunities that the American educational system offers students.

Attending Molloy College for four years, Sharlen began her studies as an Eng-

lish major. She believes that changing to an SLP major was a terrific decision. Her clinical work has enabled her to learn the rewards of treating individuals with communication impairments. This semester Sharlen is working on her senior seminar project. She is examining the influence of bilingualism on word retrieval skills, utilizing a Stroop task.

She enjoys Molloy and has particularly appreciated

the fact that her classes are small and she is able to get to know everyone. Sharlen has applied to graduate school to continue her studies in SLP.



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*This issue of
Let's Talk Speech!
Is dedicated to the memory
Of our beloved student
Meghan Jestic*



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*Become a fan of Molloy College Speech
Pathology and Molloy College Speech,*

NSSLHA

By: Lisamarie Ricigliano

NSSLHA is filled with incredible students who are always focused on success. The undergraduate program has been growing and the new graduate program has been taking off. Our state of the art clinic and the prospect of a career as a Speech-Language Pathologist keeps us all very excited.

Throughout the 2011-2012 academic year, NSSLHA raised over \$8,000 in donations for Autism Speaks. The walk-a-thon and various fundraisers, such as a hair extension event, caused quite the colorful buzz on campus.

NSSLHA was able to raise a significant amount of money for the Rising Star Speech Pathology Scholarship by soliciting donations and assembling thematic gift baskets, which were raffled off at the department cocktail party.

The Molloy community was very proud to learn that our NSSLHA chapter was recognized nationally for submitting the most letters during Virtual Capitol Hill Day.

This year six NSSLHA members were able to attend the 2011 ASHA Convention. They had a great time and returned with experiences to share with the rest of the program.

Our Valentine's Day fundraiser and a delicious pasta sale raised over \$500 for NSSLHA "LOVES" - an annual community service activity which promotes fundraising among NSSLHA members in support of national organizations that work with people living with communication disorders. As part of another advocacy activity, we organized a voter registration drive on campus, encouraging our peers to register to vote and have their voices heard.

Bi-monthly fundraisers, events, and meetings results in NSSLHA being one of the most well-known and active clubs on campus. Our members participate at every large campus event held. Currently, we're in the process of organizing an anti-bullying walk-a-thon for September in collaboration with other local colleges, high schools, and community members.

We are proud to announce that Molloy College's NSSLHA chapter is in the running for receiving **Gold Level Recognition** for completing above and beyond national requirements; chapters who receive Gold Level Recognition are

acknowledge by the national association during the ASHA convention, in print throughout newsletters, and on the web.

We're excited for the future of NSSLHA and will continue to contribute to the community as future professionals.



NSSLHA