

# CS&D Alumni Newsletter



SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY  
Communication Sciences & Disorders  
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August 22, 2003



## From the Hotseat

### Ray Colton, Chair

It seems like only yesterday that I started my new position as chair of the Department. In fact, it has been almost a year when I write this. In spite of my long association with SU, I still had a lot to learn (and have a lot more). As a department, we faced the transition to Arts and Sciences as well as growing pains as we realized that we needed to do more things for ourselves. Policies and procedures both for students and faculty needed to be established, committees formed and budgets planned. The department owes a debt of gratitude to Linda Milosky, Interim Chair, who led the department through very difficult times, succeeded in reaccrediting the program with ASHA and the State Department of Education, and negotiated all of the nitty gritty details of our transition to the new college. Thanks also to the hard work of all the faculty, we have made considerable progress to establish an independent productive department. Our new college is great. We have a lot of support from the Dean and we are beginning to feel our way through the culture of the college. The wealth of knowledge exhibited in faculty and chair meetings about the operation of the college, the history of the college and its operations is truly outstanding. As the new kid

on the block, I listened and learned much during this year. There is a great emphasis on undergraduate education in the college and recruiting top-notch students. This past year, the incoming class has the highest high school GPA ever and the college has been able to become more selective about the students it recruits and enrolls. As our department becomes better known in the college, it is my hope that we can attract more high quality students. Already one of our courses has attracted attention of the college and other colleges. We expect about 110 students to be enrolled in CSD 212, our introductory course. Plus we will offer the course again in the spring for more students. One of our major efforts this year has been the preparation of a proposal to establish the AuD degree at SU. Karen Doherty and Beth Prieve worked very hard in January and February to produce an excellent proposal for a three year degree. You can read more about this proposal later in the newsletter. We hope to be able to enroll students in the degree by Fall 2004. Another major effort was the recruitment of a new faculty member in Speech-Language Pathology, an effort led by Mary Louise Edwards. The search was successful and resulted

in the hiring of Cathy Pelletier for the fall of 2003. Elsewhere in this newsletter is a brief introduction to Cathy. We are excited to have Cathy here and hope that she will have a long productive career at SU.

One of the differences that we have experienced in our new college was that they did not include graduate students in their convocation during graduation weekend. When we were in the School of Education, graduate students were always included in the convocation ceremonies. But we accepted the challenge and decided to hold a small department only convocation.

Through the creative ideas of our great faculty and the help of all of the faculty and staff, we pulled it off and had a short (but sweet) convocation ceremony. Mary Ann Wilson, one of our distinguished alumni, and Lindsay Duffy, a graduate audiology student, kicked off the ceremony with great addresses. All of the graduates were asked to say a few words about their graduate experience. Feedback about the event was great and I only hope that we can continue to capture the unique atmosphere that existed and produce a meaningful and exciting experience for future graduates.

For the summer of 2003, the Dean of the college provided moneys so that the department could hire someone to work on alumni relations development. Janet Ford agreed to work on several important tasks related to alumni relations. The first was the establishment of a complete and current database of our alumni. The second was to produce this newsletter and the third was to investigate some possible fund-raising programs that would target the significant needs of the program. One of my priorities along this line is to establish sources of funds to help the graduate student financially. The department

has a very small number of Graduate Assistantships available and I would like to be able to increase the number. One way is through Research Grants. Another is to convince the Dean to give us more. A third may involve support from our alumni. We are presently exploring several possibilities and please be assured that once we decide on the best course of action, I will be in touch with you. However, before that can happen, I will need to talk with some of our alumni and find out what they think our priorities should be. So don't be surprised if you receive a call from me sometime in the future.

As you may know, the SU CS&D community was saddened in November 2002 by the passing of one of our alumni and long-time supporter, Maureen Higgins. Maureen was both an undergraduate student and a graduate student in our program and for several years co-taught with me the Voice Disorders course. In March, Maureen's husband, Jeff Hicks, came to visit the university to work on establishing a Memorial Scholarship Fund for her and shared with the faculty a CD of pictures of Maureen that was shown at her memorial service in Omaha in December 2002. Alumni wishing to contribute to the fund may send it to the university with the notation that it is for the Maureen Higgins Memorial Scholarship Fund. Use of that money will be decided by the department in full compliance with Maureen's wishes and Jeff's advice.

I wish everyone a happy and productive year and hope to meet with and talk to more of you at meetings, in Syracuse or via phone. Please feel free to give me a ring (315-443-9648) with any of your suggestions or email me at [rcolton@syr.edu](mailto:rcolton@syr.edu).

## Speech-Language Clinic News

Michelle Williams, Speech-Language Clinic Director

Greetings from Gebbie's Speech and Language Clinic! The 2002-03 academic school year proved to be a busy one filled with new innovative programs and collaborative efforts with SU, the Syracuse Community, and our clinical faculty (Anita Lightburn, Danielle Rinaldi and Maryellen Massaro). Last fall several clinical faculty and students participated in Gebbie's new *C.L.A.S.S.* Program. The *C.L.A.S.S.* Program (Communication-Language-Academics-Social and Study Skills) was a new initiative designed by the directors of Gebbie Speech-Language Clinic and the Central New York Charter School for Math & Science to address the learning needs of children in this unique school setting. The speech-language students provided direct classroom-based instruction to address a variety of language needs to all children in grades K-6. The children at the CNY Charter School developed important skills and truly enjoyed the interactions and special attention they received from our graduate students. Our speech-language pathology students learned functional classroom-based therapeutic skills in addition to the ins and outs of working in an urban school setting. Our SU students also provided Kindergarten and Speech-Language Screenings to new children in the school as well as Hearing Screenings for all kindergarten through sixth grade children. This was an excellent opportunity for collaboration between our speech-language and audiology students and clinical faculty as well.

The Gebbie Speech-Language Clinic also looks forward to new collaborative opportunities with our new academic faculty. Dr. Cathy Pelletier, with an expertise in dysphagia, has opened up the door for clinical experiences in the area of feeding and swallowing. The Gebbie Speech-Language Clinic looks forward our new Swallowing Clinic, with the support of Dr. Pelletier. This clinic, which will function in conjunction with the dysphagia research lab at Skytop, will allow students to participate in the evaluation and treatment of patients with feeding and swallowing disorders through a supervised, clinic-based assignment. Our new CS&D Chair, Dr. Ray Colton, also brings exciting opportunities in the area of voice to our clinic. We have been fortunate enough to have Dr. Colton participate in the diagnostic process of voice clients and have consulted with him on difficult voice cases that have been referred to us this year. He even brought the Advanced Diagnostic Team of students and the clinical supervisor to University Hospital to observe a stroboscopy of one of our clients. Through his support we have also purchased a high quality piece of equipment and computer programs that will assist our clinical faculty and students in the diagnosis and therapy of clients with voice needs. It is our hope to make additional purchases to address this area of clinical work, in addition to supporting our goals of expanding our medically based speech-language services and adult population even further.



## WINE AND CHEESE RECEPTION AT ASHA

Friday, November 14, 2003

5:00 until 6:30 p.m.

Hyatt Regency

Conference Room 24

### **Please attend ASHA Presentations by Faculty/Students:**

Edwards, M.L., & Korn Rider, S.: The residual effects of phonological disorders in older adolescents.

Pelletier, C.A., Sullivan, P., McCullough, G., & Steele, C.: Quest for consistency: concepts in developing dysphagia diets.

Shi, L., & Doherty, K.A.: Loudness growth as a function of SDRC amplification.

Voleti, R., & Milosky, L.M.: Young children's language abilities & interpretation of adult intents.

## **AuD Program**

**Karen Doherty, Associate Professor**

There are some exciting changes in the future of our Audiology program. We're in the process of replacing our current Master's of Science degree program in Audiology with a three-year clinical doctoral degree program (AuD). The need for this programmatic change is based on new certification and accreditation standards imposed by the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA), which has determined that the increased scope of practice for Audiology requires a doctoral degree, instead of a Master's degree, for professional audiologists. Our Ph.D. in Audiology will remain as is, with its emphasis on research.

Our AuD program will offer students distinctive opportunities associated with the collaboration and support from programs in Psychology, Education, Bioengineering, Business, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Newhouse School of Public Communications and the Ph.D. programs in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology. Our proximity to the SUNY Upstate Medical University, VA hospital and several other area hospitals as well as our numerous prestigious national externship sites will provide our AuD students with excellent clinical opportunities. We believe our students will become leaders in the clinical field. The AuD proposal is currently being reviewed by the administration at Syracuse University and the New York State Education Department. We hope to start admitting students to the AuD program in Fall 2004.

## News From the Audiology Clinic

Joe Pellegrino, Audiology Clinic Director

- The Audiology clinic is pleased to announce the return of Tammy Kordas. Tammy has resumed her position as Clinic Supervisor after a brief stay out of state. Tammy's background in educational audiology brings a new dimension of central auditory processing evaluations and school aged hearing aid and FM fittings to our clinic.
- The clinic is also very excited about our new, state of the art equipment. We've recently added two new audiometers and a new otoacoustic emission system!
- The clinic has begun to host ASHA teleconferences in response to new CEU standards for audiologists. This is a great opportunity to earn CEU's while maintaining ties with local audiologists. If you live in the CNY area and would like to be notified about upcoming CEU events, please email the clinic director (Joe Pellegrino) at [jtpelleg@syr.edu](mailto:jtpelleg@syr.edu)

## Our Newest

### Faculty Member: Cathy A. Pelletier

#### Ray Colton, Professor

Cathy will join the faculty as an Assistant Professor in the Fall 2003. But Cathy has been with us for a year as a Visiting Assistant Professor after receiving her Ph.D. from Cornell in May 2002. During the short year, she has taught four courses, advised the local chapter of NSSLHA and actively participated in every phase of our program. Cathy's main interest is in feeding and swallowing disorders but she also teaches our Neurophysiology, Neuropathologies and Motor Speech Disorders courses. Her interest in dysphagia is unique in that it focuses on taste and how different food tastes may affect swallowing behavior. She has conducted research on the psychophysics of taste perception and is actively developing her lab facilities to pursue this line of research in the future. Prior to deciding to go on for a PhD, Cathy owned her own private practice and provided contract



speech pathology services to local nursing homes employing several other speech-language pathologists. During this time, she became a specialist in administering FEES (Fiberoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing). Cathy soon gained national recognition as an authority on swallowing disorders. You may recognize Cathy's name as she is co-author with Maggie Lee Huckabee of the text, *Management of Adult Neurogenic Dysphagia* (1999, Singular Publishing Group, Inc.). Cathy has served on state and national committees, and is frequently invited to lecture on dysphagia to many professional organizations. We are very pleased to welcome Cathy to our faculty and know that she will have a stellar career in teaching and research. Our students will benefit greatly from her expertise, enthusiasm, skills and interest in their education.

In Memoriam



**Maureen B. Higgins**  
1962-2002

**Beth Prieve, Associate Professor**

It was with deep sadness that we received the news that Dr. Maureen Higgins, CS+D adjunct professor and graduate, passed away on November 19, 2002. Maureen was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma in 1990. Over the past 12 years she continued to go forward in her career to become a well-respected researcher, effective clinician and clinic director.

Maureen first came to Syracuse University in the fall of 1979. She graduated in 1984, summa cum laude, with her bachelor's degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders. Maureen was a Syracuse University Scholar and the Valedictorian of the class of 1984. She was the undergraduate Commencement Speaker for her class. Maureen went on to receive her M.S. degree in Speech Pathology in 1987 and her Ph.D. in Speech Pathology in 1989. She focused her graduate research on speech and voice physiology under the mentorship of John Saxman. After finishing her Ph.D. in 1989, she accepted a post-doctoral research fellowship at Boystown National Research Hospital (BTNRH) in Omaha, Nebraska, where she collaborated with Drs. Ron Netsell and Arlene Carney. Maureen stayed at BTNRH, where she eventually became the Coordinator of Speech and Language Services. In addition to delivering speech and voice services to patients, she had an active research program. She received an ASHA award for new investigators and was a principle investigator on several grants from the National Institutes of Health. Maureen's research on speech and voice characteristics and intervention for deaf children was creative and offered a deep, integrated view of the interdependence of phonation and hearing in this population. Her excellence as a researcher and critical thinker was nationally recognized. She was an Associate Editor for

JSLHR and a frequent reviewer for National Institutes of Health study sections. She performed these services to the profession until days before her death.

Being a successful scientist was but one part of Maureen. She was a caring, empathetic clinician who felt deeply about her patients. In addition to delivering the best therapy and services to her patients, one of her utmost concerns was to make sure that they were treated with respect and that diagnosis and treatment remained confidential. Maureen was also an excellent teacher. From 1998-2001 we were fortunate to lure her back to Syracuse University to co-teach the Voice Disorders course with Dr. Ray Colton. Maureen would come for several weeks in the fall semester to teach the clinical aspects of Voice Disorders.

Perhaps the greatest tribute to Maureen is that she lived up to her own challenge, spoken publicly before her peers and their families, professors and administrators, delivered in her Commencement speech in 1984: "The value of each life is measured by the changes that it effects." She went on to say that individuals don't have to make world-wide impacts, but must strive to better the world in some small way. In addition, Maureen challenged everyone to be creative and independent thinkers to bring about these changes. Maureen lived up to her challenge, and succeeded in bettering the lives of her peers, patients, students and colleagues.

Maureen is survived by her husband of 11 years, Jeffery Hicks, her mother, two brothers, and two nieces. Because of Maureen's tremendous passion for teaching, mentoring and education, Jeffery is carrying out Maureen's wishes and has established a scholarship fund in her name to benefit a graduate student in Communication Sciences and Disorders. The expectation is that it will be awarded yearly to an individual who best exemplifies Maureen's spirit. If you wish to contribute memorial gifts to this fund, they should be sent to:

**Erica Anderson, Office of Donor Relations,  
Syracuse University, 820 Comstock Avenue,  
Syracuse, NY 13244 for the Maureen B. Higgins  
Memorial Scholarship Fund.**

## Recent Faculty Publications and Grants



Carney, L., & Doherty, K. (2003). Relationship between hearing aid knowledge and hearing aid satisfaction. Schneller Grant.

Casper, J.K., Clark, W.R., Kelley, R.T., & Colton, R.H. (2002). Laryngeal and phonatory status after burn/inhalation injury: A long term follow-up study. *Journal of Burn Care Rehabilitation*, 23, 235-243.

Doherty, K. (2003). Physiologically-based signal processing schemes." National Institute of Health (NIDCD). 2002-2003.

Edwards, M.L. (2002). Phonetic transcription of children's speech. In the MIT Encyclopedia of Communication Disorders (MITECD), R.D. Kent (Ed.)

Ford, J.A., & Milosky, L.M. (2003). Inferring emotional reactions in social situations: Differences in children with language impairment. *Journal of Speech, Language and Hearing Research*, 46, 21-30.

Lawless, H.T., Bender, S., Oman, C., & Pelletier, C. (2003). Gender, age, vessel size, cup vs. straw sipping and sequence effects on sip volume. *Dysphagia*, 18(3), 196-202.

Leonard, R., Dworkin, J.P., Meleca, R.J., Colton, R.H., Leeper, H.A., & Till, J.A. (2002). Assessment of the disordered voice: A roundtable discussion. *Journal of Medical Speech Pathology*, 10, 111-131.

Pelletier, C.A., & Lawless, H.T., (2003). Measuring taste acceptance in neurologically impaired adults. *Food Quality and Preference*, 14, 595-602.

Sullivan, P, Pelletier, CA, McCullough, G, & Steele, C, Brown, J, Swigert, N. (in press for Oct, 2003). Determining Dysphagia Diets. *The ASHA Leader*. Rockville Pike, MD.

## Recently Honored Alumni



Caruso, Anthony (Ph.D. '83). The Kent State Chapter of the National Student Speech Language and Hearing Association recently sponsored a fundraiser and donated the proceeds to the American Parkinson Disease Association in Anthony's honor.

Yaruss, J. Scott (Ph.D. '94). Scott recently received tenure at the University of Pittsburgh. He also received the Dean's Distinguished Teaching Award in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.

DiRobbio, Bethany (BS '00). Bethany was the recipient of the "Outstanding Graduate Clinician" Award at Northern Arizona University.

## Alumni Updates



### 1970s

Smoger-Kessous, Sherril (BS, '73). Sherril is a staff therapist working in an early intervention program in Parsippany, New Jersey.

Zisk Rosner, Lori (BS '76; MS '77). Lori is a speech-language specialist for the River Edge Public School System. She and her husband Rob live in

Teaneck, New Jersey. They have three children – Marisa, Lane and Samara.

### 1980s

Rezen, Susan (Ph.D. '80). Susan is a full professor at Worcester State College.

Hilley (Hughes), Mary (MS, '82). Mary is the supervisor of Related Services for the Gloucester County Special Services School District. Mary has two wonderful children (8 and 10 years old). She coaches a traveling soccer team (for her daughter's team), and is co-leader of a Brownie Troop.

Kanel, Robin (MS '82). Robin lives in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. She is a speech language pathologist in an elementary school, working with children with autism.

Roche Natale, Marianne (MS '83). Marianne lives in Yorktown Heights, NY where she is a contract SLP, serving nursing homes and home care agencies.

Tennant, Angela (MS '84). Angela lives in Geneva, Illinois. She is an Assistive Technology Provider for a Special Education Cooperative.

Ritacco-Price, Phyllis (MS '79, CAS'87). Phyllis lives in Camillus NY with her husband and three children. She is an elementary principal and CSE chairperson.

Emm, Mary (MS '89). Mary is Clinic Director and Lecturer at SUNY Cortland.

### 1990s

Bowen, Kristine (MS '92). Kristine is an SLP at HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital in Concord NH. She specializes in adolescent and adult acute neurogenic rehabilitation.

Goldberg, Lori (MS '92). Lori is an SLP at the Center for children with Special Needs at New England Medical Center in Boston. She married in June 2002 (completing their family are two greyhounds and two cats), recently moving to Merrimack, New Hampshire.

Green, Dawn (MS '92). Dawn is a senior SLP and Student Program Coordinator. She lives in Long Beach, New York.

Willsey, Monica (MS'92). Monica is an SLP at Liverpool High School (near Syracuse), and also has a private practice. She recently moved to Homer where she and her family are building a home.

Vail (Kip), Christina (MS '92). Christina has a private practice in Towanda, PA.

Toohey (Swigert), Sarah (MS '93). Sarah is an educational audiologist with the Chicago Public Schools.

Cleary, Julie (MS '94). Julie received her Ph.D. from Florida State University in 2002. She now works as a



research coordinator of an NIH study, where she oversees research activities designed to evaluate younger siblings of children with autism for early markers of autism.

Hamilton, Heather (BS, '93, MS '95). Heather has a pediatric private practice in Tampa, FL. She had a successful kidney transplant in 1999 (the kidney was donated by her husband).

Ketchen, Stephanie (BS, '94). Stephanie is an SLP and the Instructional Coordinator of Special Education for Babcock Middle School.

Whitney, Sandra (MS '95). Sandra is an SLP for DCMO-BOCES in Norwich NY, and she has a private practice in Chenango (and surrounding) counties.

Reynolds-Gimore, Mary (MS '95). Mary is an adjunct instructor at Molloy College. She is also a speech/swallow consultant at Winthrop-University Hospital.

Banks-Stewart, Angela (MS '95). Angela is a clinical supervisor in the Robert L. Milisen speech-Language Clinic at Indiana University, specializing in autism and augmentative/alternative communication.

Thiesen Gardner, Kathleen (MS '95). Kathleen is an SLP in Fairfield Public Schools. She and her husband are the proud parents of Andrew, who is almost 3 years old.

Czyzewski, Julie (BS '97). Julie is an SLP specializing in pediatric rehabilitation and early intervention.

Louko, Linda (Ph.D. '98). Linda is Clinic Director/Associate Professor at the Wendell Johnson Speech and Hearing Center at the University of Iowa.

Tibollo, Greg (MS '99). Greg is an SLP at Reszel Middle School in the North Tonawanda City School District.

He married in 2001; he and his wife had their first baby in October 2002.

Sampson (Hendel), Margaret (MS '99). Meg is an Aural Rehabilitation Therapist with the Listening Center at Johns Hopkins.

Dyrenforth (Dahlgren), Judy (MS '99). Judy is an SLP working for the Anchorage School District in Alaska. She was married in June 2002; her husband is a lieutenant stationed at Fort Richardson.

## **2000s**

Brosnahan, Katherine (BS '98, MS '00). Katie is working as an SLP in a school district in Westchester, NY.

Capellini, Meaghan (BS '00). Meaghan received her MA from the University of Pittsburgh in 2002. She is working as an SLP at Full Spectrum Therapy in Clarksville, TN.

DiRobbio, Bethany (BS '00). Bethany received her MS from Northern Arizona University in 2002 (see above honor), where she was the recipient of the "Outstanding Graduate Clinician" Award. She is an SLP for Sundance Rehabilitation in Metro Boston.

Palmer, Amy (BS '01). Amy recently received her Master's in Special Education from NYU.

Aswad, Kelly (MS '01). Kelly is an SLP at Lourdes Hospital, working with video fluoroscopy, EI, home health and hospice.

Nezelek, Karen (MA '69, Ph.D. '01). Karen is an adjunct faculty member and research associate at Syracuse University. She and Dick have recently traveled to Peru, Japan and Italy. Karen is still singing in the Schola Cantorum of Syracuse.

## ALUMNI

We'd like to hear from you, and so would your colleagues! Please fill out this form and send it back or e-mail your responses to [jpemmi@syrr.edu](mailto:jpemmi@syrr.edu). This form is can also be completed on our website: <http://thecollege.syrr.edu/depts/csd/fac-st.html>. Please pass the word.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (work) \_\_\_\_\_ (home) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of S.U. Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_ Degree: \_\_\_\_\_

Area: SLP \_\_\_\_\_ AUD \_\_\_\_\_

Present Position / Responsibilities:

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\_\_\_\_\_

Other news/comments:

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Would you like to receive newsletters via e-mail? \_\_\_\_