MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

It is with pride that I send you the 2014 newsletter from the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology at Western Michigan University. We have been a busy, productive group, recognized on campus for being exemplary contributors to Western’s three pillars, being discovery-driven, learner-centered and globally engaged. The items covered in this newsletter reflect this productivity and are emblematic of our strong programs and outstanding faculty and students, whose work together brings us distinction.

Of special note is the increased engagement of undergraduate students in collaborative research with faculty, accomplished through a focused initiative led by Dr. Stephen Tasko. The students simply beam when they have the opportunity to present their work and receive recognition at professional venues. Also notable are the accelerated 4 + 3 audiology doctoral program, new endowed scholarships, global initiatives, and the sustained growth of our clinical programs featured in last summer’s e-news, available at wmich.edu/speech-audiology.

I trust you will enjoy reading of our continued tradition of excellence and share my sense of pride in our teaching, research, and service leadership. And, we hope to hear from you—alumni and friends; please visit our website to share your news, update your email and contact information, and even arrange a visit. It’s always a great day to be a Bronco!

NSSLHA TO RECEIVE ASHA CHAPTER HONORS

Congratulations to our chapter of the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association, which was awarded Chapter Honors at the Silver Level from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association in recognition of work in philanthropy, community service, career awareness, advocacy and networking. This is a first for our NSSLHA chapter and well-deserved for a very active 2013-14 with the guidance of faculty advisor Cary Cekola.

Among their many activities, they volunteered at a local senior living community, informed middle school students about the fields of speech-language pathology and audiology at an MLK STEMulating careers event, and partnered with Psi Iota Xi in blind rehabilitation bingo celebrations and an Honor Flight reception for World War II veterans.

In addition, the group held several fund raisers. Among them was “Scoops for Smiles” through which students and faculty helped a young boy from St. Lucia receive cleft lip and cleft alveolar surgery (see story on page 3). Also, a year-end banquet and silent auction they sponsored for the department brought in significant funds.

All of this activity did not go unnoticed! The Silver Level Chapter Honors will be presented at the NSSLHA Honors Ceremony at the Annual Convention of the association in November, 2014.
FAREWELLS AND WELCOMES

Professor Gary D. Lawson retired from the speech pathology and audiology faculty in April 2014. Lawson came to WMU in 1978 on a term appointment and was hired as an assistant professor in 1982. Over 36 years, he has taught eight different courses in the fields of hearing science and clinical audiology and has published and presented widely on these topics.

Among his many accomplishments and contributions was preparation of the proposal for the doctoral degree in audiology from 2000 to 2003, launching that program, and serving as its coordinator until his retirement. Also of note is his publication of the book “Speech Audiometry” (2011) as part of the Core Clinical Concepts in Audiology Series, with colleague Mary Peterson.

Lawson has pursued excellence in all of his professional work and has brought recognition to WMU through his devoted mentoring of future audiologists, his leadership in program development, and his clinical expertise reflected in scholarship and service. To honor Lawson and his career, the faculty and staff have initiated the Gary Lawson Audiology Scholarship to support an audiology student.

Lisa LeBlanc, Ph.D. retired from the department in December 2013 after 29 years of service to Western teaching American Sign Language (ASL). She earned both her M.A. in linguistics/education and her Ph.D. in psychology from WMU. An adjunct associate professor in the department since 1997, LeBlanc was instrumental in increasing the visibility of the courses through establishing a SIGN prefix, and in stimulating growth of the ASL offerings, from ASL I to ASL IV.

Two part-time American Sign Language instructors have recently joined the department faculty. Stacy Marsala, who teaches ASL I and II, holds the National Interpreter Certification and an associate’s degree in sign language interpretation. She has interpreted in a variety of health care and education settings and taught ASL at Lansing Community College. She has also presented at the Counsel for Exemplary Children. She is currently working on a master’s degree in communication at WMU.

Jamie Rix, who teaches ASL I–IV, holds the certificate of interpreting and certificate of transliterating from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. Her 20 plus years of interpreting experience includes work in government, education, health, theatre and law. She is currently completing the University of Northern Colorado’s Legal Interpreter Training Program, which will culminate in a master’s degree in ASL/English interpreting pedagogy from the University of Northern Florida.

We have bid farewell to long term, part-time clinical educators Nora Kelly and Carolyn Maki, with thanks for countless hours of supervision for student clinicians in the Charles Van Riper Language, Speech, and Hearing Clinic. In turn, we have welcomed three new part-time clinical educators: alumnae Abby DeVisser and Carolyn Kennedy, and Kathy Rigley-Rowell.

In August 2013 we welcomed Jennifer DeHaan, whom we recruited from the dean’s administrative staff to the crucial position of office coordinator. We bid farewell to Hannah Borton, who had been in the position and left to accept a graduate assistantship in pursuit of a master’s in biological sciences at WMU.

FACULTY HONORS AND AWARDS

Faculty Specialist II Cary Cekola, faculty advisor to the WMU chapter of the National Student Speech, Language and Hearing Association, received the 2013 Registered Student Organization Advisor of the Year award at the Golden Bronco Awards.

In 2013, Professor Yvette D. Hyter was honored as a Fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association for her work in the areas of clinical service and education, teaching, service, and leadership in relation to speech-language pathology. This distinguishes her as an exemplary professional and recognizes the quality and quantity of her contributions to the field, including: co-founding the Southwest Michigan Children’s Trauma Assessment Center; serving as the vice president of the Transnational Research and Education Laboratory; and, with two colleagues, launching a study abroad course in Senegal, West Africa (see story on page 3).

In January 2014, Associate Professor Helen Sharp took the elected office of president of the American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association, an association of professionals representing over 30 disciplines with members in more than 70 countries who aspire to optimize the care of individuals and families affected by cleft lip, cleft palate, and other craniofacial conditions.
EXCELLENCE AWARDS

At an annual faculty and staff award ceremony in December 2013, College of Health and Human Services Dean Earlie M. Washington presented Associate Professor Greg Flamme with the Research Excellence Award, and Professor and Director of the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Ph.D. Program Nicki Nelson with the Scholarship Excellence Award.

Flamme's primary research interest is in hearing loss prevention and the evaluation and treatment of hearing loss. He has published papers on the prevalence of hearing impairment in the U.S. population, hearing loss prevention, hearing aid use, benefit, and outcome measures. He is currently working on the data from two federal research contracts, two national surveys of hearing, and one joint U.S. National Institutes of Health and Department of Education longitudinal study. (Find more details at wmich.edu/hhs/flamme-award.)

Nelson is known nationally and internationally for her work on childhood language disorders and their effects on literacy development. Over her career at WMU, she has been responsible for more than $2 million in funded projects related to these issues. She is now completing the standardization phase of the Test of Integrated Language and Literacy Skills, funded by the Institute of Educational Sciences. In 2010, she published the second edition of her widely used text, Language and Literacy Disorders: Infancy through Adolescence, and she received Honors of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association in 2011. (Find more details at wmich.edu/hhs/nelson-award.)

CONNECTING GLOBALLY

STUDY ABROAD CONNECTS DISCIPLINES AND NATIONS

In 2012, Professor Yvette D. Hyter and two colleagues, Dr. Sarah Summy, associate professor of special education, and Dr. W.F. Santiago-Valles, a now retired professor from WMU's Africana studies program, launched Cultural Connections in Senegal: Causes of Globalization and Consequences on Systems. This course focuses the attention of students from three different colleges to examine the consequences of globalization on public policy, health and education systems in West African and the U.S. Midwest.

Through two Fulbright Hays Group Project Abroad grants, Hyter and Santiago-Valles have performed fieldwork in Cape Verde, Mali, and Senegal. With field research and study abroad projects, says Hyter, “We want our students to think of themselves as global citizens and how the world is interconnected, to realize that decisions made in the U.S. affect other people, and that they are often further ahead than we are in solving shared problems.”

NSSLHA STUDENTS “SCOOP FOR SMILES” TO SUPPORT CLEFT LIP SURGERY FOR TODDLER

In November 2013, former SPPA faculty member Elaine DeRoover Cosby, who was volunteering as a speech-language pathologist in the island country of St. Lucia, brought a 3-year-old with an unrepaired cleft lip and primary palate to the attention of faculty member Dr. Helen Sharp. This child’s speech was negatively affected, and he was already showing considerable awareness of his facial difference. He was on a waiting list for surgery, estimated to be two to three years in the future, but action was already taking place to expedite the surgery for him.

The Foundation of Nationwide Children’s Hospital in Columbus, Ohio had agreed to cover the medical and surgical care, and a foundation and fundraisers in St. Lucia supported travel and visa fees.

In addition, a family in Columbus with a child of similar age and a history of late cleft palate repair offered to host the family for their 10-day stay.
GRADS JOIN HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES OUTSTANDING ALUMNI ACADEMY

Congratulations to alumni Candis Warner ’70 and Michael Flahive ’71, ’73 who were two of 10 College of Health and Human Services alumni who were inducted into the college’s Outstanding Alumni Academy on Oct. 11, 2013, representing the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology. This honor recognizes leadership and significant accomplishments and contributions alumni have made in their careers or public service.

After earning her master’s degree and working as a school speech-language pathologist, Warner returned to the department, also earning master’s and doctoral degrees in counselor education and counseling psychology. From 1987 to 2000, she served as an assistant professor with the department, publishing on topics such as counseling for individuals and families impacted by communication disorders. In 1989, she received an ANNI award for excellence in local cable programing from the Kalamazoo Community Access Center for her program The Prevention of Communication Disorders. For the past 20 years, she has worked with children with autism and other developmental disorders and their families in private practice.

Flahive went on to earn a doctoral degree in speech-language pathology after earning master’s degrees in both speech-language pathology and audiology. His dual-focus career has included teaching, administration and clinical service with Marywood College, Valparaiso University, Saint Xavier University, and currently, Saint Mary’s College, Notre Dame. Notable among his contributions are the development of the undergraduate and graduate programs. He is an American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Fellow and received the 2012 Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders’ Distinguished Service Award.

ALUMNI BOARD FORMED

With the leadership of Donna Oas ‘66, the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology has recently formed an alumni board. Emeritae Mary Ida Hunt and Karen Seelig, alumna Logan Brown ’72, and current faculty member Kathy Hillenbrand served with Oas on a planning committee, which met to develop goals and procedures for the board.

The first board meeting took place in March 2014, coinciding with the Michigan Speech Language and Hearing Association conference in Kalamazoo. The meeting schedule will continue to coincide with that conference and the Van Riper lectures held in October.

The board’s contribution of new ideas and other feedback will benefit the program and fulfill a requirement of accreditation with regard to stakeholder input. Goals also include increasing donor activity and being responsive to other emerging issues. Interested individuals are encouraged to contact Donna Oas at (269)-657-6309 or oas@wmich.edu.

ALUMNI NEWS

2014 VAN RIPER LECTURES SET FOR OCT. 9–10

The 2014 Van Riper Lecture “Bilingualism and Second Language Acquisition” will be held on Thursday, Oct. 9 and Friday morning, Oct. 10 at the WMU Fetzer Center. Distinguished speakers Elizabeth Peña, Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin and Barbara Conboy, Ph.D., University of Redlands will outline best practices for children who are bilingual and second language learners. CEUs of 9.5 hours can be earned by attending the entire conference.

A focus of the lectures will be the foundational skills, such as speech perception and cognitive control of these populations, and how these skills are linked to typical language and literacy development. Implications for intervention will be presented, and best methods for assessment will also be discussed, especially in differentiating language variations from language impairments.

For more information and registration, please visit mywmu.com/vanriper or contact Paula Armstrong at paula.armstrong@wmich.edu or (269) 387-8045. Registration, by mail or online, must be received by Sept. 26, 2014.
A Spring Research Colloquium on March 21, 2014 featured five student presentations: The influence of speaking rate on nasalance in typical adult speakers by Rachel Whitney; Teratogenic effects of alcohol on the Xenopus auditory hindbrain by Stephanie Palazzolo; The effect of music with and without the infusion of auditory binaural beats on blood pressure and pulse by Grace Krol; Psychometric functions from the Hughson Westlake threshold procedure by Kyle Geda; and The low fence for hearing trouble among adults: Evidence from NHANES by Alicia Arends.

At a ceremony hosted by the Graduate College in April 2014, recent graduates Lisa Oliphant and Rachel Whitney received 2013-14 All-University Graduate Student Research and Creative Scholars awards.

In collaboration with faculty mentors, speech pathology and audiology students—some who are now alumni—presented their research at conferences in 2013 and 2014:

March 2014: American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association annual meeting, Rachel Whitney presented her master’s thesis project, The influence of speaking rate on nasalance in typical adult speakers, and Catherine Hearit presented her undergraduate honors thesis project, Unsteady nasalance traces among sustained vowels in typical adult speakers: Prevalence and potential causes. Faculty members Dr. Stephen Tasko, Dr. Helen Sharp and Dr. Greg Flamme were co-authors and co-presenters on both of these presentations.

November 2013: American Speech Language Hearing Association Convention: Master’s thesis projects of Heather Osterhouse, Explicit teacher-implemented phoneme awareness instruction: Preschool effects, and Katherine Wickham, Preschoolers with speech and language impairment: Case studies from a teacher-delivered phonological awareness program, were presented together in a poster. Dr. Ann Tyler was co-author and the PI for the project, which provided mentored professional development for early childhood educators. The student thesis studies are featured in an article, Effects of Explicit Teacher-Implemented Phoneme Awareness Instruction in 4-year-olds, in Clinical Linguistics and Phonetics (2014).

May 2013: International Congress on Cleft Palate and Related Craniofacial Disorders: Students Stephanie VanderGalien, Jackson Peebles, Catherine Hearit, Feben Kurban, and Emily Winters, along with faculty members Helen Sharp, Greg Flamme and Stephen Tasko, presented the following: Effect of Gender on Nasalance across Speaking Conditions among Typical Adult Speakers in the Northern Midwest Dialect Region; Test-Retest Reliability of Nasalance Measures Across Speech Tasks in Typical Adult Speakers; and Effects of Syllable Rate on Nasalance Values in Typical Adult Speakers.

March 2013: Michigan Speech and Hearing Association Annual Conference: students Kaley Gerke and Claire Carpenter received scholarship awards; Daniel Skog and Charles Pudrith were recognized for scholarships they had received from the Michigan Speech and Hearing Foundation; and Allyson Doyle and Caitlin Hurban received the outstanding student poster award from Psi Iota Xi.

Research Studies Middle Ear and Auditory Injury

Associate Professors Dr. Greg Flamme (PI) and Dr. Steve Tasko (Co-PI) have received an Injury Prevention, Physiological and Environmental Health Award from the Department of Defense, Defense Health Program, Military Operational Medicine Joint Program Committee 5, led through an investigator with the US Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory. This four-year local project is aimed at increasing understanding of the role of the middle ear on auditory injury from impulse noise, loud sounds that are brief and banging such as gun shots.

“Scoop for Smiles”

Continued from page 3

WMU’s Chapter of NSSLHA joined the force on a chilly day in January 2014, holding “Scoops for Smiles” at a local Cold Stone Creamery. Despite the cold weather, alumni and students turned out to enjoy ice cream, with part of the proceeds going to offset personal expenses for the boy’s family and provide a generous care package to welcome him to Columbus. Thanks go to Cold Stone and to employees who donated their tips. In addition, faculty members Helen Sharp and Greg Flamme arranged hotel accommodations for an overnight layover in Miami.

Surgery took place in late April, and the little boy was healing beautifully afterward; he was pleased to drink from a cup for the first time within hours of surgery. We trust that he will continue to benefit, noticing a difference with eating, drinking and talking, though it will be some time before he is aware of the exciting and rewarding international collaboration involved in making the surgery possible.
NEW ENDOWMENTS ESTABLISHED

We are most grateful to many generous supporters who have established endowments that make student scholarships possible. Over the past few years, we have welcomed the following three new scholarship endowments.

The Raymond R. and Beverly K. Shevchik Endowed Scholarship, initiated in late 2011, will be awarded to a full-time or part-time undergraduate student majoring in speech pathology and audiology with a 3.0 minimum GPA at the time of application. Preference will be given to individuals who demonstrate financial need, with academic merit being a secondary consideration. The scholarship recognizes the need of undergraduate students, who will be required to also finance graduate degrees before practicing professionally.

In December 2013, Andres and Cheryl Herrera, with family and friends, established the Max and Lisa M. Herrera Memorial Scholarship endowment for students pursuing a master’s degree. Andres Herrera sponsored a number of local fund-raising events to establish the endowment that honors his daughter’s commitment to the field and advocacy for children with communication disorders. The scholarship recipient will demonstrate a commitment to the field and have a minimum GPA of 3.3 at the time of application.

The Randall M. and Barbara L. Webber Endowed Scholarship endowment, established in December of 2012, will support scholarships for speech pathology and audiology graduate students with demonstrated financial need. Barbara Webber followed the lead of her Eta Omicron Psi Iota Xi chapter sister Louella Bradley in recognizing the needs of students pursuing graduate degrees.

ASSISTANTSHIPS

Several students were awarded doctoral graduate assistantships or doctoral assistantships in audiology, and graduate assistantships in speech-language pathology for the 2013-14 academic year. They are:

- Alicia Arends, DGA
- Kaitlin Arnold, GA
- Danielle Ayres, DGA
- Thomas Beebe, DGA
- Cheri Ellens, GA
- Kyle Geda, DGA
- Alissa Haan, DA
- Rachel Higgins-Bernhardt, GA
- Molly Moran, GA
- Rachael Myers, GA
- Bridget Peters, GA
- Heidi Schmeltzer, DGA
- Travis Stehouwer, DA
- Jessie Ziller, DA
**STUDENT AND ALUMNI INFO, HONORS, AWARDS**

At the 2014 annual meeting of the American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association, recent graduate **Rachel Whitney** was appointed to the association’s Task Force on Communication, charged with developing Web, social media, and online professional communities within the association.

Recent graduate **Ann Lamons** and audiology graduate student **Alissa Haan** were among a small group of students from across the state to receive Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Association Foundation scholarships at the association’s 2014 annual conference.

**Stephanie VanderGalien** was among ten outstanding WMU students awarded a Graduate Student Travel Grant by the Graduate College in January 2013.

Speech pathology and audiology alumna and gymnast **Katlin Abbs** was one of WMU’s Top Ten Senior Scholar Athletes in 2013, with a GPA of 4.0.

Alumna **Greg Spray ’12** earned a master’s degree this year and has recently been accepted to Michigan State University's Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders Ph.D. program with full funding. Spray has also been hired as an SLP CFY at the Comprehensive Speech Therapy Center in Jackson, Mich., and he serves as the member-at-large representing students for the Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Greg encourages current students to “take full advantage of all of the knowledge that the professors at WMU have,” and continues saying, “The undergraduate education that I received from WMU was top-notch,” as it allowed him to pursue master’s and doctoral degrees.

**ACADEMY OF AUDIOLOGY OFFERS SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES**

Audiology doctoral students are encouraged to join the Western Michigan University Academy of Audiology, which introduces students to lifelong involvement in activities that promote and advance the profession of audiology. During the 2013-14 academic year the academy participated in the community outreach program Project Connect, a 5k run/walk for The Wounded Warrior Project and the non-profit section of Constance Brown Hearing Centers. The Academy of Audiology also plays a crucial role in the planning of the annual White Coat ceremony for second year Au.D. students. Many other exciting projects are planned for the coming year, including Signing with Santa through the Kalamazoo Quota Club, which will bring children in the deaf and hearing impaired communities together.

**ACCELERATED 4 + 3 AU.D. NOW IN PLACE**

Through an innovative, new academic program, a student who begins college with an interest in audiology will be able to take coursework in that and related areas early, and if accepted, begin entry level graduate coursework as a senior. This will save approximately six months of graduate study relative to the current 4 + 4 model.

An audiology concentration in the existing Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Health Services program is now available for WMU undergraduate students who wish to apply for the professional doctorate in audiology through an accelerated graduate degree program.

Thanks to Drs. Gary Lawson and Dori Ravatos for their diligent work in making this program possible. For more information, phone CHHS Advising (269) 387-2634 or visit wmich.edu/speech-audiology/academics/grad.

**THANKS TO CARLS FOUNDATION**

We are very grateful to the Carls Foundation for providing grant support over a four year period. That support enabled the clinics to serve more young children with hearing impairment and provided scholarship assistance for 16 students to receive pre-professional training in the latest assessment and treatment protocols for children with hearing impairment. The ability to do early diagnostic testing allowed us to make a significant difference in the lives of families by identifying children born with hearing loss.
Yes, I/we want to support the Western Michigan University Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology

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  __ John “Mick” Hanley Endowed Scholarship
  __ Robert L. Erickson Award for Excellence in the Study of Speech Sciences
  __ Shirley N. Sparks Faculty Endowment Fund
  __ Raymond R. and Beverly K. Shevchik Endowed Scholarship
  __ Max and Lisa M. Herrera Memorial Scholarship Endowment
  __ Randall M. and Barbara L. Webber Endowed Scholarship
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