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Did you know…

DAHS seed grant funding of $46,000 awarded in the years between 2002 and 2007 resulted in 18 external grant submissions and 9 funded grants that subsequently generated $7,216,954? A great investment indeed!

Graduates Reflect on Learning Experiences Gained Through Autism Leadership Grant

The first three UNC Chapel Hill doctoral students to participate in the Autism Leadership Grant's interdisciplinary program graduated in May 2012. Dr. Kaitlyn Wilson (Speech and Hearing Sciences), Dr. Lauren Little (Occupational Science), and Dr. Ann Sam (Early Childhood, Special Education, and Literacy) completed a unique set of research-based courses and research and teaching experiences to help prepare them for future teaching, research, and service focused on children with Autism and their families.

Kaitlyn Wilson, Lauren Little, and Ann Sam

Funded by the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services, the Autism Leadership Grant draws on the resources and expertise of the Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences and the Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy within the Department of Allied Health Sciences, School of Medicine; the Early Childhood, Families, and Literacy Studies program in the School Education; and the Program in Developmental Psychology at UNC Chapel Hill. The interdisciplinary project directors are Drs. Betsy Crais, Harriet Able, Grace Baranek, Linda Watson, Steve Reznick, and Sam Odom.

Crais stated that the goal of this personnel preparation grant is to produce academic leaders who can conduct research validating evidence-based practices in autism, translate research into practice, and provide leadership in developing evidence-based programs *Continued on page 5*

Jacks Receives NIDCD Award to Study Speech Impairment Treatment for Stroke Survivors

Dr. Adam Jacks, Assistant Professor, has received an R03 award from the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) focusing on an alternative approach to treating speech impairment in stroke survivors. The NIDCD award will provide $300,000 over the next three years to fund the project, titled *Auditory Masking Effects on Speech Fluency in Aphasia and Apraxia of Speech*.

In many adults who survive stroke, damage to speech regions of the brain results in a distorted, effortful, and halting pattern of speech, a condition called apraxia of speech. Although they know what they want to say and have intact muscle strength, they have difficulty programming the movements for speech. They are able to hear their speech errors, and the typical treatment program focuses on identifying these errors and correcting them. For most people, focusing on these mistakes results in little improvement in their speech.

In contrast to conventional treatment approaches, Jacks and his colleagues (Dr. Katarina Haley, DAHS, and Dr. Heidi Roth, Department of Neurology) are studying the effects of preventing the person with apraxia of speech from hearing the errors in their speech by playing loud noise through earphones. This approach is based on the premise that people with this speech disorder are overly-attuned to speech errors, which prevents them from speaking fluently. *Continued on page 5*

From Dr. Grace Baranek, *Associate Chair for Research*

Grace Baranek

With this issue, we unveil our new format for the DAHS research newsletter! Many thanks to Katherine Pearl, Communications Specialist, for her leadership on this effort, working with the dedicated members of our Research Communications Subcommittee (RAC), including Skip Ryan, Wes Winkelman, and Drs. Linda Watson, Sharon Williams, Karen Erickson, and Mark Klinger. This issue highlights two quarters (January-June 2012) of research news and faculty scholarship in the Department of Allied Health Sciences (AHS). It also features achievements of our graduate students across divisions–28 publications, and many more presentations, were co-authored by our students. We have many reasons to celebrate these junior researchers and their wonderful faculty mentors. I hope you enjoy reading about their collective accomplishments.

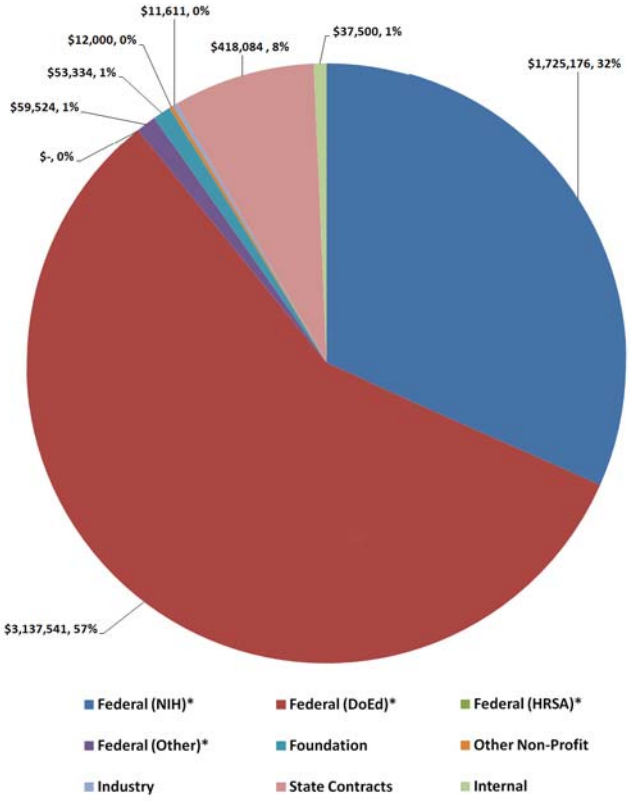
Between January 1 and June 30, 2012, the department submitted 18 new research grant proposals and $982,452 was generated in direct costs from grants. Thanks to Wes Winkelman for processing all of these grants and for creating the summary graphs on this page that depict our growing productivity over the past several years. Faculty publications were numerous (see pages 7-9) with dozens more in press. The volume of presentations at local, national, and international venues was a great testament to our outreach and dissemination efforts—in fact, it was too great to fit into this newsletter!

The RAC has been actively working to enhance departmental infrastructure and align resources to better support faculty and student research endeavors. In particular, the RAC has been evaluating feasible models for (1) increasing methodological/statistical supports; (2) increasing utilization of available information technology and enhanced data securities; (3) facilitating opportunities for interdisciplinary collaborations; (4) assessing mentoring needs of faculty; and (5) reviewing F&A policies. All of these efforts will undoubtedly inform research goals and the strategic planning process (led by Dr. Lee McLean and representatives of the DAHS strategic planning committee) for the department this coming year.

Research forums provided opportunities for interdisciplinary collaborations and featured speakers from within and outside our department. Topics included a panel on NIH Study Sections/Review Process with Drs. Jim Bodfish, Carol Guiliani, and Mark Klinger (January); a panel on Basic and Applied Research with Drs. Lori Leibold, Mike Lewek, and Grace Baranek (February); a presentation on Novel Intervention Research Designs, Beyond Randomized Controlled Trials by Dr. Sam Field (March); and a presentation on Communicating with the Media about Research by Jennifer James and Rob Holliday (April). Thanks to Drs. Brian Boyd and Mike Lewek for taking the lead on planning these forums–they are open to feedback and ideas for future topics/speakers. Forums will continue this year (4th Wednesdays) with the first one scheduled for September 26, 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Please mark your calendars and encourage your DAHS colleagues, post-docs, and PhD students to join us!

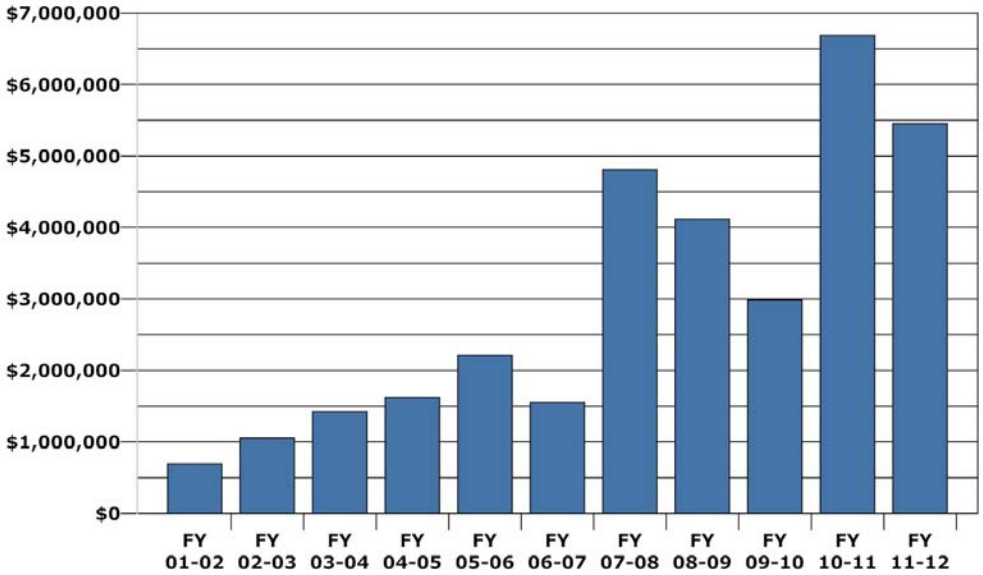
The research Website survey, led by Skip Ryan, Office Manager, resulted in many enhancements to our research page (www.alliedhealth.unc.edu/research), including trailers of research news, enhanced search functions, guidelines for submitting grants, and an easy online link for submitting your news or upcoming events for immediate posting. Thank you, Skip, for your ongoing support of the research Web page!

Current Year (11-12) Funding by Agency



** All Federal funds include figures where funder is the main sponsor or the prime sponsor.*

Total Awards Received (FY 02-12)



New Grants Awarded *(January 2012-June 2012)*

AWARD TITLE	AWARD AMOUNT	TEAM	SPONSOR	BEGIN DATE	END DATE
Fellow: Mamo, S Electrophysiological and psychophysical measures of auditory temporal processing	$900.00	**Grose, John;** Mamo, Sara	National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders	1/9/2012	1/8/2015
Error Based Learning for Restoring Gait Symmetry Post-Stroke	$400,394	**Lewek, Michael;** Walker, Heather; Giuliani, Carol; Sen, Pranab	National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)	1/15/2012	12/31/2013
Special Education - Assessing and Facilitating Literacy Skills in Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities	$30,000.00	**Erickson, Karen;** Hatch, Penny; Ryan, Skip	North Carolina Dept of Public Instruction	4/1/2012	5/31/2012
First Annual UNC-NCSU Rehabilitation Engineering Center Symposium: Engineering a World Class Rehabilitation Center	$1,334.00	**Segal, Rick**	NC Biotechnology Center	4/2/2012	4/30/2012
2012 Summer Institute Training	$18,300.00	**Erickson, Karen;** Hatch, Penny; Ryan, Skip	Colorado State Government	5/1/2012	6/15/2012
Cognitive Predictors of Language Impairment in Down Syndrome	$17,083.00	**Klinger, Mark;** Klinger, Laura	University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa	2/1/2012	1/31/2013
Occupational Therapy Service for Cancer Patients in North Carolina	$2,000.00	**Mackenzi Pergolotti**	NC TraCS	07/01/12	06/30/13
TOTAL AWARD AMOUNT	**$470,001.00**				

From the Associate Chair continued

The new academic year brings with it more changes. We wish a happy retirement to Dr. Virginia Dickie, a compassionate leader and scholar in the Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy for the past 12 years. We also extend a huge thank you to Dr. Jen Craft Morgan, collaborator extraordinaire, for her many methodological and research contributions to AHS, and we congratulate her on her new faculty position at Georgia State University. We also extend a warm welcome to new faculty, post-docs, students, and staff who are joining us, and we encourage you to take advantage of the many resources this department and university offer.

Skip Ryan

Katherine Pearl

A goal for our AHS office of research this year is to continue to improve administrative efficiencies and bolster supports for faculty and student research. We will be refining the grant submission process, and we will provide more infrastructure for grant writing/editing, peer review, and statistical consultation. Another goal is to complete our assessment of mentoring needs and identify effective models for research mentoring. Stay tuned for results from the mentoring focus groups and interviews led by Dr. Craft Morgan; many thanks to those of you who participated in this scholarly project. Finally, we hope to continue to create more social spaces for research faculty, post-docs, and students to share ideas and dialogue about their research and scholarship, and to celebrate the many achievements to come.

Training in Grantsmanship for Rehabilitation Research

Training in Grantsmanship for Rehabilitation Research (TIGRR), an intensive grant writing workshop that builds upon the successful model used by the Enhancing Rehabilitation Research in the South (ERRIS) workshops, will be held January 15-19, 2013, in Chapel Hill.

The target audience for this workshop includes junior and mid-level faculty in all rehabilitation research disciplines who are on the cusp of success in NIH-funded or similar research but could benefit from expert mentorship in grant development.

Unlike passive seminars on grant writing, selected mentees will come prepared to complete at least the specific aims for a grant proposal for submission to the NIH or other funding agency. This offering is based upon a 10-year history of successfully providing mentorship to approximately 300 junior and mid-level faculty from throughout the North America and in several foreign countries. The TIGRR Academic Mentors and Leadership Team includes Drs. Richard Segal (UNC Chapel Hill), Daniel M. Corcos, (University of Illinois Chicago), and William Z. Rymer (Northwestern University).

Visit http://tigrr.bme.unc.edu for more information about the workshop. If you are interested in applying, please contact your division director.

PROPOSALS SUBMITTED *(January 2012-June 2012)*

TITLE	TEAM	SPONSOR	PROPOSED FUNDS
Stop and Think: How's it Going?	**Schmidt, Judy**	Tar River Mental Health America	$7,750.00
Understanding the relationships between performance and ACL loading	**Yu, Bing;** Dai, Boyi	American College of Sports Medicine Foundation	$900.00
Intensive Rehabilitation Research Grant Writing Workshops in the United States	**Segal, Rick**	National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)	$659,378.00
Multicultural model of parent responsiveness and communication skills of toddlers at-risk for autism	**Watson, Linda;** Kinard, Jessica	Autism Speaks	$57,200.00
Quantitative Assessment and Diagnosis of Apraxia of Speech	**Haley, Katarina;** Jacks, Adam; Roth, Heidi; Styner, Martin; Truong, Kinh; Zajac, David	National Institutes of Health (NIH)	$2,586,694.00
First Annual UNC-NCSU Rehabilitation Engineering Center Symposium: Engineering a World Class Rehabilitation Center	**Segal, Rick**	NC Biotechnology Center	$2,620.00
Co-occurrence of gesture and speech development as an early indicator of autism	**Watson, Linda;** Belardi, Katie	Organization of Autism Research	$2,000.00
Special Education - Assessing and Facilitating Literacy Skills in Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities	**Erickson, Karen;** Hatch, Penny; Ryan, Skip	North Carolina Dept of Public Instruction	$30,000.05
Exceptional Children Physical Therapist	**Segal, Rick;** Ray, Laurie	North Carolina Dept of Public Instruction	$147,233.35
Survivors with Aphasia and Apraxia of Speech	**Haley, Katarina;** Jacks, Adam; McCulloch, Karen; Womack, Jenny	The Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions	$14,906.00
Cognitive Predictors of Language Impairment in Down Syndrome	**Klinger, Mark;** Klinger, Laura	University of Alabama	$41,297.92
2012 Scientific Service Program for Elite Discus Throwers	**Yu, Bing**	USA Track and Field	$16,000.00
2012 Summer Institute Training	**Erickson, Karen;** Hatch, Penny; Ryan, Skip	Colorado State Government	$18,300.00
Exceptional Children Occupational Therapist	**Dickie, Virginia;** Holahan, Lauren	North Carolina Dept of Public Instruction	$136,366.47
Families' Lived Experiences of Participating in an Intervention for Infants at-risk for ASD	**Baranek, Grace;** Field, Samuel; Schultz, Beth; Skinner, Debra; Stutts, Allen; Watson, Linda	Autism Speaks	$449,999.80
Using Structured Teaching to Promote Employment Skills in Adolescents with ASD	**Klinger, Mark;** Klinger, Laura; Osborne, Glenna	Autism Speaks	$120,000.00
Community Engaged Scholarship: Optimizing Research-Practice Partner-ships for Evidence-Based Outcomes	**Crais, Elizabeth;** Able, Harriet; Baranek, Grace; Watson, Linda	US Department of Education (DOED)	$1,237,519.52
Characteristics of Vocalizations as Early Indicators of Autism	**Watson, Linda;** Belardi, Katie	American Speech Language Hearing Foundation	$2,000.00
Integrating Diabetes Self Management Tasks into Daily Life	**Heather Fritz**	NC TraCS	$2,000.00
Sensory Experiences Project Diversity Supplement	**Baranek, Grace;** White, Tamira	National Institutes of Health	$74,965.00

Jacks NIDCD Award *(from page 1)*

Adam Jacks works with Anna Styers, a second-year MS-SLP student, in the audiology lab on the second floor of Bondurant Hall.

The same phenomenon has been known for decades to help people who stutter to speak fluently, as demonstrated in the popular film *The King's Speech.*

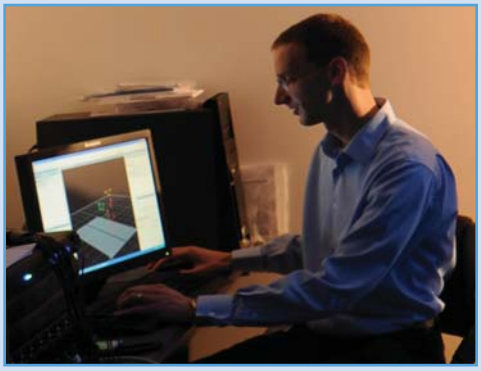
In the proposed research, Jacks and his colleagues seek to identify stroke survivors who respond positively to listening to noise by increasing speech rate and decreasing the occurrence of speech disfluencies (pauses, filler words, repetitions). Since not all people are expected to show a change in speech while listening to noise, the team also will study individual characteristics to determine what differentiates those who improve from those who do not. In particular, behavioral profiles (type of speech and language impairment) and location and size of brain lesion will be compared between positive responders and non-responders to determine whether a positive response can be predicted from routine clinical data.

In preliminary work, over half of the participants tested spoke more quickly and with fewer disfluencies while listening to noise. Although this is a temporary effect and does not persist after the noise is turned off, the moments of speech fluency experienced may cause the person's brain to activate in a different way than it does when he or she is speaking disfluently. If the preliminary results are borne out in the completed study, Jacks and his team believe that the procedure may be further developed into a useful therapeutic technique that can result in lasting speech changes.

Lewek Receives NIH Grant

Dr. Michael Lewek, Assistant Professor, has received a $400,000 NIH R21 grant to continue studying ways to help stroke survivors' improve their ability to walk. Lewek initially pursued this line of research with the help of a NC TraCS $10,000 pilot grant.

Lewek and his collaborators are currently recruiting people who are post-stroke to participate in the study. For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact Mike Lewek at strokegait@med.unc.edu or (919) 966-9732. To read more about the research, check out the Fall 2011 issue of *Research Quarterly News* or visit www.med.unc.edu/ahs/research/news/lewek-nih-grant.



Mike Lewek in the UNC Human Movement Science Lab.

Autism Grant *(from page 1)*

and policies for children with autism from diverse cultural, linguistic, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

"It's rare for students across four distinct doctoral programs to have myriad opportunities to interact and collaborate with each other and with faculty from diverse professional backgrounds," Baranek said. "These experiences provide a major advantage as they take on leadership positions in real-world research, teaching, and practice environments."

Wilson, Little, and Sam all praised the program for its interdisciplinary nature and for the wide range of opportunities made available to participants.

"The grant allowed me the flexibility to explore many different aspects of autism-related research and to find my own area of interest," said Wilson. "The curriculum provided me with specialized training, specifically in the areas of translational research, intervention research, and professional development, as they relate to autism. Some of the most valuable opportunities I had were composing grants–both collaboratively and individually–with feedback from experienced and well-funded faculty, engaging in scholarship through participation in international and national conferences focused on autism and developmental disabilities, and developing lifelong relationships, both personal and professional, with classmates and mentors with similar interests and goals."

Little said that forging new relationships, working with interdisciplinary teams on research, and receiving mentorship and guidance from multiple faculty members were among the highlights of her time in the program. She also praised the variety offered by the curriculum.

"It offered balanced exposure to seminars, research experiences on multiple projects, as well as some clinical experience with families of children with ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorders)," Little said.

Sam said she enjoyed the opportunity to become involved with autism research projects from the very beginning of her graduate school career, and that she especially benefitted from working as a research assistant on a treatment comparison study.

"I was encouraged and supported to determine my own research interests, conduct secondary analyses on the data, and disseminate the findings through conferences and journal articles," she said. "A high point of my time at UNC was co-authoring my first journal article to be published. It was very exciting to see the article in a journal I had read as a practitioner."

With their PhDs complete, Sam, Little, and Wilson have started the next phase of their careers. In June, Sam began a two-year postdoctoral training appointment at the 3-C Institute for Social Development. She will be working on projects that use technology to support social skills of children with high-functioning autism. Little will be working as a postdoctoral research associate at UNC with Baranek on the Sensory Experiences Project, which aims to examine the development, functional impact, and cause of various sensory features in children with autism and other developmental delays ages 2-12 years. Wilson is a post-doctoral fellow at the Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD) at the Kennedy Krieger Institute, and is coordinating intervention studies working towards better outcomes for students with autism.

Little Awarded AOTA Dissertation Grant

Dr. Lauren Little received the American Occupational Therapy Foundation Dissertation Research Grant Award in February 2012. The award is aimed at promoting the development of occupational therapy researchers who are enrolled in programs that value strong mentorship and whose careers are dedicated to advancing science in occupational therapy.

Promotions

Susan (Sue) Coppola was promoted to the rank of professor in the **Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy**, effective May 1, 2012.

New Faculty

Dr. Antoine Bailliard has joined the faculty of the **Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy** as an assistant professor. Bailliard earned his BA in Peace War and Defense, his MS in Occupational Therapy, and his PhD in Occupational Science, all from UNC Chapel Hill. Bailliard's research is focused on the immigration experiences of the Latino community in North Carolina. His clinical experience has primarily been in mental health and he previously worked at Central Regional Hospital in Butner.

Dr. Lauren Calandruccio has joined the **Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences** as an assistant professor. Calandruccio earned her BA in Speech and Hearing and her MA in Audiology from Indiana University Bloomington and her PhD in Hearing Science from Syracuse University. She completed her post-doctoral training at Northwestern University. Calandruccio was most recently an assistant professor in the Department of Linguistics and Communication Disorders and the Principal Investigator of the Speech and Auditory Research Laboratory at Queens College of the City University of New York.

Dr. Andrea Hillock-Dunn is now an assistant professor in the **Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences.** She had been a research associate for the division since 2010. Hillock-Dunn will work in the laboratory of Dr. Lori Leibold on a NIH-funded grant titled "Susceptibility to and Release from Masking in Infancy and Childhood," investigating questions related to the development of auditory perception in noisy environments. Hillock-Dunn earned her AuD from Northwestern University and her PhD from Vanderbilt University.

Dr. Kate Kawola has joined the **Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences** faculty as an assistant professor. Kawola's primary role will be working as a clinical audiologist at the UNC Hearing and Communication Center, where she will perform hearing evaluations, dispense hearing aids, conduct school-age hearing screenings, and develop audiologic rehabilitation programming. Kawola earned her BS in Speech and Hearing from Elmira College and completed her Doctorate of Audiology at UNC in May 2012.

Dr. Enikő Rák has joined the **Division of Rehabilitation Counseling and Psychology** as an assistant professor. Originally from Transylvania, Romania, Rák has a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Babes-Bolyai University and a PhD in Rehabilitation Counseling Education from Michigan State University. She was most recently an adjunct professor at Michigan State. Her research focuses on understanding the construct of health literacy in relation to quality of life outcomes in the population of persons with chronic illness and disability.

New Post-Doc

Dr. Rupa Gupta Gordon joined the department as a post-doctoral fellow in July. Gordon has a two-year award from the Carolina Postdoctoral Program for Faculty Diversity and will be working with Dr. Linda Watson and her colleagues in the area of autism research. Gordon received her PhD in Neuroscience from the University of Iowa in May 2012.

Departures

Dr. Karla Ausderau, former post-doctoral fellow with Dr. Grace Baranek on the **Sensory Experiences Project**, began a tenure-track faculty position as an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Kinesiology, in January. She will continue to have an adjunct faculty appointment with DAHS/OS-OT.

Dr. Virginia Dickie retired as Director of the **Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy** at the end of June. Friends and colleagues hosted a retirement reception for Dickie on June 29.

Dr. Jennifer Craft Morgan has left the Department of Allied Health Sciences and the UNC Institute on Aging to accept a full-time faculty position at Georgia State University.

Dr. Kelly Kazukauskas has left the **Division of Rehabilitation Counseling and Psychology** to become a clinical assistant professor in the Rehabilitation Counseling Program at the Illinois Institute of Technology.

DAHS Research Web Site Survey Results Summary

Although there was not an overwhelming response to the Research Website Survey that was distributed this spring, we certainly have a better understanding of how the AHS Research Website is utilized and have some great ideas to make it a better tool for researchers. Of the respondents, 34% were faculty members, 28% staff members, and 38% were students. More than half of the survey takers made their first visit to the Website in order to answer the survey questions. Of those who had visited the site prior to taking the survey, the most popular reasons for visiting was to get more information on submitting a research proposal (40%) and to read the *Research Quarterly Newsletter* and other news (33%).

Most people found the site at least somewhat easy to navigate, although some individuals remarked that the Research Website was lost in the navigation of the greater AHS departmental pages and that the navigation links were not intuitive. Others noticed broken links and some redundant pages and links. Throughout the survey, there were many appeals for more information and guidelines on professional development opportunities, hiring and recruitment, IRB submissions, AHS research projects and forums, and examples of research proposal components.

Survey responders obtained needed information regarding research proposals and forms from a colleague or advisor or consulted Wes Winkelman, AHS Contracts and Grants Manager. Others made use of alternative research resources offered by UNC. Survey takers answered that utilizing a listserv would be the most effective way to disseminate information regarding events, followed by the use of an events calendar.

According to survey takers, promoting the research activities of faculty, staff, and students would best be realized by providing links to personal or project Web pages (80% of respondents). It was also recommended that a current project list with short descriptions be created for all projects connected to the department. Quite a few responders mentioned utilizing Infoporte, when it becomes available, to help promote research activities.

www.alliedhealth.unc.edu/research

Publications

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First Year Inventory Shows Promise for Identifying Autism Early

A study by researchers with the Program for Early Autism, Research, Leadership and Service (PEARLS) found that 31 percent of children identified as at risk for autism spectrum disorders (ASD) at 12 months received a confirmed diagnosis of ASD by age 3 years. In addition, 85 percent of the children found to be at risk for ASD based on results from the First Year Inventory (FYI) had some other developmental disability or concern by age three, said Dr. Grace Baranek, senior author of the study and an autism researcher with PEARLS. Results of the FYI study were published online ahead of print on July 10, 2012, by *Autism: The International Journal of Research & Practice*.

"These findings are encouraging and suggest promise in the approach of using parent report of infant behaviors as a tool for identifying 12-month-olds who are at risk for an eventual diagnosis of ASD," said lead author of the study, Dr. Lauren Turner-Brown, also a researcher with PEARLS and the Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities.

The First Year Inventory, a 63-item questionnaire filled out by parents, was developed by Drs. Grace Baranek, Linda Watson, Elizabeth Crais, and J. Steven Reznick, who are all researchers with PEARLS and co-authors of the study with Turner-Brown.

Back row, Steve Reznick, Grace Baranek, and Betsy Crais. Front, Linda Watson, Elif Merkler and Suna, and Lauren Turner-Brown

In the study, parents of 699 children who had completed the FYI when their child was 12 months old completed additional screening questionnaires when their child reached age 3. In addition, children who were found to be at risk for ASD based on these measures were invited for in-person diagnostic evaluations.

"Identification of children at risk for ASD at 12 months could provide a substantial number of children and their families with access to intervention services months or years before they would otherwise receive a traditional diagnosis," said Turner-Brown.

To read the full study, go to http://aut.sagepub.com/, click on the OnlineFirst tab, and select "The First Year Inventory: a longitudinal follow-up of 12-month-old to 3-year-old children," or visit www.med.unc.edu/ahs/research/news/fyi-study-published.

Hacke Receives Teaching Award

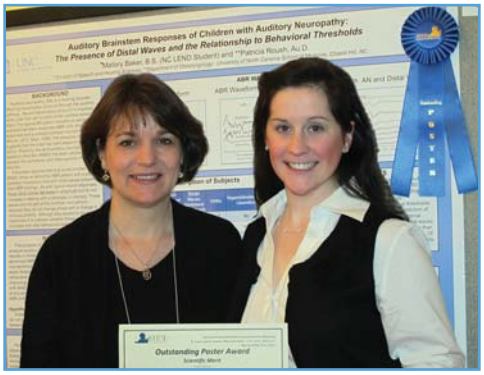
Jon Hacke

Jon Hacke, Assistant Professor, received the 2012 Distinguished Teaching Award for Post-Baccalaureate Instruction from UNC Chapel Hill.

Established by the University in 1995 to acknowledge the important role of graduate-level teaching, this prestigious award includes a cash stipend and framed citation. Recipients of the 2012 award were recognized during a half-time ceremony at the UNC-Virginia men's basketball game on February 11, and were honored at an awards banquet in April.

Hacke has over 31 years of clinical experience in outpatient orthopedics. He joined the UNC Division of Physical Therapy in 1995 and teaches courses in physical therapy modalities, manual therapy, and orthopedic rehabilitation. His research interests include rehabilitation of the sacro-iliac, lumbar/cervical spine regions as well as sports injuries, particularly injuries of the knee and shoulder.

Poster Wins First Prize



Patricia Roush and Mallory Baker

A poster presented by third-year AuD student Mallory Baker and Dr. Patricia Roush, Department of Otolaryngology, won first prize for scientific merit at the 12th Annual Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Conference in March.

The poster was titled: "Auditory Brainstem Responses in Auditory Neuropathy: The Presence of Distal Waves and the Relationship to Behavioral Thresholds."

Faculty Honored at AOTA Conference

Jenny Womack and Grace Baranek

Two faculty members were recognized at the annual American Occupational Therapy Association Conference in Indianapolis in April.

Dr. Grace Baranek, Professor and Associate Chair for Research, received the A. Jean Ayres Award, which recognizes clinicians, educators, and researchers who have demonstrated sustained commitment to the application, development, or testing of theory in occupational therapy.

Jenny Womack, Assistant Professor and MS Admissions Coordinator, became a Fellow of the American Occupational Therapy Association (FAOTA). This designation is awarded to OT members of AOTA who have used their knowledge and expertise to make significant contributions to the continuing education and professional development of other members.

Fourth Doctoral Student Wins Impact Award

Kristin Nellenbach
Photo by Will Owens, courtesy of the UNC Graduate School

Dr. Kristin Nellenbach ('10) became the fourth Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences doctoral program alumna to win the Graduate Education Advancement Board Impact Award. The award recognizes outstanding graduate students whose research covers a variety of areas, including education, the environment, economic development, health, and public administration. Drs. Sally Clendon ('06) Elizabeth Lanter ('09), and Penny Hatch ('09) had previously received the award.

Nellenbach studied how various factors influence early adolescents' silent reading comprehension abilities. To read more about her research, visit http://gradschool.unc.edu/student/awards/impact/2012.html.

Having completed her post-doctoral training at the UNC Center for Literacy and Disability Studies, Nellenbach is now a research associate at the CLDS and project director for the Phase II Steppingstones of Technology Innovations grant, *Big Words II*, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs.

Klusek Receives Gallagher Dissertation Award

Photo by John Cotter, courtesy of FPG Child Development Institute
Jessica Klusek with James Gallagher

Jessica Klusek, a doctoral student in the Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences, received the 2011 James J. Gallagher Dissertation Award. The award was established to support a student whose work involves young children or family support and is policy-related.

Klusek is investigating how children with autism and fragile X syndrome use language in social situations, such as during a conversation. Through this work, Klusek hopes to further understanding of factors that might influence pragmatic language performance, which can help develop targeted interventions.

The Gallagher Dissertation Award is named in honor of Dr. James Gallagher, who served as director of the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute from 1970 to 1987 and has actively continued his research at the Institute.

RCP Students Present Research at State and National Conferences

Several students and faculty members from the UNC Chapel Hill Division of Rehabilitation Counseling and Psychology shared their research at the 2011 North Carolina Rehabilitation Association (NCRA) Conference October 26-28, 2011, in Wrightsville Beach, N.C., and the National Council on Rehabilitation Education (NCRE) Conference in Arlington, Va., October 31-November 1, 2011.

Brooke Vincent with her poster, "The experience of trauma in people with intellectual disabilities," at the NCRA Conference.

Caley Kropp with his poster, "Adolescents with spina bifida and the challenges associated with transitioning into adulthood," at the NCRA Conference.

Students and faculty at the NCRA Conference in October. Back row, from left, Sena Moran, RCP faculty member Kelly Kazukauskas, Brooke Vincent, Leah Cox, Laurel Powell, Caley Kropp, Shahin Sabouri, and RCP faculty member Judy Schmidt. Sitting, from left, RCP Division Director Eileen Burker, Jessie Johnson, Rachel Espey, and Kelsey Klatka.

Congratulations to Our Recent PhD Graduates!

Dr. Angela Bonino, Speech and Hearing Sciences, Dissertation Title: Effect of Signal-Temporal Uncertainty During Childhood.

Dr. Lauren Little, Occupational Science, Dissertation Title: Home and Community Activities: Dimensions and Associations with Patterns of Sensory Response among Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Dr. Dawn Phillips, Human Movement Science, Dissertation Title: Concurrent Validity and Responsiveness of the Peabody Developmental Motor Scales-2 in Infants and Children With Pompe Disease Undergoing Enzyme Replacement Therapy.

Dr. Eric Sanders, Speech and Hearing Sciences, Dissertation Title: Wh- Questions and Individuals with Intellectual Disability.

Dr. Kaitlyn Wilson, Speech and Hearing Sciences, Dissertation Title: Teaching Communication Skills to Preschoolers with Autism: Video vs. Live Modeling in the Classroom.

Kaitlyn Wilson, Eric Sanders, and Angela Bonino

Heatwole Shank on "The State of Things"

Kendra Heatwole Shank, an Occupational Science PhD candidate, interviewed with Frank Stasio of WUNC's "State of Things" to talk about a project she designed to better understand livability issues facing older Americans.

Kendra Heatwole Shank

In her project, Heatwole Shank looked at the relationship between the physical features of a community and the daily activities of people 'aging-in-place'. Her research included interviews with several different people, observations of their chosen activities, and GPS mapping of their day-to-day movements. For a link to the interview, visit www.med.unc.edu/ahs/research/news/heatwole-shank-radio-interview.

Pergolotti Receives Grant to Study OT Utilization by Patients with Cancer

Mackenzi Pergolotti, a fourth-year Occupational Science PhD candidate, received a $2,000 NC TraCS grant to help her research the utilization of occupational therapy by older patients with cancer by using data from the Integrative Cancer Information and Surveillance System (ICISS). Pergolotti is working to better understand the differences in relative rates of OT use across the state and identify areas of variation or disparity among Medicare beneficiaries with incident cancer. This project will be completed in concert with an analysis of the activity participation of older patients with cancer to provide the beginnings of an evidence base from which OT interventions will be designed with knowledge of service utilization, and with a deeper understanding of the social-occupational and situational nature of cancer for older adults.

Mackenzi Pergolotti

Pergolotti presented a poster, titled "Occupational Therapy Service for Cancer Patients in North Carolina," at the 18th Annual National Research Services Award (NRSA) Trainees Research Conference and the AcademyHealth's Annual Research Meeting in June. The poster included preliminary research using data from ICISS.

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Research Symposia

David E. Yoder Symposium

The UNC Division of Speech of Hearing Sciences hosted the 2012 David E. Yoder Symposium on March 16 at Extraordinary Ventures in Chapel Hill. Dr. Juliann Woods led the session, titled "Supporting the Families' Role in Family Guided Routines Based Intervention." A professor in the Department of Communication Disorders at Florida State University, Woods has over 40 years of experience designing and implementing early intervention strategies, developing model programs, and conducting research with young children and their families.

The Division of Speech of Hearing Sciences hosts the Yoder Symposium every two years to honor Professor Emeritus David E. Yoder. More than 150 speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, educators, and other professionals attended the 2012 event.

From left: Sharon Wallace Williams, Betsy Crais, Karen Erickson, David E. Yoder, Juliann Woods, and Lee McLean.

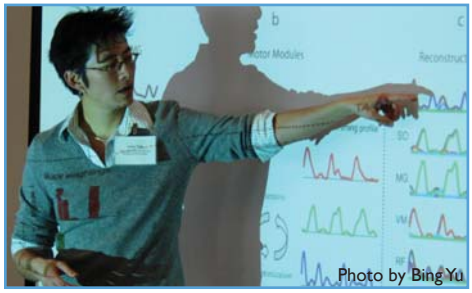
2012 Mitchell Symposium in Occupational Science

Dr. Debbie Laliberte Rudman was the visiting scholar for the 2012 Mitchell Symposium in Occupational Science. After delivering a seminar to students and faculty, Rudman presented a public lecture on February 29 titled "Working Against the 'Individualizing of the Social': The Critical Potential of Occupational Science."

Rudman is Associate Professor and Faculty Scholar in the School of Occupational Therapy, within the Faculty of Health Sciences, and Chair of the Occupational Science field of the Health and Rehabilitation Sciences program of the University of Western Ontario. Her research focuses on the relationships between occupation and identity, health, and quality of life.

The Mitchell Symposium is named in honor of Drs. Marlys and Earl (Mitch) Mitchell and has been made possible through a generous gift from Drs. Ruth Humphry and Bruce Carney as well as other donors.

Debbie Rudman met with Occupational Science PhD students in February. Front row: Adrienne Miao, Sumita Rege, Mary Dean, Emily Furgang, Kendra Heatwole Shank, Debbie Rudman, and Mackenzi Pergolotti. Back row: Caroline McCarty, Lauren Little, Wendy Healy, Heather Fritz, and Anne Kirby.



Lena Ting delivers the keynote address.

Human Movement Science Research Symposium

The Ninth Annual Human Movement Science Research Symposium was held February 17 at UNC Chapel Hill. Students, faculty, researchers, and clinicians from regional institutions attended the symposium to present and discuss current research. Sponsor's for the 2012 event included the American Society for Biomechanics (ASB), Tekscan, the National Academy of Sports Medicine (NASM), and Don Joy Orthopedics.

Dr. Lena Ting, Assistant Professor in the WH Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering at Emory University and the Georgia Institute of Technology, delivered the keynote address "Neuromechanics of Muscle Coordination in Normal and Impaired Balance and Locomotion."