From the Director

As we celebrate the end of another successful year we mourn the passing of Dr. Robert Peters, our program founder and first director who died on March 25th in Chapel Hill (see page 3). We also received word recently that Dr. Robert Mahaffey, our second program director and a member of the faculty in the 1970's and 80’s, passed away earlier this year in San Rafael, CA. We are indebted to these esteemed colleagues for providing the vision and leadership that allow us to build on a firm foundation.

Both would have been very proud of our Class of 2011 which included x PhD, eight AuD, and x MS degrees. We celebrated our graduates with friends and family members at the annual ceremony at the Friday Center. I am pleased to report that our graduates all had excellent employment prospects and many had accepted offers of employment prior to graduation. The future continues to look promising despite the economic downturn and reduced state funding. While these economic realities resulted in significant challenges, our success with extramural grants is helping us acquire the funding needed to support our teaching and research missions (see pages 2-3). We are also grateful to the many alumni and friends who support our scholarships and other development initiatives. These and other factors have enabled us to have another successful recruiting year with outstanding students in all three degree programs joining us in the fall. Have a great summer and please continue to stay in touch.

Jackson Roush, PhD
Director, Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences

Commencement 2011

The Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences hosted its annual commencement ceremony and reception on May 7. Pictured from left: commencement speaker Ron Strauss, DMD, PhD, and graduate Jack Hitchens; 2011 MS SLP graduates; and 2011 AuD graduates.

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$2.1 Million in New Grants To Provide Educational Opportunities for Students

The Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences at UNC Chapel Hill has been awarded two new grants from the U.S. Department of Education to help prepare doctoral and master’s students in specialized areas of clinical practice and research.

One of the grants, “Preparation of Personnel to Serve Infants and Young Children with Hearing Loss,” will be co-directed by Dr. Jack Roush and Dr. Melody Harrison. The grant will provide graduate students in UNC’s Doctor of Audiology (AuD) program and Masters (MS) in Speech-Language Pathology Program to work in areas related to newborn hearing screening, diagnosis of hearing loss, selection and fitting of hearing aids and cochlear implants, and therapeutic intervention procedures. The Speech and Hearing Division will work in collaboration with UNC’s Carolina Communicative Disorders Clinic, Department of Otolaryngology, with audiologist Holly Teagle, AuD, and speech-language pathologist, Hannah Eskridge, MS.

A second grant, titled “Preparing Professionals for Leadership Roles in Translational Research Focused on Children with Disabilities Including High Need Children,” will begin in August 2011. The principal investigators are Dr. Elizabeth Crais from the Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences and Dr. Harriet Able from the School of Education. The grant is interdisciplinary in nature, drawing on the resources and translational research expertise from faculty members in the Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences and the Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, as well as the Early Childhood Intervention, and Literacy Program in the School of Education at UNC Chapel Hill.

This grant will provide nine doctoral students from Speech and Hearing Sciences, Occupational Science, and Early Childhood Special Education with research training, enabling them to develop, implement, evaluate, and disseminate translational research findings in an interdisciplinary manner. The students will work on research projects, complete coursework, and take part in professional development activities to enhance their skills as academicians and researchers in their specialty areas.

New Faculty Member  Amanda O’Donnell

I joined the Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences as a clinical faculty member in June 2010. My primary role is working as a clinical audiologist at the UNC Hearing and Communication Center. The HCC is the principal training facility for UNC’s doctoral students in audiology, so I have the opportunity to work with and mentor students as they learn about diagnostics, amplification, hearing loss, patient counseling, and managing a small clinic. I love patient care, and I also love learning from my more-experienced colleagues on the HCC team. Having the chance to help train the next generation of audiologists is also an honor and a pleasure for me.

In addition to direct patient care and student training, I have developed a series of online modules focusing on speech and language disorders. The target audience is our very own audiology students, so I have tried to ensure the content is relevant to their needs. The modules are ready for use and I hope to see them “go live” in the fall. I also worked closely with Dr. Jack Roush last fall to source the equipment needed to start up a hands-on vestibular assessment lab. We offered the lab this spring and by mid-semester the second-year AuD students had practiced the art of taking a good case history, performing bedside/clinical examinations, and performing videonystagmography and electroneystagmography test batteries.

My road to this position was not exactly a straight, focused path. Born in Ireland, I grew up near the west coast in Roscommon, Leitrim and Galway. I went to Trinity College Dublin where I earned a BS in Clinical Speech and Language Studies, which qualified me as a speech-language pathologist. I worked at the SouthEastern HealthBoard in Kilkenny, Ireland, for a little over a year, treating a mix of toddlers, school-age children, and adults on a team of eight SLPs in a community care clinic.

In September 2001 my husband and I relocated to Boston, Mass. Due to a lack of international reciprocal recognition for my professional designation, I could not obtain a SLP license, but I eventually found a fantastic opportunity to work for a start-up company in Boston from 2002 to 2005, honing my sales and event management skills.

Once my husband finished his MBA, I started to look at my options for graduate education and decided on audiology. In 2005 we moved to Durham and I started the AuD program at UNC. I really enjoyed my time as an AuD student, particularly the various clinical placements available to students at UNC Hospitals, which has a world class pediatric audiology service, at the Durham VA Medical Center, and at the UNC Center for Development and Learning. The collegial spirit of my classmates was inspiring, and the support of faculty allowed me and my classmates to make big changes in our lives while pursuing doctorate degrees. Our little class, comprised of four women, celebrated three engagements, two weddings and welcomed two babies during our time at UNC. Now I am here as a member of the faculty, and I hope to show the same spirit and commitment that was shown to me as a student.
I. Pediatric Hearing Development

Despite the fact that infants must learn sensitivity, but are more pronounced for background sounds can be substantial for children with normal hearing sensitivity, but are more pronounced for children with hearing impairment. These development effects in the ability to hear target sounds, such as speech, in the presence of competing background sounds can be substantial for children with normal hearing sensitivity, but are more pronounced for children with hearing impairment. Despite the fact that infants must learn about speech and language in the presence of competing sounds, we have a limited understanding of the factors that influence children’s hearing in noise, and few studies have addressed the specific challenges faced by infants and children with hearing impairment.

The proposed experiments will characterize developmental effects in the ability to hear target sounds in the presence of competing background sounds and will identify acoustic-cue combinations that improve hearing in noise for both normal-hearing and hearing-impaired infants and children. These experiments rely on behavioral methods using well-characterized multi-tonal and noise stimuli as well as speech perception testing in the presence of competing noise or speech.

The results of the proposed studies will provide much needed normative data and are expected to contribute to the formation of pediatric measures of complex auditory perception. There is also the potential these data will lead to improved strategies to optimize the delivery of auditory information for infants and children with hearing impairment.

II. NIH Grant Funds Research on Pediatric Hearing Development

Dr. Lori Leibold, Assistant Professor in the Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences, has been awarded a five-year NIH grant (ROI-NIDCD) for a project titled “Susceptibility to and Release from Masking in Infancy and Childhood.”

The long-term aim of this project is to identify and explain the factors responsible for the development of hearing in complex acoustic environments that contain multiple sources of sound. Previous research has consistently demonstrated that infants and children are more vulnerable to interference from competing backgrounds sounds than adults. These development effects in the ability to hear target sounds, such as speech, in the presence of competing background sounds can be substantial for children with normal hearing sensitivity, but are more pronounced for children with hearing impairment.

Despite the fact that infants must learn about speech and language in the presence of competing sounds, we have a limited understanding of the factors that influence children’s hearing in noise, and few studies have addressed the specific challenges faced by infants and children with hearing impairment.

The proposed experiments will characterize developmental effects in the ability to hear target sounds in the presence of competing background sounds and will identify acoustic-cue combinations that improve hearing in noise for both normal-hearing and hearing-impaired infants and children. These experiments rely on behavioral methods using well-characterized multi-tonal and noise stimuli as well as speech perception testing in the presence of competing noise or speech.

The results of the proposed studies will provide much needed normative data and are expected to contribute to the formation of pediatric measures of complex auditory perception. There is also the potential these data will lead to improved strategies to optimize the delivery of auditory information for infants and children with hearing impairment.

III. CRAIS RECEIVES ALUMNUS AWARD FROM VANDERBILT

Speech and Hearing Sciences Professor Elizabeth (Betsy) Crais, PhD, received the Judith S. Gravel Distinguished Alumnus Award from Vanderbilt University’s Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences in 2010. The award is given by the faculty at Vanderbilt to recognize alumni career excellence. Dr. Crais has been active within early intervention for over 30 years as a speech-language pathologist, university professor, clinical supervisor, and researcher. She has published a number of articles and book chapters and made numerous presentations on working with young children with special needs and their families.

IV. SAVE THE DATE

The UNC Chapel Hill Division of Speech of Hearing Sciences hosts the Yoder Symposium to honor Professor Emeritus David E. Yoder. Dr. Juliann Woods, PhD, CCC-SLP, a Professor in the School of Communication Science and Disorders at Florida State University, will be the featured speaker at the Yoder Symposium in Chapel Hill on March 16, 2012. Stay tuned for more details!
The Department of Allied Health Sciences hosted its fourth annual Student Scholarships and Awards Brunch on November 6, 2010, at the Rizzo Center in Chapel Hill. Each DAHS division had the opportunity to acknowledge the accomplishments of its scholarship recipients and the generosity of its scholarship supporters. Seven students from the Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences were recognized at the event.

**Student Scholarships and Awards**

**Dr. Sylvia Campbell Speech and Hearing Sciences Scholarship**

Julie Marie Gaven of Round Hill, Va., received the Dr. Sylvia Campbell Speech and Hearing Sciences Time-Limited Scholarship. The Campbell scholarship was established through the generosity of Gary Campbell in honor of his wife, Sylvia, who earned an MS in Speech and Hearing Sciences and an MS in Audiology from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill in 1974 and 1977, respectively, and a PhD in Speech and Hearing Sciences in 1993 from the University of Maryland, College Park.

**Robert W. Peters Award**

Vanessa Evelyn Loiselle of Fairport, NY, received the Robert W. Peters Award, which recognizes students who have demonstrated excellence in research. Professor Peters joined the faculty of UNC Chapel Hill in 1969 and founded the Institute of Speech and Hearing Sciences, which later became the Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences. He chaired the program until 1981 and taught coursework in psychoacoustics, fluency disorders, and research design.

**Diversity Scholarship in Speech-Language Pathology**

Erica Janae Miller of Gastonia, NC, received the Diversity Scholarship in Speech-Language Pathology, which seeks to increase the number of students from underrepresented groups pursuing a master’s degree in SLP. The goal is to enhance the racial, ethnic, linguistic, and gender diversity of our program and of the profession. The purpose of this fund is two-fold: 1) to increase the racial, ethnic, linguistic, and gender diversity of the SLP program by providing scholarships to students from under-represented groups; and 2) to support recruitment activities aimed at attracting individuals from under-represented groups to academic programs offered within the Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences.

**Janice Rebecca Pettie Bowles Speech and Hearing Sciences Scholarship**

Alexandra J. Cornejo of Chapel Hill, NC, received the Janice Rebecca Pettie Bowles Speech and Hearing Sciences Time-Limited Scholarship. The scholarship was established through the generosity of Lauren Peyton Graves (MS ’05) to honor the memory of her aunt, Janice Rebecca Pettie Bowles, and continue Ms. Bowles’ legacy of dedication and love for teaching children.

Pictured at left, Marian Strand, Albert Pettie, Annie Pettie, Jacqueline Strand, Alexandra J. Cornejo, Lauren Peyton Graves (’05), Wayman Madden, and Bryson Strand.
**Adult Communications Disorders Scholarship**

Samantha Raye Goldberg of Hillsborough, NJ, received the Adult Communications Disorders Time-Limited Scholarship. Established through the generosity of Amy Chaney Heffern ('86) and John Heffern ('83), this scholarship rewards students interested in any aspect of adult communication disorders. Amy received her BA in 1984 and MS in speech and hearing sciences in 1986, and John received a BA in economics in 1983 and an MBA from the Kenan-Flager Business School in 1988.

**June C. Allcott Fellowships**

Jaimie Lynn Horning of Chillicothe, Ohio, received one of three June C. Allcott Fellowships awarded for 2010-11. In her life (1916-1996) June C. Allcott was a gardener of friendships. She explored the world as a traveler, weaver of baskets, culinary adventurer, designer of jewelry and clothes, guidance counselor at the University of North Carolina, computer explorer, music and art lover, and friend. June Allcott helped students expand their potential at UNC and make career choices. She had a particular place in her heart for those interested in the health fields. Fellowships are awarded for students who demonstrate exemplary, ongoing, and new community service.

**UNC Hospitals Volunteer Association’s Allied Health Sciences Fellowships**

Kaitlyn Theresa Mortimer of Millis, Mass., received one of four UNC Hospitals Volunteer Association’s Allied Health Sciences Fellowships awarded for 2010-11. The fellowships are supported through a generous gift from the UNC Hospitals Volunteer Association. The fellowships are awarded to deserving allied health students who, in addition to having financial need and scholastic ability, exhibit characteristics of emerging professional excellence.

**First Audiology Scholarship Funded by Alumni and Friends**

We are pleased to announce that 27 alumni and audiology faculty have responded to the call to create the Division’s first Au.D. Annual Scholarship that will be offered for the next two years! The following individuals have made a gift, bringing us to a current total of $2,220 surpassing our $2,000 goal.

Kate Berry  
LeAnn Boone  
Allison Cleland  
Chanel Coleman  
Mary Lou Dovantzis  
Carla Forestieri  
Philip Griffin  
Amy E. Haines  
Joseph Hall III  
Pamela Halligan  
Charlotte Holmes  
Lori Leibold  
Renee M. McClelland  
Gregg Moore  
Martha Mundy  
Kelly Murphy  
Beth Puffenberger-Mann  
Nicole Sessoms  
Jack Roush  
Amanda Shipp  
Stephanie Sjoblad  
Laurel Thompson  
Sam Vaught  
Sharon Williams  
Ellen Wilson  
Robert Woldford  
Annette Zeman

All of these gifts will be matched dollar-for-dollar through other contributions to the Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences Advancement Fund. The new audiology scholarship will be offered for the 2011-12 and 2012-13 academic years and will ensure that our Au.D. program (which has risen to #6 in the most recent US News and World Report ranking) has the resources it needs to maintain its record of excellence, attract the best applicants, and provide students with the best educational opportunities.

We look forward to celebrating the new audiology scholarship with our donors at the 2011 Scholarship and Awards Brunch later this year. Thank you for your generous support.

Jackson Roush, PhD  
Professor and Director  
Division of Speech and Hearing Science  
Kelly (Reace) Murphy  
(AuD Class of 2006)  
Clinical Manager of Audiology  
Wake Forest Baptist Health
Robert McClurkin ('80) is Director of Product Management and Marketing at KayPentax (Lincoln Park, NJ). The company designs and manufactures acoustic, aerodynamic, swallowing, endoscopy, and stroboscopy instrumentation used in speech/voice/swallowing clinics worldwide. Robert was recently promoted to Global Product Manager for Pentax Lifecare (Tokyo, Japan) to lead product development and distribution for ENT/Speech products internationally for the company.

Patty Saponaro ('82) currently serves as an administrator in the Department of Radiation Oncology at UNC Hospitals, located in the beautiful new NC Cancer Hospital. She lives in Chapel Hill with her husband, Joe, and teenagers, Will and Ben.

Raquel Strauss ('86) retired in August, 2010, from North Carolina Central University and plans to open a private practice later this year. “I have been traveling (Alaska, SC, VA) and having a great time with my three granddaughters,” writes Raquel.

A. Gregg Moore ('88) has practiced full-time Occupational Audiology since 1995 as a consultant and business owner. He recently accepted a civilian Occupational Audiologist position with the Department of the Navy. His primary responsibility is to support the hearing conservation programs at the Naval Construction Battalion Center (the Seabees) in Gulfport, MS and at the nearby Stennis Space Center. Additionally, he will support the Naval Branch Medical Clinics in Gulfport, Meridian, New Orleans, and at the Stennis Space Center through the provision of clinical audiology services to Navy and NASA personnel and their families.

Ellen Rosser Wilson ('88) celebrated 23 years of practice in Audiology with Central Carolina Ear, Nose, and Throat in Sanford, NC in May 2011. Dr. Wilson attended the 40th anniversary celebration of the Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences with great emotion. “I would like to recognize the late Dr. Joanne Roberts for encouraging me to follow this direction when I was a young work study student under her guidance, Dr. Robert Peters for fostering my love of math, numbers, statistics, and applications into the field of audiology, and Dr. Melody Harrison for being, both then and now, mentor, friend, and colleague. DSHS, I will be there for the 50th as well.”

Christine Parton Burkett ('90) is celebrating her 20th year as Professor of Speech at Duke University. Since graduation, she has practiced speech pathology in the acute care and outpatient setting with a focus on swallowing disorders and care of the professional voice and now enjoys working with preaching students at Duke Divinity School, helping them communicate effectively in the pulpit. Over the past decade, she has published several articles on the subject, and is a celebrated speaker at church conferences around the country. She lives in Durham with her husband and three children, age 2, 4, and 8.

Lisa Oelhafen Peterson ('99) works as a pediatric speech-language pathologist for a multi-disciplinary practice in Charlotte, Child & Family Development. She and her husband, Jeff Peterson, have three daughters: Caroline (age 7), Taylor Jane (age 4), and Ashton (age 1).

Anna Feezor ('01) is a Senior Clinical Specialist Speech Pathologist for SunDance Rehabilitation. She also serves as the Assistant Editor for ASHA’s Special Interest Group #15, Gerontology. On 10/10/10, the Feezor family welcomed their newest addition, a son, Mason Norwood Feezor.

Naomi Horton ('02) has been the Executive Director for Hear Indiana, the Indiana Chapter of AG Bell, since 2008. She has two biological sons, Marshall and Whitman, and last December, she adopted a three-year-old daughter, Maesa, from Ethiopia. She can be reached at naomi.horton@hearindiana.org.

Mary Kristen Clark ('03) is the proud new mom to a baby boy. Avery James, born January 31, 2011. She is currently ABD at UNC Greensboro and anticipates completing her PhD in May 2012.

Erika Bianchi Hawkins ('05) welcomed baby Caroline Grace on August 12, 2010, which is Erika’s birthday as well! Caroline is sister to Charlotte, age 4.

Ty Hampton ('06) has been living in Anchorage, Alaska, since leaving UNC, and recently opened his own practice, Talking with Ty Speech Therapy LLC (www.talkingwithtyspeechtherapy.com). He and his wife, Theresa, were married in 2009 and are expecting their first child (a girl) in late June or early July. He and Theresa visited Sam Cabra ('05) and his wife in Hawaii earlier this year.

Kerry Callahan Mandulak ('09) is an assistant professor in the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences at Portland State University, a job she officially began 36 hours after defending her dissertation. In the first year of her new position, she and husband David welcomed Henry Jameson into the world on 3/17/10. In her second year, Kerry had the opportunity to present to the Oregon speech pathology community about what she loves best—evaluation and treatment of children with repaired cleft palate and velopharyngeal dysfunction. She has been invited for a full-day presentation on the same topic at the annual convention of the Nevada Speech and Hearing Association, as well as presenting a clinical application of her dissertation data at the upcoming meeting of the American Cleft Palate–Craniofacial Association in San Juan, Puerto Rico.
Tar Heel Reader Tops Two Million Books Read

In 150 countries around the world, people are learning to read because of two UNC professors. Karen Erickson, director of the UNC Center for Literacy and Disability Studies and Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences Yoder Distinguished Professor, and Gary Bishop, a professor of computer science, teamed up to create Tar Heel Reader, a vast online library for children and adults who want to improve their beginners reading skills. The website hit two million books read on February 11, 2011, one thousand days after its launch in 2008.

Tar Heel Reader allows certified users to create books and publish them to the website's library for people all over the world to read. Around 15,000 books are available online, in 15 languages.

For more information, visit http://tarheelreader.org. You can read the full Spotlight Story at www.unc.edu/spotlight/tar_heel_reader.

Gary Bishop and Karen Erickson created Tar Heel Reader to help readers with disabilities. Photo by Dan Sears, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

LIV CARDS

Do you work with people with aphasia or other adults with language disorders? Are you interested in resources to support the autonomy for your clients so they can be involved as active decision makers in their own therapy? Check out the Life Interests and Values (LIV) Cards at www.livcards.org. The material is published by the UNC Department of Allied Health Sciences and represents six years of collaboration among the Divisions of Speech and Hearing Sciences, Occupational Science, and Physical Therapy.

New Planned Giving Web Resources

We have created new Web resources offering multiple giving options from naming the UNC Chapel Hill Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences as a beneficiary in your will to funding a charitable gift annuity that will provide you and your loved ones income for life while making a significant gift to our program. Visit www.med.unc.edu/ahs/sphs/waysofgiving for more information about the planned giving vehicles that are available or contact Kyle Gray, Director of Development, at (919)966-3352 or kyle_gray@med.unc.edu.

UNC-Chapel Hill Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences Gift & Pledge Form

I would like to support the Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences with a gift (please designate the amount of your gift on the line[s] provided below):

- [ ] $50
- [ ] $100
- [ ] $250
- [ ] $500
- [ ] $750
- [ ] $1,000

- [ ] Other __________

Check: Make check payable to Medical Foundation of N.C., Inc. (indicate designation number on the memo line.)

Credit Card: [ ] Visa [ ] MasterCard [ ] American Express

Credit Card Number __________________________ Security Code __________ Expiration Date __________

Pledge: I pledge $ __________ per year for [ ] 1 year [ ] 2 years [ ] 3 years

Matching Gift: My employer (or my spouse's employer), ________________, will match this gift.

I have enclosed the company's matching gift form.

Gift in Honor / Memorial / Celebration of: ________________ THANK YOU!

Alumni Updates: We would like to hear from everyone!

Please send an update even if you are not making a donation at this time.

Name: __________________________ Class: __________

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City: __________________________ State: ______ Zip: __________

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Please add any other information that you would like to share: __________

Mail To: Kyle Gray, Director of Development
Speech and Hearing Sciences
Department of Allied Health Sciences
UNC Chapel Hill, CB #7120
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7120

Questions: Contact Kyle at (919)966-3352 or kyle_gray@med.unc.edu.

Give Online

Support the Division of SHS by making a gift through this secure Web site:

https://medicalfoundationofnc.org/givetouncshs

SPEECH AND HEARING SCIENCES
Contributing Friends

We would like to thank the following individuals for their contributions from February 6, 2010 to June 6, 2011 to the Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences. The generosity of our donors helps us provide the educational resources needed to maintain the excellence of our program.

Adult Communications Disorders Annual Scholarship
Amy and John Heffern

Diversity Scholarship in Speech-Language Pathology Annual Scholarship
Georgia Hobbins Campbell
W. Stanley Campbell
Frances Agatha Burns
Patsy Luann Pierce in memory of Mrs. Lena Ritchie
Linda Ritchie Watson
Joel Watson
Satoko Fukada Yamamoto

FIRST YEARS

Advancement Fund
Lane Price Rose in memory of Maude “Tincy” Wilson
Radford University
SC School for the Deaf & Blind
Janice Rebecca Pettie

Bowles Speech and Hearing Sciences Annual Scholarship
Lauren Peyton Graves
Albert J. Pettie
Mary R. Wall

Dr. Sylvia Campbell Speech and Hearing Sciences Annual Scholarship
Gary V. Campbell

Rebecca Womble Speech and Hearing Sciences Annual Scholarship
Rebecca and George Womble

Gifts in memory of Robert W. Peters
Donald R. Abramson
Margaret Lane DeRamus
Melissa Anne Deutsch
Lisa Marie Domby
Sophia Hadijan
Elizabeth and Joseph Hall
Celia R. Hooper
Lori Leibold
Bobbie Boyd Lubker
John L. Lubker
Nancy Rush McKenna
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Beth Fuerstenau Schuster
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David and Dee Yoder

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Annette Maria Zeman
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