



DEPARTMENT of  
ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES  
UNC CHAPEL HILL



DIVISION OF

# *Speech and Hearing Sciences*

Fall 2012 Newsletter

[www.alliedhealth.unc.edu/sphs](http://www.alliedhealth.unc.edu/sphs)

## Méndez Receives Research Scholar Grant



Lucía I. Méndez, a current PhD candidate in the Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences, has been awarded a Research Scholar Grant by the Early Care Education and Head Start Research Scholars Grant Program to support her dissertation research.

Her dissertation, titled “A Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Vocabulary Approach for young Latino Dual Language Learners,” is conducted under the mentorship of Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences Professor Betsy Crais, PhD, and Dina Castro, PhD, from the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute.

Méndez’ dissertation compares the gains and retention of English receptive vocabulary by preschool Latino dual language learners after the implementation of a culturally and linguistically responsive shared reading approach. Research results will contribute to the development of evidence-based instructional strategies to improve the quality of services for young Dual Language Learners and inform policy for multicultural services to diverse children and families.

## Walton and Mitchell Present Research at NBASLH Convention

MS-SLP student Camille Walton and DAHS Associate Chair for Student Services Brenda Mitchell delivered a presentation titled “Success Strategies of Speech and Hearing Sciences Graduate Students,” at the National Black Association for Speech-Language and Hearing Annual Convention in April.



Camille Walton

Walton and Mitchell shared the results of a qualitative study they had conducted on the methods used by students in the field of speech and hearing sciences for graduate school success. The study specifically addressed whether these students knowingly or unknowingly used the advice presented in the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association’s Communication Sciences Student Survival Guide to navigate through their first year of graduate school.

The presentation was intended to enable participants to identify strategies graduate students use to succeed, provide a checklist of advice for first-year graduate students, replicate this study in a university setting, and analyze differences based upon the demographic makeup of survey participants.

## Poster Wins First Place for Scientific Merit

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.”



Mallory Baker

## Adunka Named First Director of Audiology at UNCH

Marcia Clark Adunka (MS Audiology, Class of 2002) has been named UNC Hospitals’ first Director of Audiology. For decades prior, UNC Hospitals had a Director of Audiology and Speech Pathology, a position held by both audiologists and speech-language pathologists. Earlier this year, the hospital administration determined that separate directors were warranted for each professional discipline. A national search led back to Dr. Adunka, who has been employed at UNCH for the past nine years. She joined the audiology staff in 2003 and has served as Clinical Coordinator of the Adult Cochlear Implant program since 2006. Dr. Adunka began her role as Director of Audiology in September.



Marcia Clark Adunka

## Klusek Receives Gallagher Dissertation Award

Jessica Klusek, a doctoral student in the Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences, received the 2011 James J. Gallagher Dissertation Award. 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.

Photo by John Cotter, courtesy of FPG Institute



Jessica Klusek and James Gallagher



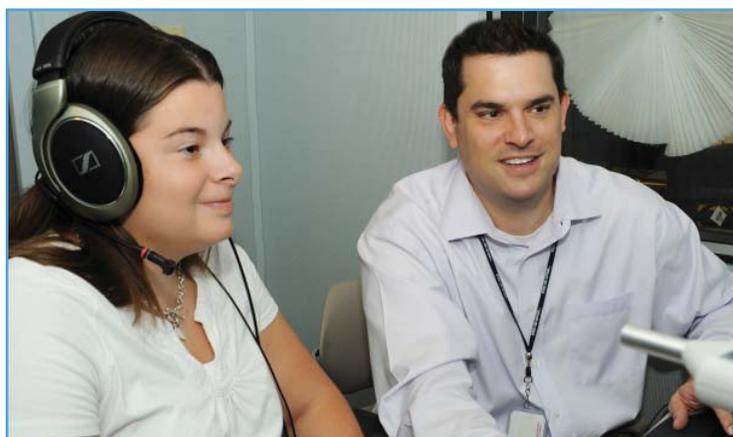
## Students and Faculty Team Up for PKD Walk

Speech and Hearing Sciences students Stephanie Herndon, Lindsey Kanes, Jennifer Fuchs, and Lauren Peterson teamed with Professor Betsy Crais (center) for the Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD) Annual Walk on Saturday, October 13.

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

Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences Assistant Professor Adam Jacks, PhD, recently 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 is providing \$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.



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

In contrast to conventional treatment approaches, Dr. Jacks and his colleagues (Katarina Haley, PhD, DSHS, Department of Allied Health Sciences; Heidi Roth, MD, Department of Neurology) are studying the effects of preventing the person with apraxia of speech from hearing the errors in their speech by delivering masking 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. 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 is also studying 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.

## New Division Faculty

**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 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** formerly a research associate in the Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences, has been appointed assistant professor. Hillock-Dunn will work in the laboratory of Dr. Lori Leibold on an NIH-funded grant entitled "Susceptibility to and Release from Masking in Infancy and Childhood," which is investigating questions related to the development of auditory perception in noisy environments. Hillock-Dunn earned her AuD from Northwestern University and PhD from Vanderbilt University.

**Dr. Kate Kawola** has joined the faculty as an assistant professor. Kawola's primary role involves clinical audiology services at the UNC Hearing and Communication Center, where she performs hearing evaluations, dispenses hearing aids, conducts school-age hearing

screenings, and conducts programs for audiologic rehabilitation. Kawola, who has congenital hearing loss and wears bilateral hearing aids, earned her BS in Speech and Hearing from Elmira College and Doctor of Audiology degree at UNC.

## New Post-Doc

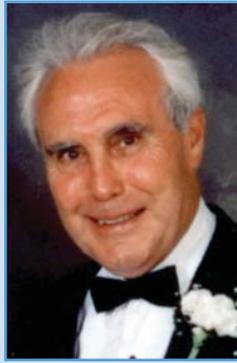
**Dr. Rupa Gupta Gordon** came to UNC Chapel Hill as a post-doctoral fellow in July. Gordon has a two-year award from the Carolina Post-doctoral Program for Faculty Diversity and will be working with SHS Professor Dr. Linda Watson and her colleagues in the area of autism research. Gordon received her PhD in Neuroscience from the University of Iowa in May 2012.

## On The Cover

**Side One:** Photos from the fall newsletter stories and a picture of Kaitlyn Wilson, Eric Sanders, and Angela Bonino, the three Speech and Hearing Sciences PhD students who graduated in May. **Side Two:** A photo of the Old Well by Dan Sears, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

# Peters Award for Excellence in Research Endowment Created

Shelia Barnett and Colin Peters have funded the Robert W. Peters Award for Excellence in Research Endowment at the Medical Foundation of NC to honor their late father. Dr. Peters joined the faculty of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1969 and founded the Institute of Speech and Hearing Sciences, which later became a division in the Department of Allied Health Sciences. Dr. Peters chaired the academic program in speech and hearing until 1981 and taught coursework in psychoacoustics, fluency disorders, and research design.



*Robert W. Peters*

Dr. Peters' research focused on auditory and speech perception, sensation and perception, and stuttering. He later became a professor at the University of Southern Mississippi where he served as Departmental Chair of Speech and Hearing Sciences and as Research Administrator for the University. In 1981 and 1982 he was a Visiting Research Scholar in the Department of Experimental Psychology at the University of Cambridge in England.

The Division greatly appreciates the generosity of Shelia and Colin to honor their father in this very important way. The Peters Award for Excellence in Research will be presented biannually to



*UNC Speech and Hearing Sciences Division Director Jack Roush and Shelia Barnett, daughter of the late Robert W. Peters, at the Allied Health Sciences Scholarships and Awards Brunch on November 3, 2012.*

a deserving UNC-Chapel Hill Speech and Hearing Sciences faculty member who demonstrates excellence in research or research mentoring in speech and hearing science. The first Peters Award will be presented in 2014.

## Hall Named Distinguished Alumnus

Joseph W. Hall, PhD, Professor and Chief of the Division of Auditory Research, was honored by UNC's Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences as its first Distinguished Alumnus. Internationally acclaimed for his contributions in psychoacoustics and hearing science, Dr. Hall is also known for his collegiality and generosity of spirit.

"Dr. Hall is always willing to share his time and knowledge in ways that bring out the best in others," said Associate Professor Lori Leibold. "He is loyal, supportive, and treats everyone with respect and dignity."

Hall, who earned his MS degree in audiology at UNC in 1980, was honored at the Division's graduation ceremony on May 12, 2012, where he delivered the commencement address to over 350 friends and family members gathered in celebration of the Class of 2012.

"Choosing our first distinguished alumnus was an easy decision for our faculty," said Dr. Jack Roush, Professor and Director of the Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences. "Dr. Hall has been an inspiring mentor and role model for students and faculty at UNC for over 25 years. We are proud to claim him as a graduate and look forward to our continued collaboration."



*Distinguished Alumnus, Dr. Joe Hall, with Professor Lori Leibold, left, and Division Director Jack Roush, right.*

## Preceptors of the Year Chosen by Students

Each year graduating speech-language pathology and audiology students choose a "Clinical Preceptor of the Year" for recognition at the commencement ceremony in May.

The 2012 honoree for speech-language pathology was Ms. Jocelyn Crawford, a speech-language pathologist at UNC Hospitals who specializes in aphasia and cognitive-linguistic disorders. The honoree for audiology was Dr. Jennifer Woodard, an audiologist specializing in pediatric cochlear implantation at UNC's Carolina Children's Communicative Disorders Program.



*SLP Preceptor of the Year Jocelyn Crawford with MS graduate Kristen Peet, left, and Professor Lisa Domby, right.*



*Audiology Preceptor of the Year Jennifer Woodard with Professor Barbara Warren, left, and AuD graduate Erin Dickens.*