



Speech and Hearing Sciences



From the Director

The 2012-2013 academic year was again filled with many accomplishments. In May we graduated 37 students from the MS-SLP program, eight AuD graduates, and three new PhDs. We again saw a 100% pass rate on the national Praxis Examination and perhaps most importantly, we saw essentially full employment of our graduates from all degree programs.

Some of the highlights related to our educational activities included a new Multicultural Training grant from the U.S. Department of Education co-directed by Betsy Crais and Cara McComish. We were also pleased to see renewal of a supplemental grant in pediatric audiology through our collaboration with the NC-LEND program. The AuD program added a new partnership with Mission Hospital in Asheville to provide clinical training of fourth-year AuD students in conjunction with the first comprehensive pediatric audiology program to serve NC.

Outstanding scholarship was also in evidence through 24 faculty publications and 58 presentations at state and national meetings, many with students as co-authors or co-presenters. Individual accomplishments included Adam Jacks' new NIH grant (RO3) "Auditory masking effects on

speech fluency in apraxia of speech," Sharon Williams' selection for the second year of UNC's Academic Career Leadership Academy in Medicine (ACCLAIM) program, and Linda Watson's selection as a UNC Faculty Engaged Scholar with the Carolina Center for Public Service. We also learned that Linda will be honored as an ASHA Fellow at the convention in November. Our faculty again provided an abundance of professional service through their roles on various editorial boards, executive councils, and advisory committees; Stephanie Sjoblad served as President of the NC Chapter of the American Academy of Audiology; and Lisa Domby was instrumental in elevating the credentialing of SLPs in Guatemala (see article on page 3). Finally we were pleased to welcome two outstanding new faculty colleagues: Lauren Calandrucchio, PhD, and Patricia Johnson, AuD.

We look forward to an exciting year as we welcome incoming students in August from a record number of outstanding applicants to all three degree programs. As always we appreciate the engagement of our alumni and friends and thank you for your loyal support. Best wishes for an enjoyable summer.

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

Speech and Hearing Professors Bring Autism Expertise to Bolivia



Photo by Dan Sears, UNC Chapel Hill

UNC Speech and Hearing Sciences Professors
Linda Watson and Betsy Crais

Linda Watson and Betsy Crais are familiar with the extensive journey many Americans find themselves on when trying to acquire services for children with autism spectrum disorder.

As Speech and Hearing Sciences Professors and part of UNC's Program for Early Autism, Research, Leadership and Service (PEARLS), they have made autism screening, early detection and research the center of their academic lives.

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Remembering Millicent Blair Arnett (1972-2013)

Millicent Blair Arnett, MS-SLP Class of 2002, died May 22, 2013. Her obituary, published in *The Charlotte Observer*, can be found at www.legacy.com/obituaries/charlotte/obituary.aspx?pid=165071304. Below, Department of Allied Health Sciences Associate Chair for Student Services and AHEC Operations Brenda Everett Mitchell, UNC MS-SLP alumna Heather Petrusa, and current MS-SLP student Chanel Blaylock share their reflections about Millicent.

"Millicent Blair Arnett truly found her niche as a pediatric Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP). She thoroughly enjoyed her work with children as much as she enjoyed interacting with her sons, David and Matthew.

Millicent was admitted to the DSHS graduate program in SLP in 2000 after having been an elementary school teacher for a few years out of college. She discovered this career and pursued it with great passion.

In 2006, I asked Millicent if she'd like to work with me on an AHEC-funded grant aimed at recruiting underrepresented students into the Allied Health Professions at UNC Chapel Hill. She enthusiastically agreed to assist me in this part-time effort in addition to her work as a SLP. Millicent was responsible for managing many of the outreach efforts from the UNC Chapel Hill campus to statewide partner campuses of North Carolina A & T State University, North Carolina Central University, UNC-Pembroke and Elizabeth City State University, and Dudley High School.

College students heard about UNC AHS disciplines through presentations delivered live at UNC Chapel Hill and teleconferenced to partner campuses. Millicent was occasionally asked to share what she did as a SLP with the students. In her typical bubbly and energetic manner, she did not just talk about being a SLP, but also demonstrated how to engage children in speech and language activities. She was so effective in her presentations that even students who were not interested in SLP as a career option were excited to participate.

Millicent continued to stay in touch with me after her work with the grant and shared the joys and challenges of life. Her faith in God kept her grounded during the difficult years prior to departing her life. My life was made richer because of my affiliation with Millicent. I will miss her dearly. Her life reminds all of us to seize each moment of life and to pursue our passions with great fervor."

- Brenda Everett Mitchell



Millicent Blair Arnett

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Students and Donors Recognized at Annual Ceremony

The Department of Allied Health Sciences (DAHS) hosted its sixth annual Student Scholarships and Awards Brunch on November 3, 2012, 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. Eight Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences Students were recognized at the event.

Rebecca Rule Womble Speech and Hearing Sciences Annual Scholarship

Kathryn Michelle Briggs of Jamestown, NC, received the Rebecca Rule Womble Speech and Hearing Sciences Annual Scholarship, which was established through the generosity of George Womble ('68) in honor of his wife Rebecca Rule Womble, who graduated with a MS in Speech-Language Pathology from UNC Chapel Hill in 1972.



Kathryn Briggs

UNC Hospitals Volunteer Association's Allied Health Sciences Fellowships

Christina Shoaf of Saint Paul, Minnesota, received a UNC Hospitals Volunteer Association's Allied Health Sciences Fellowship. Made possible by 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.



Christina Shoaf

Janice Rebecca Pettie Bowles Speech and Hearing Sciences Annual Scholarship

Kaylen Marie Hunter of Greensboro, NC, received the Janice Rebecca Pettie Bowles Speech and Hearing Sciences Annual Scholarship. The scholarship was established through the generosity of Lauren Graves Madden (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.



Kaylen Hunter & Lauren Graves Madden.

Audiology Alumni Annual Scholarship

Jenna Marie Browning of Burlington, Washington, received the Audiology Alumni Annual Scholarship. More than 30 alumni and faculty responded to the call to create the AuD Annual Scholarship, which was first awarded for the 2011-12 academic year. The audiology scholarship helps to ensure that the AuD program (which has risen to #3 in the most recent *U.S. News and World Report* rankings) has the resources it needs to maintain its record of excellence and attract the best applicants.



Jenna Browning

Diversity Scholarship in Speech-Language Pathology

Adara Nicole Blake of Charlotte, 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 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; and 2) to support recruitment activities aimed at attracting individuals from underrepresented groups to academic programs offered by the Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences.



Joel Watson, Linda Watson, Adara Blake, and Jack Roush.

Norman and Nevada Pierce Annual Scholarship

Maureen Feldbaum of Mandeville, Louisiana, received the Norman and Nevada Pierce Annual Scholarship, made possible through the generosity of the Pierce family and the Center for Literacy and Disability Studies (CLDS). Norman and Nevada Pierce were staunch advocates of higher education and produced three first-generation college completers: Sharon Pierce Culpepper, special and regular education teacher; Jeffrey Pierce, MD, traumatic brain injury specialist; and Patsy Pierce, PhD, CCC-SLP. Patsy was one of the original researchers at the CLDS and is a former Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences faculty member.



Maureen Feldbaum

Dr. Sylvia Campbell Speech and Hearing Sciences Annual Scholarship

Danielle Brooke Kopkin of Marietta, Georgia, received the Dr. Sylvia Campbell Speech and Hearing Sciences Annual Scholarship. The scholarship was established through the generosity of Gary Campbell in honor of his wife, Sylvia, who earned her MS in Speech and Hearing Sciences and MS in Audiology from UNC Chapel Hill in 1974 and 1977, respectively, and a PhD in Speech and Hearing Sciences in 1993 from the University of Maryland, College Park. Dr. Campbell is an active member of ASHA and was awarded the Certificate of Clinical Competence in 1974.



Danielle Kopkin

Adult Communications Disorders Annual Scholarship

Kevin Terence Cunningham of Rhinebeck, New York, received the Adult Communications Disorders Annual 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.



Amy Heffern and Kevin Cunningham.

Robert W. Peters Award

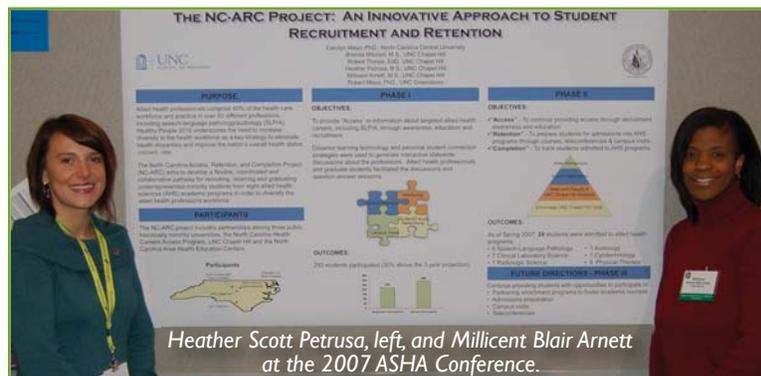
Kevin Terence Cunningham of Rhinebeck, New York, received the Robert W. Peters Award, which recognizes students who have demonstrated excellence in research. The award is named in honor of the late Robert W. Peters, who joined the faculty of UNC Chapel Hill in 1969 and founded the Institute of Speech 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.



Kevin Cunningham and Sheila Barnett, daughter of the late Robert W. Peters.

Cunningham, who graduated in May, also received a **Students Preparing for Academic and Research Careers (SPARC) Award** from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) in 2012. He developed a research and teaching plan with UNC SHS faculty Katarina Haley and Adam Jacks, presented his work at the NC Speech Language Hearing Association convention, and is working on a first-authored manuscript about the project. He has also received funding to present his work at the 2013 ASHA convention in November.

Remembering Millicent (continued from page 1)



Heather Scott Petrusa, left, and Millicent Blair Arnett at the 2007 ASHA Conference.

"Millicent was an ambassador for the profession of speech-language pathology. Her enthusiasm for working with children was infectious and persuaded me, and probably many others, to pursue a career as a pediatric speech-language pathologist. Millicent's passion for children was evident when she spoke about both her work and her sons. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to learn from her experience and also collaborate with her professionally. She will be greatly missed."

- Heather Scott Petrusa, MS-SLP Class of 2008

"I was greatly influenced by Millicent's love and passion for helping others. As a freshman in college, I searched aimlessly for a future career and was unable to find something that I would enjoy. After a candid talk with Millicent about the wonderful opportunities in the field of speech and hearing sciences, I was able to secure a lifelong dedication to helping others as well. Millicent always provided great wisdom, guidance, and encouragement to help me through my journey, and for that I am forever grateful. Millicent's willingness to help others succeed in the field of speech-language pathology will continue to live on through the lives of many she touched." - Chanel Blaylock, Second-year MS-SLP Student

Millicent Blair Arnett Memorial Speech-Language Pathology Annual Scholarship Fund

The Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences has created the Millicent Blair Arnett Memorial Speech-Language Pathology Annual Scholarship Fund at the Medical Foundation of NC to accept contributions from alumni, faculty, and friends in memory of Millicent. Contributions to this expendable account will be awarded annually to a deserving UNC SLP student and presented at the UNC Allied Health Sciences Student Scholarships and Awards Brunch held each fall. The Chair of the Department may decide at a later date to convert the account into a permanent endowment if the funds contributed reach the scholarship endowment minimum. If you would like to make a contribution, please complete the enclosed gift form or contact Kyle Gray at 919-966-3352 or kyle_gray@med.unc.edu.

UNC Speech and Hearing Assists with Professional Growth in Guatemala

The First National Congress of the Guatemalan Institute of Language and Communication was held on May 24, 2013, in San Felipe, Guatemala. Organized by Lic. Letty Lopez, a Guatemalan speech therapist and Director of Brillo de Sol, a school for children with language learning difficulties, the conference represented an important step forward in professional development for speech-language clinicians in Guatemala.



SHS Assistant Professor Lisa Domby at the First National Congress of the Guatemalan Institute of Language and Communication.

Lopez has been working with UNC Speech and Hearing Sciences Assistant Professor Lisa Domby, MS, CCC-SLP, and Jessica Witt, MS, CCC-SLP, Assistant Director of Let's Be Ready, a pre-school program in Guatemala, for several years on strategies to develop

a recognized profession or career path for speech-language clinicians, something the country currently lacks. Forming a professional organization and providing continuing education offerings were primary goals that were met this year. Another goal, advancing the degree program from a "técnica" to a "licenciatura" (Lic.) was also met in April 2013.

The conference was attended by 35 Guatemalan speech therapists, teachers, and psychologists. In addition to Lopez, Domby, and Witt, Barbara Conboy, PhD, CCC-SLP, Associate Professor at University of Redlands, presented at the event.

During Domby's annual trip to Guatemala with graduate student clinicians in May, UNC students met with students from the Universidad Rafael Landívar to share information on topics that are not covered in their training program, such as autism, augmentative communication, and intervention for adult language disorders. The new licenciatura program at Universidad Rafael Landívar will begin in January, and Domby is looking forward to continued collaboration with this program.

2013 STUDENT RESEARCH DAY

The fifth annual Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences Student Research Day was held April 24 in the Bioinformatics Building on UNC Chapel Hill's campus. The event included oral presentations by three SHS doctoral students and poster presentations by 18 students from the PhD, AuD, and MS-SLP programs. Visit www.alliedhealth.unc.edu/sphs/files/shs_researchday-2013.pdf to download a copy of the abstract booklet.



Additional student research highlights

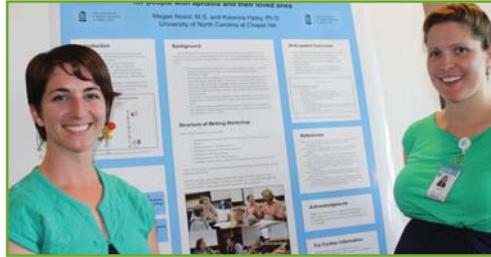
Bianca Gomez (AuD student) was awarded a Mentored Student Travel Award by the American Auditory Society and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Gomez's project is titled "Energetic and informational masking of speech for Spanish/English bilingual children," and her mentors are SHS faculty Drs. Lori Leibold and Lauren Calandrucio.

Dr. Sara Mamo (AuD Class of 2008, current PhD student) was awarded a New Century Scholars Doctoral Fellowship worth \$10,000 by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation. Mamo conducts research under the mentorship of Dr. John Grose, Department of Otolaryngology.

Hannah Hodson (AuD student) is spending the summer at Boys Town National Research Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska, on an NIH/NIHDCD T35 fellowship.



Photos by Katarina Haley



Clockwise from top photo, Megan Wolfe, MS-SLP Class of 2013; Katie Loebner MS-SLP student, and Megan Nosal, MS-SLP Class of 2013; and Alexandra Gery, AuD student.

Professors Bring Autism Expertise (continued from page 1)

In the summer of 2012, they took that experience abroad, traveling with a group to Bolivia, where autism services lag far behind what can be found in the U.S.

Partners of the Americas, an organization that links people in the U.S. with people in Latin American and Caribbean countries based on common interests, had identified a need for autism assistance in Bolivia. They contacted Patsy Pierce, a former SHS faculty member, who led them to Watson and Crais.

At first the professors, who knew neither the language nor the culture of the country, weren't confident their expertise would translate. Unlike some medical outreach where vaccines, medicines, extra hands, and equipment can make an immediate impact, breakthroughs in autism would have to come a different way. Still, they agreed to help find that way. "We're helpers," Crais said. "That's just the profession we're in."



Drs. Betsy Crais and Lucía Méndez

Partners of the Americas developed a four-phase project. The first phase was to send Lucía I. Méndez, a Speech and Hearing Sciences PhD student (Class of 2013) who is a native of Bolivia, to the cities of Santa Cruz, Cochabama, and La Paz to conduct interviews and needs assessments.

While there were parent advocacy organizations in some cities, there was no national organization that focused on autism services. Consequently, many of

the professionals were unable to connect with parents, and many parents were left in the dark about the disorder.

"With a lack of resources and awareness, it was hard to know where to turn and even if there was a place to turn," Watson said. "We discovered they had some expertise there, but no way for parents, who might not even know much about their child's disorder, to find it."

The second phase of the project was a series of conferences in the three cities. Partners of the Americas helped provide the infrastructure and logistics, and many other sponsors from the U.S. and Bolivia provided funding to make the trip possible. Watson and Crais, along with T.C. Bethea, a Carolina child psychiatry research associate; Rosario Roman, a speech-language pathologist from New Mexico; and Maggie Fitch, a recent UNC graduate, designed events to communicate information about the disorder

and provide teaching tools for physicians, psychologists, teachers, and parents.

In La Paz, the group also met with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Pan American Health Organization to talk about autism. After each of the conferences, which attracted hundreds of participants who passed around notepads to create listservs and networking groups, they staged discussion groups about possible next steps.

"We come from an academic setting, so we stay on top of the current research and information," Crais said. "Bringing that to the people in Bolivia was a real shot in the arm, but while part of it was about providing knowledge, part of it was to shape the next steps. And we've certainly shortened the timeline for them, I hope."

In the last 20 years, the increase in research dollars and public awareness of autism has seen incredible growth in the U.S., Crais said. She hopes that progress has given the Bolivians confidence to know that, with the right tools and structure, they could see strides as well.

Before their work with Partners of the Americas, Watson and Crais had not thought much about how their work in the U.S. could affect another country. Now, they hope to be involved in the project's next steps.

"This work has stretched me," Watson said. "I'm thinking more now about how to change systems, how could or should research influence policy, and what are the skills needed to do that? What tools do I need to be able to go out and keep persisting in this partnership until we can put together what Bolivia says they need?"

Excerpts from a story by Courtney Mitchell, *University Gazette*. Read the original version at <http://gazette.unc.edu/2012/11/30/professors-bring-autism-expertise-to-bolivia/>.

UPDATES: Autism stakeholders in Bolivia are working to form a national autism advisory committee, following a conference call with the NC Partners and the Autism Speaks coordinator of the Global Autism Public Health Initiative, Michael Rosanoff, in January. Rosario Roman, one of last summer's autism team members, returned to Bolivia in June, and will follow up with Bolivian Partners and other autism stakeholders there. In addition, Partners of the Americas is sponsoring a month-long visit to the Triangle area by Elida Hidalgo Marquez, mother of a child with autism and a dynamic parent advocate from La Paz. Ms. Hidalgo will be learning about the various programs for children and adults with autism and their families here in NC. In June, officials at both UNC Chapel Hill and the Catholic University of Bolivia at Santa Cruz signed a memorandum of understanding to plan future academic exchanges related to autism.