

# Speech and Hearing Sciences



## From the Director:

It is such a pleasure to send greetings and warm wishes to all of you. The 2017-18 academic year was exciting and productive. It was also a year of change within the division. We welcomed Drs. Lindsey Byom and Hannah Siburt as members of the faculty. We also hosted a retirement celebration for Dr. Melody Harrison. Dr. Harrison offered leadership for us in numerous roles for over 30 years; I am sure many of you have fond memories of her neuroanatomy class. 😊 Dr. Harrison also served as program coordinator for our speech-language pathology program. Dr. Cara McComish is now serving in that leadership role and she, and I both, recently completed our first year serving in leadership roles for the division.

We are fortunate that we are able to build on such a wonderful tradition of excellence thanks to our faculty, students, and alumni. Our tradition of excellence will reach a milestone of 50 years in the year 2020. Fifty years – now that is reason for another celebration. We invite you back to Chapel Hill to join in the 50th Celebration. The dates will be announced in 2019.

You will find other reasons for celebration online. There are highlights related to some student accomplishments. Their accomplishments, and other accomplishments of our students, are a reflection of the commitment and devotion of our faculty. Their accomplishments are also a reflection of you, and your willingness, and skill, in serving as clinical preceptors, and your willingness to support the division with your financial contributions.

As division director, I am keenly aware of the need, and the value, of your financial support for our division and our students. The Department of Allied Health Sciences recently hired Erin Kinney as our new development director. Find more information about her within this newsletter. Be sure to check out our newly redesigned website and find a link to our Speech and Hearing Sciences Advancement Fund. This fund supports the division's greatest needs and allows us increased flexibility in meeting the needs of our students. If you prefer to make a gift for a more specific purpose, Erin's contact information is included and she would love to hear from you.

It is absolutely true that every donation helps in reducing the cost of education for our students and in affording us the opportunity to offer the highest levels of educational preparation for our future speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and researchers.

It is an honor for me to serve as your division director.

Sincerely,



Sharon W. Williams, PhD, CCC-A

## Sallie Nowell Receives 2018 Boka W. Hadzija Award

Sallie Nowell, who recently received her PhD in the UNC School of Medicine's Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences, has received the 2018 Boka W. Hadzija Award for Distinguished University Service by a Graduate or Professional Student.

The award recognizes a graduate or professional student with outstanding character, scholarship, leadership and service to UNC-Chapel Hill. The Graduate School presented the award to Nowell at the 20th Annual Graduate Student Recognition Celebration, held April 5. Nowell and other students were recognized for their outstanding leadership at the Chancellor's Awards Ceremony on April 24.

Nowell has co-directed undergraduate courses and served as a teaching assistant for graduate courses. She organized an interdisciplinary group of doctoral students to write an APPLIES Service-Learning grant proposal, through the Carolina Center for Public Service (CCPS), to develop an undergraduate course on autism spectrum disorder.

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The grant was approved, and Nowell reached out to local autism service-oriented programs, a nominator said, to ensure that students taking the course gained a valuable service-learning experience and that the organizations received support they needed.

"Not only was the experience highly rated by both students and sites, but the waiting list for the second offering of the course was almost 100 students beyond those admitted," the nomination letter said.

The CCPS also named Nowell a 2017 Community Engagement Fellow for her study on the efficacy of a TEACCH Autism Program intervention focused on North Carolina children. A nomination letter noted that Nowell asked TEACCH staff to present with her at a national conference. She saw her study as a partnership, the letter said, adding that "This is just another example of Sallie's many efforts to accomplish multiple goals that always include service to others."

Nowell received both her master's degree in speech and hearing sciences and her bachelor's degrees in communication studies and psychology from UNC-Chapel Hill. Between her master's degree and the start of her doctoral studies, she completed a Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities clinical fellowship and worked as an assistant professor of speech language pathology at the Oregon Health and Science University Institute on Development and Disability.

Nowell has presented at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association convention, the International Meeting for Autism Research and the UNC Women in Science Symposium, among other organizations.

In presenting the Boka W. Hadzija Award to Nowell, Steve Matson, dean of The Graduate School, said, "It has been noted that Sallie's outstanding contributions to our campus and beyond – as a researcher, teacher, public servant, mentor and community member – demonstrate the full potential of what graduate students can be."

Linda Watson, a professor in the Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences, is Nowell's doctoral adviser.

Boka W. Hadzija was an award-winning professor in the Eshelman School of Pharmacy; she established the award in 2000 in honor of her students. Hadzija, who died in 2013, is remembered by students and faculty for her strong mentorship, her generous support of students and her outstanding leadership.



*Sallie Nowell, PhD, with Drs. Linda Watson and Elizabeth Crais at the 2018 Graduate School Awards.*

## Students Honored at 2018 Graduate School Awards

On Thursday, April 5, 2018, The UNC Graduate School held its 20th annual Graduate Student Recognition Celebration. This year's recipients gathered at the George Watts Hill Alumni Center, where they celebrated the ingenuity, creativity, and research contributions of the University's graduate students.

"[Graduate students] infuse new talent, energy and ideas every day at Carolina," said Chancellor Carol Folt. "I am grateful and thankful for our amazing graduate students, and I congratulate those being honored for their superior performance and contributions."

The Graduate School recognized several Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences students at the ceremony, including Nancy Quick, PhD, a 2018 Impact Award recipient, and Sallie Nowell, recipient of the 2018 Boka W. Hadzija award. Other division recipients included:

**Ashwaq Alzamel**, (PhD program), Minority Student Leadership Program (MSLP)

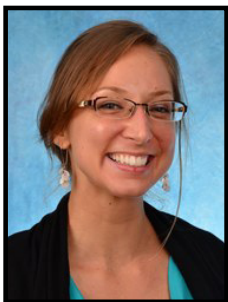
**Abigail Messinger**, (MS SLP), Love of Learning Award

**Daniel Picetti**, (MS SLP), Van R. Johnson Sutter Scholars Program

**Michael Smith**, (MS SLP), Students Preparing for Academic Research Careers Award (SPARC)

**Sallie Nowell**, (PhD program), Carolina Center for Public Service Community Engagement Fellows (2017)

## Nicole Corbin Receives 2018 CAPSCD Scholarship



Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences PhD student Nicole Corbin received the 2018 Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders (CAPSCD) PhD scholarship. The scholarship provides \$20,000, to support the completion of the PhD program. Corbin's dissertation project is titled "Spatial Hearing and Functional Auditory Skills in Children with Unilateral Hearing Loss." She is measuring the effects of unilateral hearing loss on children's ability to benefit from target-masker spatial separation for speech-on-speech recognition, as well as their ability to localize sound sources in space. The association between these abilities and children's functional communication skills will be evaluated. Results will have implications for the clinical assessment and treatment of pediatric unilateral hearing loss.

This year's round of CAPCSD PhD scholarships received 40 applications. Submissions were rated across all components of the proposal for their breadth, depth, overall quality, and letter of support. Only ten scholarships were awarded, placing Corbin at the top of the group of applicants.

## 2018 Yoder Symposium Features Scholar Dollaghan



*Christine A. Dollaghan, the 2018 Yoder Symposium speaker, speaks while David E. Yoder, PhD, looks on.*



On Friday, April 20, more than 50 attendees of the David E. Yoder Symposium had the opportunity to learn about identifying and treating young children with speech and language disorders. The symposium, hosted every two years, featured Christine A. Dollaghan, PhD, CCC-SLP, a professor at the University of Dallas. Karen Erickson, the David E. and Dolores "Dee" Yoder Professor of Literacy and Disability Studies, said "The Symposium is an incredible opportunity to honor David and all of his contributions to the field of child language, literacy, and augmentative and alternative communication. Symposium attendees learned about considerations in assessment tools for language disorders, with an emphasis on decision-making and treatment options for young children, including those with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

## Division Welcomes Two New Faculty Members

### Lindsey Byom, PhD, CCC-SLP

*What is your role within the division?* Assistant Professor in Speech and Hearing Sciences

*What are your research interests?* My research focuses on better understanding the effects of traumatic brain injury on thinking and communication abilities.

*What courses do you teach?* I currently teach neuroanatomy in the Master's Speech-Language Pathology program and will be developing a course on cognitive-communication disorders.

*Where are you from?* I am from rural, west-central Wisconsin.

*What led you to UNC?* I was really drawn to UNC's strong commitment to both rehabilitation research and graduate student education. The warmer winters have been a bonus!

*What is your educational background?* PhD at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

Post-doctoral fellowships at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland and at the William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin.



### Hannah Siburt, AuD, PhD

*What is your role within the division?* Clinical Assistant Professor and Clinical Education Coordinator for Audiology

*What are your research interests?* My research interests including bimodal hearing, listening effort, aging, audiological rehabilitation and clinical education

*What courses do you teach?* I taught in Spring 2018 SPHS 712: Characteristics of Amplification Systems and will be teaching SPHS 708: Cochlear Implants in the Fall.

*Where are you from?* I grew up in southwest Virginia, but lived for the last 12 years in Gainesville, FL.

*What led you to UNC?* The culture of the department and division; the clinical and research opportunities, and the opportunity to be a part of one of the nation's leading Audiology training programs. I also love the mid-Atlantic climate and the historic beauty of the UNC campus.

*What is your educational background?* Bachelor's of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders from Radford University; AuD and PhD from the University of Florida.



# Professor Melody Harrison Retires After 37 Years at UNC-Chapel Hill



It's hard to imagine the Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences without Dr. Melody Harrison, but in August, Dr. Harrison will retire from UNC-CH following a distinguished career spanning four decades. In May at UNC-CH's Graham Memorial, colleagues, friends, former students, and family members gathered to celebrate her career.

Dr. Harrison arrived at UNC-CH in 1980 and within a few years had developed one of the nation's few training program where speech-language pathology students could learn to work with children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Her former students now practice throughout North Carolina and the United States, applying the knowledge and skills they acquired from Dr. Harrison.

Her career at UNC-CH included excellence in each of academia's core components of teaching, research, and service. As an educator, Dr. Harrison earned stellar reviews, and her research, which also focused on deafness in children, ranged from studies addressing the needs of parents and families to language and communication development. Her publications have had a major impact, and her many presentations enabled her to share her expertise nationally and internationally.

In the area of service to the University, every aspect of our program over the past 37 years has been shaped by Dr. Harrison's creative ideas and hard work, often behind the scenes. She worked tirelessly on the many administrative responsibilities associated with her role as coordinator of the master's program in speech-language pathology. In service to the profession, Dr. Harrison reached one of the most prestigious and influential positions on the national stage, as president of the Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders, for which she was recognized in 2016 with Honors of the Council.

In his remarks at her retirement celebration, Dr. Jack Roush, who worked closely with Dr. Harrison for nearly 30 years, described her as a gifted educator, clinician and scholar who, despite her national acclaim, always put students first. Our program will not be the same without her, but Dr. Harrison's impact will continue through her contributions to the program and through the many students she mentored and inspired.

## Quick Receives 2018 Impact Award

*The Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences' Nancy Quick, PhD, is a recipient of the 2018 Impact Award, granted by the Graduate School.*

Nancy Quick, who recently graduated with a PhD from the Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences, has received the Impact Award from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Graduate School.

The Graduate School awarded 22 graduate students in programs throughout the University with the 2018 Impact Awards and Horizon Awards. The awards celebrate the graduate students' powerful discoveries that contribute to a better future for people and communities in North Carolina.

The Impact Award recognizes discoveries with a direct impact on our state in the present time. The Horizon Award, created in 2017, recognizes discoveries with future potential to benefit North Carolina. Doctoral and master's students, working in close collaboration with their faculty mentors, pursue promising new ideas. They then apply their new knowledge to improving human health, strengthening communities and creating greater understanding of our world's biggest challenges.

The Graduate School announced 17 Impact Award and five Horizon Award winners on March 19. The recipients were recognized on April 5 at the 20th Annual Graduate Student Recognition Celebration.



*Nancy Quick, PhD*

# Tenth Annual 2018 Student Research Day



Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences students successfully completed its tenth annual student research day, featuring oral presentations from PhD students and two poster sessions. Topics covered included autism spectrum disorder, aphasia after stroke, cochlear implant use, among others. The research day was held in the Koury Oral Health Sciences building on Friday, April 27.



## Preceptor Spotlight

The Department of Allied Health Sciences hosted its annual Clinical Preceptor Appreciation Event at The Carolina Club on May 23, 2018. During the event, with a record of 160 attendees, several health care professionals addressed preceptors, who facilitate student education.

Brenda Mitchell, PhD, CCC-SLP, welcomed participants and introduced Stephen Hooper, PhD, and association dean and chair of the department.

Hooper spoke about preceptors' efforts with students who complete clinical rotations and how this work represents building blocks for the future of health care in North Carolina.

"What you are doing cannot be replaced. It is still the best method for developing our next generation of leaders," Hooper said.

We spoke with Erika Gagnon and Elaine Orcutt, both AuD, CCC-A, who work at The Children's Cochlear Implant Center at UNC and in the Department of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery at Wake Forest Baptist Health, respectively.

To learn more about preceptor opportunities, email Lisa Dombay ([lisa\\_dombay@med.unc.edu](mailto:lisa_dombay@med.unc.edu)) for speech-language pathology and Hannah Siburt ([Hannah\\_siburt@med.unc.edu](mailto:Hannah_siburt@med.unc.edu)) for audiology.

### Where do you work? What is your title?

**Elaine:** I am the lead adult audiologist and one of the student clinical coordinators at Wake Forest Baptist Health in Winston-Salem, NC.

**Erika:** I work at the Children's Cochlear Implant Center at UNC as a pediatric cochlear implant audiologist

### How long have you been a clinical preceptor?

**Elaine:** Six years

**Erika:** I have been a clinical preceptor for the last four years since taking the position at the Children's Cochlear Implant Center at UNC.

### Why did you decide to become a clinical preceptor?

**Elaine:** As part of a teaching hospital, our clinic has always valued working with and supervising students. I knew when I accepted the position at Wake Forest that I would be working with doctoral students. About four years ago, I became one of the student coordinators because I wanted help provide an education and training similar to what I received in my program and fourth year. I believe in our field it is not only important to help people with communication problems but also to train future providers in the field. I am fortunate to have had several great preceptors in my training that have encouraged me to follow in their path.

**Erika:** I went to UNC for both undergrad and graduate school. I was the beneficiary of other clinical preceptors and am so grateful for the time they were willing to share with me. I am excited to spend time with graduate students and pass along my knowledge to help the next generation of audiologist. Pediatric cochlear implants are a niche in audiology. I want to help educate our students on current clinical practice in a field that is constantly growing and evolving.

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## Have you and your student(s) mutually benefitted from this in any way?

**Elaine:** Working with students is definitely beneficial to both the student and the preceptor. I often learn about new research and methods of testing from students that help me provide better care to my patients. Working with students also re-energizes my love for audiology! They are often new to the field and excited about becoming audiologists which reminds me of why I enjoy working in this field.

**Erika:** I hope so! I have learned a lot from the students. It is always interesting to work alongside someone else. It helps you examine things in a different way or talk through different patient situations and brainstorm. On more than one occasion, I have had a student meet a family in the pediatric audiology practice at the hospital before being referred for a cochlear implant. It is nice to get some additional insight on the patient and the family.

## What would you say to someone who is considering becoming a preceptor?

**Elaine:** Do it!!! It's a lot of hard work but more than worth the effort you put into it. One of my favorites aspects of my job is working with students!

**Erika:** Working with graduate students is a really fun aspect of my job. I especially enjoy working with our fourth-year fellows and watching their skills and confidence blossom throughout the year. These new clinicians are the future of our field. They could be future colleagues, researchers or referral sources. I hope they appreciate their time at our center as much as I enjoy learning from them.

## Annual Audiology Conference



Four first-year LEND AuD students brought home a blue ribbon in the student poster category at the national Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) conference in Denver, Colorado. The poster was titled: "Screening, Diagnosis, and Audiologic Management of Children with Significant Cognitive Disabilities." It summarized the first part of a larger project inspired by the work of Nancy Quick and Karen Erickson are doing at the Center for Literacy and Disability Studies (CLDS) to bring greater awareness of hearing-related needs in this special population.

## Meet Erin Kinney, Allied Health Sciences Development Director



Hello! My name is Erin Kinney and I, first and foremost, want to thank you for welcoming me into your world. I have been here about a month now and I already consider myself a Tar Heel. I have had the opportunity to work with so many wonderful faculty members, students, alumni, our corporate partners, my colleagues at the UNC Medical Foundation, and many more.

As your development director, I will work closely with everyone to continue to build and enhance our alumni network and relationships. I will reach out to you soon in hopes of the opportunity to meet you, hear your Carolina story and chat about all the wonderful initiatives at your alma mater, a place where so many of you called home. I am excited to explore your legacy here and impact on the University's newly launched Campaign for Carolina, where opportunity is For All Kind. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is led with excellence,

and we all have a part in leading with humanity during this Campaign. I am eager to explore how you can make a difference on campus, in our students' lives, in rural North Carolina, in world-renowned research, and beyond.

As I mentioned, you'll hear from me soon. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me. I have truly enjoyed all the warm welcomes I have already received.

My email is [erin\\_kinney@med.unc.edu](mailto:erin_kinney@med.unc.edu), and my phone number is (919) 966-3352.

All the best,

Erin