New beginnings are exciting. This past year our department plunged right into the world of change. We started with upgrading a number of rooms in our building (i.e., paint, carpet and new furniture). Stop by whenever you get a chance to see our face-lift.

We also created a new Facebook page and a new department logo and hosted a graduate-school preview day. Additionally, three events that we are particularly proud of were held. Dr. Dolores Battle, a former president of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), came to help us commemorate the 50th anniversary of the “Stand in the Schoolhouse Door.” She spoke about diversity and 50 years of progress that has occurred within the field of speech-language pathology. Second, our department participated in the Junior League Dragon Boat Races on April 27. We did not win a major prize for our boat-racing skills, but we did have a great time and we helped raise money for worthy causes in our area. We’re already looking forward to next year! And, third, our department celebrated its 75th anniversary on May 18. For this event, we invited former ASHA presidents and dignitaries to speak. The day ended with a wonderful dinner at the Alabama Museum of Natural History. We’re already looking forward to our 100-year celebration!

And, as with last year, we request that you submit information that you would like to share in future editions of the newsletter. We would love to hear from you about jobs, weddings, births, education or whatever you want to share with your fellow classmates. Contact us at the address listed on the back of this newsletter. Additionally, please provide your current contact information.

Sincerely,

Marcia Hay-McCutcheon

A New Beginning
Student Honors and Awards

Undergraduate Alex Graham and graduate Morgan Oldfield received the Mary T. Hamner Endowed Scholarship, an annual merit scholarship presented to an outstanding junior and graduate student in communicative disorders. Rebecca Adams received the Joe T. McCrary Endowed Scholarship, which is given each year to the outstanding CD senior. Carla Aguilar received the Restore Therapy Scholarship, awarded each year to a graduating graduate student. Taylor Chandler received the Rosa Moore Dunning Endowed Scholarship in CD, given to a graduating senior. Sarah Phillips received the Speech and Hearing Association of Alabama (SHAA) Student Recognition Award, which recognizes all-around academic and professional performance.

Jakora Hamilton, one of our students, works with two young children on their speech and language skills.
Over the past year, our faculty has dramatically increased undergraduate participation in research projects. Over 20 students were involved in the ongoing research in our department. Their projects varied from fluency issues associated with the presidential debate to bilingual issues associated with delivering speech-language-pathology services and to the exploration of how early the phrase “Roll Tide” is uttered by young Alabamians. With the help of their mentors, these students created 10 posters for our Undergraduate Research Conference held April 16.

Other areas of our research focused on second-language acquisition and its impact on speech and language development; sickle cell anemia; integrating social psychology principles with stuttering issues; collaborations across colleges to improve accessibility to resources for children with autism spectrum disorders in Alabama; and improving hearing health of people living in Alabama.

Marie Tucker, left, and Amy Deeble won third place in the social sciences division of the Undergraduate Research Conference for their poster titled, “Roll Tide: Cultural Variations in Early Language.”
Faculty and Staff Notes

Barbara Kucharski was honored with the Barbara Best Kucharski Award for Leadership Potential from Pi Beta Phi. Kucharski has been a longtime member of Pi Beta Phi and has worked tirelessly over the years to help usher in many new members to the sorority. Pi Beta Phi created the award to recognize and honor Kucharski for her dedication to and spirit for the sorority and to give to a deserving individual each year.

With the support from her colleagues, the department’s student organization and community members, Kelly Dickey organized the first annual Tuscaloosa Walk & WODathon for the Autism Society of Alabama. The event generated over $10,000 for autism awareness.

Dr. Angie Barber received the Autism Speaks Toddler Treatment Network New Investigator Award at the IMFAR conference in San Sebastian, Spain, this past spring for her work on evidence-based-practice interventions in rural communities of Alabama.

This year, Becca Brooks and JoAnne Payne helped to establish our audiology clinic as the only clinic in West Alabama to provide audiological services to individuals who use cochlear implants. We look forward to providing cochlear-implant-programming services for the local and near-local communities.

Recent Events

The Cooper Lecture Series in Communication Disorders was held July 26. The lecture series honors Crystal S. and Eugene B. Cooper, who served the department of communicative disorders from 1966 to 1996. Dr. Anthony Buhr, from UA’s department of communicative disorders, Dr. David Evans, from the University of South Alabama, and Dr. Farzan Irani, from Texas State University, presented on the topic, “Beyond Fluency: Understanding How Social Context Influences Stuttering in Adolescents and Adults.” This thought-provoking symposium provided much-needed information on the importance of the social environment for addressing fluency disorders.

On April 27, 20 faculty, staff and students participated in the Junior League Dragon Boat Races. Calling themselves “The Communicators,” team members won their first race and placed third in their second race. Although the team did not advance to the final stage of competition, members helped raise money for local charities.

On April 5, our department celebrated The University of Alabama’s 50th anniversary of the “Stand in the Schoolhouse Door.” Dr. Dolores Battle, a former president of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association presented a talk on the progress in diversity that has been made in the field of speech-language pathology. Lunch and a “fireside” chat after Battle’s presentation allowed students in attendance to interact with this inspirational and passionate speaker.

On May 18, the department officially celebrated its 75th anniversary. A brunch was held in the Speech and Hearing Center, followed by talks from Sue Hale and Dr. Tommie Robinson, former ASHA presidents, and from Dr. Gloria Kellum, professor emeritus at the University of Mississippi. The three spoke about the legacy of learning among themselves and through our department’s 75 years of training students.

In addition, two former graduates of our program, Dr. Debra Dwight and Sarah Kendrick, spoke about their experiences as graduate students. Dwight, a 1976 graduate, is an assistant professor of communication sciences and disorders at the University of West Georgia. Kendrick, a 2010 graduate, is a speech-language pathologist at Methodist Rehabilitation Center in Jackson, Miss.

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A bus tour of campus was provided after the talks, followed by dinner at Smith Hall.

Seventy-Fifth Anniversary

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