

HEAR SAY

Summer 2017



College of
Arts & Sciences
Department of Communicative Disorders

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

A growing faculty, impressive student research, an active clinic, and a new department website are just a few of the exciting highlights which have made 2016-2017 an exciting year in the University of Alabama Communicative Disorders Department. We welcomed one new faculty member, one instructor, one clinical supervisor, and a new audiologist this year, all of whom brought unique expertise which enhances our student training and clinical supervision even more. We are excited to welcome another new faculty member in August 2017, Dr. Paul Reed. Our faculty collectively published 17 research articles this year, conducted 42 presentations at national

and international conferences, and supervised 7 student theses! Our Speech and Hearing Clinic provided 5,501 unique treatment sessions! Impressively, our committed faculty and staff still found time to give back to the community by participating in the annual Autism Walk and Pullin' for the Arc Fire Truck Pull. We are always "kicking those tires and lighting those fires," as our friend and employee Sam Dowling says. For these and other stories please check out the pages that follow.

And finally, just for fun, we thought we would use pictures of our cherished pets, plants, tranquil spaces, or children instead of our own mugshots in this newsletter. We hope

you enjoy.

As always, we would love to hear from you. If you want to provide us with any updates about where you are or what you are doing please let us know.

Angie Barber, PhD, CCC-SLP
Associate Professor and Chair



My two
munchkins,
Sam and Ben Barber

A WARM WELCOME TO NEW FACULTY AND STAFF

This past year saw many changes with our faculty and staff. First off, JoAnne Payne, an audiologist who had been working in our department for many years, replaced Becca Brooks who was the Coordinator of the Audiology program and retired in June. We also welcomed four new people to our department, Dr. Litsa Cheimariou, Christy Albea, Kandis Chatman and Sarah Shirley.

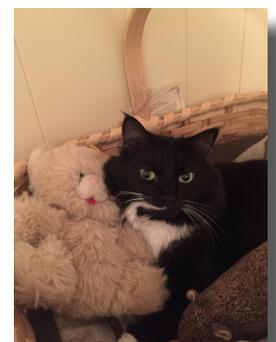
Dr. Cheimariou came to us after finishing a PhD at the University of Iowa in Speech and Hearing Sciences with a specialty in Aphasia. She has been a tremendous addition to our faculty by bringing expertise in neurogenetics. At heart, she's an avid gardener...just take a look at her gorgeous basil!

Dr. Christy Albea, an audiologist, joined us after working for Tuscaloosa Ear Nose and Throat Center for about 15 years. During many weekends she can be found taking her therapy dog, Ranger, a beagle and former member of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Beagle Brigade, to local Tuscaloosa venues. She and Ranger are a registered animal assisted therapy team. Before he retired, Ranger worked at the Atlanta airport. Also shown in her picture below is Tawny who is loved just as much as Ranger!

Kandis Chatman is a new Clinical Supervisor in our department who works in both our Speech and Hearing Clinic and the RISE Center on campus. She joined our

department after working as a Clinical Supervisor at Montevallo for three years. Shown here is her new baby daughter, Parker, who's so incredibly adorable – gotta love that drool!

Sara Shirley is a new instructor who helps with teaching undergraduate courses and supervising students in the clinic. Prior to joining our department she worked with Champion Rehab Partners at DCH in Tuscaloosa. She was also both an undergraduate and graduate student in our department. We were thrilled that she decided to join us as an instructor! Shown here is her cat, Olive, who adores her!



*SPEAKING - HEARING - HEALING
SINCE 1938*

A RECORD NUMBER OF THESIS PROJECTS!

This year we had a record number of students defending thesis projects. The research bug is catching on in the department. The topics ranged from fluency issues, dietary intake, fostering communication in special settings, perception of emotion in children with Autism, to therapy approaches for children with cochlear implants. Shown in the picture here are six of the seven students who successfully defended a thesis this year. From left to right are: Elizabeth Henderson, Marie Tucker, Amber Shoffner, Kalea Jones, Melanie Queen, and Katerina Puzinauskas. Missing from the photo is Shanley Treleven. We are extremely proud of all of these students.



OUR MOST POPULAR FACEBOOK POSTS!

As many of you know, we have a very active Facebook page and just for kicks and giggles, we thought we would take a look to see which posts were some of the more popular over the past year. The single most popular posting was the album of pictures from our Second Annual Halloween Costume competition (“Spookiness in the Speech and Hearing Center”). This album reached over 11,000 people (What? Yes, really!), there were 1500 reactions in total (i.e., likes) and the single most popular picture from the album was Barbara, or should I say, the Wizard, and other members of Somewhere Over the Rainbow who received 266 likes!

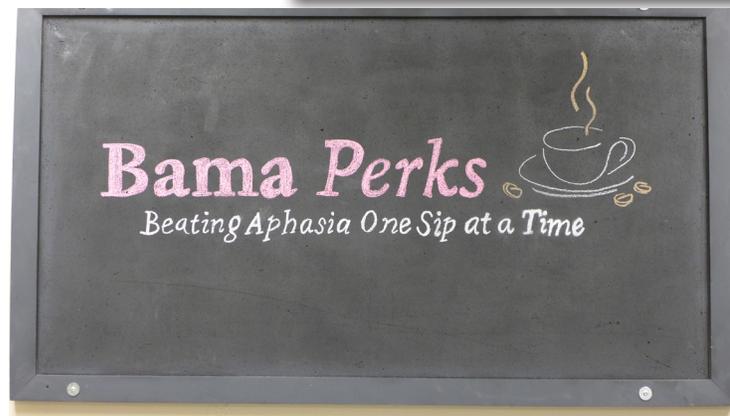
The second most popular post was the picture of Dr. Tony Buhr who received tenure and promotion this year. Congrats to a job well done, Dr. Buhr! This post reached 6000 people and 374 reactions. Shown here is a picture that Dr. Buhr provided for **Hear Say** and is quintessential, Tony!

The third most popular post was an article about our Bama Perks program featured in the ASHA Leader magazine and written by Mary Ray-Allen, our Clinic Director. Bama Perks is a program created by Mary that fosters the development of social communication skills in a “coffee house” atmosphere for people with aphasia. It has been a hugely successful program and many clients reported feeling comfortable conversing in a social setting with others who have similar communication challenges. This post reached over 5800 people and received 136 reactions. For more information, you can check out the article at:

<http://leader.pubs.asha.org/article.aspx?articleid=2608136>

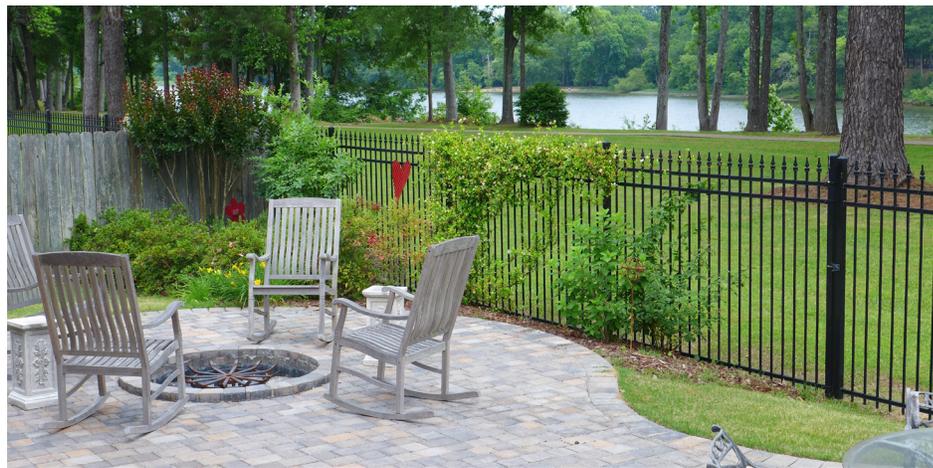


Our most popular FB posts. To the left, the Wizard of Oz halloween costumes, the to right, Dr. Buhr gets tenure, and below, our Bama Perks program



NEW BIOFEEDBACK SYSTEM GETS TESTED

Dr. Memorie Gosa's lab recently acquired a new biofeedback tool, shown below, that has great potential for the rehabilitation of swallowing disorders. Exciting times! Biofeedback is a technique that is used to help patients monitor body functions and it has a large number of allied health applications. Accelerated Care Plus, a company that specializes in medical therapy equipment, recently provided Dr. Gosa's lab with the new Synchrony™, a sEMG biofeedback tool. She and others in her lab are conducting a number of research projects to investigate the usefulness of this system in an outpatient setting. Dr. Freeborn, a colleague from the college of engineering, is also helping out with this project. Both of these professors are getting their undergraduate students involved too. They recently collaborated on a grant application submitted to the College of Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Creativity and Research Academy to provide funding for a small research project. The project is scheduled to begin in the Fall 2017 semester. We're all looking forward to learning more about Synchrony™ and sEMG in the coming months!



When the birds are singing and the sun is shining, this is where you will find Barbara.

THE COOPER LECTURE SERIES: AN INTERVIEW

Earlier this spring Marcia Hay-McCutcheon, Associate Professor, interviewed Barbara Kucharski, Clinical Supervisor, about her role with the Cooper Lecture Series, which has been around for just over 25 years. Ms. Kucharski, along with Pat Tullos, a retired SLP with the Tuscaloosa City Schools who worked in the department, were instrumental in getting this program off the ground. Here's how the interview transpired:

Q: What year did the Cooper Lecture Series begin?

A: It began in 1991 to help the NSSLHA students raise funds to travel to the ASHA conference. After going to the mid-South Conference for a number of years at the University of Memphis we realized that it would be a good experience for UA students to offer continuing education.

Q: Who was the first speaker and what was the topic of their presentation?

A: The lecture series actually started out as a "Learning at Lunch" program. It then developed into the Summer Symposium shortly after that. It wasn't until Dr. Eugene Cooper retired from the department when it was renamed the Cooper Lecture Series in Communication Disorders in his honor. The first speaker for the Cooper Lecture Symposium was Dr. Walt Manning, who spoke about stuttering issues in children. And, for our 25th Cooper Lecture Symposium in 2016, Dr. Manning returned

with Dr. Tricia Zebrowski.

Q: Now that we are on the topic of speakers, how do you choose the speakers who present at the symposium?

A: We really try to get ideas for speakers from our students. Each year we ask the NSSLHA board members if they have any suggestions. We also talk to the faculty and other members of the clinical staff to see if they have anyone in mind who they would like to come and present. Often, we have new faculty members present just after their first year in our department. We have also tried to get speakers from areas that are receiving a lot of attention in the field – just to try to keep current with the trending topics.

Q: Why do you think the symposium has been successful over the past 25 years?

A: Well, there are a couple of things that have made the program so successful over the years. First, we try to operate on a small budget. We do this so that a majority of the proceeds can go to NSSLHA to help the students attend the ASHA conference. Also, as I mentioned earlier, we ask our current faculty to present on their own areas of expertise and that can cut down on our expenses. Importantly though, we always try to get speakers who will be of interest to a broad audience. The more people who are interested in a topic the more who will attend the workshop.

AN INTERVIEW, CONT.

Q: What are your personal impressions or thoughts about the importance of this symposium?

A: The symposium has a tremendous influence on the students. It helps them gain confidence to interact with professionals in a non-threatening manner, it helps them get over any intimidation about going to national conferences, and it gives them an opportunity to hear speakers talk on topics that aren't necessarily covered in their courses. The symposium also provides them with an opportunity to get involved in a service activity, and that, in turn, will help with their understanding of what's involved in having an actual career.

CD STUDENT SETS SIGHTS FOR ZAMBIA!

Amber Shoffner, who graduated this past May, is off to Zambia this summer to begin her clinical fellowship. She might be our only student to travel this far to complete her CF! She will be working with the non-profit, Special Hope Network, centered in Lusaka, Zambia. Lusaka is the capital city and the hub of their medical care. She will be working with a group of therapists and special educators mainly composed of Zambian nationals and a few American expats. Her cliental will include children who have severe language impairments and swallowing/feeding impairments. During her therapy sessions with these children, caregivers will actively participate in the session so they can continue the therapy techniques at home. Many of the patients cannot regularly attend therapy due to distance or for financial reasons.

Amber has stated that the University of Alabama SLP Graduate



Shown here is Amber, right, and her very proud mother at the department graduation reception in May.

On April 1, 2017, our NSSLHA students along with other faculty and staff participated in the Fire Truck Pull competition put on by the Arc of Tuscaloosa. Each year this event becomes more and more popular and that makes us very happy! All the proceeds go towards the Arc. Tuscaloosa News was there for the event and if you want more information check out their webpage where lots of pictures of the CD department in our full glory are on display!

<http://www.tuscaloosanews.com/photogallery/>

Program has provided her with the skills needed to work with these patients along with the incredible clinical placement opportunities she has received throughout her program. She said that she is thankful for this amazing opportunity, and in addition, for the opportunity to provide improved healthcare for all children regardless of where they were born. She wants to remain in Lusaka for a minimum of nine months and up to one year. Good on you, Amber!

For more information or to learn how to make a donation to Amber's venture check out these websites:

Organization website: www.specialhopenetwork.org

Donations: www.specialhopenetwork.org/donate - In support of: Amber Shoffner

Updates: www.facebook.com/ambertozambia

PULLIN' FOR THE ARC: TUSCALOOSA FIRE TRUCK PULL



A FLOURISHING PARTNERSHIP

The Speech and Hearing Clinic and the RISE Center embarked upon an important collaboration this year! In an effort led by Kandis Chatman, the SHC is providing RISE with all of their speech and language services. This is a one of kind learning opportunity for all of our students, who work with Kandis to provide AAC support to children with multiple disabilities. She is seen here working her magic!



CONTACTS

Faculty

Angie Barber, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Associate Professor and Chair
Anthony Buhr, Ph.D., Associate Professor
Litsa Cheimariou, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
Craig Formby, Ph.D., CCC-A, Research Professor
Memorie Gosa, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Assistant Professor
Marcia Hay-McCutcheon, Ph.D., CCC-A, Associate Professor
Rachel Saffo, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Assistant Professor

Clinical Faculty and Staff

Christy Albea, Au.D., Audiologist
Mary Bryan, M.S., CCC-SLP, Clinical Supervisor
Kandis Chatman, M.S., CCC-SLP, Clinical Supervisor
Candace Cook, M.S., CCC-SLP, Clinical Supervisor
Kelly Dickey, M.S., CCC-SLP, Adjunct Clinical Supervisor
Betsy Hope, M.S., CCC-SLP, Adjunct Clinical Supervisor
Barbara Kucharski, M.S., CCC-SLP, Clinical Supervisor
JoAnne Payne, M.S., CCC-A, Coordinator of Audiological Services
Mary Ray-Allen, M. Ed., CCC-SLP, Clinic Director
Sara Shirley, M.S., CCC-SLP, Clinical Instructor
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HERE HEAR IN THE NEWS



JoAnne and Marcia on a trip to Selma.

The Hear Here Alabama Project was featured in the UA Research Magazine this past fall. The article sums up how the how project began and the wonderful support is has received from the College of Arts and Sciences, Academic Affairs and the Center for Economic Development. For more information check out this link for access to the story: <https://www.ua.edu/news/2016/10/a-helpful-roll/>

OUR RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Faught, G. G., Conners, F.A., **Barber, A. B.**, and Price, H.R. (2016). Addressing phonological memory in language therapy with clients who have Down syndrome: Perspectives of Speech-Language Pathologists. *International Journal of Language and Communication Disorders*, 51(6), 703 – 714.

Buhr, A.P., Zebrowski, P., Moon, J., Tumanova, R., Arenas, R., and Loucks, T. (2016). Opening and Closing Jaw Movements of Young Children who Stutter. *Journal of Speech Pathology Therapy*, 1: 115.

Buhr, A.P., Scofield, J., Eyer, J.C., and Walden, T.A. (2017). Cued Attention to Self and Speech Fluency. *Speech, Language, and Hearing*. Published online: 01 Feb 2017.

Formby, C., Payne, J., Yang, X., Wu, D., and Parton, J. (2017). Repeated Measurement of Absolute and Relative Judgments of Loudness: Clinical Relevance for Prescriptive Fitting of Aided Target Gains for soft, Comfortable, and Loud, But Ok Sound Levels. *Seminars in Hearing*, 38(1), 26-52.

Formby, C., Korczak, P., Sherlock, L., Hawley, M., and Gold, S. (2017). Auditory Brainstem and Middle Latency Responses Measured Pre- and Posttreatment for Hyperacusis Hearing-Impaired Persons Successfully Treated to Improve Sound Tolerance and to Expand the Dynamic Range for Loudness: Case Evidence. *Seminars in Hearing*, 38(1), 71-93.

Gosa, M.M., and Dodrill, P. (2017). Effect of time and temperature on thickened infant formula. *Nutrition in Clinical Practice*, 32(2), 238 – 244.

Hay-McCutcheon, M. J., Hyams, A., Yang, X., Parton, J. M., Panasiuk, B., Ondocsin, S., James, M.M. and Scogin, F. (In Press). An Exploration of the Associations Among Hearing Loss, Physical Health and Visual Memory in Adults from West Central Alabama. *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*.



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