OUR PEOPLE

Welcome new staff to the Discipline

It is a pleasure to welcome Postgraduate Teaching Fellows Ms Kate Falkenberg and Ms Ellie Sugden. Welcome to Ms Sarah McMenamin, a past graduate of our bachelor program, who has joined the Teaching and Clinical Teams and welcome to Ms Ella Madonna our new Clinical Administrator.

Promotions

Congratulations to Dr Natalie Munro who was successful in her application for promotion to Senior Lecturer, and to Professor Kirrie Ballard who has been appointed Professor of Speech Motor Control and Disorders.

Vice Chancellor’s Award

Professor Leanne Togher and Dr Emma Power were presented with their Vice Chancellor’s Outstanding Teaching Awards at the graduation on 13th March, 2015.

Leanne (left) and Emma (right) with Professor Kathryn Retshauge, Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences

ACCREDITATION

University’s 2 speech pathology programs re-accredited by Speech Pathology Australia till 2019

After many, many months of hard work reviewing and documenting our two programs, Speech Pathology Australia (SPA) has re-accredited our Bachelor of Applied Science (Speech Pathology) and Master of Speech Language Pathology programs for another 5 years. Congratulations on a job very well done to Head of Discipline Associate Professor Steven Cumming, Course Directors Associate Professor Tricia McCabe (UG) and Dr Alison Purcell (MSLP), Curriculum & Information Officer Ms Clare Higgins.

GRANT SUCCESS

Congratulations to Associate Professor Tricia McCabe and Dr Jonathon Preston (Haskins Labs Yale/ University of Syracuse) on being awarded a $35,000 USD grant from Childhood Apraxia of Speech Association of North America Research. The grant is for……A pilot randomized control trial comparing ultrasound biofeedback treatment with rapid syllable transition training (ReST) in children with CAS.

Congratulations to Dr Catherine Madill, Associate Professor Tricia McCabe, Professor Kirrie Ballard and Dr Catherine Gregory on being awarded a $10,000 Australian Acoustical Association Education Grant.

Congratulations to Associate Professor Tricia McCabe for being successful in the Ian Potter Foundation Funding Scheme. Project Title: Providing ReST treatment for Childhood Apraxia of Speech to more children, more often. Funding Scheme: Ian Potter Foundation, Health and Disability. Total Funds Awarded: $32,000.

MOOC Development Funding - Congratulations to Professor Tim Shaw, Dr Mary Lam, Professor Leanne Togher, Professor Michelle Lincoln, Dr Andrew Campbell, and Dr Emma Power who have been awarded funding and resources by DVC Education to develop a MOOC in eHealth. While the application was led by FHS, it will be a cross faculty development including Health Sciences, Medicine, Nursing, Engineering, Business and Education. This MOOC is one of six supported strategically by the University to provide experience and templates for other MOOC developments across the University. The MOOC will focus on the research and application of eHealth in supporting transformational change in Healthcare. If you would like to be part of this venture please feel free to contact Tim Shaw via tim.shaw@sydney.edu.au.

OUR STUDENTS

Student Awards and Scholarships

Congratulations to Ms Jessica Hay Campbell, 2014 Master of Speech Language Pathology graduate, recipient of The University of Sydney Academic Merit Prize.

Congratulations to Miss Elizabeth Jane Gengos, 2014 Speech Pathology Australia Student Award for the Bachelor of Applied Science (Speech Pathology) program.

Congratulations to Miss Jessica Hay Campbell, 2014 Speech Pathology Australia Student Award for the Master of Speech Language Pathology program.

Congratulations to MSLP students Miss Emily Yong Zhi Chan and Miss Yee Young Jun who were awarded Research Intern Scholarships from ACT Health over the summer.

Dean’s Scholars

Awarded annually, this prize recognises the highest performing students who completed a degree with the highest weighted average mark (WAM) of at least 75 for the course.

• Miss Irene Pserommatis – Bachelor of Applied Science (Speech Pathology)
• Ms Chloe Hui Min Ang – Bachelor of Applied Science (Speech Pathology) Honours
• Ms Jessica Hay Campbell – Master of Speech Language Pathology
HDR STUDENT NEWS

Multiple Thesis Submissions

Congratulations to the following HDR students who submitted their thesis recently:


Congratulations to Ed Johnson

**Mr Edward Johnson**, Masters by Research student and PG Fellow, has been elected as member of the Council of Future Health Leaders. This is an exciting opportunity for Ed who will be able to make his mark as a young health leader via his role on the council. We wish him every success for his newly elected position.

Future Health Leaders was established in 2011 to ensure ongoing engagement of students and early-career health professionals in the health reform process. Future Health Leaders is the first multi-professional organisation in Australia for both student and early career health professionals to work together in shaping the future of health in Australia.

Speech Pathology Australia Higher Degree Student Research Grant

**Congratulations to Karen James, Master of Applied Science.** The language and social characteristics of adolescent students attending public behavioural schools: A controlled group comparison. $10,000

Graduation


Danielle is pictured on the right with her supervisors, Dr Cate Madill (left) and Associate Professor Tricia McCabe (right).

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PhD STUDENT PROFILE – Ms. Eleanor Kate Sugden

I graduated from the discipline in 2012 with an honours degree investigating the vocational goals of adolescents who stutter. I then started full time work in a busy private practice in Sydney, where my interest in childhood speech sound disorders was piqued. With every client I saw who had a speech sound disorder; I kept asking myself the same questions: what is it that makes these children struggle to learn speech sounds at the same level as their peers? What is it about intervention that works? How can I deliver intervention to get these children and their parents the best ‘bang for their buck’?

Whilst struggling with these questions, I had a constant nagging feeling telling me to “do some more research, do some more research”. So, I decided to bite the bullet and contact my (now) primary supervisor, Dr Elise Baker, to discuss potential research projects. We were both concerned by the limited amounts of intervention available to children with speech sound disorders within Australia; and so my doctoral research topic was born. Supported by an Australian Postgraduate Award and a University of Sydney Merit Award, I am looking at ways of involving parents in intervention for phonology-based speech sound disorders, in order to address the insufficient levels of speech pathologist-delivered intervention available to these children in Australia.

I’ve recently finished my first year of full time study. So far, I have completed a systematic overview looking at what the literature says about involving parents and home practice in intervention for phonology-based speech sound disorders. I have also collected some survey data about how Australian speech pathologists are involving parents and home practice in intervention. Later this year, I will be interviewing some parents to see how they want to be involved in intervention and what they think they can do to support their children at home. All of these projects will then culminate in an intervention study looking at parent involvement in Multiple Oppositions intervention.

Although the field of speech sound disorders is a big change from my initial foray into research during my honours degree, I wouldn’t change it for the world. I have really enjoyed working with my supervisors, Dr Elise Baker and Dr Natalie Munro, who are always there to offer advice and support, and who have motivated me to become a better researcher. I have also enjoyed collaborating with researchers from East Tennessee State University, Professor Lynn Williams and Dr Carol Trivette, whose excitement levels about my project never fail to inspire me. I’m very much looking forward to the rest of my doctoral program!
DEIRDRE RUSSELL AWARD FOR SERVICE

The Discipline’s 2014 annual service recognition award was presented to Aboriginal Medical Service – Western Sydney

Congratulations. The Discipline would like to thank and acknowledge the exceptional contribution of the Aboriginal Medical Service (AMS), Western Sydney, to the clinical education of University of Sydney Speech Pathology students.

The AMS Western Sydney has a long history of providing a pivotal role in the delivery of appropriate and vital health services to the Aboriginal community of the Deerubbin local Aboriginal land council area that stretches across Western Sydney. Their vision and purpose is to provide and be recognized for providing the Aboriginal Community of Western Sydney with high quality, appropriate, efficient and effective primary health care and related services as well as to provide the highest standard of client care whilst incorporating a holistic approach towards diagnosis and management of illness. Since the start of this program in Semester 1 2009, Team Leader Carol Dorn and the Child and Family Team, have not wavered in their commitment to the ongoing provision of a speech pathology service to particularly the preschool children of the community, as well as through this supporting the education and clinical experience of student speech pathologists.

Over 50 of our students have been on placement at AMS since 2009.

SASH RECOGNITION

A big THANK YOU to our graduating SASH Committee Members

The Discipline wishes to thank Miss. Hasfsa Khan, Miss. Jennifer Tjoe and Miss. Catherine Wong. These three amazing students volunteered to be a part of the Student Association of Speech and Hearing (SASH) committee during their degree.

They gave up valuable time and energy to:
- organise professional training workshops for students
- negotiate products and services for students at reduced cost
- cater for whole-of-campus and end-of-year events
- give students a voice at Discipline meetings

So very much appreciated by the Discipline.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Professor Leanne Togher had a letter to the editor published in the Sydney Morning Herald in November last year, just a couple of days after Philip Hughes sustained what proved to be a fatal injury on the cricket field…….

Hughes’ injury reminds of lack of funds for research

“Traumatic brain injuries (TBI) are reported every day – in fact I teach my students that this injury is so common they will usually find a story within the first 10 pages of the Herald ("Shocking blow: cricket's worst day", November 24). Unfortunately, recovery after brain injury can be a long-term journey that often takes months or years and it most often affects young people of working age. The ability to communicate is frequently affected after a TBI, and this can lead to social isolation, family breakdown and inability to return to work or study. Our brain injury research program at the University of Sydney aims to find treatments to ameliorate these difficulties. Happily, we have recently identified new ways for families and friends to facilitate recovery of communication skills and this program is now being used worldwide. There is much more to be done and we have some promising novel treatments that need further investigation. However, treatment breakthroughs rely on substantial research funding, which is incredibly difficult to obtain. It is days like this when I read about the Phil Hughes’ devastating injury that I am spurred on to do my research because I know it makes a real difference, but it also accentuates my frustration at the lack of research funding in this area.”

Professor Leanne Togher, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sydney

Dr Elise Baker (right) was quoted in Australian Mother and Baby Magazine about the benefits of reading aloud with your children. She was also quoted in an article in Mother and Baby online about encouraging toddlers to talk more. See this link…..


Dr Elise Baker authored an article for The Conversation dispelling myths about speech problems in children.


Speech problems in early childhood are common. One in four parents of Australian children are concerned about their 4- to 5-year-old child’s speech but two-thirds of these parents don’t act on their concern. Why? What might stop them from seeking expert advice from a speech pathologist?

The 39 influential University of Sydney people you should follow on twitter

Do you want to fill your Twitter feed with intelligent, inspiring and interesting content? Here’s a list of 39 of the University’s most influential people you should follow on Twitter - including our very own Tricia McCabe (@tricmc), Kathryn Refshauge (@Kathy_Refshauge), Melanie Nguyen (@MelanieDNguyen) and Kieron Rooney (@kieron_rooney). The full list can be found at this link……:

NEW BOOK
COMMUNICATION IN AUTISM – Edited by Joanne Arciuli (USYD) and Jon Brock (MQ)
Communication in Autism adopts a multidisciplinary approach to explore one of the most common developmental disorders associated with communication impairment. Perhaps the most fascinating thing about communication in autism is that variation is as extreme as it could possibly be. While some individuals with autism have age-appropriate language, a number have exceptional language skills; others have little or no spoken language. In between these extremes are individuals who experience significant linguistic impairments. These impairments can affect peer relations and literacy skills. The chapters in this volume provide comprehensive coverage of both the theoretical underpinnings and the practical aspects of autistic communication. The result is a volume that showcases the wide range of methodologies being used in this field of research. It is invaluable for scientists, service providers, parents, individuals with autism, and students learning about communication and autism (e.g., in psychology, speech pathology, and education).

Here is a quote from Professor Rhea Paul, a well-respected speech-language pathology clinician and researcher from the US, whose textbooks are used in our curriculum ….

“Joanne Arciuli and Jon Brock have assembled a truly unique volume of essays concerning the varied aspects of communication in ASD. Its contents provide not only up-to-the-minute information on research on a wide range of aspects of communication in autism, but thoughtfully apply this research to practical problems faced by this population. The integration of research on both oral and written language is an especially useful feature. The volume will be of great interest both to scholars and practitioners in the field.”

RESEARCH STUDIES
What are the experiences of speech pathologists and teachers in vocabulary instruction for school age children?
Dr Natalie Munro is working with Dr Julia Starling from the University of Sydney, Professor Judy Montgomery from Chapman University, California and Honours student Virginia Ricketts from the University of Sydney, on a research study at the University of Sydney. We would like to invite practicing speech pathologists that have had experience in language intervention with primary school-aged children, to participate in an interview and/or focus group. Through our study we hope to explore speech pathologists’ experiences with the delivery of vocabulary intervention. The findings will help inform future professional development initiatives.

Email natalie.munro@sydney.edu.au if you would like to participate.

Recruitment of patients with oropharyngeal dysphagia
We request your assistance in recruiting people with oropharyngeal dysphagia for a study we are running at the Communication Disorders Treatment & Research Clinic (CDTRC) of the University of Sydney. This study will evaluate the effects of a combination of two existing treatment modalities for patients with oropharyngeal dysphagia (sEMG-biofeedback and electrostimulation). The study seeks to corroborate the benefits of a sEMG-triggered FES procedure for patients with dysphagia, in recognition that it could propel patients into more intensive practice of swallow manoeuvres and maximizing treatment gains. We are looking for eligible participants. The inclusion criteria for possible participants are: (1) aged over 18 years old, (2) having swallowing problems and (3) not having a cardiac pacemaker.

Email hans.bogaardt@sydney.edu.au if you would like more information and/or a copy of the Patient Information Statement.

FAREWELL TO OUR 2014 GRADUATES

Above: Bachelor of Applied Science (Speech Pathology) Pass and Honours - Graduating Class
Above: Master of Speech Language Pathology - Graduating Class
**UP-COMING EVENTS**

**The Dementia Epidemic: is Australia prepared? Wednesday 20th May 2015, 6.30pm**

Each week there are more than 1,800 new cases of dementia in Australia. The quest for a cure is only one piece of the puzzle. This forum will be an interactive audience discussion. We encourage you to share your questions, thoughts and the topics you want covered by emailing sydney.ideas@sydney.edu.au no later than 48 hours prior to the event.

*Time: 6.30pm to 8pm; Where: Law School Foyer, Level 2, Sydney Law School, Eastern Avenue*

*Cost: Free and open to all with online registration requested*


**The Future of Music: how interactive technologies are changing music experience. 26th May**

Presented by Sydney Ideas and the Seymour Centre. We can foresee a world in which the format of the record/tape/CD is consigned to a moment in history, not because we don’t need physical media any more, but because in the digital age everything is interactive, evolving, personalisable — and not least music.

*When: Tuesday 26th May 2015; Time: 6.30pm to 7.30pm*

*Where: Seymour Centre Sound Lounge, Cnr City Rd and Cleveland St., Chippendale*

*Cost: Free and open to all with online registration requested*


**Sydney Film Festival 2015 – Wednesday 3rd June to Sunday 14th June 2015**

After a successful collaboration with the Sydney Film Festival for the last two years, the University will continue its partnership into 2015. The festival that began in 1954 at the university and continues to be one of the biggest film festivals in the world, will hold the 62nd annual festival from June 3-14 this year.

*Time: 9am to 5pm daily*


**Successful Learning Conference 2015 – Monday 22nd June 2015**

Technology for Teaching and Learning. This annual conference focuses on issues and developments in the provision of quality education for students K–12 with additional learning needs in a mainstream classroom setting. Areas addressed will include literacy, accountability and assessment, behaviour management, technology and social skills instruction. More details about the program and speaker will be published on the conference page as they become available.

*Time: 8.30am to 3.45pm*

*Where: The Epping Club, 45-47 Rawson Street, Epping NSW*


**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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