WELCOME to the new academic year and to all newly enrolled students of the Discipline of Speech Pathology.

We are excited to report on some impressive achievements, with remarkable success in the past round of federal funding for our research programs; four students completing their research degrees; two outstanding students receiving awards from the national association; a record number of students embarking on Honours degrees; and numerous staff being nominated for recognition of teaching excellence. This is a great start to 2010 and promises a productive year from which all staff and students will see benefit.

Grant SUCCESSES
Well it has been quite a successful year for our research team with regard to NHMRC Project Grants, which were officially announced in October 2009

It seems that grants from the Speech Pathology discipline in our Faculty had a 100% success rate which is unprecedented. So, there will obviously be an increase in research activity including more research students and staff. It is promising to be an exciting time for our team! Two of the projects (led by Ballard and Togher) involve international teams from the USA.

The NHMRC results are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Number</th>
<th>Principal Investigators</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Funding (in AUD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>632763</td>
<td>BALLARD, A/Prof Kirrie, ROBIN, Prof Donald, ODWYER, A/Prof Nicholas, MCNEIL, Prof Malcolm</td>
<td>“Accurate Differentiation of Acquired Speech and Language Disorders for Positive Rehabilitation Outcomes.”</td>
<td>$385,700 (3 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>632681</td>
<td>TOGHER, A/Prof Leanne, TATE, Prof Robyn, MCDONALD, Prof Skye, TURKSTRA, A/Prof Lyn, HOLLAND, E/Professor Audrey, MACWHINNEY, Professor Brian</td>
<td>“Longitudinal communication outcomes following traumatic brain injury.”</td>
<td>$755,875 (5 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>630489</td>
<td>HODGES, Prof John, ROWE, Prof Christopher, PIGUET, Dr Olivier PIKE, Dr Kerryn BALLARD, A/Prof Kirrie VILLEMAGNE, Dr Victor</td>
<td>“Progressive aphasia and amyloid deposition: a multi-disciplinary approach to improving dementia diagnosis.”</td>
<td>$510,700 (3 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>632713</td>
<td>MENZIES, A/P Ross, LINCOLN, A/Prof Michelle O’BRIAN, Dr Susan</td>
<td>“Internet-Based Treatment for Social Anxiety in Stuttering.”</td>
<td>$695,850 (3 years)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other GRANTS

Dr Joanne ARCIULI and Professor Mark ONSLOW are part of a successful ARC Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities grant dedicated to building a large corpus of Australian English. In total the grant is worth close to $1M and involves researchers from around Australia. Contemporary speech science and technology are driven by the availability of large speech corpora. While audio databases exist for languages spoken in America, Europe and Japan, there is currently no large auditory-visual database of spoken language, and certainly not one for Australian English. Here we will establish the Big Australian Speech Corpus, which will support speech science research and development using Australian English and facilitate the development of Australian speech technology applications from automatic speech recognition and text-to-speech synthesis used in taxi and other ordering services, to hearing prostheses and talking head aids for learning-impaired children, and a range of security and forensic applications.

Service Recognition AWARDS

Awards for both 2008 and 2009 were presented at a ceremony and reception held on 24th November 2009. The winners were:

2008 - The Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy (IICP)
2009 - Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Service, St Vincent’s Hospital

Congratulations and thank you to both organisations for their ongoing support of the Discipline and its students.

Donna Thomas accepts the 2008 award for IICP from David Trembath, Speech Pathology

Claire Rhydderch (right) accepts the 2009 award for Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Service from Kirrie Ballard, HOD Speech Pathology

For more information about this award and previous winners, see the Discipline's website under the “About Us” tab.
Official LAUNCH

Alex’s House for Childhood Dyspraxia, Dyslexia, and Associated Learning Difficulties

The Discipline’s Dr Tricia McCabe and Associate Professor Kirrie Ballard attended the official launch of Alex’s House for Childhood Dyspraxia, Dyslexia, and Associated Learning Difficulties on February 26th, 2010.

Alex’s House is a not-for-profit organisation servicing the Hunter and Central NSW Coast regions.

It has been set up by parents with the aim of providing assistance, advocacy, awareness, and support to families of children with these difficulties.

The opening was held at the Mingara Recreation Club in Tumbi Umbi.

From left: James Bond (lobbyist for rights of people with dyslexia and learning disabilities), Rebecca (Secretary of Alex’s House), Alana (President of Alex’s House) and her daughter, Tim Connell (back, Managing Director of Quantum Technology), Rhonda Simpson (CEO of Alex’s House), Tricia McCabe, and Rev Gordon Moyes (Member of the NSW Legislative Council). Photo by Kirrie Ballard.

To learn more, visit their website at http://www.alexshouse.org.au

PhD CELEBRATIONS

The following Speech Pathology research students were awarded their PhDs .....  
Dr Geraldine Bricker-Katz – awarded in November 2009  
Dr Monique Hines – awarded in November 2009  
Dr Belinda Kenny – to be awarded at April 2010’s graduation ceremony

Student AWARDS

Congratulations to the winners of the 2009 Speech Pathology student prizes  
The Speech Pathology Association of Australia Prize (U/G) – awarded to: Ms Berna Gurisik  
The Speech Pathology Association of Australia Prize (MSLP) – awarded to: Ms Anna Kathryn McIlwaine

Masters by Research ACHIEVEMENT

It is the Discipline’s pleasure to congratulate and welcome Peta Walzak to our cohort of successful post graduates.

Peta has successfully completed her Master’s thesis on Actor Voice Training and its outcomes. Her research documented longitudinal voice qualities and their changes in a cohort of acting students during their progress through their acting degree.

Our discipline has had a lengthy history of contact with students participating in actor and radio training. This liaison has given useful insights into professional voice usage and its training, and hopefully will lead to further research and knowledge of this fascinating area of professional voice use.

Congratulations to Peta for a job well done. She will join our graduating students at the ceremony on Friday 23rd April 2010.
Farewell to our GRADUATING STUDENTS

Students attended a fun-filled celebration on Tuesday 24th November 2009 to mark the end of all the hard work that went into completing their undergraduate and master’s degrees.

The event started with speeches and award presentations then it was time to party!!!

Danielle and Kate present the awards
The hottest Office Chicks around!!

Celebratory Cake
Good conversation
Speechies love to eat!

Congratulations and Good Luck
Kid’s Talk Lab – OPEN FOR BUSINESS!!
The Kid’s Talk Lab opened its doors late December 2009. Located within the Discipline’s Communication Disorders Treatment and Research Centre, the Kid’s Talk Lab aims to understand individual differences in how children learn to express themselves. Our lab sees children who are typically developing and children who have developmental or acquired speech and language impairments. The members of our Lab include: Dr Elise Baker, Dr Natalie Munro, Dr Kimberley Docking, Dr Joanne Arciuli and Mrs Janine McGloin. Read a little bit about our favourite things and of course our research profiles via:

Our current project is investigating the word learning abilities of typically developing two year olds. Called the “Talking Toddler” study, we are investigating whether speech and/or gesture cues facilitate word recognition and word production skills, see: www.sydney.edu.au/health_sciences/speech_pathology/laboratories/docs/Talking_Toddlers.pdf
The study is funded by the International Program Development Fund and The Faculty of Health Sciences at The University of Sydney. Our overseas research collaborators on this project include Professor Karla McGregor and Associate Professor Larissa Samuelson from the University of Iowa, USA.

So far, we have had an impressive level of interest from the community but we could always see more kids!
If you have any questions about the Talking Toddler Study or about our lab in general, please feel free to contact the coordinators of our lab; Dr Elise Baker or Dr Natalie Munro (ph: (02)9351 9447).

What’s new in the TAM ROOM
Here are some of the new resources available from the Tests and Materials (TAM) room. Contact the Clinic for more details - (02)9351 9539 or speech.clinic@sydney.edu.au

DVDs from the National Stuttering Association 2009. The Classification is 5.3.5 NSA, all are available from the Office.
1) Sen. Joseph Biden Baltimore 2004
2) Baltimore 2004 Phoenix 2009 Covert Stuttering
3) Phoenix 2009 Research Reports
4) Baltimore 2004 Attitudes
5) Phoenix 2009 Keynote McGraw Milhaven

Test of Reading Comprehension (TORC) Fourth Edition 1.1.6 BRO 100239
The TORC-4 was designed to be an efficient, reliable and valid measure of reading comprehension for individuals between the ages of 7-0 and 17-11.

Health Sciences graduation ceremony – 23rd April 2010
Students from the Discipline of Speech Pathology will graduate in the Great Hall
Time: From 2.00pm Location: The Great Hall, Quadrangle

Clinical Education Workshops
Many speech pathologists have expressed an interest in some Advanced clinical educator training and we hope to schedule this in the coming months. We are also happy to provide site-specific training in the Sydney Metropolitan area on request provided sites/areas have at least 10 attendees. Sites outside of Sydney can also request training through the NSW Consortium of Speech Pathology programs. For more information contact Charlotte Colaco, Clinical Placement Administrator charlotte.colaco@sydney.edu.au.

For more information
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