In May, the WSU/EWU National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSSLHA) University Programs in Communication Disorders (UPCD) Chapter received its first Gold Chapter Honors from NSSLHA. The honors are bestowed upon NSSLHA chapters that demonstrate an outstanding effort to support NSSLHA’s mission to inspire, empower and support students in communication sciences and disorders programs.

Our UPCD chapter’s exceptional efforts that resulted in the honor included increasing awareness of communication sciences and disorders (CSD) among state and federal legislators, providing scholarships to students in CSD programs by contributing to donations of more than $10,000 to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Foundation’s NSSLHA Scholarship and to more than $15,000 for the 2017-2018 NSSLHA Loves campaign, and supporting clients, students and organizations in local communities across the nation.

Congratulations and thank you to our students for their tireless work, dedication and community outreach to health care providers, nonprofit organizations and local business to achieve this national recognition.

The officers for 2017-2018 pictured left to right are Leslie Puthoff (WSU), Jenna Anderst (EWU), Paiten Fish (EWU), Rachel Roberts (WSU), Shannon Carrothers (WSU), and Kathleen Vandervert (EWU).
FOCUS ON ALUMNI

Anna C. Diedesch, Au.D., Ph.D.
B.A. ’04

As I walked across the stage at Beasley Coliseum in Pullman to receive my B.A. in Speech and Hearing Sciences (May ’04), I honestly could not have predicted the journey I was about to begin toward becoming a clinical researcher and educator in audiology. It has been a long adventure since I left WSU to pursue my clinical doctorate in audiology (Au.D.), culminating last year when I accepted a position as an assistant professor for Western Washington University’s new Au.D. program. Ironically, during my freshman year at WSU, I switched majors to speech and hearing sciences because I was told that to become a high school math teacher, my dream job at the time, I needed to major in both mathematics and education. At the time, I thought that was way too much schooling to become an educator. I would later complete a four-year Au.D. program, fall in love with research and continue my education, obtaining my Ph.D. in audiology prior to taking a position in academia.

While I have traveled a bit for my education and training, I have always been a Coug at heart. I take pride in being a third-generation WSU alumnus and the first of five siblings to receive degrees from WSU. In fact, the Diedesch siblings’ occupation of Pullman lasted 16 consecutive years (2000-2016). When I was accepted to the University of Washington to pursue my Ph.D. in 2011, my dad joked that I was “out of the will.” He later retracted his statement when my mentor, G. Christopher Stecker, took a position in Nashville, Tenn., and asked me to join his lab at Vanderbilt. This meant, to my father’s satisfaction, that my diploma would not have a purple W on it after all. I carried my WSU pride into the lab, being known to dress the acoustic manikin (KEMAR) on which I collected hearing aid data for my research, in my old WSU intramural championship t-shirt. Dr. Stecker was less than thrilled that I prominently displayed my WSU swag in both his labs in Seattle and Nashville.

All joking and school rivalries aside, I have enjoyed spending time reflecting on the goals I set for myself at the start of my career preparation at WSU. In my senior year, I had to make a challenging career decision. I was the last undergraduate class to have a choice to pursue either a master’s in audiology or the new Au.D. degree. I spent endless hours researching Au.D. programs, trying to decide if I wanted to pursue a master’s degree at WSU Spokane or attend a three-year or four-year Au.D. program, which would require me to leave the Northwest. I ended up choosing Wichita State University, a four-year Au.D. program. However, I returned to the Northwest for my rotations at the National Center for Rehabilitative Auditory Research (NCRAR) at the Portland VA Medical Center in Portland, Ore. My mentors, Drs. Marjorie Leek and Frederick J. Gallun, encouraged me to continue working at NCRAR as a research audiologist after I earned my Au.D. and instilled in me the courage to apply to a Ph.D. program in 2011. I earned my Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University in summer 2016 after completing my dissertation on how hearing aid venting and reverberation alter sound localization cues. Following conferral of my degree, I accepted a postdoctoral research position at the Oregon Health and Science University and NCRAR, funded by the Frederick V. Hunt Postdoctoral Research Fellowship from the Acoustical Society of America.

During my Au.D. program, I became increasingly concerned that the transition from the master’s degree to the Au.D. as the entry-level professional degree would produce fewer clinical researchers in our field due to the amount of time, education and resources needed to attain both Au.D. and Ph.D. degrees. Over the years, several programs have established an accelerated joint Au.D./Ph.D. program. Nonetheless, the time commitment and cost of such programs deter some from pursuing this path. I now join others who have obtained both the clinical and the research degrees and have entered higher education with the goal of contributing to the research base of the field while educating the next generation of audiologists.

I am thrilled to have begun my career in my home state of Washington. In the end, I may not be a high school math teacher, but I have my dream job and more. I teach several topics that build on mathematical concepts, and I also have the pleasure of supervising students in the clinic, working with hard-of-hearing patients, and continuing my hearing aid research. I am thankful for all the support of my mentors, peers and family. My journey has been unpredictable, extensive and rewarding since it began at WSU in 2000. I look forward to an equally varied and rewarding career in academia.
MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The 2017-2018 academic year has been a banner year by many measures, all aligned with our mission to prepare future generations of speech-language pathologists to deliver compassionate, personalized care to individuals over the life span, across diverse communities. With the inaugural class of medical students joining us on the WSU Health Sciences Spokane campus this past fall, the potential synergies of interprofessional collaborations continue to grow. These collaborations enhance our students’ academic experience, ensure innovative clinical opportunities and broaden the impact of our faculty’s research.

We are proud of our WSU/EWU National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSSLHA) team that earned 2nd place at the National NSSLHA Knowledge Bowl held in conjunction with the 2017 annual convention of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association in Los Angeles. Our team scored just a few fractions of a point behind the 1st place winner. Kudos to our winning graduate student team composed of Tiana Bennett (WSU), Lacy Hefley (EWU), Jennifer Owens (EWU), Sarita Thotakat (WSU), and Rachel Verdun (EWU). Also eliciting great pride are the impressive educational, fundraising and community outreach activities of our local NSSLHA chapter and our Multicultural Club. Their activities are summarized in NSSLHA Notes and Multicultural Club In Action in this issue of Wavelength.

Also in this issue, you can read about the many accomplishments of our faculty, students and alumni during the past academic year. Once again, a number of our undergraduate and graduate students were recognized for their academic and clinical excellence, as well as for their involvement in the community. Our faculty continued to earn recognition for their exceptional contributions to our professions, clinical practice, research and their dedication to our students, delivering the best educational preparation to our academically-talented, highly-engaged, future speech-language pathologists (and audiologists). In particular, we congratulate Dr. Mark VanDam who received a 2018 Chancellor’s Award for Leadership and Engagement in recognition of his exceptional service to the university and the community, and for mentoring his students in the classroom and in his lab. I know you will find the personal and professional journeys of two alumni showcased in this issue inspiring, and not necessarily aligned with the expected linear trajectory. Of course, we do not succeed in our educational or patient care missions alone. In close cooperation with our dedicated off-site practicum and internship supervisors, we prepare our students to assume their future responsibilities to provide the best possible health care in the many different settings and communities in which they will serve.

Regardless of the metric—awards, honors, scholarships, grants, publications, presentations, consultations or outreach—our faculty, students and alumni continue to excel. The highlights in this issue of Wavelength are just a few of the numerous accomplishments in undergraduate and graduate education, research, interprofessional collaboration and community engagement that continue to propel the department in shaping the speech-language pathology workforce and the future of the profession. We invite you to browse through our website at medicine.wsu.edu to learn more about our ongoing work.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to our donors who have given so generously to the department during the 2018 fiscal year. Your support has a profound impact on our students, bringing them closer to achieving their goals and empowering them to contribute to their communities. Your names will be prominently displayed in the 2017-2018 WSU Foundation Annual Report, which will be published in fall 2018. Rest assured, your commitment and gifts will continue to enhance our students’ learning experience and preparation for careers in speech-language pathology, audiology and many other fields for generations to come. If you would like to help us continue our forward motion, you can make a gift today on our website or by contacting our director of development at nancy.fike@wsu.edu. We so enjoy hearing from our alumni and friends—let us know about your life after WSU. With your permission, we will include news of your professional and personal journeys in our next issue. Please e-mail me at chermak@wsu.edu.

I hope this issue of Wavelength provides a glimpse into our values, as well as our accomplishments and the important work we do to prepare students for their careers and their lives as engaged leaders. As I look ahead to the future of our programs and our professions, I am filled with optimism for what we can accomplish. As we close another academic year, I look ahead to the continued evolution of our department in a college and on a campus that seem to know no boundaries to the contributions we can make to human health and the economic prosperity of Spokane and beyond. I wish you an enjoyable summer season with family and friends. Thank you for your commitment and confidence in us! Our alumni and donors remain our best friends, strongest advocates and our ultimate legacy.

All the very best—
Gail D. Chermak, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair,
Speech and Hearing Sciences
How Speech-Language Pathologists Can Aid in Early Identification of Autism Spectrum Disorder

Early identification of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) remains a critical area of research as timely access to appropriate, ASD-specific early intervention can lead to significant gains across developmental domains. The first step in accurate early identification of ASD involves routine developmental surveillance or universal screening of all children to identify those at risk for atypical development, followed by autism-specific screening. Currently, most research related to universal and ASD-specific screening involves pediatricians as first-line screeners, per the formal recommendation for universal screening for ASD provided by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) in 2006. Despite the AAP guidelines for surveillance and screening for ASD, a minority of pediatricians perform routine developmental and ASD-specific screenings, with approximately 18 percent following the specific AAP guidelines. This low rate of universal screening for ASD at well-check visits suggests that other health care professionals, including speech-language pathologists (SLPs) working with young children with ASD, should not assume universal screenings for ASD are being conducted by pediatricians and should therefore take more of an active role in screening for ASD.

According to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), SLPs play an important role in all aspects of assessment and treatment for ASD including screening (https://www.asha.org/PRPSpecificTopic.aspx?folderid=8589935303&section=Roles_and_Responsibilities). For example, SLPs working with families of young children can educate and advocate for broadband and ASD-specific screenings to be conducted by their local pediatricians at well-child visits. SLPs can also directly conduct developmental and ASD-specific screenings using valid tools with strong psychometrics (see Zwaigenbaum et al., 2015 for review of screening tools). One of the most widely used tools is the Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers Revised with Follow-Up (M-CHAT-R/F). The M-CHAT-R/F is appropriate for children 16-30 months of age, has 20 yes/no questions for parents to answer, requires minimal training, and takes approximately five minutes to complete. The scoring algorithm yields three risk ranges (low-, medium-, and high-risk). It is recommended that children with scores in the medium-risk range receive the follow-up interview, which typically takes less than 10 minutes to complete, and children with scores in the high-risk range be directly referred for developmental assessment. The M-CHAT-R/F is available for free download https://www.m-chat.org/_references/mchatdotorg.pdf.

As noted by the authors of the M-CHAT-R/F, the tool was designed to detect as many cases of ASD as possible to maximize sensitivity. Therefore, it can yield a high false positive rate. While the use of the follow-up interview decreases the rate of false positives, it does not eliminate them. In general, false positives on a screener may lead to unnecessary work for clinicians and practitioners conducting follow-up assessments and/or possible upset and anxiety for the parents. However, many of the children who screen at risk on the M-CHAT-R/F and are not diagnosed with ASD are at high risk for other developmental disorders or delays suggesting that further evaluation is warranted.

In contrast, recent studies have suggested that the use of the M-CHAT-R/F can also yield a high rate of false negatives. For example, a large systematic follow-up of children who were not identified as at-risk on the M-CHAT-R/F (mean age 20.16 months, range 16-30 months) in primary care and specialty care sites found a high rate of false negatives. Specifically, only 40 percent of children who received a diagnosis of ASD were identified at-risk on the M-CHAT-R/F, suggesting that a large proportion of children were missed by the screener.

Taken together, the rate of false positive and false negative cases reported across studies suggest that clinicians should not use a screener alone to confirm or rule out risk or concern for ASD in young children. SLPs should interpret the results of the screener in conjunction with their clinical judgment (e.g., are they seeing red flags?), additional parental report (e.g., are the parents concerned about their child’s development?), and other risk factors (e.g., are they a sibling of a child diagnosed with ASD?). Through screening for ASD, SLPs can help close the gap between when clinical signs of ASD are present, when stable diagnoses can be made (i.e., between 18 and 24 months of age), and the current average age of diagnosis (i.e., between 4-6 years old). Because access to appropriate, ASD-specialized early intervention services (i.e., under age 3) has been associated with dramatic gains in social, language and behavioral functioning, this gap between our capability to diagnose early and the actual age of diagnosis limits the opportunity for many children with ASD to achieve these dramatic gains.

To view the full list of references for this feature, visit https://medicine.wsu.edu/directory-faculty/lauren-swineford.

Lauren Swineford, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
Assistant Professor,
Speech and Hearing Sciences
Congratulations and best wishes to Leslie Power and Ella Inglebret who both retired in May!

Clinical Professor Leslie Power retires after 28 years with the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences. Leslie most recently served as director of off-site clinical programs for the cooperative WSU-EWU University Programs in Communication Disorders graduate program. In that capacity, she coordinated all aspects of off-site clinical rotations, placing students in local off-campus clinical practica and in capstone clinical internships across the region. These community-based clinical rotations provide students with the majority of their clinical clock hours required for national certification and licensure. Throughout her tenure, she successfully navigated an increasingly complex regulatory environment and contractual arrangements to ensure students’ successful experiences. Leslie’s success was due in no small part to her attention to relationship building and networking. A former president of the Washington Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Leslie Power is a well-known and highly regarded leader across the state and the region.

Leslie Power has been a superb program manager and educator, and an esteemed member of the Department’s senior leadership. While we will miss Leslie’s exceptional contributions and collegial presence, we are delighted that she will now have more time to spend with her family, including her two young grandchildren. All the best to Leslie and family in the years to come.

Dr. Ella Inglebret retires after 29 years with the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences. She joined the department in 1989 as project coordinator of the federally funded professional preparation program for Native Americans seeking careers in speech-language pathology and audiology, and was appointed to a faculty position in the department in 2002.

As a professor, she continued her outreach to Native American communities and accelerated her research on factors associated with Native American student success in higher education, promoted culturally-responsive speech-language assessment and intervention, and fostered early language and literacy in multicultural populations. Her scholarship and outreach have had a considerable positive impact on Native American communities, and has influenced policymakers on major state and federal legislation. Inglebret and her co-authors received a Recognition of Leadership award for their two-volume book Honoring Tribal Legacies: An Epic Journey of Healing from the National Park Service, the Lewis and Clark Trust, Inc., and KANEKO (a nonprofit cultural organization that encourages the process of creativity and how it impacts our lives).

Dr. Inglebret was elected to the WSU President’s Teaching Academy in 2014, and she received the WSU Spokane Faculty Excellence Award in 2017. A Fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), she remained actively engaged with ASHA’s Native American Caucus. Perhaps her most enduring contribution on behalf of students was her pivotal role in establishing the J. Richard Franks Scholarship for Native American Students in Speech and Hearing Sciences, which provides financial support for the recruitment and retention of Native students for whom she has advocated so passionately over the course of her career.

We will miss Dr. Inglebret. However, we look forward to following the writings, outreach, and advocacy she plans to continue in retirement. We wish Ella and her family the best.
Each year, the Speech and Hearing Sciences faculty strives to lead our field with exceptional research, clinical innovation, service and outreach. In 2017-2018, faculty published 13 refereed and two invited articles, and presented 19 refereed papers and 20 invited papers, posters, seminars and workshops. In addition, they engaged in extensive outreach to local, state, national and international communities.

Clinical Assistant Professor Dana Algeo served as the speech-language pathology meeting coordinator for Spokane Public Schools and facilitated autism diagnostics for the University Hearing and Speech Clinic.

Undergraduate Academic Coordinator Anna Brown was awarded the 2018 WSU Spokane Administrative Professional Employee Excellence Award in recognition of her outstanding student advising, mentoring and support, as well as her contributions to the scholarship of advising.

Professor Gail Chermak co-authored several articles in the Journal of the American Academy of Audiology and the International Journal of Audiology focused on recognizing and minimizing confounds in the differential diagnosis of central auditory processing disorder. Chermak and colleagues delivered a three-hour featured session at the American Academy of Audiology meeting.

Clinical Associate Professor Christiane Dechert developed a new preschool for young children with severe speech sound disorders in the University Hearing and Speech Clinic.

Associate Professor Ella Inglebret served on the ASHA Native American Caucus Leadership Council and co-authored a paper with Clinical Professor Amy Meredith reporting socioeconomic status in pediatric language research published in the American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology.

Assistant Professor Georgina Lynch co-authored a paper with Assistant Professor Mark VanDam on pupillary response and phenotype in autism spectrum disorder published in Autism Research. Lynch collaborated with clinical faculty to develop a clinical services plan for individuals with autism in the University Hearing and Speech Clinic.

Assistant Professor Amy Meredith’s ASHA convention poster reporting the effects of income on accessibility to cleft lip and palate services in inland Washington was designated a Meritorious Poster Submission, judged by the convention program committee to show extraordinary, exceptional, and innovative work. Meredith also coordinated and participated in the Spokane County Maxillofacial Review Board monthly meetings in the University Hearing and Speech Clinic and provided workshops across the country and Canada on the assessment and management of childhood apraxia of speech.
Professor Nancy Potter completed testing of 360 children in a 4.5-hour/child protocol for an interprofessional, inter-institutional research study of Duarte galactosemia funded by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute. Her data set will provide comparative data for a number of planned studies across the country and in Canada.

Clinical Associate Professor Karen Simpson was appointed the Director of Off-Site Clinical Programs in August 2017.

Assistant Professor Lauren Swineford coauthored a paper on prefrontal hemodynamics in toddlers published in *Frontiers in Science*. Swineford provided several ADOS-2 clinical training sessions for school districts and medical centers across the country.

Assistant Professor Mark VanDam received the Chancellor’s Award for Leadership and Engagement and was appointed to the ASHA editorial board.

A scholarship for Native American students in Washington State University’s Speech and Hearing Sciences program has reached the endowment level and will create a lasting legacy for its namesake—the late J. Richard Franks, Ph.D., a former professor and leader in the department.

Franks saw that Native Americans were vastly under-represented in the field and took action to change that. He secured U.S. Department of Education funding in the 1980s which established the foundation for WSU’s Native American professional preparation program in speech-language pathology and audiology.

Over a 25-year period, Franks was actively involved in the department’s efforts to recruit and graduate Native American students with both bachelor’s and master’s degrees.

Department Chair Gail Chermak called Franks a visionary.

“Many of our Native American alumni have returned to serve their communities and have assumed professional leadership roles thanks to Dr. Franks,” Chermak said. “We all owe Dick Franks a huge debt of gratitude as we see the impact and contribution of his former students, as well as current and future Native Americans who might not have considered attending WSU had we not established a reputation for supporting Native American students to success.”

To make a contribution, please contact Nancy Fike at nancy.fike@wsu.edu or 509-358-7616.

NATIVE AMERICAN SCHOLARSHIP REACHES ENDOWMENT LEVEL
TRUE STORIES

Robert Weeks
M.A. ‘85

My story begins with my graduation with my master’s degree in 1985. I remember the snowy day my wife (Judy, WSU ‘85) and I left Pullman and moved to Vancouver, Wash., to start my first job with the Evergreen School District. I was particularly anxious to get my career going, as our first child was due in the next month and I needed income.

While I enjoyed my time working as a speech-language pathologist (SLP) in the schools, I always wanted to be in the medical arena and, in 1987, jumped at the chance to take a position with Kaiser Permanente, a large health care organization of 35 hospitals and more than 500 medical offices located in several states across the country. I took a job in Portland, Ore., working in both inpatient and ambulatory care settings. My caseload was wonderfully varied and challenging. I joked often about how the job was never boring as each day I would move through a schedule seeing a 90-year-old stroke patient one hour, followed by a three-year-old cleft palate patient the next hour, and ending the day with back-to-back adult voice disorder patients, with almost every other possible diagnosis in between. I also was fortunate to work with the Developmental Assessment Clinic at Kaiser for several years. This group was staffed by providers from genetics, child psychiatry, social work, physical therapy, occupational therapy and pediatrics. Our work focused on diagnosis and treatment planning for populations with rare diseases and genetic disorders. This was my most fulfilling role as an SLP and I loved the camaraderie of the multi-disciplinary staff.

After 18 years, I began to realize that while my degree presented me with skill sets that could transfer to non-clinical work in the health care arena, I needed more business knowledge. I enrolled in the health care administration certificate program at WSU Vancouver, once again receiving a top-notch education from our wonderful alma mater. After completing the program, I applied and was chosen for Kaiser Permanente’s mentoring program. I received excellent mentoring and coaching from executives in human resources and organizational development, which led to a job offer within the organizational development department at the Portland corporate office. I spent the next seven years doing what we SLPs do best, helping people communicate and function at their best. Of course, I was not practicing in a clinical setting, but rather consulting and coaching leaders on their communication skills, emotional intelligence and leadership presence. My 18 years of experience as a clinician in the organization gave me credibility and allowed me to speak to physicians, managers and front-line caregivers.

Eventually, my career led me to become the director of learning and organizational development for the Kaiser Permanente region in Hawaii. We immensely enjoyed living in Waikiki. In 2009, I elected to take a corporate office consultant role traveling between all eight Kaiser regions so that my wife could further her career with a position in Jacksonville, Fla, where we now reside. In 2016, I left the medical world and accepted a job with The Adecco Group, a global staffing company. I am currently functioning as a performance consultant, providing leadership coaching, training and talent management/pipeline development consultation. It’s strange to be out of the medical arena, which was my first love, but I believe the challenge of learning a new industry is good for me and I love that I work for a company that puts people to work so they can provide for themselves and their families.

I am continually fascinated by how much I have used my master’s degree in speech and hearing sciences as a leadership development consultant and executive coach over the course of my career. Possessing an understanding of how our brains take in information and the complex neurological processes required to communicate has uniquely qualified me to help executives communicate effectively, learn to use emotional intelligence, and deliver true leadership presence. To borrow terms from my old days, “pragmatics and semantics” do in fact have a significant place in corporate America. While I would never try to tempt our alumni to leave the incredibly fulfilling and important careers of speech pathology or audiology, I do want to encourage other alumni to remember that the education you possess and the experiences provided by the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences and WSU are marketable and valuable in corporate America.

I have such fond memories of being a graduate assistant to Dr. Chermak and Lynn Larrigan, and I am so grateful for the education I received at WSU. I not only received excellent training in the field of speech-language pathology, but also benefited from mentoring and coaching by professors who truly cared and invested in me as a person. For this I am eternally grateful. Go Cougs!
Alicia Aldendorf (B.A. ‘15, M.S. ‘17) co-authored a poster with Drs. Ella Inglebret and Lauren Swineford on a review of communication and social interaction outcomes for individuals with disabilities following hippotherapy at the annual convention of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Brenda (Thomas) Arend (B.A. ‘87, M.A. ‘89), a MBStmP registered clinician, has started a mobile FEES business—Puget Sound Swallow Diagnostics—serving the South Puget Sound region. Brenda sees patients in skilled nursing facilities, providing fiberoptic endoscopic evaluation of swallow at chair or bedside and collaborating with the treating SLP about the patient’s swallow plan of care.

Dominic Bungcayao (M.A. ‘89) has been employed with the Renton School District for the last 28 years. He has been instrumental in providing inclusion therapy and specific skill therapy within the classroom setting, as well as providing pull-out services. Dominic notes that he has applied all he learned at WSU into practice—especially evidence-based practice.

Kami (Crandall) Felig (M.A. ‘93) is the Director of Audiology at Spokane Ear Nose and Throat where she has worked for 23 years. Kami’s focus and passion is pediatric cochlear implants and mentoring students. Every year, she mentors at least one fourth-year Au.D. extern for an entire year from many different states including Arizona, Idaho, Indiana, Oregon, Utah and Washington. Kami has two daughters ages 16 and 17.

Keri (Rinard) Fleming (B.A. ‘92, M.A. ‘95) has worked for the Independent School District #1 in Lewiston, Idaho, for 23 years. Keri reports that she loves her work and feels more passion for her profession each year. Keri’s first grandchild was born in January 2018.

Russell Hyslop (M.S. ‘18) and his wife Kari have announced the birth of their son Micha David on April 24, 2018.

Chellis (Smith Swenson) Jensen (B.A. ‘57) spends much of her time playing piano, singing and entertaining audiences in skilled nursing facilities. Her programs always include some poetry and old jokes. Chellis notes that she is determined to continue to use her talents to bring joy to others.

Rebecca (Bekki) Mulalley-Thacker (B.A. ‘83, M.A. ‘88) retired in 2016 after 33 consecutive years as an SLP working in the schools. After retiring, Bekki maintained her licensure and CCC’s and decided to explore tele-therapy services. She developed her own website, did some networking, and is now featured as a health provider in Healthgrades and other online resources. Bekki and her husband enjoy their remote family cabin on Mt. Hood, and have taken up scuba diving, sailing and seeking out new adventures. Bekki notes that she now has time to read all her Oliver Sacks books she collected throughout the years.

Mary Stone (B.A. ‘98, M.A. ‘00) has enjoyed working for the Browning Public Schools in Browning, Montana, for 13 years. Her caseload includes students in first through third grade. Mary also provides speech and language therapy to students on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, which she says provides her an opportunity to thank the Speech and Hearing Sciences faculty for all the support and guidance they provided during her Master’s program. She notes that her “success story begins with Dr. Ella Inglebret and her continued efforts in supporting Native American students in the speech and hearing sciences.” Mary’s twins are 21 and both serve in the Montana National Guard. Her 12-year-old son is in middle school.

Jenell (Norton) Zamora (B.A. ‘97) and her family recently moved to LaGrande, Oregon, after serving both the educational and medical communities in Harney County, Oregon, for 16 years. While in Harney County, Jenell was the director of the Educational Service District SLP department. She also held a private contract with the hospital and home health agency to provide service to patients. Presently, Jenell is an SLP in the Rehabilitation Therapy Clinic at Grande Ronde Hospital serving both pediatric and adult patients, and is in the process of helping to build a speech-language pathology program through Grande Ronde Hospital Home Health Agency. Jenell reports that this transition has been a very positive one for her family and her career and that she is “eternally grateful for the foundation in education that I received from Washington State University! Go Cougs!”
SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENTS

Academic and Clinical Excellence
Shawna Richardson McDonald received the Outstanding Speech and Hearing Sciences Graduate Student Commencement Award.
Sarah Corn was honored with the Lynn Larrigan Clinical Excellence Award and was recognized during commencement ceremonies for her scholarship and character.
Natalie Hoogner and Makenzie Reid were each awarded a Blankship Scottish Rite Fellowship and Alyssa Godwin and Sarah Corn were each awarded a Miller/RiteCare Fellowship. These fellowships are supported by the Scottish Rite Foundation of Washington.
Russell Hyslop received a WSU Spokane Chancellor’s Award for Leadership and Engagement.
Rachel Underwood was named the Outstanding Senior in Speech and Hearing Sciences and was recognized during commencement ceremonies for her scholarship and character.
Allison Saur was awarded the Maynard Lee Daggy Scholarship in Speech and Hearing Sciences. Saur was invited to present her research on the role that siblings play in influencing mutual volatility in families to the WSU Board of Regents.
Shannon Beebe was named the Edward Gwin Scholar in Speech and Hearing Sciences.
Our National Student Speech, Language, Hearing Association chapter was awarded the 2018 Meritorious Academic and Community Project Award.
Tiana Bennett was one of 40 students selected from a highly competitive field to participate in the ASHA Minority Student Leadership Program.
Haille Heid co-authored a poster (with Dr. Mark VanDam) presented at the Acoustical Society of America meeting.
Haylee Koller co-authored a poster (with Dr. Ella Inglebret) presented at the annual ASHA convention.

Graduating With Honors
Summa cum laude: Shannon Carrothers, Julia McMichael and Rachel Underwood.
Magna cum laude: Abby Clemons, Kelli Flanigan, Danielle Greger, Hailey Guyette, Rebecca Hibben, Samantha Lundell and Courtney Wendt.

Service and Outreach
Graduate students Sarita Thotakat, Tiana Bennett and Nikia Frohlich, along with EWU graduate students, organized a career fair on the WSU Health Sciences Spokane campus.
Rebecca Hibben represented her peers in the ASWSUS student senate.
Shannon Carrothers and Leslie Puthoff and seniors from EWU’s Communication Sciences and Disorders program answered questions from students considering certifying in our undergraduate program at our annual Spring Celebration held in Pullman.
Shannon Carrothers, post-baccalaureate Julia McMichael, and Rachel Underwood organized an interactive event for high school students interested in pursuing careers in speech-language pathology at the EWU Area Health Education Center’s exploration of health sciences event. At this same event, Rebecca Hibben served on a panel fielding questions about the student experience in our department.
Senior Kaylee Walter led the department’s showcase event at the WSU Health Sciences Spokane Fall Health Sciences Preview for high school students.
Kaylee Walter and Senior Cara Evanenko led the department’s showcase at the WSU Health Sciences Spokane Spring Preview.
In partnership with seniors from EWU’s Communication Sciences and Disorders program, SHS Seniors Lyndsey Uyeda, Karl Wagatsuma, Leslie Puthoff, and Abby Clemons hosted five incoming juniors from the Pullman campus in the inaugural UPCD Spring Sleepover event, an orientation event for new students.
Shannon Beebe led the successful effort to secure formal recognition of a new Registered Student Organization (RSO) called Health Sciences Multicultural Outreach with assistance from Allison Saur, post-baccalaureate Amber Ronhaar, and juniors Sarah Sanvictores and Aubrey Pflugrad.
Seniors Sierra Alexander-Wu, Sara Beck, Rebecca Hibben, and Jennifer Schneider hosted a table with information and activities regarding helmet use, traumatic brain injury and speech at the annual Spokane Bike Swap.
Seniors Allison Roland and Megan Bickford interacted with 5th-8th graders and their parents at the STEMForward: Solving a Medical Mystery event held on the WSU Health Sciences campus.

MULTICULTURAL CLUB
The Multicultural Club brings together students from various health sciences programs to advocate for diversity and cultural inclusion.
This year, the club held a variety of events including three Language Luncches in which student leaders taught Russian, Amharic and Spanish while enjoying cultural dishes, the fall semester Talent Show, and the 6th Annual Parade of Nations, where more than 100 people from our campus and community celebrated a night of culture with fantastic food, a fashion show and traditional performances. In addition to events, the club partnered with World Relief Spokane and raised funds through bake sales to assist refugees resettling in the local community.
We thank our members, faculty and student leaders for their commitment to learning and for celebrating diversity!
Megan Edwards, EWU, Communication Sciences and Disorders Multicultural Club President.
NOTES FROM NSSLHA

The National Student-Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSSLHA) chapter continued a long-standing tradition of service work in the community, strong fundraising efforts and ongoing education in the community and beyond. Here are a few highlights from the 2017-2018 academic year.

Fundraising
NSSLHA worked hard to fundraise for the various charities we voted to support. In the fall, we fundraised at a local restaurant where 50 percent of all purchases were donated to our chapter. The funds, in turn, were donated to Early Life Speech and Language, a local clinic that provides free speech and language therapy to children between the ages of 2 and 7 years. In addition, NSSLHA sold t-shirts, sweatshirts, fleece vests and jackets—always something students and faculty look forward to. The apparel was purchased by undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, staff and even family members. A bake sale closed out fundraising efforts at the end of April. The funds raised from these events were donated to this year’s “NSSLHA Loves” recipient, the John Tracy Clinic, a diagnostic and educational center for infants and children with hearing loss. NSSLHA Loves is a community service initiative involving NSSLHA chapters from all over the country in a campaign supporting a national organization that works with people with communication disorders.

Philanthropy
NSSLHA was actively involved in a variety of philanthropic events both on campus and in the community. In the fall, members participated in the Heart Walk to help raise awareness about heart health and stroke prevention. Continuing with previous NSSLHA traditions, in late September, members volunteered at the HOPE School’s annual “Hoedown for HOPE,” a dinner and auction that raises funds for the school. In October, members participated in the Apraxia Walk, which raises awareness about childhood apraxia and brings together families, providers and advocates, some affiliated with our very own “Camp Candoo” (pictured right) program. In addition, students volunteered at the Walk to Defeat Alzheimer’s, which promotes awareness about Alzheimer’s and raises funds for research. In the winter, NSSLHA hosted the fourth consecutive book drive for the children at Anna Ogden Hall, a women and children’s shelter in Spokane. The book drive promotes literacy in children who may not have access to reading materials and fosters parent-child interactions to address the unique needs of these kids.

Education
NSSLHA held two Education Nights this year to provide students on the WSU Spokane Health Sciences campus with more information on specific health professions topics. In the fall, our topic was focused on dyslexia, dysgraphia and ADHD. We invited a panel of professionals from the Winston Center, a local private clinic in Spokane, to speak about learning disabilities that are commonly seen among children. WSU graduate Hannah Fant spoke on the panel. The second Education Night in the spring focused on dementia. Various professionals in dementia caregiver, provider or advocate roles were invited to join the panel.

One of our faculty, Dr. Jane Pimentel, provided a brief presentation providing a general overview of dementia. For the third year in a row, NSSLHA secured funds from Associated Students of Washington State University Spokane to host a Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and graduate school information meeting for fellow students. At this event, officers presented on what to expect when preparing for the GRE, and we raffled off preparatory study books. Junior members also had the opportunity to meet with their senior mentors to learn more about applying to graduate school. NSSLHA hopes to continue this mentorship program to help junior members be successful in pursuing their goals.

We are proud of the work we accomplished this year and will be sad to say goodbye to our fellow students and members. The future is bright and we wish all graduates success in pursuit of their goals!

The 2017-2018 University Programs in Communication Disorders (UPCD) NSSLHA chapter enjoyed the participation of 87 members. The officers for the 2017-2018 year were Jenna Anderst, president (EWU), Paiten Fish, vice president (EWU), Shannon Carrothers, treasurer (WSU), Katie Vandervert, secretary (EWU), and Leslie Puthoff, public relations officer (WSU).

Shannon Carrothers, EWU, Communication Sciences and Disorders
WSU/EWU NSSLHA Treasurer
SPEECH AND HEARING SCIENCES

Preparing speech-language pathologists to provide compassionate, patient-centered care