



CSD at Augustana

Communication Sciences and Disorders

Department Newsletter
Volume 1, Issue 1

Message from the Chair

We wish our CSD friends a healthy and happy 2021! This has been an exciting year for the CSD Department as we fully moved into the beautifully renovated and expanded Brodahl Hall and welcomed our first cohort of graduate students in our newly accredited MS-SLP Program. We expanded our faculty this year and also welcomed new clinical supervisors. We miss seeing on a daily basis Dr. Kathy Jakielski, who currently is completing a well-earned year-long sabbatical. As such, I assumed the dual roles of Department Chair and MS-SLP Program Director.

The Covid pandemic has challenged our department in many ways, but we are proud that in the 2020 Fall semester, we were able safely to offer in-person audiology and speech-language clinical services and teach our courses in a hybrid format. During this unusual year, we have been reminded time and again about how adaptable, positive, and hard-working our CSD students, faculty, and staff are.

In appreciation,

Alli Haskill
CSD Professor and
chair



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Welcome to our first newsletter!

We are so thrilled to introduce our very first newsletter in CSD! Our program has grown exponentially in recent years, due to increased interest in the fields of Speech-Language

Pathology and Audiology. We hope this newsletter will serve to connect our valued alumni, friends, and colleagues to the many great events happening in Brodahl and also to the new faculty

and students who have joined our program. We ask that you reach out and share our newsletter with any interested readers! Please stay connected, friends!

Brodahl student lounge





Barbara A. Roseman Center Featured Clinician

In this inaugural edition of the CSD newsletter, it is only fitting that we acknowledge one of our longest serving members of the Augie CSD team! Mrs. Karen Aumuller has worked as an SLP for over 20 years, and has contributed countless hours to supervision at our Center. She also teaches courses in Aural Rehabilitation,

serves as a Clinic Supervisor, and now will be our Externship Coordinator for MS-SLP students. Mrs. Aumuller reports loving her job at Augustana because she can continue as a practicing clinician, but also teach and mentor students. Anyone who has worked with Mrs. Aumuller knows that

her commitment to the CSD program is beyond measure! She inspires students to do their best and is always there to help her fellow co-workers at any time. Thank you, Mrs. Aumuller, for your dedication and for setting the bar so high for future clinicians to follow!

New Faculty Introductions



Dr. Stacie M. Greene comes to Augie from St. Ambrose University, where she was the inaugural clinic director at SAU's masters in SLP program. Prior to that, she worked in the public schools for 10 years, specializing in the under 8 crowd. Dr. Greene loves mentoring students while still getting to work with "little guys" in the clinic. She lives in Geneseo with her two

children, two pugs and two cats. In her free time, Dr. Greene enjoys reading about true crime, watching documentaries and playing video games.

including herself. She is excited to return to Augie, after nearly a decade of providing speech and language services to deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

Dr. Catherine (Cathy, pictured right) Webb earned a Ph.D. in disability studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago to learn more about how systems and structures impact people with disabilities,



Kristin DeBlieck (pictured top left) joins us as Professional Faculty and a clinical supervisor. She worked with adult populations in skilled care, home health, and outpatient settings for 12 years. Mrs. DeBlieck became certified in LSVT in 2016, and has worked with patients with speech sound disorders, social communication skills,

fluency and AAC. She enjoys spending time with her family, baking, and reading.

Kingdom; Geneva, Switzerland; and primarily in Santa Cruz, CA, where she was the lead SLP at a pediatric therapeutic learning center for three years. Ms. Williams enjoys hiking and backpacking, dabbling in ceramic arts, and cooking.

Laurel Williams (pictured bottom left), originally from the Quad Cities, returns to Augie as a Professional faculty member and clinical supervisor. She practiced as an SLP in San Francisco, CA; London, United



Alumni News

We highlight Melanie Berna Coulter ('94) who earned her MA-SLP at Western Illinois University. Melanie met her husband, Chris, at Augustana. Melanie and Chris married in 1997 and have two children, Brian and Maria. Melanie's first job was in a small school district outside of Peoria, IL, where she established the school's SLP program. She reports having many questions in those early days as an SLP, but was fortunate to have contacts at early

days as an SLP, but was fortunate to have contacts at Augie to support and guide her. She decided to take some time off to raise her family. Like all great alumni, Melanie returned to Augie for a Homecoming years ago. During this visit, Melanie talked with Mrs. Roseman who referred her to the IL Department of Human Services. Melanie enjoyed

this job that allowed Melanie to also raise her family. At Augie, Melanie recalls that most of her classes were in Bergendoff, where clinical sessions were housed in the music practice rooms! The CSD department has come a long way since then!

Brodahl babies...and goodbyes



We are delighted to report the arrival of a new Brodahl baby! Mrs. Bri Lueders, a new full time supervisor at the Center, and her husband, Spencer, welcomed Nelson Samuel Lueders this fall. Nelson was born on October 8th weighing 6 pounds, 14 ounces. Welcome, baby Nelson!

We said good-bye and happy retirement to our long-time clinical supervisor, Mrs. Joni Mack and sign language instructor, Mrs. Renee Poust. A retirement party for Joni and Renee was held on October 6th, 2020 to honor these wonderful women and celebrate their many contributions over the years.

To hear directly from Joni and Renee about their journey working at Augustana, check out their comments [here](#).

Update from ASSHA

ASSHA was able to have a successful fall semester, despite the move to virtual meetings due to safety restrictions. The group continued to meet once a month to discuss updates and enjoy guest speakers. Speakers included Karen Kruse, who provided tips and resources for successful telehealth sessions, and recent Augustana alumni who are currently completing graduate programs at various institutions. Students had the opportunity to ask questions about the application process, clinic, and classes

during COVID-19, and everything in between. Members continued to volunteer at Closet2Closet throughout the semester and participated in a food drive benefiting the River Bend Foodbank alongside St. Ambrose's NSSLHA organization. Although the annual holiday party was not able to be held this year, members were able to make fun and festive

ornaments with their clients with supplies provided by ASSHA. Next semester, ASSHA hopes to schedule even more knowledgeable speakers across a variety of topics and hold a t-shirt fundraiser for client families and CSD parents. The end-of-the-year banquet will also be held to celebrate the conclusion of this unprecedented year!



Student Spotlight

McKenzie Hennessey is a sophomore majoring in CSD. She was inspired to major in CSD after shadowing an audiologist and speaking with family members who are currently SLPs. She felt as though this path best aligned with her lifestyle and interests. At Augie, McKenzie is involved in choir and Delta Chi Theta sorority. Both of these diverse communities have given her a support system and some of her dearest friendships. Connection is something she values, and it is definitely valued at Augie as well. Augustana's CSD department is unique because its professors do everything they can to help their students succeed in and out of the classroom, and our clinic is a wonderful tool to offer us early hands-on experience.



Alicia Garcia is a junior who is pursuing a CSD major and Psychology minor. She recalls becoming interested in CSD as a high school senior because her baby cousin was not talking and saw an SLP. That experience opened her eyes to the variety of opportunities available in the career, working in hospitals or schools with various age groups. Alicia likes that students are encouraged to collaborate with classmates to improve learning and view topics from others' perspectives. The professors and other faculty really work to make sure students are getting the most out of their education and translating the skills learned into real life situations.

Vicente Serrano is a senior with double majors in CSD and Spanish for Professional Uses. He was inspired to pursue a CSD major after taking his first Intro to CSD course with Mrs. Drazinski and learning about how SLPs and AuDs have such a great impact on improving communication and overall quality of life. Vicente is a Program Coordinator for the Office of Student Inclusion and Diversity and is heavily involved with a campus culture group called LatinX Unidos. Vicente reports that

it is very nice to have a community of people who care about his success while so far away from family. He is forever grateful for everyone in the department that constantly encouraged him to achieve his goals.

Victoria Cimino is a 1st year student in MS-SLP program. Victoria reports that when she was 14, she babysat for a young boy who was delayed in his speech development. She met his SLP who came to the house for therapy and that's what sparked her interest! Victoria loves being part of the inaugural class of SLP students at Augie, and appreciates how the graduate program started her off early doing clinical rotations! She has been able to apply her clinical experiences to what she is learning in class which makes for a more authentic graduate school experience. Victoria also likes how the professors have given her study materials early in the program to ensure the students are ready for the Praxis. She feels she will be well prepared to take the Praxis at the end of her two years at Augustana and start her next adventure as an SLP.



**Adios 2020,
Hello 2021!**

**Communication
Sciences and
Disorders at
Augustana
College**

639 38th St.

CSD/Brodahl Building

Rock Island, IL 61201

Phone: 309-794-7350

Website:

<https://www.augustana.edu/academics/areas-of-study/communication-sciences-and-disorders>

Newsletter Editor: Dr.
Ann Perreau

A special thanks to all those
who contributed!

