

CSD Connects: Spring 2025

Spring into Growth: CSD Connects Highlights New Chapters, Achievements, and Impact

As we wrap up another vibrant quarter, this edition of *CSD Connects* reflects the momentum and mission of the Roxelyn and Richard Pepper Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Northwestern. From pioneering research and student milestones to community outreach and clinical innovation, our community continues to grow in its impact and reach.

This spring, we're thrilled to announce two major faculty appointments that mark an exciting new chapter for our department. We warmly welcome [Dr. Monita Chatterjee](#) as a **Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders**. Dr. Chatterjee joins us from Boys Town National Research Hospital, where she served as Director of the Auditory Prostheses and Perception Laboratory. Internationally recognized for her groundbreaking work in auditory neuroscience and cochlear implants, she brings a robust, federally funded translational research program that strengthens our leadership in translational research and clinical rehabilitation. Her appointment also includes strategic research and clinical partnerships with **Northwestern Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery**, further enriching the interdisciplinary landscape of cochlear implant research at Northwestern.

We also welcome [Dr. Sameer Ashaie](#) as an **Assistant Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders**. Dr. Ashaie comes to us from the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab, where he led clinical research focused on language recovery following brain injury. His NIH-supported work in aphasia and brain-based predictors of recovery expands our growing efforts in adult neurogenic communication disorders and strengthens our translational and neuroimaging expertise, building on a rich and storied history of aphasia research at Northwestern. These appointments reflect a key priority in our department's strategic plan: to cover the entire range of human communication and swallowing across the lifespan—from molecular and neural mechanisms to real-world clinical interventions. Together, Drs. Chatterjee and Ashaie bring impactful research programs with direct relevance to patient care and health outcomes.

We are also proud to celebrate a major milestone: the graduation of 127 outstanding students across our professional programs—Master's in Speech, Language, and Learning, Doctor of Audiology, and Doctor of Speech-Language Pathology. These graduates embody the department's mission to train the next generation of leaders who will shape the future of research, education, and clinical service in communication sciences and disorders.

All of this progress comes amid a shifting landscape in higher education and healthcare—where research funding is under growing strain, academic institutions face rising expectations and challenges, and clinical needs and support continue to evolve. Even in this environment, the spirit of CSD remains strong. Our faculty, staff, and students continue to meet these challenges with resilience, creativity, and a shared commitment. In this issue, you'll also find stories celebrating faculty achievements, student research, new clinical partnerships, and community engagement. Whether through interdisciplinary collaboration, life-changing clinical programs, or innovative science, our department continues to move forward with purpose and passion. Thank you for being part of the

CSD community.

Bharath Chandrasekaran, PhD

Ralph and Jean Sundin Endowed Professor and Chair

ASHA Fellow, Knowles Fellow

Roxelyn and Richard Pepper Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

Megan Roberts, PhD, CCC-SLP

Professor and Associate Chair, ASHA Fellow

Roxelyn and Richard Pepper Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

Research Excellence and Innovation

Bilingualism & Psycholinguistic Research Team Publication and Award

Professor Viorica Marian and PhD students Jessica Chuang and Malak Elmessiry and master's student Anayeli Huerta published an article in Psychology Today "[Myths and Realities of Communication Disorders in Bilinguals](#)".

PhD student Malak Elmessiry, Dr. Aya Inamori Williams, Dr. Ashley Chung-Fat-Yim, and Dr. Viorica Marian accepted their Graduate Student Paper Award at the Midwestern Psychological Association's (MPA) annual conference in April. Their conference talk, "Language Shapes Expression of Depression Symptoms in Spanish-English Bilinguals" described how older Spanish-English bilinguals express depression symptoms differently across their two languages.



Early Intervention Research Group Publishes Intervention Study for Deaf/Hard of Hearing Toddlers

Professor and Associate Chair Megan Roberts and the Early Intervention Research Group had their paper, "[Early Communication Intervention for Deaf/Hard of Hearing Toddlers: A Randomized Clinical Trial](#)", published in the journal Pediatrics. This paper includes a [commentary](#) and a [blog post](#).



Souza Received Buffett Institute Award

Professor Pamela Souza was awarded a Global Collaboration Grant from the Northwestern Roberta Buffett Institute for Global Affairs in support for her project with Jeppe Høy Konvalinka Christensen (Eriksholm Research Centre, Denmark).

Dr. Souza visited Purdue's Accessible Precision Audiology Research Center (APARC) and gave a talk, "Building Clinical Decision Strategies When Every Patient is Unique".



Translational Science Spectrum in CSD: A Focus on Basic Research

Research Professor Mary Ann Cheatham joined Northwestern's Roxelyn and Richard Pepper

Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) as a research professor after completing her master's degree in audiology under Raymond Carhart.

What led you to study auditory physiology, specifically mouse models?

Carhart realized that he would not be able to help his patients unless he had a better understanding of cochlear function. As a result, he hired Peter Dallos who started the Auditory Physiology Lab, which I joined soon after its formation. Our early work sought to define functional differences between the two populations of sensory receptor cells in the cochlea: the outer and inner hair cells that detect and transduce auditory stimuli into signals that are interpreted by the brain as sound. These cells have unique structures and functions, with the outer hair cells (OHCs) amplifying auditory inputs, and the inner hair cells (IHCs) conveying this acoustic information to the central auditory system. Unfortunately, environmental insults, such as loud noises, as well as ototoxic drugs and aging, can result in the loss of hair cells, with outer hair cells being the most vulnerable.



Although we have always used several approaches to study a specific problem, developments in the neurobiology of hearing and deafness now require collaborations between different laboratories with expertise in multiple areas. Hence our work with several groups at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. Given that the generation of mouse models to study human hearing loss and deafness is now straightforward, the auditory phenotypes created by these genetic manipulations must be defined. It is this latter aspect where my background in hearing science is required. By characterizing mice with various defects, it is possible to define the genetic pathways that result in the differentiation of hair cells into two distinct populations, providing a foundation to better understand hearing loss.

Your work with Jaime García-Añoveros at Feinberg has identified Tbx2, a gene that drives IHC-specific differentiation. Tbx2 is not just necessary for IHC development and maintenance. In its absence, OHCs form in locations where IHCs normally reside. What is the significance of this work in the context of hearing loss treatment? Could you help us understand why this finding is important?

Unlike non-mammalian vertebrates such as birds, mammals cannot naturally replace lost hair cells by cellular regeneration and the only current treatments for deficits associated with hair cell loss are hearing aids or cochlear implants. However, collaborations between laboratories with expertise in genetics and those with knowledge of peripheral cochlear function facilitate our understanding of hair cell development. Defining the genetic networks that control the differentiation of sensory hair cells into two distinct populations is essential to the further advancement of hair cell regeneration, as well as other possible interventions to ameliorate disabling hearing loss that currently affects 430 million people worldwide (WHO).

What do advances in gene therapy like OTOFERLIN mean for hearing loss treatment a decade from now?

The recent success of human *OTOFERLIN* gene therapy to reactivate connections between inner hair cells and their auditory nerve partners shows proof of concept and bodes well for the further advancement of additional therapeutic alternatives for hearing restoration.

What would you say has been the most exciting finding in your research so far?

Our work defining hair cell function and our characterization of various mouse models of hereditary hearing loss allows us to better understand the mechanisms underlying the coding of signals by the inner ear. These advancements, however, rely on a multidisciplinary approach,

one that reflects the unique group of investigators within Northwestern University's Knowles Hearing Center that work across disciplinary divides to study current issues in auditory neurobiology. So, the most exciting part relates to our collaborations that have resulted in developments well beyond our expectations.

What advice do you have for students interested in pursuing auditory physiology research?

Northwestern University prioritizes neuroscience and sensory physiology, which makes for a productive working environment, as does my position within the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders where translation to clinical practice is a potential outcome. This latter association provides an opportunity for dialogue with those studying the effects of hearing loss, and its amelioration across several dimensions. These interactions allow me to contribute to the graduate programs in audiology at Northwestern and to provide students with the foundation they need to succeed as they move forward to make their own discoveries. Hence, my advice is to simply bring your intellectual curiosity and see where your journey leads. Based on my experience, you will never in your wildest dreams be able to predict at the start where the field will be when you finish.

Norton's Research Recognized

Associate Professor Elizabeth Norton received a subaward from the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago to assist with an R03 titled, "Characterizing the early childhood neurodevelopmental impact of infants exposed to maternal SARS-CoV-2 infection during pregnancy" led by PI Dr. Leena Mithal (R03AI178380). The goal of this study is to examine the impact SARS-CoV-2 infection during pregnancy has on the neurodevelopmental health of children.



Dr. Norton was also interviewed about her research for the Daily Northwestern. You can read more about how her research impacts her teaching approaches [here](#).

Speights Talks Voice AI

Assistant Professor Marisha Speights was invited to the Voice AI Symposium that brought leaders, researchers and clinicians together to discuss the challenges and groundbreaking opportunities in voice AI. The expert panel focused on implementation of voice biomarker technology across various domains such as clinical and ethical translation.



Dr. Speights also presented at the Acoustical Society of American and her research was featured in two press releases which you can read below:

[Laying the Groundwork to Diagnose Speech Impairments in Children with Clinical AI](#)

[Can You Hear Me Now? Fixing Speech Recognition Tech So It Works for Every Child](#)

Morton-Jones Awarded for Research Excellence

Mancosh Postdoctoral Fellow Mariah Morton-Jones was awarded the Sataloff Young Investigator Award at this year's Voice Foundation Symposium. The Sataloff Award, sponsored by Elsevier, recognizes

excellence among young researchers based on the quality, impact and complexity of their research.



New Publications Involving CSD Faculty and Students

- Bhutada, A. M., Carnaby, G. D., Broughton, W. A., Beverly, B. L., & Garand, K. L. (2024). [Effects of Expiratory Muscle Strength Training on Oropharyngeal Swallow Physiology in Persons with Obstructive Sleep Apnea \(OSA\): A Preliminary Study](#). *Dysphagia*, 1-11.
- Hazelwood, R. J., Robinson, G. F., Wolford, G. W., & Smith, R. F. (2025). [Assessment of Dysphagia Management Competence among Healthcare Providers: A Scoping Review](#). *Dysphagia*, 1-18.
- Humes, L. E., Dhar, S., & Singh, J. (2025). [Some considerations in the use of the Hearing Handicap Inventory for the Elderly and its derivatives as hearing-aid outcome measures](#). *International Journal of Audiology*, 1-20.
- Jones, M. K., Zanzinger, K., Grauzer, J., Sudec, L., Kaat, A. J., & Roberts, M. Y. (2025). [Early communication intervention for deaf/hard of hearing toddlers: a randomized clinical trial](#). *Pediatrics*, 155(6), e2024066847.
- Kantarcigil, C., Smith, R. F., Martin-Harris, B., Arrese, L. C., & Malandraki, G. A. (2025). [Asynchronous Telehealth for Dysphagia Management: Evidence, Possibilities, and Practical Examples](#). *Perspectives of the ASHA Special Interest Groups*, 1-12.
- Krekeler, B. N., Hopkins, A., Cooke, M., Tabangin, M., Altaye, M., Wahab, S., & Martin-Harris, B. (2025). [Poststroke Lingual Function and Swallowing Physiology](#). *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*, 68(5), 2318-2338.
- Shi, L., & Rodríguez-Contreras, A. (2025). [Paradoxical effect of the volatile anesthetic isoflurane on calcium activity of cortical vascular endothelial cells in vivo](#). *Neurophotonics*, 12(2), 025015-025015.
- Manchaiah, V., Dhar, S., Humes, L., Sharma, A., Taylor, B., & Swanepoel, D. W. (2025). [Is There Incremental Benefit with Incremental Hearing Device Technology for Adults with Hearing Loss?](#). *Audiology Research*, 15(3), 52.
- Rangwala, R., Bahia, M. M., Song, J., Bega, D., & Martin-Harris, B. (2025). [Association between Perceived Dysphagia Symptoms and Swallowing Physiology in Parkinson's Disease](#). *Movement Disorders Clinical Practice*.
- Reinoso, A., Guendica, M., & Weisleder, A. [Leamos Juntos! Bilingual books support Latine parents' Spanish language use during book-sharing interactions](#). *J Child Lang*. 2025 May 21:1-26
- Viganò, M., Barbieri, E., Thompson, C. K., Vitali, C., & Cecchetto, C. (2025). [The Italian Adaptation of the Treatment of Underlying Forms for Object Relatives in Agrammatic Aphasia: Training Efficacy, Generalization Patterns, and Cross-Linguistic Implications](#). *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*, 68(5), 2399-2422.
- Xu, S., Kantarcigil, C., Rangwala, R., Nellis, A., San Chun, K., Richards, D., ... & Martin-Harris, B. (2025). [Digital health technology for Parkinson's disease with comprehensive monitoring and artificial intelligence-enabled haptic biofeedback for bulbar dysfunction](#). *Journal of Parkinson's Disease*, 1877718X251329354.
- Zellner, M. A., Kaat, A. J., & Roberts, M. Y. (2025). [The Impact of COVID-19 on Early Intervention Referrals and Enrollments: An Interrupted Time Series Analysis](#). *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*, 1-8.

Education, Growth, and Professional Development of Students and Postdoctoral Scholars



Kahla Graham

PhD student Kahla Graham successfully defended her dissertation titled, "Swallowing Impairment, Airway Invasion, and Respiratory-Swallow Coordination in Lung Transplantation."



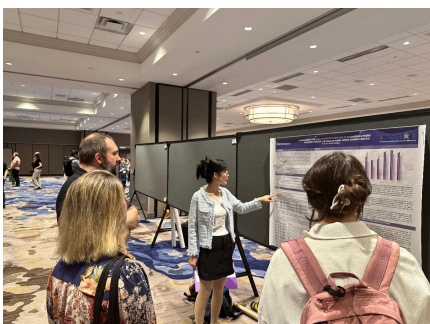
Julia Nikolaeva

PhD student Julia Nikolaeva successfully defended her dissertation titled, "Growth Trajectories of Expressive Vocabulary Size in Toddlerhood: A Comparison of Late Talker Status and Vocabulary Growth Phenotype in Predicting Later Language."



Matias Fernandez-Duque

PhD student Matias Fernandez-Duque successfully defended his dissertation, "The Effects of Dual-Language Experience on Memory and Creativity."



Suisui Xu

PhD student Suisui Xu presented a poster titled, "Understanding the Challenges of Older Adults in Perceiving Young Children's Speech: The Role of Vowel Space Characteristics" at the Acoustical Society of America. This is research she has done in the Pediatric Speech Technologies and Acoustics Research Lab.

Rachael Pennock

PhD student Rachael Pennock presented,



"Investigating the Potential of a Talk Pedometer to Evaluate Auditory Ecology for Patients with Hearing Loss" at the Acoustical Society of America. This is research she has completed in the Hearing Aid Lab.



Shengyue Xiong

PhD student Shengyue Xiong was selected as a recipient of the Kenneth R. Rearwin Endowed Fellowship for 2024–2025 by the faculty in the department based on the quality of her work and future potential.



Benjamin Amarte

PhD student Benjamin Amarte has been awarded an International Summer Research Grant from the Buffett Institute for Global Affairs. His project is titled "Audiology in Ghana: Barriers to Effective Clinical Decision-Making."



Kayleigh Meadow

Undergraduate student Kayleigh Meadow was awarded the Burton and Karol Lefkowitz Prize. This award is given to an undergraduate who has demonstrated leadership capabilities through civic engagement, community service, or other projects designed to improve society or advance social change. Kayleigh's work, research, and volunteering excellence are rooted in her commitment to supporting young children's development—an effort that extends up to and including her fellow students' civic engagement. She maintains a major leadership role in Jumpstart, an organization created to improve children's learning outcomes, committing over 300 hours per year. She completed a competitive NSF-funded summer research opportunity at Stanford on dialect in children's media. At Northwestern, she is active as a fellow within the Center for Civic Engagement and in the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSSLHA).

Martine Fiore

Undergraduate student Martine Fiore received the



Lucia Wiant Award. This award is given to a student who has shown outstanding academic or artistic growth in the communication arts and sciences. Martine is an active member of the CSD department, pursuing her interest in audiology via her role as philanthropy chair in the Northwestern chapter of the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSSLHA) and work in the Auditory Research Lab. She has become a well-respected leader and a strong advocate for professional development opportunities for her classmates.



Brooklyn Slonaker

Undergraduate student Brooklyn Slonaker received the James H. McBurney Scholarship. Awarded to an outstanding junior, this scholarship honors James McBurney, who served as dean from 1942 to 1972 and under whose leadership the school gained widespread recognition while fostering greater cohesion among its disciplines. Brooklyn demonstrates the highest levels of research excellence and integrates this with her passion for community engagement. She has become a research leader in the Pediatric Speech Technologies and Acoustics Research Lab, presenting a poster at the national ASHA conference, co-authoring a paper, and leading a team of students.

Brooklyn was also a first place winner in the Social and Behavioral Sciences category for the 2025 Undergraduate Research Exposition afternoon poster presentation session.

Departmental Excellence Award for Undergraduate Students

- Lili Bannister
- Jaquelin Cantu Balmaceda
- Victor Criollo
- Ellen Darmstadter
- Yijin Dong
- Hui Feng
- Sophia Gambill
- Autumn Grieb
- Karyme Hernandez
- Claire Kim
- Kumiko Long
- Aysha Menk
- Emma Miller
- Maya Page
- Mira Patel
- Julianne Zane

Departmental Book Award for Undergraduate Students

- Barbara Burns
- Lynette Suk

Lois L. Elliott Book Award

Presented to an undergraduate human communication sciences major who has demonstrated

outstanding academic achievement; named in honor of former professor Lois L. Elliott, founder of the Human Communication Sciences program, who died in 1995.

- Nadia van den Berg



CSD Connects Speaker Meets with AuD Students

Invited CSD Connects Speaker Dr. Fatima Husain (UIUC) and Dr. Vidya Krull, Assistant Chair for Research and Innovation met with first year AuD students to talk about the clinical treatment of tinnitus, misophonia, and hyperacusis.

LSVT Certification

MS-SLL students Talia Just, Sydney Rubenstein, Annie Magner, Grace Spath, and Anna Baldessari earned their LSVT LOUD for KIDS Certification.

Faculty and Staff Development

Keynote at The Voice Foundation

Professor Bharath Chandrasekaran delivered the keynote address titled *"The Voice in Our Head: How the Brain Learns and Tunes to Human Voices"* at the 54th Anniversary Symposium: Care of the Professional Voice, hosted by The Voice Foundation from May 28 to June 1, 2025. The Voice Foundation is the world's leading organization dedicated to the study and care of the professional voice. Dr. Chandrasekaran's keynote highlighted cutting-edge research on voice perception and neuroplasticity, emphasizing how the brain dynamically adapts to experience with voices across contexts.



Viorica Marian

Professor Viorica Marian has been elected as a 2024 fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the largest general scientific society in the world. Fellows are selected based on their scientifically and socially distinguished achievements.



Jason Sanchez

Associate Professor Jason Sanchez received the Clarence Simon Award for Outstanding Teaching and Mentoring. This award recognizes outstanding School of Communication teachers and mentors based on nominations by students and faculty. "Professor Sanchez belongs to that rare category of educators whose passion for teaching is visibly contagious," says one student. "His enthusiasm for audiology radiates through



every lecture, making complex concepts accessible and engaging.” In tackling such challenging topics as electrophysiology, one student noted, “I will never forget the genuine care and passion he showed as I expressed my interest in expanding my knowledge and am incredibly grateful for his grace in this learning process.” Another student says, “Professor Sanchez has inspired me to approach everything that I do with the same passion and dedication he brings to his field and in the classroom.” And in closing, a student notes: “He is, without a doubt, one of the most dedicated, brilliant, compassionate, and inspiring professors I have ever had the privilege of learning from.”

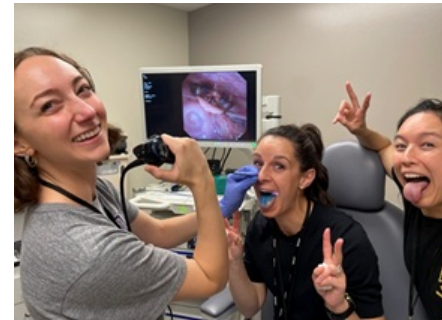
Jeanette Ortiz

Assistant Clinical Professor and Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Programs and Advising Jeanette Ortiz received the Galbut Outstanding Faculty Award. This award is given to a faculty member who has been outstanding in teaching and in efforts to engage students both inside and outside the classroom; selected from outstanding faculty members nominated by School of Communication students; established by the Galbut family. One student nominator says that she “creates an open and trusting environment” and ensures that the students “feel seen” by supporting their work and hobbies outside of the classroom. Another student, whom Jeanette coached through a particularly challenging topic, says “Dr. Ortiz remains a professor who was not only a great teacher of concepts but that professor that was incredibly approachable and made me more comfortable asking for help in my future studies.” Yet another student credits Jeanette’s handling of the CSD 110 course in compelling them to switch into the human communication sciences major. Yet another praised her “unwavering support” that guided them through “pivotal moments, setbacks, and personal challenges, always making me feel heard, understood, and encouraged.” And finally, Jeanette, “brings joy, wisdom, and generosity to all who have the privilege of learning from her.



Jonelyn Langenstein

Assistant Clinical Professor Jonelyn Langenstein was invited to lecture and assist at the University of Colorado’s prestigious annual strobe and FEES course.



Amy Sindelar

Assistant Clinical Professor Amy Sindelar successfully completed Northwestern’s Advancing Mentoring Excellence Program, a Provost Office initiative designed to strengthen faculty mentoring skills for graduate students and post-doctoral trainees.



Leigh Cohen

Assistant Clinical Professor Leigh Cohen received certification in the Modified Barium Swallow Impairment Profile (MBSImP) a

standardized, evidence-based protocol for assessing and reporting swallowing physiology.



Laura Glick

NUCASLL Program Manager Laura Glick received the Staff Award for Excellence from the School of Communication. This award is given to a person who demonstrates leadership, efficiency, communication, and support in their role. They contribute their institutional expertise to improving SoC for all members.



Breaking Silos: Interdisciplinary Collaboration, Strategic Partnerships and Global Outreach

Convergence Seminar Comes to Life

Faculty and students from Theatre, RTVF, and CSD presented their first show for the community. Supported by the 2025 Convergence Seminar, *Splish Splash! A Day on the Lake* was an interactive and multi-sensory theatre experience for young audiences. This co-created and unique theatre experience incorporated elements of language and literacy development using child-lead play at the center of the production. This successful partnership will continue into the



following academic year as the team explores ways for both disciplines to cross-collaborate and evolve their perspective fields and student learning experiences. Congrats to Debbie Lee, Rylie Young, Kristy Riley and Stacy Kaplan for all the hard work that went into this project.

Renée Fleming Honored with 2024 Hugh Knowles Prize

World-renowned soprano and arts advocate Renée Fleming was awarded the 2024 Hugh Knowles Prize for Distinguished Achievement by Northwestern University's Knowles Hearing Center on April 23, 2025. The Knowles Prize recognizes individuals whose work has profoundly advanced the understanding or care of human hearing and communication. Fleming's exceptional contributions to the arts and her

leadership in music and health initiatives made her a compelling and inspiring honoree. The event featured a public lecture by Fleming, who reflected on the transformative power of music on health and well-being—underscoring the deep connections between artistic experience and neuroscience. A Q&A session followed, moderated by E. Patrick Johnson, Dean of the School of Communication, and Jonathan Bailey Holland, Dean of the Bienen School of Music, offering a rich interdisciplinary dialogue on voice, emotion, and human connection.



High Quality Clinical Services

Improv at FRIENDS Conference

Assistant Clinical Professor Elisha Magnifico and MS-SLL students took part in the Friends: The National Association of Young People Who Stutter one day conference and ran a Break the Blocks improv workshop as part of the programming. It was their largest group to date with close to 100 people.



Screenings

Our AuD clinicians and students conducted the largest occupational hearing screenings for noise exposed NU employees with over 70 audiograms conducted.

Our clinical faculty conducted voice and hearing screenings for the music theater and MFA programs.

Assistant Clinical Professor Leigh Cohen spearheaded speech and language screenings for ESL and new international students, alongside SLPs Mark Temenek (NU alum!) and Autumn Bryant.

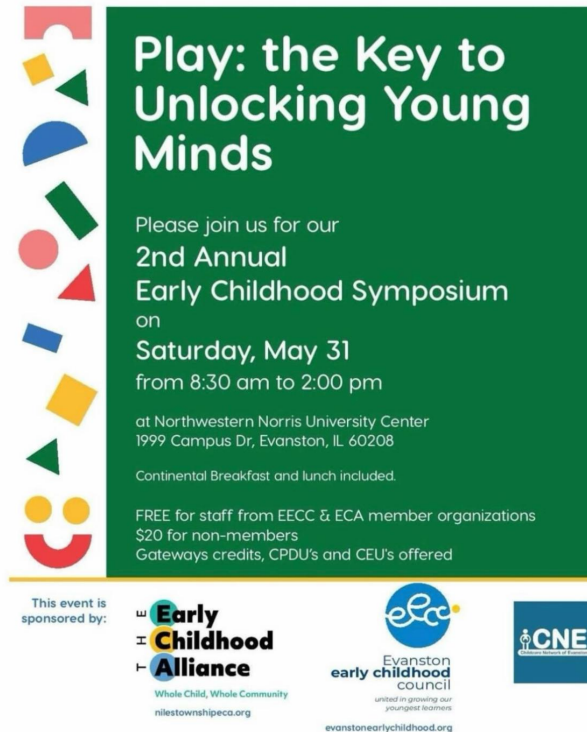
Assistant Clinical Professor Jonelyn Langenstein and Dr. Burns conducted voice screenings for rising senior voice majors from the School of Music.

Assistant Clinical Professor Leigh Cohen, Dr. Kahla Graham, and members of Dr. Martin-Harris' team hosted free dysphagia screening day for both adult and pediatric clients.

Community Engagement

Networking with Preschool Teachers

Assistant Professor Marisha Speights and Clinical Research Project Manager Elizabeth Lidov, MA CCC-SLP connected with preschool teachers at the Early Childhood Symposium to share insights on communication and early literacy development.



Play: the Key to Unlocking Young Minds

Please join us for our
2nd Annual Early Childhood Symposium
on
Saturday, May 31
from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm

at Northwestern Norris University Center
1999 Campus Dr, Evanston, IL 60208

Continental Breakfast and lunch included.

FREE for staff from EECC & ECA member organizations
\$20 for non-members
Gateways credits, CPDU's and CEU's offered

This event is sponsored by:

- Early Childhood Alliance**
Whole Child, Whole Community
nilestownshipcca.org
- EECC**
Evanston early childhood council
united in growing our youngest learners
evanstonearlychildhood.org
- CNE**

Advocating for People with Parkinson's

Assistant Clinical Professor Karen Kinderman led a fundraising campaign for the Michael J. Fox Foundation at the Walk for Parkinson's Research event.

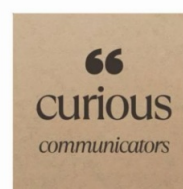


Educating Practitioners on Neurodivergent Learners

Assistant Clinical Professor Stephanie Boron hosted a free virtual event, All Brains Connect:

INTRODUCING...

Curious Communicators Podcast
Guided play and communication experiments
By SLPs-to-be, Nathalie Hart & Molly Keljalic
Available on Spotify



She also led SLL students in the creation and development of the Curious Communicators Podcast. Molly and Nathalie share practical, evidence-based tips for supporting children's language development — all through a neurodiversity-affirming lens. You can check out their episodes [here](#).

Brightpoint Partnership

Clinic Director Dr. Nathan Waller and Assistant Clinical Professor Dr. Rylie Young worked alongside educators and specialists at Brightpoint-Mitzi Freidheim early childhood and family center to co-create a speech and language program tailored to the needs of their community. MS SLL graduate student clinicians provided whole-classroom enrichment and individualized support for children with IEPs who face barriers to accessing services—all while gaining valuable experience in trauma-informed care.



Alumni News

Vestibular Days

Adjunct professor and alumnus Dr. Heather Kamath hosted Vestibular Days for our second year AuD students led by Assistant Clinical Professor Katherine Swem. Students participated in a weekend of vestibular case studies and diagnostics with in-person volunteers.

Upcoming Events

LARYNGEAL IMAGING COURSE: PERFORMANCE & INTERPRETATION OF VIDEOSTROBOSCOPY

This two-day course is designed to help develop and refine technical performance and interpretation of laryngeal videostroboscopic exams. With 8 hours of hands-on practice provided, participants will learn techniques to optimize their skills in both rigid and flexible endoscopy, begin to obtain and interpret essential exam information, and learn to use exam findings to guide treatment.

July 11 & 12, 2025

Course Directors: Jonelyn Langenstein, MM, MS, CCC-SLP & Emma Laurash, MS, CCC-SLP

Course Faculty: Abby Bowman, MS, CCC-SLP, James Burns, MD, Kahla Graham, MS, CCC-SLP, BCS-S, Juliana Litts, MA, CCC-SLP, Mariah Morton-Jones, PhD, CCC-SLP, Alexandra Schenck, MS, CCC-SLP, Andrew Stein, MD,

Course Advisor: Nathan Waller, SLPD, CCC-SLP

Registration Fee:
Licensed Professionals: \$450
Students/CFs: \$300

Disclosures

Abby Bowman, MS, CCC-SLP, Northwestern University

Financial – Ms. Bowman is an employee of and receives a salary from Northwestern University
Non-financial - No relevant, nonfinancial relationships exist at this time

James Burns, MD, Northwestern Medicine

Financial – Dr. Burns is an employee of and receives a salary from Northwestern Medicine
Non-financial - No relevant, nonfinancial relationships exist at this time.

Kahla Graham, MS, CCC-SLP, BCS-S, Northwestern University

Financial – Ms. Graham receives a graduate student stipend from Northwestern University and is a PRN employee and receives a salary from both Northwestern University and Northwestern Medicine.

Non-financial - No relevant, nonfinancial relationships exist at this time

Jonelyn Langenstein, MM, MS, CCC-SLP, Northwestern University

Financial – Ms. Langenstein is an employee of and receives a salary from Northwestern University
Non-financial - No relevant, nonfinancial relationships exist at this time.

Emma Laurash, MS, CCC-SLP, Northwestern University

Financial – Ms. Laurash is an employee of and receives a salary from Northwestern University
Non-financial - No relevant, nonfinancial relationships exist at this time.

[Course Registration - only a few spots remain](#)

Congratulations, Class of 2025!

On Friday, June 13th we hosted our Professional Programs Hooding Ceremony where we celebrated our 127 graduates across our Master's in Speech Language Learning, Doctor of Audiology, and Doctor of Speech Language Pathology programs. Associate Provost for Faculty and Professor Sumit Dhar was the keynote speaker and led our graduates through four simple yet profound reflection exercises and reminded them to stay true to the core principles of practice about as they transition to the next phase of their careers.



MS-SLL Graduates



AuD Graduates



SLPD Graduates



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