USC COMD Gets a New Home

For the first time in the history of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, the Speech and Hearing Research Center, the department office, and (most) academic faculty offices and research labs are housed together in one facility. Once separated by several miles, these offices and the Center are now located in the historic Keenan building downtown at the corner of Sumter and Lady Streets. The new facility, which was renovated to house both the Center and the department, is approximately 17,000 square feet. The new facility has 12 speech and language diagnostic/treatment rooms, a full audiology suite that houses the audiology sound booths and cochlear mapping rooms, and a large student area that houses computer and materials preparation work stations. It also is home to nine different research labs in which research faculty are conducting investigations in the areas of speech perception, literacy, and speech production and motor control. The entire COMD faculty are quite pleased to be in their new home.

USC Speech & Hearing Research Center Tour

The Lobby

The new spacious audiology suite
**Survey Results**
- Alumni Survey
- Employer Survey

**CAA Site Visit**

**Fundraiser**
- GALA 2016
- COMD Gala 2015

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**Directions to the USC Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders and the Speech & Hearing Research Center**

Our facilities are accessible only through our parking garage at 1229 Marion Street. To park, please use the parking slots marked **COMD/USC Speech and Hearing** on the second level. Our front door is on the garnet wall, marked also with our department sign.

**From the Upstate:** Take I-26 East toward Columbia. Take I-126 into Columbia. This changes into Elmwood Avenue. Turn right onto Marion Street. Just past intersection of Lady & Marion Streets, turn right into parking garage at 1229 Marion Street (second parking garage entrance—look for signage). Park in slots marked COMD/USC Speech & Hearing on Level 2.

**From Charleston:** Take I-26 West toward Columbia. Take I-126 into Columbia. This changes into Elmwood Avenue. Turn right onto Marion Street. Just past intersection of Lady & Marion Streets, turn right into parking garage at 1229 Marion Street (second parking garage entrance—look for signage). Park in slots marked COMD/USC Speech & Hearing on Level 2.

**From Augusta:** Take I-20 East toward Columbia. Take I-26 East to I-126. This changes into Elmwood Avenue. Turn right onto Marion Street. Just past intersection of Lady & Marion Streets, turn right into parking garage at 1229 Marion Street (second parking garage entrance—look for signage). Park in slots marked COMD/SC Speech & Hearing on Level 2.

**From Rock Hill/Charlotte:** Take I-77 South to Columbia. Take Highway 277 South to Bull Street. Take a right on Lady Street. Take a left on Marion Street. Turn right into parking garage at 1229 Marion Street (second parking garage entrance—look for signage). Park in slots marked COMD/SC Speech & Hearing on Level 2.

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**Upcoming Events**

**“Free CEUs for Supervisors” Event**
- January 9, 2016
- Contact: Sarah Scarborough
  scarbsp@mailbox.sc.edu

**MSP Research Festival**
- 01/23/2016

**SCSHA Convention**
- 02/25-02/27/2016

**COMD Gala 2016**
- May 13, 2016

**USC Reception at SCSHA**

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**Important Links**

**USC COMD WebPage**
- [http://www.sph.sc.edu/comd/index.htm](http://www.sph.sc.edu/comd/index.htm)

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**Keep up with your training program’s growth & activities!**

Take a moment or two to visit our departmental webpage at [http://www.sph.sc.edu/comd/index.htm](http://www.sph.sc.edu/comd/index.htm). You will find more great articles about COMD. Also...Don’t forget to follow us on FaceBook page! We want to keep up with you and share your good news too!
Apel Earns the Highest Honor Awarded by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) leads the field of communication sciences and disorders (COMD) by serving as the national professional, scientific and credentialing association for its 182,000 members who assist the 40 million Americans with communication disorders. ASHA leaders recognized Apel with the Honors of the Association award at the organization’s annual conference in Denver on November 13. Click on the link below for the rest of the story.

http://sph.sc.edu/news/apel_ashaaward.html

New COMD Faculty

Dr. Roozbeh Behroozmand has joined the COMD Faculty as an Assistant Professor and Director of the Speech Neuroscience Laboratory. His research interests include:

- Neuroscience of Speech Production and Motor Control
- Neurological Bases of Speech Disorders in Parkinson’s Disease
- Electrophysiology (EEG, ERP, ECoG) and Functional Imaging (fMRI) of Human Brain
- Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation (tDCS)
- Cortical Neural Processing of Voice, Speech and Music
- Signal Processing and Computational Modeling

Roozbeh Behroozmand, Ph.D.

Dr. Behroozmand comes from a background in biomedical engineering. He investigates the neural correlates of speech production and motor control in the human brain. In this context, the research goal of his lab is to provide an integrated approach to the understanding of sensory-motor mechanisms of human speech as a model system. The main theme of his research deals with issues of how the nervous system incorporates sensory feedback information and links them with motor function to achieve goal-directed movement during speech. The lab utilizes a wide...
range of techniques including electrophysiology (EEG, ERP, ECoG), functional imaging (fMRI) and transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS) to study sensory-motor mechanisms of speech in healthy individuals and patients with speech disorders (e.g. Parkinson’s disease). The ultimate goal of Dr. Behroozmand’s research is to gain knowledge that can be translated to the development of novel diagnosis and clinical treatment methods to enhance speech communication and improve life quality in patients with speech disorders.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Literacy development and disorders
- Speech rhythm (prosody) and reading/spelling
- Reading fluency
- Bilingual literacy
- Reading and spelling in different orthographies

Dr. Lesly Wade-Woolley joined the COMD faculty in January 2015, after 16 years in the Faculty of Education at Queen’s University in Canada. She has a BA (Tennessee) and MA (McGill) in Linguistics, and earned her PhD in Education at the University of Toronto. Her research centers broadly on the cognitive and linguistic factors in literacy development and difficulties, in children and adults who are reading in a first or second language. Currently, the chief focus of Dr. Wade-Woolley’s work is on speech rhythm, and how sensitivity to rhythmic alternations in spoken language can predict reading and writing outcomes, both at the level of decoding and spelling, and at the level of reading connected text and applying punctuation.

Dr Werfel’s research interests include:

- Written language development and disorders
- Emergent literacy development
- Specific language impairment
- Hearing loss
- Teacher knowledge

Dr. Krystal Werfel joined the COMD faculty in 2013, coming to us from Vanderbilt University. She has conducted research on the linguistic contributions to spelling in elementary school children with specific language impairment (SLI), reading disorders in children with SLI. Conceptual print knowledge of preschoolers with hearing loss, print referencing behaviors of parents of preschoolers with hearing loss and explicit phonological awareness of educators. Her current projects include, early predictor of literacy in young children with hearing loss, the impact of auditory fatigue on learning, the impact of linguistic complexity on spelling accuracy in children with hearing loss and children with specific language impairment.

Dr. Jason Wigand received is BA in Foreign Languages and International Economics from the University of Kentucky and his Au.D. from Ohio State University. He replaces Dr. Wendy Potts as the new Cochlear Implant Team Coordinator here in the COMD Department at USC. He is a bilateral CI user. His specific areas of interest include:
- Cochlear and auditory implants in adults and pediatrics
- Speech perception and acoustics
- Early intervention in hearing loss
- Hearing aids and amplification
- Aural rehabilitation and communication strategies

Jason is currently active on the SCAA and SC AG Bell Boards.
COMD Becomes Involved in Inter-Professional Education

Inter-professional education (IPE), as defined by the World Health Organization (WHO; 2010), occurs “when two or more health professions learn about, from, and with each other to foster effective collaboration and improve the outcomes and quality of care.” Likely one of the most important aspects of that definition are the words “about, from, and with.” At USC, IPE has taken the form of students learning with, about, and from each other in their pre-professional programs with the goal that, when they become professionals and engage with other professionals to serve their clients (patients), they will do so knowing the skills, strengths, and expertise each brings to the situation. They also will be using this knowledge with no preconceived hierarchy among themselves; instead, they will recognize how their collaboration and teamwork can best meet the client’s (patient’s) needs. When this occurs, “when two or more professionals effectively collaborate together to improve outcomes and the quality of care for their client (patient),” they will be engaging in inter-professional practice (IPP; WHO, 2010).

COMD students are part of IPE “movement” on the USC campus. Specifically, each Spring, our first year MSP students are enrolled in an IPE hybrid course with close to 500 students from Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, Social Work, Public Health, and Genetic Counseling. Much of this course occurs online, with “teams” of students from different professions learning about each profession and talking about different issues such as ethics, social determinants of health, etc. Three times throughout the semester, the students meet in person, again meeting in small groups and talking through issues, with the main goal to better understand each profession and to “learn about, from, and with each other.”

As a means to increase our students’ experience with IPE and IPP, COMD hosted an event in our Speech and Hearing Research Center in June, 2015 (Aphasia Awareness Month). On the day of the event, students from each discipline worked in teams and evaluated a patient in the presence of each other, increasing their awareness of each discipline’s role. The assessment process included interviewing the spouses as well. Following the assessments, students and their faculty mentors met to discuss their findings with the teams then meeting over lunch to discuss each patient’s needs.
COMD Hosts MSW Graduate Student as an Exercise in Inter-Professional Training

For the first time in its history, the Center will serve as a practicum placement for an MSW graduate student. Ms. Alexandra Bodnariuk joined the Center in August, 2015. She is working with faculty and staff on various projects to improve patient access to services and resources in the area. With the current emphasis on interprofessional collaborative care in health care settings, having a student in social work made perfect sense. Ms. Bodnariuk is working with families on transportation issues, assisting with follow up appointments to other health care providers and assessing the needs and support of our families. We are excited about this new addition to the service we currently provide our patients.

New Post Docs & Research Associates

Dr. Bobby Gibbs, II earned a BM in Music in Composition from Howard University and completed advanced studies in Music &Orchestral Studies from Bowling Green State. He went on to earn a MS in Building Science with a concentration in Architectural Acoustics, Psychoacoustics as well as a Ph.D. in Architectural Science from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute which is a premier institute for acoustics training. His dissertation topic was Auditory Intimacy in Socio-Ecological Context. Dr. Gibbs is currently working with Dr. Dan Fogarty in the Speech Perception lab investigating:

- how younger and older listeners perceptually weight acoustic properties (i.e., temporal envelope and temporal fine structure cues distributed across frequency) in different noisy listening environment
- Acoustically and perceptually quantifying a "glimpsing" model of speech
perception for the understanding of speech during competing speech for
listeners with normal hearing or cochlear implant simulation
• how listeners understand speech with partial information (i.e., due to noise
  masking) based on the temporal processing of speech.

Elaine Miller is the Project Coordinator for the
Dictionary Squared project and also assists with post
award administration of our grants. She earned a
Masters of Teaching in Special Education at the
University of South Carolina with a concentration in
Emotional and Behavioral Disorders in 2008. Elaine
has worked as research staff at USC for five years &
currently splits her time between the SCROLL Lab &
the Department of Psychology, Parenting & Family
Research Center. Her areas of interest include child
& adolescent behavior disorders, academic
assessment, applied behavior analysis, & grant
administration.

Joanna Scoggins is the Project Coordinator for the
Word Learning Project in the SCROLL Lab. She earned
her Master’s in the field of Communication Sciences
and Disorders from the University of Georgia in 2001.
She worked for 10 years as a Speech Language
Pathologist and another 3 in the disabilities sector.
Her professional areas of expertise include
Augmentative/Alternative Communication and
Developmental Disabilities across the lifespan. In
addition to her work, Joanna enjoys traveling, reading
and cooking.

Dr. Alison Eisel Hendricks is a post-doctoral research
associate for SCROLL Lab and Written Language Lab. She
recently finished her PhD at Penn State in Language
Science and German Linguistics. She studies how
elementary school students learn grammar when they
are given different types of language input. Alison is the
ERP coordinator for the Word Learning project. Her other
interests include child second language acquisition, North
Frisian, and minority language learning. Specifically, she
is interested in how varying levels quantity and quality of
input influence how children learn Frisian as their second
language. Alison coordinates the Spelling in School-Age
Children with Cochlear Implants project.
Paul Reed is a PhD candidate at the University of South Carolina. His research focuses on the sociophonetic variation and change in the English varieties of the American South, particularly of the Appalachian region. His dissertation work centered on the intersection of monophthongization, intonation, and place-based identity in East Tennessee. Currently, he works in the Language Processing Lab with Allen Montgomery, investigating how dialect speech affects processing.

New Doctoral Students

Spencer Babb was a 2013-2014 Magellan Scholar. She is currently a first year Ph.D. student in Communication Sciences and Disorders. Before entering the doctoral program, Spencer was the lead assessor for the SCROLL Lab. She received her B.A. in Experimental Psychology from the University of South Carolina in May 2014. She has been working in the SCROLL lab since April 2013. Spencer is involved in the Word Learning and Dictionary Squared Projects, and she has received internal Magellan Scholars funding from USC. Spencer enjoys Doctor Who, reading, and spending time with her cats.

Victoria Henbest, M.S. CCC-SLP, is an ASHA certified Speech-Language Pathologist. Currently, she is a doctoral student assisting with research being conducted in the KOOL2 lab. She earned a B.S.E. in Communication Sciences and Disorders from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville in 2007. She received her M.S. in Communication Sciences and Disorders from Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri in July of 2009. Victoria worked as a Speech-Language Pathologist at the Republic Early Childhood Center in Republic, Missouri for 5 years prior to returning to school to pursue her doctoral degree. Victoria grew up in Fayetteville, Arkansas and is an avid hog fan! After receiving her PhD, Victoria plans to enter academia as a researcher/scholar.
Karim Joharikhatoonabad received his bachelor and master in Speech Therapy from Tehran University of Medical Sciences. He has been working on speech and language disorders in Parkinson’s Disease since 2010. As a doctoral student in Speech Neuroscience lab, he is working on neural bases of speech production in Parkinson’s disease using Electrophysiological technique (EEG, ERP) to study speech production and speech motor control in Parkinson’s disease.

Lorelei Phillip is a doctoral student in the Aphasia Lab at the University of South Carolina. She completed her B.A. in linguistics at Duke University in 2013. She then completed her M.S. in Speech-Language Pathology at Vanderbilt University in 2015. Her research interests include aphasia treatment and recovery as well as post-stroke quality of life.

New Staff Members

Meet Kendra Samuel! Kendra is the new Receptionist at the Speech & Hearing Research Center. Kendra’s is the first smiling face you see when you enter the door.

Leslie Lancaster has joined our staff the new administrative assistant to the faculty housed in the Discovery Building. She also works part time in the SCROLL Lab and is part of the MCD 2017 cohort.

A Final Farewell

After many long years of service to the COMD Department, Karen Mullis is retiring at the end of 2015. We wish her a well deserved rest but will miss her much.
Themes from Employer Survey 2015

The respondents to our employer survey represented a range of work settings: 29% public schools, 29% hospitals or rehab hospitals, 21% home-based programs and 21% private practice. Half required our former students to hold the CCC. Twenty-nine required them to have teacher certification and about 71% required state licensure.

Overall, the respondents believed our coursework and clinical experiences prepared our former students well for their work positions (both a 4.17 on a 1-5 scale). For the “Big 9” (and other) areas, there was some variability in rankings for preparedness/knowledge. Of the Big 9, only Hearing, Swallowing, AAC and Social Aspects of communication fell below a rating of 4 and most of these fell in the high threes.

By and large employers feel very confident hiring USC graduate students. They have been very pleased with the USC students they hired...stating, "They come well prepared to handle public school settings, private school settings, and private clinic.” Occasionally new graduates do not show the desired level of clinical competence but most demonstrate competency in both knowledge and skills. According to one employer who has hired many USC graduates, “Compared to students from others programs, USC graduates are very well prepared and consistently interview well. They seem to have a larger range of knowledge than candidate from other programs.”

Themes from Alumni Survey 2015

A total of 91 written responses were returned on our recent Alumni Survey. Overall, all responses to the “Big 9” areas were rated above a 3 on a 1-5 scale. The following were ranked lowest: AAC (3.15), voice disorders (3.16), fluency disorders (3.42), social aspects of communication (3.71), hearing and hearing disorders (3.75), swallowing and swallowing disorders (3.83).

The 44 of responses from alumni who graduated within the past 8 years or less, we learned that while many were pleased with their education several wanted more information about treatment in lectures particularly in aphasia and cognitive rehabilitation. Many wanted more coursework in voice disorders, cognitive rehabilitation, dysphagia/pediatric dysphagia, fluency, counseling, ethics and AAC. Additionally several discussed the need for more information and practice on “paperwork writing” such as SOAP notes, IDPs and medical reporting.

CAA to Visit COMD in Fall 2016

As you likely know, our COMD department has been consistently accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association for decades. It has now been almost eight years since the last visit from CAA, so we will be undergoing another reaccreditation site visit by a team of visitors from the CAA. What does that mean for the department? First, it means we have to complete a rather lengthy reapplication form (it’s nearly complete!). Second, we need to ensure we have all our ducks in a row (well, that’s not difficult; our ducks usually are in a row!) as far as how we have our
records set up, our files organized, our policies written, etc. Third, it means we need to let various constituencies know they may be contacted by the CAA visitors when they are here (sometime next Fall, 2016) to obtain their input about our program. One of those constituencies is you! CAA likes to speak with alum to find out whether you feel you learned what you needed to learn and were prepared for your professional work. So, we may be contacting you in the near future to determine your willingness to be on the “call list” for our CAA site visit. In the meantime, feel free to send positive thoughts to your faculty and staff as we ramp up for this visit. It’s a lot of work prepping for this visit, and we can use all the positive thoughts we can get!!

FREE CEUs FOR Supervisors

For a long time, we have been looking for a way to say thank you to our wonderful field supervisors for the countless hours they spend training our students. We are proud to announce that we are offering our first “Free CEUs for Supervisors” event on January 9, 2016. Krystal Werfel, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, will present Language Assessment in Children from 8:30 AM – 12:15PM. Catherine (Casey) Earnhardt, MCD, CCC-SLP will present “Aspiration and Related Etiologies” from 1:00PM – 4:00PM. The presentations will occur in the Public Health Research Center Auditorium at 921 Assembly St, Columbia, SC 29201. Attendees may choose to participate in either one or both of the presentations. Non-supervisors may attend for a small fee. Please contact Sarah Scarborough for more information. scarbosc@mailbox.sc.edu

COMD 2016 Fundraiser

The Department is holding its second annual fundraising event, Something to Talk About, on May 13, 2016 at the brand new USC Alumni Center (http://www.mycarolina.org/s/842/site2014/interior-1col-noname.aspx?sid=842&gid=1&pgid=5829). This fabulous event will include scrumptious food by Southern Way Catering, marvelous music, lots of wonderful items in our silent auction, and oodles of fun. We again will have a contest (and prize) for the graduation year with the most attendees. Proceeds from the auction will enhance the Department’s academic and clinical programs as well as help the Department toward its goal of continuing to expand its programs of breakthrough treatment and research (for more details, see http://www.sph.sc.edu/comd/gifts.htm).
On May 16th, COMD held its first major fundraiser, *Something to Talk About*, at the SC State Museum. The fundraiser, attended by over 100 friends and alumni, featured food catered by Southern Way, music by Party Time DJs, and a silent auction with over 60 items. All in attendance had a terrific time eating, dancing to great tunes, and competitively bidding on sought-after items. The fundraiser was the successful start of an annual event.