

The Health Sciences Herald

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Welcome from the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology

Tina T. Smith, PhD, Interim Department Head

It is with great pleasure that I send greetings from the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology to faculty, staff, and students in the College of Health Sciences and the entire University. The Department currently offers the Master of Science degree in Speech and Hearing Sciences in both traditional and distance education formats as well as the Bachelor of Science degree in Speech Pathology and Audiology. The Department also offers clinical services to the community and the Tennessee State University faculty, staff, and students through its TSU Speech and Language Clinic and Audiology Testing and Research Clinic.

Our mission is to provide a comprehensive program of academic and clinical instruction across the life span, leading to an applied knowledge of the complex processes underlying human communication. The faculty and staff are dedicated to providing a strong educational environment which facilitates the acquisition of knowledge and skills, encourages intellectual curiosity, engenders awareness of issues in culturally diverse populations and promotes responsible ethical behavior. The curriculum, consistent with the stated missions of both the University, and the College of Health Sciences, is professionally based, and prepares its graduates to provide the highest quality assessment and treatment of communication disorders.

The Fall Edition of the COHS Newsletter highlights the academic and clinical programs and the outstanding achievements of students and faculty members in the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology. I hope you enjoy reading about our accomplishments. They are a testimony to the Department's dedication to lifelong learning, research, and service.



“Speech Language Pathologist to-Be” Performs on Black Entertainment Television

Alex Gibbs, Junior Speech Pathology Major



Alex Gibbs has been making an impact at Tennessee State University since his freshman year. This Memphis, Tennessee native proudly performs under the stage name **FortyWest**. He first received notoriety during his freshman year while performing in Freshman Idol, Battle of the Residence Halls, and the Miss and Mr. TSU Coronation. The following spring of 2010, Alex was invited to perform on BET's 106 & Park as a *Wild Out Wednesday* Male R&B competitor! Upon receipt of invitation, Alex immediately teamed up with Dr. Tina Smith, Dr. Iris Johnson-Arnold, and the TSU NSSLHA President Megan Hudson to begin formulating his strategy to secure viewers and votes.

On April 4th, **FortyWest** brought Tennessee State University a victory in front of millions of viewers. He advanced to the finals on August 7 to battle previous *Wild Out* Champions. This time, Alex fell short in the BET viewer polls but remained number one in the Department of Speech Pathology at TSU!

"I love the energy and excitement of undergraduate students. I love the confidence of graduate students. When I think of teaching, I think of reciprocity--the give and take interaction between students and faculty. I invite questions and conversation that I hope will bring forth new ideas or confirm old ideas. The invitation is also warmly extended to TSU students from all academic backgrounds. Let's talk!"

The Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology Welcomes Dr. Terrie Gibson



Dr. Terrie Gibson is an Assistant Professor of Speech Language Pathology in the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology at Tennessee State University. She received her BS from Elizabeth City State University in English, her MA at the University of Illinois in Speech Pathology, and her PhD from Vanderbilt University in Speech and Language Science.

Dr. Gibson recently completed a Research Fellowship at Vanderbilt University from 2008-2010. During this fellowship, she developed and presented research papers and grant proposals. She enhanced and implemented a protocol for the analysis of syntax and phonology in conversational speech for children with Down Syndrome. Her research interests include early speech and language development, speech science, disordered speech, and intervention efficacy. She has published and presented papers locally and nationally.

Dr. Gibson has extensive clinical experience in a variety of settings--schools, private practice, nonprofit clinics, and research programs. Previous teaching/supervision experience includes graduate speech/language courses and clinical supervision at North Carolina Central University. She was also adjunct faculty in the Speech/Language Department at Tennessee State University from 1995 to 1996.

Dr. Gibson is from Monroe, NC. She is married to Dr. Michael Freeman, Vice President of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management. They have two children and a dog name Buddy. Favia is 23 years old and is enrolled as a medical student at Case Western Reserve in Cleveland Ohio. Ayana is ten years old and is enjoying 5th grade at Meigs Middle School. Buddy is an adopted Boxer Mix who is smart, loving and emotional. For fun, Dr Gibson loves to read, invest in real estate, and spend time with family and friends.

Dr. Ashford Appointed to Board of Communication Sciences and Disorders

Governor Phillip Bredesen recently appointed **Dr. John R. Ashford**, PhD, Associate Professor in the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology, to the Tennessee Board of Communication Sciences and Disorders. He joins Dr. Valeria Matlock, Associate Professor on the Board. The Board of Communication Sciences and Disorders is a Division of the Tennessee Department of Health. The State Legislature has, by statute, delegated authority to this board to oversee the professions of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology through promulgating rules, regulating by statutes or rules, and policing through disciplinary actions. Dr. Ashford will hold a three-year term on the Board.



2010 Graduates Achieve 100% Pass Rate

The 2010 recipients of the Master of Science degree in Speech and Hearing Science achieved a 100% pass rate on the PRAXIS Examination in Speech-Language Pathology. The PRAXIS is a national examination used as a requirement for the American Speech-Language-Hearing (ASHA) Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) in Speech-Language Pathology. It measures beginning practitioners' knowledge of essential content and current practices in speech-language pathology. A minimum score of 600 must be achieved to successfully pass the PRAXIS examination. A total of 16 students in the traditional master's program took the examination and passed it on the first try. The average score for the Graduate Class of 2010 was 681. Congratulations Class of 2010!

TSU Students Receive Scholarships at the NBASLH Convention in Tampa, Florida

Iris Johnson-Arnold, PhD

The Department of Speech Pathology and the TSU Chapter of the National Student Speech Language and Hearing Association (NSSLHA) encourage and support student attendance at local, regional and national conferences. Students have attended, participated and presented consistently at the American Speech Language Hearing Association (ASHA) Convention, the MidSouth Conference in Memphis, the National Black Association of Speech Language & Hearing Convention (NBASLH) and the Tennessee Association of Audiologists and Speech Language Pathologists (TAASLP) annual convention.



In April, 2010, our students participated in the NBASLH convention in Tampa, Florida. Undergraduate students **Amber Manning** and **Jennifer Parker** received Conference Scholarships while graduate students **Megan Hudson** and **Ashley Walker** received \$500 scholarships from Staffing Option Solutions. All TSU attendees moderated sessions, assisted with conference special events, and had an educationally outstanding time. The students' final evening in Tampa was spent at Clearwater Beach.....they rented a convertible and enjoyed the wonderful Florida weather. Hard work really pays off!

A Culturally Different Experience of a Lifetime

Sarah Hackney and Linzi Lawson, First Year Graduate Students



We were accepted into the Speech Pathology Graduate Program in 2009 but delayed our admission a year to partake in this life changing experience.

On December 31, 2009, we headed to a small village in Kenya, Africa. Our purpose in going was to serve as teachers at an elementary school in a rural community located in the Nandi Hills for seven months. For the duration of our time there, we were without access to indoor plumbing, air conditioning and seldom had running water for showers; it was certainly an adjustment we all had to make.

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My (Sarah) favorite memory from the beginning of our first term teaching at school was going into the first grade classroom to teach creative arts and realizing that my class hardly understood English. So, I changed my entire lesson plan I made for the first couple of weeks and taught them songs in English to help them with their vocabulary and had them follow me as I did the Cha Cha Slide and the Cupid Shuffle. We overcame our language barrier through play, songs, and gestures. By the end of our time in Kenya, our first graders knew so much more English which ended up helping them on their end of term standardized exams (which are given in mostly English).

Our lives will be forever changed by the love from our students, fellow teachers, and the community. This experience made us realize how blessed and privileged we are to have a bachelor's degree from a four-year university and to be continuing our education on the master's level.

“Previous recipients of the Scholar Mentor Award include former American Speech Language and Hearing Association (ASHA) Presidents, noted authors and researchers in the field of speech pathology and ASHA fellows.”

Dr. Iris Johnson-Arnold Receives 2010 Scholar Mentor Award



On April 16, 2010, Dr. Iris Johnson-Arnold was awarded the 2010 Scholar Mentor Award by the National Black Association of Speech Language and Hearing in Tampa, Florida. She was nominated for the award by her mentees and former TSU students pursuing doctoral degrees (pictured above: Danielle Hayes, PhD candidate – University of Cincinnati and Jamie Fisher, PhD candidate – Vanderbilt University). Previous recipients of the Scholar Mentor Award include former American Speech Language and Hearing Association (ASHA) Presidents, noted authors and researchers in the field of speech pathology and ASHA fellows.

Dr. Johnson-Arnold delivered words of appreciation for this timely award in front of the Tommie Robinson - President of the American Speech and Hearing Association, Arnell Brady - NBASLH President, various ASHA Board Members and speech pathology students from across the United States. Acceptance of the 2010 Scholar Mentor Award provided the Department of Speech Pathology at Tennessee State University a great opportunity to promote its graduate program and emphasis on student success.

Equipment Additions to the James Cantrell Speech Science Laboratory

The Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology recently received additional new equipment to update and expand its Speech Sciences Laboratory. The Speech Sciences Laboratory was recently renamed in honor of and in memory of **Dr. James Cantrell**, Ph.D., Professor in the department for many years. Dr. Cantrell worked diligently to establish and maintain this learning laboratory for Speech Pathology Students.



The new equipment includes a Sonometer, a learning laboratory that depicts acoustic sounds and their harmonics and measurements; The Iowa Oral Pressure Instrument, an instrument that objectively measures oral pressures generated in the oral cavity during speech and swallowing; the Aerophone II, an instrument that measures airflow and air pressure through the larynx, pharynx, and oral cavity during speech production; and the Nasometer, an instrument designed to measure oral and nasal resonance differentials during speech production. The addition of these new laboratory instruments will provide hands-on learning for students in the study of speech articulation, vocal production, and the physics of sound production.

Distance Education Students Welcomed at Summer Camp

This summer the department welcomed 27 second year graduate students in our distance education master's degree program and 6 adjunct clinical supervisors to the campus for a five week intensive summer speech camp clinical residency under the direction of **Ms. Tyese Hunter, MS, CCC-SLP**. These students and their clinical educators provided free diagnostic and therapy services five days a week for 40 students ages 5 through 12 years with speech sound disorders, language deficits and fluency impairments, who were referred to TSU by area schools, local service providers and agencies who are community partners with the department.

*** News Around the College ***

College Advisory Board Update

Edilberto Raynes, MD, PhD (c)

In the Spring 2010, Dr. Rosemary Theriot organized the College of Health Sciences (COHS) Advisory Board Liaison Team. She appointed **Dr. Edilberto A. Raynes**, from the Department of Physical Therapy to chair the team. Dr. Raynes' team consists of **Ms. Christa Sala** from Department of Cardio-Respiratory Care Sciences who serves as the co-chair; **Ms. Esther Baptiste**, Coordinator of Academic Advisement; **Ms. Krystal Massey**, Graduate Student; and **Ms. Roxanne Dakers**, Graduate Student. Ms. Massey and Ms. Dakers are both graduate assistants and current students in the Master of Public Health program.



The responsibilities of the liaison team include contacting each board member prior to their meeting; drafting the Advisory Board Handbook; coordinating the activities of the board; preparing the minutes; and other meeting logistics. The liaison team is very excited to be working with the Advisory Board members who are proud to promote the academic programs in our College.

The first Advisory Board Meeting was held May 28, 2010 in the Farrell Westbrook Auditorium. It was attended by most of the board members. Dr. Kathleen McEnerney, Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs, welcomed the board members. The board members have decided to meet on the first Tuesday of each month or as needed. The board member consists of Mr. Lucius Carroll II (chair), Attorney Jolade Moore (secretary), Senator Bo Watson, Dr. Alisa Haushalter, Dr. John Murray, Dr. Herman Ellis, Mr. Twan Lansden, Ms. Roberta Pettis, Ms. Joann Bobbitt, Dr. SL Lampkin, and Ms. Marsha Bardo.

Currently, the first act to conduct business is the formation of sub-committees that would target the specific goals that have been identified by Dr. Theriot after consulting with the department heads. The three goals identified were: (1) Financial support to increase student scholarships and purchase state-of-the-art teaching equipment; (2) A new educational facility, in addition to establishing a "Faculty Practice Plan;" and (3) overall student recruitment for the College of Health Sciences academic programs. Based on these goals, the Liaison Team suggested to the board that three committees should be organized: Fundraising, Marketing, and Public Relations. The Fundraising Committee will identify resources to provide more student scholarships, state-of-the-art teaching equipment, and a new educational facility. The Marketing Committee will focus on recruiting students and identifying additional clinical affiliate sites. The Public Relations Committee will provide ideas and suggestions to promote the College of Health Sciences programs in the community.

"Three goals for the committee: fundraising, marketing, and public relations."

TSU Hosted State Health Regional Plan Workshop

Edilberto Raynes, MD, PhD (c)



In collaboration with State of Tennessee Division of Health Planning, Tennessee State University hosted the State Health Plan Regional Workshop July 13, 2010 on the Avon Williams Campus from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Director Jeff Ockerman of the Division of Health Planning opened the workshop. Dr. Kathleen McEnerney, Interim Vice President of

Academic Affairs welcomed the attendees. Dr. Rosemary Theriot, Interim Dean of the College of Health Sciences, together with College's Advisory Board Liaison Team (represented by Dr. Edilberto Raynes, chair; Ms. Christa Sala, co-chair, and Ms. Esther Baptiste, coordinator of Academic Advisement) assisted in organizing the event. In the workshop, the attendees were divided into small groups to discuss the five goals and promising strategies which included: healthy lives; access to health care; economic efficiency; quality; and the workforce. There were 80 attendees who came from various academic institutions which included Meharry Medical College, Belmont University, Vanderbilt Medical Center, Tennessee State University, Austin Peay State University; and other organizations such as Nashville Greenlands, Sports For All, Cumberland Pediatric Foundation, and Tennessee Voices for Children.

*** News Around the College ***

College Well Represented in the 32nd Annual University Wide Research Symposium

Congratulations are in order for the following students and faculty advisors for their winning entries in the research symposium held last spring. For graduate poster presentations in the areas of health, education, and social sciences, the college came in second place [Students: A. Shelide, F. Buchanan; Advisor: Dr. Natalie Housel – Physical Therapy] and third place [Students: S. Christiansen, J. Cunningham, F. Jeffers, A. Shelide; Advisor: Dr. David Lehman – Physical Therapy]. For undergraduate poster presentations in the areas of health, education, and social sciences, the college came in third place [Students: G. Barden, M. Hudson, S. Ranson, H. Sipeen, K. Taylor; Advisor: Dr. Iris Johnson Arnold – Speech Pathology and Audiology]

For graduate oral presentations in the areas of health, education, and social sciences, the college came in first place [Students: J. Ballard, J. Studer, A. Young; Advisor: Dr. Thomas Bukoskey – Physical Therapy] and second place [Students: M. Corn, D. Kallail, D. Payne, C. Bullock; Advisor: Dr. Edilberto Raynes – Physical Therapy]

Students Present at the Nashville Ballet

Rosalyn Pitt, EdD



Graduate students in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program presented their research on ankle sprains among ballet dancers during their spring meetings. Some physicians who were in attendance asked some questions and also provided some interesting insight. They stated that in order to get reimbursed from certain insurance companies, they must have level I evidence from studies involving more than 300 people. So they thought the students did very well and were enthusiastic about seeing what their research supported as the best way of helping ballet dancers with ankle sprains.

College Faculty Named Faculty of the Year

Dr. Thomas P. Bukoskey, Assistant Professor of Physical Therapy, was named the TSU faculty of the year for 2010. Known fondly to his students as Dr. B., Tom teaches anatomy, biomechanics, tests and measures, and professional issues in the physical therapy program. Prior to coming to the University in 2006, Dr. Bukoskey was the program director of the Physical Therapist Assistant program at Central Pennsylvania College. Dr. Bukoskey has an undergraduate, masters, and doctoral degree in physical therapy.

Dr. Bukoskey continues the tradition of exemplary teaching that the college prides itself in. He joins a long list of faculty members from the College of Health Sciences who have been recognized by the University with teaching awards, including: Dr. Rosalyn Pitt (Physical Therapy – TSU Faculty of the Year, 2006); Dr. Mary Dale Fitzgerald (Speech Pathology and Audiology – TSU Faculty of the Year, 2008); Dr. Ronald Barredo (Physical Therapy – TSU Blue and White Teaching Award, 2008), and Dr. Edilberto Raynes (Health Information Management – TSU Blue and White Teaching Award, 2009).



“Dr. Bukoskey joins a long list of faculty members from the College of Health Sciences who have been recognized by the University with teaching awards.”

*** News Around the College ***

Dental Hygiene Clinic: Community Service in a State-of-the-Art Facility

Marian Patton, EdD

The Dental Hygiene program at Tennessee State University provides comprehensive dental hygiene care in its newly renovated state-of-the-art facility in Clement Hall. The clinic is open during the fall and spring semesters, and also during the first summer session. These services are available to students, faculty, and staff and to the local community. The goal of the Dental Hygiene Clinic is to provide access to quality oral health care services and to assist individuals in eliminating and preventing oral diseases.



“The goal of the Dental Hygiene Clinic is to provide access to quality oral health care services and to assist individuals in eliminating and preventing oral diseases.”

Dental hygiene students provide the oral health care services under the direct supervision of licensed dental hygienists and dentists. Services are delivered to all patients regardless of age, race, religion or special need. Individuals with special needs or compromised medical conditions may be referred to a physician for medical consultation prior to receiving dental hygiene care.

Services offered in the clinic include: medical and dental history; vital signs assessment; extra-oral/intra-oral examinations (oral cancer screenings); dental hygiene diagnosis/dental hygiene treatment planning; tobacco cessation; impressions for study casts; oral health education; clean removable appliances and prostheses (denture/partial); dietary assessment and nutritional counseling; supragingival scaling, subgingival scaling, and root planning; coronal polishing; application of chemotherapeutic agents; fluoride therapy; polish amalgam restorations; dental pit and fissure sealants; application of topical anesthetic agents; and bleaching.

Because patient care is provided by students and thoroughly monitored by the faculty, more than one appointment will be needed to complete dental hygiene services. Individual appointments range from one (1) to three (3) hours in length. Realizing that the patient's time is valuable, every effort is made to keep the number of appointments to a minimum. If multiple appointments are necessary to complete treatment, no additional fee is charged to the patient.

The Dental Hygiene Clinic is open weekly from August through July except holidays and semester breaks. Hours of operation vary each semester. To schedule an appointment you may call the clinic at (615) 963-5791, Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Dental Hygiene Selected for Study Abroad Opportunity

Janice Williams, BSDH, MS



Congratulations are in order for the Department of Dental Hygiene!

The department is the first department in the College of Health Sciences to be awarded the opportunity to establish an international education program under the auspices of the Tennessee Consortium for International Studies. The Tennessee Consortium for International Studies represents nineteen colleges and universities devoted to making international education and cultural understanding a central goal of higher education throughout the state of Tennessee.

Ms. Janice Williams along with at least 8 students will be traveling this summer to South Africa. They will be visiting Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town to study Dental Hygiene Topics Abroad.

“The aim and scope of the Journal is to provide educators, students, practitioners, federal and state government officials, and the public with the latest research and trends affecting the health care status of African Americans and economically disadvantaged populations”

Call for Manuscripts and Reviewers: The National Society of Allied Health Journal

The *National Society of Allied Health Journal* is a fully refereed *Journal*. The aim and scope of the *Journal* is to provide educators, students, practitioners, federal and state government officials, and the public with the latest research and trends affecting the health care status of African Americans and economically disadvantaged populations. The *Journal* is devoted to scholarly writing that addresses:

1. Current theory and practice research;
2. Future trends in theory and practice;
3. Current research studies pertaining to African Americans and disadvantaged populations;
4. Identification of sources that critically examine local and national health problems, and
5. A description of programs and services that promote national health initiatives.

All manuscripts are reviewed using a blind peer-review process. Manuscripts are judged based on the significance of the problem, authenticity of the contribution, and whether research claims advance the profession of allied health.

In 2007, the *Journal* entered into a license agreement with EBSCO Publishing Company. EBSCO is the world's largest intermediary between libraries and publishers and one of the most trusted academic publishers. Over 90% of academic institutions worldwide have subscriptions to one or more EBSCO host databases (www.ebscohost.com). EBSCO recently notified the *Journal* that the *NSAH Journal* was chosen to be included in a special database. This decision was based on the *Journal's* content and the quality of the *Journal*. Along with this special acknowledgement is a guaranteed yearly royalty payment. When the agreement expires in three years with Proquest and the Gale Group, EBSCO Publishing Company has agreed to enter into an exclusive agreement to carry the *NSAH Journal*. This agreement carries a guaranteed yearly royalty payment of \$5,000.

In 2008, Proquest Publishing Company signed an agreement to carry the *Journal*. Proquest has been in the secondary publishing business for nearly 70 years and is one of the most respected names in the industry (www.proquest.com).

In 2009, the *NSAH Journal* signed a three year licensing agreement with the Gale Group, Inc. Publishing Company. Gale is a part of Cengage Learning and a world leader in e-research and educational publishing for libraries, schools and businesses (www.Cengage.com). All of these agreements are significant because it assures researchers that their work will receive maximum exposure nationally and internationally.

The members of the NSAH Editorial Board include:

- Dr. Pamela Burch-Sims (Tennessee State University)
- Dr. Andrew Bond (Retired Dean, Tennessee State University)
- Dr. Anne Jenkins (Winston Salem State University)
- Dr. Angela Davis (Alabama State University)
- Dr. Rosemary Theriot, Editor (Tennessee State University)
- Dr. Mosunmola George-Taylor, Associate Editor (Chattanooga State Community College)
- Dr. Jacqueline Beck (Retired Dean, Florida A&M University).

For the past four years, the *Journal* has been produced at Tennessee State University in the College of Health Sciences (Howard University was the prior publisher). The *National Society of Allied Health Journal* is published once a year in March and the deadline to submit manuscripts is October 15th.



Clinic Service Programs: Real Experience, Real Success



The Tennessee State University Speech Language Clinic and the Audiology Testing and Research Clinic operate in conjunction with the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology to provide outstanding assessment and intervention services for culturally diverse individuals across the life span to those who reside in the Middle Tennessee area and are suspected of having or demonstrate communication differences or disorders. The extensively-equipped Speech Language Clinic moved to the second floor of the Avon Williams Campus in downtown Nashville in 2006. The facility includes 8 therapy/diagnostic rooms with observation windows for families and wall-mounted video cameras and a large monitoring room with digital recording and playback equipment for student clinicians and university clinical faculty to view and analyze clinical sessions. In addition,

the Clinic has a comfortable waiting room; a well-supplied materials room that houses the most recent assessment and therapy materials; and a speech and hearing science laboratory with hardware and software for analyzing clinical speech and language samples. The clinic also includes an administrative suite with a secure client records room and support staff work space and work areas for the University clinical educators who supervise all diagnostics and therapy services which are provided by graduate and senior undergraduate student clinicians as a required part of their clinical education in their degree programs. Currently, the clinic is offering services in assessment and intervention for 40 children and adults with a wide variety of communication concerns including language delays and disorders, speech sound disorders, resonance disorders, auditory processing deficits, and autism.

This academic year, the department welcomed back for their second year two full-time clinical educators, **Ms. Sylvia B. Driggins, M.S., CCC-SLP**, and **Ms. Katherine Walsh, M.A., CCC-SLP**. Ms. Driggins and Ms. Walsh hold national certification by the American Speech Language and Hearing Association and appropriate state of Tennessee licensure. Ms. Driggins has served as a Speech/Language Pathologist in public schools for over 20 years and language disorders and aural rehabilitation are her areas of expertise. Ms. Walsh has recently moved to Tennessee from Oklahoma where she served children and adults for 31 years at the Oklahoma State Department of Health.

Requests for clinical services may be initiated by clients, families, physicians, schools or community service agencies. Diagnostic and therapy services are \$65 per semester. Actual client fees for the clinical term are assessed on a sliding fee scale based on family size and income and no client is denied services because of an inability to pay. Tennessee State University employees, faculty, staff and students and their immediate family members are eligible for services at no cost. There is a current waiting list of clients seeking services, and additional services could be provided if University resources were available to provide the required level of supervision of student clinicians mandated by the American Speech Language and Hearing Association certification and accreditation standards. In addition to the services provided in the TSU Speech Language Clinic, student clinicians and their clinical supervisors also provide twice a week speech, language and augmentative and alternative communication services beyond the campus clinic at Goodwill Industries, where they meet the communication needs of adult clients with developmental communication disabilities in an interdisciplinary model in conjunction with the staff of the facility. Early intervention services are also provided to 12-18 preschool children with communication disorders and those at risk for language and literacy challenges at the Grace Eaton Family Resources Center located near the TSU Main campus.

The TSU Audiology Testing and Research Center, adjacent to the Speech Language Clinic on the second floor of the Avon Williams Campus, provides screening and diagnostic audiological assessments, electrophysiological testing, and auditory processing disorders assessments for children and adults referred for suspected hearing impairments. The comprehensive clinic includes a large audiological testing booth, an ABR suite, client reception area, computer work stations and office space as well as faculty offices for **Dr. Valeria R. Matlock, EdD CCC-A**, Associate Professor in the department who also provides clinical services. In addition, Dr. Matlock serves as the clinical supervisor for departmental Speech Language Pathology students as they complete their required hearing screening practica in local schools and agencies. This fall, Dr. Matlock and her students conducted hearing screenings for 1500 students in the Wilson County Schools and screenings for 100 adults at the Rochelle Center.



"Vision: Excellence in clinical education through provision of quality services to those with communication challenges and their families"

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The China Experience: The Trip of A Lifetime

Harold R. Mitchell, PhD & Tina T. Smith, PhD

Drs. Harold R. Mitchell and **Tina T. Smith** participated in the Sino-American International Research Forum, in the People's Republic of China from May 28-June 4, 2010. Their paper entitled, *Principles and Strategies Behind Successful Dialect Modification and Accent Reduction Among Ethnocultural Groups*, was one of twelve papers selected for presentation from a pool of 193 papers submitted from four Affiliate Groups: The National Association of African American Studies and Affiliates, the National Association of Hispanic and Latino Studies, the National Association of Native American Studies and the International Association of Asian Studies. The Research Forum was held in the Department of English Linguistics and Literature at Guangxi Normal University located in the historical city of Guilin, China, a city world renowned for the unique beauty of its mountains and rivers.



Drs. Mitchell and Smith's paper was well received. The participants expressed great interest in strategies that could be employed to help improve communication skills and were provided information on topics such as the Components of Verbal Communication and Nonverbal Communication, Dialect Modification and Accent Reduction, Effective Oral Communication, The Influence of Culture on Communication, Grammatical Features of Specific Ethnic Groups, Articulation Practice, Sufficient Breath Support, and Completeness.

An interesting component of the presentation included engaging participants as they attempted to identify dialects and accents of attendees and their community environments and their states. Participants were also provided with stimulating articulation improvement illustrative sites that they could easily access on the Internet to see the articulators in action during the production of all consonant sounds while practicing. They could identify and experience place, manner, and voice as well as practice each sound in isolation and in words. The participants were also exposed to illustrative sites that allowed them to listen and repeat sounds, words, intonational patterns, rhythm, and pronunciation. Other illustrative, interactive sites which were introduced to the participants were those designed for vowel practice and voice improvement. The interactive presentation was greatly appreciated and engendered many interesting questions and comments.

Dr. Mitchell and Dr. Smith's visit to China was truly an educational experience. Guilin, China was exquisite and as a highlight, all participants of the Sino-American International Research Forum had the opportunity to tour the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven, the Summer Palace, the Emerald Shoppes, museums and galleries in Beijing China and the Expo in Shanghai, China. This was a trip of a lifetime.

