

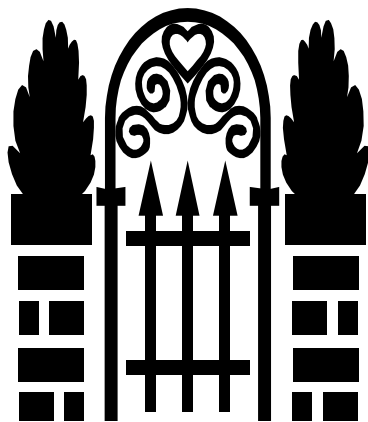
University of Montevallo

CSD Newsletter

Volume IV, Issue 1

Fall, 2005

Thoughts from the Department Chair



We have had another rich and full year! Thankfully our faculty remains stable. We have such a good group. Our undergraduate enrollment in both speech pathology and education of the deaf and hard of hearing is growing and our graduate enrollment remains small as we like it.

Each member of the cohort graduating in May 2005 is employed-Alabama public schools, Georgia public schools, Alabama medical settings, and a California medical setting. We continue with facility improvements, and in fact the old green carpet is almost all gone now. This summer we renovated the downstairs student lounge area with new tile flooring, and a new sink and refrigerator. The old lockers and old cabinets were removed and the area is now spacious and comfortable.

Some highlights of the year include; the reinstatement of comprehensive exams for graduate students, the re-establishment of the departmental Advisory Board, and the UAB Early Reading First grant assessments and student stipends continued. A new UAB collaboration-Project Transteam-began which enabled 5 graduate students to participate in a one-year seminar with students from OT, PT, early childhood and early childhood special education. This will result in

a specialty focus in early intervention. Finally, the department has been working with the Autism Society to bring **First Signs**, a program targeting early identification of Autism Spectrum Disorders, to Alabama and one of the first training sessions was held in August at the University of Montevallo.

We are proud of our heritage and your part in it, and we look forward to a bright future. To our graduates please stay in touch, we enjoy keeping up with you. To our present and future students we look forward to your continued success and hearing of your future accomplishments.

Dr. Mary Beth Armstrong

Loretta G. Brown Fall Symposium

The **Eighth Annual Loretta G. Brown Fall Symposium** was held on October 25, 2005 at the University of Montevallo in Comer Hall. The featured speaker this year was Roberta Elman, Ph.D., Director of the Aphasia Center of California. We are already making plans for the 2006 symposium and hope you will make plans to join us in October. When finalized, further information regarding the symposium and registration can be found on the department website. If you need more information please call (205) 665-6720.

Congratulations!

Debbie Blackmon,

Office Manager, was selected as the University of Montevallo office support personnel of the year. Dr. McChesney presented her with a plaque at a ceremony in April where she was recognized for her hard work and contributions.

Beth Wojciaczyk ('05) was presented the prestigious Sullivan Award which recognizes students who demonstrate supe-

rior qualities in academics, spirituality, and leadership.

Dr. Mary Beth Armstrong was named interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in May. The search committee continues its task of recommending a replacement for Dean Rowland who retired last spring.

The 2004-2005 DHH graduates have all been employed in Deaf/Special Education classrooms in Alabama and Georgia.

Faculty News

Dani Waldrep continues her work towards her Ph.D. in Early Childhood Education at UAB. She had two article reviews published in the Fall 2005 *Journal of Childhood Education*. Ms. Waldrep continues to act as advisor to the University of Montevallo's chapter of NSSLHA as well as serving on other committees.

Dan Phillips continues work toward the doctorate. He and two graduates of Montevallo, Ashley Aswell and Jessica Thompson, presented a poster session at the ASHA convention in Philadelphia on voice disorders and teachers. Mr. Phillips also presented at the 2005 SHAA convention on voice problems and aging which led to an interview in April 2005 *Advance Magazine for Speech Pathologists*.

Linda Murdock presented at the National Autism Conference and the Annual Conference of the Council for Exceptional Children this year. The

focus of her work continues to Autism Spectrum Disorders. Together with Dr. Hollie Cost in Education, she has co-authored an assessment and corresponding intervention program. The *Social-Communication Assessment Tool* (S-CAT) is scheduled to be available in Fall, 2006 from the Autism Asperger Publishing Company.

Dr. Sarah Smith, coordinator of the program in Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing was appointed to the State Department of Education Task Force on Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The task force will examine placement issues for students who are deaf/hard of hearing.

Dr. Margaret Johnson continues to represent the state as one of our ASHA legislative councilors. She has begun aphasia group treatment sessions in the clinic which have become very popular with the clients, their families, and the students.

DHH Program News

In keeping with our philosophy of preparing future teachers who are well versed in all aspects of deaf education, we seek to provide a variety of experiences for students majoring in Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Silent Lunch continues to be a popular feature of our program. Go to www.silentlight.com to read about this weekly American Sign Language total immersion opportunity. In addition, students continue to do practicum and internship experiences in the public schools, Alabama School for the Deaf, and Helen Keller School.

The DHH faculty is pleased to announce, beginning fall 2005, "Dinner and a Movie". Dr. Sarah Smith and Mrs. Jan Clendenon invited DHH majors into their homes on the third Tuesday of the month for a casual meal, a movie about deaf issues, and discussion. The events have been an "Oscar winning" success.

University of Montevallo

Department of Communication
Science and Disorders

Station 6720

Phone: (205) 665-6720

Fax: (205) 665-6721

Dan Phillips, Editor & Public Relations Chair

phillipsd@montevallo.edu

Debby Blackmon, Publisher

blackd@montevallo.edu