

# COMMUNICATION DISORDERS NEWSLETTER

Spring, 2009



## Message from the Department Head Barkley Memorial Center Update

By Dr. John Bernthal

The Barkley Center is undergoing a facelift which includes remodeling our Speech and Language and Hearing Clinics together with a 9,300 square foot addition to the northeast corner of the building.

As you likely know from your time at UNL, the clinic areas are nearly 35 years old and are very dated. The Speech-Language Clinic area consists of small clinic rooms designed for individual therapy sessions together with a few rooms for group work. We have no video cameras mounted in our clinic rooms and no capability to view sessions except via the observation booths. In addition, our current clinic design does not fully comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

In the new arrangement, all clinic rooms will have at least one video camera

mounted in the room and the capacity to record and view sessions from a central control room, as well as from supervisors' desk computers. Although we will have about the same number of therapy rooms, they will be designed to better reflect the current needs of our educational program with more adult and children group rooms.

The audiology clinic was designed when the Master's degree was the entry level for practice. At that time, there were few assistive listening devices, no hearing aid fittings, and there was far less equipment (e.g., no impedance equipment and there was no vestibular testing or treatment). The remodeling of the audiology space will include a vestibular lab, 2 consultation rooms, office space, and hearing aid fitting room.

The addition to the northeast corner of the building will

support needs for research and lab space and includes a specialized lab to meet the needs of one of our professors. Finally, we plan to upgrade our space for graduate students.

The project has been divided into three phases: Phase 1, the building addition, is nearly complete; Phase 2, remodeling of the Speech and Language Clinic space on second floor, will begin in the spring of 2009; and Phase 3, remodeling of the Audiology Clinic space on the first floor, will begin after completion of the Speech and Language Clinic. The projected date for completion is sometime in the spring of 2010. We invite you to stop by and see it when it is finished.

[www.unl.edu/barkley](http://www.unl.edu/barkley)



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# Communication Disorders Adds Faculty

**Brenda Clark**, M.S., CCC-SLP is a licensed, certified speech-language pathologist at the Barkley Memorial Speech-Language and Hearing Clinic. Brenda's professional areas of expertise include articulation and speech sound disorders, child and adolescent language and literacy disabilities, and autism spectrum disorders. As a lecturer and clinical supervisor, Brenda supervises graduate clinicians in the clinic and during their student teaching experience in the public schools. Brenda also works in the Link N Literacy Lab at the Barkley Center, assisting Dr. Tiffany Hogan with her research in the area of lexical development and reading acquisition.

Brenda received her undergraduate and masters degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Before coming to Barkley in the fall of 2008, she spent nine years working as a school-based SLP both at the elementary and middle school levels. Brenda has also worked with families and individuals, preschool through young adult, in a private practice setting.

Brenda is a member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) and the Nebraska Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSLHA), and is a current NSLHA board member and regional representative. Brenda also serves on the board of the Down Syndrome Association for Families (DSAF) in Lincoln, Nebraska.

**Tiffany Hogan**, PhD, CCC-SLP, Assistant Professor, joined the SECD faculty in the fall of 2008. Dr. Hogan earned her undergraduate and masters degrees in Speech-Language Pathology from the University of Central Missouri. Upon graduating she worked for three years as a clinical speech-language pathologist at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri.

Sparked by an interest in the connection between language and reading ability, Dr. Hogan obtained her PhD from the University of Kansas, under the

direction of Hugh Catts and Holly Storkel. Before starting at UNL, Dr. Hogan was an Assistant Professor for 2 years in the Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences at the University of Arizona.

Her research focuses on developing more effective early identification and treatment for reading disabilities. Dr. Hogan is the director of the Link N Literacy Lab: Linking Language and Literacy, where she is currently conducting studies funded by the American Speech, Language, Hearing Foundation, the International Dyslexia Association, and the National Institutes of Health.

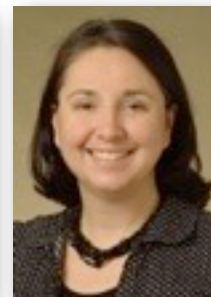
**Kelly Wacker**, Au.D. graduated from the University of Nebraska at Kearney in 2000 with a Bachelor's Degree in Communication Disorders and from UNL in 2002 with a Master's Degree in Audiology. Upon completion of her Master's Degree, she accepted her first job as an audiologist at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, NE.

Kelly worked at UNMC for almost 3 1/2 years before moving to Bloomington, Illinois, where she was employed at a private audiology practice. While in Illinois, Dr. Wacker began the course work for her Doctor of Audiology Degree, which she completed in August 2007 from Pennsylvania College of Optometry / School of Audiology.

In June 2007, Dr. Wacker joined the SECD faculty where she is an Assistant Professor of Practice as well as the Audiology Clinic Coordinator. She currently teaches one undergraduate course and two doctoral level clinical courses. Her wide spread interests include vestibular assessment and treatment, hearing aids, and assessment of both pediatric and adult patients.

[www.unl.edu/barkley/faculty](http://www.unl.edu/barkley/faculty)

**From left:**  
Brenda Clark,  
Tiffany Hogan,  
Kelly Wacker



# Classes of 2007 and 2008

Following is the list of students graduating in 2007 and 2008 with a Master of Science, Audiology Doctorate, or Doctor of Philosophy Degree. Graduates of the UNL Communication Disorders Division continue to find employment before, or immediately following completion of their programs. The facilities where they were initially employed are also listed.

## May, 2007

Carolyn Black, Easter Seals of Central Texas, Austin, TX  
 Erica (Stewart) Buddenberg, Columbus, NE  
 Lindsay Gatterman, Fort Worth, TX  
 Julie (Young) McDaniel, Enduracare, Lincoln, NE  
 Amanda Mimick, Omaha, NE  
 Erica (Turek) Schott, Outpatient Rehab/Aegis, Seward, NE  
 Amber Thiessen, Omaha, NE  
 Erin (Leonard) Zogleman, Olathe Public Schools, Olathe, KS

## August, 2007

Kendra (Schroer) Brandt, Millard Public Schools, Omaha, NE  
 Jennifer Bungart, Hawthorn Hill Elem., Lee's Summit, MO  
 Erin Dolan, Adams School District 50, Westminster, CO  
 Rebecca Kappel, Wichita PS, Wichita, KS  
 Cynthia Larson, Dist #29, Nemaha Co. Elem, Auburn, NE  
 Kirsten (Yahnke) Ritter, Newport Mesa Unified School Dist.  
 Julie (Whitwer) Schmoll, Lincoln Public Sch, Lincoln, NE  
 Karen Thompson, Ravenwood Elem., Overland Park, KS

## May, 2008

Lindsey Agnitsch, Aberdeen School District 6-1, Aberdeen, SD  
 Taylor Arnold, Quality Living, Inc., Omaha, NE  
 Jaime Bukrey, Pediatric Outpatient Clinic, Minneapolis, MN  
 Ashley Hobelman, Madonna Rehab Hospital, Lincoln, NE  
 Rachel Maca, Eyestone Elementary School, Wellington, CO  
 Britney Norland, Opportunities Unlimited, Sioux City, IA  
 Karen Stokely, Madonna Rehab Hospital, Lincoln, NE  
 Ashley Weber, Papillion LaVista Public Schools, Papillion, NE  
 Adam Wolford, Bryan LGH West, Lincoln, NE

## August, 2008

Sarah Ahrens, Malcolm Public Schools, Malcolm, NE  
 Emily Baumann, Regional Rehab Institute, Rapid City, SD  
 Megan Buechter, Lab of Speech-Lang. Disorders, Omaha, NE  
 Stephanie Burt, Millennium Therapy, Des Moines, IA  
 Kristen Gackle, Unknown  
 Tracie Heckenlively, Educational Service Unit #4, Auburn, NE  
 Jennifer Hill, Oregon Health & Science Univ., Portland, OR  
 Erin Landon, Snyder Speech Services, Omaha, NE  
 Danielle (Deschene) Leeper, Lincoln Pub Sch, Lincoln, NE  
 Sarah (Robinson) LeMaistre, Lincoln Public Sch, Lincoln, NE  
 Michele McDonald, Elkhorn Public Schools, Elkhorn, NE  
 Anne Pribnow, North Kansas City Pub. Schools, KC, MO  
 Brian Schmoll, Lincoln, NE  
 Tricia Schneider, Lincoln Public Schools, Lincoln, NE  
 Katrina (Kersch) Wilke, Contact SLP Serving Schools in San Diego, CA

## December, 2008

Amanda (Eicher) Austin, Lincoln Public Schools, Lincoln, NE  
 Erica Franzluebbbers, Papillion LaVista Schools, Papillion, NE

# Ph.D. and Au.D. 2007 and 2008

## May, 2007

Sarah (Krause) Fugleberg, Au.D. (Shepard/Boney)  
 Ashley Gragert, Au.D. (Decker)  
 Michelle Vogel, Au.D. (Shepard)  
 Ronda Ward, Au.D. (Shepard)

## August, 2007

Norimune Kawai, Ph.D. (Healey)  
 Wendy Quach, Ph.D. (Beukelman)

## December, 2007

Aimee R. Dietz (Beukelman/Hux)  
 Cassie A. Garner (Decker/Gorga)  
 Michelle L. McKelvey (Beukelman/Hux)  
 Megan S. Overby (Bernthal/Carrell)

## May, 2008

Jane A. Evans Burns, Au.D.  
 Connie Converse, Au.D.  
 Theresa Haney, Au.D.  
 Erin Wolf, Au.D.

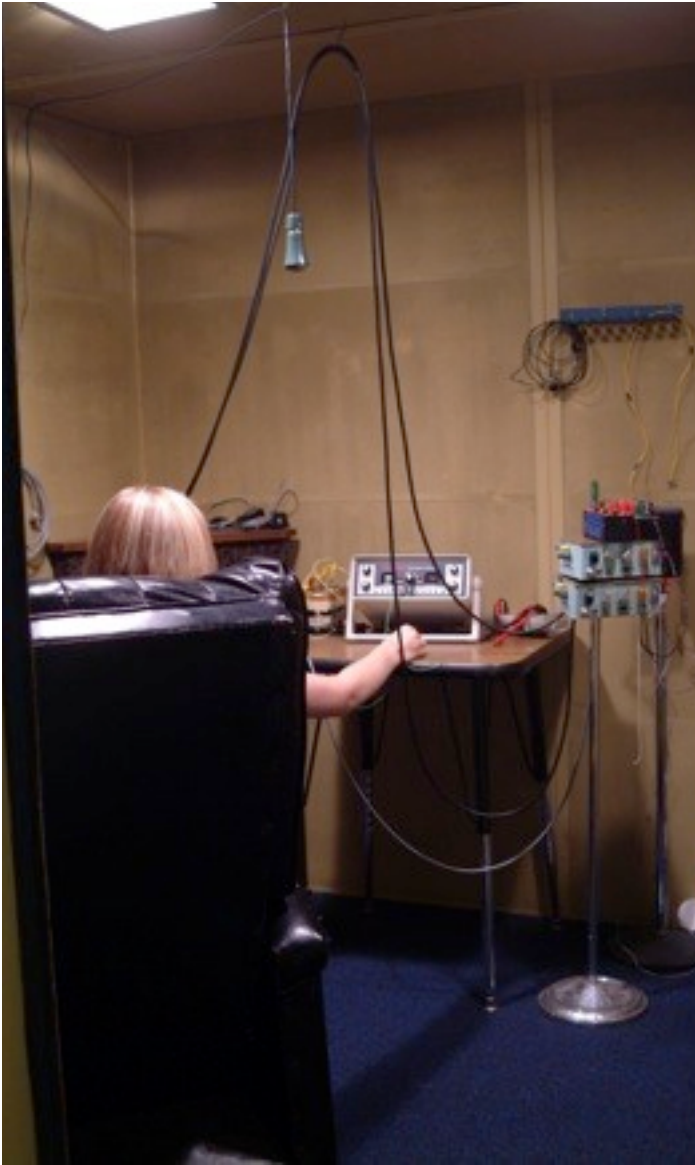
## August, 2008

Kelli Evans, Ph.D. (Hux)

## December, 2008

Susan Fager, Ph.D. (Beukelman)  
 Antje Mefferd, Ph.D. (Green)  
 Jessica Messersmith, Ph.D. (Decker/Jesteadt)  
 Meghanne Wetta, Au.D. (Boney)





Did you know that U.S. News and World Report (February 25, 2009) profiled Audiology as one of the top 30 careers offering high job satisfaction and a strong outlook for 2009?



## Audiology “Boot Camp” Novel Orientation Program

The week of August 18, 2008, marked the second annual Audiology “Boot Camp” held at the Barkley Memorial Center. This program, developed specifically for incoming Audiology doctoral students, allows the students and faculty to get to know each other in an informal environment. It covers a range of information from the history of our profession to the policies and procedures employed in the Barkley evaluation and hearing aid clinics.

“Boot Camp” also provides students hands-on experience with diagnostic equipment during the week. The feedback on this novel orientation program has been positive from both the student and faculty perspectives. We look forward to keeping this part of our AuD program for many years to come.

[www.unl.edu/barkley/audiology](http://www.unl.edu/barkley/audiology)

# Masters Alumni News

**Jodi Alva '98** - [jalva@esu7.org](mailto:jalva@esu7.org); working at ESU #7; living in Osceola with husband (Todd), daughter (Caitlyn), son (Peyton)

**Candice Bridgford '05** - [candice.bridgford@connectseward.org](mailto:candice.bridgford@connectseward.org); working for the Seward, NE public schools; living in Lincoln with husband, son (Riley), and 2 daughters (Avery and Addison)

**Kyle Brouwer '03** - [kbrouwer@esu3.org](mailto:kbrouwer@esu3.org); working for Elmwood-Murdock School District in Elmwood, NE; living in Lincoln with wife (Kayla), daughter (Amanda) and sons (Grant and James); just accepted an appointment at UNK

**Heidi (Perry) Clark '05** - [heidiclark1@gmail.com](mailto:heidiclark1@gmail.com); working in the Gretna, NE public schools; living in Papillion with husband (David); expecting their first child in April!

**Samantha Corbridge '04** - [SCorbridge@mcsd.k12.co.us](mailto:SCorbridge@mcsd.k12.co.us); working part-time for Mesa County School District in Colorado; living in Montrose, CO with husband (Brent) and 3 daughters (Raven, Tiegen, and Aliyah)

**Nate Cornish '05** - [Nathan.Cornish@Bilingualtherapies.com](mailto:Nathan.Cornish@Bilingualtherapies.com); working for Bilingual Therapies, Inc. as a Director of Clinical Services; providing continuing education for SLPs; living in Chicago and hoping that winter is over soon!

**Keri (Stofer) Craddock '05** - [kjcraddock@hotmail.com](mailto:kjcraddock@hotmail.com); working in Bennett & Palmyra, NE; living in Lincoln with husband (Mark) & son (Miles)

**Amanda Flugstad '05** - [wonderwoman\\_517@hotmail.com](mailto:wonderwoman_517@hotmail.com); working for Benedictine Health Care in downtown Minneapolis & New Brighton; living in Minneapolis with Ruby (the cat) and loving "always having something to do"

**Trisha Funk '05** - [tfunk@qliomaha.com](mailto:tfunk@qliomaha.com); working at Quality Living, Inc. in Omaha, NE; works mostly with adults with TBI, stroke, SCI; recently completed a 'stint' as a CFY supervisor.

**Jodi Grabast '03** - [jgrabast@esu9.org](mailto:jgrabast@esu9.org); working for ESU #9 in Superior, NE; living in Superior with husband (Cameron) & daughters (Mallori, Brooklynn)

**Jana Heidemann '05** - [janabell@hotmail.com](mailto:janabell@hotmail.com); working for the Courage Center in Burnsville, MN; living in Shakopee, Minnesota with husband (Brian), daughter (Lauren Kate), and two dogs

**Erin (Shutts) Johnson '05** - [avenger\\_47@hotmail.com](mailto:avenger_47@hotmail.com); working in Des Moines, Iowa at ChildServe; living in Clive, IA

**Crissy Pence '03** - [crissypence@yahoo.com](mailto:crissypence@yahoo.com); working and living in Iowa with husband (Chad) and twins (Ava and Carson) and one on the way

**Leslie (Smith) Rogers '02** - [leslies@childserve.org](mailto:leslies@childserve.org); working as a Clinical Team Leader for ChildServe (pediatric rehab) in Des Moines, IA; recently married and living in the Des Moines area

**Carrie (Matteucci) Schiel '05** - [cschiel@esu6.org](mailto:cschiel@esu6.org); working at Waverly HS in Waverly, NE; living in Lincoln with husband (John) and Bassett hound (Linus)

**Dara (Kanwischer) Schmeck '04** - [Dara.Schmeck@gmail.com](mailto:Dara.Schmeck@gmail.com); working for Cascade Children's Therapy in Mill Creek; living with husband in Everett, WA

**Julie (Whitwer) '07** - [schmollette159@gmail.com](mailto:schmollette159@gmail.com) and **Brian Schmoll '08**; Julie is working for Lincoln Public Schools and Bryan LGH while Brian works for Nebraska.gov; recently married and living in Lincoln, Nebraska

**Megan Stewart '03** - [meggiestewart@hotmail.com](mailto:meggiestewart@hotmail.com); living in Murfreesboro, TN with husband (Mike) and 3 sons (twins Evan and Isaac, and Kaleb)

**Rhonda (Searcey) Towle '03** - [erichondam@yahoo.com](mailto:erichondam@yahoo.com); working with a skilled nursing facility team in Papillion, NE; living in the Omaha area with husband and new son (Carson Lane)

**Steph (Devitt) Tupper '03** - [stupper@cox.net](mailto:stupper@cox.net); working very part-time for Omaha Public Schools doing assessments; living in Omaha with husband and two children (ages 2 years and 9 months)

**Lindsey (Gatterman) Walter '07** - working at Jack Binion Elementary School; living in Fort Worth, TX with her husband

**Katie (Kersch) Wilke '08** - [katrinacrystal@hotmail.com](mailto:katrinacrystal@hotmail.com); working as a contract SLP serving a high school and two charter-home schools in southern California; living in San Diego, CA with husband (Cody)

**Adam Wolford '08** - [adamdubya1@gmail.com](mailto:adamdubya1@gmail.com); working at BryanLGH West in Lincoln; living in Holland, NE with wife (Sarah)

# Doctoral Accomplishments

Alumni from the UNL doctoral program in communication disorders continue to make their mark in the world of academia and beyond. This update shares some of the recent successes and accomplishments of this august group of professionals.

**Byron Ross '03** was elected to the Board of Directors of the National Black Association for Speech-Language Hearing (NBASLH) and in 2008 was elected as the Board Parliamentarian. In addition, he was a finalist for the University of Central Arkansas Public Service Award in 2008 resulting in a certificate and \$500.

**Teresa Iacono** received the 2007 Inaugural National Health and Medical Research Council Ethics Award for Excellence in Health and Medical Research. The NHMRC is an Australian Government body similar to the NIH in the United States. The nomination for this award came from Scope, a Victorian non-government disability service, in recognition of her contributions to the inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities through research, publications, and ethics committee membership associated with this group. She also received the 2002 Don Jonston-Ablenet Award for Contributions to the Literacy of People who use AAC.

**Julia King '95** has been the recipient of several University of Wisconsin Steven Point (UWSP) grants. A 2008 award for "Measuring Intelligibility and Severity of Disordered Speech" with Dr. Maggie Watson, a 2007 award for "Language and Communication Changes Associated with Primary Progressive Aphasia: Phase Two of a Pilot Study", and a 2006 award for "Language and Communication Changes Associated with Primary Progressive Aphasia: A Pilot Study". She has also presented her data on the longitudinal work on primary progressive aphasia at the 2007 and 2008 ASHA conventions.

**Mitzi Ritzman '06** won the 2008 National Student Speech Language and Hearing "Advisor of the Year" award for her work with the students at the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

**Wendy Quach '07** received the Junior Faculty Career Development Grant Award at San Jose State University in April 2008, the Alumni Association Faculty Grant in February of 2008, and a Faculty Professional Development Award from San Jose State University in October of 2007.

Congratulations to all honorees noted here. If you know of other UNL doctoral graduates who have recently received honors or awards, please contact Kristy Weissling at [kweissling2@unl.edu](mailto:kweissling2@unl.edu) for inclusion in the next newsletter.

This update shares some of the recent successes and accomplishments of this august group of professionals.



## Hogan Receives Funding 3 Year N.I.H. Grant

Dr. Tiffany Hogan received a National Institutes of Health - National Institute for Deafness and Other Communication Disorders 3-year research grant in July 2008. This grant supports studies that investigate sub-lexical and lexical influences on phoneme awareness in typically developing children and those with dyslexia.

The long-term goal of this work is to determine the critical language skills underpinning typical and atypical phoneme awareness development and, in turn, improve early identification and intervention for children at risk for reading disabilities. Data collection will be conducted in local schools and data analyses will be completed in the Link N Literacy Lab, housed within the Barkley Memorial Center. Grant monies also fund graduate and undergraduate student research experiences.

“We will be studying phoneme awareness in children with dyslexia.”

Tiffany Hogan

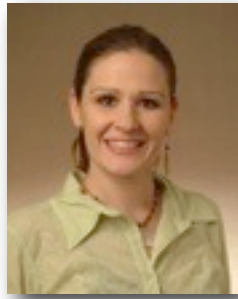


**LinkNLiteracy  
Lab**

### Literacy Course added to SLP curriculum

Dr. Tiffany Hogan, faculty member in SECD, is teaching a new graduate course, Literacy Assessment and Treatment. The course focuses on the relation between language and reading disorders. Additionally, throughout the course, the role of the speech-language pathologist as a member of a literacy team is highlighted. This course is likely to be offered each spring, once a week in the evening. Inquiries about the class should be directed to Dr. Hogan at [thogan2@unl.edu](mailto:thogan2@unl.edu). Practicing clinicians are welcome to enroll in the course.

Erin Bush



Shari DeVaney



Katie Cabbage



In the fall of 2008 the Communication Disorders Division announced its "Barkley Scholars" program to support Ph.D. students. These competitive scholarships provide tuition, fees, and stipend support for full-time students, whether or not they are Nebraska residents. The following Barkley Scholars were enrolled at UNL during the 2008-09 academic year:

Antje Mefferd



Jillian McCarthy



Sarah Wallace

Ryan McCreery



Kara Medeiros



Anusha Thomas



Nirmal Srinivasan



## Barkley Scholars

- Erin Bush** - TBI/Aphasia (Dr. Hux, advisor)
- Katie Cabbage** - Com Dis (Dr. Carrell, advisor)
- Shari DeVaney** - Late Talkers/Early Intervention (Dr. Cress, advisor)
- Kristen Janky** - Audiology (Drs. Decker & Shepard, advisors)
- Jillian McCarthy** - AAC/Literacy (Dr. Hogan, advisor)
- Ryan McCreery** - Audiology (Drs. Decker & Stelmachowicz, advisors)
- Kara Medeiros** - AAC/Early Intervention (Dr. Cress, advisor)
- Antje Mefferd** - Com Dis (Dr. Green, advisor)
- Nirmal Srinivasan** - SLP (Dr. Carrell, advisor)
- Anusha Thomas** - Com Dis (Dr. Green, advisor)
- Sarah Wallace** - Aphasia/TBI/AAC (Drs. Hux & Beukelman, advisors)

Kristen Janky



# PROJECT RE-ENTRY



**You will receive:**

- Specialized coursework in traumatic brain injury, cognitive strategy instruction, and the provision of family-centered services
- Select practicum experiences in medical and school settings
- Financial Support
  - Tuition bank: \$250 per credit for up to 55 credits
  - Monthly stipend: \$2,745 per year
- Increased employability in schools

For further information or to apply, contact:

Dr. Karen Hux  
Co-Director  
khux1@unl.edu  
(402) 472-8249

Dr. Marilyn Scheffler  
Co-Director  
mscheffler1@unl.edu  
(402) 472-5492

# Project Re-Entry!



## Preparing Speech-Language Pathologists to Serve Students with Traumatic Brain Injury

### Participants agree to:

- Complete the requirements for a Master's Degree in Speech-Language Pathology
- Participate in a traumatic brain injury support group and serve as an individual support person for one survivor and his/her family
- Work full-time for two years for EACH academic year of support providing school-based services to children with disabilities

### Current Cadre of Project Students

Back L-R: Dr. Karen Hux, Natalie Peterson, Rachel Aguilos, Lindsey Spilker, Ambyr Henderson, Emily Quinn, Molly Shank, Caitlin Babbitt, Maggie Lee, Deb Sullivan

Front L-R: Heather Listul, Emily Kurz, Betsy Carr, Kristen Lommel, Michelle Holmberg



Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. Grant Award # H325K060429

Project Re-Entry is a grant program providing financial support to master's degree students in speech-language pathology who wish to obtain specialized training in traumatic brain injury. The grant is from the US Department of Education and provides selected students with a tuition bank and a monthly stipend to support their graduate education.

Simultaneous with completing the classes and practicum experiences required for a master's degree in speech-language pathology, Project Re-Entry recipients receive select practicum experiences in medical and school settings and specialized coursework in traumatic brain injury, cognitive strategy instruction, and family-centered services. Following completion of their graduate training, Project Re-Entry participants agree to work full-time for two years for each year of support, providing school-based services to children with disabilities.



“Over the four-year project, 20 students will be selected to participate while pursuing their masters’ degrees in speech-language pathology.”



## Project RTI

building capacity together to implement response to intervention

The department has recently been awarded funding for a personnel preparation grant from the U.S. Office of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. [Project RTI: Building Capacity Together to Implement Response to Intervention](#) is designed to prepare future speech-language pathologists to collaborate with general and special education teachers as they intervene and advocate for children experiencing reading difficulties, using an RTI model.

RTI is a multi-tier service delivery model designed to prevent reading difficulties through early intervention, frequent progress monitoring, and increasingly intensive scientifically and evidence-based interventions. With specialized training through the grant project, participants will learn to provide leadership, as practicing SLPs, in educating school staff about the critical role of language in all domains of academic learning, with a focus on reading intervention.

Over the four-year project, 20 students will be selected to participate while pursuing their masters’ degrees in speech-language pathology. Project participants receive tuition remission and a monthly stipend. They complete three additional,

specialized courses in RTI, literacy and family involvement.

Participants also receive mentoring by experienced school-based SLPs who emphasize the use of collaborative and inclusive reading services in RTI models. Upon graduation, participants agree to complete four years of full time employment in public schools as speech-language pathologists.

SLP masters students from the class of 2008-2009 who comprise the first cohort include:

1. Kylie Belsky
2. Erin Davenport
3. Annie Guenzel
4. Tracy Halbur
5. Stacy Little
6. Kelli Raber

For additional information about Project RTI, feel free to contact grant coordinator Deanne Splattstoesser ([dsplattstoesser2@unl.edu](mailto:dsplattstoesser2@unl.edu)) or project co-directors Dixie Sanger ([dsanger1@unl.edu](mailto:dsanger1@unl.edu)) and Marilyn Scheffler ([mscheffler1@unl.edu](mailto:mscheffler1@unl.edu)).

## In Memory Mrs. Gladys Ricketts

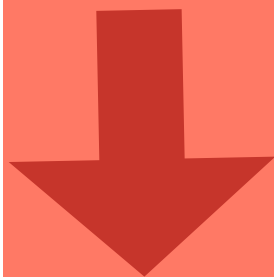
Mrs. Gladys Ricketts, a dear friend of the Barkley Memorial Center, died in September 2008. Mrs. Ricketts was a patron since 2000, providing funding for the Ricketts Computer Classroom equipment. Each year the faculty, staff and students gathered in August to celebrate Mrs. Ricketts' birthday with her favorite chocolate cake and beverages. It was a special time to greet and thank this remarkable, generous lady.

Despite advancing age, Mrs. Ricketts always requested that her daughter, Mrs. Dona Hurst, bring her to the Barkley Center so she could greet the students, faculty, and staff. During the eight years of hosting Mrs. Ricketts' birthday celebration, various members of her family joined her as well.

Fall, 2008 we celebrated Mrs. Ricketts' 97th birthday. She seemed to take special joy in talking to the many people who came to thank her and extend their best wishes. She passed away just three weeks after we celebrated her birthday. We will greatly miss our wonderful benefactor, Mrs. Ricketts, but we will treasure her visits, and remember her always.

A plaque honoring Mrs. Ricketts is displayed in the front of the Ricketts Computer Lab, and her picture graces the room. No building tour is complete without a short pause at Mrs. Ricketts' picture to explain to guests how important Mrs. Ricketts was to us.





## Faculty honors and awards

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Dr. John Bernthal   | The Outstanding Alumnus for 2007<br>Kansas University College of Allied Health                                       |
| Dr. David Beukelman | Frank R. Kleffner Clinical Career Award for 2006<br>Nebraska Speech Language Hearing Association                     |
| Dr. Cynthia Cress   | Distinguished Teaching Award for 2007<br>UNL College of Education and Human Sciences                                 |
| Dr. Karen Hux       | Distinguished Teaching Award for 2009<br>UNL College of Education and Human Sciences                                 |
| Dyann Rupp          | Appointed to the Professional Advisory Board of the<br>Childhood Apraxia of Speech Association of North America      |
| Dr. Dixie Sanger    | Recognition Award for 2009 (and 6 times previously as well!)<br>The UNL Teaching Council and UNL Parents Association |

# Ph.D. Scholarships Available

Thinking about a career in college teaching or research? Our department is now offering scholarships to qualified students interested in pursuing a Ph.D. in Communication Disorders. Our graduate program has a long history of educating the next generation of scholars in the field and is ranked 17th among the top programs in the United States.\* If you are interested in learning about Ph.D. opportunities in our department, please visit our website (<http://www.unl.edu/barkley>) or contact Graduate Secretary Jill England ([jengland2@unl.unl](mailto:jengland2@unl.unl)). Below we have answered questions that are commonly asked by students who are considering pursuing a Ph.D. in Communication Disorders.

## What will I be prepared to do?

Most Ph.D. graduates are employed at universities and are expected to teach undergraduate and graduate courses, conduct research, supervise student clinicians, and provide administrative service to the university. The time allocated to each activity varies depending on the focus of the department, the mission of the institution, and nature of the appointment.

## Do I need to have a dissertation topic idea before I apply to the Ph.D. program?

No. Many students enroll in a Ph.D. program because they are passionate about research, teaching, and educating the next generation of clinicians and scholars and to improve the lives of those affected by communication disorders. Most students decide on a research topic during the first year of their doctoral program through guided discussions, coursework, and research experience. Because Communication Disorders is an area that draws from many disciplines, the number of possible research topic is very diverse.

## What will it cost?

Most qualified doctoral candidates get their tuition paid for and a monthly stipend for most, or all of their Ph.D. programs. Exceptional students may qualify for the Barkley Scholar Scholarship. These positions are reserved for students who show exceptional promise as future leaders in their respective field.

## Do I need a master's degree to apply?

No. You can enroll in the Ph.D. program with a completed bachelors degree. However, if you have clinical interests, some clinical experience is helpful.

## What if I'm not a Communication Science and Disorders major?

Students from other disciplines with an interest in communication sciences and disorders are encouraged to apply. Communication Disorders is a multifaceted field that draws from other disciplines, including education, literacy, psychology, physiology, medicine, neurosciences biology, genetics, engineering, linguistics, and computer science.

## How long is the program?

Most students who already have a masters degree complete a Ph.D. program within 3 to 4 years. Students entering the program with a bachelors degree may take up to 5 to 6 years to complete the program.

## What courses will I take?

Most students complete a majority of their course work during the first two years of the program. Programs of study are designed individually with their faculty advisors according to the student's interests and career goals. However, there are certain core classes that most students take, which include coursework in teaching skills, grant writing, statistics, and experimental design. Many special topic seminars are offered and students enroll in independent studies to explore topics of interest throughout their program. Depending on their specific interests, students take courses in Psychology, Educational Psychology and other related courses such as Computer Science, or Reading Center courses. During the program, students are also provided opportunities to develop and refine their teaching and research skills.

## What is the future outlook for employment?

The nation currently faces a shortage of Ph.D. graduates in Communication Disorders with the number of students graduating falling short of what is needed to replace retiring faculty. This shortage is providing exceptional employment opportunities for our recent graduates. At UNL we are committed to increasing the number and quality of Ph.D. graduates in Communication Disorders.

\*According to the U.S. News and World Report.



## Who's who? Barkley staff



**Kathleen Yearsley** (left) is the Barkley Center Receptionist as well as the Staff Assistant for the Speech-Language and Hearing Clinic. Her responsibilities include directing new arrivals, answering the phone, making appointments, preparing clinic schedules, maintaining client files, and handling client correspondence. She also prepares written materials for the clinic and insures that required data is available for institutional reports and evaluations. Kathleen joined the Barkley staff in 1999. In her spare time she enjoys gardening.

**Heidi Menard** (center) is the Staff Secretary that provides support and multi-task management for SECD faculty. She proofs and formats grants, articles and other professional work, and prepares and edits academic materials. Heidi also manages daily office tasks and supervises student office workers.

**Kelli Bryant** (right) joined the Barkley staff as a Medical Billing Specialist in 2006. With over 13 years of experience in the medical/insurance field, she provides invaluable expertise and advice to staff, faculty and students. Kelli is solely responsible for accounts receivable, collection of accounts, and setting up payments of delinquent accounts.



**Evie Reiners** (left) is Assistant to the Director of the Barkley Center. In addition to administrative tasks, Evie maintains Barkley listservs, prepares accreditation reports, schedules classes and classrooms, and maintains graduate databases. Evie graduated from UNL Teachers College with a degree in Business Education. She has been at the Barkley Center since it opened in 1976. Evie enjoys reading, working crossword puzzles, knitting, and being outside in her yard.

**Lynette Windhorst** (center) is an Accounting Clerk responsible for purchasing, processing invoices, maintaining phone, fax, postage, and copy accounts, and handling faculty travel. Prior to joining the Barkley Center staff in 2001, she worked in the UNL Accounting Department. Lynette enjoys working in the friendly Barkley atmosphere and being a member of this close-knit community.

**Susan Craig** (right) is an Administrative Assistant with a broad scope of responsibilities, which include management of personnel, personnel records and budgets, updating policies, and providing support services to the Director. Susan attended Lincoln School of Commerce and worked in Printing Services for 10 years before coming to the Barkley Center in 1988. The favorite part of her job is working with the people who work at and visit the Center.

**Janice Kubicek** (not pictured) provides secretarial support for faculty, maintains the Barkley equipment inventory and assists the Scholarship and Financial Aid Committee. Prior to joining the Barkley Center staff in 1997, Janice worked at the Affirmative Action office on City Campus for 10 years. She was also a temporary employee in the Department of Educational Psychology.

## Who's who? Barkley staff (continued)



**Marie Odgers** (left) graduated from Nebraska Wesleyan with a BA, and then got a "Mrs." After years as a wife, mother, and Girl Scout leader, Marie earned a library education degree in 1993. Since 1994, Marie has been putting all her life's experiences to work in the Barkley Resource Center as a Library Assistant.

**Jill England**, (right) as the Graduate Secretary, assists prospective and current students, staff, and faculty with procedures required to obtain a graduate or doctorate degree. Jill graduated from UNL in 1995 with a B.S. in Human Resource Management. She came to the Barkley Center in November of 2000 after seven years with a business forms company. When not on the job, Jill enjoys the outdoors, playing volleyball and softball, and spending time with her family, including children Gracey, Lauryn, and Garrett.

**Mathew Bentz** (not pictured) is a Computer Support Specialist responsible for Information Technology support. Mathew holds an MBA from UNO emphasizing Data Visualization and Business Simulation. He received his BA from UNL with an emphasis in Drawing, Painting and Graphic Design. He also holds an A.A.S. in Electronic Engineering along with an A.A.S. in Computer Printing/Media Technology and a Certificate in Microcomputers. In his spare time, Mathew enjoys bicycling, camping and designing physical computing projects using embedded systems.



**Cara Ullman** (left) is a Research Technology Specialist & Research Coordinator. She provides technology training related to research studies, performs field research, acoustic analysis, data analysis, and technical support for research equipment. She has research interests in speech science and disordered motor speech. Cara has a Bachelors in Speech-Language Pathology and a Masters in Instructional Design/Speech Science.

**Mimi Mann** (center) serves the Barkley Memorial Center as an Instructional Technology Assistant. She is the webmaster for the departmental website and responsible for student competency data. Mimi came to Barkley from Career Services, where she worked as a Resource Specialist for 7 years. She graduated from UNL with an elementary education degree and later worked as a sign language interpreter. Mimi enjoys working in the Barkley community of committed and caring students, faculty & staff.

**Andy Agena** (right) serves the Barkley Memorial Center as Technology Coordinator. He is responsible for server administration, management of classroom and lab computers, and computer support for faculty and staff. Andy came to the Barkley Center from UNL's Bureau of Business Research, where he worked as a Research Analyst. Prior to returning to Lincoln, he did relief work in Tanzania and Rwanda. He holds a bachelors degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in Political Science.

| SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY | AREA | PHONE | EMAIL |
|---------------------------|------|-------|-------|
|---------------------------|------|-------|-------|

|  |                               |          |                          |
|--|-------------------------------|----------|--------------------------|
| <b>John E. Bernthal, Ph.D. (Dept. Chair)</b> | Phonological Disorders        | 472-5496 | jbernthall@unl.edu       |
| David R. Beukelman, Ph.D.                    | AAC/Motor Speech Disorders    | 472-5463 | dbeukelman1@unl.edu      |
| Tom D. Carrell, Ph.D.                        | Spch Percep/Tech/ Cochlear    | 472-0701 | tcarrell1@unl.edu        |
| Brenda Clark, M.S.                           | Spch Sd Dis/Literacy/ASD      | 472-2035 | bclark3@unl.edu          |
| Cynthia Cress, Ph.D.                         | Lang Dev/AAC/Early Inter.     | 472-4431 | ccress1@unl.edu          |
| Alicia Davis, M.S.                           | Language/Literacy/ELL         | 472-5476 | adavis1@unl.edu          |
| Diane Farrand, Ed.S.                         | Language/Literacy/Hearing Imp | 472-5475 | dfarrand1@unl.edu        |
| Jordan R. Green, Ph.D.                       | Speech Dev/Physiology         | 617-7064 | jgreen4@unl.edu          |
| E. Charles Healey, Ph.D.                     | Fluency & Voice Disorders     | 472-5459 | ehealey1@unl.edu         |
| Tiffany Hogan, Ph.D.                         | Lang/Literacy/Phon Aw         | 472-3911 | thogan2@unl.edu          |
| Karen Hux, Ph.D.                             | Acquired Lang Dis/Aphasia/Cog | 472-8249 | khux1@unl.edu            |
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| Toni B. Morehouse, M.A.                      | Spch Sound Dis/Autism         | 472-5471 | tmorehouse1@unl.edu      |
| Carrie Prentice, M.S.                        | AAC/Acquired Neuro Dis        | 472-2035 | cprentice2@unl.edu       |
| Dyann Rupp, M.S.                             | Scottish Rite Care Clinic     | 472-0642 | drupp2@unl.edu           |
| Dixie Sanger, Ph.D.                          | Child & Adol Lang Disorders   | 472-5466 | dsanger1@unl.edu         |
| Marilyn Scheffler, Ed.D.-Clinic Coord.       | Program Planning/Evaluation   | 472-5492 | mscheffler1@unl.edu      |
| Deanne Splattstoesser, Ed.S.                 | Language Disorders            | 472-3294 | dsplattstoesser2@unl.edu |
| Kristy Weissling, SLP.D.                     | Acquired Neuro Dis/AAC/Cog    | 472-1699 | kweissling2@unl.edu      |
| Amy Willman, M.S.                            | American Sign Language        | 472-5482 | awillman2@unl.edu        |

| AUDIOLOGY | AREA | PHONE | EMAIL |
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|-----------|------|-------|-------|

|                                       |                              |          |                  |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------|------------------|
| Steve Boney, Ph.D.                    | Rehabilitation Audiology     | 472-5734 | sboney1@unl.edu  |
| T. Newell Decker, Ph.D.               | Aud Physiology/Electrophys.  | 472-5456 | tdecker1@unl.edu |
| Stacie Ray, Au.D.                     | Audiology Clinic             | 472-2075 | sray2@unl.edu    |
| Kelly Wacker, Au.D. -Aud.Clinic Coord | ABR/Amplificat./Otoacous Em. | 472-8824 | kwacker2@unl.edu |

| STAFF | AREA | PHONE | EMAIL |
|-------|------|-------|-------|
|-------|------|-------|-------|

|                    |                                |          |                     |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|----------|---------------------|
| Agena, Andrew      | Technology Coordinator         | 472-1457 | aagen2@unl.edu      |
| Bentz, Mathew      | Computer Specialist            | 472-8890 | mbentz2@unl.edu     |
| Bryant, Kelli      | Medical Billing Specialist     | 472-2068 | kbryant2@unl.edu    |
| Craig, Susan       | Admin Asst/Fin/HR              | 472-5486 | scraig1@unl.edu     |
| England, Jill      | Graduate Programs              | 472-2141 | jengland2@unl.edu   |
| Kubicek, Janice    | Secretary                      | 472-2149 | jkubicek2@unl.edu   |
| Mann, Mimi         | Instructional Technology Asst  | 472-0410 | mmann1@unl.edu      |
| Menard, Heidi      | Staff Secretary                | 472-3956 | hmenard1@unl.edu    |
| Odgers, Marie      | Library Assistant              | 472-6744 | modgers1@unl.edu    |
| Reiners, Evie      | Assistant to the Director      | 472-2145 | ereiners1@unl.edu   |
| Simanek, Gina      | Project Coordinator            | 472-5462 | gsimanek3@unl.edu   |
| Ullman, Cara       | Research Technology Specialist | 472-6542 | cullman1@unl.edu    |
| Windhorst, Lynette | Finance/HR                     | 472-4729 | lwindhorst2@unl.edu |
| Yearsley, Kathleen | Clinic Receptionist/Secretary  | 472-2071 | kyearsley2@unl.edu  |

# STUDENT HONORS



L-R: Toni Morehouse,  
SECD Faculty;  
Ashley Evers,  
Ashley Weishahn,  
Samantha Zickefoose

## Undergraduate women in science

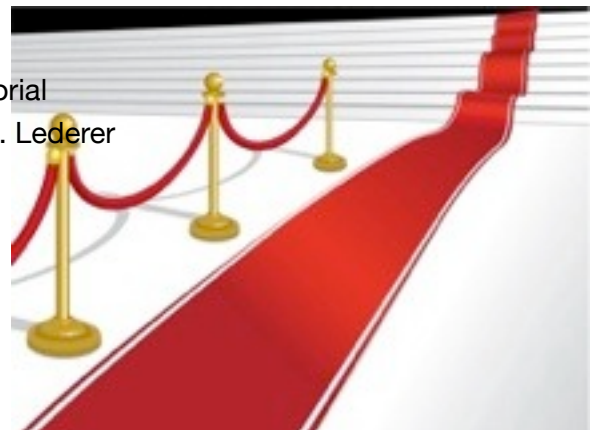
The Center for Science, Mathematics & Computer Education hosted the annual February Forum honoring high achieving undergraduate women in science. Honorees from the Communication Disorders Division for 2009 were seniors Ashley Evers, Ashley Weishahn, and Samantha Zickefoose. Toni Morehouse represented the department at this event.

According to the US News and World Report (March 20, 2009) the UNL Speech-Language Pathology graduate program is ranked 17th in the nation!

# 2008 Scholarship recipients and donors

- Rachel Aguilos - Progressus CAPCSD Therapy Scholarship
- Kylie Belsky – Barkley Memorial Scholarship; University Sertoma Club
- Hannah Ditmars – Bethany Lions Club
- Elyse Donhowe - NSLH Endowment Fund
- Haley Epstein – Barkley Memorial Scholarship
- Elyse Fitzgerald – Barkley Memorial Scholarship
- Michelle Gergen – Lucille Cypreansen Memorial
- Adam Ghoulson – Barkley Audiology Fellowship
- Annie Guenzel – Gateway Sertoma Club
- Lauren Head – University Sertoma Club
- Ambyr Henderson - NSLH Endowment Fund
- Linsey Herbolsheimer – University Sertoma Club
- Melissa Hollevoet – Barkley Audiology Fellowship
- Michelle Holmberg - NSLH Endowment Fund
- Aliza Kottich – Barkley Memorial Scholarship
- Antje Mefferd - NSLH Endowment Fund Research Grant
- Sarah Michael – Irv Deshayes Memorial; Darlene Paap Memorial
- Brett Nikisch – Nuquist Laase Memorial; Nancy K. & David B. Lederer
- Emily Ogden – Gateway Sertoma Club
- Christina Rasmussen – Barkley Audiology Fellowship
- Lauren Schafer – Barkley Memorial Scholarship
- Cara Stoll – Barkley Memorial Scholarship
- Tricia Ternus – Barkley Memorial Scholarship
- Sarah Thober – Hirschbach Scholl Memorial

**“Help us identify potential students and future colleagues. They might end up being on this list in the future!”**



## We'll roll out the red carpet.....

As you are undoubtedly aware, the profession is in dire need of additional speech-language pathologists and audiologists! Please take a moment to consider the people you know who would be a good fit for a career in communication disorders.....high school students who are bright, motivated, and searching for a major.....educators looking for a change.....the sibling of a child with a disability.....a parent who is ready to get a degree now that that kids are in school. We all know people just like this.

On the back page is a form you may use to refer students to our program. We will be happy to contact your referrals and give them the red carpet treatment at the Barkley Memorial Center – and we would love to see you again if you accompany your referral on a visit. Thanks in advance for your help in identifying potential students and future colleagues!

**Referral Form For Potential Students In Communication Disorders**

*Please return to: Evie Reiners, 301 Barkley Memorial Center, Lincoln, NE 68583-0738*

Name of potential student \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to potential student \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Home # \_\_\_\_\_

Name of potential student \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to potential student \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Home # \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Referring Professional \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

*Thanks for the referral!*

**Help Us Update Our Files By Completing This Questionnaire!**

*Please return to: Evie Reiners, 301 Barkley Memorial Center, Lincoln, NE 68583-0738*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Graduation \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Employment \_\_\_\_\_

News You Would Like to Share With \_\_\_\_\_

Others \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Thanks for the information!*

Evie Reiners  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
Department of Special Education & Communication Disorders  
301 Barkley Memorial Center  
PO Box 830738  
Lincoln NE 68583-0738

## Join us on Facebook!

### “Dept of Speech Pathology & Audiology”

The UNL Department of Special Education and Communication Disorders has a group facebook website where current alums or alums-to-be can connect. The site is open to anyone, so potential grad students are encouraged to join in order to get feedback on any facet of our wonderful programs. We welcome you to join!

facebook.com

group name-“Dept of Speech Pathology and Audiology”

**Visit our website!**

**[www.unl.edu/barkley/](http://www.unl.edu/barkley/)**



Barkley Memorial Center

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