

# CommuniCat

January 2014

## BRR...IT'S COLD OUTSIDE

Well, we've made it to another "Spring" term – a little chilly to speak of Spring don't you think?! I certainly hope that you all had a wonderful and joyous holiday season. This edition of the *CommuniCat* reviews a few Fall activities and takes a peek into events planned for the New Year. Several stories are dedicated to unique student events that occurred this Fall. Take a few minutes to learn about: 1) our visitors from the Czech Republic; 2) Lori Frost's presentation about the *Picture Exchange Communication System*; and 3) the severe disabilities program grant "send-off" featuring a "Day with the Experts." There are also articles about the upcoming Cullowhee Conference on Communicative Disorders (March 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>), a new faculty search, and faculty/student activities. This newsletter concludes with a former student reflection titled "A View from the Other Side" that shares the program/professional perceptions of a new graduate.



As always, don't be a stranger. I think I speak for all of our CSD family when I say we love hearing from and seeing you. Hey, don't forget to check out our latest program statistics posted on page 6.

-Bill Ogletree, Department Head



In November, Dr. Ruby Drew presented "Effects of Normal Aging on Cognition, Memory and Language".



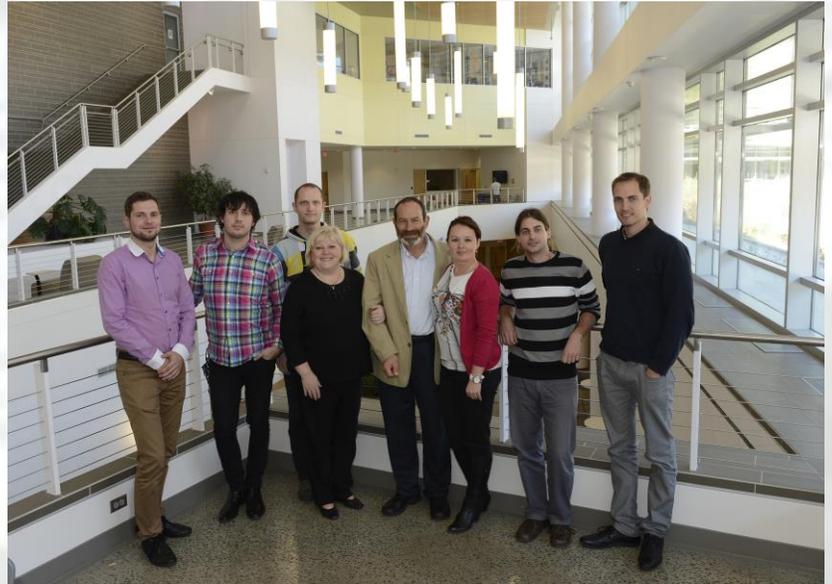
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## FRIENDS FROM LOGO

In November, Dr. David Shapiro hosted seven guests from the Czech Republic for a five-day visit to Cullowhee. The group, representing LOGO, a Czech developmental assessment and treatment center, included several allied health providers. The group's time in Cullowhee followed a WCU visit to LOGO in 2010 when Dr. Shapiro and his students participated in therapeutic activities as a part of an innovative international travel course.

In November, our LOGO guests toured western North Carolina, were interviewed on a local radio show, observed in the Speech and Hearing Clinic, and presented for graduate students and faculty. They also met university personnel including College of Health and Human Science's Dean Doug Keskula and other faculty. During the public presentation to HHS, attendees learned of alternative service delivery strategies and were presented with some "fun" facts about the Czech Republic – its prominence as a beer producer and consumer. Needless to say, the visit was a positive experience for



all. Thanks to Dr. Shapiro for his leadership with this excellent opportunity!!!



## LORI FROST SPEAKS

A little over a year ago, Dr. Bill Ogletree was featured as a speaker for a national ASHA e-conference on the use of partners in AAC interventions. Lori Frost, co-founder of the popular *Picture Exchange Communication System* (PECS) with Dr. Andy Bondy, attended Dr. O's session and offered to speak with WCU students. Well, it took a while, but this November Lori provided a wonderful session for about 40 attendees including WCU students, faculty, and community friends. The presentation provided an overview of PECS and its efficacy and presented broader PECS applications for individuals with disabilities. Lori was gracious enough to answer participant questions following the presentation, allowing for interesting and informative dialogue. The WCU CSD community offers a big thanks to Lori and looks forward to future interactions.

## A SENDOFF GRANT EXPERIENCE

As most readers of the *Communicat* know, WCU CSD recently completed its second US Department of Education personnel preparation grant in severe disabilities and autism. With the grant poised to wrap up in December of 2013, project directors planned and delivered one final grant experience, "A Day with the Experts" on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. The



day-long event featured external speakers who had participated in this or the first CSD grant in severe disabilities (2001-2006). Drs. Nancy Brady, Elizabeth Crais, Ellin Siegel, and Linda Watson all presented 90-minute lectures (via technology) addressing innovative research and practice trends in severe disabilities and autism. Over 20 students and WCU faculty participated in WCU's Health and Human Sciences (HHS) building while three attendees participated through distance technologies from Ohio and Utah. The event was another wonderful learning opportunity for CSD students and program friends.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS: 2014 CULLOWHEE CONFERENCE MARCH 27<sup>TH</sup> & 28<sup>TH</sup>

The 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Cullowhee Conference on Communicative Disorders is scheduled to occur in room 201 of WCU's HHS building this March 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. The event, a regional favorite for continuing education in CSD, will feature a broad range of presentations designed to attract speech-language pathologists, allied health providers, and family members of individuals with communication impairments.

The conference will kick off with a Thursday afternoon presentation by Mr. Perry Flynn. Perry is an Associate Professor in CSD at UNCG and a state consultant in the NC Department of Public Instruction. He plans to present trends in service delivery in the North Carolina Schools. The morning of Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> will include presentations by Drs. Johanna Price, Sandra Jackson, and David Shapiro. Drs. Price and Jackson will share about SLPs' roles in writing instruction while Dr. Shapiro will discuss

innovations in fluency treatment. While Drs. Price and Shapiro are a part of our WCU CSD faculty family, Dr. Jackson is an Associate Professor of CSD at North Carolina Central University. The event will conclude with an afternoon with Dr. Michelle Flippin. Michelle is a new CSD Assistant Professor at Appalachian State University who will present on family involvement in treatment for Autism Spectrum Disorders. Dr. Flippin is the lead author of a recent *AJSLP* article evaluating the effectiveness of the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS). She is particularly interested in the use of fathers in treatment.

The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders is pleased to host a reception at this year's Cullowhee Conference honoring Dr. David

Shapiro, WCU's Madison Professor. Dr. Shapiro and his wife Kay have started a scholarship for graduate students interested in fluency disorders. Look for more on this event in the conference flier.

Please join us for this year's Cullowhee Conference. Look for a mailing soon and feel free to reserve seating now through Dr. Ogletree at [ogletree@wcu.edu](mailto:ogletree@wcu.edu). The conference will be \$55 with an additional \$5 fee for those desiring ASHA CEUs. Checks should be made out to WCU NSSLHA and mailed to Dr. Ogletree at 4121 Little Savannah Road, WCU HHS Building, Room 158 A, WCU, Cullowhee, NC 28723.

## FACULTY AND STUDENT HAPPENINGS

**Dr. Bill Ogletree** will use his spring term to complete a chapter for Drs. Richard Simpson's and Brenda Smith Miles' ProEd text on Autism. He will also continue to organize ASHA's June e-conference on Interprofessional Practice and Severe Disabilities. This event will feature cross-disciplinary solutions to the complex communication needs of persons with severe disabilities.

**Dr. David Shapiro** and students **Perry Fowler** and **Kristin Bragg** published the paper "Catchphrase: A Stuttering Intervention Activity with Unexpected Benefits" for *the International Stuttering Awareness Day Online Conference*. Through this endeavor, Dr. Shapiro and his students had the opportunity to interact with students and professionals around the world while the conference was live (October 1-22, 2013).

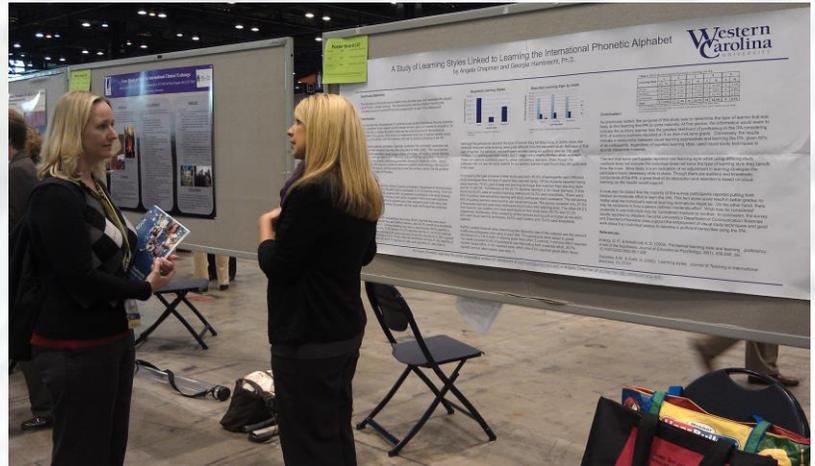
**Dr. Johanna Price** is designing a single-subject research project with **Virginia Weaver**, a junior CSD major, and **Dr. Ogletree**. For this project, this group is developing an intervention program to improve the writing skills of an elementary school student with autism spectrum disorder. Intervention will be implemented during the spring semester.



Ms. Laura Trivette, Ms. Trish Davis, Ms. Lindsay Heim, and Dr. Tracie Rice will start working on a Pre-K clinic for the summer term. This group will also be providing speech and language screenings to local private pre-schools in the early months of the New Year.

Dr. Georgia Hambrecht, Dr. Tracie Rice, Ms. Laura Trivette, and Ms. Trish Davis will continue their research project on leveling students entering the field of CSD.

Ms. Linda Bowers will continue her busy roles with the North Carolina Speech-Language-Hearing Association including a primary responsibility for conference session planning.



Dr. Kimberly Lackey will continue her work with Literacy Camp (LC) and offer her Literacy course as a vehicle to prepare students for LC experiences. Dr. Lackey is also looking forward to a March publication of an article in *Exceptional Children*.

Dr. Leigh Odom is directing or participating on several student theses and providing leadership roles on several college/university committees.

WCU NSSLHA will conduct a spring fundraiser for Full Spectrum Farms, a local non-profit benefitting individuals on the autism spectrum.

## GIFTS THAT KEEP ON GIVING

Don't forget to support the Drew and Shapiro scholarships. Let's get these funded ASAP!

To make donations contact Brent Thomas at [blthomas@email.wcu.edu](mailto:blthomas@email.wcu.edu)



## WE'RE GROWING

This Spring CSD will be interviewing candidates for a new faculty position. Although the search has targeted individuals with interests and expertise in Dysphagia or Voice, all applicants will be considered. CSD program growth is a tangible demonstration of university support and allows us to serve students and the western region of North Carolina more effectively. Keep an eye out for the next edition of the *Communicat* where, hopefully, a new member to our CSD family will be featured.



## A VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDE: PROGRAM AND PROFESSIONAL PERCEPTIONS FROM A NEW GRAD

Greetings from the other side! It has been only a few short weeks since graduation, and the fact that I am actually finished is still sinking in. I am feeling relief to have papers and exams behind me, gratitude for my positive experience at Western, and trepidation/excitement about beginning my clinical fellowship. I am happy to report that I have found a part-time position with Early Learning Partners, a small pediatric practice in Asheville with a special focus on early intervention, autism, and AOS. I will be working with clients aged 0 to 12 in their homes and in school settings and cannot wait to begin putting all I have learned into practice.

When I consider my time at WCU, I realize that what will stick with me for the long haul are the relationships I have built with faculty, fellow students, clients, and community members. Because we tend to be an achievement-focused bunch, it is easy to get bogged down by earning A's. Those of you who know me will understand that I am as guilty of that as anyone. However, the number of points you missed on a test or the grade you got on a particular paper will not be things you'll remember once you graduate. What you will carry with you are the connections you made through your training. Your professors, supervisors, and grad school friends will become colleagues soon enough. Invest in those relationships. Their support will not only get you through the program but may continue to assist you with finding a job, providing therapy ideas for challenging clients, and building your practice through referrals once you're done. In fact, all of my CF prospects stemmed from personal connections I made with other professionals over these past few years.

Wishing you all the best with your studies and careers. You've got this.

Kristina de los Santos

## STUDENT OUTCOME REPORTING DATA

New data from WCU's *Praxis* score reporting indicate that in December of 2013, 6/6 CSD December graduates took and passed the *Praxis*. Data from winter/spring graduates also reveal 100% employment (6/6).