LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

The past year has been remarkable! The students, alumni and faculty of USD CSD put forth extraordinary effort and accomplished extraordinary feats. This issue of the CSD newsletter highlights only a few of the accomplishments of our students, alumni and faculty. Check out page four to see some amazing efforts alumni of our program have undertaken.

The accomplishments of our students, alumni and faculty are a motivator to us. They encourage us to work harder for current and future generations. We would love to hear from you and learn about what you have been doing. I am certain you have been a leader in your area. I hope your time at USD helped to propel you to the successes you have today!

Go Yotes!

Jessica J. Messersmith
Department Chair

Keep up with USD CSD by giving us a like and a follow.

USD Communication Sciences and Disorders
@usd_csd
At this ceremony, students learned about the history of the white coat and were reminded of their scopes of practice. Those in attendance of this Second Annual CSD White Coat Ceremony were fortunate to hear from Catherine Palmer, Ph.D., president-elect of the American Academy of Audiology, about the importance of finding a purpose and finding a passion in the field. They also heard from Lynn Williams, Ph.D., a past member of the ASHA Board of Directors, about advocating for patients at both the personal and legislative level. Jessica Messersmith shared a heart-warming message to students from Kevin and Cathy Teasley, parents of Kali Teasley, who would have walked with her fellow audiology classmates at this ceremony. Kali passed away in February of 2019. She was a beloved member of the CSD department and the audiology Class of 2022.
SAA UPDATE

The Student Academy of Audiology (SAA) is the national student organization of the American Academy of Audiology that serves as a collective voice for students and advances the rights, interests and welfare of students pursuing careers in audiology. The SAA introduces students to lifelong involvement in activities that promote and advance the profession of audiology and provides services, information, education, representation and advocacy for the profession and the public we serve. The USD Chapter of SAA was formed last summer and has hit the ground running. We currently have around 20 graduate and undergraduate members. This semester we have hosted networking events for students and co-hosted an event with the South Dakota School for the Deaf (SDSD). Student members are pictured below enjoying pizza between interacting with children and families involved in SDSD. The event hosted with SDSD was to bring families of children with hearing loss together. In addition, Martha Johnston is the current SSA state representative and has been working to open lines of communication with audiologists in the state. We look forward to planning more events for next semester to benefit our membership, campus and community.

NSSLHA UPDATE

The National Student Speech-Language Hearing Association chapter at USD started off the 2019 fall semester with the Organization Fair. This was a great way to meet new students and spread awareness about NSSLHA. New and old members were then invited to NSSLHA’s Ice Cream Social that kicked off our 2019–2020 school year while welcoming everyone back. Working with different populations of people throughout the community was a goal NSSLHA had coming into this semester. This led to NSSLHA helping at the Sanford Vermillion Care Center every week with activity night and dancing with the residents at their Western Street Dance. Other events that members participated in throughout the semester included Evening with the Stars, the Community Connection 5K, a donation drive, 2019 SDSLHA Conference, Special Olympics Halloween Party, 2019 ASHA conference, Christmas Store event in Yankton and the Vermillion Welcome Table. This year we have seen great involvement and to reward everyone for a great semester NSSLHA held a stress relief night during finals week for all members. All of these events showed us how small acts of kindness can go a long way and we are looking forward to continuing into next semester.
David Alexander, Au.D., CCC-A

This past year has been another busy year for 2015 USD alum David Alexander. David is a clinical assistant professor at Towson University (Maryland), former Army Blackhawk helicopter pilot, and current Army Reserve audiologist. David is also a co-teacher in the Cadet Corps program at Maryland School for the Deaf in Frederick, Maryland.

The Cadet Corps is, to his knowledge, the only military/leadership training program at a School for the Deaf in the country that is taught entirely in American Sign Language. This year, ASHA launched its campaign to recruit more males and minorities into the field, which featured David (https://hearingandspeechcareers.org/). David has continued his volunteer service within ASHA as a board member in the Political Action Committee and the Committee for Leadership Cultivation. At the 2019 ASHA Convention, David was a member of the ASHA Early Career Professional Development Program, featured in the ASHA President’s Opening General Session, conducted two presentations and was an author of one poster.

Megan Sengos, M.A., CCC-SLP

Megan is a 2014 USD SLP graduate. She also received her bachelor’s degree in business marketing from USD in 2006. After working some different jobs without feeling truly fulfilled, she pursued her dream of becoming an SLP and entered USD’s SLP graduate program in 2012. Megan is currently a speech-language pathologist in the Tea Area School District. She travels between two elementary schools, one of which houses an autism program. Megan is passionate about working with the population of individuals on the autism spectrum and she is even a member of the Autism Diagnostic Team within her school district. Megan feels that the most rewarding aspect of her job is helping every student find their voice and watching them become confident in that voice. Megan has enriched her schools with visual aids to assist students with communication. She was the lead organizer of implementing a communication board (featured below) in one of her schools. Looking back on graduate school at USD, Megan feels she successfully made it through due to the camaraderie built between her cohort and the faculty. She was grateful for the opportunity to learn from some of the best.
**Shelly Grinde**, SLP Instructor, was selected as a Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) site visitor. The CAA conducts site visits to programs that have applied for candidacy, initial accreditation or continued accreditation. The CAA’s site visitor pool includes academic faculty, clinical faculty and practitioners, including that of audiologists and speech-language pathologists.

**Lindsey Jorgensen**, associate professor, was elected to be a member of the American Academy of Audiology Board of Directors for the 2019–2022 term. The Board of Directors serves as the academy’s governing body and custodian of the academy’s investments. Jorgensen also recently published a text titled *Hearing Aids for Speech-Language Pathologists* in conjunction with Dr. Gus Meuller and Plural Publishing.

**Mandy Williams**, associate professor, is a co-leader of a National Stuttering Association (NSA) adult support group which meets once a month in Sioux Falls. For more information, email Mandy.J.Williams@usd.edu.

The University of South Dakota Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders is happy to welcome **Jessica Schneider** (left) and **Stacie Carlson** (right). They each offer valuable expertise to the department and its students.

The American Academy of Audiology awarded **Jessica Messersmith**, chair and associate professor, the Marion Downs Pediatric Audiology Award. The award is given to an audiologist for exceptional contributions in pediatric audiology as an educator or mentor, clinician, advocate or scientist. Messersmith will receive the award at the association’s national convention in April.
Changes at Noteboom Hall...

- Bills, Bill, Bills! We were happy to welcome Mandy Drotzmann to the CSD staff in October. She is an accountant assistant and we appreciate all she has done for our department already.
- The YEAR of CouncilEAR! The USD CSD Department has officially immersed itself in the world of electronic medical records, scheduling and communication system. Here’s to innovation and efficiency.
- If you visit Noteboom you may see undergraduate clinicians at work. The CSD Department now offers undergraduate audiology and SLP clinic rotations.

Yep, we still do that...

Change is a good thing, but tradition has a place at Noteboom Hall.

- Students still live, eat and breathe in room 125.
- Pediatric patients still run down the hallways.
- New clinic patients still cannot find the clinic.
- The chair lift still acts up.
- The department STILL works hard to provide the best quality care to patients while giving students a valuable education.

Clinical Outreach Trip to Guatemala Open to Alumni

Join CSD students and faculty for a clinical outreach experience in Guatemala in 2021. We have a limited number of spaces for alumni to join the group traveling from Vermillion during spring break — March 7–14, 2021. The group flies to Guatemala City where we take private transportation to Antigua and on to Santiago Atitlán, home of Adisa (www.adisagt.org/), a program that serves people with disabilities and their families by providing therapy services, adaptive equipment, education and training in the city and the region.

CONTACT

Liz Hanson (elizabeth.hanson@usd.edu) or Jessica Messersmith (jessica.messersmith@usd.edu) for more information.
Support our Department

USD Communication Sciences & Disorders is dedicated to the success of our students and the individuals we serve. Any gift, large or small, can help our program continue this work with our students, clients, and community. To make a gift to the USD Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders, please visit usdfoundation.org/donate/csd or send a check to the USD Foundation using the form below. If you would like to make a gift via phone, please contact the USD Foundation at 800-521-3575. Thank you for supporting our department.

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Thanks for supporting our communication sciences & disorders majors at USD. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!