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2007–2008 Annual Report

School of Communicative Disorders

Mission for the Undergraduate Program in the School of Communicative Disorders

The mission of the undergraduate program in the School of Communicative Disorders at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point is to provide students a liberal education and prepare them to be global citizens. Students develop beginning knowledge and clinical skills in the area of communicative disorders. Upon completion of this pre-professional program, students are eligible to apply to a graduate program leading to a Master of Science Degree in Speech-Language Pathology and/or a Clinical Doctorate in Audiology.

Mission for the Graduate Programs in the School of Communicative Disorders

The mission of the graduate programs in the School of Communicative Disorders at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point is to provide a foundation of professional preparation in speech-language pathology. The program provides students with learning opportunities to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to competently assess and treat individuals with speech, language, hearing, and/or swallowing disorders from diverse backgrounds in a variety of work settings.

National Accreditation

The School of Communicative Disorders has national accreditation from the Council of Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech-Language Association (ASHA). The School of Communicative Disorders is scheduled for a accreditation visit during spring 2009.

The Wisconsin Au.D. Consortium Program has been granted Candidacy status from the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology of the American-Speech-Language Association (ASHA). The Candidacy application for the Au.D. is in the final stages and will be completed by September 2008. At that point, the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology of the American-Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) will review the application and a site visit will be scheduled.

Partnerships

Provides inpatient and outpatient speech-language and swallowing services for St. Michael's Hospital. Over the past year, there has been a steady increase in the number of referrals; because of this, our Department will be providing increased services at St. Michael's.

Provides speech-language and hearing services for preschoolers and children from the Stevens Point Area Public Schools.

Provides hearing diagnostics for the Early Intervention program.

Provides speech-language services to Hospice of Portage County on an as-needed basis.

Provide hearing screening for the Migrant Farm Workers' Program.

Julie King has partnered with Dr. Janelle Cooper, a Neurologist in Oshkosh, in her research on Primary Progressive Aphasia.

Focus on Teaching/Active Learning

The Department continues to work with the Continuing Education Office in the College of Professional Studies in the development of both traditional and online courses specific to the needs of practicing Speech-Language Pathologists.

Pam Terrell joined the faculty this fall and completed her Ph.D. from Louisiana State University during fall semester.

Charlie Osborne was selected to attend a five-day Fluency Workshop in Boston, MA. The Stuttering Foundation sponsored the workshop; only 20 individuals from throughout the U.S. and Canada were selected to attend.

Declared undergraduate majors in COMD have shown a steady increase over the past several years, with approximately 125 declaring COMD as a major.

Pam Terrell and COMD 786-Maxillofacial Disorders graduate students have been attending the monthly Marshfield Clinic's Cleft Palate Clinic. This clinic follows children from birth to 18 who were born with a cleft lip and/or palate. Graduate students shadow a child through the clinic's different specialists: Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology, ENT, Plastic Surgery, Dentist/Orthodontist, and Oral Maxillofacial Surgery. In addition, they also attend the multidisciplinary team's staffing meeting. Students have also had the opportunity to make professional presentations to the Cleft Palate team. This has been a WONDERFUL learning experience for our graduate students.

Leslie Plonsker and Pat Shaw from the School of Education will be presenting this July at the Paris International Conference on Education, Economy, and Society. This presentation is a cross-disciplinary presentation and the title of their presentation is Communication Differences in the Classroom: Implications for Ethnically Diverse Student Teachers.

Gary Cumley will be presenting at the International Society of Augmentative and Alternative Communication in August in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. The title of his presentation is AAC Outcomes: Using Dynamic Screen Devices with Children with Autism.

Student Centered Excellence

Graduate students in Speech-Language Pathology take the national PRAXIS exam and 100 percent of our students passed the exam. The national pass rate for SLP is 75 percent.

Graduate students in Audiology take the national PRAXIS exam and 100 percent of our students passed the exam. The national pass rate for Audiologists is 70 percent.

There continues to be a nationwide shortage of speech-language pathologists and audiologists; our graduate students enjoy a 100 percent employment rate.

Four undergraduate COMD students—Tessa Heckel, Jayna David, Lisa Beth Nysse, and Amanda Rudkin—were recipients of the 2007 Who's Who among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

The following seniors received the Albertson Medallion Award Recipients for 2007-2008 Award: Tessa Heckel, Lisa Beth Nysse, and Jayna David.

Jayna David, a graduating senior in COMD, made the commencement address at the spring graduating ceremony!

Nine students in COMD have earned eligibility for membership in the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. In order to earn eligibility for membership, students with junior standing must rank in the top 7.5 percent, and seniors must rank in the top 10 percent of their class.

Diversity/International

Pam Terrell is developing a study abroad course for our SLP graduate students to go to Honduras and be involved in the International Operation Smile Program. The class would be scheduled during the Winterim.

Community Service

The UWSP National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSSLHA) Chapter continues to do many service projects around the community as well as internationally.

Students have been active in participating in the Holiday Basket Program and have also served dinner at the local Salvation Army center.

They wrote and were awarded a matching Service Grant of \$500 from the National NSSLHA Organization. "Operation Smile" is an international program that provides children from Honduras with cleft lip and/or palate with surgical and Speech-Language Pathology services. The money NSSLHA received will be used to purchase materials to assist an SLP who is working with children with cleft lip and/or palate.

Undergraduate students in COMD 267 provide approximately 400 student volunteer hours each semester at the UWSP Campus Daycare Center.

The Center for Communicative Disorders has served 356 people in the community with speech and language services and 494 with audiology services.

Donna Christensen and Leslie Plonsker have been active professional members of the North Central Wisconsin Laryngectomy Support Group. Member of the support group have been guest speakers in COMD 784 and have shared their experiences concerning communication and swallowing difficulties following their laryngectomy.

Receives referral from the North Central Multiple Dystrophy Association (MDA) from Green Bay for patients with ALS to receive service and equipment from the AAC Equipment Lending Library. In addition, the North Central MDA has developed an ALS Support Group that has met in the COMD Department.

Life and Look of the Campus

COMD's reception area and conference room in the Center for Communicative Disorders has been redecorated after more than 30 years.

COMD has received a UW Lab Modernization grant to replace the clinical video system in the Center. This new digital system will allow supervisors to observe students during their clinical practicum assignments from their offices.

Program Highlights

Because of the steady enrollment in the joint Au.D. program, we have hired a new part-time clinical supervisor, Jane Elliott.

We had 43 applications to the joint Au.D. program. Of that number, we will have 5 new incoming students in the fall and Madison will have 10 new students entering in the fall.

This year we had 93 applications for the graduate SLP program, and we will have 25 new students joining us in the fall. Faculty members made personal contacts with all the students who were in our top tier this fall, and we credit that interaction with giving us one of the strongest incoming classes we have ever had.