

September 1, 2005

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Keep on the look-
out for more
ASHA-approved
continuing educa-
tion opportunities
to be offered this
spring at Platts-
burgh State!

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The Synapse...

making connections with CDS alumni and friends

We ♥ NSSLHA!

The Plattsburgh State chapter of the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association is going strong. In the spring of 2005, fourteen undergraduate students attended the April New York Speech Language Hearing Association Convention in Long Island – funds paid through NSSLHA fundraising

Students helped organize and implement a very successful regional fundraiser for the Cure Autism Now Foundation—an organization dedicated to curing autism. Students individually raised over \$600; they eventually helped raised over \$12,000 during the April 10 CAN Walk in Plattsburgh. The students also had a booth at the event, which provided information to parents and professionals on language development, autism, and the field of speech/language pathology.

NSSLHA students also raised money to donate to Operation Smile. Operation Smile provides surgical repairs for cleft lips and palates in children in developing countries.

Of course NSSLHA members also found time to relax and enjoy each other's company. Bonfires, bowling, and other outings added to the camaraderie. Plans are already underway for an eventful 2005-6.

—by Suzanne Hungerford, Ph.D.



Plattsburgh State undergraduates attend the 2005 New York State Speech Language Hearing Convention in Long Island



NSSLHA members volunteer for the Cure Autism Now Fundraiser.



NSSLHA members have a little R & R with a bonfire.



Patrick Coppens, Ph.D., new Chair of Communication Disorders and Sciences

“Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.”

—Helen Keller

CDS Department’s New Chair

The Communication Disorders and Sciences (CDS) Department has had a change in chairs. Dr. Morgan who served as chair for the past 7 years, declined to be included for nomination in the regular election this past spring. Dr. Coppens was subsequently voted in.

Dr. Coppens earned his Bachelor’s degree, Germanic Linguistics, and his Master’s degree, Neurolinguistics, from the Free University of Brussels, French part and Dutch part respectively. The “free” aspect of the universities refers to a freedom of inquiry, and freedom from domination of state or religion, not free from tuition, as might be misconstrued. Although he originally intended to teach languages as a profession, his interests changed after taking a neurolinguistics course in his senior year. This change in direction did not keep Dr. Coppens from using his undergraduate experience to teach English and Dutch to French speaking children, for 4 years. He

also had a small private practice in speech/language pathology at that time.

Dr. Coppens obtained his Ph.D. in Communication Disorders and Sciences at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. As chance would have it, Dr. Suzanne Hungerford was also attending classes there. They married and were enticed to the North Country through the advertised vacancies in the CDS department.

Dr. Coppens’s vision for the department is to maximize the number and quality of grad students, increase funding opportunities for students, increase exposure of the CDS department, see that the undergraduate writing sequence is effectively completed, and facilitate more research with both faculty and students.

Research is a major interest of Dr. Coppens. At present he is working with ASHA’s Special Interest Division 2 on an evidenced based practice (EBP) project. The goal of the project is to survey professors of neurogenics classes and to

determine how are they presenting EBP. “We hope to distill their experiences of what’s been done, into how to do it effectively.”

An additional project is an expansion of his recent article in the journal *Brain and Language*, “Category-specific Naming Effect in Non-brain-damaged Individuals” (Vol. 94, 2005). Dr. Coppens hopes to generate a good tool to measure naming abilities, and to possibly run more subjects. He also hopes potentially to do research on naming in mild Alzheimer’s, hopefully through writing a grant.

Dr. Coppens has a son, Kevin, age 23 years, who is working on his Masters (in statistics) in the Free University of Brussels, French part. Dr. Coppens enjoys the North Country’s proximity to Burlington and Montreal. He also enjoys “the geography, the mountains, the lake, the overall beauty of the place, the quiet....and the late night bonfires in my back yard.”

—by Katherine Gonyo, MCD,



Welcoming new graduate students at Valcour, Fall 2005

Welcome Back, Dr. Domenico

The Communication Disorders and Sciences (CDS) Department welcomed back Dr. Ray Domenico this year after his years serving in the administration of Plattsburgh State.

Dr. Domenico was instrumental in securing the initial accreditation of the programs in speech-language pathology on this campus. He served as Chair of this department from 1982 to 1992.

Dr. Domenico received his undergraduate education from Northeastern University, where he studied engineering and psychology. While there he took a course in anatomy of the speech and hearing mechanism, and this sparked his interest in speech/language pathology. He then enrolled in the graduate program at Syracuse University where he received his Ph.D. in speech/language pathology in 1974.

Dr. Domenico's interest in the field was also bolstered by his interest in

singing. He studied voice privately with teachers from The New England Conservatory of Music, from Syracuse University's Crouse College of Music, and most recently, from McGill University. Dr. Domenico, a baritone, has sung locally as well as in Boston and Syracuse. He will soon be taking part in a jazz concert with the Plattsburgh Jazz Ensemble on November 18 in Plattsburgh. His interest in professional singing has led him to present papers and workshops on voice and voice pathologies at state and national conferences.

For ten years after receiving his doctorate, Dr. Domenico worked as a speech/language pathologist, and then as Director of Rehabilitation in a Syracuse nursing home. He has continued his interest in nursing home speech/language pathology by working as a consultant to some regional nursing homes.

Dr. Domenico has contributed in many ways to the

Plattsburgh State campus over the years. He has served as: co-director of the Alzheimer's Disease Assistance Center, faculty senator, Associate Dean and Director of the Center for Educational Studies and Services, Assistant VP for Academic Affairs, Director of Retention Programs & Planning, and interim Registrar.

Joanne, Dr. Domenico's wife, is also a speech/language pathologist. She is the Special Service Coordinator of Head Start in Plattsburgh. They have three daughters: Carla, who is a physical therapist and choreographer in North Greenbush, New York; Lindsay, who is a pharmacist in Greensboro, North Carolina; and Andrea, who is a junior at Plattsburgh State studying psychology.

We heartily welcome Dr. Domenico back to the Department of Communication Disorders and Sciences.

— by Suzanne



Ray Domenico, Ph.D.

Kind words do not cost much. Yet they accomplish much.

—Blaise Pascal

Certificate Students: Class of 2005-6

This year we welcome the largest certificate program our department has seen since 1992! Sixteen students with diverse backgrounds in both undergraduate study and professional career, join our current undergraduate students in preparation for graduate work in Communication Disorders and Sciences

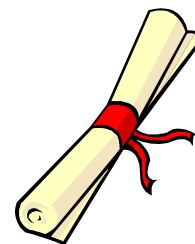
(CDS). Twelve students join us from our state of New York, three from the province of Quebec, and one from the state of Pennsylvania.

The CDS Certificate Program is established for students who currently have a bachelor's degree in a different field, and need CDS undergraduate course-

work required for application to graduate school.

For further information regarding our Certificate Program, please contact Michael Morgan, Ph.D. at 518-564-3066, or michael.morgan@plattsburgh.edu

— by Sharon Macner, M.S., CCC-A



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Our Mailing List!**

Please send us your current mailing address and e-mail address. We want to share information with you about upcoming continuing education activities and changes and accomplishments in the department and college. Please tell your former classmates to send updated information as well! You can send your information to the Communication Disorders and Sciences Department, c/o Mrs. Arlene Sypek:

arlene.sypek@plattsburgh.edu



CDS at work and at play: 2005