

**Mark your calendars! DATE FOR CDS
FALL CONFERENCE: Oct. 19, 2007.
Speaker: Dr. Richard Adler, renowned expert in transgender voice therapy. Register at
www.plattsburghcas.com—click on Conference & Event Services-Upcoming Events.**

Special points of interest:

- CDS students shining very brightly
- CDS appreciation day and professional forum
- Alumni visit
- Auditory and Language Processing Clinic
- Volunteerism in CDS
- Kyea Scholarship sends students to conference
- Graduation 2007

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The Synapse...

making connections with CDS alumni and friends

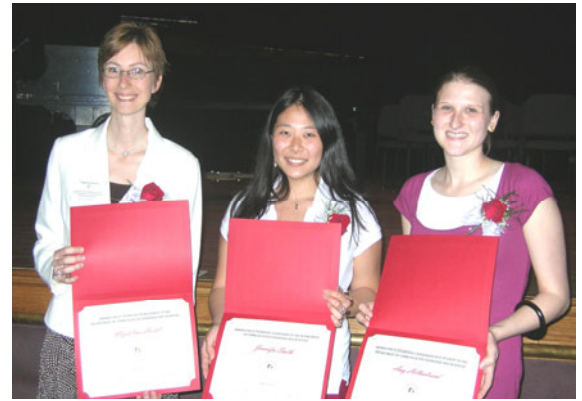
We're So Proud!

Four Communication Disorders and Sciences (CDS) students received awards at the annual awards ceremony of the division of Education Health and Human Services.

CDS graduate student Magdalena Hertel received the Award for Outstanding Achievement which is presented to a CDS student who has demonstrated superior academic and clinical skills during his or her graduate studies.

The Award for Outstanding Leadership was presented to graduate student Jennifer Smith. This award is presented to a student in the CDS graduate program who has demonstrated superior leadership qualities among peers and among the faculty.

Undergraduate CDS student Amy Hillenbrand received the Award for Out-



CDS students Magdalena Hertel, Jennifer Smith, and Amy Hillenbrand receive awards at the Education Health and Human Services Awards Ceremony, May, 2007.

standing Undergraduate student which is presented to an outstanding senior who makes a contribution to the college/society in addition to having a superior grade point average.

Kristen Buck, an undergraduate CDS student, was one of five Plattsburgh State

students awarded the Chancellor Award for Student Excellence.

We are proud to call these students "our own." Congratulations, CDS students!

—SMH



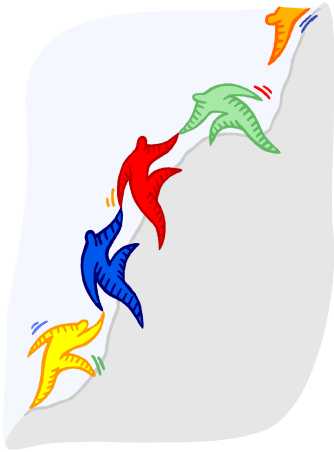
Kristen Buck receives Chancellor's Award

"Where ALL the Children Are Above Average..."

Plattsburgh State CDS students are well above average (but you already knew that)! Our graduate students are making superior scores on the PRAXIS exam—the national exam for new speech-language pathologists, and an essential component of the ASHA certification process.

The PRAXIS measures knowledge of communication processes, phonological and language disorders, speech disorders, neurogenic disorders, audiology/hearing, clinical management, psychometrics, research, and professional issues. CDS students' average score for 2006 was

711, and in 2007 it was 706. In *each* category assessed, Plattsburgh State CDS students were above the national average as well as above the state average (based on 2006 scores; 2007 comparison scores not yet available). Congratulations to the hard-working CDS students! —SMH



Thanks to our off-campus supervisors!

CDS Hosts Professional Forum

A professional forum was held at the Valcour conference center on April 20, 2007. Area speech-language pathologists (SLPs), faculty from the CDS department, and students from both the undergraduate and graduate programs all converged on the first sunny Friday of spring. The event was organized by Dr. Ray Domenico and the CDS Public Relations Committee.

The meeting began with a continental breakfast. Friends, colleagues, alumni, supervisors, and professors played “catch up” while consuming muffins, pastries, coffee, tea, or juice. In the morning, local SLPs and CDS staff were introduced to all by their table partners. Some had additional information to share such as length of time working at various agencies, or how large their caseloads were. Next, Nancy Allen, Clinic Director at PSUC Speech and Hearing Center, informed the area SLPs of new ASHA standards. She also questioned the SLPs about how the CDS department could better serve them. Some suggestions included having summer services available, having evening fluency groups, having professors speak on district Superintendent’s Day – both to SLPs about various specialized areas, and also to the school staff, and providing additional continuing education opportunities. The CDS department acknowledged that the SLPs in the community provide some exceptional experiences for the students such as: classroom management techniques, a diverse population, and large group

therapy models.

Following the morning exchange of information, Dr. Suzanne Hungerford gave a presentation on The Role of Emotion in Communication Disorders (approved for ASHA Continuing Education Units). This presentation provided the audience with a philosophical discussion about how emotion impacts communication. She detailed the link between the limbic system and the motor speech area of the brain, and shared specific cases where clients were experiencing

conversion disorders characterized by aphonia and disfluency. Selective mutism was also discussed. The informative presentation lasted one hour, at which time grad and undergraduate students were asked to join the group. Lunch of pizza, salad, brownies, and various cookies was served.

The afternoon consisted of CDS alumni Challis and Chris Crema giving a talk about their jobs as traveling



SLPs, and also of area SLPs at their jobs. All described their caseloads and other aspects of their jobs.

Students asked questions, including what various salaries were, and when did SLPs find time to complete their paperwork. The forum was over by 4:00 and all exited to enjoy what remained of a most perfect beautiful sunny day.

—KG

Alumni Report

Rob Saltzman, M.A., CCC-SLP, 2003 CDS graduate, and Lisa N. Erwin-Davidson, M.S., CCC-SLP, discussed Clinical Fellowships and working as speech-language pathologists (SLPs) at North Country Health System, Newport VT on Feb. 23, 2007. Rob and Lisa (Rob's clinical fellowship supervisor) were 2 of 3 SLPs serving clients in a hospital, homes, schools, and nursing homes through this rural facility.

Rob was hired for a clinical fellowship position and afterward continued working as an SLP. Rob said he was lucky to have a good supervisor, Lisa Erwin-Davidson, who was both supportive and informative. Rob emphasized the need to be "open" with your supervisor. Lisa said how important it was to get your CF supervisor to spend required amounts of time with you during your fellowship year adding, "ASHA provides a model which is downloadable." Rob advised, "A lot of time & effort must go into doing a good CFY."

Medicaid billing, insurance requirements, and having to speak with professionals, were all responsibilities that Rob felt took a good deal of time. "You have to have good communication skills," Rob stressed, adding that his first phone call to a physician was difficult.

On Mondays and Thursdays, Rob could see clients in ICU and then follow the same clients to transitional care. On remaining days he was at Derby Elementary school as a consultant. The days passed quickly with no time for paperwork.

Rob said his position was intense. "It's about a real person. It is important to do the follow up and discharge notes." Rob stressed the use of evidence based therapy.

Questions from the audience of students and faculty included:

Q: Did Rob see children as out-patients? A: yes

Q: Did he have any bilingual challenges? A: Some Mexi-

can farm workers, but usually they spoke English too.

Q: Did he work with any groups? A: One TBI group and school groups

Q: What did he do if he had a client he didn't think he could help. A: I hit the books!

(Lisa Erwin Davidson added: "Sometimes you educate the family and send them to other professionals – to get community based services.")

Q: How was it working with speech assistants? A: Sometimes the schools required them to do more than they (the assistants) were qualified to do, which posed some problems.

Q: When did Rob do the paperwork? A: At night.

And the clincher...

Q: If it was frustrating, with low pay and long hours, what was the positive? A: "I absolutely love what I do. I like learning more." Ms. Erwin-Davidson added, "You're never bored, never bored!"

—KG



Rob Saltzman, M.A., CCC-SLP

"Prevention of communication disorders requires some adjustment in the traditional focus of professional practice in speech-language pathology and audiology."

—ASHA

An ASHA Mandate: Prevention of Communication Disorders

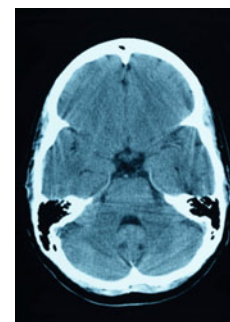
Did you know that *prevention* of communication disorders is considered to be one of ASHA members' charges? A 1987 Position Statement by ASHA states that speech-language pathologists and audiologists should "play a significant role in the development and application of prevention strategies" in addition to the traditional work they do in the areas of assessment and treatment of communication disorders. According to ASHA, "prevention of communication disorders requires

some adjustment in the traditional focus of professional practice in speech-language pathology and audiology." ASHA has documents regarding prevention of dysphagia, hearing loss, and voice disorders, as well as a tutorial on prevention, found here: <http://www.asha.org/members/slp/clinical/prevention/default-prev>

The tutorial reviews many of the risk factors for communication disorders, including stroke, alcohol and drug abuse, motor vehicle accidents, poor nutrition, perinatal

infections, premature birth, genetic risks, and noise exposure.

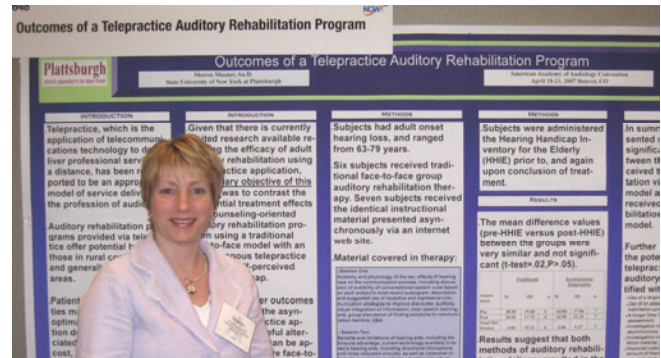
What can speech-language pathologists and audiologists do to promote prevention? ASHA suggests we gain understanding of important risk factors for communication disorder, educate the public and our peers about prevention, provide early identification and intervention, work to minimize environmental and biological risks, and promote research in prevention. See ASHA.org for more informa-



Prevention of communication disorders includes reducing risk factors for stroke and brain injury.

Sharon Macner Presents

In May, 2007, CDS faculty member Sharon Macner, Au.D., presented a poster at the American Academy of Audiology (AAA) meeting in Denver. Her poster was entitled Outcomes of a Telepractice Auditory Rehabilitation Program. The American Academy of Audiology is the world's largest association for the practice of audiology and has over 10,000 members.



Listening and understanding are multifactorial skills.

CDS's Auditory and Language Processing Clinic

The Auditory and Language Processing clinic is a interdisciplinary endeavor for the assessment of auditory and language processing disorders. Research shows that listening and understanding are skills that are dependent on many factors including central auditory processing, language skill, and attention. Because of the multifactorial nature of auditory/language processing, the Plattsburgh State's Speech and Hearing Clinic includes a interdisciplinary assessment clinic for these disorders. These multi-day assessments involve evaluations by students and faculty in Communication

Disorders and Sciences as well as in Psychology. Suzanne Hungerford, Ph.D. and Katherine Gonyo, M.C.D. and their graduate students assess language and language processing. Sharon Macner, Au.D. and Priscilla Douglas, M.S., and their students assess hearing and auditory processing. Laci Charette, Ph.D., Jeanne Ryan, Ph.D., and their students from Psychology assess cognition and attention. Dr. Taher Zandi from Psychology has also acted as a consultant in these assessments. The results are a holistic view of an individual who has difficulty understanding and processing information.

Individuals assessed typically are school-age children who have difficulty understanding and learning in the classroom, show restlessness in listening situations, respond inconsistently to auditory stimuli, are frustrated or have poor self-esteem, and have language, reading, or spelling difficulties.

The interdisciplinary assessments result in recommendations for schools and parents to follow. These involve direct therapy methods as well as environmental modifications. The clinic has also fostered several research studies which are elucidating variables involved in success-

Celebrating Seniors

The CDS hosted a reception for graduating seniors on May 11 in the department. Students' families and faculty gathered to wish the graduates well. Pictured at right (back row) Dr. Roberta Wacker-Mundy, Mrs. Bea Gonyo, Dr. Patrick Coppens, Dr. Suzanne Hungerford, (front row standing) Ms. Nancy Allen, Lauren Mul-

vaugh, Erin Dubray, Sasha Ramlochan, Amy Hillenbrand, (front row seated) Chantelle Bombardier with her son.

—SMH



CDS Students Contribute to Community

CDS students are a strong force in our community. All students, including those in the Plattsburgh State chapter of the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) are involved in worthy causes that benefit the community and the region.

In December, NSSLHA students, along with CDS Chair Dr. Patrick Coppens, volunteered to answer phones for a Public Television fundraiser in Plattsburgh. NSSLHA President, Sasha Ramlochan even got to be on TV—she took the opportunity to extol the virtues of being a student of speech-language pathology!

In February, CDS students attended the Health Fair in Plattsburgh. They handed out information on speech, language, and hearing; talked to the press, and entertained children and families.

In April, NSSLHA students got up at the crack of dawn to drive to Vermont to volunteer with Special Olympics which took place at the University of Vermont.

In May, graduate and undergraduate students, along

with CDS faculty Nancy Allen and Suzanne Hungerford, attended the Autism Awareness Walk on the Plattsburgh Oval. This year the Autism Awareness Walk in Plattsburgh raised an astounding \$20,000. Our students have been a strong force for this fundraiser since its inception.

The spirit of volunteerism is going strong in CDS.



Students volunteer at the Health Fair, above. Below, and to the right, students participate in the Autism Awareness Walk, 2007.



—SMH



Kyea Scholarship Sends Students to NYSSLHA

The Michael Kyea Memorial Fund was generously created by Gail Kyea in memory of her son, with funds donated by friends, family, and PSU alumni. This spring, four memorial scholarships were awarded to CDS graduate students to attend the New York State Speech-Language-Hearing Convention in Buffalo, NY in April 2007.

Thanks to the Michael Kyea Memorial Fund, Jennifer Smith, Erin Cleary, Debbie Frederick, and Kate Foster were able to enhance their knowledge of the field by attending numerous presentations on a variety of topics. The students found the experience very rewarding.



—SMH



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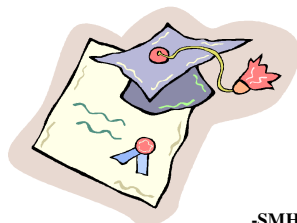


Graduation Day, 2007

Graduation Celebration for Masters' Students

The annual graduation celebration for our Master's Degree students took place at Valcour Conference Center. Proud families, graduating students, faculty, and staff were all there to celebrate the accomplishments and bright futures of our students.

Dr. Wacker-Mundy and Ms. Cindy Conners presented individual awards to each student. Dr. Coppens presented Jennifer Smith with the Peer Recognition Award. Graduating students presented the department with a gift, and first-year graduate students gave a gift and a touching multi-media tribute to the graduating second-year grads.



-SMH



Good luck, grads!

