Sandy Tremblay is a client at the Plattsburgh State University Speech and Hearing Clinic. She has made such tremendous progress since she first started receiving services that this will probably be her last semester. She is endlessly thankful for the exemplary services she has received here and has recently donated $500 to the clinic as a gesture of her appreciation.

Sandy has seen particular benefit in the use of digital recorders during her therapy sessions and has asked that some of the money go toward purchasing more digital recorders. These recorders are used to help find MLU measurements. They also allow speech recordings to be played back for clients to hear, which helps them to self correct.

The staff and students of the Plattsburgh State University Speech and Hearing Clinic are very grateful for Sandy’s generous donation. New therapy tools can be costly therefore this money will certainly be put to good use.

Sandy often writes her own poetry and reads it out loud to practice what she is learning in therapy. As a thank you, we have published one of her poems along with this article.

MORNING GLORY
BY SANDY TREMBLAY

It’s a new day and the sun has risen.
There is youth among the stars.
The earth humbles herself before her creator.
All of creation bows in submission to her.
And all are blessed by her glory.
Eternity moves along as we praise
The bright morning star.

PAYING IT FORWARD!
BY JACKIE SMITH
As the semester comes to a close, the minds of the students in the Communication Disorders and Sciences department are filled with phonetic symbols, the names of the three bones in the human ear, and descriptions of various phonological processes. Accompanying the information necessary for our final projects and tests, are the memories of our time here at SUNY Plattsburgh and the friends and faculty that we will never forget. Specifically, NSSLHA has been an important part of my experience as a student at Plattsburgh State and I am proud of what our organization has accomplished thus far.

This year alone NSSLHA has made over $500 in fundraising for the Clinical Scholarship Fund. The fund supports individuals in need of financial assistance in order to receive speech and/or hearing services at the Plattsburgh State Speech and Hearing Clinic. As an organization, NSSLHA has offered face painting at the mall, hosted various spring semester social events including a special showing of The King’s Speech, held a spring picnic, and had over fifteen members carry on the tradition of volunteering at the Special Olympics in Vermont on April 30. NSSLHA members will also be taking advantage of an opportunity to hear Temple Grandin speak in Albany in May. Plattsburgh's Chapter of NSSLHA will be represented at the upcoming New York State Speech Language Hearing Association (NYSSLHA) Convention in May. The NYSSLHA Undergraduate Student Representative, Angelina Pascarella, and myself, will be taking part in a leadership panel and discussion at the convention in addition to serving as volunteers.

The reins are now being passed to current vice president, Catie Forney, who will take on the role of president in the fall. She will be supported by the new vice president Kaila Nicholson, secretary Leah Valensi, treasurer Kyleigh Fountain, and undergraduate student representatives Alex Gartner and Karissa Rotunno.

I know that each of you will uphold the integrity of the impressive organization that NSSLHA has become and expand upon the traditions that we have created. I would like to wish all of my fellow classmates, particularly graduating seniors, the best of luck in their future endeavors!

PHENOMENAL WOMAN AWARD WINNER

Alesa Lehnhardt was recently recognized for her academic achievements and community contributions during a campus-wide reception honoring ‘Phenomenal Women’. Alesa is currently a senior majoring in Communication Disorders & Sciences here at Plattsburgh State University.

Alesa is not only a stellar student and member of two honor societies, she has made significant contributions to her university and community as well. As an officer in Plattsburgh’s chapter of the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association, Alesa has steadfastly supported club efforts to raise awareness of communication disorders and to raise funds for individuals in our community who require assessment or therapy for communication disorders. She always shows initiative and leadership in her role as a club officer.

Congratulations to a truly phenomenal woman!
**TRANSITIONS**

The Plattsburgh State Speech & Hearing Center/Communication Disorders & Sciences Department welcomed a new face in late November. Cristine Fiore, our office manager for the past several years, transferred to a position in the PSU library. Though we were sad to see her go, her replacement has proved to be another valuable asset to our department.

Donna Gadue joined us after working in maintenance and operations, managing the fleet of rental vans for the past several years. She was eager to jump into a position that allowed her to interact more with students and the public.

Donna was excited to face the challenges of our very busy and unique department. However, it is apparent that the maintenance and operations folks miss her dearly. Donna takes advantage of her frequent visitors and puts them to work on any facilities issues we have in our clinic. This is certainly a bonus for our department and our patients!

Donna has said that she finds every aspect of her position here rewarding and that she is grateful to have the chance to work with us. We are certainly lucky to have her!

We wish both Cristine & Donna good luck in their new endeavors!!!

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*Cristine Fiore*

*Donna Gadue*
CONFERENCE UPDATES

There is no shortage of scholarly pursuits or continuing education opportunities here at PSU!

In November, a poster titled “Identifying discrepancies between on-campus student preparation and externship school experiences” was presented by Patrick Coppens, Suzanne Hungerford, and Nancy D. Allen. The examination of this important issue was well received by attendees at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Convention.

In April, the continuing education committee at Plattsburgh State hosted a presentation by Janet Patterson, Ph.D.. Dr. Patterson’s presentation was titled “Aphasia treatment: Evidenced-based practice and the state of the evidence.”

Another great opportunity for local professionals to earn continuing education credit is coming up in October. Our annual conference will be held on October 17, 2011. This full day workshop will feature Sara Ward speaking on executive dysfunction in children. Remember that Plattsburgh State University is an ASHA continuing education provider and our events meet requirements for CEU credit!

Save the date:
Our annual conference will be held on October 17, 2011