Congratulations the Graduated Class of 2017!
President: Ellen Wynn

I completed my undergraduate degree at Indiana University. My favorite parts of the graduate program have been working with our awesome clients in the STEPSS program and the Detroit Medical Center preceptorship. I hope to work with adults in an acute care setting after graduation.

Co-Vice President: Dragana Vuletic

I love being part of the CSD Department, and giving back by being on the WSSLHA Executive Committee. Everyone is so friendly and helpful! I am looking forward to my internship at the Children’s Hospital of Michigan, as I hope to work in a pediatric healthcare setting.

Co-Vice President: Morgan Kopietz

I received my undergraduate degree from Michigan State University in Spanish with a minor in Communicative Sciences and Disorders. I have always had a love for language in addition to helping people, so I knew speech language pathology was the career for me. I want to work with children. My favorite placement was at DMC’s Pediatric Specialty Center.

Secretary: Kristen Menapace

My favorite class topics so far have been cleft palates in infants, dysphagia (endoscopy), and children’s typical language development. After graduation, I want to work with children! I really enjoy traveling and being outdoors. I live a healthy lifestyle and love to be active!

Co-historian: Britt Chisholm

I earned my undergraduate degree and also a minor in Spanish at Wayne State University. My favorite clinical rotations include Mary’s Children Family Center and also inpatient care at the Detroit Medical Center RIM. My goal as a future Speech-Language Pathologist is to work either in adult inpatient rehabilitation or acute care.
WSSLHA EXECUTIVE BOARD continued...

Co-historian: Abby Mejia

I earned my undergraduate degree in Speech-Language Pathology from Calvin College. My favorite clinical placements thus far have been Mary’s Children Family Center and Head Start. I love kayaking, ice cream, and my dog, Roscoe. After graduation I plan to work with kids either in a school or outpatient setting.

Co-Student Representative: Cristy Starkweather

I’m excited to embark on a second career after taking time off for family. My strongest clinical interests are in the areas of dysphagia and head and neck cancer, but I’m always open to new experiences, since life is a journey. When I’m not studying for classes or planning therapy sessions, I’m driving my own two boys to multiple sporting events!

Co-Student Representative: Amber Aschwanden

I completed my bachelors at University of Michigan and then did the post-bachelor program at Wayne State. My favorite part of the program is the variety of clinical placements. After graduation, I want to work with adult clients in either an outpatient or medical setting.

Crayon Donations

The first year graduate class participated in a fundraiser held by Woodside Bible Church to collect crayons for Royal Oak Beaumont Hospital.

In this hospital setting, boxes of crayons cannot be shared between patients and must be thrown out after they are used. We were happy to participate in this fundraiser to support pediatric patients.
The Parent Education Program (PEP) is a rotation for graduate students through Wayne State University’s Speech Language Pathology Graduate Program, and is seen as the parent/guardian education component of the Out Patient Clinic at Wayne State. With an inception close to a year ago, parents and clinicians are already seeing the benefits.

For Graduate Clinicians, the PEP program is invaluable. After graduation, employers agree, new clinicians aren’t developed enough in conversing with parents about their child’s disorder, therapy approaches, test scores etc. This rotation offers experience developing the aforementioned skills, as well as gaining a new perspective on the how and why of therapy after having implemented therapy in the Out Patient Clinic the prior semester.

Within the parent education portion of the program, Graduate students lead weekly meetings covering a variety of topics in order to educate, empower, and provide parents the skills to work with their children when at home. Although less of a didactic structure, compared to that of a discussion based approach, is discouraged, the pre-selected topics covered within the meetings are as follows: introduction to speech and language disorders, formal and informal testing, resource round-up, and understanding an IEP and IDEA. The clinicians also provide push-in support in order to assist parents in understanding their child’s therapy program. All Graduate Clinicians in the PEP program have completed the Out Patient Clinic and thus have the experience of a parent pushing-in to their sessions. The PEP Clinicians understand the types of questions the parents might have and the feedback they could receive once they work with their child in the session.

Prior to the parent education program, the actuality of parents pushing in to their child’s sessions, let alone observing them within session, was nonexistent. Now, parents new to Wayne State’s Out Patient Clinic are required to attend the PEP program for the first two semesters their child is in attendance at the clinic. Even with the new requirement, the feedback, in relation to the educational meetings and participation in the therapy sessions, reflects the parents’ understanding of the importance of their involvement. In response to a satisfaction survey given at the end of each semester, the mother of a boy who originally had less than fifty words in his repertoire relayed that the opportunity “to observe techniques/methods that clinicians have used had really helped me to learn new things and also reflection on what I do at home.” She also reported that her son “has made immense progress” and the number of words and sentences he uses now has multiplied compared to when he first started. The parents and guardians see a direct relation to their child’s prognosis and their involvement in the therapeutic process.

The PEP program runs in the Fall, Winter, and Spring/Summer semesters on Mondays and Wednesday from 4:00 -7:00 p.m.

If you would like more information, please contact the Director of the WSU Speech-Language Pathology Clinics at 313-577-6292.
STUDENT CLINICIANS

Fall 2017 Outpatient, STEPPS, and Head Start Teams

Clinic Days!

Pictured Left: Vanessa Duri, Leah Greer, Maria Gabrielli, Addison Price, Jillian Unis, Rachael Marchionda

Below: Morgan Kopietz, Abby Mejia, Alexa Noyes

Kaitlyn Pipp, Erica Podsaidly, Kristen Becker, Brennae Bilinski, Stephanie Carlson, Dragana Vuletic, Alyssa Mocny, Lexi Barman, Kelly Quinn, Ellen Wynn
A sizeable number of graduate and undergraduate students attended the Michigan Speech-Language Hearing annual convention. Many students from Wayne State University contributed their time and energy as volunteers. The conference offered a wide selection of experts and topics current to the field of Speech-Language Pathology, and explored the impact of communication disorders across the lifespan. This was an excellent chance for our class to mingle with other professionals, and gain knowledge that applies to our clinical rotations and interests. Many students and faculty attended the morning and afternoon seminars to hear international expert Dr. Yaruss speak on Stuttering. It was a pleasure to hear him discuss his work in person. As first-year graduate students, we felt well-prepared for the seminar, having been previously exposed to his work through Dr. Daniels’ class instruction.

Many students attended seminars relevant to their career progression. For those already in graduate school, it was helpful to hear others share about resume tips, Praxis preparation, internship and Clinical Fellowship advice geared towards the next several years. For those still applying to graduate school, a seminar offered helpful suggestions on how to seek relevant volunteer experience, craft an application, and write a personal statement. Poster sessions in the evening offered latest research findings along with a chance to socialize.

For many, meals were opportunities for connecting with previous supervisors and mentors in the field, or taking time to catch up with classmates and dialog about seminar content. We enjoyed seeing Mrs. Beardsley, Mrs. Lieming, Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Hardy-Smith and Dr. Daniels engage with one another during seminars. It was a good reminder that despite many years of clinical experience and a high level of academic knowledge, one can always continue to grow. Dr. Greenwald was one of several presenters, along with PhD students Brynja Davis, and Whitney Neal, as well as Lauren Garrisi, a WSU alumni and Dr. Ching-I Lu, Adjunct Faculty.

Several undergraduate students volunteered their time alongside Mrs. O’Leary to assist the Michigan Speech-Language Hearing Foundation in raising scholarship funds for students. We are fortunate to have our own Dr. Daniels and Mrs. Hardy-Smith involved on the board of the Foundation as well, demonstrating their ongoing commitment to supporting excellence in the profession.
Students celebrated the end of their first semester and also the Holiday Season!
March Madness Bracket Fundraiser
By: Morgan Kopietz

The graduate class of 2018 organized and participated in a March Madness fundraiser this past year. March Madness is a competition that takes place every year with the best college basketball teams in the country. It was a unique and exciting fundraiser as participants were able to bet on which team they thought would win the championship. The surprising upsets kept people on their toes as underdogs continued to be victorious. In the end, The North Carolina Tar Heels triumphed over Gonzaga in the championship game, winning the NCAA Men’s Basketball Title. Overall, the fundraiser was a huge success as the graduate class raised over $900 and even the director of their program, Mrs. O’Leary, participated!

WSSLHA welcomed Springtime at a Tiger’s Game!
Kopp Lecture

By: Kristen Becker

We were honored to have Dr. Ruth Stoeckel, Ph.D. CCC-SLP from the Mayo Clinic deliver our Kopp Lecture this year. On April 21, 2017, current WSU speech and language students, WSU alumni, as well as a number of practicing SLP's gathered to hear Dr. Stoeckel present a lecture on “Motor Speech Disorders: Clinical Thinking About Treatment and Including Caregivers in Treatment”. Her many years of experience treating children with motor speech disorders made Dr. Stoeckel an excellent candidate to present on this topic. Despite having a broken arm, she gave a clear presentation containing practical information that we could implement in our therapy right away.

The informative lecture began with Dr. Stoeckel defining and describing key characteristics of Motor Speech Disorders for both children and adults. She differentiated apraxia, a motor planning and programming disorder, from dysarthria, an execution-based disorder, reminding clinicians that there are specific intervention techniques for each disorder.

She emphasized “communication (as) the primary goal” when treating patients rather than focusing only on “speech”. She argued that focusing on the patient’s communication allows for more individualized treatment plans. It is important to view the treatment of speech as being more than just motor-linguistically based. There is also a cognitive component to keep in mind. As she pointed out, “Communication is always cognitive.” Utilizing the patient’s cognition is vital in therapy. Involving the patient in the goal setting and involving the caregiver in a client’s treatment were important “take-aways” from the lecture.

As Dr. Stoeckel discussed specific aspects of apraxia and dysarthria treatment she had us contemplate these two questions: “How do we include individuals?” and “How do we include caregivers?” Allowing the individual and the caregivers to have input in therapy provides more motivation and maximizes the potential for progress.
Clinic has been a challenging yet eye opening experience for me. I have had the opportunity to treat and get to know a variety of people in a variety of age groups. My client’s have given me the opportunity to grow so much as a clinician through diagnosis and treatment. They have also allowed me the opportunity to grow in my ability to show compassion, learn how to be an advocate, learn how to take the melancholy of a situation and turn it into motivation for therapy, and I am continually reminded that I am treating a person not just a problem. My experiences in clinic will stay with me forever because they are the foundation of my journey in becoming an SLP. I am blessed to have worked with each client, fellow classmate, and supervisor I have had. Thank you all for helping me continue to grow into a confident future clinician.

Thank you,
Rachael Loscher
Looking ahead:

The graduate class is hard at work planning mentoring sessions for the incoming first year graduate students. Being on the receiving end of this mentoring last year was incredibly helpful and eased our fears about transitioning into graduate school and clinic. We look forward to providing similar resources and tips to the incoming class and hope that the information will do the same for them.

WSSLHA will again be participating in the Motor City Walk for Apraxia on Saturday, August 26 in Taylor, MI. We look forward to raising awareness about Childhood Apraxia of Speech and hope that you will consider joining our team! If you are interested in joining our team, simply visit the website for the Motor City Walk for Apraxia and click "Join an Existing Team." We are registered under the name "Team WSSLHA." We hope to see you there!