Welcome to Issue One

Welcome to the first issue of Wayne State University's Speech-Language and Hearing Association's monthly newsletter.

WSU's Communication Science and Disorders program is filled with fascinating and vibrant individuals. Each has their own story - their own vital passion - for wanting to be a part of such an altruistic profession.

In this first issue and in every issue going forward, we will recap the projects that the Fundraising, Social and Community Service Groups have put together over the last month and what is currently being planned for the future.

Each issue will also contain student and faculty spotlights. What are their stories? What makes them who they are?

This format will also continually evolve. No topic will be beyond its scope. How do we want our time as students at WSU to be remembered? Can we be the difference-makers we aspire to be? The stories we capture here will be just a small kernel of our legacy to the program.

Every student and faculty member is encouraged to actively participate in this endeavor. Let's create something memorable.

Self identification is manifested through communication. How do we want to be identified?
Social Events

During a successful pizza party in the fall, many Undergraduate and Post-Bachelor students met for the first time outside of class. More activities have been planned, so mark them down as they are announced.

On Sunday March 30th, WSSLHA hockey fans will cheer the Detroit Red Wings on to victory as they take on the Nashville Predators. Go Wings!

If you enjoy a good breakfast to start your day, keep your Wednesdays open as the social committee hopes to enjoy breakfast with you at the Olympic Grill. Breakfast will be served at 8:30. Stay tuned!

Community Service

Adopt-A-Classroom Success!

During the December WSSLHA meeting, student members donated $90 to the Adopt-A-Classroom Foundation. $45 was given to two SLP’s in the Detroit Public School System. In January, office supply retailer OfficeMax matched the donation to each SLP.

Scarf Making for Underprivileged Children. On January 24, WSSLHA members gathered together at State Hall to make scarves for disadvantaged children in the two Adopt-A-Classroom schools. Thanks for the help!

Toys were donated during the holidays to Orchard’s Children’s Services. Thank you to all who participated!

And finally, donations were made to the YWCA Interim House. The drive was organized by Kathy Yanich and Angela Armstead. Supplies accrued included toothpaste, soap, shampoo and other daily necessities.

Fundraising

Flower Sale!!

We are tentatively planning a flower bulb sale through Frankenmuth Fundraising. The sale is part of their “Art in Nature” brochure. Sales will begin Wednesday February 27th and will continue until March 19th with delivery occurring on or about April 2nd.

Contact: Katie Miller. Email is: ax3115@wayne.edu

Many more ideas are coming in the March Communicator so stay tuned!
Katie Miller is one of us. She may have come to WSU by way of Michigan State, but we’ll take this spunky Spartan with the infectious smile and glowing personality as someone truly unique to the Warrior Family of the CSD Program…

**Name, age and hometown?** My full name is Kathryn Lynn-Dubay Miller. (I chose to hyphenate my middle name when I got married.) Most people call me Katie. I’m 24 years old. My hometown is Saginaw, Michigan, but I currently live in Novi, Michigan.

**Are you married?** I have been married for 3 years, no kids yet.

**Academic History?** I am a post-bachelor student. My undergraduate degree is in psychology. I graduated from Michigan State University in December of 2004.

**What is your intended focus?** I haven’t decided what I want to focus on yet. I thought that I wanted to work in the school setting, but I’m finding that I’m intrigued by clinical and hospital work, so I want to do a bit more searching and observing before I decide. I think I want to work with little kids though.

**What movie or book character do you best identify with and why?** I think I best identify with Stargirl Caraway from Jerry Spinelli’s book Stargirl because she is a character that isn’t afraid to be different from the norm. She’s thoughtful and caring to her peers and generally has a bright personality. I find much value in being myself and having a positive outlook on life.

**Pistons, Lions, Wings or Tigers?** I love all Detroit teams, except the Lions. I am an Indianapolis Colts fan and love football the most of all sports.

**What do you do to get away from the world?** To “getaway” from the world, I generally curl up with a good book for an afternoon/evening or head outdoors with my ipod for a walk or run.

**Favorite all-time teacher or professor?** I don’t really have one favorite all-time teacher or professor. The ones that are my favorites are the ones who taught me more than the lessons pertaining only to class; the ones who leave impressions that I think about from time to time; stuff that I relate to the “real world.”

**What is your most irrational fear?** My most irrational fear would definitely be not exploring, traveling and taking risks in life. There are so many things I want to do, I don’t want to miss an opportunity to walk down the less traveled road and regret it later in life.

**If you could swap lives with anyone, with who would that be?** If I could switch lives with anyone, it would honestly probably be an NFL football player. As such an avid football fan (and as a girl), I’ve never had the experience of playing in a real football game, and the NFL seems like it would be a life experience worth living at least once.

“There are so many things I want to do, I don’t want to miss an opportunity to walk down the less traveled road and regret it later in life.”
Where did you attend college?
Undergraduate: Grinnell College, Iowa. Bachelor’s Degree, Sociology
Graduate: University of Houston, Texas. Masters Degree, Speech Language Pathology
PhD: Bowling Green State University, Ohio. PhD, Communications Disorders

What drew you to the Speech Language Pathology profession? I was planning to become a medical doctor, but at age 20, I learned about the Speech Language Pathology profession. As a person who stutters, I have a particular interest in the field. I changed my major to SLP as a junior in college.

Who is your role model? There are many people whom I admire. A person who continues to be a great role model in my life is my 92 year old grandmother. Through many challenges, she graduated from college with an English degree in 1937 and went on to teach - an amazing accomplishment for an African American woman at that time. Professionally, I have high regard for authors and writers - those who can create and tell a story, a truth, printed for others to read. I enjoy all areas of language and admire those who craft the written word.

What are your current research projects? Currently, I am researching professor’s perception of students who stutter. This is a collaborative research project with Southern Illinois University. Phase two of this study will explore the impact communication disorders have on grade school, middle school, and high school students. For example, how does it affect students academically, socially, and emotionally? In past research, I studied how adults reflected upon their K-12 experiences. Some adults indicated a fear to ask questions in class, give oral presentations, or experienced some academic issues they attributed to their dysfluency. Interestingly, other adults said that they were unaffected by being a person who stutters. Their childhood school experiences were positive and did not hold them back.

My future research focuses on a psychological concept called the spotlight effect. This model explores the concept of we judge ourselves more harshly than others judge us. For example, we may be afraid to go onto the dance floor fearing that people will stare at us. In relating this concept to dysfluency, I will explore how a person who stutters feels about their performance in public speaking versus how the audience actually perceives them. Does the research indicate that the person who stutters judges him/herself harsher than the audience judges them? Studying the results, I hope to learn how an audience judges dysfluency. Does the audience focus on how the person sounds or the content of what they say? This project will begin next year.

What is your favorite movie? The Color Purple based on the book by Alice Walker. The main character has been thoroughly victimized and has no power, yet throughout the film we see that she regains control by realizing that she is valuable and has worth. She starts her own business, buys a house, and eventually reclaims power for herself.

What is your favorite activity outside of WSU? I love to write – it is not only my hobby but also my passion. Upon changing my career from medical doctor, I thought about writing as a profession. I value language in all of its forms and I fell in love with writing at an early age. I kept a journal as a child. Today I enjoy creative writing. My writing is focused on fiction and poetry.

What is your favorite quote? “The world breaks every one and afterward many are strong at the broken places.” – Ernest Hemingway

This quote is applicable to many things including communication disorders. Going through a struggle in life makes us stronger.

Where are you from originally? Are you single or married and do you have children? I am currently single and I have no children. I’m originally from Texas. Most of my family lives in the Houston / Dallas, Texas areas.

If you could choose another profession other than Professor and Speech Language Pathologist, what would it be? I would be an author. I will always write because I enjoy it immensely.

Finally, do you have any advice to students? The best career advice I can give to students is to do what you love, and in life, to always be true to yourself.