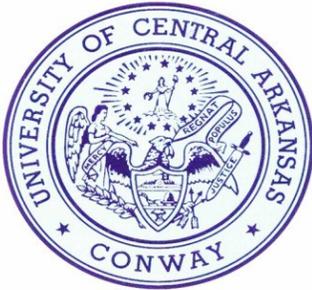


# UCA Communication Sciences & Disorders

## Newsletter

Fall 2014

Volume 1, Issue 1



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## UCA NSSLHA Supports Cochlear Implant for Samson



Samson using an UbiDuo and ASL to communicate.

The UCA Speech-Language-Hearing Center (UCA SLHC) had the privilege of working with an extraordinary young man named Samson. After surviving the Rwandan genocide, he contracted meningitis in a refugee camp, leaving him deaf and blind in one eye. He overcame numerous obstacles and was chosen to study physics in the U.S. after being selected for the Rwanda Presidential Scholar Program. He arrived in the Conway community in the fall of 2012 and has since studied American Sign Language in order to become fluent in his fourth language. He continued to receive speech-language services through the UCA SLHC, while pursuing his dream of being an oral communicator.

Samson received notice that he was a candidate for a cochlear implant in the Fall of 2013. Only 5% of those with hearing loss due to meningitis are implant candidates. Despite this wonderful news, Samson was faced with raising his portion of the surgery cost. The amount was approximately \$12,000.00.

The UCA Chapter of the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association decided to host a local fundraiser to assist Samson with his dream. The fundraiser was held at Pitza 42 on March 14, 2014. We were able to help Samson raise \$652.00. Since then, the surgery has been completed and Samson is hearing for the first time in 19 years! To see a video regarding his journey, please go to <http://www.gofundme.com/7f4lg8>.

## Departmental Honors

Every year the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders honors students who have stellar academic accomplishments, significant service in the department/campus community, and strong potential for future success in the field of communication sciences and disorders. The selected students are recognized by having their names placed on specific plaques and by being showcased in this newsletter. The following students were chosen in the Spring of 2014.

Libby DeWeese is a post-baccalaureate student from Mississippi State University. She recently received her Master of Science from UCA and is beginning her Clinical Fellowship while working at Simple Strokes Therapy in Southaven, MS. Libby currently lives in Memphis, TN.



**Outstanding Graduate Student**

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## Departmental Honors Continued



Christina K. Rittgers graduated with her B.S. from the University of Iowa. She started graduate school at the University of Central Arkansas a year ago, and will graduate with her Master of Science in August of 2015. After graduation her desire is to begin her clinical fellowship while working at a hospital in Arkansas or back home in Iowa.

### ***Outstanding Graduate Student***



Sally Adlong recently graduated with her B.S. from the University of Central Arkansas. She has started the speech pathology graduate program at the University of Central Arkansas this semester. She is excited to continue her education in the field, and wants to explore all disorders and populations before she picks her specialty.

### ***Outstanding Senior***



Lindsey Dacus recently graduated with her B.S. from UCA. She had begun the Masters program at UCA in speech pathology this semester and will work as a graduate assistant. Her desire is to continue to learn from a variety of specialties in graduate school, grow in her knowledge and appreciation of the field, and soon find an area which she will choose to pursue.

### ***Outstanding NSSLHA Member***

The first full class of UCA-NSSLHA graduates earned a NSSLHA Stole to wear on graduation day. An informal induction ceremony was held at MarketPlace Grill in Conway on August 7, 2014. Members and faculty in attendance included: (top left to right) Anna Thompson King, Dr. Natalie Benafield, Claire Koelling, Dr. Dee Lance, Richard Cutler, Holly Delclos, and Candice Robinson (bottom left to right) Christina Sorrells, Erica Cash, Anna Bohnett, Carma Corzine, and Erica Hood. Graduates not pictured include Tayler Bernegger, Kelsie Gentry, Kara Johnson, Lesley Skinner, and Jamie Wawak. Two members graduated one semester earlier and included Chelcie Ford and Danielle Matthews, (not pictured).



## **NSSLHA NEWS**

The UCA Chapter of the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association initiated a pilot program designed to increase graduate student involvement in the Fall of 2013. Their first assignment was to format a 3 minute video to "Charge Up Your Chapter." The video corresponded to the ASHA Convention theme. They achieved first place and won \$500.00! Check out their video at :

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=33M5iCuF8-c>

## **NSSLHA Graduates**



## Faculty Highlights

**Natalie Benafield**, Clinical Instructor, was recently elected to represent Arkansas on the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Audiology Advisory Council.

ASHA is a national professional organization for Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology with more than 173,070 members and affiliates. The Audiology Advisory Council is one of the two advisory councils that serve the ASHA members by identifying issues of concern to members and providing information on issues to the ASHA Board of Directors. The council is comprised of 54 members elected by ASHA members in their state and profession. As a member of the Council, Dr. Benafield will be able to stay abreast of issues on the horizon in her field, to network with other professionals from around the country and to share information with Arkansas Audiologists.

Dr. Benafield will serve the council from January 1, 2015 until December 31, 2017.



**Dr Brent Gregg** was selected as a research delegate/presenter to the 10th Oxford Dysfluency Conference (ODC) in Oxford, England (July, 2014). The conference was held at St Catherine's College Oxford from July 17 - 20 and has the **reputation as the leading** international scientific conference in the field of dysfluency/stuttering. Throughout the history of ODC, the primary aim has been to bridge the gap between research and clinical practice. At the conference, Dr. Gregg served on an awards committee and as a session chair.

Oxford presentations:

Gregg, B.A. & Scott, M. (2014). Acoustic startle response and temperament in children who stutter. Paper presented at the Oxford Dysfluency Conference, Oxford, England. Conference date: July, 2014.

Gregg, B.A. (2014). An academic training model in the initial evaluation of preschoolers who stutter: A simulated caregiver model. Paper presented at the Oxford Dysfluency Conference, Oxford, England. Conference date: July, 2014.



During the past year, **Dr. Sunjung Kim** has presented at various locations regarding her research in language and cognitive processing underlying literacy development and difficulties using eye tracking and other behavioral methodology. She was also published in the journal *Research in Developmental Disabilities*.

Presentations:

Kim, S., Lombardino, L. (2014, November). Visual literacy of students with dyslexia: foundation skills for academic success, Spoken presentation at the Annual Convention of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), Orlando, FL

DiFino, S., Kim, S., & Lombardino, L. (2014, November). Phonological deficits in college students with dyslexia, Poster presentation at the Annual Convention of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), Orlando, FL

Kim, S., Lombardino, L. (2014, July). Comparison between visual and textual process of college students with dyslexia: evidence from eye tracking study, Spoken presentation at the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading (SSSR) Conference, Santa Fe, NM

Publication:

Kim, S., Lombardino, L., Cowles, W., & Altmann, L. J. (2014). Investigating graph comprehension in students with dyslexia: An eye tracking study. *Research in developmental disabilities*, 35(7), 1609-1622.





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## SAVE THE DATE!

### Spring Conference

The 31st Annual Betty Fusilier Conference on Communication Sciences and Disorders is scheduled for Friday, March 6, 2015. This year's speaker will be Sean J. Sweeney.

Mr. Sweeney is a Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) and Instructional Technology Specialist (ITS). He has over 10 years of experience working in the public school setting as an SLP and ITS. He currently works as an SLP in private practice at [The Ely Center](#), in Newton, MA, yet remains actively involved with schools in the area through consultation. Sean regularly works with local and national organizations around the topic of technology integration, and is a regular columnist for The ASHA Leader. His blog, "SpeechTechie," is an effort to combine his two passions: fostering language development through contextualized intervention, and interactive educational technologies.

## Faculty Highlights Continued

The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders is proud to announce the addition of 3 new faculty members. We look forward to working and learning from you all!

Dr. Beula Magimairaj obtained her Ph.D. in Speech Language Science at Ohio University. She is also a certified speech language pathologist. She has 13 years of combined research, teaching, and clinical experiences between India and the United States. She is currently interested in bringing together research interests in cognition and language science/disorders, particularly in children. She has 6 peer-reviewed publications (4 as first author) that primarily focus on mechanisms of working memory in typically developing school-age children. She enjoys teaching and looks forward to being part of the team at UCA!

Dr. Jing Yang earned her PhD in Speech Science from The Ohio State University. Her research interest focuses on speech perception and production of bilingual and monolingual children as well as speech development of prelingually deafened children with Cochlear Implants. She has presented her research in several national and international conferences. She has also published her work in peer-reviewed journals and conference proceedings. Recently, she was awarded a travel grant to the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the International Speech Communication Association (Interspeech 2014) which will be held in Singapore on September 14-18. In the CSD department, Dr. Yang will teach Speech Science, Phonetics and will continue her research.

Dr. Towino Paramby received his Doctor of Clinical Science (CScD) degree from the University of Pittsburgh. His areas of interest include the management of adult swallowing disorders, neurogenic speech-language disorders, palliative care, and voice disorders. He currently is involved in a NIH funded research study involving treatment of muscle tension dysphonia. Dr. Paramby has presented several scientific papers at national and international conferences. Prior to coming to UCA, he worked at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC), Pittsburgh.

## Special Programs at the UCA SLHC

**Reader Bears**— A reading clinic designed for children K-2nd grade, who are experiencing difficulties with reading and/or spelling.

**Read to Succeed**— A multisensory approach to reading for children 3rd-6th grade who are experiencing difficulty with reading and/or spelling or are diagnosed with dyslexia.

**Brain Fitness**— A 10-week program designed to help adults learn and implement ways to keep their brains healthy.

**SPEAK OUT®**— An intensive therapy program for those with Parkinson's, to strengthen their voice. Based on the principle of "intent."