



# UCA Communication Sciences & Disorders

Newsletter

Fall 2015

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## Programs at the UCA SLHC

**Reader Bears-** A 4-week reading clinic for children kindergarten through second grade who are at risk for or are experiencing difficulties with reading and/or spelling.

**Brain Fitness-** A program designed to teach people effective memory strategies and ways to keep their brains healthy.

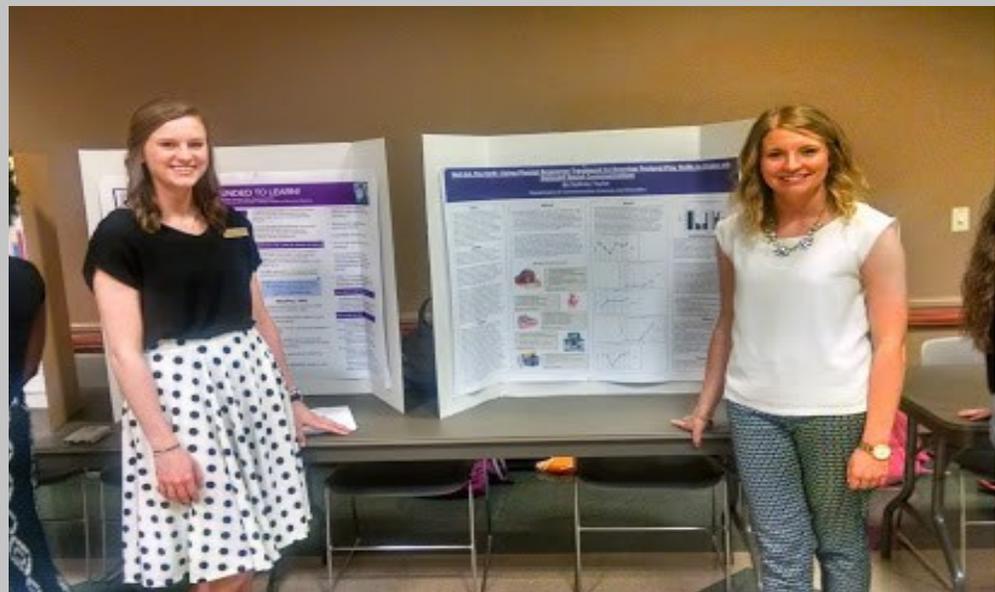
For more information regarding these programs, please contact Leslie George at

501-450-5776 or at [lgeorge@uca.edu](mailto:lgeorge@uca.edu).

## UCA CSD Students Present Research

The College of Health and Behavioral Sciences hosted a Student Research Symposium on April 21 in the Student Center ballroom. Undergraduate and graduate students from the CHBS shared poster presentations on topics of interest in their respective fields. The Department of Communication Science and Disorders was represented at the Student Research Symposium by Kristen Johnson and Sydney Taylor. Kristen presented a poster entitled "Get Funded to Learn." It outlined ways that both graduates and undergraduates can apply for funding for scholarships and for research. Sydney's poster was based on her senior honors thesis, "Work Hard, Play Hard: Using Pivotal Response Treatment to Develop Pretend Play Skills in Children with Delayed Social Communication." This poster summarized a single-subject research study that Sydney conducted.

Kristen was mentored in the development of this poster by Dr. Beula Magimairaj. Sydney's senior honor's mentor was Barbara Jones.



Graduate Students, Kristen Johnson (left) and Sydney Taylor (right), presenting research at the College of Health and Behavioral Sciences Student Research Forum.

## Departmental Honors

Every year, the faculty members of 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. These students were chosen in the Spring of 2015.



**Hannah Silvey** graduated with her B.S. from the University of Missouri. She recently graduated from the University of Central Arkansas with her M.S. She and her husband moved to Houston, Texas where she will begin her next adventure as a speech-language pathologist.

### ***Outstanding Graduate Clinician***



**Felicia Head** graduated with her B.S. from the University of Central Arkansas. She started graduate school at the University of Central Arkansas in the Fall of 2015, and will graduate with her Master of Science in August of 2016. She is currently enjoying learning about the field and is excited to continue acquiring clinical skills.

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



**Christina Pooja Gomes** recently graduated with her B.S. from the University of Central Arkansas. She began 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***



**Courtney Craft** graduated with her B.S. from the University of Central Arkansas in May of 2015. She began the speech pathology graduate program at the University of Central Arkansas this semester. She will continue exploring her opportunities within the field and is very interested in choosing a specialty and pursuing a Ph.D. after graduate school.

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

## Faculty Highlights



**Dee M. Lance, Ph.D., CCC-SLP** is an associate professor of speech-language pathology at the University of Central Arkansas, where she teaches courses in child language acquisition and disorders. She has conducted research in the areas of reading comprehension and phonological processing. Dr. Lance has more than 22 years of experience working with children who have phonological deficits, language disorders, and language-based reading disabilities. During 2014, Dr. Lance served as Interim-Department Chair. In Spring of 2015, she was named Department Chair. Dr. Lance is excited to expand as well as improve the UCA CSD program.



**Dr. Brent Gregg** was invited to present a web seminar through the Vanderbilt University and the Stuttering Foundation of America as a part of their distinguished lecture series. The purpose of this presentation was to provide a framework for using stimulated caregivers in the process of enhancing the parent counseling skills of graduate students in Communication Sciences and Disorders during an initial evaluation.

**The Stuttering Foundation of America and Vanderbilt University** partnered to provide an ongoing series of live webinars regarding disorders of speech fluency. Each webinar featured experts in the field whose aim was to present examples and practical implications to enhance the assessment and treatment of those with fluency disorders.

Presentation:

Gregg, B.A. (2015). Academic training in initial counseling of parents of preschoolers who stutter: A stimulated caregiver model. Web seminar presented via the Vanderbilt University and the Stuttering Foundation of America distinguished lecture series. March, 7, 2015.



**Drs. Natalie Benafield (UCA), Beula Magimairaj (UCA), and Naveen Nagaraj (UALR/UAMS)** received a \$30,000 research grant from the Hearing Health Foundation to conduct a one-year project (2015-2016). As part of the project the investigators are developing an assessment tool integrating hearing, cognition, and language science. The tool will be piloted on typically developing school-age children. In the long-term the assessment has clinical implication for children diagnosed with auditory processing disorders and other co-morbid disorders such as specific language impairment and reading disabilities.

## NSSLHA NEWS:



Every year, as part of the NSSLHA "Charge Up Your Chapter" campaign, local NSSLHA chapters enter a video competition for prize money. This year, our graduate students created a "Friends" parody with the help of one our clients. To see the finished product you can search "**UCA 2015 NSSLHA VIDEO**" on Youtube or go to the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ChcgS06BAiw>

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Spring Conference**

**March 4, 2016**

[www.uca.edu/csd](http://www.uca.edu/csd)



Visit us online for more information on our faculty and staff, undergraduate program, master's program, outcome data, and our 2015 strategic plan.

## Goodbye, Mrs. Ross



After 24 years of quality instruction and dedication at UCA, Sharon Ross is retiring this summer, June 30th, 2015. As a clinical instructor, Mrs. Ross has helped many students acquire clinical skills that have ultimately enabled them to become excellent clinicians. She has taught undergraduate courses in clinical methods and aural rehabilitation. Throughout her time as a clinical instructor, her interests included aural rehabilitation and early intervention for children birth to five. She has had several other department responsibilities including the coordinator of Admissions for the Master's Program, the Master's Student Advisor, a chair on the Master's Committee, Coordinator of Arkansas Department of Education Support Personnel Grant, and recently an Academic Advisor for undergraduates pursuing CSD. In addition to her service to students,

Mrs. Ross has become a beloved member of the UCA CSD faculty and will be dearly missed.

Barbara Jones, M.S. CCC-SLP, spoke of Mrs. Ross's retirement: "Our loss will certainly be your grandchildren's gain! I will miss your willingness to share wisdom with me anytime I walk into your office with questions. Our clinic will miss your deep knowledge of early childhood and hearing impairment. Our students will miss your caring, informed and capable guidance. We will all miss your quiet, steadying influence! As happy as I am for your future, I am truly sad to see you go!"

## Spring Conference

What an adventure it was! This year, our keynote speaker was Sean Sweeney. The workshop addressed using iPad functions for clinical use, strategies for evaluating apps, and introduced clinicians to a variety of apps used in speech and language therapy. We had a flawless day planned with iTunes cards for door prizes, "app-themed" table décor, and excellent cuisine. However, due to inclement weather, Sean's flight was canceled the night before the conference. Embracing the mindset of "the show must go on", we quickly made arrangements for Sean to present his material via Skype. It was unlike any conference we've ever hosted! However, despite all of the weather-related conflicts, the conference ended well for all who participated!



## 2nd Annual Bear Awards

Every year, first year graduate students in their fall semester complete a Clinical Seminar course in which students acquire knowledge and skills regarding assessment. As a part of the course, students are required to choose an assessment and make a short video describing its features and functions. During the spring, faculty view the videos and vote on awards to honor the students for their work. The awards are presented through a viewing and awards ceremony hosted by Dr. Brent Gregg. Faculty as well as undergraduate students attended this year's Bear Awards.



Five videos were chosen for viewing at the event.

The awards included Best Performing Clinician,

Best Special Effects, Best Choreography, Best Performing Client, and Overall Best Picture.

Graduate students (left to right: Autumn Moody, Kristen Johnson, Holland Corbell, Shaylee Warren, Mary Ellen Hunthorp, Felicia Head, Tori Stiles, Alexa Herbers, and Taylor Smith) dressed up to accept their Bear Awards.