Things are SPARKING in SLP at DePaul!

by Dr. Jayne Jaskolski, Founding Program Director

Great things are sparking in Speech Language Pathology (SLP) at DePaul! Our inaugural cohort has completed their coursework and on-campus clinic experiences. They will begin their full-time medical and school externships in January. Our second student cohort arrived on campus in September. Cohort 2 students, along with faculty, completed over 150 hours of preschool speech & language screenings this fall at our community partners sites: It Takes A Village Schools & Marillac House.

The DePaul Speech & Language Clinic, our donation based clinic, opened in January. Graduate students see over 110+ client visits each week in our clinic. The clinic now offers several amazing therapy groups including the Aphasia Book Group; Gender Affirming Voice Therapy; Adolescent Social Language; Bilingual Language and Literacy; and a Virtual Cognitive Communication Therapy Group for Early Onset Dementia. In addition, Dr. Suzanne Williams leads an outreach clinic with our community partner, St. Vincent Marillac, where our graduate students provide preschool speech and language evaluations and therapy sessions.

We are very proud to announce that our SLP faculty and students have recently been awarded multiple national awards. Our inaugural DePaul National Student Speech-Language-Hearing-Association (NSSLHA) chapter received the 2022 highest award of the association - Gold Chapter Honors. Next, three of our faculty received 2022 American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) awards: Dr. RaMonda Horton - Fellowship of the Association; Professor Jerrold Jackson - the Dorothy Dreyer Award for Volunteerism; and Dr. Carolyn Higdon - Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Contributions for International Achievement. Dr. RaMonda Horton also received the Teaching & Learning in CSD 2022 Editor’s Award. Finally, Dr. Treasyri Williams-Wood was elected as a member-at-large for the ASHA Board of Directors. CONGRATULATIONS to our esteemed faculty and students!

Welcome to our three new faculty members: Dr. RaMonda Horton, Associate Professor; Dr. Niqueka Sims, Clinical Assistant Professor; and Professor Kate McShane, Clinical Assistant Professor.

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook for daily updates.
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Support Us
On January 18th, 2022 our donation-based DePaul Speech & Language Clinic opened its doors to serve our community! We began with just over 60 clients but now provide over 110+ client visits each week. The clinic serves clients across the life span, ranging from 2 to 85+ years old, who travel to us from across the Chicago-land area. Living in the Vincentian Mission with the motto, What Must Be Done?, the clinic provides speech and language services at no cost to those who cannot afford them. Therapy services are provided in English and Spanish to meet the needs of bilingual clients.

The clinic has expanded services to include group therapy such as the aphasia book club; voice affirming therapy; bilingual language and literacy; and adolescent social skills groups. Additionally, we have established an outreach site at St. Vincent Marillac. Community partnerships with local businesses have donated therapy supplies to the clinic.

With the spirit of Saint Vincent, we have been blessed beyond measure this year. We are grateful to you for donating to our clinic, partnering with our initiatives, and supporting our vision. We are JUST getting started!

With gratitude,

Treasyri Williams Wood, SLPD, CCC-SLP/L
pronounced "treasure" (she/her/hers)
DePaul Speech and Language Clinic
Director of Clinical Education
Open House Highlights

Thank you to all who attended our second annual DePaul Speech and Language Clinic Open House on September 29th. We welcomed over 75 guests and community partners to learn more What Must Be Done at the DePaul Speech and Language Clinic. The event raised $1000!
**Clinic Highlights**

**Fall Quarter Clinic Productivity**
We have proudly served 106 families since opening! This Fall Quarter, we served over 86 families! Due to popular demand, the Gender Affirming Voice Care Communication group will be expanded into two meetings: "Introduction to Gender Affirming Voice Care" and "Conversation-Based Gender Affirming Voice Communication." In addition, we developed a brand-new pediatric program that focuses on bilingual language and literacy for children aged 5 to 7 years old.

**Year-to-Date Clinic Productivity**
Since opening our clinic a year ago, we have served a variety of clients for pediatric services, adult services, and gender-affirming voice care.

**Clinic Mission**
Through its commitment to education, innovation, diversity and equity, our clinic provides exemplary clinical education and clinical training. Clinical practice is upheld with high standards and excellence through the utilization of evidenced-based practice and theoretical knowledge in the provision of services and advocacy for families and the communities served. Grounded in the DePaul University Vincentian ethos of public service responsibility, the DePaul University Speech and Language Clinic donation-based model vows to the rightful access of services for the diverse societal, economic, and cultural community where it is centered.

**Teletherapy in Our Clinic**
A teletherapy suite is available for clinicians to conduct virtual sessions.

**Donate to the Speech and Language Clinic**
Check out the back page!

Scan our QR code to make a donation.
This Fall 2022, the *Bilingual English-Spanish Specialization Certificate* (BESSC-SLP) launched its first global virtual exchange course. Fifteen BESSC students from DePaul University joined 21 students from Columbia in the course *SLP 465 Cultural Responsiveness in Bilingual Speech Language Pathology*. Students learned about culture and culturally responsive practices; compared global characteristics shared between the US and Colombia; and worked collaboratively to illustrate complex issues facing the field of speech language pathology through an infographic project.

Students from the University of Santiago, Colombia join our DePaul BESSC-SLP students for a global learning experience.

**Exciting collaboration with The Global Learning Experience (GLE)**

While speaking in Spanish, Jen shares what clinic assessment she uses with her Spanish speaking clients.

Click the image to see her video on our Instagram page!

Dr. Elia Olivares and Cohort 1 BESSC-SLP students: Mariel Sandoval, Maggie Reynolds, and Jenifer Marin.
Meet Our Newest Faculty Members

Dr. Niqueka Sims
Clinical Assistant Professor

Dr. Niqueka Sims, CLinScD, CCC-SLP is a licensed and certified speech-language pathologist with nearly two decades of clinical experience. She earned her bachelor's degree from St. Xavier University, a master's degree from Tennessee State University, and a clinical doctorate in speech-language pathology from Rocky Mountain University. Dr. Sims has extensive experience working with clients across the lifespan with neurological deficits, aphonia, dementia, dysphagia, dysarthria, articulation, cognition, and other speech-language-related disorders. Dr. Sims is most passionate about evidence-based practice and molding the next generation of clinicians.

Professor Kate McShane
Clinical Assistant Professor

Professor McShane, MA, CCC-SLP earned a B.S. in Speech and Hearing Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and an M.A. in Speech-Language Pathology from Northwestern University. She has worked in acute inpatient rehabilitation, outpatient, and university clinical settings. Professor McShane's areas of interest include treatment of adults with acquired neurological disorders, management of fluency disorders in school-aged children and adults, and student preparation for medical practicum. She has overseen specialty group therapies including aphasia book clubs, aphasia support groups, and is a SPEAK OUT!© and LOUD Crowd© provider.

Dr. RaMonda Horton
Associate Professor

Dr. RaMonda Horton, PhD, CCC-SLP is an associate professor in the speech language pathology program. Her area of interests include: child language development and disorders; social justice in speech, language, and hearing sciences (SLHS)curriculum, training, and practice; African-American English (AAE) in child and youth populations, critical social theory and racism; equity and pipeline issues affecting BIPOC individuals in the SLHS. She teaches courses on childhood communication development and disorders, research methods, evidence-based practice, and cultural responsiveness in speech, language, and hearing sciences.
Celebrating our Faculty Recognition!

Dr. RaMonda Horton, PhD
Associate Professor
2022 ASHA Fellow

DePaul University
College of Science and Health
Speech Language Pathology Program

2022 ASHA Awards Recipients
We are Proud of our Speech Language Pathology Faculty!

Dr. RaMonda Horton
Associate Professor
Fellowship of Association

Professor Jerrold Jackson
Part Time Faculty
Dorothy Dreyer Award for Volunteerism

Dr. Carolyn Higdon
Part Time Faculty
Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Contributions in International Achievement

Congratulations!
SLP Professor Interview

Professor Bridget Broderick shared what topics she covered in the SLP 431 Dysphagia course.

Interview:
- Did students obtain training with "trachs and vents"?
  BB: "Absolutely. [students used] models of tracheostomies. [Students should] be able to explain the purpose of a trach and a ventilator for breathing, and how this can affect swallowing (and speech)."
- Were any simulations scheduled?
  BB: "We [engaged] in simulations of evaluating patients or [modeled] patients in class"

- Did students learn about MBSImP standardized clinical training?
  BB: "Yes - [they completed] the student version for the class. I found the professional training very helpful... I know as a clinical supervisor, I like students to come into their hospital practicum with this knowledge."

- Did you take students to an observation related to swallowing disorders?
  BB: "I [set up] opportunities for observation in different settings - hospital acute and inpatient, outpatient, and home-based early Intervention..."

- How did you use use your experience at Sinai Hospital as a practitioner?
  BB: "I generally work in inpatient rehabilitation, with rotation to acute care hospital (and have worked PRN for years in acute care). I also worked with pediatric patients in the outpatient setting at Schwab. I will probably talk too much about the great patients I have worked with, and how they continue to teach me that each person has a uniquely challenging experience of dysphagia, and a unique ability to improve based on their own motivation and the information I can provide."

Our faculty team is growing!
This year, we have welcomed new part-time faculty members!

Welcome to DePaul University Speech Language Pathology Program fellow colleagues!

- Dr. Eileen Brann | Part Time Faculty
- Jerrold Jackson | Part Time Faculty
- Kathryn Bernard | Part Time Faculty
- Anna Ware | Part Time Faculty
Meet Our Student Office Assistants

Bridget Schwefel

“ My favorite part of working in the clinic is getting to know the clients and their families as well as assisting my fellow colleagues with finding the materials they need to be successful in their sessions.”

Bridget is a current SLP graduate student with a background in Musical Theatre and Fine Arts. She is a talented singer and teacher that specializes in teaching private voice lessons, early childhood music classes, and acrylic painting. She also has experience working in arts programs, theatre companies, and university admissions. In the future, she would like to work in a voice clinic where she could provide services in voice therapy and gender-affirming voice care.

Hannah Senanayake

“I am loving being apart of this fantastic team of student clinicians and professors. It's been such an enriching experience to learn the behind-the-scenes of what it takes to run a successful clinic.”

Hannah - now a Double Blue Demon- majored in Psychology and minored in American Sign Language. She is an amazing campus leader as she is the Founding President of the DePaul NSSLHA (National Student Speech Language Hearing Association) chapter. Not to mention, she was previously our program volunteer and helped us tremendously prior to and during the clinic grand opening.

Raquel Sanchez

“ Working at the clinic over the summer helped me prepare for graduate school. I'm now able to assist my cohort with any clinic-related questions or concerns. It also allows me to meet the client with whom I will be working with as well as potential students that visit us.”

Raquel, a Cohort 2 BESSC student, joined the team in the summer of 2022. She earned her B.S. in Psychology with a CSD minor. Raquel has enjoyed working with people of different ages in different settings but plans on working in schools in the future.

A Peek into Our Clinic Inventory

In our early days, Dr. Williams Wood and Dr. Williams stocked the inventory closet with new materials! There was lots of empty shelves to fill! Thanks to our Student Office Assistants, who now maintain our clinical resource room.
We are so proud of our outstanding National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSSLHA) inaugural chapter for great work in the community, involvement on campus, and their recognized leadership.

On June 2nd, the DePaul NSSHLA Chapter organization was selected as the recipient of an Excellence in Leadership 2022 Awards.

The Office of Student Involvement at DePaul selects top-performing student organizations for outstanding work and service. We are so proud of our chapter student members and inaugural NSSLHA President (2021-22), Hannah Senanayake.

On June 15th, the National NSSLHA office announced the 2022 Gold Chapter Honors Recipients on their Instagram account. The DePaul NSSLHA Chapter was selected to receive the highest honor of the association! We are so proud of our student leaders and members for their excellent work for the 2021-22 Academic Year.

Congratulations to the new DePaul NSSLHA Executive Board members elected in October 2022! This team is planning exciting events for the 2022-2023 Academic Year. All members are current graduate students in Cohort 2.
IDEA-SLP (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity in Action - Speech Language Pathology) Committee

The IDEA-SLP (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity in Action - Speech Language Pathology) Committee is charged with increasing an awareness of diversity issues, and maintaining an inclusive and equitable environment for all students, faculty, and staff regardless of their race, ethnicity, creed, color, sex, gender, gender identity, sexual identity, socio-economic status, language, culture, national origin, religion, age, ability, veteran status, political perspective and associational preference.

In February, the IDEA-SLP Committee, led by Dr. Elia Olivares, created many Black History Month learning and celebration opportunities. Including a Black History month with a memorable Black History Month Virtual Guest Panel!

BIPOC Reflections from Dr. Williams

Dr. Williams, Clinical Assistant Professor, completed a 3 episode series where she spoke about her BIPOC identity and how at DePaul we are assessing What Must Be Done to support diversity in the field of Speech Language Pathology. Check them out on our Instagram account @depaul_SLP or click the image!

Words from Dr. Williams Wood

Dr. Williams Wood, Director of Clinical Education, shared her experiences and her identity identity as a Black woman and the most important figure in her life while recognizing and celebrating Black History Month. Click the image to view her video or see it on Instagram @depaul_SLP

Conversations with Bilingual SLPs During Hispanic Heritage Month

SLP celebrated the culture, the people and the contributions of the Latinx culture during Hispanic Heritage month (Sept 15 - Oct 15) with a number of fabulous activities and events. The highlight was a guest panel presentation that showcased bilingual speech Language Pathologists. If you missed it, check out our past social media posts.

A memorable Black History Month Virtual Guest Panel

We celebrated Black leaders in the fields of Speech Language Pathology and Audiology. The 4 guest panelists shared their journeys in their respective field many great insights! Our panelists were joined by over 100 audience members from around the country!
Covid-19 and It's Fallout

The COVID-19 pandemic affected nearly every aspect of our everyday lives. Due to the lack of PPE and the highly contagious nature of the virus, SLPs were required to pause or pivot their clients’ sessions. Teletherapy became the primary form of service delivery, but it is important to consider services within our scope of practice that are unable to be delivered via telepractice such as:

- Evaluations for voice disorders via endoscopy
- Dysphagia management
- Early Intervention services in the home environment

Switch to Teletherapy

Telemedicine has been a part of the American medical system for over 100 years, but was considered a supplemental care delivery system for most speech-language pathologists (Becker & Gillespie, 2021). The COVID-19 pandemic forced clinicians to administer therapy in a way that they most likely did not receive adequate or extensive training in. Based on a May 2020 survey, ASHA reported that 85% of SLPs were delivering therapy services via telehealth and 56% considered the experience challenging (Campbell, 2022).

Although there has been research published on the effectiveness of teletherapy, many of these studies were conducted with old technology and less video conferencing options. It is important that research be conducted now to reflect the context of a now two-year long pandemic.

Effect on Graduate Students

Fortunately, The DePaul Speech and Language Clinic was able to open amid the pandemic thanks to the vaccine booster rollout and the increased CDC recommendations. Our graduate students have been able to successfully use PPE responsibly and have had client experiences in person and through teletherapy.

One former graduate student on the NSSLHA website blog shared her clinical rotation experiences: “I have learned that it is important to be a flexible clinician and be willing and prepared to improvise if needed.” Other recent graduates report that they are grateful for the experience because it mitigated scheduling challenges and allowed them to provide increased access to services for clients in rural areas.

PROGRAM MISSION:
Grounded in the Vincentian tradition and urban character of DePaul University, the Master of Science degree in the Speech Language Pathology Program prepares speech-language pathologists to meet the diverse and urgent needs of the Chicago community and beyond with a special concern for those who are most underserved and those who are most vulnerable. Our program graduates students with sufficient breadth and depth of knowledge, clinical skills, professional practice competencies, clinical reasoning, cultural fluency, and empathy for their practice. Using evidence-based and ethical practice, graduates use their knowledge and skills to foster meaningful communication for their clients and serve as leaders in the profession.

PROGRAM VISION:
The DePaul University Speech Language Pathology Program is one of the preeminent Speech Language Pathology Programs in the Country. It has already attracted top leaders in the field to implement this vision. The Program is uniquely designed to transform outstanding students into dedicated, highly trained speech-language pathologists who will competently and compassionately meet the needs of individuals with communication and swallowing disorders. To further the program's mission, the Bilingual English-Spanish Specialization Certificate (BESSC) attracts Spanish speakers to meet the needs of that underserved population in their native language thereby enhancing the ripple effect of the impact of the program throughout our Country.
Donate to the Speech and Language Clinic

Please consider donating to our clinic to ensure that we can continue providing services to our families and communities.

There are various ways you can donate. Check it out!

Scan our QR code to make a donation
Open camera app and click the banner displaying the link.

Check out our Amazon Wishlist
Click the Amazon Icon

Mail in your donation with a personal check*

Mail to:
DePaul University
Attn: Office of Advancement
1 E. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Challenge: Send the donation link to 5 colleagues today!

Donate Now
CLICK HERE to donate through our direct link

*Please call 773-325-5158 to inform us a check is on the way.

Donate to the Speech and Language Clinic

Learn more about making a lasting impact on the Speech Language Pathology Clinic and Program
Contact Blair Janis, Director of Development, at bjanis1@depaul.edu