Message from the Chair

It is a pleasure to welcome you to our third annual newsletter. There is so much happening here on campus, so I will only tell you about a few things that make for exciting times at the Institute and in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

The Department of Occupational Therapy in June admitted its first class of students who have begun their three-year education to earn their Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD). In addition, the Department of Physician Assistant Studies was accredited in September, and its students in the Master of Physician Assistant Studies program are scheduled to begin in May 2015.

These new programs further enhance the IHP’s commitment to interprofessional education and practice.

We recently completed a department review at the midpoint of our eight-year reaccreditation cycle. The process allowed us to reflect on our strengths and where we can make some modifications.

We held two very well-attended CEU events that allowed our alumni, outside supervisors, and other local SLPs the opportunity to continue developing their skills. We are considering a live broadcast for our next event to allow people to participate from afar, so we will keep you updated on that effort.

We have an enthusiastic class of new students who entered this fall, and we hired some excellent professionals to educate this cohort. We were pleased to welcome back two people who may be familiar to you: former faculty Jennifer Mackey, and 2008 graduate Kate Radville. They join Adele Raade and Susan Gray as clinical instructors in the Speech, Language and Literacy Center.

We also are pleased that Dr. Joanna Christodoulou came on board as an assistant professor last January. She is a terrific addition to our faculty and has started the BEAM Team to conduct interesting research that enhances our ongoing endeavors.

We continue to work toward developing a Clinical Doctor in Speech-Language Pathology program. Keep an eye out for this exciting new program!

Our faculty members have been very successful in obtaining funding for their research, and some of them are highlighted in this newsletter. Also in the newsletter is a listing of over 30 presentations Institute faculty will conduct at the ASHA Convention.

Professor Jordan Green Receives $2.975 Million Research Grant

CSD Professor Jordan Green has received a $2.975 million grant – the largest research grant in the history of the MGH Institute – from the National Institutes of Health’s National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders to develop a way to more effectively identify Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) and allow patients to communicate effectively for a longer period of time. Story.

Kjelgaard Involved in Autism Research

Associate Professor Margaret Kjelgaard was second author on a paper in which a team of researchers from MIT (where she is a research affiliate) assert that what are apparently disparate symptoms in autism might be explained by a single unifying principal – people with autism have difficulty in predicting regular occurrences. This new hypothesis, on which several newspaper articles were written, was published in October in the journal Proceedings.

November 19: ASHA Alumni Reception

The Office of Development and Alumni Relations and the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
One of the best parts of being a faculty member is keeping in touch with our alumni. We enjoy hearing about the great things you are doing professionally, the fun things you are doing in your lives, and how your lives have changed since you left us – including new babies, spouses, locations, and other happenings. Please stay connected; we need you to be our ambassadors, our supervisors, our financial supporters, and our colleagues.

I look forward to seeing and/or hearing from many of you soon.

Best regards,

Gregory Lof, PhD, CCC-SLP, FASHA
Chair and Professor
Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders

Ice Bucket Challenge for ALS

Led by the Speech and Feeding Disorders Lab, which researches Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), often referred to as "Lou Gehrig's Disease," the Institute participated in the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge.

8th Annual Gala Raises Funds for Student Scholarships

(L-R) President Jan Bellack with Assistant Professor Joanna Christodoulou and Professor Tiffany Hogan at the Gala.

More than 300 guests attended the 2014 Gala on November 5, held at the Renaissance Waterfront Boston Hotel. The theme of this year’s annual event – “Elevating Research. Expanding Knowledge. Enhancing Impact.” – focused on the school’s increased

Presenting at ASHA Convention

Institute faculty, alumni, students, research fellows, and research assistants will conduct seminars and courses, discuss their research, or present posters at the 2014 ASHA Convention on November 20–22. View the full list of presentations online or in a printable PDF.

Poster by Faculty, Alumna Awarded

CSD Clinical Assistant Professor Eileen Hunsaker, PT Associate Professor Marianne Beninato, and 2012 PT graduate Stephanie Gilmore were part of a team from Spaulding Rehabilitation that was awarded the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine Brain Injury-Interdisciplinary Special Interest Group's Early Career Poster Award at the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine Annual Conference in October. Their poster was entitled, “Disability Rating Scale Criteria as a Screen for Consciousness.”

Alumni Receive Commencement Awards

Graduates of the CSD program received the two alumni awards at 2014 Commencement: Dr. Allan B. Smith ’96 (right), professor and chair of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Maine in Orono, received the Bette Ann Harris Distinguished Alumni Award, the school’s highest honor
commitment to research, spurred by the efforts of Honorary Trustee John Guttag, PhD. The event raised $367,000 for student scholarships.

Second Aphasia Awareness Day Rally Draws Hundreds

More than 300 people turned out for the second annual Aphasia Awareness Day rally at the Massachusetts State House on June 26 to help publicize the condition that robs more than 350,000 Americans each year of their ability to verbally communicate effectively. Over a dozen clients who receive treatment in the MGH Institute’s Aphasia Center attended, as did dozens of students, while CSD faculty Lauryn Zipse and Eileen Hunsaker addressed the gathering. Slideshow.

Alumna Details Efforts in Congo

Amanda Hitchins, a 2011 SLP graduate, gave two presentations in October on her fundraising efforts to create the first soundproof testing room in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Story.

Institute Hosts Dyslexia Group Meeting

presented to a graduate. Nicole Silva ’11, a speech-language pathologist at Hartford Hospital in Connecticut, received the Emerging Leader Alumni Award.

The following awards were presented during the CSD Awards and Hooding Ceremony:

**Students:**
- Emile Irving, Julie Atwood Award for Excellence
- Micah Smith, Kenneth N. Stevens Student Research Award
- Jane Lapham, Student Award for Innovation

**Faculty:**
- Stephen A. MacCormack, MS, CCC-SLP Award for Excellence in Clinical Supervision
- Sofia Vallilla Rohrer, PhD, CCC-SLP Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence

Crowdfunding Webinar Presented by Thomas Shull '10

"Crowdfunding for the Classroom" was a webinar presented by Thomas Shull, CSD ’10, MS, CCC-SLP, who works in the Boston Public Schools. Watch an encore of his presentation that provided an overview of crowdfunding resources with strategies on how to get funded.

In the News

Melissa Cooke, a Class of 2014 speech-language pathology student, won the 15th Annual David W. Brewer Award for Best Poster at the Voice Foundation Symposium for her poster, "Relationships Between the Cepstral/Spectral Index of Dysphonia and Vocal Fold Vibratory Function During Phonation."

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Alex Johnson was appointed as president of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation (ASHFoundation). Assistant Professor Lauryn Zipse was interviewed about her work in melodic intonation therapy in the ASHFoundation Spring/Summer edition of Foundation Focus.

CSD Professor and Chair Gregory Lof recently was elected treasurer of the Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders (CAPCSD).
The Institute hosted the annual meeting of the New England Research on Dyslexia Society (NERDY) on October 24. SAiL Literacy Lab Director Tiffany Hogan (front, left), is on the organization’s board. Other board members, and speakers at the event, in the above photo were: (front row, l-r) Nadine Gaab and Nicole Landi, (back row, l-r) Will Baker, Glenn Rosen, Eric Falke, and keynote speaker Brett Miller.

Two CSD Faculty Awarded Research Fellowships for 2014–2015

Clinical Assistant Professor Yael Arbel (left) received the Geriatric Faculty Research Fellowship Award for her project “A Neurophysiological Examination of Individual Differences in the Efficiency of Feedback Processing.”

Assistant Professor Joanna Christodoulou received the Faculty Research Fellowship Award for her project “Investigating the Impact of Summer Experiences on Reading for Students With Language-based Learning Disabilities.”

34th Schweitzer Fellow Named

Second-year SLP student Jie (Kingsley) Yang, PhD, will

CSD Associate Professor Charley Haynes will receive the Margaret Byrd Rawson Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Dyslexia Association. He also recently gave the keynote address at the Jeddah Early Childhood Conference.

Jenya Iuzzini, a postdoctoral research fellow who works in the SAiL Literacy Lab, and Speech and Feeding Disorders Lab, was interviewed in Advance for Speech-Language-Pathology-Audiology about her research on Childhood Apraxia.

Meg Simione, a doctoral research fellow in the Speech and Feeding Disorders Lab and a student in the PhD in Rehabilitation Sciences program, received a 2014 Doctoral-level Research Award from Plural Publishing Research at the annual meeting of the Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders in April.

Alumni Corner

Join the MGH Institute Online Community

We invite you to become part of our expanding online alumni community by connecting with our social media accounts to keep up with your fellow graduates.

Research Resources Available to Alumni

MGH Institute alumni have access to journals, databases, and other research resources at the Institute’s Alumni Library Resources section. This section is sure to meet many of your research needs. Alumni are also welcome to attend upcoming workshops. Contact IHP Librarian Jessica Bell with questions or for assistance.

Wanted: Clinical Supervisors

The CSD Department is seeking speech language pathologists who are passionate about their work and want to mentor the next generation of therapists.

We are committed to producing graduates who will follow in the footsteps of our talented alumni in pursuing excellence in the field of speech language pathology. Are you ready to step into a leadership role as a clinical mentor to our students? Contact Meredith O’Dea, Clinical Assistant Professor and Practicum Coordinator.

Mentor an IHP Student

Consider becoming an alumni mentor through our Career Link online portal. This new career services tool will both match mentoring connections for our new graduates, and provide services for all graduating students and alumni to hone their job-seeking abilities.

Class Notes Wanted!

We are always eager to know what's going on in the lives
spend the next year as an Albert Schweitzer Fellow creating a sustainable program that will provide free rehabilitation service and save thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket expenses for people living with the long-term effects of concussion and traumatic brain injury (TBI).

Welcome to the Institute

Over the past year, the Institute has welcomed a number of new employees to the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. We are pleased to welcome aboard Lauren Baron, Beau Bevens, Joanna Christodoulou, Susan Gray, Jennifer Mackey, Bridget Perry, Kate Radville, Adele Raade, and Brian Richburg.

Alumni Award Nominations

We invite you to nominate your IHP peers for the Bette Ann Harris ’83 Distinguished Alumni Award and the Emerging Leader Alumni Award, which will be presented during the 2015 Commencement ceremonies in May. Deadline to submit an Alumni Award Nomination is March 24, 2015.

Earn Your PhD at the Institute

The PhD in Rehabilitation Sciences is designed for clinically certified/licensed health care professionals in speech-language pathology as well as several other health disciplines who wish to acquire the advanced knowledge and skills to conduct clinical research with an emphasis on assessing clinical outcomes in rehabilitation. Doctoral Fellowships to cover most of the program costs are available for up to six qualified candidates. View more information and contact Marjorie Nicholas with any questions.

Career Services Available

The Office of Career Services posts jobs and assists alumni and students. It contains numerous job search resources, including access to the Institute’s unique career portal and job board IHP CareerLink, as well as the Interview Simulation Tool.

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