Thank You for 20 Great Years

Dear friends of the CSD Department,

I am writing this column with many emotions because it is the last newsletter column that I will be writing; on August 31, 2017, I will retire from the MGH Institute. I am completing my 20th year in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, my 10th year as the Department Chair, and served five years as the Associate Chair before that. I have spent most of my professional career here, so leaving is truly bittersweet.

When I reflect back on all of these years at the IHP, a few things immediately come to mind. First and foremost are the students and alumni. I have been involved in the education of 20 of the 25 graduating classes, so that represents a large number of exceptional speech-language pathologists who are making a difference in the world. I will always feel that the most important job I accomplished is helping our students be some of the best, evidence-based, thoughtful, ethical, and motivated clinicians out there. Time and time again I am reminded how fortunate I have been to have helped so many people learn the art and science of speech-language pathology.

And speaking of fortunate, I have had the opportunity to work with some of the finest colleagues imaginable. We have had fun together, supported each other, been creative in how to teach and conduct research, and all of this made coming to work every day a true joy. Having colleagues who are friends is the only way to have such a productive and rewarding career. I am grateful to my co-workers who are in the department and throughout the Institute.

The MGH Institute and my colleagues have been so successful in growing the department. Not only have we grown in size (this year’s entering class had 60 new students enrolled, 10 of whom are men), but we have also grown in prestige. Who would have imagined that we would have matured from a small, unknown graduate program to now be ranked at number 7 of all

Presenting at the ASHA Convention

CSD faculty, students, research fellows, and alumni will participate in 29 presentations, posters, and seminars at the 2016 ASHA Convention November 17-19 in Philadelphia. Full list of scholarship.

ASHA Convention Reception

Alumni and other friends of the IHP are invited to attend the CSD reception following the awards ceremony on Friday, November 18 from 8:30 PM to 10:30 PM at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown. The event will celebrate the 25th graduating class, and the retirement of department Chair Dr. Gregory Lof. RSVP by November 11.

SLP Program 1st in New England

The Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology is now ranked 7th in the country, and rated number 1 in New England, according to U.S. News & World Report.

IHP, Parent Group Team Up to Raise Awareness of Dyslexia

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graduate programs in the country (according to U.S. News & World Report)? It is the success of our department’s faculty and the alumna who have put us on the Communication Sciences and Disorders map.

Of course I have many more memories about my wonderful time at the IHP and I could go on and on, but you may be wondering instead about my future. Because the Institute is so much a part of me, I wouldn’t be surprised if I am asked to teach the Speech Sound Disorders course in the fall once again (and will gladly do so). I will stay connected with the Institute in many other ways until Tom and I move, in about two years, to our newly purchased home in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Even then I will stay involved with the Institute and with ASHA, and of course you will see me at the ASHA Conventions for years to come.

I want to thank all of you for helping me have such a rewarding, successful, productive, and fun career here at the Institute. You have helped me grow and learn, and I will carry precious memories with me for my entire life. I am leaving the CSD Department and the MGH Institute at an opportune time and in such good hands because there are so many exciting things ahead: new models of teaching, exciting and cutting-edge research, more and more exceptional students, new educational/clinical spaces, expanded clinical opportunities, etc. These are just a few of the things that make us all so proud. Please stay connected to the IHP…I sure will!

Gregory L. Lof, PhD, CCC-SLP, FASHA
Professor and Chair
Communication Sciences and Disorders

IHP Rallies for Aphasia Awareness

The parent advocacy group Decoding Dyslexia and the IHP teamed up during the past several months to help publicize dyslexia, a reading condition that affects upwards of 40 million Americans.

In February, faculty and students attended a briefing at the State House to push legislators to pass pending dyslexia legislation that clarifies the definition of dyslexia so that it can be more effectively identified and managed.

In April, Certificate of Advanced Study in Literacy and Language Program Director Melissa Feller and student Laura Mullen (above) were included in the WCVB-TV Channel 5 news program Chronicle, “Decoding Dyslexia” which gave a detailed description of the condition.

In October, the parent group hosted a family forum, to help promote Governor Charlie Baker’s declaration that October is Dyslexia Awareness Month in Massachusetts. CSD Instructor Melissa Feller and speech-language pathology students Anne Dixon and Reem Mohamad participated in that event, which culminated when the Zakim-Bunker Hill Bridge was lit up in red to again call attention to the condition.

While the Legislature did not pass the bill, it is hoped that the collaboration between the IHP and Decoding Dyslexia, along with other advocates in the Boston area, will eventually prove successful.

Christodoulou Featured on PBS Program NOVA

The NOVA documentary “The School of the Future” aired on September 14 on PBS included CSD Assistant Professor and BEAM Team leader Joanna

https://t.e2ma.net/message/b7gwxb/v6xscr
Students, faculty, and clients participated in a Statehouse rally for the fourth consecutive year to raise awareness about aphasia, a condition that affects a person’s speech and language. Dozens turned out for the June 30 event.

2016 Commencement Awards

Ashley Flora Kippins ’16 (left) and Professor Emerita Julie Atwood Drake.

The CSD Department presented several awards to students and faculty at 2016 Commencement. View student and faculty awardees.

New Faculty

Rachel Pittmann, MS, CCC-SLP, CBIS, joined the faculty this fall as Instructor and Coordinator for the Aphasia Center. She replaced long-time faculty member Eileen Hunsaker, who accepted a position as Assistant Professor at the newly established graduate program at Midwestern University in Arizona to be closer to family.

Christodoulou, who discussed her research about the “summer slump” with struggling readers. Watch the two-hour show.

Comedian Speaks on Asperger’s

Jack Hanke, a member of the comedy troupe Asperger’s Are Us, visited campus July 5 to speak with SLP students. The visit was filmed to be included in an upcoming documentary series being done on the four-person group.

Join Team IHP for the 2017 Boston Marathon

Applications are currently being accepted for alumni interested in joining Team IHP for the 2017 Boston Marathon. The selection process is competitive this year, as only two runners will be selected. View more information and complete an application.

Join the Institute's Online Community
Touting the Impact of IMPACT

Faculty in the CSD department were involved in several efforts to promote interprofessional education, a hallmark of an IHP education.

In January, a book edited by Provost Alex Johnson was published: *Interprofessional Education and Interprofessional Practice in Communication Sciences and Disorders: An Introduction and Case Based Examples*.

Chair Gregory Lof and Instructor Rebecca Santos Inzana wrote an article for ASHA's June issue of *Access Academics & Research* that outlines the IHP's focus on its interprofessional curriculum, IMPACT Practice.


Dr. Kelly Mabry Promotes Global Service for Cleft Palate

We invite you to become part of our expanding online alumni community by joining IHP's LinkedIn, Facebook, and other social media to keep up with your MGH Institute classmates and fellow graduates.

In addition, please "Like" the CSD's Facebook page to stay current on what's happening in the department.

We're Looking for Bloggers

Are you interested in blogging for the Institute about your experiences as an SLP? You can do it on the Institute’s blog, *The Pulse*. Contact the Office of Communications and Marketing for more information.

Live Career Support Now Available

IHP Career Services

Making a career move? Need your resume updated? Need to prepare for an upcoming interview? Check out IHP’s career resources website and start moving forward now.

Class Notes Wanted!

We invite you to submit a class note to share with your fellow alumni what is happening in your world. This includes such things as new jobs and promotions, professional presentations given, and awards, along with marriage photos and photos of you and your new baby. We'll include them in an upcoming issue of the MGH Institute magazine.

Feedback, Tips, Ideas, Etc.

Please forward items of interest to CSD News editor John Shaw.
Kelly Mabry, PhD, CCC-SLP (l) gave a talk on April 20 discussing her experiences with Operation Smile in the Republic of the Congo and with the Global Smile Foundation in Ecuador. She also talked about various international programs and opportunities for students to get involved in craniofacial disorders. This guest lecture was the capstone event for SLP student Mary Kate Mohyde's (r) medical speech-language pathology concentration project.

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