A Message From the Chair

Dear alumni and friends,

Last year at this time, my newsletter message started out like this: “It’s been a wonderful 2019 for our department here at the Institute.” Who could have imagined back then the changes that 2020 would bring to all of us? It has been wondrous, but perhaps not exactly wonderful. I send my best wishes and sympathies out to all of you who may have had to deal with illness of any kind in yourselves or your family.

Here in the CSD Department, there have been so many adjustments to our lives that it’s difficult to know where to begin! Once again, we welcomed more than 60 new master’s students who arrived in September from across the country and around the world. These brave students came into a graduate school experience from their first days that is different from what, I venture to say, any of you reading this had experienced. In addition to beginning their clinical preparatory work primarily in a remote fashion for their upcoming clinical sessions via telepractice in the Speech, Language, and Literacy Center, they also have been attending all their classes via Zoom with a mixture of synchronous and asynchronous learning activities.

When the Boston area was shut down mid-March, the IHP remained “open” and everyone – students, faculty, and staff – pulled together to make sure that the Class of 2020 would be able to graduate on time, and they all did! We all learned how to provide treatment and supervise over telepractice. We were helped in this effort especially by our faculty member and Class of 2011 alum, Amanda Worek, our telepractice “guru”, who educated us on regulations and gave us ideas for best practices in this new world of telehealth. The phrase “necessity is the mother of invention” was frequently invoked as we learned how to become newly minted “experts” at teaching and learning online. I feel certain that there are many excellent and innovative practices that we will choose to continue that emerged from this quick pivot to remote education that we had to make.

The pandemic also highlighted the many racial and ethnic disparities present in our health care system. At the same time, we all experienced various forms of anxiety related to the political environment and the waves of protests that spread across our nation. At the IHP, the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) office was renamed the Office of Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) in recognition that Justice and Equity should be emphasized upfront. Plus, one of the office’s staff members is a Star Wars fan! This fall, they have launched a student JEDI Fellows program, and three current CSD students were selected to work on projects with various academic departments related to social justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion.

In the department, we have formed new task forces to grapple with these important issues in meaningful ways to benefit students, faculty, and the greater IHP community. Our new task forces will address the need for greater education on JEDI issues for onsite and adjunct faculty and external placement preceptors; we will re-evaluate our curriculum and continue to make changes to better infuse diversity, inclusion, and the social determinants of health into every course; we will focus on the student experience to ensure that all practica and onsite classrooms are inclusive and supportive of everyone; we also hope to increase the diversity of faculty by developing a visiting scholar program for scholars who identify as persons of color. Indigo Young, a 2014 graduate, has already assisted in curricular changes by incorporating important information related to “Anti-Oppressive Intervention” in the first-year courses and clinical experience. Another initiative starting this fall is our Alumni Mentorship Program (AMP) for students of color. Earlier, you received a request for mentors related to this program from our alumni office, and already we have many volunteers. Thank you! If you identify as a person of color and are willing to serve as a student mentor, please contact Lesley Maxwell or Katie Mulcahy.

Also on the horizon is a new post-professional clinical doctorate in speech-language pathology (SLPD) that will begin in the Fall of 2021. Dr. Bridget Perry, a 2018 graduate of the PhD in Rehabilitation Sciences program at the IHP, is our inaugural Program Director. This two-year, 34-credit online program is designed for working professionals who are already certified as SLPs. The SLPD website is not yet up and running, but you can reach out to Bridget for more information.

We were also thrilled to welcome Esther Ayuk from the Class of 2015 to the faculty in a part-time role. Esther had helped us out in the Fall of 2019 as one of the supervisors in our S-IHPs CAP intensive
comprehensive aphasia program. She is keeping a half-time clinical position at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital and is joining the CSD faculty to assist with the practicum committee and the operation of the new SLPD program.

Finally, despite the cancellation of the 2020 ASHA Convention in San Diego, we are holding a virtual edition of our annual alumni reception on November 19 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. You should have received an invitation to “A Slice of Convention” which will also include a one-hour CE presentation by Lesley Maxwell, focused on Cultivating a Growth Mindset: Practical Strategies. Hope to see you all there!

If 2020 has taught us anything, it's that, now more than ever, we realize how important social connection is to our daily lives. On a personal note, my granddaughter Victoria has turned two and her language changes daily; she tells me “Nai Nai, come, sit”. Charley Haynes now has two grandchildren and about half of our faculty are working from home with their children by their sides. Giselle Sabido, our CSD program coordinator whom some of you may know, had a baby boy, Noah, on October 22. You also may be interested to know that Gregg Lof, our former department chair, was dragged out of retirement and is now serving as the Interim School Director of the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Central Florida. He’s looking forward to returning to poolside next summer.

Wishing you all a healthy and socially connected next 12 months! Please reach out and let us know how you are doing.

Marjorie Nicholas, PhD, CCC-SLP, FASHA
Professor and Chair

---

**CSD Commencement Video**

Faculty and staff in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders recognized the Class of 2020 with a video in May.

---

**Better Hearing & Speech Month Video Recognizes Better Hearing and Speech Month**

Several SLP students created the video Hearing Loss and How to Prevent It, to recognize Better Hearing and Speech Month in May. The video discusses several causes and signs of hearing loss as well as some ways to prevent hearing loss. It also details suggestions on how to discuss hearing loss with children and how to teach children with hearing loss to advocate for themselves. Instructor Amanda Worek supervised the project, which included Class of 2020 students Krystal Radnor, Madeline Smith, Mika Genatossio, Sarah Kim, and Julia Holzwasser.

---

**A Pandemic Video**

The SAiL Lab created a movie using lines from children’s books to tell the story of their experience with COVID-19 and to thank teachers and parents for their extraordinary efforts.

*In photo: Xue Bao (PhD Student), MS-SLP '18*

---

**Innovating During Times of Change: Virtual Telepractice Aphasia Center**

Institute launches video series on how it's creatively responding to the changing classroom environment. The first video features the Aphasia Center.
Article Warns Pandemic Could Widen Gender Gap in Higher Ed

Tiffany Hogan, director of the SAiL Lab, is co-author of *A Call to Action: Supporting Women Faculty in the Time of COVID-19 and Beyond*. The article, published in Medium, warns that remote working could exacerbate existing inequalities that favor men in academe, including receiving tenure, grants awarded, and leadership positions.

---

Faculty News

Xue Bao, MS-SLP ’18, a student in the PhD in Rehabilitation Sciences program, was interviewed on *WCVB-TV Channel 5* about the paper she and Dr. Tiffany Hogan co-authored on potential reading loss in kindergartners due to COVID-19 school closings.

Dr. Joanna Christodoulou, director of the BEAM Team and an associate professor of CSD, was involved in several events supporting educators on their return to a new academic year. She co-led a sold-out webinar on “Improving Reading With Executive Functions: Cognitive Skills, the Summer Slide, and COVID” on September 18 through the education conference organization Learning & the Brain; provided district-wide training to over 200 practitioners in the Cambridge Public School District on screening for at-risk readers in early elementary school grades; and provided school-wide training to educators and practitioners at the Landmark School on assessing reading skills among students with language-based learning disabilities. She also participated in the Global Science of Learning Education Network’s “Global Connections Between COVID, Poverty, and Science of Learning” on August 27.

Dr. Sofia Vallila Rohter, an associate professor of communication sciences and disorders, received the Nancy T. Watts Award for Excellence in Teaching, the IHP’s highest faculty honor at the 2020 virtual Faculty Convocation.

Dr. Lauryn Zipse, co-director of the Cognitive Neuroscience Group and an associate professor of CSD, is interviewed in the *ASHA Leader* on ways to support learning for people with memory difficulties related to a traumatic brain injury.

---

A Wedding Ceremony During the Coronavirus

Dr. Joanna Christodoulou married her long-time beau, James Walker, during an intimate ceremony on April 19. Held on the John W. Weeks Bridge over the Charles River in Cambridge, Dr. Christodoulou noted, "It was peaceful and warm, and we were surrounded by signs of spring. Given our original wedding plans had to be canceled, we were grateful to have these moments of celebration in a challenging time."
CSD faculty continue to publish and present their scholarship. A representative sampling of their efforts is available on the website.

Looking for Stories from the Field

The Student Government Association's Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow Committee, in collaboration with the Alumni Relations Department, would like to collaborate with you on a new initiative. This endeavor, through the sharing of your stories from the field, aims to bring life to the black-and-white pages of student textbooks. It also seeks to connect students, alumni, faculty, and clinical supervisors to each other through the sharing of paths taken or not, opportunities realized, and experiences that will be remembered for a lifetime. The stories will then be included in a standalone e-publication that will be sent out in spring 2021. Please submit your story by Thursday, December 31.

Alumni Corner

A Message from the Director

Greetings! I am delighted to know that this newsletter provides you with the “inside scoop” on the CSD Department. Your connecting back to the IHP is of utmost importance to us. We are working hard to bring programs and services to the alumni community that will be of most interest to you. To accomplish this goal, we need your input! Please feel free to email me with any thoughts or suggestions you might have.

Katie Mulcahy
Director of Alumni Relations

Tell Us About Your Life!

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 with your new baby. We’ll include them in an upcoming issue of the MGH Institute magazine.

Join the IHP's Online Community

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 the IHP and your fellow graduates.

Two CSD Funds to Support

We invite you to support two funds that are specific to the CSD Department: The Gregory L. Lof Dissertation Support Fund, named after the long-time chair, supports student scholarly work; and the Christopher Norman Educational Fund,
named in memory of the 2007 graduate who tragically passed away, supports students to attend conferences, complete thesis projects, and underwrite student research endeavors.

Shop and Support the IHP

Support the IHP all year long by shopping with [AmazonSmile](https://smile.amazon.com). Just sign in to your Amazon or Amazon Prime account and the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.05% of the proceeds from your qualifying purchases to the IHP. [Contact Christopher Bjork](mailto:christopher.bjork@howard.edu) in the Office of Development for more information.

Feedback, Tips, Ideas, Etc.

If you have any news, tips, or ideas for the CSD News, please [file out a Communications ticket](https://example.com) and email Yardarm editor [John Shaw](mailto:john.shaw@howard.edu) with any questions. [View past editions](https://example.com).

Library Resources

MGH Institute alumni have access to journals, databases, and other research resources at the Institute’s [Alumni Library Resources](https://libraryresources.mgh.org) section. This robust section is sure to meet many of your research needs. [Contact Director of Library and Instructional Design Jessica Bell](mailto:jessica.bell@howard.edu) with questions or for assistance.

Career Development Available

[MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH OUR CAREER COUNSELOR](mailto:career.counselor@howard.edu)

Continuing and Professional Development Available

[MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH OUR CAREER COUNSELOR](mailto:career.counselor@howard.edu)

Opportunities to learn and grow as a professional are part of our continuous commitment to alumni. The [Office of Continuing and Professional Development (CPD)](https://cpd.mgh.org) and several academic programs offer courses, symposiums, and workshops throughout the year. Please check them out.

Free webinar: November 18, 12:00–12:30 p.m.: [Telehealth and Speech-Language Pathologists](https://example.com). Amanda Worek, MS ‘11, CCC-SLP, a CSD instructor, will discuss some of the unique issues facing speech-language pathologists as the use of telehealth increases.

Please submit suggestions or comments about any issue at the IHP to President Milone-Nuzzo’s online suggestion box, [Institute Input](https://example.com).