ASHA National Convention Combines Scholarship and Research

Vermont well represented by CMSI Faculty and Graduate Students

Miami - Three UVM CMSI faculty were part of the Program Committee for the 2006 National American Speech Language and Hearing Association (ASHA) Convention in Miami, Florida in November.

Professor Barry Guitar was part of the Fluency Committee. (Reappointed in 2007)

Clinical Assistant Professor Moira Mulligan was part of the Motor Speech in Adults & Children Committee.

Professor Patricia Prelock was the Topic Coordinator for Discipline Wide Research & Clinical Issues. Dr. Prelock will serve as a Co-Chair for the 2007 ASHA Convention in Boston, MA, November 15-17, 2007. info: http://www.asha.org/

In addition, CMSI will sponsor a special alumni event at the 2007 Convention. More info: See page 8.

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CMSI Faculty Publications

Note: (CMSI Faculty names are bolded and current/former student names are underlined)

Cannizzaro, M.S., Reilly, N. & Snyder, P.J. (in press). The negative symptom complex in schizophrenia is marked by paucity of thought and motor slowing: A quantitative speech acoustic study. Brain and Cognition.


Spotlight on CMSI Faculty Publications - See page 3


Facilitating Peer Play for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders

The development of meaningful social relationships among children with autism and their typical peers is a frequently identified valued outcome for families. Yet, children with autism demonstrate marked challenges in their ability to establish joint attention, engage in pretend play and sustain their interaction with their peers—all critical components to the development of social relationships and friendship building.

Dr. Patricia Prelock has been involved in intervention research in which she is using graduate student interventionists to support the peer interactions of young children with autism and their typical peers in the home setting. The home was selected as opposed to the classroom setting because Dr. Prelock is trying to capitalize on an environment where children with autism are familiar with their toys, have established routines and can practice their skills as play partners in a common context for children without autism. During this 15 week treatment study, interventionists learn to scaffold the play of children with autism and their typical peers, mediating and interpreting their play events, encouraging their joint attention, and facilitating their sustained engagement in play. Several former and current students have participated in this research as graduate research assistants including Kimberly Bennett (’03), Corrie Rilling (’03), Eugenia Corbett (’05), Mary Plain (’05), Gregory Unwin (’05), Emily Schug (’07), Courtney Ehlers (’07), Laura Bonazinga (’08), Cocoa Blake (’08) and Sarah Nestor (’08).
 CMSI Publications continued from page 1


Publications continued on page 3.

CMSI Research

What’s Happening in ASD Research (continued from Page 1)

The Effects of Social Story Intervention on the Perspective Taking of Children with Autism

Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) often experience difficulty understanding social situations, communicating effectively, and taking the perspective of others. A relatively new approach to help children with ASD behave more appropriately in social situations involves the use of Social Stories. Social Stories are short stories that explain to children how to behave more successfully in a social setting.

Although much enthusiasm surrounds this approach, little rigorous research has been conducted in this area to date. In addition, no research has been conducted to explore the potential benefits of Social Stories for enhancing the perspective-taking abilities of children with ASD.

Drs. Patricia Prelock and Tiffany Hutchins are co-investigating the effectiveness of Social Stories to help children with ASD 1) increase their appropriate communicative strategies, 2) decrease their inappropriate social behaviors and, 3) influence their perspective-taking abilities. As a large scale and experimentally-controlled study, this research involves the participation of several children with ASD and their families. The children and their families represent a diverse sample in terms of child characteristics and parents’ backgrounds. Both graduate and undergraduate students in the Department of Communication Sciences are collaborating with Drs. Prelock and Hutchins in this research. Our collaborative team works closely with the children with ASD and their parents in order to identify challenges that become the targets of our intervention. We also work to train students as effective and sensitive interventionists who are adept in data collection procedures, experimental design, transcription or data analysis.

As a project that will span the next few years, we look forward to contributing to our understanding of the effects of Social Stories for children with ASD. A number of undergraduate students were involved in this research as interventionists during the 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 academic years, including Darlene Barone, Laura Bonazinga, Regina Charron, Megan Deshais, Ally Gould, Elizabeth Rinaldi, Heather Fjeld, Lindsay Miller, Rhiannon Kim, and Crystal Variaja.

Graduate students in the class of 2005 also participated as interventionists for the research, including Mary Plain, Greg Unwin, Erin Murphy and Mary Beth Dugan. Mary Beth also served as the Research Coordinator for the project during the 2004-2005 academic year. Several graduate students participated as interventionists in year two of the project (2005-2006), including Cocoa Blake, Ashley Clark, Chrissy Daly, Courtney Ehlers, Carolyn Hofford, Regina Charron and Mary Daniels. Currently, Laura Bonazinga, now a graduate student in the department, serves as the Research Coordinator for the project with support from several undergraduates including Lily Hughes, Heather Fjeld, Christine McGovern, Shoshannah Kantor, Michelle Cadieux and Kira Schachinger.

UVM CMSI Department & Clinic Wish List

☐Unrestricted Gift - Use for Greatest Need $______

☐Clinic Furnishings for our
  New play kitchen set $ 200
  Children’s Furniture for Clinic Reception Area $ 80
  Books/Toys for Clinic Reception area $ 150

☐Support for student research ($300/student x 10 students/yr) $ 3,000

☐Equipment for Audiology
  OAE (Otoacoustic Emissions) $12,000
  Audioscan $15,000
  Video Otoscope $15,000

☐Equipment for Augmentative Communication
  DynaVox DV4 $ 7,515
  Vanguard Plus $ 7,295

Please see our Donation Form on Page 3.

Summer 2007 - Luse Ends - a Publication of The UVM Department of Communication Sciences and The Eleanor M. Luse Center 489 Main Street Burlington, Vermont 05405 (802) 656-3861 visit us on the web: http://www.uvm.edu/cmsi
Spotlight on Recent CMSI Publications


This book on stuttering provides information on the latest research findings and theories, along with guidelines for conducting evaluation and delivering treatment for all ages. When available, evidence is given for the effectiveness of various treatments; procedures for selecting appropriate treatments are described, along with suggestions for collecting data on client progress.


This text was written as both a textbook for students studying Autism Spectrum Disorders and as a resource for families, health & related service providers, general & special educators and other community providers. Several assessment and intervention strategies are reviewed across the core deficit areas in autism including communication, social interaction and play.


This book, written for students, professionals, and families, describes 15 treatments used in the treatment of children with language disorders. The descriptions are standardized to facilitate comparisons of empirical support, theoretical bases, and methods across treatments. DVD clips are included to more directly allow readers to experience the treatments.

Please send your comments!
We want to hear from you!

I would like to know more about: _____________________________

I would like to support CMSI with a donation of: $________________________

For ___________________ (please see page 2 for the CMSI Wish List)

Your Name & Mailing Address:
Street Name
City, State, (Province):
Zip/Postal Code

Email: Phone

Please make Checks Payable to UVM and mail to: UVM Development, Grassmount, 411 Main Street, University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont 05405 - Attention: Joan Cook
You may also email: Joan.Cook@uvm.edu or phone (802) 656-8791

Thank you for your Support!
Email CMSI: Communication.Sciences@uvm.edu


Roberts, J. (In press) Vermont lowering? Raising some questions about (ay) and (aw) south of the Canadian border. Language Variation and Change.


Summer 2007 - Luse Ends - a Publication of The UVM Department of Communication Sciences and The Eleanor M. Luse Center 489 Main Street Burlington, Vermont 05405 - (802) 656-3861 - visit us on the web: http://www.uvm.edu/cmsi
Undergraduate Programs

Community Outreach and Student Club Activities

Speech and Hearing Club Sponsors Community Hearing Screenings — Raises Funds for Autism Research & Parent to Parent of Vermont

The Speech & Hearing Club, UVM’s National Student Speech, Language & Hearing Association (NSLHSA) chapter, had a very productive spring semester! The focus of the Club, which consists of approximately 30 undergraduate students majoring in Communication Sciences, is to stimulate interest in the professions of speech language pathology and audiology. Undergraduate students come together as a group to get to know each other better and to promote community outreach regarding speech, language and hearing issues. Each semester the Club conducts free hearing screenings at the Eleanor M. Luse Center for Communication, under the supervision of Elizabeth Adams, their faculty advisor.

This spring semester the hearing screenings were held on April 27th and a total of 42 people were screened with many of them referred on for a full hearing evaluation or otolaryngological consultation. The screening program provided by the students was described by several participants as a “well-needed service” to the community and allowed the students the opportunity to practice skills learned in the classroom.

Along with the free hearing screenings, a great deal of effort was also spent in preparation for a walk-a-thon fundraiser to benefit Parent to Parent of Vermont. This is a state wide organization that helps families with children with special needs find support from other parents, healthcare professionals, and the communities in which they live.

Speech and Hearing Club Members joined Parent to Parent for an Autism Walk in Oct. 2006. Their efforts resulted in over $800 in funds for Autism Research.

The Speech and Hearing Club also worked in collaboration with education students from St. Michael’s College to hold the first annual Step by Step Together benefit on April 20th. The goal of the walk-a-thon was to raise awareness throughout the community about Parent to Parent of Vermont, as well as raise funds for the important work done by this organization. All total, the walkers raised over $6300 and provided a fun-filled evening for families who benefit from the support of Parent to Parent.

For more information about the Speech and Hearing Club and its activities, you can contact their faculty advisor at elizabeth.adams@uvm.edu or visit the CMSI website.

CMSI faculty present inside view of careers at South Burlington High Job Fair

On April 10, members of the CMSI department and Speech and Hearing Club participated in a job fair at the South Burlington High School. Faculty members Maria Short and Moira Daly, and CMSI major Lily Hughes were in attendance to represent the profession in general, and the UVM programs in particular.

Many students had little idea what a speech-language pathologist or audiologist does, and this provided a wonderful opportunity to share information about the many and diverse opportunities within the professions.

Neither Vermont blizzard nor squall will keep them away

Members of the Spring ‘09 CMSI Graduate Class brave their way across the University ‘Green’ to Pomeroy on April 12, 2007 — left to right, Lillian Dean, Ted Myotte, Lizzie Allen, and Rebecca ‘Bex’ Gemignagi.

"Peer Advising - This program, run by undergraduate students with a faculty director, provides student advising to first and second year undergraduate students. Juniors and seniors, under the guidance of a student peer advising director and a faculty member, provide information to beginning students on courses to take, opportunities in the major, and career options. This is done in concert with the students' faculty advisors. In many cases, student peer advisors are in contact with prospective students who visit UVM after they are accepted, to consider enrolling. The Peer Advising Program has been in place in CMSI for 13 years and may well be the only such program in Arts & Sciences"
10th Annual Autism Institute June 25-29

The Annual Vermont Summer Institute on Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) is a one-week intensive session featuring international, national, regional and local experts in autism & other developmental disabilities. It is open to community teams and the families they serve in Vermont and interdisciplinary teams across the New England area.

Participants represent several disciplines, including speech-language pathologists, special educators, general educators, medical professionals, family members, administrators, early interventionists, paraprofessionals, occupational therapists, physical therapists, psychologists, child care service providers, and community resource parents. The content emphasizes the language and communication skills psychologists, child care service providers, and community resource parents. The content emphasizes the language and communication skills and deficits in individuals with autism compared to language disorders in individuals without autism; communication as behavior; strategies for supporting communication using augmentative alternative means; considerations for ensuring the success of individuals with ASD in their home, school, community and employment settings; developmental approaches to supporting affect, self-regulation and relationship building; and, evidence-based interventions to support social skills.

For more information about the 2007 annual Vermont Summer Institute on Autism Spectrum Disorders, visit: http://www.uvm.edu/cmsi or the Autism Society of Vermont http://www.Autism-info.org

CMSI Graduate Students awarded OAR Grant for Autism Research

Courtney Ehlers, a graduate student in the Department of Communication Sciences, has recently been awarded a research grant as part the Organization for Autism Research (OAR) annual Graduate Research Competition.

Ms. Ehlers’ research will examine the quality of narratives of children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) compared to children who are typically developing when presented with various types of tasks and when speaking to different listeners. Ms. Ehlers’ research proposal was among 19 articles submitted in the OAR competition.

The data from Ehlers’ study will be presented as a Master’s thesis in completion of graduate program requirements at the Department of Communication Sciences at UVM. Ms. Ehlers’ research will then be submitted for inclusion at the national convention of the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association (ASHA). Future plans include publication of Ehlers’ search in a ASD related professional journal.

Ehlers’ study has been developed with the assistance of faculty sponsor and UVM CMSI Chair, Patricia Prelock, Ph.D, CCC-SLP.

2006 ASHA Presentations (continued from page 1…)

Note: Faculty names are bolded and student names and grad alumni are underlined.


Asper, M. & Prelock, P. A.
What Makes an Effective Peer Partner? A Descriptive Study.


Gayle Belin, Patty Prelock and Maria Short traveled across the State of Vermont to provide a training workshop, titled “Supervision in Speech-Language Pathology” to increase SLPs’ understanding of the supervision process, and strategies to support SLP Assistants. Graduate Students in Training and Clinical Fellows. Nearly 70 SLPs participated in these workshops held in Berlin, Rutland, Burlington and Newport. 

CMSI Chair Patty Prelock, CMSI Lecturer, Tiffany Hutchins, and Wendy Chace, CMSI ’07 Grad pose beside Wendy’s poster featured at the 2006 ASHA Conference in Miami, Florida.
The International Association of Laryngectomees (IAL) Conference—Weeklong Events in Burlington - July 9-14

The IAL Conference provided a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the unique challenges faced by laryngectomized individuals and their families, and hear the latest in laryngectomy rehabilitation from experts in the field.

For further information, visit the IAL website at or contact Moira Daly at moira.daly@uvm.edu. Or http://www.larynxlink.com/Vermont/index.htm webpage: http://www.larynxlink.com/index.htm

This conference included presentations on laryngectomee rehabilitation, communication strategies, and the latest research in the field.

Spotlight on: Augmentative Alternative Communication (AAC) CMSI 295

Who should take these courses? Parents, educators, special educators, educational assistants, speech/language pathologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, anyone interested in learning more about AAC strategies.

Fall 2007 course offering Spotlight:

CMSI 311 Seminar in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities I—This Fall, Thurs. 5-8 p.m: UVM, and distance learning sites: Castleton, Berlin and Springfield

This course explores the interdisciplinary process, collaborative teaming, cultural competence and family-centered care as they relate to children and families affected by neurodevelopmental and related disabilities.

Tuition scholarships available for Continuing Education Students, for info: please call VT-ILEHP at (802) 656-0204.

ASHA Presentations (continued from page 5)


CMSI 295A: Topics in Augmentative Communication: Developing Effective Communication Displays

This 2 day course was offered from June 19 & 20, 9am-4pm, Tues. & Weds. Participants learned to create effective communication boards to increase the participation of individuals who cannot rely on speech to meet all their daily communication needs. Instruction included learning several ways to develop vocabulary lists, and how to make the boards on the Boardmaker software program. Participants left this class with several boards ready for use!

CMSI 295B: Topics in Augmentative Communication: Partner Strategies to Increase Communication

This 2 day course was presented from June 21 & 22, 9am-4pm Thurs. & Friday. Emphasis for the class focused on allowing participants to become better communication partners for individuals who use a variety of ways to communicate. Topics included how to choose appropriate strategies to match the need of a variety of communicators. Self-assessment of current partnering skills and ways to improve them were discussed.

Dr. Elizabeth Adams of the CMSI faculty presented at the Conference as well as participated in Hearing screenings with CMSI faculty member Dinah Smith. Other CMSI faculty members including Gayle Belin and Moira Daly participated at this international event.

Barb Miller '06 and Barry Guitar


ASHA...continued on page 7
Belin continues third term on ASHA Legislative Council — Represents SLP and Audiology Issues in Vermont

Gayle Belin, M.A., CCC-SLP, Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Communication Sciences participated in her third year as the Vermont representative to the Legislative Council of the American Speech Language and Hearing Association (ASHA) from March 22-25, 2007. Meeting in Washington D.C., she met with health and education legislative aides in the offices of Senators Leahy & Sanders and Representative Welch where she lobbied for SLP Medicare supplier status, continued and expanded IDEA funding, direct access to Audiologists, loan forgiveness for students entering the field of Speech/Language Pathology who have a willingness to work in high needs areas, and early hearing detection and intervention. She was also an ad hoc committee member looking into the use and supervision of Speech/Language Pathology Assistants (SLPAs) whose final committee report and resolution may lead to new certification and/ or licensure of these para-educators with specialized training.

More info: gayle.belin@uvm.edu

**Collaboration - CMSI and VSHA Work Together**

**CMSI faculty** are active on the Executive Board and on committees of the very dynamic Vermont Speech-Language-Hearing Association (VSHA) - [http://www.vsha.us](http://www.vsha.us)

Elizabeth Adams, Au.D., CCC-A, VSHA Membership Chair, is instrumental in developing a strong VSHA membership, important to forming a strong state organization. She is collaborating with VSHA president, Kari Fabrizio, to create a website with up-to-date information about continuing education opportunities (workshops, conferences & courses) for members, professionals and consumers as well as extending networks throughout Vermont.

Several initiatives have been introduced recently to address issues of concern. In developing these initiatives, the shortage of SLPs in Vermont, as well as a nationwide shortage, has prompted a state-wide coalition to be formed to address the problem. CMSI faculty members, Patty Prelock, Maria Short, Gayle Belin, and Moira Mulligan, participate on this coalition as representatives of both VSHA and CMSI.

Among the solutions under investigation are: distance learning alternatives, workgroups to study recruitment and retention, and best practice models. CMSI faculty have collaborated with Vermont Department of Education administrators to write grants to provide a training program at the SLPA level. These faculty are also engaged in the identification of needs in specific service areas throughout Vermont.

A key focus of VSHA and CMSI is the establishment of regional meetings to strengthen networking and create journal groups. CMSI faculty members Dinah Smith and Moira Daly are actively involved in these joint efforts.

**UVM Summer Course: Updates for Speech Pathologists-CMSI 295 (CRN 60182) July 16-20 - UVM - Pomeroy Hall**

This summer, CMSI and VSHA are co-sponsoring another week-long course, *Updates for Speech Language Pathologists* to update SLPs in five areas of practice. This 3 credit course promises to be a stimulating and fulfilling exercise for participants.

For registration information about Continuing Education Courses in Communication Sciences, please visit: [http://www.uvm.edu/~learn](http://www.uvm.edu/~learn) or check the Communication Sciences website: [http://www.uvm.edu/cmsi](http://www.uvm.edu/cmsi)

**CMI announces two Clinical Faculty Promotions:**

**Dinah Smith, M.A., CCC-A** Promotion to Clinical Associate Professor

**Elizabeth Adams, Au.D., CCC-A** Promotion to Clinical Associate Professor

Faculty academic profiles are available on the [CMSI website](http://www.uvm.edu/cmsi).

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**ASHA Presentations (continued from page 6)**

Alumni! Please join us in Boston for the ASHA Convention, November 15-17, 2007!

For more information about a Special CMSI-sponsored Alumni Event to be held at the 2007 ASHA Convention, please visit the CMSI website: http://www.uvm.edu/cmsi.

Thank You...

For reading the Summer 2007 Edition of the UVM Department of Communication Sciences and E. M. Luse Center For Communication “Luse Ends” Newsletter!

If you have questions or would like more information about the activities of the CMSI Department and the E. M. Luse Center, Please visit our website: www.uvm.edu/cmsi or call 802 656-3861.

Your comments are always welcome! ☀