



# Communication Sciences and Disorders Alumni Newsletter

Winter 2022  
Volume 1, Issue 2

## A BI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

### 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Robert A. Hull Jr., Memorial Lecture Series

### In This Edition



Valdosta State University held the 9th Annual Hull Dr. Robert A. Hull Jr. Memorial Lecture series on October 21, 2022 honoring Dr. Robert A. Hull, Jr. His foresight in academia led to the development and teaching of undergraduate and graduate courses at Ball State University and Valdosta State University. In addition to his role as a beloved professor and advisor, Dr. Hull was a clinical supervisor, a clinic director, an off-campus placement coordinator, and the parliamentarian and executive secretary of the university faculty senate. His impact on the SLP profession spanned the country through his service to multiple state and national professional organizations, including being a member of GSHA for 23 years. Dr. Hull will always be remembered for his love for family, VSU, and his students.

[Dr. Robert A. Hull Jr., Memorial Lecture Series](#)

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The presentation, "Supporting the Communication of Self-Determination in Autism", given by Dr. Sylvia Diel, Ph.D CCC-SLP, provided insightful information leaving



participants with the ability to define the advantages of strength-based collaboration, describe the self-determination theory, discuss the development of the components of self-determination, and operationalize evidence-based practice to achieve collaborative support for autistic children. This continuing education event also provided opportunity for collaboration among students and professionals as they gathered to further their knowledge in the field of speech language pathology.

[Alumni News](#)

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The presenter Dr. Sylvia Diehl retired from the University of South Florida in Tampa, Florida. Dr. Diehl taught courses in pediatric language, augmentative and alternative communication, and autism in the Department of Communication sciences. She has worked across a wide variety of settings including clinic, school, and the university setting. Her research has focused on supporting the communication of children with autism in the school setting. Dr. Diehl is currently teaching at the University of St. Augustine school for Behavioral Sciences, as a constant for Medbridge education, and she is also president of Knowledge Courts Online.



### NSSLHA Members Attend the Happening!

The Happening is an annual student life event held every fall on the VSU front lawn. The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders had a booth at the Happening in which NSSLHA members and graduate assistants encouraged involvement in the CSD program.



During this event, students shared upcoming CSD events and passed out recruitment information to inquiring students. NSSLHA Members also had the opportunity to renew their membership at the event.



### NSSLHA Pumpkin Social

During one of the Fall NSSLHA meetings, NSSLHA members held a Pumpkin Social. Members had the opportunity to socialize with one another while creating Fall themed crafts as they enjoyed food together.



## NSSLHA Clinic Tours

Sophia Guzman-roman (NSSLHA President), Sofi Thornton (Vice President), and Courtney Fuller (Secretary) gave a tour of the Valdosta State Speech and Hearing Clinic to the Faculty Learning Community. The Faculty Learning Community consist of a group of interdisciplinarity faculty members who visit different parts of campus and learn about the various departments. During the tour, Mrs. Walden and Mrs. Mullis demonstrated a Fiberoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing (FEES) with Sofi and Sofia as voluneeteers.



## 2022-2023 NSSLHA at Valdosta State University Officers!

**Pictured:**

**President:** Sophia Guzman

**Vice president:** Katherine S. Thorton

**Secretary:** Courtney Fuller

**Treasurer:** Lora Glover

**Historian:** Dixie Lascelles



## Community Involvement

### Students Volunteer at The Canopy

This semester, the students in Dr. Hannibal's Aphasia class completed a Gerontology interaction project which they volunteered at The Canopy at Azalea Grove where they furthered their knowledge in geriatrics. The students visited the residents once a week and participated in a wide range of activities from playing trivia to puzzles.

During this experience, students developed meaningful friendships with the residents while also completing memory and problem-solving tasks. Students collaborated with an on-site speech language pathologist where they had the opportunity to interact and participate in activities with memory care residents.



### Hearing Screenings

Graduate clinicians at Valdosta State University in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders assisted in providing hearing screenings to students at local elementary and high schools. They screened a group of second graders at Quitman Elementary and Brooks County Elementary. The student clinicians were separated into two different groups and were assigned a child one at a time to perform the hearing screenings. This was a great opportunity for the clinicians to meet and serve these students while also receiving hands-on experience.



(Pictured (L to R): Front Row: Lorena Cole, Laura Lynn Mullis, Shiann Brownrigg, Jane Wills, Courtney Stansell, Back Row: Lyla Jones, Carlyn Seese, Mattie Wolfson, Summer Dee, Brooke Gaither

## Departmental News

### Open House

An Open House was held at the College of Education & Human Services on November 5 for prospective students who are interested in majoring in the Communication Sciences and Disorders. During the open house, Mrs. Katie Walden, discussed the CSD program, and the students had the opportunity to ask questions about the program. After the session, students were bused to the Health Sciences and Business Administration building where they received a tour of the department and the clinic.



Pictured (L to R): Haley Brown (COMD Graduate Assistant), Kiernan Mullin (COMD Graduate Assistant)

### Inaugural Graduate Clinician Induction Ceremony

In August of this semester, the College of Education and Human Services' Department of Communication sciences and Disorders welcomed a new cohort of graduate students by holding its very first Inaugural Gradual Clinician Induction Ceremony. This ceremony allowed for graduate clinicians to be recognized individually for their academic achievement in the presence of esteemed faculty, friends, and loved ones.



Pictured (L to R): David Slykhuis (Dean College of Education), Maddie Wolfson (Beginner Graduate Clinician), Lorena Cole (Clinic Director)

## Alumni News

### Alumni Survey

The CSD Department is seeking feedback about the program from alumni. Your feedback is anonymous and will assist the department in program and strategic planning and improving the overall effectiveness of the program. Please use the link or QR code below to take a brief survey. Thanks for your support!



[https://valdosta.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_9uCfs67vK6kas2q](https://valdosta.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9uCfs67vK6kas2q)

### Alumni Spotlight

#### ***Blazing CSD Alumni***

The CSD Department would like to recognize exceptional VSU CSD alumni that have Blazing CSD Alumni will be featured in our alumni newsletter, on the department's website, on our Facebook page, and in our soon to open CSD Resource Center. You can nominate someone or yourself by completing the form using the link or QR code to submit the nomination.



[https://valdosta.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_80bdjMVA1HleSHQ](https://valdosta.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_80bdjMVA1HleSHQ)