



In Loving Memory of Dr. Ruth Stonestreet

The VSU CSD faculty and students are deeply saddened by the loss of an exceptional professor and mentor who profoundly influenced countless colleagues and future professionals. During her 29 years of service at VSU, her commitment and advocacy, as well as knowledge and skills, specifically in the area of infant and child language drove this program to its unmatched reputation for success. Her dedication to nurturing the next generation of SLPs distinguished her in every way. Dr. Stonestreet's passion, tenacity, and kindness will forever be cherished in our hearts. Thank you for everything you contributed to VSU and the field of speech-language pathology. You will be profoundly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing and learning from you.



Upcoming 10th Annual Dr. Robert A. Hull Jr.'s Memorial Lecture Series - Postponed by Hurricane Helene



Dr. Robert A. Hull, Jr.'s foresight in academia led him to develop and teach undergraduate and graduate courses at Ball State University and Valdosta State University. In addition to his role as a beloved professor and advisor, Bob 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. Over time, he held every office in the association, including President for two terms. He also served on several ASHA committees and was the Publications and Technology Chair for the Council of State Association Presidents, an affiliation of ASHA. At the 2009 GSHA annual convention, he was awarded the Honors of the Association in recognition of his outstanding performance in clinical service, academic teaching, service to GSHA, and service to other local, regional, and national organizations.

Dr. Hull will always be remembered for his love for family, VSU, and his students. All proceeds from the Hull Memorial Lecture Series benefit the Dr. Robert A. Hull Scholarship Fund.

TOPIC: THE IMPORTANCE OF PHONETICS AND PHONOLOGY FOR READING, SPELLING, AND SPEECH SOUND PRODUCTION.

PRESENTER

Kelly Farquharson, Ph.D., CCC-SLP is an SLP, an associate professor, and director of the Children Literacy and Speech Sound Lab at Florida State University. The mission of her work is to help children with speech and language impairments achieve classroom success. She runs an active Instagram account - @classlab_Kelly in which she posts about the clinical application of research. This includes a popular weekly series called "phonetics Friday". She has a related line of interest in working with school-based speech-language pathologists to ensure that they are prepared to implement best practices and work at the top of the license.



DATE: JANUARY 31, 2025



NSSLHA News

NSSLHA MEMBERS AND OUR DEPARTMENT ATTEND THE HAPPENING!



The Happening is an annual student life event held every fall on the VSU front lawn. NSSLHA and the CSD Department had booths at the Happening in which NSSLHA officers encouraged involvement in the CSD program and their club. Our department graduate assistants represented the program and advocated for the field as well.



With the help of the NSSLHA faculty advisors, Dr. Ruth Hannibal and Dr. Katherine Lamb, our local NSSLHA chapter qualified for "Gold" Chapter Honors, the highest distinction awarded by National NSSLHA. They are currently working towards 2025 Honors goals with the help of NSSLHA advisors, Dr. Ruth Hannibal and Dr. Laura Abercrombie.

Our chapter earned this award by showing excellence in membership recruitment, community outreach and service, legislative advocacy, diversity, equity, inclusion, and fundraising.

NSSLHA EVENTS



Our local NSSLHA chapter works very hard to ensure they are advocating for students, advocating for our field, and reaching out to our community through service. This semester, the NSSLHA club at VSU has participated in Student Advocacy Day, the Vocal ID Drive, candy drive, and a book drive. The club aims to combine fun events with career-focused outreach and education to encourage participation in the field of speech-language pathology.

Vocal ID Drive



Our local NSSLHA chapter participated in the VocaliD Drive this year. This project aims to provide voices to those that do not have them. Traditionally, alternative communication devices possessed a robotic voice. With technology and synthetic voice innovation, VocaliD has been able to provide a custom voice to the voiceless. This company uses real voices of people around the world to develop voices using AI that can be used with communication devices. Our students “donated” their voices to this cause and learned about the many ways their donations can create an impact!

NSSLHA EVENTS

Annual Phonetics Bowl



Our NSSLHA Chapter reinvigorated their social committee to develop events that will allow engagement of both graduate/undergraduate students with our faculty. For the month of October, the club hosted their Annual Phonetics Bowl in memory of Ms. Tanya Enloe, former VSU professor. This event consisted of food and fellowship, a costume contest, and an IPA transcription game! We look forward to seeing and participating in the events the NSSLHA Social Speechies plan moving forward!



Friendsgiving

For the month of November, the NSSLHA club hosted a “Friendsgiving” drop-in event to bring the opportunity for students to sit and chat while bringing in dishes that are a staple at their family Thanksgiving. This event gave students the opportunity to get a glimpse into one another’s favorite foods and traditions and take quick breaks in between classes!



*Friends
giving*



Community Involvement

Students Volunteer at The Canopy

Every semester, the students in Dr. Hannibal's Aphasia class complete a Gerontology interaction project at The Canopy at Azalea Grove, where they further their knowledge in geriatrics. The students visit the residents once a week and participate in a wide range of activities from playing trivia to puzzles. During this experience, students develop meaningful friendships with the residents while also completing memory and problem-solving tasks. Students collaborate with an on-site speech language pathologist where they can interact and participate in activities with memory care residents. Below are pictures of the Summer 2024 Cohort volunteering at The Canopy during the Fall 2024 semester.



Students Volunteer at Camp SPEAK!



Camp SPEAK is an overnight camp that offers a fun environment for children who use augmentative communication devices ages 5-18. Each child will be paired with a Speech Language Pathologist graduate student and experience 4 days of adapted activities under supervision of some of the best therapists in the State! While the kids are having a great time parents will have opportunities to connect, receive individual attention from vendors, or attend in-services and training. Camp Speak is a collaborative effort involving organizations such as Atlanta Neurogenic Institute, Tools for Life, University of Georgia, and Georgia State.

Some of our graduate clinicians had the opportunity to attend this camp and assist in adapted activities for children with AAC devices. This camp gave our students the opportunity to have field experience outside of a clinical setting and provided a unique opportunity to work with children with AAC devices.

Mrs. Lorena Cole, a VSU clinical supervisor, supervised this event for VSU graduate clinicians. Pictured from left to right is Susie Mast, Dixie Lascelles, Lorena Cole, and Leah Howard.



Departmental News

NEW FACULTY MEMBER

PLEASE JOIN US IN WELCOMING DR. LAURA ABERCROMBIE

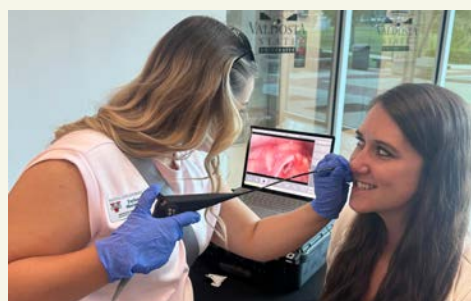


Dr. Abercrombie is a proud triple Blazer, having earned her B.S.Ed., M.Ed., and SLPD in Communication Sciences and Disorders from VSU! As part of her commitment to continuous learning, she completed endorsements in reading and dyslexia and has received ASHA's ACE Award twice. She has 7 years of experience as an SLP at Brooks County Schools and additional experience in private practice. After spending 3 years as a part-time clinical supervisor and instructor at VSU, she transitioned to a full-time position this year. Her specialty areas include autism, school-age language and literacy, and speech sound disorders. Dr. Abercrombie loves developing innovative, experiential learning opportunities for her students! If you ever need a creative touch, she is always stocked with craft supplies, whether for therapy materials, decorating a space, or dressing up for special occasions!

Our CSD students love Dr. Abercrombie for her engaging teaching style and encouraging spirit!

VSU Vendors Day

This Fall Semester brought on new and exciting ideas for clinical seminars. VSU Vendors Day served as an opportunity for speech-language pathology students to interact with professionals in the field and gain some hands-on experience with products they may use in their future careers. VSU hosted PatCom Medical, VARIBAR, AmpCare, SimplyThick, and the MedSLP Collective businesses and allowed their representatives to showcase their products and show what they had to offer! This experience meant that students were able to practice FEES exams with a portable scope, try VARIBAR products to see how barium foods taste, try SimplyThick thickener as a great alternative to starch thickeners, and learn about AmpCare and how the electrode stimulation feels for clients. Our department hopes to make this an annual event and we look forward to seeing what relationships we can foster with professional organizations and our students.



Graduates of the M.Ed CSD Program



**This December, we will
have 28 students
graduating with
their M.Ed in
Communication
Sciences and Disorders!**



Alumni News

Alumni Spotlight



The CSD Department loves to highlight & recognize our students. This year we recognize Allison Purcell who graduated May of 2024. She has since started her clinical fellowship as an acute care speech-language pathologist at Northside Hospital. Allison rotates between all 10 floors of the hospital. Congratulations Allison!

Alumni Survey

Please respond no later than December 31, 2024!

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 QR code below to take a brief survey. Thanks for your support!



Donations

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS THE WORLD TO US!

The CSD Department is so grateful for all of our supporters and those who donate to us! Your generous donations allow us to stay up to date with our tests, equipment, and materials to provide our graduate clinicians with the a top-notch learning experience! Thank you for all that you do to continue to support this program. Scan the QR code to the right to access our donation page!

