



10TH ANNUAL DEAVOURS LECTURE SERIES WAS HELD ON SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2025



IN HONOR OF DR. GEORGE "RUSS" DEAVOURS

George M. "Russ" Deavours received his B.A. from Valdosta State College in 1965, where he majored in Sociology and History. He began his career working as a research assistant for the U.S. Air Force. He received his M.S. in Audiology in 1971 from New Mexico State University and became an Audiologist for the Wm. Beaumont Army Hospital. He later came home to establish and direct the Valdosta Speech and Hearing Clinic, which was associated with Valdosta State College. He was appointed Assistant Professor in Special Education. With a graduate Teaching/Research Assistantship, he finished his Ph.D. in Speech Science from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1978. In cooperation with the Valdosta Junior Service League, he began to build a community speech and hearing clinic and an undergraduate training program in Speech Pathology/Audiology with a faculty of three. His vision of a certified Master's Degree program was realized in 1993 when the Communication Disorders Program was accredited by the American Speech- Language-Hearing Association. With the help of a Board of Regent's grant, the Masters program became the largest CD program in the state and region, graduating 75-100 new SLPs a year to meet the growing need for therapists. In 1999, he and the 17 member faculty he had assembled moved the program to the new Special Education and Communication Disorders Building. During the next few years, he watched the program he founded and built serve children and adults with communication disorders in a modern building, as well as in many off- campus community sites. The faculty he assembled was large, diverse, and productive. Having accomplished all he had hoped to achieve, Dr. Deavours retired as a full professor in 2002. Dr. Deavours has a remarkable history of excellent teaching, important research, and the capacity to surround himself with dedicated professionals who loved working for their friend. He has touched the lives of many.

TOPIC: EVALUATION TO IMPLEMENTATION: EFFECTIVE AAC INTERVENTION IN PEDIATRIC POPULATIONS

PRESENTOR

LAURIE SHAW, M.S., CCC-SLP IS A SLP WHO HAS WORKED WITH NON-SPEAKING AND MINIMALLY SPEAKING COMMUNICATORS IN A VARIETY OF SETTINGS SINCE 2008. LAURIE EARNED HER MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY FROM CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY NORTHRIDGE AND MAINTAINS HER CERTIFICATE OF CLINICAL COMPETENCE THROUGH THE AMERICAN SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING ASSOCIATION. SHE IS A RECIPIENT OF THE 2023 ASHA DISTINGUISHED EARLY CAREER PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE, A LAMP CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL (LCP), LCP MENTOR, AND LAMP EDUCATOR. WITH PRIOR EXPERIENCE IN APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS AND SPECIALIZED TRAINING IN ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION MODALITIES, LAURIE'S CLINICAL PRACTICE IS DRIVEN BY HER PASSION TO FOLLOW THE JOY OF COMMUNICATION AND TO EMPOWER FAMILIES, THERAPISTS, AND CAREGIVERS TO PLAYFULLY PURSUE MEANINGFUL COMMUNICATION WITH THEIR LOVED ONES.



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Our Sponsors



VSU Dysphagia Vendors' Day

This Fall Semester VSU CSD hosted an exciting Dysphagia Vendors' Day for clinical seminars. Vendors' Day served as an opportunity for speech-language pathology students to interact with professionals in the field and gain some knowledge of medical SLP resources. VSU hosted companies that supply SLPs with equipment and skills needed for successful practice. We look forward to seeing what relationships we can foster with professional organizations and our students. If you would like to be hosted as a vendor in the future, please contact our department at csd@valdosta.edu!



VSU Speech and Hearing Clinic Sensory Room

This Fall, we celebrated the opening of our sensory room which will help our clients fulfill their sensory needs.

Special thanks to the art department and art students who completed the mural project with honorable professionalism.

Thank you to Dean Slykhuis and our department head, Dr. Porcaro for their support. We are very grateful to Dr. Carter, Dr. Abercrombie, and Mrs. Reagan for their roles in creating this project, securing funding and getting it all together!

ABC News: https://www.wtxl.com/valdosta/vsu-unveils-new-sensory-room-blending-therapy-art-and-education#google_vignette

<https://valdostadailytimes.com/2025/10/21/vsu-adds-sensory-room-to-clinic/>



SUPERVISORS

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A SUPERVISOR?

The CSD Department seeks clinical supervisors for our graduate program, to assist in the growth and learning experience of our graduate students. To qualify as a clinical supervisor, you must be a current ASHA certified speech language pathologist, with three years of experience. For more information, please contact our clinical director Mrs. Walden at kmwalden@valdosta.edu!



The CSD Department also seeks externship partnerships for our graduate students advancing to externship placements. We understand the amount of commitment that is required for such a position and really appreciate you! For more information about becoming an externship placement partner, please contact our clinical director Mrs. Walden at kmwalden@valdosta.edu!

NSSLHA News

NSSLHA MEMBERS AND OUR DEPARTMENT



With the help of the NSSLHA faculty advisors, Dr. Ruth Hannibal and Dr. Abercrombie, our local NSSLHA chapter qualified for “Gold” Chapter Honors, the highest distinction awarded by National NSSLHA.

They are currently hard at work with a goal of qualifying for 2025 Honors.

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

NSSLHA EVENTS



NSSLHA members attended Deaf Field Day at Camp Rock. It was a great opportunity for members to practice their ASL and learn more about the Deaf community!



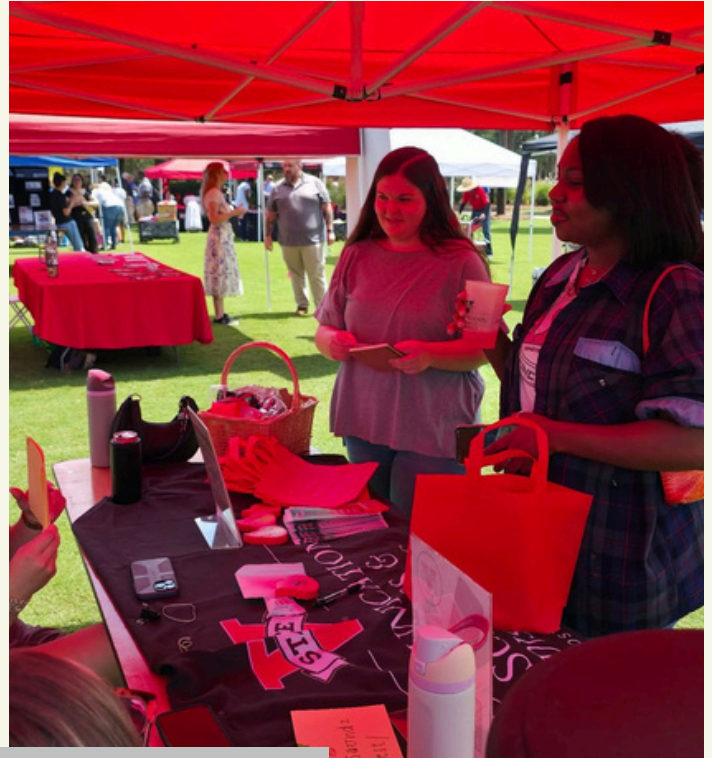
NSSLHA EVENTS



NSSLHA members attended Special Olympics. Members got to participate and they had so much fun giving back to the community!



CSD AT THE HAPPENING



**STUDENTS ENGAGED IN OUR
PHONETICS GAME AND LEARNED MORE
ABOUT CSD AND OUR DEPARTMENT**



CSD HALLOWEEN



Here's a look into the CSD department's Halloween :

Dr. Abercrombie transformed her classroom to celebrate and Dr. Carter inspired costumes!



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 Spring 2025 Cohort volunteering at The Canopy during the Fall 2025 semester.



Graduates of the CSD Program



**This December, we celebrate our
undergrad and graduate students
graduating with their B.S.Ed and M.Ed
degrees in Communication
Sciences and Disorders!**



Alumni News

Alumni Spotlight



The CSD Department loves to highlight & recognize our students. This semester we recognize several former students on our social media platforms. We want to hear from you! To share about your accomplishments, please follow the link below, or join us on our Instagram @vsuspeech, Facebook: VSU Communication Sciences & Disorders !

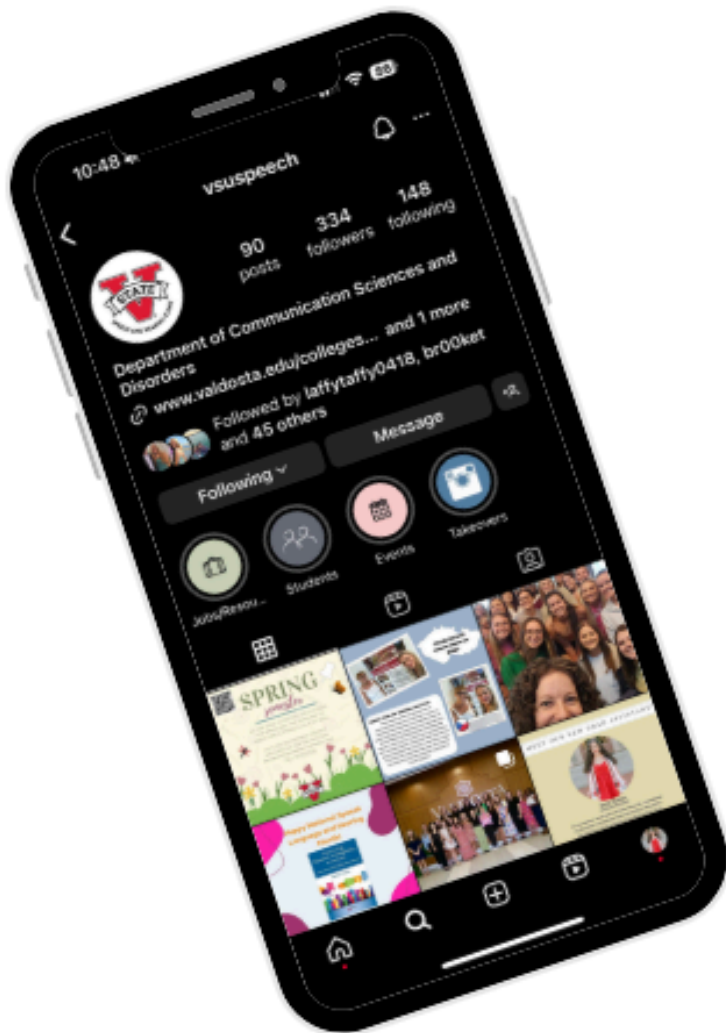
[Alumni Spotlight Link](#)

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 QR code below to take a brief survey.

Thanks for your support!





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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!

