COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS
ALUMNI NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2026
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A BI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

Advanced Clinician Fees/SNF Seminar





Every semester, Vince Clark comes and presents a FEES/SNF seminar for our advanced clinicians! This seminar provides a valuable learning opportunity for our clinicians to bridge classroom knowledge to real-world clinical application. Our clinicians were able to learn more about the role of speech-language pathologists within medical settings such as a skilled nursing facility. Clinicians were able to gain hands-on practice, performing a Fiberoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing on Vince himself. This experienced allowed our clinicians to familiarize themselves with equipment used in our field and help build confidence for their future work as speech-language pathologists.

Michael Kidd-Gilchrist's Presentation











Our Graduate clinicians' intermediate cohort got to hear from former NBA player Michael Kidd-Gilchrist about his journey with stuttering. A sincere thank you to him for visiting and educating our students about the bill he is working to pass nationwide, which aims to expand access to speech therapy services for children who stutter. It was an incredibly valuable learning experience for our clinicians. For more information on Micahel's journey, check out his facebook and instagram at change_and_impact.

NSSLHA EVENTS

VALENTINE'S CARDS FOR SENOIRS













In February, the NSSLHA's community service committee put together a great pop up event to write valentine cards for seniors in our community! Perfect time for the Month of Love.

NSSLHA EVENTS

NSSHLA's social committee team put together a fun drop in where students wrote down their goals for the end of the year. Awesome job social committee!





SPRING 2026 GOALS FUN DROP





NSSLHA EVENTS



NSSLHA provided an opportunity to give back through collecting items for donations sent to Guatemala! These donation items included hearing aid batteries, gloves and aquaphor. These items helped to provide enough medical supplies for indigenous patients to last a year!

'HELP GUATEMALA HEAR' DRIVE





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 grad clinicians at The Canopy during the Spring 2026 semester.











Spring 2026 Extern/Intern Appreciation

During this spring semester, one of our advance graduate clinician's, Sarah McMillan, shares her appreciation for her internship supervisor, Layne Snow! She says, "Thank you for taking me under your wing and sharing your passion with me! I will be forever grateful for everything you've done for me!" Sarah has completed her internship under Layne's supervision at Worth County Primary School. Layne is an example of the impact internship and externship supervisors have on our student gaining knowledge in the field. You all are appreciated!

Staff Updates

Dr. Hannibal Has Left the Building



Dr. Ruth Renee Hannibal is retiring after 25 and a half years of dedicated service to the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Valdosta State University. Since joining VSU after relocating from Haslett, Michigan, Dr. Hannibal has made lasting contributions at the university, state, and national levels.

Shortly after arriving in Georgia, Dr. Hannibal became actively involved with the Georgia Speech-Language-Hearing Association (GSHA), first serving as the Southwest Regional Representative and later as Vice President of Professional Practice. Alongside the late Dr. Ruth Stonestreet, she traveled extensively to GSHA meetings and played an integral role in the success of numerous state conventions.

For the past 24 years, Dr. Hannibal has served as faculty advisor to the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSSLHA) at VSU. She has also mentored students nationwide for more than 20 years through the Student to Empowered Professionals (S.T.E.P.) program. Her national service includes membership on the former Speech-Language Pathology Advisory Council of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), service on the former Gerontology SIG editorial board, participation in the Minority Student Leadership Program (MSLP), and work as a test and book reviewer for several publishing companies.

Staff Updates

Dr. Hannibal Has Left the Building



Among the accomplishments she is most proud of are her roles as NSSLHA advisor, seminar coordinator, externship cocoordinator, undergraduate coordinator, GSHA leader, S.T.E.P. mentor, and advisory council member. Dr. Hannibal also initiated several impactful events, including Undergraduate Mix and Mingle, Vendors' Day, STAR SLP: Med SLP Bootcamp, and the NSSLHA Meet the Masters Interprofessional Collaboration Summit.

Dr. Hannibal extends heartfelt gratitude to the original "dream team" faculty whose mentorship, collaboration, and friendship helped shape the program, as well as to those who joined in later years and the current faculty and staff. It has truly been a pleasure working alongside such dedicated colleagues.
To the students who trusted me with their growth and inspired me along the way, you will forever be my Star SLPs.

Please join us in celebrating Dr. Hannibal's extraordinary career and wishing her continued success and fulfillment in retirement.

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!

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 join us on our Instagram @vsuspeech, Facebook: VSU Communication Sciences & Disorders !

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!



STATE

SPEECH AND HEARING CLINIC

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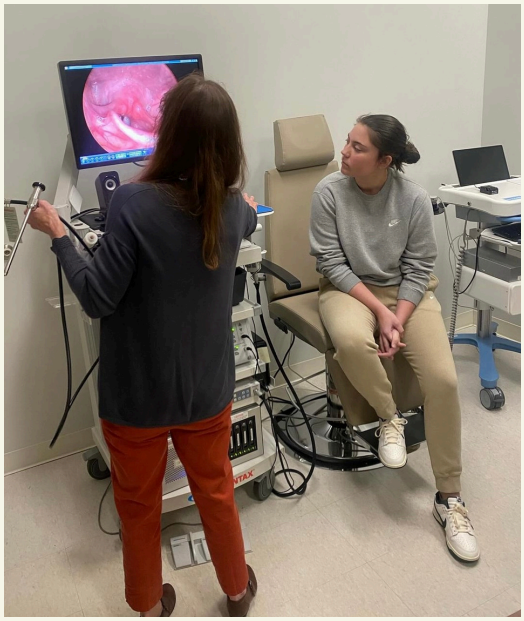
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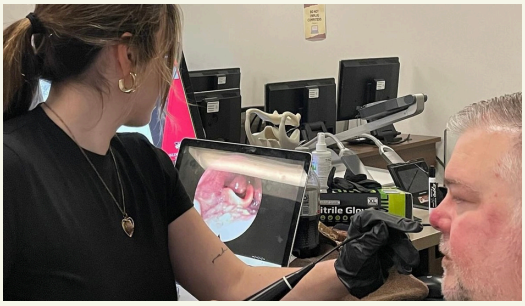
Donations

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!









There are two choices related to our program, please select either "Speech & Hearing Clinic" or "National Student Speech Language Hearing Assn. (NSSLHA)."