



## **9th Annual Dr. George R. Deavour's Memorial Lecture Series**



Valdosta State University held the 9th Annual Dr. George R. Deavours Memorial Lecture series on September 22nd 2023 honoring Dr. George R. Deavours. 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 master's 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.

### **PRESENTER**

The presentation, "A Person–Centered Approach to Aphasia Management", given by Dr. Jacqueline Hinckley Ph.D CCC– SLP, provided insightful information leaving participants with the ability to define patient–centered care, learn how to create functional person–centered goals, and administer functional assessments for aphasia based on evidence–based practice.



Pictured from L to R: Department Head Dr. Connie Porcaro, Laura Lynn Mullis, Katherine Walden, Dr. Katherine Lamb, and Dr. Jacqueline Hinckley.

# Upcoming 10th Annual Dr. Robert A. Hull Jr.'s Memorial Lecture Series



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: SEPTEMBER 27TH, 2024**

Please contact Mrs. Katie Walden with any questions or concerns!  
Phone: 229-219-1309  
Email: kmwalden@valdosta.edu



# NSSLHA News

## **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.



We are also happy to announce that our local NSSLHA chapter has once again qualified for "Gold" Chapter Honors, being the highest distinction awarded by National NSSLHA.



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

# NSSLHA NIGHT TO SHINE



Members of NSSLHA participated in Night to Shine hosted by First Baptist Church of Valdosta. Night to Shine is an unforgettable prom night experience for people with special needs who are ages 14 and older. The Tim Tebow foundation funds churches around the world to host a prom night to share the love for Jesus and honor people with special needs.



# 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 2023 and Fall 2023 Cohort volunteering at The Canopy.



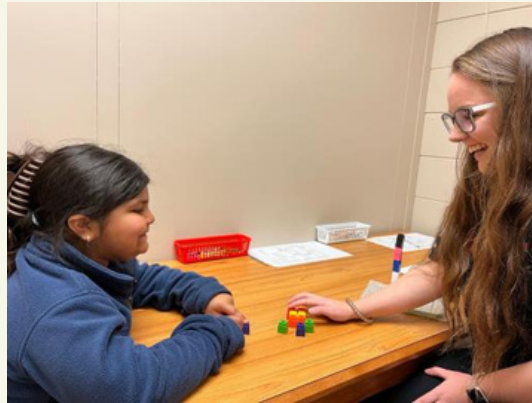
# Literacy Screenings and Diagnostics

The Scottish-Rite Literacy Program was established in 2019 and has grown each year since. All services are completely free of charge and sponsored by the Scottish-Rite Valley of Southwest Georgia. Mrs. Taylor Grantham provides all clinical supervision for the program. In the 2023-2024 school year, we have:

- provided over 30 dyslexia evaluations
- provided evidence-based literacy intervention to 20 students
- assisted the Masonic Home for Children with the literacy assessment of 14 of their wards
- signed up 20 kids for our summer literacy clinic.

As a teaching clinic, we also focus on the impact for our VSU students. From this perspective, graduate students of speech-language pathology have obtained the following number of supervised hours during the 2023-2024 school year:

- 85 literacy evaluation hours
- 150 literacy treatment hours



The Scottish-Rite Literacy Program was also successful in obtaining \$50,000 in funding from the Sandra Dunagan Deal Center for Early Language and Literacy in order to provide a free summer literacy camp to 32 rising first grade students from the Valdosta City School district. These children will be provided with transportation and nutrition at a local elementary school two times per week, where they will receive direct instruction in their school's reading curriculum by graduate students of speech-language pathology. Eight graduate students at VSU will be selected to complete extensive professional development in the Reading Horizons Literacy Curriculum as part of the grant efforts. This represents a unique service and experiential-based learning opportunity for the VSU graduate students to not only receive additional training in a highly relevant and impactful program, but also to apply their training in a real-world educational environment.

# Departmental News

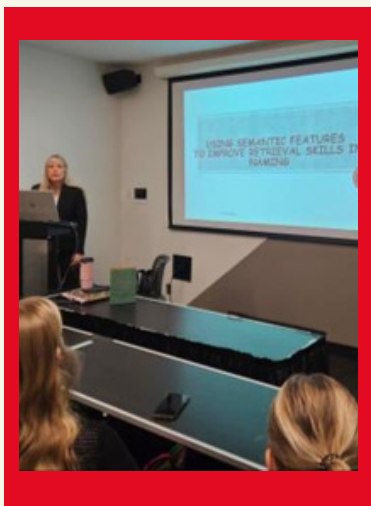
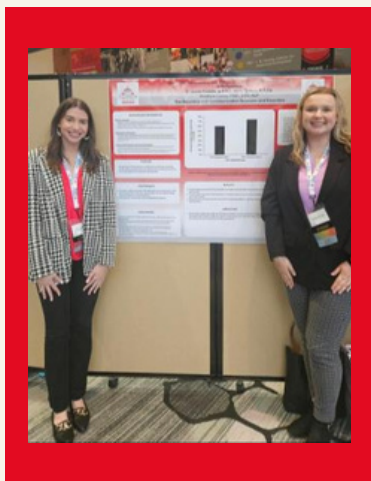
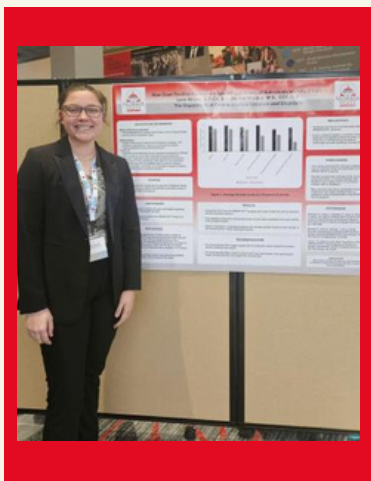
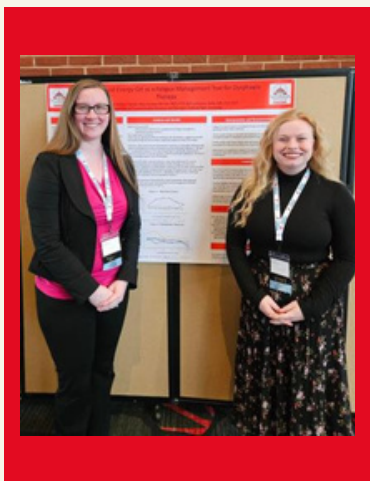
## New Department Head

On September 1st, 2023, Dr. Connie Porcaro joined the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Valdosta State University as Department Head and professor. Dr. Porcaro was most recently a professor at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida. Her main research focus is on speech intelligibility and how speakers and listeners can work together to communicate more effectively. She has particular interest in people with Parkinson's Disease. Dr. Porcaro is strongly committed to leadership in the field of speech-language pathology and is excited to join the impressive faculty and students at VSU.



# 2024 Georgia Speech-Language-Hearing Association Convention

In March of this semester, the Georgia Speech-Language-Hearing Association (GSHA) had its annual convention in Athens, GA. GSHA is a professional association of individuals specializing in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of communication, swallowing, and hearing disorders. The association advocates for the professional interests of its members and for the individuals they serve. It also provides a forum for the exchange of professional information and ideas. Valdosta State University had some faculty and students attend. Congratulations to Kelley Tidwell, Lora Coxwell, Lora Glover, Hally Spikes, and Annie Eilders for being first-time presenters. Congratulations to Dr. Laura Johnson Abercrombie for presenting her dissertation research. Congratulations to Dr. Katherine Lamb, Mrs. Katherine Walden, and Mrs. Taylor Grantham for leading instructional courses at GSHA. Lastly, congratulations to Haydee Concuan for being a GSHF scholarship recipient.



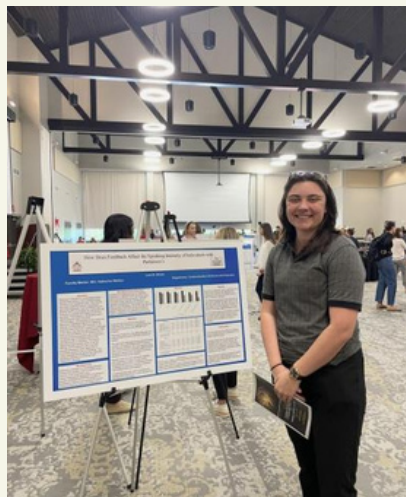
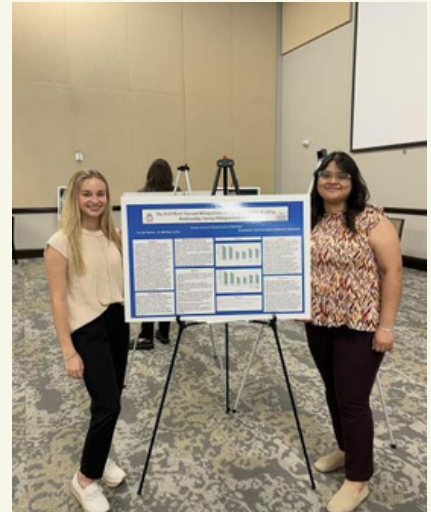
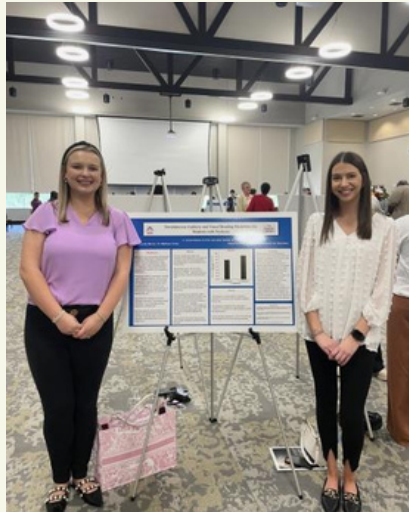


# Graduate School Symposium



On Friday April 5th, the VSU graduate school hosted a research symposium. Students were able to showcase their outstanding research! The CSD department had 5 groups who presented their research.

Awards were presented for the top posters. Congratulations to our CSD graduate students, Marla Barragan and Alexa Johanson, for getting 3rd place overall!! Congratulations to our other presenters as well: Mckynleigh Harrell, Hannah Schroeder, Annie Eilders, Hally Spikes, Lora Glover, Anna Wortham, and Sophia Guzman.



# Alumni News

## Alumni Spotlight



The CSD Department loves to highlight & recognize our students. This year we recognize Caroline Boutwell who graduated May of 2023. She has since completed her clinical fellowship in a skilled nursing facility (SNF) and is now officially a CCC-SLP! The SNF keeps her on her toes as she works on cognitive therapy, dysphagia, aphasia, voice disorders, motor speech disorders, and dementia. Congratulations Caroline!

## Alumni Survey

Please respond no later than June 15, 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!

