

# SLHS CONNECT

EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS THROUGH COMMUNICATION



FALL 2018

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## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

We have had a successful start to the 2018-2019 school year. We welcomed a new cohort of BA, MA, AuD, and JDP-LCD (PhD) students. We also had a large number of incoming freshman and transfer students who started our major. Just a snapshot by the numbers:

- 76 transfer and 51 freshman students
- 38 MA students (out of an applicant pool of almost 500)
- 10 AuD students (out of an applicant pool of 110)
- 3 PhD students (bringing our cohort number to 15)

We are grateful for the support our alumni continue to provide to our programs at SLHS. Recently SDSU held our annual crowd funding initiative, the Great Give. The College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) received \$26,658 in donations, with a percentage that was earmarked for us. We appreciate your generosity! These donations will help us maintain services in our [Audiology and Speech-Language Clinic](#), both of which are now operating on a donation-based model.

Our students' generosity also impresses us. Just a few weeks ago, SDSU held the annual [Aztec Rocks Hunger](#), which combats food insecurity in San Diego. CHHS students took first place among all the colleges on campus, and SLHS donated the most among all the schools in the college for the second year in a row.

Please let us know about your successes. In this issue, we introduce a new section called Alumni Spotlight, highlighting some of the achievements of three of our MA alumni (see pg. 6). We love hearing from all our alumni and want to share your achievements as well.

We're proud of the impact you're all making in your own communities and in the field. Send us your updates at: [slhs-alum@sdsu.edu](mailto:slhs-alum@sdsu.edu) Wishing you all the best!

Tracy Love, PhD  
Director | School of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences



[linkedin.com/in/sdsu-slhs-department-0bb00715a](https://www.linkedin.com/in/sdsu-slhs-department-0bb00715a)



<https://www.facebook.com/SDSUSLHS/>

# WELCOME TO THE SLHS FAMILY!

## DEAN STEVEN HOOKER

The College of Health and Human Services and SLHS welcomes Dr. Steven Hooker as our new dean. Previously, Dean Hooker worked as the Associate Dean of Research and professor in the School of Nutrition and Health Promotion at Arizona State University. He earned his Ph.D. in Exercise Science at Arizona State University and worked at a number of universities, including the University of Dayton, the University of Southern California, the University of Northern Colorado, and the University of South Carolina. Dean Hooker's expertise lies in tailored interventions to help middle-aged and older adults adopt healthy lifestyles and factors affecting physical activity among specific racial and ethnic groups that with health disparities. We look forward to his leadership!



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## TANYA BUZZANGA, MA, CCC-SLP

Tanya Buzzanga is our newest supervisor in the Speech-Language Clinic. She earned her MA at Wayne State University and has spent most of her career in medical settings. Tanya maintains a part-time position as an SLP at Scripps Mercy Hospital. Her clinical expertise lies in adult neurogenic disorders, particularly dysphagia and the esophageal phase of the swallow. She is working with our first-year MA students in our adult neurogenics clinic. We are delighted to have Tanya work with our students in the MA program!



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## BABIES

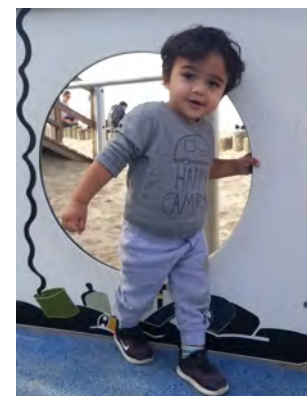
SLHS is very happy to welcome to three new additions to our extended SLHS family! We welcome Kiden (Alyson & Adam), Minh Ha (Giang & Tien), and Arun (Henrike & Deepa)!



**Kiden**



**Minh Ha**



**Arun**

# NSSLHA

To kick off the year, NSSLHA welcomed over 200 undergraduate and graduate members to our chapter. NSSLHA continues the second year of the buddy system, with approximately 150 people paired, including MA students who are paired with alumni in our field. NSSLHA has extended their mentoring program to include JDP-LCD and AuD students.

This semester, members volunteered at a total of 10 service events, including conducting mock interviews with high schoolers with disabilities, helping at DEAFestival, and partnering with San Diego's Therapy and Recreational Services to help at their Monster Ball Halloween dance and Quad Rugby Tournament.

NSSLHA put on successful fundraisers at Wings n' Things and Woodstocks to raise money for the on-campus clinics. Additionally, members donated over 100 culturally diverse books in an assortment of languages to Rosa Parks Elementary School.

NSSLHA has worked to help various groups of students, including a resume workshop for students applying to grad school, a panel of SLPs and Audiologists, a study abroad information session, and transfer student social.

Finally, NSSLHA was recently awarded two competitive Student Success Fee awards. One will send students to the California Speech-Language-Hearing Association meeting and the other will allow students to put on our annual Speech Language-Hearing Awareness and Information Day on **April 22, 2019**. Please save the date. We'd love to see you all there!



 **SAVE THE DATE FOR SAID: APRIL 22, 2019** 

## SAA

The Student Academy of Audiology introduces students to lifelong involvement in activities that promote and advance the profession of audiology, and provides services, information, education, representation and advocacy for the profession and the public.

SAA San Diego chapter aims to promote, educate and provide opportunities to students in the field of audiology within the San Diego community. So far this year, SAA has participated in the Walk 4 Hearing and we have community service projects lined up, such as hearing screenings at a local school. SAA also received funding from the Student Success Fee committee to send students to the American Academy of Audiology conference.



Above: Shannon Doolittle, Treasurer. She loves SAA because of the camaraderie that forms between the people who love ears just like her!

# STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## National Awards



Diane Guerrero (left), who just graduated with her MA. Diane recently received the National NSSLHA Member Honors - Excellence Award (SLP) for her work in helping to found the grad chapter of NSSLHA at SDSU and for developing the programming for the chapter

The SDSU NSSLHA chapter received Gold Honors from National NSSLHA

Philip Combiths received an F31 doctoral fellowship from NIH-NIDCD (see page 5)

Valeria Garcia and Yureli Lopez (MA 2020) received the Graduate Student Scholarship from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation (ASHF)

Gabriela Meade (JDP-LCD) received the New Century Scholars Doctoral Scholarship from ASHF, as well as a NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Award and International Mind, Brain, and Education Society Exceptional Trainee Research Award.

Jonathan Robinson-Anthony (JDP-LCD) was recently selected to participate in the Minority Student Leadership Program at the ASHA Convention in Boston.

## Other Accomplishments

Three undergraduate students recently received awards from the SDSU Summer Undergraduate Research Program: Julia Moluf (Pruitt), Nick Portugal (Dreisbach), and Alyssa Zidek (Ries)

# SCHOLARSHIPS

## MA/AuD

Graduate Equity Scholarship awardees including Brittany Chau, Shefali Chauhan, Shannon Doherty, Claire Duffy, Dan Ginat, Beth Hill, Mackenzie Hurley, Tuyet-Bang Nguyen, Michael Villalobos

John Gallagher received the AMBUCS Scholarship for Therapists and the SDSU Presidential Graduate Research Fellowship

Daniela Kite (AuD 2021) received a scholarship from the California Academy of Audiology.

Dan Ginat and Claire Duffy received the Foundation for Developmental Disabilities Peterson Scholarship

Claire Duffy also received the Sertoma Communication Disorders Scholarship

Ashley Goussak and Jennifer Retana received the Kala Singh Memorial Scholarship

Patrick Larkin received the Barry Jones Memorial Scholarship

## JDP-LCD

Irina Potopova and Niloofar Akhavan received the Inger P. Davis Doctoral Fellowship

Meghan McGarry, Jonathan Robinson-Anthony, and Erin Smolak received SDSU University Graduate Fellowships

Niloofar Akhavan received the Paul Pfaff Memorial Scholarship

Meghan McGarry received a travel award from the Society for Neurobiology of Language

# GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: PHILIP COMBITHS

JDP-LCD student Philip Combiths was recently awarded a competitive F31 from NIH-NIDCD for his dissertation "Speech Sound Disorders in Bilingual Children". This project will help to verify that clusters are a complex target for children learning Spanish and the generalization to less complex targets seen in children learning English also applies to those learning Spanish. Philip first joined SLHS as a WOB student in the MA program before switching to the PhD program just before his final year in the MA. He is currently completing his CF in the Speech-Language Clinic with Charlotte Lopes. Dr. Jessica Barlow, one of his doctoral advisors, says that Philip's "love of language and linguistics,



his strong desire to put that interest toward public good, and his general thirst for a deeper understanding of all things will make him a model scholar." In addition to completing his dissertation and his CF, Philip is also highly involved in the SAGE project where he acts as report editor to up to 15 student report writers each semester, including conducting workshops and providing one-on-one mentoring for these students. Congratulations Philip!

## FACULTY AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Dr. Karen Emmorey received an NSF grant to examine the neural tuning of reading

Dr. Peter Torre received an R01 from NIH-NIDCD to investigate how perinatal HIV infection affects hearing loss in children in South Africa

Dr. Carol Mackersie was awarded an R33 from NIH-NIDCD to examine the impact of self-fitting of hearing amplification

Dr. Sonja Pruitt-Lord was awarded two training grants to support MA students to work with special educators and school psychologists (see page 6)

Dr. Stephanie Ries was awarded a New Investigator Research Grant from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation for her work in word retrieval in Spanish-English bilinguals after stroke. She will conduct this project with Drs. Henrike Blumenfeld and Tracy Love

Dr. Karen Emmorey was elected as a Fellow of the Linguistic Society of America

Dr. Giang Pham was recently promoted to Associate Professor

Dr. Sonja Pruitt-Lord was named the SDSU College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) Outstanding Student Organization Advisor

Dr. Ignatius Nip was named the SDSU CHHS Outstanding Graduate Professor

Drs. Jessica Barlow, Sonja Pruitt-Lord, and Peter Torre were named Most Influential Faculty Member by Mortar Board

Dr. Steven Kramer recently published the 3rd edition of his textbooks "Audiology Science to Practice (3rd edition)" and "Audiology Workbook (3rd edition)"

Bob McKinney's book "Here's How to Do Accent Modification" will be available in March 2019

Karyn Searcy published a chapter on documentation and reimbursement in "Documentation and Reimbursement for Speech-Language Pathologists: Principles and Practice"

# NEW TRAINING GRANTS TO SUPPORT MA STUDENTS AWARDED TO SDSU

Dr. Sonja Pruitt-Lord, along with colleagues from Special Education and School Psychology were recently awarded two new training grants to prepare graduate students in SLP, Special Education, and School Psychology. Student who participate in these training grants will receive tuition, fees, and conference travels in exchange for future service in the public school system.

The PUEDE! Project is a collaboration of SLHS and School Psychology to train students in both disciplines to work collaboratively to work with Dual Language and English Learner students with high needs. MA students will work School Psychology students to learn how to conduct assessments, interventions, and consultation with bilingual students, particularly those whose first language is Spanish.

Project Mainsail will have SLHS MA students work with graduate students in Special Education to work interdisciplinary to support bilingual students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The focus of this grant is to support these students in inclusive educational environments.

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## ALUMNI NEWS

We are proud of all of our alumni and your accomplishments!

Recently Amanda Mays' (MA 2014) Instagram post was featured in a recent issue of the ASHA Leader that showed how she incorporated dramatic play in her therapy in the schools. You can read about it at <http://leader.pubs.asha.org/article.aspx?articleid=2695375>

Aizel Agustino (MA 2016) was recently awarded an Above & Beyond Award, given by the Community Advisory Committee for Special Education at San Diego Unified School District. A parent of one her students nominated her for the award.

Sarah (Haugen) Bishop (MA 2012) presented at ASHA about collaborating with teachers on push-in intervention.

We'd love to hear from all of you about all of your accomplishments in your communities and in the field. Please let us know about them at [slhs-alum@sdsu.edu](mailto:slhs-alum@sdsu.edu)!



## CONNECT WITH US!

Alumni Updates: <https://sdsualumni.org/updatemyinfo>

See what research is going on: <https://slhs.sdsu.edu/research-labs/>



[linkedin.com/in/sdsu-slhs-department-0bb00715a](https://www.linkedin.com/in/sdsu-slhs-department-0bb00715a)

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