

SLHS CONNECT

EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS THROUGH COMMUNICATION



2020

In this Issue:

Welcoming Our New Faculty

Faculty Achievements

In Memoriam - Nancy Reed Gibson

Adjusting to a Socially-Distanced Environment

Congratulations Class of 2020

Applauding SLHS Students

Student & Club Spotlight

How to Keep in Touch and Give Back

Alumni Outreach

Dr. Stephanie Ries, Editor-in-Chief

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

What a year 2020 has been... The COVID-19 pandemic took us all by surprise back in March, and has since then triggered countless adaptations to our school's functioning. All of our academic and clinical courses moved online mid-March, as did our clinical services and research laboratories. We have since then all become well-versed in video-conferencing and telepractice technologies in order to continue to offer the best services to people with communication disorders and educational opportunities for our students. Our Audiology clinic reopened this summer following our University-approved reopening protocol and safety procedures. In spite of these challenges, our programs have remained as active as ever! Several of our faculty and students received research and teaching awards throughout these challenging times, and we welcomed 5 new faculty members at the beginning of the Fall! I want to express my deepest gratitude to the amazing faculty, staff, and students of SLHS. Thank you for your tireless work, commitment, and dedication. Please read on for exciting news and accomplishments this past year, and as always, thank you so much for your support to our school and to the field of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences!

There are so many ways to keep in touch and ensure that you receive the latest updates from SLHS:

- Let us know of any changes in your life- personal or professional: slhs_alum@sdsu.edu
- Like us on Social Media: [Facebook](#) ; [LinkedIn](#) ; [Instagram](#)
- Update your alumni information: <https://sdsualumni.org/updatemyinfo>
- Become a mentor to current MA students: <https://tinyurl.com/slhsmentor>
 - Refer clients and participants, email us at: slhs@sdsu.edu or visit <https://slhs.sdsu.edu/research-labs/> to see what research is ongoing

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday and new year!

Tracy Love, PhD

Director | School of Speech, Language, & Hearing Sciences

WELCOMING OUR NEW FACULTY

Dr. Ashley Adams is a new assistant professor in the Speech-Language division of our school and a certified Speech-Language Pathologist. Dr. Adams is also the director of the Language Impairment, Bilingual Reading, and Observational research (LIBRO) Laboratory. Her research focuses on how we can improve reading outcomes for Spanish-English bilingual children with developmental language disorders in early elementary grades. She was attracted to SDSU for many reasons including the phenomenal group of faculty she would be joining, the chance to serve the local Spanish-English bilingual community through her research, and the chance to make an impact by training and supporting the success of a diverse group of future speech-language pathologists.



Dr. Crystle Alonzo is a new assistant professor in the Speech-Language division of our school and a certified Speech-Language Pathologist. Dr. Alonzo is also the director of the Comprehension Opportunities in Reading and Language (CORAL) Lab whose mission is to support children who are at risk for or who have language and reading difficulties so that they may live empowered and fulfilling lives. Dr. Alonzo worked for several years as a certified speech language pathologist in Arizona before pursuing a PhD and is excited to be back in the southwest where she hopes to build meaningful community partnerships, find creative solutions for children with developmental language disorders and dyslexia through her research, and help train the next generation of inclusive and diverse speech language pathologists.



Danaee Donovan is a new clinical supervisor and lecturer for Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences. Her scholarly areas primarily focus on the bilingual population. Specifically, she analyzes language development and disorders among bilingual children, speech/language evaluation on the bilingual population, speech disorders and reading development in bilingual children, and multicultural influences on language development.



Dr. Jill Preminger is a new academic faculty member in the Audiology Program in the School of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences. After moving to California from the University of Louisville (KY), Jill is excited to be here and looks forward to working in-person with her colleagues and students. She is also looking forward to launching her research program at SDSU which currently involves the evaluation of screening methods, and a decision coaching guide, to encourage adults with unaddressed hearing impairment to seek audiology care.



Dr. Irina Potapova is the new Associate Director of the SDSU/UCSD Joint Ph.D. Program in Language and Communicative Disorders. She is also a clinical supervisor and lecturer, for which she is very excited to be working for our program. She is an SDSU alumni and graduated from our Joint Doctoral Program in 2019. She is looking forward to helping other students that are going through the same program she did, as well as teaching SLHS 106 and welcoming new undergraduate students to the major!



FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

Dr. JoAnn Silkes was awarded the prestigious Dr. Sadanand Singh Endowed Professorship in Speech and Language Sciences! This award is allowing her and her lab to work on establishing a reliable way of administering language tests remotely to patients with stroke-induced language disorders during this pandemic.

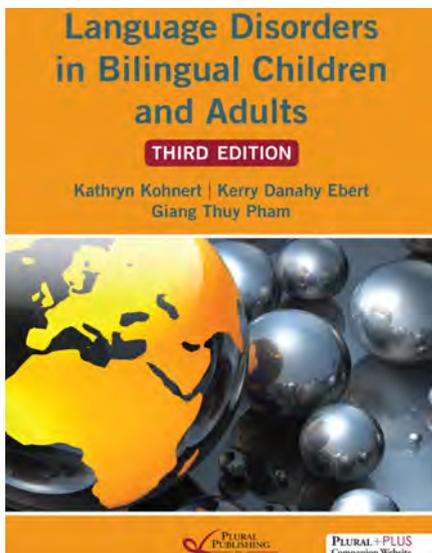
Dr. Giang Pham co-authored a new book titled, "Language Disorders in Bilingual Children and Adults"! Dr. Pham also received a Postdoctoral Research Supplement to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research, "Test of English Language Learners".

Dr. Tracy Love was appointed to ASHA's Research and Scientific Affairs Committee!

Dr. Karen Emmorey has been awarded the Distinguished Career Award of the Society for the Neurobiology of Language! We congratulate Dr. Emmorey for a very well deserved recognition of her outstanding contributions to the field. In addition, Dr. Emmorey also received an NIDCD R01 "Language, Modality and the Brain" and received an NIDCD Diversity Supplement "Assessing the neural dynamics of reading in deaf adults".

Dr. Alyson Abel was awarded an Early Career R21 grant from the National Institute on Deafness and other Communication Disorders! Dr. Abel's project aims to identify why 10-12 year old children with Developmental Language Disorder, which is a language impairment with no biological explanation (no hearing loss, no intellectual disability, no autism), have difficulty learning the meanings of new vocabulary words.

Dr. Sonja Pruitt-Lord, Professor in the School of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences and Associate Dean in the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS), was selected as a Fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)! Dr. Pruitt-Lord was nominated for her outstanding contributions in the areas of Clinical Education and Academic Teaching, Administrative Service, and Service to ASHA. Dr. Pruitt-Lord continually gives herself to the field of speech-language pathology and beyond. Her commitment to students and their success is widely recognized in the CHHS and at SDSU and we are most proud of her professional recognition.



Giang Pham's new book!



Karen Emmorey, the 2020 recipient of the SNL Distinguished Career Award!



Alyson Abel in her lab, which is now funded by her newly awarded R21 by NIDCD!

IN MEMORIAM - NANCY REED GIBSON

from the San Diego Union Tribune, Sunday, December 3, 2021

Nancy Reed Gibson, 92, died peacefully at home surrounded by loved ones. She is survived by her daughter, Leslie Susan "Susie" Robinson (Bob) and son, Paul M. Reed (Diane); grandchildren Michael Reed (Nichole), Deanna Vincent (Bob), Scott Reed (fiancée Jill), and Kathryn Robinson; great-grandchildren Olav and Svea Vincent; stepchildren David Gibson (Katie), Meredith "Meg" Curley (Gerry), Craig Gibson (Nancy), Ross Gibson (Jean), Emily Williams (Kirk), Mary "Molly" Sharon (Michael); 10 step-grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. Daughter of Josephine Marie Wilson Fidler and Clarence Mansfield Fidler, Nancy was born in Oregon and grew up in Pasadena, Newport Beach, and San Diego, CA; she graduated from San Diego High School. Nancy earned her B.A. at San Diego State University in 1950 and received her M.A. in Special Education with an emphasis in Psychology in 1959. Nancy was happily married to her college sweetheart, Donald Edward Reed, from 1949 until his death 42 years later. Along with raising a family, the couple enjoyed dancing, sailing and skiing. They were active members of the First United Methodist Church of Mission Valley. Nancy's faith and church involvement brought her great joy and peace throughout her life.



Nancy Reed Gibson
Sept. 11, 1928 - Nov. 8, 2020

A renowned educator, Nancy was a professor in the Speech Department at SDSU, where she taught Communication and Speech Pathology and supervised graduate students in clinical practice for 21 years. In 1953, Nancy established the San Diego State College Children's Speech and Hearing Clinic under the supervision of Dr. Sue Earnest. In 1975, Nancy was appointed Director of the Speech and Hearing Clinic in Logan Heights. She was a past president of SDSU Alumni Association and Pi Beta Phi Alumni Chapter. She also served as San Diego's President of the International Visitor's Council. Nancy was named a "Woman of Dedication" by the Salvation Army and received the spirit of I.V.C. Award. She also was selected by SDSU's Mortar Board Society as a "Distinguished Alumni" member.

Nancy served for six years on the Board of the National Council for International Visitors in Washington, D. C. This work combined her passions for global travel and people. It was in this capacity that she met her second husband, John S. Gibson. They were blessed to share 20 years together, traveling extensively and enjoying time with family and friends in S.D. and Cape Cod, Mass. A private service for immediate family members will be held at a later date. Donations in her memory may be made to the EarnestReed clinic room at SDSU School of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences.

DONATIONS FOR THE EARNEST AND REED PEDIATRIC CLINIC ROOM

Dr. Sue and Nancy spent their lives in tireless service to the community. The two remained devoted friends throughout their lives. In recognition of their tremendous contributions, we ask for your help in memorializing their legacies at SDSU by contributing towards a joint naming of this pediatric clinic room in their honor. Please consider a tax-deductible gift or pledge by December 31 to support this endeavor. Donations can be mailed, made electronically, or given via phone to Natasha Bliss at 619-993-1931. All gifts will directly support the School of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences and the naming will be achieved if we are collectively able to raise a minimum of \$25,000. For as many lives as Dr. Sue and Nancy have touched, we are confident that if we cast the net wide, we will reach this goal and be able to honor these extraordinary women for their monumental impact. Thank you in advance for your consideration and prospective contribution.

Send to: The Campanile Foundation;
Attn: Natasha Bliss;
5500 Campanile Dr.;;
San Diego, CA, 92128-1968
OR <http://campaign.sdsu.edu/EarnestReed>

ADJUSTING TO A SOCIALLY-DISTANCED ENVIRONMENT

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

While virtual learning is very difficult, one positive aspect is being able to collaborate easier. The Student Academy of Audiology (SAA) at SDSU has been working hard to collaborate with various organizations to find valuable zoom talks to attend and provide great supplemental learning. The SLHS family came together, with efforts from SDSU Grad NSSLHA and SAA, to host the very first JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) conversation on working with Deaf/HOH populations. SAA also partnered with other SAA programs across California to allow SDSU AuD students to attend zoom meetings where specialists discussed vestibular disorders and tinnitus. By expanding collaborations, SAA has had the ability to plan a year full of workshops, panels, and discussions that might not have been possible in the past. While many aspects of our life have been halted, SAA believes in the importance of continuing to learn and help produce the best audiologists as possible.

This semester, for the first time in SLHS, Supplemental Instruction is available for 3 300-level classes in our major! Meet our wonderful SI Leaders who have been available to help students throughout the semester in SLHS 305, 320, and 321: Julia Devore, Teri Handa, Olivia Toohey, Sophie Levi, & Nicole Kohrmann. Supplemental Instruction will also be available next semester.



Julia Devore



Teri Handa



Olivia Toohey



Sophie Levi



Nicole Kohrmann

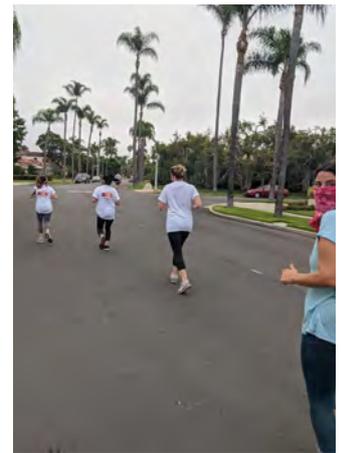
As a result of Covid-19, many of our fun SLHS events that we usually hold in person have been cancelled, postponed, or held virtually. Fortunately, we were able to have a masked and socially distanced run/walk! This was done in support of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation for their annual 5K. Here are some photos of a rare in person meeting:



Karen Emmorey wearing her runner's bib!



A few of our faculty members photographed after the run!



Faculty members on the run!



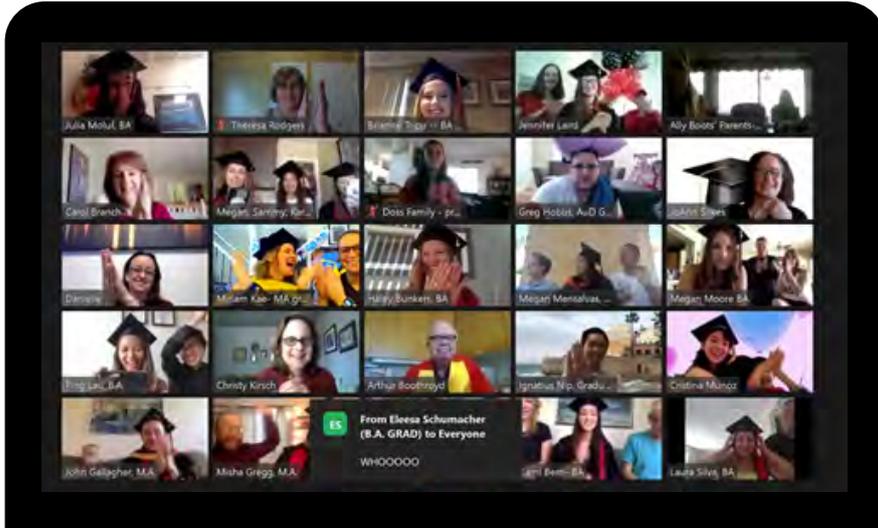
On the left: Faculty members posed after their long & gruesome run.

On the right: Tanya Buzzanga taking a quick selfie with her co-workers!



CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2020!!!

Congratulations Class of 2020! We are so proud of you! We are sad we could not celebrate with you in person but we are so happy we got to celebrate with you online!



Commencement for the Class of 2020 via Zoom



CHHS Faculty congratulating the Class of 2020 for graduating



CHHS Faculty congratulating the Class of 2020 for graduating



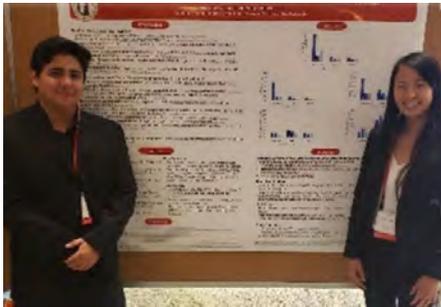
Commencement for the Class of 2020 via Zoom



The Audiology graduating class of 2020. They decided to have some fun with their photo and went with a "Where the Wild Things Are" theme. From left to right: John Parsons, Gregory Hobbs, Shannon Doolittle, Alex Rieser, Jason Duda, Ellen Smith, Nicholas Faillace, Brittany Thrall

APPLAUDING SLHS STUDENTS

Congratulations to our outstanding students' many accomplishments in 2020! On February 28th and 29th, our SLHS undergraduate and graduate students participated in the annual SDSU Student Research Symposium. Congratulations to **Noelle Abbott** for winning the Dean of Health and Human Services' Award for her talk: Relationship between Language Impairment and Cerebral Blood Flow: Evidence from Chronic Hypoperfusion in Aphasia (Faculty Mentor: Tracy Love). Congratulations to **Michelle Harrison, Ping Lau, and Carolina Abraham** for winning the Library Award for their poster presentation: Is Reading Attitude related to Oral Reading ability in Monolingual Vietnamese Speaking Children? (Faculty Mentor: Giang Pham).



Steven Campos & Annie Miodovski at the Student Research Symposium

Congratulations to **Cristal Toscano and Alicia Escobedo** for winning the Provost's Award for their poster presentation: The Relationship between Teacher-reported Proficiency and Language Ability Measures in Spanish-English Bilingual Preschoolers (Faculty Mentor: Sonja Pruitt-Lord). Congratulations to **Annie Miodovski and Steven Campos** for winning the Provost's Award on their poster presentation: Head and Neck Cancer - Disease and Treatment Impact on Speech Physiology (Faculty Mentor: Iggy Nip).

Over the summer, we had 8 student fellows who participated in the Summer Undergraduate Research Program! **Amber Hemni** worked in the Language Learning Lab, **Halie Doan** worked in the Bilingualism & Cognition Lab, **Dylan Corliss** worked in the Language & Neuroscience Group, **Savannah Verret** worked in the ChiLD3 Lab, **Cailyn Kern** worked in the Auditory Physiology and Psychoacoustics Laboratory, **Daria Dragicevic** worked in the Laboratory for the Brain Dynamics of Language, and **Juliana Salazar & Chris Nguyen** worked in the Bilingual Development in Context Research Lab.



Our 8 student fellows that participated in the Summer 2020 Undergraduate Research Program

Our JDP students also received awards recognizing all their hard work! Congratulations to **Jonathan Robinson Anthony**, PhD candidate in our Joint Doctoral Program in Language and Communicative Disorders, on receiving an NRSA F31 award from the National Institute on Deafness and other Communication Disorders to conduct his research project: Cognate effects in bilingual adults with and without a history of Developmental Language Disorder, under the supervision of his primary mentors, Drs. Henrike Blumenfeld and Giang Pham! Also, congratulations to **Philip Combiths, Sonja Pruitt-Lord, and Jessica Barlow** for being awarded ASHA's Meritorious Poster Submission recognition for their proposal entitled "Complexity in Phonological Intervention for Spanish-Speaking Children" submitted for ASHA's 2020 convention.



Jonathan Robinson Anthony, recipient of the NRSA F31 award!

Congratulations to **Philip Combiths** for receiving the SDSU Faculty Forward Award! Philip Combiths was recognized by The Center for Teaching & Learning / Division of Faculty Advancement and Student Success for demonstrating exceptional agility and dedication in transitioning his courses to the virtual environment during Spring 2020.



Philip Combiths, recipient of the Faculty Forward Award and recipient of the ASHA's Meritorious Poster award!

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to our 2020 Outstanding Students: **Anissa Govind (UG) and John Gallagher (GR)**.



Anissa Govind



John Gallagher

Congratulations to **Haley Lu** for being selected as the outstanding graduate student clinician!



Haley Lu

Congratulations to **Julia Moluf** for being selected as the Quest for the Best awardee, with Sonja Pruitt-Lord as the faculty honoree!



Julia Moluf

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

The National Student Speech, Language, & Hearing Association (NSSLHA) is the CHHS Council Award Winner for Outstanding Club! They also won the Aztecs Rock Hunger virtual drive!

HOW TO KEEP IN TOUCH AND GIVE BACK



There are so many ways you can keep in touch with us and donate to our programs! The Speech-Language clinic is now supported on a donation-only basis. Audiology diagnostic services are likewise provided on a donation-only basis, with fees charged for hearing aid-related products and services only. Funds raised through the donation efforts go to purchase diagnostic and treatment materials as well as to support graduate assistants in the clinic. Here are some ideas and links below.

- Donate directly to our clinic through: <https://slhs.sdsu.edu/clinics/support/>
- Stay Connected! See links at the bottom of the page.
- Become a mentor to current MA students: <https://tinyurl.com/slhsmentor>
- Watch and share a short video about our clinic services:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=4icWW79wtl4

ALUMNI OUTREACH

If you are our alumni, stay connected and get involved with our SLHS Alumni Networking event! SDSU SLHS alumni, faculty, staff and graduate students get together to welcome new alumni to the community, reconnect with old friends, and meet current Aztec students. This is a great way to hear about SLHS activities and connect with students ready to enter the professional world. Thank you to those who are serving as mentors to the NSSLHA students. We are eager to build a strong network across all our graduate programs and our undergraduate program.

Kathi Hoffer Riedman, a two time graduate of San Diego State University and former employee, recently established an endowed scholarship fund in the School of Speech, Language, Hearing Sciences, where she was previously on staff. The Hoffer-Riedman Scholarship, established in honor of Hoffer Riedman and also former SDSU faculty member Richard M. Riedman, who passed away last year, will support Speech-Language Pathology master's students, and those in the joint doctoral program in Audiology.

Become a mentor to current MA students: <https://tinyurl.com/slhsmentor>

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)

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

slhs_alum@sdsu.edu
slhs@sdsu.edu