

# spotlight & updates



**Samford University**  
School of Health Professions  
Communication Sciences and Disorders

# news

## The Samford University Chapter of NSSHLA in Action



SUNSSHLA hosted a fundraiser at Chipotle for the John Tracy Clinic as part of a national student campaign. They donated \$1,000.

SUNSSHLA participated in a chili cook-off at Brookdale Senior Living in the fall.



Members hosted a new student breakfast to welcome incoming freshmen students to the major.



Members volunteered in record numbers at the annual Speech and Hearing Association conference in Birmingham.

## Students Honored at SHAA Annual Conference

The Speech and Hearing Association of Alabama (SHAA) held its annual conference in Birmingham, Alabama, Feb. 22-23, offering the opportunity for students and faculty within the department to present research, volunteer and network with other professionals.

Candice Adams-Mitchell, assistant professor, copresented with preceptor Amanda Sutter on the topic of "Paperwork Pointers" for a newly developed tract specifically for the student members of SHAA.

At the SHAA Awards Dinner, Erin

Sellars, a Master of Science in speech language pathology student, received the SHAA Student Recognition Award. "Erin continually demonstrates excellence in her work, and she does so with a positive attitude and strong work ethic. We believe she is most deserving of this recognition," said Margaret Johnson, professor and chair.

Also at the dinner, Samford University's Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders received the Student Membership Award in recognition for having the largest number of students who are members of the state association.



## New Scholarship Honors Department Chair

The School of Health Professions surprised Margaret Johnson, professor and chair of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, with great news. Through the generous donations of almost 100 donors, the school had raised \$30,000 to establish the Dr. Margaret L. Johnson Scholarship.

The fundraising efforts for this scholarship were immensely personal, with the majority of donors being close friends of Johnson, including members of her church, former colleagues, professors and classmates. "I know we offer amazing programs here at Samford, but there is a cost that goes with that. With this scholarship, we will be able to provide a helping hand, and for that, I thank you from the bottom of my heart," Johnson said.

## Expanding our International Reach

In January, students and faculty in Samford's Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders participate in two international experiences—studying abroad in London and serving people in the Dominican Republic.

Nicole Klaubert, a senior communication sciences and disorders major, said the trip to London was an amazing experience. "We spent 16 days in London, studying dialects as well as the history of the language and how communication progressed and changed over time," she said.

Klaubert said they studied about 10 different dialects. "A big difference that

I noticed is that they take great pride in their different dialects. I feel like we don't do that here in the United States, but they were all about it," she said.

During the same time, Nikki Devenny, a junior communication sciences and disorders major, traveled to the Dominican Republic with a School of Health Professions medical mission trip. The trip included 12 students from various departments within the school, all working together to provide care through "pop up" health clinics.

"Each day was a new location with new patients. In the clinics, we were able to provide basic medical care and medicine.

We were able to provide some speech and hearing related services. We completed hearing and articulation screens on most of the children that came into the clinic," Devenny said.

In May, students and faculty had the opportunity to travel to Gonaives, Haiti, with Coreluv, an orphan ministry. "This trip gave me an opportunity to work with an unfamiliar culture. As a speech-language pathologist, I realize that I will eventually be working with a large variety of people from different cultural backgrounds," said Mary Virginia Coleman, a M.S. in speech language pathology student.

## Above and Beyond Ceremony



The annual Above and Beyond award ceremony honored students in the department's undergraduate and graduate programs who have demonstrated academic and clinical excellence, leadership and commitment to service over the past year.

Kandis Chatman, president of the

Speech and Hearing Association of Alabama, served as the program's keynote speaker. In her address, she reminded students that speech language pathology and audiology is more than a job, it's a calling.

"You have to have a heart for people," Chatman said. "It is our calling to serve the Lord by serving others passionately. So be intentional with the relationship that you make with families and make a difference in all of their lives."

The Graduate Clinical Service Awards, which were chosen by the department's faculty and clinical preceptors, were awarded to second-year Master of Science in speech language pathology students, Cameron Carter and Rebekah Waldrum, and first-year Master of Science in speech language pathology students, Emily Harrison and Mary Allison Tyner.

## Spring Commencement

The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders graduated 21 students over the course of two commencement ceremonies in May. On Friday, May 4, we awarded 14 graduates with their Master of Science in speech language pathology, and on Friday, May 11, we honored seven Bachelor of Science in communication sciences and disorders graduates.

"We do not take moments like these for granted," said professor Carol Koch. "These graduates have accomplished so much, and we are confident that they are ready for the next step in their careers—to answer their calling to care for others."



## Summer Camps

This summer, the department will host three camps for children in the community, offering our graduate students hands-on experience through service learning.

### Pirate Camp

June 18-21

Pirate Camp is for children having difficulty with the "R" sound. The camp is open to rising 1st through 8th graders.

### Fluency Camp

June 25-29

Fluency Camp is for children ages 7 to 12

### Speech Sound Disorders Camp

July 31-Aug. 3

Speech Sound Disorders Camp is for children with articulation disorders. The camp is open to children of any age.

*To learn more about these summer camps, contact Joy Wint at [jwint@samford.edu](mailto:jwint@samford.edu) or 205-726-4436.*

## 3 Questions with Olivia McKinley '17

### Where have you been working since graduating with your M.S. in speech language pathology?

When I was looking for jobs, I knew I wanted to stay on the adult/medical side, so I found a job through a former preceptor with a skilled nursing company called Therapy Management Corporation. I work in Oneonta, serving as the speech-language pathologist for two facilities there.

### When did you know you wanted to pursue a career that served adults?

It's funny. I went to graduate school thinking I wanted to work with kids. When I did my elementary and high school rotations, it didn't feel like the right fit for me. It was in our second year—when I took Voice Disorders and began to study the medical side of speech pathology—that I thought, I really like this.

There is a need for speech language pathology everywhere. For me, I was drawn to helping adults. Often, adults have been living a normal life, but suddenly, a life-changing event occurs. It is our job to help them get back to a sense of normalcy.

### Do you feel the program prepared you for the job you have now?

When I look back, I realize now that this program didn't prepare us to be students. Our professors taught us to be speech-language pathologists who can make a difference in people's lives. They didn't let us have a passive role in graduate school. They wanted us to take initiative, and, today, this has given me so much confidence.

I gained so much hands-on experience through my clinical hours. I'm glad we had so many different opportunities. It was tough at times, but it made such a difference when I stepped into the working world—knowing I'm comfortable with the skills needed.



## Program Update

### Doctor of Audiology

The audiology program underwent a positive site visit from the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) in March. Pending formal candidacy approval from CAA, the program anticipates its inaugural cohort this fall (Fall 2018).

### Continuing Education

We are proud to announce that the Continuing Education Board of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) has approved Samford University's Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders as an ASHA-approved Continuing Education Provider.

Our next event will be an Interprofessional Education/Practice Preceptor Development Summit in August. More details to come.

## Advisory Board

Samford's Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders Advisory Board serves as an external advisory body providing essential advice, leadership and support to the chair, faculty and staff of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

**President:** Heather Baty • **Vice President:** Jamie Wade • **Secretary:** Elizabeth Barnett

### Advisory Board Members

- Elizabeth Barnett, SLP
- Heather Baty, Au.D., Children's of Alabama
- Daniel A. Bell, Au.D., Chief, Audiology and Speech Pathology, Birmingham VA Medical Center
- Krista Boesing, undergraduate student
- Murphy McCrary, graduate student
- Doreen Oyadomari, Ph.D., retired speech language pathologist
- Carol Poynor, consumer advocate
- Elly Terry, undergraduate student and SUNSSLHA president
- Jamie Wade, SLP, Manager of Outpatient Therapy Department, UAB Spine Rehabilitation Center
- Audie Woolley, M.D., Medical Director of HEAR Center, Children's of Alabama

## Director of Clinical Education for Audiology Update Meet Aaron Johnson, Au.D., CCC-A

Aaron Johnson is an assistant professor and audiology director of clinical education for the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. He has worked in various clinical settings and has extensive experience in comprehensive hearing and vestibular diagnostics, hearing aid service and repair, tinnitus management, and industrial audiology services and consulting.

