The SPA Program would like to welcome new students in the undergraduate class of 2018 as well as new graduate students. We would also like to welcome the existing undergraduate and graduate students back for the 2014-15 academic year. Hopefully, everyone is ready for a great year. We encourage each student to prepare by reading prior to class, take notes in class, and review your notes within 24 hours of the class to improve recall. There are many ways for you to review your notes, including preparing note cards, using sites such as quizlet.com, devising acronyms to recall information, developing scenarios that represent key concepts, etc… We encourage students to study alone prior to group study sessions to ensure that they are able to bring information to the group based on accurate knowledge. Remember, this program requires the ability to apply information to therapy scenarios and ultimately to patients. Some sure tips to achieve academic success are to exercise time management skills, identify the study skills that are most effective for you, utilize tips for test taking success and implement school and life balance.

Speech-language pathology programs require tremendous effort on the part of the student to learn the information that is presented by instructors using various techniques and differing modes of learning (in person and online). Each student learns differently, so it takes all types of learning methods to instruct students. While learning begins in the classroom, the product of that learning manifests itself during your clinical practicum experiences. Strive to apply the information that you’ve gained in the classroom to real-world applications. That’s the thrust of evidence-based practice!

Go forth, study hard, listen attentively, interact with classmates and strive to be the best student that you can be!
A record number of students attended the Speech Pathology and Audiology Graduate Student Meeting for the Fall 2014 semester on September 10th. Refreshments were provided, and students were greeted by SPA faculty members, SPA Administrative Assistants, and Dr. Cecelia Jeffries, Program Director and Chair of the Health Sciences Department. Students were brought up to speed concerning Program requirements, progression through the academic program, and off-site practicum placements. Dr. Henri Sandifer, the new Clinic Director for the Program, addressed students concerning clinic policies, as well as some new clinic procedures. The Officers of the SC State Chapter of the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSSLHA) also addressed the students, pointing out the many benefits of membership in the national organization, as well as upcoming activities for the local chapter, including the imminent NSSLHA Membership Meeting next month.

Students then met with their respective Academic Advisors in order to focus on more individual concerns. It was a very successful event where all graduate students were given the opportunity to hear about recent changes affecting their programs of study and practicum experiences. Holding this type of event is just one way that the SC State SPA Program endeavors to keep in close contact with all SPA students in order to facilitate their progression through the Program and arrival at . . . GRADUATION successfully!

Once again in July of this year, the SPA Program held its New Graduate Student Orientation, in order to help the incoming class of graduate students transition easily into the program. Students were greeted and addressed by Dr. Frederick Evans, Dean of the College of Graduate and Professional Studies, Dr. Cecelia Jeffries, SPA Program Director and Chair of the Health Sciences Department, Dr. Regina Lemmon, SPA Program Assistant Professor, and Dr. Lorraine Adecox, SPA Program Instructor and NSSLHA Faculty Advisor.

NSSLHA student volunteers served as Orientation Ambassadors, helping the new students navigate through the registration process. They also took the students on a short tour of the campus immediately surrounding the Old Dawn Center, and pointing out highlights, such as the M.L. King Auditorium and the Orangeburg Massacre Memorial.
Congratulations to our alumnae who have obtained their doctorate degrees:

**Dr. Jacqueline Brown**
**Dr. Vanessa Coleman-Lebby**
**Dr. Nia Johnson**
**Dr. Tanya Wilson**

If you know of any other alumnae who have earned a doctorate in 2013 or 2014, please let us know. We are always delighted to share in and announce your accomplishments!!! If you have achieved a milestone in your career, please let us know for the next edition of the SPA Program’s Newsletter.

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**Minority Student Leadership Program**

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association chose one of our graduate students, Ms. Leah Diggs, to participate in the Minority Student Leadership Program at the ASHA National Convention in Orlando, Florida in November 2014.

The Minority Student Leadership Program was established to recruit and retain racial/ethnic minorities that have historically been under-represented in the professions of audiology and speech-language pathology. Ms. Diggs is one of 30 students nationwide chosen on the basis of a written essay, resume, and recommendation letters. She will receive complementary registration and lodging for the ASHA convention, and she will participate in leadership-focused activities during the convention. These activities are designed to identify and develop leadership qualities and explore leadership roles. She will also have the opportunity to become acquainted with current ASHA leaders.

Leah is an outstanding student, and you can often find her hard at work in the Health Sciences Department office, where she serves as a student office assistant. All SPA students, faculty, and staff are very proud of Leah, and we look forward to having her represent the Program at the ASHA National Convention in Orlando this November.
The purpose of the Speech Pathology and Audiology Club (SPA Club) is to promote involvement of the speech-language pathology and audiology undergraduates students in a pre-professional organization. This is accomplished through monthly meetings, local volunteering at nursing homes, social and fund-raising activities and student volunteering at annual state and national conferences. During the academic year 2013-2014, members of the SPA Club successfully designed SPA Club t-shirts, gave away a $50.00 gas card as a fund-raising promotion, produced and attended SPA Rise events, volunteered at a local nursing home, and actively participated in 2013 homecoming events. The newly elected SPA Club Officers for the 2014-2015 academic years are Courtney Martin, President; James Benbow, Vice-President; Jessica Waring, Treasurer; and Brandtina Gordon, Secretary. Also, representing the SPA Club as Miss SPA is Andrea Ellison. Let’s welcome these elected students and invite new “SPA” students to join the SPA Club.

Students from the 2012 cohort of the SLPs- STARS graduated in 2014. The outcomes of this grant were a phenomenal success affecting student preparation to become school-based speech-language pathologists. The National Examination in Speech-Language Pathology pass rate prior to graduation for these scholars was 100%. All of the scholars are now gainfully employed and striving for excellence during their Clinical Fellow (CF) experience!
This past year has been a busy one for Bobbi Adams, who is in her final year of graduate school in the SPA Program. In September of 2013 Bobbi sat in Dr. Lemmon’s office to discuss the possibility of applying to PhD programs. That conversation was the beginning of a whirlwind of changes in her life. On top of full-time coursework and working part-time as a substitute teacher, she has worked hard to make herself a competitive PhD applicant.

Last fall, Bobbi constructed the framework of her thesis in Dr. Lemmon’s research class. Her literature review was chosen to be a poster presentation at the 2014 South Carolina Speech-Language-Hearing Association Conference. As a poster presenter, Bobbi had to give a concise overview of her autism research methodology, findings, and conclusion. She was questioned by speech-language pathologists and audiologists who had varying levels of experience with autism spectrum disorders and research, which kept her on her toes while providing explanations. While at the conference, Bobbi received a SCSHA Foundation scholarship for her personal essays on inspiration and goals, as well as academic achievement.

In May 2014, Bobbi attended the International Meeting for Autism Research (IMFAR). Bobbi stated that “IMFAR was also a unique experience because it consisted of autism experts in a wide variety of disciplines. While at IMFAR I split my time between learning about current research and asking autism experts in any field for advice. I made many wonderful connections that have opened up research and job opportunities for my CFY.”

In addition to IMFAR, Bobbi completed a week-long internship with her ASHA S.T.E.P. mentor in North Carolina. ASHA’s S.T.E.P. program pair mentees with mentors in their current or desired discipline or setting. Bobbi was paired in January with an autism specialist in North Carolina. Bobbi said her S.T.E.P. mentor, “gave me advice and suggestions for further study and autism research. At her invitation, I went up to North Carolina for a week to gain experience providing therapy for children that have autism. My internship included early intervention, push-in therapy, and social skills groups. This internship provided me with more knowledge, skills, and confidence - all of which are invaluable in our profession.”

Bobbi’s suggestion for current students is to, “reach out to as many people as you can. You never know what you may learn from them, or the opportunities you may be given!”

Jamie Legette Bryant is a second year graduate student at SC State. She completed her undergraduate in speech-language patholgy and audiology at South Carolina State University. Jamie has worked as an Speech Language Therapist in various school districts in South Carolina. Jamie earned a graduate degree in Instructional Technology and decided to return to S.C. State for her graduate degree in Speech Pathology & Audiology. In order to complete this degree, Jamie and her husband relocated to Columbia, South Carolina. She sought employment as an SLT with the Lee County School District. Jamie has been an asset to their special education unit. Jamie was selected as “West Lee Elementary School’s Teacher of the Year” by her peers and administrators. She was even selected as the runner up for “Lee County School District’s Teacher of the Year.” This is quite an achievement and honor for any educator! It shows that Jamie’s hard work, efforts, and service to the children of Lee County have not gone unnoticed.

However, being awarded “West Lee’s Teacher of the Year” is not Jamie’s most significant achievement this year. She recently gave birth to the apple of her eye, little mister Henry Bryant, IV (affectionately known as IV). Jamie is looking forward to the rigorous coursework that she will face in graduate school this year because, “I can see the light at the end of the tunnel!!” We, along with her husband, Henry III and little IV, are proud of her accomplishments!!!
SC State’s SPA Program has had a record number of presentations selected for the 2014 American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) convention in Orlando, Florida. These presentations include the faculty collaboration of Dr. Lorraine Adcox, Mrs. Debbie Frishberg, and Dr. Regina Lemmon, who will present “Using Social Media to Promote and Manage NSSLHA Activities.”

The other five presentations began as a part of the graduate research course taught by Dr. Lemmon. Several graduate students continued working on the projects after the class ended and will present their research at the national convention. These recent graduates include ReGina Barton Jones, Joy Pendarvis, Danielle Scott, Lauren Scott, Tyisha Chapman, Shemariah Farmer, Janoah Sallie, Shamiqua Johnson, and J’Mia Alston. Other professionals that assisted with various aspects of the projects included Dr. Nicholas Cluster (SC State’s Mathematics Department), Dr. Demarcus Bush (SPA Program) and Jessica Richardson Berry (Ph.D. student at Louisiana State University and SC State SPA Program graduate).

The ASHA National Convention will be held this year, November 20-22, in Orlando, Florida.

South Carolina State University’s Speech Pathology & Audiology Program offered a one-of-a-kind Extended School Year Program for children with speech-language impairments from Orangeburg and the surrounding communities. The ESY Program, as it’s affectionately referred to, provides a unique experience for children ages three through ten years to have intensive summer services to address their speech-language impairments four days a week for five hours each of those days. Speech pathology graduate students provide individual and small group therapy to these students in a language rich environment.

The award-winning ESY Program provided a wonderful and enriching learning experience through a literacy-based theme of books by Eric Carle, along with a world-wide travel theme to provide the children with experiences designed to expand their knowledge and improve their communication skills.
We wish Dr. Harriette Gregg well in her retirement!

Dr. Gregg served for over two decades in various capacities within the SPA Program, including most recently as Clinic Director. Dr. Gregg contributed a great deal to the Program, and she will be sorely missed.

Hats Off to Our Support Staff!!

The Health Sciences Department and SPA Program have wonderful support personnel! Ms. Tammy Hallinquest and Ms. Katrina Sherman make sure the clinic and departmental offices operate efficiently. Thanks for ALL.

Our Best Wishes . . .

To our dear friend and colleague, Mrs. Debra Frishberg.
We miss you and hope you will be back with us soon!

Our SPA Program Faculty Expands

The SPA Program is pleased to announce the addition of new faculty members. The new faculty members are:

New faculty

Henri Sandifer, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, comes to South Carolina State University with a wealth of experience. Dr. Sandifer is the former Director of the Speech Pathology Department at Health South in Columbia, SC. She has previous experience as a private practitioner and professor.

Felicia Lawrence, M.A., CCC-SLP, Ed.S., has a vast array of experiences as a school-based SLP, contract SLP, nursing home SLP, and private practitioner. In addition to being an SLP, Mrs. Lawrence is also certified in school administration. Her clinical experiences will be an asset to our students. She has previously served as an off-site clinical supervisor for our graduate students.

New Adjuncts

Jacqueline Brown, SLPD, CCC-SLP is a school-based SLP. She has experience in private practice, nursing homes, hospitals, and schools. She is currently the Lead SLP with Richland School District One.

Clareatha Johnson, M.A., CCC-SLP is a school-based SLP. Ms. Johnson has experience in private practice. She also has a wide array of school-based experiences that our students may learn from.

Juliet Stoute-White, Ph.D., CCC-SLP is an Executive Director of Special Services. She also has previous experiences as an SLP in schools, hospitals and nursing homes.

Honors Abound!

Dr. Lemmon was honored with several accolades in 2014! She was awarded the University of South Carolina’s Communication Sciences & Disorders inaugural “Distinguished Alumni Award” in February 2014 at the SCSHA Convention. She was also the runner-up for the Gerry Sue Arnold award. Dr. Lemmon was inducted into USC’s Arnold School of Public Health’s chapter of Delta Omega honor society in April 2014. She was also designated as a member of the inaugural class of the “Top 40 Under 40” African-America Professionals in South Carolina by the Black Pages Group in June 2014. Dr. Lemmon has taken it all in stride and looks forward to goals that lie ahead. She stated, “as a professor, I constantly challenge myself to excel in research, scholarship and service. It is a very delicate, precarious, and time-intensive balance. So, it’s nice to see that my efforts have been recognized while helping students to obtain success.”
Speech Pathologists & Audiologists (SPA) Remembering to Invest in Students’ Education (RISE) is the creation of Dr. Demarcus Bush and Dr. Regina Lemmon. These professors created SPA RISE as a way to motivate undergraduate Speech Pathology & Audiology students. We want them to know that SPA Alumni RISE to the challenge to return on the Friday morning of Homecoming weekend (October 31, 2014) to impart their knowledge and “real-world” experiences that have helped them to succeed in the speech pathology and audiology professions. This event empowers the next generation of SLPs to raise their level of professionalism, dedication and collegiate efforts in order to successfully matriculate through the SPA Program. Simultaneously, Drs. Bush and Lemmon want the current students to respond to SPA Alumni RISE by continuing to network with alumni even after the event, and to leave with the motivation to achieve all that life as an SLP has to offer!

The 2013 SPA Alumni RISE event featured a cadre of twelve SLPs representing various career fields and one business department alumni with impaired hearing who has been vetted by two doctoral programs in economics. Dr. Bush stated that, “this is an event that we hope will grow each year!” The next SPA Alumni RISE event will be held this fall.

Today’s students are the FUTURE of the professions!

A Note From . . .

Interim Dean, Frederick M. G. Evans, Ed.D.
College of Graduate & Professional Studies

The South Carolina State University implemented an approved restructuring plan of the Division of Academic Affairs on October 15, 2013. The Department of Speech Pathology & Audiology is now housed in the College of Graduate & Professional Studies. This strategic move from the former College of Business and Applied Professional Sciences, which is now The School of Business, is planned to strengthen the department’s academic offerings, promote greater faculty development and research, and align identified academic programs.

As the Dean, I am excited about the continued progress and academic leadership in the Department of Speech Pathology & Audiology. The academic programs are all sound and continue to reflect a “market based need” in our economy. It is my desire to provide the necessary and required leadership support to the department’s initiatives via increasing enrollment, grant development and sponsored research, and student based community outreach services.

Congratulations Graduates!

SPA Faculty are proud of the students who graduated in December 2013 and May 2014! We wish you well in all of your professional endeavors! Remember to keep in contact to let us know how you’re faring in the “real world!” Remember to join your state and national associations and advocate for the speech-language pathology and audiology professions.

Our collective voices make a difference!

May 2014

December 2013