

Communication Disorders Program

West Texas A&M University

Spring 2010
Volume 1, Issue 1

Inside this issue:

NSSLHA	1
New Audio & Visual Installations	2
Mobile Clinic	2
Clinic Accomplishments	3
Inside Story	3

NSSLHA: National Student Speech Language Hearing Association

The National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) is an organization for students of communication sciences and disorders. While NSSLHA was founded in 1972, it has been a part of West Texas A&M University for nearly 10 years. NSSLHA has approximately 13,000 members with chapters at more than 300 colleges & universities. At WTAMU, we have had the privilege of working together with communities in the local area to increase awareness of communication disorders, especially in May, which is Better Speech and Hearing Month. Members from the local NSSLHA chapter at WTAMU have attended the Texas Speech and Hearing Association Conferences for several years and have won the PRAXIS bowl, a



competition among the other universities in the state. Furthermore, NSSLHA has had the opportunity to work with Specialized Therapy Services by assisting with Autism forums and caring for children while parents attend support groups. In addition to donating time, we donate finances to various organizations such as Samaritan's Purse, NWTX Autism Network, Annual Walk and much more. Our purpose in NSSLHA is to involve both undergraduate and graduate students in volunteer and fundraising activities that will benefit the community, the organization, and the

organization, and the student. We want to provide a link between the professional and student populations by distributing information regarding communication development and disorders and giving students in our field at our university information concerning their future professional development and other issues related to our ethical obligations.

*...Provide the most innovative and effective learning opportunities to all of our students.”
Dr. Larry Barnes*

Over the Spring break a state-of-the-art audio/visual recording system was installed in the WT Speech and Hearing Clinic. The system allows for the digital recording of all therapy that takes place in each of the 7 therapy rooms in the clinic. The recorded signal is encrypted and streamed to faculty computers live during therapy sessions.

The Communication Disorders instructs dozens of students each year in evaluation and therapy procedures. By installing VBrick’s IP video streaming technology,

clinical supervisors can now access on-demand video of those procedures from any network-enabled computer across the campus. These procedures are not only captured for viewing, but faculty members are able to edit the video and play it back to students, significantly extending student learning opportunities.

“With VBrick, we are able to go well beyond ‘textbook education’ and provide the most innovative and effective learning opportunities to all of our students” said Dr. Larry Barnes.

VBrick’s video-over-IP solutions allow the college to stream video across any network without impacting the performance of other critical networked applications. The captured video is saved within the college’s newly formed video library, accessed through VBrick’s Enterprise Media Systems video portal. The portal provides select users with free access to the video library, while also protecting privacy under HIPAA, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

Mobile Clinic in the Making

The Department of Communication Disorders in partnership with the Nursing Department has requested a \$400,000 grant to secure a mobile speech-language pathology clinic to service the Tri-state area. If funded the unit will house a complete audiology suite, video stroboscopy, fiber optic endoscopic evaluation of swallowing, and much more. The unit will also contain an outfitted nursing station to conduct

screenings and other procedures. “Each month we receive calls from throughout the panhandle requesting our services. This is one unique way of mobilizing our ability to reach the people where they live” said, Dr. Larry Barnes.

The goal is to staff the unit with graduate student clinicians and supervisors and travel to various parts of the rural areas to

provide much needed speech-language pathology services. The WT Speech & Hearing Clinic gains the opportunity to secure paying contracts with needy school districts and skilled nursing facilities. The graduate clinicians gain the opportunity for increased clinical hours working with a variety of clients of all ages and disorders.

Clinic Accomplishments

Guymon School District Contract

4 students and 1 supervisor travel to Guymon, OK each week to provide speech therapy services to an underserved area. This setting provides the students with experience in various disorders including Autism, AAC and hearing impairment. In addition extra funds are brought into the clinic to help pay for additional supervisors and clinic materials.

Amarillo AMBUCs

Graduate students, Jessica Mathew and Delsa Alfau presented information about WTAMU clinic and the tinnitus research project to members of the Amarillo AMBUCs organization. The presentation was Tuesday, April 6, 2010 at the Amarillo Country Club. Even though AMBUCs provides scholarship opportunities to our students, I think the membership learned a great deal about our program, the WTAMU clinic services, and the research project that is being conducted by Dr. Dalton.

Reasons Why the WT Speech & Hearing Clinic Provides Top Quality Service to Our Community

1. Our faculty represent 133 years of cumulative experience
2. We use the most up-to-date state of the art diagnostic technology
3. Our research faculty are nationally and internationally recognized
4. Clients receive individualized attention through a licensed and certified speech-language pathologist
5. Student clinicians continuously research and use efficacy based practices
6. Many of our clients are involved as research subjects testing the most recent evaluation and treatment methodologies
7. Outcome measures are tracked frequently to insure treatment efficacy
8. State-of-the-art audio/visual equipment is used by supervisors to track every detail of clinical activity
9. Client friendly therapy rooms offer warm and inviting interaction
10. We have the expertise to service clients across the lifespan with any type of communication or swallowing disorder