

# The Voice

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## Words to Live By:

- When you are a SLP or Audiologist in practice, if you will always keep the patient at the center of your thought process, you can never go wrong.  
Dr. Brenda Cross

## Successful Academic Year

The academic year of 2012-2013 was full of changes, advancements, and success. This year 24 Master's prepared students graduated, we achieved 91% first time pass rates on the PRAIXIS, a new department head started in February, and a new direction for the CD department was established.

The clinical growth in the department is amazing. The students are experiencing many different areas, which helps them decide the placement for their clinical fellowship year.

The Speech and Hearing Clinic at WT is growing. The addition of audiology has been beneficial. Dr. Cross is able to test infants through geriatrics, fit hearing devices, and

screen for balance issues.

The focus on the future of the WT clinic will be an increase in adult swallowing and voice patients.

The WTAMU CD clinic continues to service the needs of Canyon ISD, White Deer, Borger, Turn Center, Jan Werner, and Guymon, OK.

This academic year has also brought the ability for undergraduates to successfully obtain their 25 observation hours, through a variety of placements.

The future is bright for WTAMU Communication Disorders Program.

Pictured Below is the 2013 graduating Master's Speech Language Pathologists. Lauren Abercrombie, Melissa Camangian, Timothy Cowdrey, Cresta Deaton, Haley Fisher, Leslie George, Lacey Harris, Daniel Hill, Carmen Jackson, Kimberly Kirby, Martha Marie, Elizabeth McCracken, Sarah Mendez, Rebecca Olvera, Cara Reid, Robin Seal, Stevi Sharp, Kara Sliney, Siera Tabata, Kaylin Thomas, Mattie Urban, Abigail Weaver, and Stephanie Woodard.



## Dr. Debra Blanton

Dr. Debra Blanton will be the newest faculty member for the upcoming year. She received her Baccalaureate from Valencia Community College, her Master's from the University of South Florida, and her Doctorate from the University of South Alabama. She has worked as a SLP in the school system, as a SLP from the Bureau of Indian Education on the Eastern Navajo Reservation, a SLP in the Mobile County Public School Systems in Mobile Alabama, and taught graduate and undergraduate classes while earning her doctorate.

Dr. Blanton has two sons, Adrian and Michael Crawford and dog Spicy June.



*Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.*  
*Leo Buscaglia*

### 2013-2014 Academic Annual Goals

The Communication Disorder faculty and staff are committed to making the 2013-2014 the best yet. We have been blessed with an academic dean, Dirk Nelson, who is focused on the needs and continued success of our program and students. We will be able to add several Part Time Clinical Supervisors to our team, which will assist

in the clinical supervision needs of the students, allow WTAMU to continue and serve the Canyon, Amarillo, and Guymon areas, and continue to keep the focus on evidence based practice and instruction. Dr. Blanton and Dr. Wilson are excited to lead the department in new research opportunities. The department will continue to keep the

focus on the PRAXIS success rates, implementing new student success measures, and providing the area with the highest quality of clinically prepared individuals.

### 2012-2013 Awards Recipients

This story can fit 75-125 words.

Selecting pictures or graphics is an important part of adding content to your newsletter.

Think about your article and ask yourself if the picture supports or enhances the message you're trying to convey. Avoid selecting images that appear to be out of context.

Microsoft Publisher includes thousands of clip art images from which you can choose and import into your newsletter. There are also several tools you can use to draw shapes and symbols.

Once you have chosen an image, place it close to the article. Be sure to place the caption of the image near the image.

*"The limits of my language mean the limits of my world."*  
*Ludwig Wittgenstein*  
(1889 - 1951)

## TSHA 2013

There is something about being with thousands of people who love the same profession you do that gets the blood flowing and the excitement going. The Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association (TSHA) convention was the perfect place to experience this rush. The madness began on March 7th and ended March 9th of 2013 in Dallas, TX. Speech-language pathologists and audiologists from all corners of Texas (and from other states, I'm sure, because everything is bigger and better in Texas!) gathered together to interact and learn new information about their chosen professions. Men women from undergrad to retirement trailed through the Dallas Convention Center attending conferences ranging from distinguishing between the different types of dysarthrias to evidence-based practice in stuttering therapy to the basics of voice therapy to researching the current diagnosis and treatment trends in special populations in audiology and everything in between! An intriguing lecture was presented by keynote speaker Justin Osmond, the second son born into the famous family of singers. Justin was born with a severe/profound sensorineural hearing. He underwent 12 years of intense speech and listening therapy, and he can now "speak with passion and hear with conviction". He described the trials and triumphs of undergoing the arduous task of learning to speak and listen and contributed much of his success today to his speech therapists he worked with while growing up. His personal quote that he lives by and

encouraged everyone present to remember is that, "I may have a hearing loss, but that hearing loss does not have me."

Many students from WTAMU made the six-hour trip to Dallas to participate in the convention. First and second year graduate students attended, as well as several undergrads and several professors. Conferences were held beginning at 8:00 every morning and lasted throughout the day. When individuals were not listening to lectures, they could browse through an immense assortment of vendors and stations that held every imaginable type of therapy material a speech therapist could dream of. Books, tests, toys, t-shirts, and free giveaways were just a few of the items made available to everyone. Many employers from all over Texas set up booths and advertised for available jobs at their workplaces. There was never time to even entertain the thought of a dull moment.

At the end of the day on Friday, March 8th, the much-anticipated Praxis Bowl began! A stampede of college students flooded the large room prepared for this momentous occasion. Second-year graduate students from many different schools competed in the Praxis Bowl. Example Praxis questions were shown on a screen and the students were given one minute to answer each question. Undergrad and first-year grad students could guess the answer from their seats but were unable to help. Sadly, WTAMU's team did not make the final round, but it is safe to say that immense fun was had by all. At the end of the trip, all that could be heard were the voices of the upcoming first and second-year grads saying, "Wow! I can't wait until TSHA 2014!"

-Angie Zimmerman



A group of first-year WTAMU grads reveling in TSHA fun!

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It is the mission of the Communication Disorders Department at West Texas A&M University to facilitate learning the knowledge and skills underlying communication sciences and disorders; to prepare students for careers in speech-language pathology; to help meet the need for speech-language pathologists in the region surrounding Canyon and Amarillo; to educate students in the use of evidence-based research in clinical problem solving; to value the cultural differences of the clients and families they serve; to advance the knowledge in the fields of speech, language, hearing, and swallowing and to encourage life-long professional learning throughout their careers.



## **SCHOLARSHIPS!!!**

The Bruckner scholarship is a \$500 scholarship awarded to undergraduate students. This year's Bruckner scholarship recipients are: Hanna Harrison, Marlee Demots, Lori Porter, and Taryn Borchardt.

The Panhandle Regional Speech-Language Hearing Association (PRSHA) scholarship is a \$500 scholarship awarded to graduate students. This year's PRSHA scholarship recipients are: Brandi Montgomery and Jessica Detten.

Congratulations to the 2013 scholarship recipients! Keep up the hard work!

