


Entering a New Millenium (2002-present): The Gary Cumley Era

As I sit in front of the computer trying to write the history of the School of Communicative Disorders (ComD) at UWSP since 2002-03 to the present, I find it interesting trying to recall the past history and accomplishments of ComD since I became associate dean/chair in the 2002-03 school year. I found a newspaper article that was in the Stevens Point Journal announcing my appointment as the new associate dean/chair. However, you are probably wondering why the name is crossed out under my picture. Well the reason is because the newspaper put the wrong name! What can I say, I hope this wasn't a black mark on my appointment as associate dean/chair.

Cumley to lead school

Associate Professor Gary Cumley has been chosen to lead the School of Communicative Disorders when its current head, Dennis Nash, retires at the end of the 2002 spring semester.



Cumley will spend the next academic year as understudy to Nash, who will have chaired the 19-member faculty and staff for nine years. Cumley's appointment is for three years. An expert in augmentative and alternative communication, childhood language acquisition and language issues of special populations, Cumley came to UW-SP in 1994. Cumley serves as vice president of governmental affairs of the Wisconsin Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Association. He also serves on the board of directors of the U.S. Society of Augmentative and Alternative Communication.

– Gary Cumley

Mission Statements

The following is the mission statement that was developed by the School of Communicative Disorders (ComD) faculty. ASHA now requires that programs develop a mission statement. The school's mission statement is a reflection of the commitment the faculty for both undergraduate and graduate students in communicative disorders at UWSP.

Mission for the Undergraduate Program in Communicative Disorders

The mission of the undergraduate program in the School of Communicative Disorders at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point is to provide students a liberal education that prepares them to be global citizens. Students develop beginning knowledge and clinical skills in the area of communicative disorders. Upon completion of this pre-professional program, students are eligible to apply to a graduate program leading to a Master's of Science Degree in Speech-Language Pathology and/or a Clinical Doctorate in Audiology.

Mission for the Graduate Program in Speech-Language Pathology

The mission of the graduate program in the School of Communicative Disorders at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point is to provide a foundation of professional preparation in speech-language pathology. The program fosters analytical thinking through research opportunities and facilitates application to clinical practice. Learning opportunities are provided to students to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to competently assess and treat individuals with speech, language, hearing, and/or swallowing disorders from diverse backgrounds in a variety of work settings.

Mission of the University of Wisconsin Au.D. Consortium

(University of Wisconsin-Madison and University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point)

The mission of the Au.D. program is to prepare future audiologists with a strong clinical and theoretical background to practice in a variety of settings and to be life-long learners. The professional program consists of a four-year program of coursework and clinical clerkship culminating in the Au.D. degree.

The academic objectives of the program are to prepare students to enter the profession of audiology fully able to function as independent audiologists in private practice, medical clinics, and school settings.

- To provide a strong theoretical, technical, and scientific base for the clinical practice of audiology.
- To prepare students to meet certification and licensure requirements for the practice of clinical audiology.
- To prepare students to be life-long learners.

Our Vision

In 10 years, the School of Communicative Disorders will be recognized by potential students, employers and consumers as the premier training program of speech-language pathologists and audiologists in the state of Wisconsin and as a major service provider in the area of speech and language, and audiology.

ASHA Program Changes

2003-04: ASHA changed their Standards and Implementation for the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology that went into effect in 2005, and the Standards and Implementation for the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Audiology went into effect in 2007. Because of this, the staff developed an ASHA Competency Standards Tracking Document. This document is a way of tracking graduate students' knowledge and skills across the ASHA new nine standards. Our department reviewed the curriculum and determined how to best document a student's level of competency across the different knowledge and skills outlined by ASHA. In addition, the documentation must clearly document each student's level of learning based on multiple assessments of their knowledge and skills. Changes in the graduate curriculum were based on the new ASHA standards.

Clinical Doctorate in Audiology (Au.D.)

(University of Wisconsin-Madison and University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point)

- ASHA, as of 2007, required that the entry-level degree for an audiologist would be a clinical doctorate degree in audiology (Au.D.).
- Because of this, ComD stopped accepting students into our master's program in audiology in 2002-03 and began discussing how this would affect our program and other programs in the state. The result was that Wisconsin would not have an audiology program in the state.
- Discussion began between UW-Milwaukee, UW-Madison and UW-Stevens Point regarding developing a collaborative Au.D. program. It was decided that UW-Madison and UW-Stevens Point were the best option for developing this program because both had an established master's program in audiology in the past.
- Discussion followed with UW-Madison and it was determined that both faculties complemented each other and neither campus could start their own Au.D. program because of staffing and budgetary reasons. It was determined that it would be logical that the two programs could and should develop an Au.D. program.
- The UW System was contacted to determine the procedures and possibility of developing a collaborative Au.D. between our two programs: UW-Madison, a primary research institution, and UW-Stevens Point, primarily a comprehensive university. If given the go-ahead, this would be the first such program in the state where UW-Madison and a comprehensive university UWSP were teaming together in providing a clinical doctorate program.
- One issue UW System raised was that a comprehensive university within the system was not permitted to grant a doctorate degree and foremost how would the program be developed and implemented?
- UW System reviewed the need for an Au.D. program in Wisconsin and it seemed logical and feasible that if the two campuses joined in a collaborative Au.D., it would meet the educational needs of our Wisconsin students, would be a good use of already existing resources, such as faculty and facilities, and would be financially feasible.
- UW System gave both institutions permission to develop and plan for a collaborative Au.D. program.
- ASHA was contacted regarding the requirements and procedures for developing a collaborative Au.D. program.
- Over the next two years, faculty from both campuses along with a UW System representative met at the CESA 5 office in Portage, Wis., to start developing and planning for the Wisconsin Au.D. program. It was very apparent from the beginning that all staff developing this program were committed to make this Wisconsin Au.D. program the best program possible. It was determined that when a student would apply for the program they would be able to mark a preference campus, either UW-Madison or UW-Stevens Point.
- The curriculum for this four-year Clinical Doctorate in Audiology was developed. There were three levels of approval needed before the joint Au.D. program could start: approval by both institutions, the Wisconsin Board of Regents, and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Both institutions gave their approval and on March 11, 2005, the Board of Regents approved the establishment of the Wisconsin Au.D. program.

- UW-Stevens Point next needed to get approval of the Higher Learning Commission, which is the national accrediting board for UW-Stevens Point. On May 11, 2006, UW-Stevens Point accreditation was extended to include the Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) in conjunction with the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This is the first doctorate degree that would be allowed to be given at UW-Stevens Point.
- The Wisconsin Au.D. Consortium Program was granted Candidacy status from the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology of the American-Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) and the Candidacy application was finalized in 2008.
- In 2007 the collaborative Wisconsin Au.D. program graduated its first class. UWSP has graduated a total of 16 students and there are presently 13 students enrolled here at UWSP.
- A site visitation from the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology of the American-Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) took place on September 28-30, 2009. The team spent time at both campuses reviewing every aspect of the program. On March 25, 2010, both campuses, UW-Madison and UW-Stevens Point, were informed that the Wisconsin Au.D. consortium met and exceeded the requirements and received re-accreditation status for a period of five years.
- As part of the ongoing process of reviewing the Wisconsin Au.D. program, UW System required a self-study be conducted on both campuses. The focus of the self-study was to review the program and determine if the program was meeting the goals of the Wisconsin Au.D. program. A joint review committee was formed from both campuses along with a representative from UW System to review the program. After an extensive review, the joint review committee's report stated that they "enthusiastically recommend that the Doctor of Audiology program continue without any conditions. The quality of the program was excellent, the graduates are very well equipped to enter the profession, and the demand for graduates in audiology is high and is expected to remain high in the immediate future."

ASHA Re-accreditation

The School of Communicative Disorders has been an accredited program of the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association for many years. Programs that are accredited must meet the high standards of the American-Speech-Language-Hearing Association across multiple areas that ensure that student preparation is of the highest standards.

The programs in audiology and in speech-language pathology were re-accredited for an eight-year period. At this same time, ASHA notified ComD that annual reports were henceforth required from all accredited programs.

On April 9-10, 2009, the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association conducted a re-accreditation site visit.

The School of Communicative Disorders was re-accredited from June 1, 2009–May 31, 2017.



Faculty

ComD continues to have a dedicated and outstanding faculty and staff who provide students with outstanding education experiences and opportunities. The following is a list of both the current staff as of 2003 and the new hires after 2003.

2002-03 Faculty and Academic Staff

- David Henry, Ph.D., Wichita State University
- Leslie Plonsker, Ph.D., Bowling Green State University
- Maggie Watson, Ph.D., Bowling Green State University
- Donna Christensen, M.A., Western Michigan University
- Mary Day, M.S., University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Cynthia Forster, M.S., Moorhead State University
- Charlie Osborne, M.A., University of Central Florida

Classified Support Staff

- Chris Zinda, Academic Department Associate
- Dave Malay, senior electronic technician researcher

New Hires from 2002-03-Present

- Julia King, Ph.D., Ph.D., University of Nebraska-Lincoln hired in 2002 to replace Dennis Nash, Ph.D. and currently the coordinator of graduate programs
- Cynthia Kuka, M.S., UW-Milwaukee hired in 2002 replaced Rodney Gabel, Ph.D.
- Marie Stadler, Ph.D., University of Minnesota hired in 2003 to replace Paula Horner, Ph.D.
- Becky Henning, Ph.D., University of Iowa hired in 2004 to replace Kirsten Beach, Ph.D.
- Pamela Terrell, Ph.D., Louisiana State hired in 2007 to replace Marie Stadler, Ph.D.
- Jane Elliott, M.S., UW-Stevens Point hired in 2008 as part-time audiology supervisor
- Dawn Merth-Johnson, M.A., University of Kansas hired in 2009 in a new position
- Sarah Reeves, M.S., UW-Stevens Point hired in 2010 as part-time SLP supervisor to replace Dawn Merth-Johnson
- Sondra Reynolds, M.S., UW-Stevens Point hired in 2011 to replace Dawn Merth-Johnson; currently director of clinical services for SLP
- Deborah Grall, Au.D., Salus University hired in 2012 to replace Tami Gumz, Au.D. and currently the director of clinical services in audiology (new position)

Classified Support Staff

- Pat Konkol hired in 2002 to replace Mary Holtz who retired
- Joan Ratchman hired in 2007 to replace Pat Konkol who retired
- Kay Juhnke hired in 2008 to replace Joan Ratchman who retired

Partnerships

For over 30 years the School of Communicative Disorders (COMD) has provided both inpatient and outpatient speech-language and swallowing services at St. Michael's Hospital. As of 2010, because of the increased demands for speech-language and swallowing service at St. Michael's, hospital staff and students from ComD are currently providing these services five days a week. In the past, staff and students only provided these services twice a week.

As of 2011 a new partnership was established with the Ear Nose and Throat Department at Rice Ministry Medical Group. Donna Christensen and Mary Day are involved in assisting Dr. Jennings and Dr. Thielman who are ENTs in conducting videostroboscopic exams and providing voice consultations and therapy. Graduate students are included in these procedures, which provides them an outstanding learning experience.

For more than 25 years, the Center for Communicative Disorders provided speech-language and hearing assessment services to preschoolers from the Stevens Point Area School District through a contractual agreement. Three years ago, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction informed the Stevens Point Area School District that the contract that they held with the center was not in compliance with DPI regulations. Because of that, the center and Stevens Point Area School District ended their long-standing partnership. However, there has been some discussion that there might be a possibility that this partnership could be reinstated in the future.

Other partnerships included:

- Provide hearing screening for the United Migrant Opportunity Services, Inc. (UMOS). This is a program that the clinic is involved with every summer. There is not only hearing screening service but also follow-up if needed.
- Provide hearing screenings for the elderly through the Aging and Disability Resources at Lincoln Center. Students conduct these services at the center.

Department Grants

Lab Modernization Grant 2006

Lab Modernization CPS 051 Grant 2006 for \$68,111.00

- The plan for this remodeling project was to develop two lab spaces out of the current lab space. This would require the removal and recycling of the sound booth, which was not operational and took up a great deal of the current lab space.
- A wall was built down the middle of the existing room allowing a second lab to be developed. Remodeling consisted of the following items: dismantle and recycle the sound booth, repair floor where the sound booth was, cut in new doorway, construct wall to divide space in half, carpet entire space, install acoustic 2'x2' ceilings, install 2'x4' parabolic fluorescent light fixtures (12), electric wiring, separate HVAC for each room, construct cabinets with plastic laminate top, and install sink. Along with the remodeling of the space both labs were equipped with the same instrumentation.
- Having two Hearing Aid Labs for fitting hearing aids allows our audiologist to conduct two hearing aid fitting appointments at the same time.

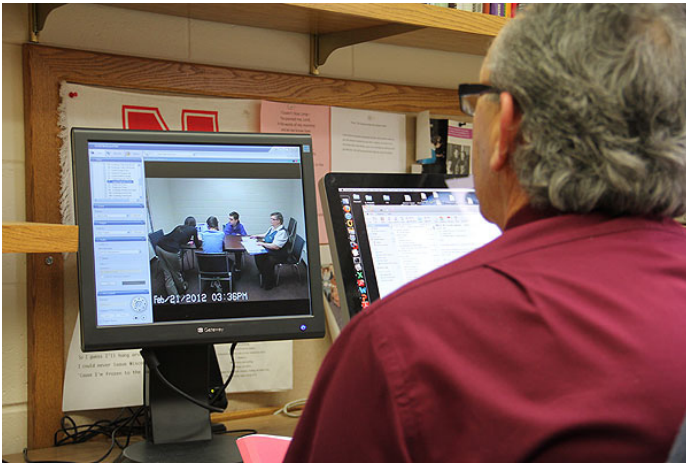
Before and after photos



Lab Modernization Grant 2008

- Lab Modernization CPS ComD Lab Grant 2008 for \$85,441.00 (this grant was used to update our video system and remodel our clinic).
- The old clinical video system was installed in the Center for Communicative Disorders in the 1970s. That made it approximately 37-years-old. The system was still functional but over the years the quality of the video and audio signals significantly degraded because of the age of this system. The American-Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), which is our accrediting body requires that students have direct supervision during their clinical practicum experiences.
- With the old system supervisors were unable to change the angle of the camera to enhance the image.
- It was difficult for supervisors to watch multiple students during therapy.

- The new system now allows supervisors to change the angle of the camera, zoom in and out, and make high-quality digital recordings of the session.
- Session recording can be viewed at a later time by both the supervisor and/or students.
- Supervisors now can watch multiple students from their office computer.
- Parents are now also able to observe using the video system in a separate observation area.



- The overall clinic was redecorated to give it more of a modern professional look: furniture was reupholstered or purchased, new carpeting, and re-painted furniture and new carpet, new furniture throughout clinic rooms.



Student-Centered Excellence

- Our master's program in speech-language pathology has steadily grown to currently admitting 30 students each year. In addition, our number of applicants continues to increase and 2012 there were 163 applicants for speech-language pathology and 56 applicants for the collaborative Wisconsin Au.D. program.
- Graduates from our audiology and speech-language pathology graduate programs continue to score above the national average on the PRAXIS exam averaging between 95-100%.
- Our graduates continue to have a 100% employment rate for both audiology and speech-language pathology.
- 2004-05: Maggie Watson became the advisor of UWSP's student chapter of the National Speech Language and Hearing Association (NSSLHA). This is a dynamic and active group of students primarily made-up of undergraduate students who are involved locally with the community.
- 2005-06: The UWSP National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSSLHA) Chapter wrote and was awarded a matching Community Service Grant for \$1,000 for the Wood County birth-to-three program to assist in the purchase of assistive technology equipment for this program.
- 2006-07: The NSSLHA Chapter wrote and was awarded a matching Community Service Grant for \$1,000 for the Wood County birth-to-three program to assist in the purchase of assistive technology equipment for this program.
- 2006-07: The UWSP NSSLHA Chapter developed a scholarship for undergraduate ComD majors. This is the first such scholarship that the student organization has established.
- 2008: Jayna David, a graduating senior in ComD, made the commencement address at the spring ceremony.

- 2008: The UWSP NSSLHA Chapter wrote and were awarded a matching Service Grant of \$500 from the National NSSLHA Organization. “Operation Smile” is an international program that provides children from Honduras with cleft lip and/or palate with surgical and speech-language pathology services. The money NSSLHA received was used to purchase materials to assist an SLP who is working with children with cleft lip and/or palate.
- The UWSP Student Academy of Audiologist (SAA) was newly formed on our campus in fall 2009. This organization is a joint chapter with students on the UW-Madison campus. The following are the activities students were involved with throughout the community and region. In 2011, students from the Au.D. program attended the national convention of American Academy of Audiology (AAA) in Chicago and the Wisconsin Student Academy of Audiology (SAA) and won second place in a national student contest.
- 2011: The School of Communicative Disorders held the first Open House for students accepted into the SLP and Au.D. programs. Students assisted in this open house and answered any questions from the perspective of bring a student in the program.

Technology-Enhanced Learning

- Classrooms in our department have the most current technology available for instruction.
- Within our department, students have access to over 16 computers for report writing, accessing the Internet, and accessing library resources.
- Students have access to state-of-the-art laboratory technology in the areas of augmentative and alternative communication, voice and speech science, audiological testing including pure tone, vestibular, balance testing, along with hearing aid fitting and analysis.

International Learning Opportunities

- 2005-06: David Henry developed a study abroad course titled: The International Business of Hearing Aids. He traveled to visit the different hearing aid manufacturers in Denmark, Switzerland, and Germany. This course was designed to target Au.D. students from around the country.
- 2008-09: Pam Terrell traveled to the Integrated Center for the Treatment of Cleft Lip and Palate in Curitiba Brazil. The purpose of her trip was to explore the possibility of the School of Communicative Disorders and the Center in Curitiba Brazil developing an international study trip for ComD graduate students for May 2010.
- 2010: Pam Terrell took 15 students to Brazil for this international learning opportunity. All of the students had completed ComD 786 (Maxillofacial Disorders) so they were knowledgeable regarding cleft lip and palate, but this experience in Brazil provided them practical experiences regarding the different surgical procedures, as well as a different cultural perspective associated with cleft lip and palate. This was the first time that ComD has provided students with an international learning experience.
- Pam Terrell and Gary Cumley have been in contact with the Wisconsin Nicaragua Project and have begun talks in developing another international learning opportunity for graduate and undergraduate students to observe and assist SLPs in Nicaragua in providing speech and language services to individuals.

Scholarships

Established Student Scholarships

- Helen Scheidt Endowment Fund (Outstanding Junior Student)
- John Joanis Endowment Fund (Outstanding Senior Student)
- Communication Disorders Alumni Fund and Communication Disorders Excellence Fund
 - Outstanding Speech/Language Pathology Graduate Student
 - Outstanding Audiology Graduate Student
 - Dean’s Awards- Junior, Senior, Graduate in Audiology, Graduate in Speech Language
- Liz Enos Memorial Award
- Nash Family Communicative Disorders Scholarship
- Johnson Family Speech-Language Pathology School Award
- Tufts Graduate Student Scholarships
- Al and Jan Noel Scholarship
- St. Michael’s Hospital Scholarship
- Donald Aylesworth-Pauline Isaacson Nontraditional Award in Communicative Disorders
- Florence Donermeyer Award

Newly-Developed Student Scholarships

- Cook Chappell Scholarship (\$26,000 initial donation)
- Danielle Gorectke Memorial Scholarship (\$20,000 initial donation)
- Terri Witt Memorial Scholarship (\$20,500 initial donation)
- Avada Audiology and Hearing Care Scholarship (\$1,000 annual scholarship)
- Gary Glascoe Memorial Scholarship
- NSSLHA Professional Development Award

Outstanding Communicative Disorders Alumnus

- Jackie Zuelke-Karch (2003-04)
- Nina Cass (2004-05)
- Denise Van Den Heuvel (2005-06)
- Catherine Steffen (2006-07)
- Julieanna Burmesch (2007-08)
- Laurie Schmidt-Charlesworth and Sondra Reynolds (2008-09)
- Holly (Kloiber) Dumproff (2009-10)
- Catherine Conely (2010-11)