

# SHS Communicator

Issue I | Fall 2023



## DEPARTMENT OF SPEECH & HEARING SCIENCES

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# Letter from the Department Chair



Dear Alumni and friends of SHS,

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a heightened awareness of the need for connections. Here at SHS, we seek to establish and maintain connections with our community, including our emeritus faculty, alumni, donors, and individuals who have benefited from our clinical services. With that goal in mind, this newsletter will serve as our inaugural edition of what we hope will be a series of newsletters that will provide you with an overview of our department, highlight our recent achievements, and share our critical needs.

The roots of the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences at UNM dates back to 1947. Across several department name changes over the years, UNM's constant commitment to speech-language pathology and audiology has persevered for over 70 years, consistently upholding standards of excellence in teaching, research, and service. Our department remains dedicated to (a) creating and disseminating scientific, intervention and assessment knowledge about communication and swallowing sciences and disorders, (b) providing quality education experiences in both the academic and clinical settings, (c) delivering exceptional clinical services through our department's outpatient clinic, and (d) serving the unique needs of New Mexicans through our educational, clinical, and scholarly endeavors. We take immense pride in our commitment to nurturing the learning of our students, conducting groundbreaking research, and contributing positively to our community.

In recent years, we have achieved several significant milestones, underscoring our department's unwavering dedication to excellence. In 2020, amidst numerous challenges, we swiftly built the required infrastructure and embraced telehealth, enabling us to provide critical clinical service to our community. In 2021 we added insurance billing and an electronic medical record to our clinic providing an invaluable real-world clinical experience for our graduate students and elevating the clinical services available to our community. Notably, in 2022, we added a PhD in Communications Disorders to our list of degree granting programs. These few examples highlight our continued commitment to excellence.

As we near the end of the year and reflect on our collective journey through this historical time, I want to express my heart-felt gratitude to our devoted faculty and staff for their unwavering commitment to excellence, innovation, and collaboration. We look forward with enthusiasm and are ready to embrace the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Phyllis'.

Phyllis M. Palmer, PhD

## SHS in the News

*Many of our recent accomplishments have been picked up by university and local news. Check out these top stories.*

### Feeding, learning, and giggling: UNM's baby gap clinic

By Savannah Peat October 25, 2023

The University of New Mexico is home to all types of learners. From 18-year-olds fresh out of high school, to retirees dipping their toes back in, to everyone in between, UNM has lessons and experiences for all—that includes students who do not even know their ABC's.

To read the full story, click [here](#).

### Stroke survivors enjoy summer camp experience thanks to UNM partnership

By Savannah Peat October 12, 2023

Members of our Brain Crew team and our SHS department were recently featured in a UNM Newsroom article for their work in the community.

To read the full story, click [here](#).

### Learning across borders: 33 years of Comunidad Crecer

By Savannah Peat September 27, 2023

The University of New Mexico's Department of [Speech & Hearing Sciences](#) is reuniting an instrumental, international partnership following a COVID-19 pandemic-infused break.

[Comunidad Crecer](#), which translates to 'community for growth' is a longstanding program in the department, now celebrating its 33rd year. It allows Speech & Hearing Sciences students, faculty, and staff to travel to Mexico City, to the [private school under the same name](#) (Comunidad Crecer) and take part in crucial services.

To read the full story, click [here](#).



### Speech and Hearing Welcomes First PhD Student

The Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences has a strong focus on cultural and linguistic diversity as well as numerous specialization areas. Launched in 2022, their new doctoral program will offer students the opportunity to develop both clinical research and teaching skills that will position them to compete for top academic and professional jobs.

To read the full story, click [here](#).

## Speech & Hearing Sciences team research novel approach to bilingual speech therapy

By Savannah Peat August 17, 2023

It is a difficult, impressive feat on its own to help children work through speech problems. It's even more inspiring when you take into account the bridge of language itself.

That is a path just crossed by [UNM Speech & Hearing Sciences](#) Assistant Professor Carlos Irizarry-Pérez, in his newly published research, titled: *A Complexity Approach to Promoting Within- and Cross-Language Generalization in Bilingual Children With Phonological Delays*.

To read the full story, click [here](#)



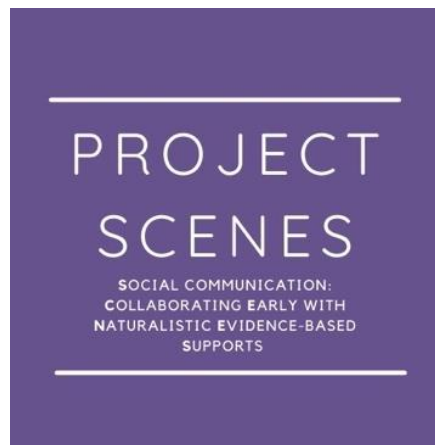
## Project SCENES prepares for innovative summer clinic

By Savannah Peat February 05, 2023

Smiling children, happy parents, and prepared educators for decades to come—this is the result of a unique collaboration underway at the University of New Mexico.

This beneficial end result is thanks to something called Project [SCENES](#) (Social-Communication: Collaborating Early with Naturalistic Evidence-Based Supports). It is a new partnership between [Speech & Hearing Sciences](#) and the [College of Education & Human Sciences' Special Education Department](#).

To read the full story, click [here](#). For more information about Project SCENES click [here](#).



## 95 is the new 30: UNM researcher embarks on new study

By Savannah Peat January 31, 2023

UNM Professor Dr. Emeritus Bruce Porch is 95 years young.

With decades of experience as a speech-language pathologist under his belt, Porch's extensive array of [research](#), publications, founding new speech pathology programs and patient care continues to grow. It's enough to make his own scrapbook the size of an encyclopedia.

To read the full story click [here](#).





## SHS researcher awarded \$2 million grant to use brain stimulation to help treat aphasia



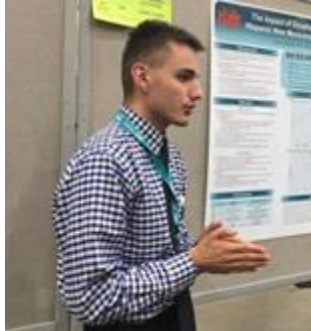
By Felina Martinez, Advance at UNM November 16, 2021

Jessica Richardson, an associate professor of Speech and Hearing Sciences at The University of New Mexico, has been awarded a five-year, \$2 million grant to optimize treatment and interventions for those who acquire the language disorder known as aphasia after suffering a stroke.

Richardson has worked with people with post-stroke aphasia, and other acquired cognitive or communication deficits, for more than 20 years.

To read the full story, click [here](#)

## Alumni News



**Aaron Padilla** (Class of 2017) has successfully earned Board Certification as a specialist in swallowing and swallowing disorders. Way to go, Aaron!

**Erin Gallegos** (Class of 2023) presented her thesis research at ASHA's 2023 Annual Convention.

**Lori Nelson** (Class 2002) has recently been promoted to the role of Supervisor of Outpatient Speech Language Pathology of UNM.

*We would love to highlight and share your successes with our SHS family. If you would like to share an accomplishment, please contact us at [SHS-Admin@unm.edu](mailto:SHS-Admin@unm.edu) to let us know so we can reach out for more details and include you in our next newsletter.*

# Curriculum Updates

## PhD in Communication Disorders.

UNM is addressing the shortage of PhD level faculty in our field with its new PhD in Communication Sciences and Disorders. In Fall 2022, we admitted our first student into the program, and we have since welcomed two more doctoral students into our program. Naomi Nattress, our first doctoral student, whose primary mentor is Cathy Binger, had nine years of SLP experience working at the New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired before joining our program. She is studying AAC interventions for children with multiple disabilities including visual impairment. Christie Duhigg joined the program next, under the mentorship of Jessica Richardson. Christie is interested in supporting the mental health of adults with acquired brain impairments, such as aphasia. Finally, Jessica Nico started the PhD program this fall under Cindy Gevarter's mentorship. Jessica is an experienced SLP who wants to create intervention programs for children with autism. Their presence has infused our department with a vibrant new energy. We are so proud of our doctoral students and this program!

For more information on our PhD program, please visit <http://shs.unm.edu/programs/doctor-of-philosophy/index.html>.

## Graduate Curriculum Update

We are pleased to announce that this fall, after years of discussion and planning, the SHS department faculty has implemented significant updates to the graduate program curriculum. While preserving the total credit hours in the master's program, we've introduced several new courses and revamped existing ones, ultimately reshaping our curriculum to better equip our students for the evolving clinical demands of our field. Noteworthy enhancements to our Master's in Speech-Language Pathology include counseling, speech sound disorders, craniofacial disorders, as well as a dedicated assessment course. Additionally, we've restructured the child language courses, now divided by age rather than the prior assessment and treatment division. We are grateful for the flexibility and understanding shown by our current cohorts as we navigate this transition.

## Bilingual Concentration

One of our department's missions is to prepare students to be leaders in a multicultural and multilingual society. While this emphasis is infused throughout our curriculum, as of Fall 2023, the UNM SHS Bilingual Concentration has become an official offering. Tailored for those graduate students who aspire to specialize in bilingual speech-language pathology, this concentration provides the essential academic foundation. Graduate students pursuing this track will engage in courses covering bilingualism, culturally responsive clinical practices with a focus on bilingual assessment and intervention skills, and advanced non-English language grammar. The concentration totals 12 credit hours. We take great pride in the formalization of this concentration as it directly addresses the unique needs of our state.

## UNM First Hire

The SHS department is thrilled to announce the hire of Yina Quique! Yina hails from Columbia, and she will be joining us as a new tenure track assistant professor. She is an SLP who earned her PhD in 2019 from the University of Pittsburgh and currently is completing a postdoctoral fellowship through Northwestern University. Her main research interest is in improving outcomes for people with aphasia. Yina was hired through a \$15 million NIH grant, with additional supports provided by UNM. As part of this grant, Yina is one of 9 faculty members hired across 6 different departments, with all new faculty members focused on studying neuroscience or data science. A major goal of the UNM FIRST program is recruiting a cohort of diverse faculty who have demonstrated a strong commitment to promoting diversity and inclusive excellence to help us achieve sustainable culture change of inclusive excellence here at UNM. Yina will join us in January 2025, and we know she will help us achieve these goals.

## Student Spotlight

### Jeremy Giannini - Class of 2022

#### Why did you choose our program?

I chose this program because I was born and raised in Albuquerque and have worked with families and children for over 20 years. I've heard a lot of good things about UNM's Speech Language Pathology Program and wanted to learn from the professionals that serve those in our diverse community being that this will be the same population I work with.

#### What makes you want to pursue SLP?

I decided to pursue SLP because I had a personal experience with a loved one who began choking frequently. I was surprised to find out that speech therapists work with swallowing disorders. This resulted in a lot of research into the field and after taking my first introductory classes, realized that this was the career path I wanted for the rest of my life.

#### What is your next step?

After the program, I plan to work with the adult population with swallowing impairments and language and speaking disorders due to stroke and traumatic brain injuries. After gaining needed experience, I plan on pursuing the opportunities to open a private practice.



## Student Accomplishments

**SHS's Naomi Nattress** is a recipient this year of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation ([ASHFoundation](#)) **New Century Scholars Doctoral Scholarship**. This program is designed to support strong doctoral candidates who will pursue a teacher-investigator career in an academic environment at the university/college level in the United States. All scholarship recipients will be announced and recognized in November.

**Ashley Drewrey and Mashid Rashidi** competed in UNM's [Shared Knowledge Conference](#) this year and Mashid made it to the Top 10! The Shared Knowledge Conference is a yearly event designed to celebrate and showcase UNM graduate students and their outstanding research and scholarship. Congratulations Mahshid!

This year four (4) of our graduate student presented at the ASHA convention in Boston. Well done to **Priscilla Magallanes, Vanessa San Miguel, Naomi Nattress** and **Samantha Morowski**.



# Faculty Accomplishments

The faculty have successfully shared their scholarship accomplishments. Check out some of the publications from 2023.



## Dr Rick Arenas, Ph.D - Associate Chair

Warner, H., Shroff, R., Zuanazzi, A., **Arenas, R.**, & Jackson, E. (2023). Linguistic Features of Stuttering During Spontaneous Speech. *Journal of Fluency Disorders*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jfludis.2023.106016>

Neel, A., Mizusawa, C., Do, Q., & **Arenas, R.** (2023). Reduced duration of stuttering-like disfluencies and consistent anticipatory slowing during an adaptation task. *International Journal of Language & Communication Disorders*, n/a(n/a). <https://doi.org/10.1111/1460-6984.12930>

Neel, A., Krasilshchikova, S., Richardson, J., **Arenas, R.**, Bennett, L., Banks, A., and Bernick, C. (2023) Articulation rate, pauses, and disfluencies in professional fighters: potential speech biomarkers for repeated head injury. *Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation*. <https://doi.org/10.1097/HTR.0000000000000841>



## Dr Cathy Binger, Ph.D. – Professor

**Gevarter, C.**, Prieto, V., Binger, C., Hartley, M. (2023). Dynamic assessment of AAC action verb symbols for children with ASD. *Advances in Neurodevelopmental Disorders*. DOI: [10.1007/s41252-022-00312-3](https://doi.org/10.1007/s41252-022-00312-3)

**Binger, C.**, Harrington, N., and Kent-Walsh, J. (2023). Applying a Developmental Model to Preliterate Aided Language Learning. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*. [https://doi.org/10.1044/2023\\_AJSLP-23-00098](https://doi.org/10.1044/2023_AJSLP-23-00098)



## Dr Cindy Gevarter, Ph.D. – Associate Professor

**Gevarter, C.**, Prieto, V., Binger, C., Hartley, M. (2023). Dynamic assessment of AAC action verb symbols for children with ASD. *Advances in Neurodevelopmental Disorders*. DOI: [10.1007/s41252-022-00312-3](https://doi.org/10.1007/s41252-022-00312-3)

**Gevarter, C.**, Najar, A. M., & Siciliano, M. (2023). Teaching children with autism to create multi-symbol messages on augmentative alternative communication applications during play. *Advances in Neurodevelopmental Disorders*. 7(3), 314–328. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41252-022-00254-w>

**Gevarter, C.**, Siciliano, M. G., & Stone, E. (2022). Early interventionists' knowledge of evidence-based practices for autism. *Focus on Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities*, 37(4), 203–214. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10883576221099895>



**Mary Hartley – Clinical Instructor**

Gevarter, C., Prieto, V., Binger, C., **Hartley, M.** (2023). Dynamic assessment of AAC action verb symbols for children with ASD. *Advances in Neurodevelopmental Disorders*. DOI: [10.1007/s41252-022-00312-3](https://doi.org/10.1007/s41252-022-00312-3)

**Dr Carlos Irizarry-Perez – Assistant Professor**

**Irizarry-Perez, C.**, Fabiano-Smith, L., Martinez-Fischer, A. (2023). A Complexity Approach to Promoting Within and Cross-language Generalization in Bilingual Children with Prolonged Delays. *Language, Speech, and Hearing Services in School*. [https://doi.org/10.1044/2023\\_LSHSS-22-00128](https://doi.org/10.1044/2023_LSHSS-22-00128)

**Irizarry-Pérez, C. D.**, Peña, E. D., Bedore, L. M., & Falcomata, T. S. (2023). A cross-linguistic approach to treating speech sound disorders in bilingual children. *Clinical Linguistics & Phonetics*, 1-20. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02699206.2023.2219368>

**Irizarry-Pérez, C.**, Lugo-Neris, Mirza J., Martinez-Fisher, A. (2023). Establishing Cueing Skills in Bilingual Clinicians. *Teaching and Learning in Communication Sciences and Disorders*, (7)2. <https://doi.org/10.30707/TLCDSD7.2.1690393489.668023>

**Andrea Martinez-Fischer – Clinical Instructor**

Irizarry-Perez, C., Fabiano-Smith, L., **Martinez-Fischer, A.** (2023). A Complexity Approach to Promoting Within and Cross-language Generalization in Bilingual Children with Prolonged Delays. *Language, Speech, and Hearing Services in School*. [https://doi.org/10.1044/2023\\_LSHSS-22-00128](https://doi.org/10.1044/2023_LSHSS-22-00128)



### Dr Amy Neel, Ph.D - Associate Professor

**Neel, A.**, Mizusawa, C., Do, Q., & Arenas, R. (2023). Reduced duration of stuttering-like disfluencies and consistent anticipatory slowing during an adaptation task. *International Journal of Language & Communication Disorders*, n/a(n/a). <https://doi.org/10.1111/1460-6984.12930>

**Neel, A.**, Krasilshchikova, S., Richardson, J., Arenas, R., Bennett, L., Banks, A., and Bernick, C. (2023) Articulation rate, pauses, and disfluencies in professional fighters: potential speech biomarkers for repeated head injury. *Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation*. <https://doi.org/10.1097/HTR.0000000000000841>

**Neel, A.**, Crisp, K., Kishnani, P., and Jones, H. (2023). Speech Disorders in Children with Pompe Disease: Articulation, Resonance, and Voice Measures. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*, 32(4), 1501-1516. [https://pubs.asha.org/doi/10.1044/2023\\_AJSLP-22-00382](https://pubs.asha.org/doi/10.1044/2023_AJSLP-22-00382)



### Dr. Jessica Richardson, Ph.D. - Associate Professor

Haley, K.L., Jacks, A., **Richardson, J.D.**, Harmon, T., Lacey, E., & Turkeltaub, P. (published 2023, Apr 12). Do people with apraxia of speech and aphasia improve or worsen across repeated sequential word trials? *Journal of Speech, Language, Hearing Research*. [https://pubs.asha.org/doi/full/10.1044/2022\\_JSLHR-22-00438](https://pubs.asha.org/doi/full/10.1044/2022_JSLHR-22-00438)

Neel, A.T., Krasilshchikova, S., **Richardson, J.D.**, Arenas, R., Bennett, L., Banks, S., & Bernick, C. (published online 2023, Jan 26). Articulation rate, pauses, and disfluencies in professional fighters: Potential speech biomarkers for repeated head injury. *Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation*. <https://doi.org/10.1097/HTR.0000000000000841>

**Richardson, J.D.**, Galletta, E.E., Charvet, L., & Shaw, M. (2023). Feasibility of remotely supervised transcranial direct current stimulation (RS-tDCS) for people with stroke-induced and progressive aphasia. *Aphasiology*, 37(7), 1039-1063. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02687038.2022.2076279>

Dalton, S.G., Hubbard, H.I., & **Richardson, J.D.** (2023). Chapter 13: Clinical implications of discourse analysis for patients with primary progressive aphasia. In C. Coelho, L. Cherney, and B. Shadden (Eds.), *Discourse analysis in adults with and without communication disorders: A resource for clinicians and researchers*. Plural.



### Dr Phyllis Palmer, Ph.D. - Department Chair

**Palmer, P.M.**, Padilla, A.H. & MacWhinney, B. (2023). The Development and Implementation of a Data Repository for Swallow Studies. *Dysphagia*, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00455-023-10632-8>

## Inside Our Clinic

Our outpatient clinic supports student growth as clinicians by providing evidence-based speech language pathology and audiology services. Did you know that our clinic accepts most insurance which allows us to provide a wide range of speech-language pathology and audiology services. We also offer self-pay options at a reduced cost for those who are uninsured.

*We are committed to providing excellence in clinical services to bilingual and non-English monolingual individuals.*

## Speech-Language Pathology Services

- Accent Enhancement
- Aphasia
- Apraxia of Speech
- Articulation | Speech Sound Disorders
- Aural Rehabilitation
- Cognitive Aspects of Communication
- Language Delay
- Literacy Skills
- Social Pragmatic Skills
- Speech-Language and Hearing Screenings
- Stuttering
- Swallowing and Feeding Disorders
- Transgender Voice Affirmation
- Voice Disorders

## Audiology Services

### Hearing Device Consultation

- Thorough discussion of lifestyle and symptoms



- Discussion of all treatment options and selection of care based on patient's needs
- Patient education on the rehabilitative process to facilitate understanding, appropriate expectations, and successful treatment

### Personalized Fitting Process

- In-ear programming of hearing devices
- Real-ear verification measures to ensure an accurate fit
- 60-day trial period
- Follow-up visits for fine-tuning and to maintain optimal device performance

### Hearing and Communication

- Pure-tone testing
- Bone-conduction testing
- Speech discrimination testing
- Comprehensive middle-ear (acoustic immittance) testing

### Hearing Devices and Protection

- Hearing aids (Bluetooth options available)
- Assistive listening devices
- Custom hearing protection and musician's earplugs
- Custom swim plugs

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## Ways to Give

Our successes, which are highlighted throughout this newsletter, are a testament to our dedication and hard work. Yet, we face a pressing need for resources to continue our mission effectively. To maintain and expand the quality of education and research opportunities we offer, we rely on the support of generous donors like you.

Your philanthropic contributions can make a profound difference in our department's ability to:

1. Enhance student experiences through student scholarships, research opportunities, and extracurricular activities.
2. Attract and retain top-notch faculty members who inspire UNM Speech & Hearing Sciences Fund

## Speech and Hearing Sciences General Fund



The Speech and Hearing Sciences Chair fund provides flexibility for the department chair to invest in small projects and to spend where the needs are greatest throughout the academic year. We welcome additional contributions to this fund.

## Dolores S. and Paul L. Butt Comunidad Crecer Fund



Comunidad Crecer, which translates to 'community for growth' is a longstanding program in our department that was started in 1990 by Dr. Dolores Butt. It supports Speech & Hearing Sciences students to travel to Mexico City with SHS faculty, to provide clinical services at Comunidad Crecer, a school for kids with multiple disabilities. Donations to the Dolores S. and Paul L. Butt Comunidad Crecer Fund are used to support student travel costs associated with the program.

*There are many other ways you can support SHS programs and student scholarships. We encourage you to read about all of SHS scholarship programs and make a donation to any that align with your passions. Find out more [here](#). Thank you for your continued support.*





*Figure 1 SHS autism client dressed for Halloween*

Physical Location:  
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*Figure 2 SHS autism Client making Takoyaki*