

# SHS Communicator

Issue II | Spring 2024



## DEPARTMENT OF SPEECH & HEARING SCIENCES

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## Letter from the Department Chair



As we navigate the changing landscape of higher ed, I am delighted to share some exciting updates and underscore the continued need for your support of the SHS community.

In this edition, I am thrilled to highlight the remarkable achievements and advancements made by our department (both faculty and students) over the past six months or so. Our collective efforts have propelled us forward in our mission to continue to train the next generation of speech-language pathologists, advance the knowledge base of our field, and support our community through the provision of valuable clinical services. In particular, I am pleased to note that our department has new publications and clinic endeavors. These achievements underscore our commitment to excellence and reiterate our position as field leaders.

This edition will also provide information on some newer members of the SHS family. We are excited to finally have a full complement of supportive and excellent administrative staff to aid in our continued success. We are also thrilled to welcome a new clinic instructor.

However, as we celebrate these successes, it is imperative that we also acknowledge our challenges and anticipated losses. You will learn that after a rather long and distinguished career both as a speech language pathologist and faculty member, Amy Neel, PHD will retire at the end of this semester. In this edition, we try to capture her years of dedication.

With reductions in available funding for our international service-learning trip to Comunidad Crecer, we are challenged with continuing the mission that began in 1990 with Dr. Dolores Butt, to provide clinical services to those that do not have access to them. You will learn about a recent fund raiser that we sponsored to support this service. I urge you to stay engaged with our department. Continue to watch social media and participate in future fund raisers. Remember that even small donations of \$10 can add up to help support the valuable work completed by the SHS department. In this newsletter, you can learn about ways to give to the department.

We are proud to be publishing our second newsletter in this academic year. We hope to continue this trend and keep our alumni and friends informed of our continued success. I wish you all a joyous summer and keep us in mind for all your speech-language pathology and audiology needs.

Kindness and Peace,

Phyllis

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 this story.*

### Students tackle linguistic bias in Lobo Language Acquisition Lab

By Mary Beth King February 26, 2024



Two undergraduates, including Audriana Saucedo a junior majoring in Speech and Hearing Sciences and minoring in Family and Child Studies, are working in the Lobo Language Acquisition Lab at The University of New Mexico studying linguistic bias and its impact on society. They are also working to raise teachers' awareness of it in the classroom. Click to [read more](#)

## Alumni News

*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

After years of reviewing essential knowledge and skills needed to become an excellent SLP, we finally initiated curriculum changes to our Master's in Speech Language Pathology. Here are just a few of the highlights.

### **New Topics Course - Core Functions for SLP**

Dr Cindy Gevarter secured funding to develop this topics course for Fall of 2024. The college is going to fund the development of this course in hopes of using it to support this need in other departments. The course will focus on the practical aspects of being a SLP therapist, both as a student and as a professional.

### **New Bilingual Concentration Course - Bilingual Assessment and Intervention**

Dr Irizarry-Perez has updated this course for a Bilingual certificate.

### **Counseling in Communication Disorders - SHS 509**

This is a graduate-level course in counseling taught by Clinical Instructor Lauril Sachet. Specific focus will be on counseling individuals and families about communication and swallowing disorders/differences. It will be offered in the Spring Semester.

### **Assessment and Intervention for Children with Speech Sound Disorders - SHS 508**

This is a graduate level course taught by Assistant Professor Carlos Irizarry-Perez that will address normal and disordered patterns of speech development, methods of analyzing data, and principles of assessment and treatment of speech sound disorders.

## Faculty Spotlight - Amy Neel

It is with mixed emotions that we announce the retirement of Amy Neel, PhD. After 23 years of dedicated service to the University of New Mexico, Amy has decided that it is time to start a new chapter of her life, which I imagine will involve roaming around the world looking at beautiful birds.

Dr. Neel earned a Master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. After 10 years of clinical work, she returned to academia and earned her Ph.D. in Speech and Hearing Science and Cognitive Science from Indiana University. For the past 23 years, Dr. Neel has been an invaluable member of the University of New Mexico, where her contributions in teaching, research and service demonstrate her passion for this field.

As her former student and current coworker, Amy has stood out as a passionate advocate for students. She has dedicated much of her time and effort to supporting undergraduate and graduate students within and beyond the classroom. She will be missed, but her legacy is sure to endure!

Moira Ellis

Dr. Neel has made valuable contributions to our knowledge base. Much of her research centered on characterizing aspects of speech intelligibility and determining best practice for evaluation and management of individuals with motor speech disorders. Some of her recent work focuses on identifying acoustic biomarkers for early detection of chronic traumatic encephalopathy and helping characterize the speech patterns of rare diseases such as oculopharyngeal muscular dystrophy and Pompe

Disease. Throughout her scholarship, she has engaged students in her research. One student noted that Amy ***“infected me with the skill of critical thinking and understanding and I will forever be grateful for catching such a disease.”***

Dr Neel has elevated the culture of teaching in our department as an excellent teacher and an advocate for student needs. A previous student stated, ***“As an educator, she is passionate about her field and her passion has been infectious for any and every student that has been lucky enough to pass through her lecture halls and laboratory space. She helps, she nurtures, she teaches and if someone (like me) doesn't understand she re-teaches, and then re-teaches again in a different way so that all her students can access and apply the knowledge she passes on.”***

I've been continually impressed by the level of care that Amy has for our students, particularly our students from underserved groups. Whether it's a student who is struggling due to a lack of background knowledge or a student who lacks financial resources, Amy has always been committed to helping our students succeed. Many, many students have graduated from our program due in no small part to her extraordinary efforts.

Cathy Binger

Her tutorials and articles on teaching have been instrumental in training the next generations of clinicians and educators. Amy's heartfelt work in advancing awareness of the student experience and student needs has guided our department to grow and establish a culture that encourages positive learning experiences. She has instilled a deep appreciation for the importance of communication and equipped previous students and faculty that she has mentored with the knowledge and skills needed to make a positive impact on the lives of others.

I will really miss seeing Amy across the hall in the mornings. I always enjoyed distracting myself from work to chat with you! You are a great listener & will be missed!

Carlos Irizarry-Perez

As we celebrate the career of Amy Neel, let us take a moment to reflect on the profound impact she has had on our field and express our heartfelt gratitude for her many years of dedication to UNM and to the field. Let us honor her legacy by continuing to uphold the highest standards of excellence in our work and by striving to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.

You can never really know the forces or circumstances that forge friendships. It can be shared interests, accumulated time spent together, or just a general sense of comfort and ease with each other. I feel lucky to have found a home directly across the hall from Amy eleven years ago when I started my career at UNM. Not only was my office close to hers, but my first home in Albuquerque was a few blocks from hers. I initially thought it was this close proximity to each other that drove Amy to go out of her way to make me and my family feel welcome, but over time I saw that it came from a place much deeper. Due to our close proximity of our offices, I began over the years to overhear Amy talking to students, particularly the undergraduate students, and how she endlessly encouraged them to push beyond their self-imposed limitations. Her encouragement often comes in the form of self-deprecating humor sharing her own challenges and struggles that helps one feel, not just know intellectually, that they too can-do hard things.

Perhaps it was this same self-deprecating encouragement that grew my fondness for Amy as she continually listened and helped me through my early career when I felt insecure about my teaching and feeling a bit lost in the world of academia. Some people have gifts but tend to keep them within or share them only with a small circle, but as long as I have known Amy she has chosen to get intimately involved across a range of organizations aimed at the greater good (faculty senate president, serving on the UNM Basic Needs project, leading ASHA special interest groups, just to name a few). I have benefitted from seeing how a person can embody a balanced portfolio of the three pillars of academia: scholarship, teaching and service. I could write much more about Amy and why I value her as a friend and colleague, but to keep it brief, I am grateful for the forces and circumstances that brought us together and though I will miss our daily conversations in the office, I look forward to continuing our friendship for many years to come. Congratulations on a great career!

Rick Arenas



Dr Neel has been a significant mentor since my undergrad at UNM. I remember during my undergrad; she was one of the first professors I visited in office hours and she made it feel so personal and welcoming. She continues to encourage students by providing guidance through her teaching and mentorship. I have been so fortunate to continue to learn and grow from Dr Neel, even through my graduate school experience as her Graduate Assistant. Her patience, kindness, and dedication to the students and the department will be missed. However, I am excited to hear about all her adventures and hopefully see some great pictures of birds.

Priscilla Magallanes

Dr. Neel is an incredible human being. As an educator, she is passionate about her field and her passion has been infectious for any and every student that has been lucky enough to pass through her lecture halls and laboratory space. She helps, she nurtures, she teaches and if someone (like me) doesn't understand she re-teaches, and then re-teaches again in a different way so that all her students can access and apply the knowledge she passes on. Of all things, Dr. Neel helped me understand statistics in a way that I still apply and will forever apply in my life. She infected me with the skill of critical thinking and understanding and I will forever be grateful for catching such a disease. Thank you, Dr. Neel, for your knowledge, your passion, your caring, your diligence, your unwavering commitment to excellence and expecting the same level of excellence from us - your students. You have always been a great mentor, and I am lucky to be able to call you my friend as well.

Sofiya Krasilshchikova M.S., CCC-SLP

My first interactions with Dr. Amy Neel were not related to our shared research at all. Amy reached out to help me in a time of need - I was trying to move my family out here in 2015 and the rental market was so intense, we could not secure a place to rent for months. Each time we tried, someone got there before us - there just wasn't much we could do from across the country and we were running out of time. Amy, who didn't know me at ALL, reached out to offer to get money to a rental agency for us in person so we could finally secure a place. We paid her back immediately of course, but still.... that's still a gamble on complete strangers, and I honestly do not know if we would have found a decent place in time!

Amy has continued to demonstrate that same generosity of spirit since that first interaction. We've developed a great research collaboration over the years, and I hope this will continue - it has been a joy to work with her on our Fighters projects. We've had healthy disagreements at work I'm sure, but I can't remember a single one. What I can remember is how she has been an adopted aunt to my daughter when we needed something like family out here in the Wild West so far from home. I remember her helping me move into a house with lots and lots and lots of stairs. I remember sharing good food and holiday fun, and her thoughtful gifts for my kiddo for holidays and milestones. I remember her reaching out to support me and my family when we dealt with family sickness and the deaths of parents. I am so very sad that Amy is retiring because I will miss my office neighbor, early morning chats, and easy access to discuss our projects. I will miss her expertise, so freely shared with me, with students. But I'm comforted by the memories we have created and know there will be many, many more in the future.

Jessica Richardson



## Staff Updates

SHS is delighted to have four excellent staff members to support its mission in training SLP's and providing services to the local community.

### Department Administrator - Nicole Chauvet

Born and raised in Albuquerque, Nicole wandered up to Denver, Colorado for 20 plus years where she worked at the University of Denver for 18 years before returning to New Mexico to help out her parents. She's been with the University of New Mexico since 2018, starting with the College of Pharmacy and then the Exercise Science program in the College of Education. She recently shaved off all of her hair to raise money for Saint Baldrick's children's cancer research and will soon be a participant with Dr. Richardson's research group since it's easier to for her to be a participant without much hair! Ask about the love of her life, her dog, Frank, and you will get a quite a show of all his pictures.



She looks forward to bringing her wide range of knowledge, experience, and contacts to help wrangle all the moving parts of administration into some semblance of organization. She is happy every day to have joined such a wonderful team at the Department!

### Clinic Administrator - John Manzanares

John was born and raised right here in the Duke city. After living in Las Vegas, NV for several years, he returned to pursue his degree in exercise science at UNM. During his time working in various trades, from appraising to healthcare, he has always focused on providing excellent service. Working with the UNM Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences allows him to utilize skills he has learned across a variety of industries. With a focus on details, John supports the clinic and our students by ensuring compliance requirements are met for the SHS clinic. Outside of work, he enjoys cooking and collecting hobbies.



### Academic Administrator - Wendi Wettin

Wendi graduated from UNM once upon a time and went off for adventures in Australia. She returned to NM in 2022 for family and settled into SHS at the beginning of the AY 2023. Regrettably, the accent did not take, and she still sounds like a native New Mexican. However, she delights the Department Chair with choice Aussie phrases such as "Give this a squizz." Wendi is happy to assist with advisement, admissions, scheduling, evaluation and purchasing for students and faculty.



### Patient Clinical Support Coordinator - Fran Calvert

Fran has been with SHS since 2021 She enjoys working with and learning about people. She likes to make people laugh and keeping things lighthearted, which is why she is the heart and soul of our Clinic. Clinicians and students know that Fran will make them feel like a part of the SHS family.





## Student Spotlight- Richelle McGuire

### Why did you choose our program?

UNM was my first choice based on being one of the few programs in the country to offer both a bilingual concentration and an abroad clinical opportunity, both of which I eagerly took advantage of. This unique combination has not only enriched my academic experience but also is preparing me for a career focused on serving diverse communities. Additionally, I loved that I would be able to have an abundance of opportunities to use Spanish given the diverse cultural and linguistic aspects of New Mexico. The program and state have exceeded my expectations, and I am grateful for the valuable experiences and knowledge I am gaining here.



### What makes you want to pursue SLP?

I was introduced to the field as a young client with a stutter. Even at that young age, my SLPs had a lasting impact on me that inspired me to want to pursue this field. While I appreciate the flexibility and diversity of this career, what truly excites me is the profound impact we can assist our clients in making.

### What is your next step?

I'm not sure, but I am enjoying the process. I still have another year left to explore what brings me the most joy and sense of meaning. However, I am confident that my future will revolve around working with young children and their families, particularly those who are Spanish-speaking.

## Student Accomplishments

### SHS Welcomes More PhD Students

Now in our third year, and despite our small faculty size, our PhD program will embrace two new PhD Students, one in the Summer 2024 and one in the Fall 2024. We are excited to have them join our program.

### SHS PhD Students provide AAC training

Jessica Nico and Naomi Nattress provided an aided AAC training for the staff at Los Lunas Public Schools in December. They were able to engage the less than thrilled staff and had the group laughing and enjoying their mandatory training by the end of the session. Our Ph.D. students are bringing new energy and enthusiasm to the program and our community.

### Dysphagia Research Society

Dr Palmer and Ashley Drewry (2022) attended the 2024 Dysphagia Research Society Conference in Puerto Rico in March. They presented two posters, *Flowing with the BOLUS! Assessing usefulness of a clinical framework to evaluate the odds of aspiration-related adverse events* and *Normative quantitative swallowing measures in infants and young children: A review of current literature*. Assisting them were Mahshid Rashidi, Cheyenne Levy, Vanessa San Miguel and Aaron Padilla



## Publications

Dr Cathy Binger, Priscilla Magallanes (2022) and Vanessa San Miguel (2022) had a research article published in American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology [How Toddlers Use Core and Fringe Vocabulary: What's an Utterance](#)

## 2024 RSCA Fellowship

Congratulations to Christie Duhigg (PhD 2023). She has been awarded a fellowship to attend the 2024 RSCA and Clinical Aphasiology Conference in Hawaii. This is equivalent to NIH NIDCD Research Symposium in Clinical Aphasiology Fellowship. This was a highly competitive selection process. She will be facilitating a roundtable session on stroke, depression and other psychosocial outcomes. This is a fantastic opportunity where she will be paired with a mentor, attend a mentor-mentee reception, mentoring breakfast and lunch and have one on one time with keynote speakers.



## Honor Society

Our very own Jeremy Giannini who was inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society in January. This honor is reserved for graduate students whose GPA is in the top 10% across all UNM graduate programs. Way to go Jeremy!

## UROC Competition

Cheyenne Levy, one of our UG and an ASSURE recipient, placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Conference (UROC) on April 12<sup>th</sup> 2024. She won for her work on the pediatric normative database project "[Defining feeding and swallowing skills in healthy infants using focus group consensus](#)" Congratulations Cheyenne!



## 2024 Masters in Speech Language Pathology Graduates

We would like to take a moment to acknowledge our SHS students who are graduating on May 10<sup>th</sup> and offer our sincere congratulations and best wishes for their SLP careers. It's been our pleasure to have you all!

**Basista**, Barbora; **Chavez**, Tomas; **Denison**, Katelin; **Drewry**, Ashley; **Eichwald**, Courtney; **Fajardo**, Roxann; **Fischer**, Erica; **Giannini**, Jeremy; **Juarez**, Shana; **Kelley**, Sarah; **Krueger**, Courtney; **Limon-Orozoco** Athena; **Magallanes**, Priscilla; **Martin**, Alexandra; **Medina**, Alexis\*; **Mercado**, Isabel; **Mills**, Sarah; **Mora**, Rayann; **Morowski**, Samantha; **Neish**, Marlie; **Pena**, Alexis; **Phelps**, Amelia; **Rashidi**, Mashid; **Romero**, Joy; **Sage**, Kimberly; **San Miguel**, Vanessa; **Sautter**, Lauren; **Sianez**, Valeria; **Skillman**, Wylie; **Snider**, Mattie; **Storey**, Kristina; **Yoder-Soliz**, Jacquelyn.

\*with a Bilingual Concentration

## Donations to SHS Clinic

SHS received a wonderful donation of a wheelchair, to be used by SHS clients, from **The Dimas Family**, in honor of their courageous and brave son, **Elijah**.



*"Elijah was diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma, a childhood cancer, when he was 7. Despite his own challenges, he chose to look on the bright side and always help others in need. He had a heart of gold and could light up a room with his smile. He passed away at age 10, but we still do everything we can to honor him and his giving spirit."*



SHS would like to express our gratitude to **The Dimas Family** for their generosity and we will make use of this gift with Elijah's spirit in mind.



## Faculty Accomplishments

The faculty have successfully shared their scholarship accomplishments. Check out some of the publications and new projects from 2024.



### Dr Carlos Irizarry-Perez – Assistant Professor

Irizarry-Perez, C. D., Bell, L. M., Rodriguez, M.N., & Viramontes, V. (2024) Spanish-Speaking Mothers' Experiences of School Based Speech Therapy. *Language, Speech and Hearing Services in School*.  
[https://doi.org/10.1044/2024\\_LSHSS-23-00043](https://doi.org/10.1044/2024_LSHSS-23-00043)

Irizarry-Perez, C. D., Fabiano, L., & Martinez-Fisher, A. (2024). Ethically Responsible Participant Selection in Research: A Viewpoint. *Journal of Speech, Language and Hearing Research*.  
[https://doi.org/10.1044/2024\\_JSLHR-23-00567](https://doi.org/10.1044/2024_JSLHR-23-00567)



### Dr Cathy Binger – Professor

Binger, C.; Hahs-Vaughn, D.; Harrington, N.; Magallanes, P.; San Miguel, V. (2024) How Toddlers Use Core and Fringe Vocabulary: What's in an Utterance? *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*  
[https://doi.org/10.1044/2024\\_AJSLP-23-00366](https://doi.org/10.1044/2024_AJSLP-23-00366)

Binger, C.; Harrington, N.; Kent-Walsh, J. (2024) 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 Binger received grant funding for the following project:**

#### MEASURING AIDED LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

- This is a 5-year, multi-site project in collaboration with the University of Central Florida (with Principal Investigator Jennifer Kent-Walsh and Project Manager Nancy Harrington) and the University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee (with Co-investigator John Heilmann).
- The project focuses on developing ways to measure the language development of children who use augmentative and alternative communication (AAC); that is, children who rely on picture symbols to communicate because they have significant speech impairments. Children involved in the study have impairments such as cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, and a disorder called childhood apraxia of speech.

NIH FUNDING



### **Maria Strum - Clinical Instructor**

Maria Strum joined the Speech and Hearing Sciences faculty in 2024 as a Clinical Instructor/Lecturer. She attended San Francisco State University where she received her master's degree in communication disorders. Maria has worked as a speech language pathologist in various settings including outpatient, home health, inpatient rehabilitation, and acute care across the country. She strives to incorporate evidence-based treatment while focusing on patient-centered care with the adult and geriatric population. The acute care setting was where she spent most of her career.

Maria's areas of interest include neurologic disorders in adults and specializing in aphasia, cognitive deficits, dysarthria, apraxia, and dysphagia!



### **Mary Hartley - Clinical Instructor - Clinical Director**

The search for a clinic director has finally ended as one of our esteemed colleagues has stepped up to the task. We are delighted to announce that Mary Hartley, MS, will take on this vital role. With a wealth of experience spanning over 35 years as a speech language pathologist, Mary brings invaluable expertise to this role. For the past nine years, Mary has served the University of New Mexico as a clinical educator in the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences. Throughout her distinguished career, Mary has cultivated specialized knowledge and skills in areas such as language and literacy, autism, hearing loss, and childhood speech sound disorders. We are grateful for her willingness to take on this challenge.



### **Dr Jessica Richardson - Associate Professor**

A new Acquired Brain Injury Clinic designed to serve people with stroke, traumatic brain injury, and other acquired brain injury (ABI), was launched in February 2024. This is a collaboration between clinical and research faculty in University of New Mexico Hospital Department of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation - Division of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, UNMH-Lovelace Outpatient Rehabilitation, Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences, and UNM Speech-Language-Hearing Center. The clinic - ABI Life: Getting Back to Life after Acquired Brain Injury - has already several people with ABI with our diagnostic services and the team is already making plans for expanding services to include treatment.

(Pictured [left to right]: Mary Hartley, M.S., CCC-SLP; Jessica D. Richardson, Ph.D., CCC-SLP; Moira Ellis, M.S., CCC-SLP; Maria Strum, M.S., CCC-SLP; and W. Austin Davis, M.D.)

*ABILife Clinic 1*





### **Lauril Sachet – Clinical Instructor**

Lauril returns to SHS after a maternity break and we are excited to have her back.

Lauril Sachet is a Clinical Instructor/Lecturer in the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences. Prior to her career as a SLP, Lauril was an English as a Second Language instructor teaching both within the U.S. and abroad. She received her M.S. in medical Speech-Language Pathology from the University of Washington then came to Albuquerque where she began her career at the Veterans Affairs hospital. Her areas of professional interests include: head and neck cancer, adult dysphagia, voice and upper airway disorders, transgender voice training, accent modification, and international SLP involvement

## Inside Our Clinic

Staff and Students would like to say a big Thank You! to our Interim Clinic Director Sarah Duncan. Sarah covered as Clinic Director through the Fall 2023 semester and her hard work kept the clinic functioning while a search for a new Director was undertaken.

We also have a new Clinical Instructor who started this spring, Maria Strum. Maria has already proven to be an excellent asset for students, clients and staff in her few short months here. We hope to have her here for our students and patients for many years to come. Welcome Maria!

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

## 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 rely on the support of generous donors like you.

Your philanthropic contributions can make a profound difference in our department's ability to enhance student experiences through student scholarships, research opportunities, and extracurricular activities.

### 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.

A donation of any amount, even as small as \$10.00, can provide some of the following support:



Testing and screening kits for our graduate students to use during their clinical training



Food and snacks to support our graduate student pantry. We provide snacks and easy meals for our graduate students to alleviate food stress during the semester.



Cleaning supplies and sanitation related items for our treatment rooms and client spaces

*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.*



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



This year's annual visit to Comunidad Crecer will take place between May 26<sup>th</sup> and June 2<sup>nd</sup>. SHS Clinical Instructor Andrea Martinez-Fisher will be traveling with SHS Graduate students Sophia Flanders (2023), Ayita Berhane (2023) and Elizabeth Arellano (2023) to provide SLP services to the local community. This annual service trip is entirely funded by the students throughout the year via various fundraising activities.,

SHS has been travelling to Comunidad Crecer since it was started in 1990 by Dr. Dolores Butt. Dr Butt's son, Allen Butt, shared the following memory from his father, Paul Butt.



I am sure you know that Comunidad Crecer means a place to grow; what is not known is how the connection between Dolores and the school in Mexico City was formed. In Mexico in the 1990s, the law prohibited parents from taking their handicapped children to any movie theater, restaurant or other public facility. There were no schools for such children and so Gare DeZaldo, the mother of a son with cerebral palsy, started her own school. She tried many different ways to get help from United States teachers but was unsuccessful. Finally, she called a friend, the head of the American Red Cross in Houston, and asked her if she knew anyone who was a teacher working with handicapped children. The friend said yes, I was at a convention recently and **Dolores Butt** spoke on how to teach handicapped children to communicate

Gare did call one December day, and after several more conversations, Dolores and I were on our way to Mexico City. There the plans were made to take Dolores' students to Comunidad Crecer, and to work with both the teachers and students at Crecer. Dolores managed to get grant money, donations, and services of medical doctors, PTs and OTs for the annual trips to Mexico City, along with 12 or so of her Master's Candidates.



One of the first students to participate, Sheri Armendariz, shared a memory with us recently.



I remember getting to Comunidad Crecer in the late afternoon. When we got there, they had a meal prepared for us and gave all of us a necklace with a small terra-cotta cup on it. These were for tequila shots. The evening was filled with music from the mariachi band, food and mimes completed by Dr. Butt, Chris Brown, Linda Ross, and one of the tutors from the school. I included pictures from that evening. Much of our time there, that I recall, was working with the children on the computer and assessing their different abilities and language, communication, and cognition. We also had a physical therapist and a physical therapy student there who assessed their physical abilities as well. Our days were full as each child was assessed in each area. We also spent time training the teachers from the school and using the computer and low tech AAC. I included picture where Dr. Butt is talking to the parents about what we were trying to do for the children and what things we were looking at.

After our work was done, the evenings were spent eating lots of delicious food and we went on a few field trips. We went to see the large Mayan ruins, the large pyramids outside of Mexico City and went on a canal boat ride.



The students and faculty have been raising funds all year to support their trip. On March 20<sup>th</sup>, Kelly Jo Designs ([KELLYJODESIGNSbyWine.com](http://KELLYJODESIGNSbyWine.com)), hosted a wine and paint night with proceeds supporting the student's costs. \$660.00 was raised, the largest fundraiser Kelly Jo Designs has hosted to date!



If you would like to donate to support the students and clients served by our Comunidad Crecer program, you can scan the QR code below or visit our website at <https://shs-temp.unm.edu/donate/index.html>



**Comunidad  
Crecer  
through the  
years**





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