

SHS Communicator

Issue III | Fall 2024



DEPARTMENT OF SPEECH & HEARING SCIENCES

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Letter from the Department Chair



Dear SHS Community,

What a remarkable year it has been! As we wrap up Fall 2024 semester and look ahead to 2025, I am thrilled to share some exciting developments that showcase our many accomplishments. As the educational environment continues to evolve at both the state and national levels, our department remains adaptable and resilient, focused on maintaining the highest standards of academic excellence and professional preparation.

Our clinic has expanded its horizons, now offering enhanced services for individuals with traumatic brain injury, autism, and those needing augmentative and alternative communication. You will find heartwarming photos and testimonials from the clients sprinkled throughout that remind us of the meaningful connections

we forge in this community.

But wait, there's more! Our PhD in Communication Sciences and Disorders continues to grow. We are welcoming our 6th doctoral student in January. This success is linked to our faculty and staff's dedication and support from our SHS community.

Innovation is alive and well in our Master's program too. We are now in our second year of our recently revised Master's curriculum, which now includes "must have" courses such as counseling and craniofacial anomalies. And, keeping with our forward thinking, we've also added a new Core Functions course specifically designed to support our neurodiverse graduate students. Your future SLPs are getting more comprehensive training than ever.

Now here is some news that makes my heart sing! We were recently blessed with a new donor, Margaret Neel, who is sponsoring a new foundation—The Neel Family Foundation—that is dedicated to providing scholarships to undergraduate students pursuing a major in Speech and Hearing Sciences. Look for an update on this foundation in our next newsletter. This joins our SHS General Fund in supporting student success and departmental growth. We hope you want to be part of the momentum. Visit the UNM Foundation website at [UNM Fund-SHS General Fund](#) or contact our department office. Remember that every gift, regardless of size, has a meaningful impact on our community.

To our alumni and community partners, thank you for your continued support and engagement with our department. Your willingness to serve as external clinical instructors and provide much needed donations are appreciated. Your involvement enriches our program and creates valuable opportunities for our students.

Our faculty continue to demonstrate excellence in teaching and research, while our students consistently show their dedication to becoming skilled professionals in speech-language pathology and audiology. The blend of academic rigor and practical clinical experience remains a hallmark of our program.

Here's to another year of making significant strides in advancing speech and hearing sciences and providing excellent care to our community.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Phyllis M. Palmer".

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.

Leveraging the Power of Language Through Assistive Technology

By Robert Stephens | April 15, 2024

Decades-long research from a team led by Pegasus Professor Jennifer Kent-Walsh has already assisted thousands of children struggling to communicate. An historic grant will now allow them to reach immeasurably more. To read more, click [here](#)

Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences to Offer Bilingual Concentration

By Savannah Peat | June 30, 2024

Speech pathologists coming from The University of New Mexico are going to be able to help even more patients now, thanks to a new offering from UNM Speech & Hearing Sciences. To read more, click [here](#).

81-year-old Professor Emeritus

By Alexa Skonieksi | November 6, 2024

Meet Dr. Philip Dale. If you didn't know him before, you definitely will now. At 81-years-old, the Professor Emeritus in the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences has spent his 10 years of retirement so far with his head in the books collaborating on research worldwide and creating measures to help understand children and how they learn to speak. To read more, [click here](#)

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 to let us know so we can reach out for more details and include you in our next newsletter.

Congratulations to our SHS Graduates who have completed their CFY!

Kristina Storey, Leandra Espeseth, Loucretia Jose, Alaina Rodriguez, Victoria Davis, Agnes Paijebo, Alexis Medina, and Elizabeth Martinez. Congratulations!



Curriculum Updates



New Topics Course:

SHS 539: Core Functions for SLP

Created by SHS PhD Student Jessica Nico, this 1-credit course is specifically designed to empower graduate student clinicians in Speech and Hearing Sciences to navigate the unique, academic, clinical and professional environments of speech-language pathology. Focused on fostering an inclusive and supportive learning community, the course addresses key skills and aspects crucial for success in both clinical practice and professional interactions.

Student Spotlight- Evon Youkhana

Why did you choose our program?

I chose UNM's Speech and Hearing program due to its clinical, faculty, and patient diversity.

What made you want to pursue SLP?

I have always been interested in the field of communication. I also enjoy helping people. The field of speech language pathology allows me to feel fulfilled through pursuing my interest in communication while helping people in meaningful ways.

What is your next step?

During next semester, I hope to finish my thesis and begin my internship experience at UNMH (inpatient adult setting). I am forever grateful for the welcoming energy and the immense support I have received and continue to receive at UNM's Speech and Hearing department, and I look forward to furthering my clinical knowledge and experience with UNMH.



Student Accomplishments

Thesis approval

Wylie Skillman successfully defended her thesis "[Working with Bilingual Populations: Clinical Practices of Speech Language Pathologists in New Mexico](#)" over the summer. Congratulations Wylie!

The National Student Speech Language Hearing Association ([NSSLHA](#))

Elections were held in the spring for new NSSLHA Executive Officers. The results are in, and your 2024/2025 NSSLHA Exec Board will be...



Ariana Moran, President
Taylor Harrison, Vice President
Sofia Doke, Treasurer
Ashley Reeves, Secretary
Lauryn Herrera, Event Coordinator
London Hiatt, Event Coordinator



NSSLHA addressed the following throughout the Fall 2024 Semester

- Updating the NSSLHA charter to include graduate student members. Cassidy McNamara worked to share this process with current graduate students
- Thank you to all who joined us for the second NSSLHA meeting of the year and a special thank you to Andrea Martinez-Fisher who took the time to elaborate on her concentration within the SHS field.

ASHA Presentations

- ❖ Master's thesis student Richelle McGuire (advised by Cindy Gevarter, Ph.D.) will be presenting her thesis at ASHA:
 - McGuire, R*, Gevarter, C., Nattress, N*, Nico, J.*, & Irizarry-Perez, C. (November 2024). *Coaching bilingual student clinicians to teach monolingual Spanish-speaking caregivers naturalistic communication techniques for autistic children*. Technical research session accepted for American Speech-Language Hearing Association Convention. Seattle, Washington.
- ❖ PhD student Jessica Nico (advised by Cindy Gevarter, Ph.D.) will be presenting a poster at ASHA that was designated as a Visionary Session and Meritorious Poster Selection:
 - Nico, J.*, & Gevarter, C. (November 2024). Advancing equity and inclusion: Supporting neurodiverse students in CSD graduate programs. Poster session presented at the Models of Academic and Clinical Education conference. Poster accepted for American Speech-Language Hearing Association Convention. Seattle, Washington.
- ❖ PhD student Naomi Nattress (advised by Cathy Binger) will be presenting her research conducted as part of her research rotation with the Autism Lab/Project SCENES
 - Nattress, N*, Gevarter, C., Binger, C., Nannemann, A., Nico, J.*, & McGuire, R*. (2024, December 5). Naturalistic communication techniques for children with autism and visual impairment: A cascading coaching model. Technical research session accepted for the American Speech-Language Hearing Association Convention. Seattle, Washington

Zancada Graduate Fellows Program



The [Zancada](#) — Spanish word for stride — program creates a cohort of future leaders in science, technology, humanities, and the arts who are well-prepared and committed to finding interdisciplinary, actionable, and meaningful solutions to global problems. **SHS Ph.D. student Jessica Nico** has been selected as a recipient for 2024-2025!

Jessica also passed her qualifying exams in July! Congratulations!

Collaboration with Linguistics



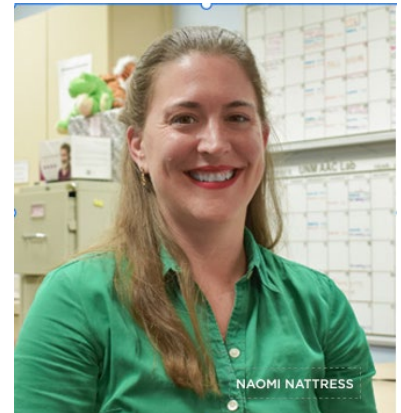
Congratulations to SHS Undergraduate Audriana Saucedo (2026) on her first collaborative publication. Audriana worked with Naomi Shin, Ph.D., Eliza Forrest, Dawnadine Harvey and Jill Morford, Ph.D. on an article on *Linguistic Bias in the Classroom* and was published in Soleado Newsletter of the Dual Language Education of NM program. [Click here](#) to read the article.

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association New Century Scholars Doctoral Scholarship (2023-2024)

PhD student **Naomi Nattress** was awarded a prestigious American Speech-Language-Hearing Association New Century Scholars Doctoral Scholarship (2023-2024). This program is designed to support strong doctoral candidates who will pursue a teacher-investigator career in an academic environment. Nice work Naomi!

Naomi also had her first paper accepted for publication!

Title: *Aided Communication with Individuals who have Multiple Disabilities that include Visual Impairments: A Meta-Analysis*.
 Authors: Naomi Nattress, Cindy Gevarter, Allison Nannemann, Elizabeth Martinez, and Cathy Binger (advisor).



A special shout-out to Elizabeth Martinez, one of our recent graduates, for all her assistance on this paper!

McNair Scholar

Elena Lopez, an undergraduate majoring in SHS, is a McNair Scholar. Cathy Binger is serving as Elena's mentor. Even though Elena's research project for the McNair does not officially start until Summer 2025, Elena is already hard at work in Dr. Binger's AAC Lab!

SHS / OT Seating Clinic 2024

SHS graduate students had the opportunity to work with members from Occupational Therapy over the summer. They were taught the proper body mechanics and tools used to transfer patients. Thanks to Clinical Instructor Mary Hill and her team, Briana Salcido, Archella Clay and Kyndra Basham for their presentation and hands on demonstration for our students!



SHS Neurodiversity Student Group

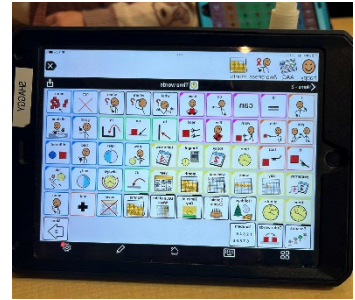
We are excited to announce the formation of the UNM Speech and Hearing Sciences (SHS) Neurodiversity Student Group, a student-led and intersectional group aimed at celebrating and supporting neurodiversity in both academic and clinical settings.



This group is open to all students who identify as neurodivergent, neuro-curious, and allies at the undergraduate, graduate, and Ph.D. levels. We aim to provide a welcoming space for students to share experiences, build community, and advocate for their unique needs. Our aim is to offer peer support, networking opportunities, and valuable resources for self-advocacy and mental health.

AAC Karaoke Night

Last month, our talented doctoral students hit all the right notes with an unforgettable Karaoke Night in celebration of Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) Awareness Month! Organized and led by Jaime Branaman, the event brought together undergraduate and graduate students as well as clinical instructors to create a fun, welcoming space to explore various aided AAC programs including LAMP Words for Life, Proloquo2Go and TouchChat with WordPower.



Participants used speech-generating devices to belt out their favorite tunes, proving that music truly transcends all barriers. The crowd favorite? A show-stopping rendition of “We Didn’t Start the Fire” that had everyone singing along. This lively celebration of AAC not only showcased creativity but also raised awareness in the most fun and inspiring way possible!

Fundraisers for SHS

The Department would like to thank the following for their efforts over the last 6 months to raise funds to support the Department and clinic endeavors.

Comunidad Crecer



Allen Butt attended the 65th anniversary of his father’s law firm Butt, Thornton, & Baehr, on Friday June 28th and was kind enough to leave some information about the [Dolores and Paul Butt Comunidad Crecer Foundation.](#)

Paint by Design

We were thrilled to once again have an evening of painting, wine, fun and a chance to raise some funds for the Department with [Kelly Jo Designs by Wine.](#) NSSHLA organized the event and raised over \$500.00 for the Department. Our thanks and appreciation to everyone who worked to organize this event and who participated!



Faculty Accomplishments

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



Dr Cindy Gevarter, Assistant Professor

Dr Gevarter was awarded funding to begin **Project Mesa** - (Multilingual, culturally responsive Early childhood Social communication Approaches)

The purpose of Project MESA (Multilingual, culturally responsive Early childhood Social communication Approaches) is to increase the number of speech-language pathologists (SLPs) prepared to use evidence-based approaches with young culturally or linguistically diverse children who have autism spectrum disorder (ASD) or other developmental disabilities or delays. MESA scholars will receive training and experiences surrounding evidenced-based approaches for:

- (a) social communication assessment and interventions with a focus on naturalistic and family-centered approaches;
- (b) culturally responsive/sustaining and multilingual assessment and intervention practices; and
- (c) collaborating in teams.

<https://sites.google.com/view/project-mesa/home>



Recent Publications

Ousley, C., **Gevarter, C.**, D'Agostino, S (In Press) Aligning intervention for autistic beginning communicators with language development Milestones Using NDBIs. *Young Exceptional Children*.

Gevarter, C., & Gallegos, E.* (2024). Parent-implemented AAC verb symbol intervention with children with ASD. *Augmentative and Alternative Communication*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/07434618.2024.1946846>

Gallegos, E.*, **Gevarter, C.**, Binger, C., & Hartley, M. (2024). An interprofessional graduate student and family coaching program in naturalistic communication techniques. *Seminars in Speech and Language*, 45(03), 171-193. <https://doi.org/10.1055/s-0044-1787274>

Reuter-Yuill, L. M., Slim, L. M., Kasper, T. S., Castaño, L., Dower, N. R., & **Gevarter, C.** (2024). An applied model of interprofessional collaboration—Assessment (AMIC-A): A process-based approach to augmentative and alternative communication. *Seminars in Speech and Language*, 45(03), 194-212. <https://doi.org/10.1055/s-0044-1787651>

**Dr Phyllis Palmer, Department Chair**

Palmer, P.M., Padilla, A.H., Murray, S.C. et al (2024). The impact of videofluoroscopic pulse rate on duration and kinematic measures in infants and adults with feeding and swallowing disorders. *Dysphagia* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00455-024-10709-y>.

**Lauril Sachet, Clinical Instructor**

Lauril is heading the exploratory committee for procuring scoping equipment for the Department. The need for high-quality scoping services is desperately needed in the community, both in Albuquerque and around the state in rural areas. This project is still in the early stages, but we hope to bring exciting news in the future about SHS providing these much-needed services to the community.

Faculty /Staff Updates

New Faculty

SHS is delighted to welcome the following new clinical instructors/faculty to our ranks.



Kimberly Mattison, SLPD., CCC-SLP

Kim Mattison joined Speech and Hearing Sciences faculty during the Fall 2024 semester as a Clinical Instructor/Lecturer.

Kim is happy to be a new member of UNM's Speech-Language Pathology Faculty. She earned her bachelor's degree in communication sciences and Disorders from James Madison University, received her master's degree in Speech Language Pathology from Old Dominion University, and finally earned her Clinical Doctorate degree from Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions. She has worked as a Speech-Language Pathologist in a variety of clinical environments where her passion has always been working with individuals with complex communication needs. She

has a particular love for working with children who utilize AAC devices in all therapeutic environments. Through working in public and specialized schools, outpatient facilities, private practices, and even early intervention, her favorite aspect of therapy is always building foundational language skills.



Faculty Promotions

The following faculty have received promotions over the summer.



Jessica Richardson, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

Dr Richardson was promoted from Associate Professor to Full Professor.

Sarah Duncan, Au.D., CCC-A

Dr Duncan was promoted from Lecturer III to Lecturer Senior Lecturer III.



Inside Our Clinic

We are delighted to welcome Mary Hartley, MS, CCC-SLP, as our new Clinic Director. As double alumna of UNM with both bachelor's and master's degrees in communication disorders with over 35 years of experience in speech-language pathology, Mary brings extensive expertise in clinical practice and education. Since taking on the role of Clinic Director, Mary has implemented several valuable initiatives including weekly clinic updates, a Student of the Month recognition system, and, along with our excellent administrative staff, aided in developing a new clinical database. Her commitment to leadership continues to strengthen our program.

Mary has served in various clinical roles including positions at UNM, Albuquerque Public Schools, and the New Mexico School for the Deaf. She has expertise in autism spectrum disorders intervention and working with deaf and hard-of-hearing children. Her commitment to education is evident through her numerous professional presentations and her role as a lecturer at UNM's Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences, where she has focused on clinical intervention training.



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

New Audiology Equipment

SHS Audiologist Sarah Duncan is pleased to announce the audiology clinic has new state of the art equipment, the GSI AudioStar Pro audiometer. An audiometer is an important piece of equipment that is used to measure hearing ability. The new equipment has a new test, the Audible Contrast Threshold (ACT), that is designed to predict the patient's hearing in noise ability. This not only provides important feedback to the clinician when counseling patients on how to cope in noisy environments but also provides information to assist in hearing aid programming to maximize benefits of amplification. Sarah is grateful she has cutting-edge equipment to enhance student experiences in audiology.



Clinic Student of the Month



Our Clinical Instructors implemented a “Clinical Student of the Month” award this year to highlight the hard work and growth of our Graduate Students. The following students were recognized in the clinic this semester:

Student Clinician of the Month

Proudly awarded to:

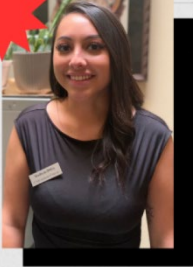
Madison Dilley

Madison demonstrated strong clinical skills right from the beginning, asked great questions regarding how to provide the best treatment for her patients, and has turned in all of her documentation on time if not early.
- Maria Strum, CI

Mary Hartley
Mary Hartley
Clinic Director

Phyllis Palmer
Phyllis Palmer
Department Chair

Student Quote:
I feel incredibly grateful to be the first student clinician of the month! I have learned so much from my clinical instructor Maria and although it has been challenging, it has also been incredibly rewarding to apply what I have learned to clients who need our services. I can't wait to learn more and feel so thankful for this recognition.



September - Madison Dilley

Madison demonstrated strong clinical skills right from the beginning, asked great questions regarding how to provide the best treatment for her patients, and has turned in all of her documentation on time, if not early. - **Maria Strum CI**

I feel incredibly grateful to be the first student clinician of the month! I have learned so much from my clinical instructor Maria, and although it has been challenging, it has also been incredibly rewarding to apply what I have learned to clients who need our services. I can't wait to learn more and feel so thankful for this recognition. - **Madison Dilley (2023)**

Student Clinician of the Month

Proudly awarded to:


Avery Mondragon

"Avery is always willing to support her colleagues. She works hard to integrate feedback and learn a variety of therapy techniques to best serve her clients. She is reliable and thoughtful with her documentation. Most of all, it's her reflective, positive, and down-to-earth nature that makes her a joy to work with."
- Lauril Sachet, CI

Mary Hartley
Mary Hartley
Clinic Director

Phyllis Palmer
Phyllis Palmer
Department Chair

Student Quote:
I have been extremely fortunate during my time in this program to work with a wide variety of clinical instructors, clients, and my peers, and I could not be more grateful for the support I've received. My favorite part of clinic is learning alongside our clients, especially when there are mutual lightbulb moments.



October - Avery Mondragon

Avery is always willing to support her colleagues. She works hard to integrate feedback and learn a variety of therapy techniques to best serve her clients. She is reliable and thoughtful with her documentation. Most of all, it's her reflective, positive, and down-to-earth nature that makes her a joy to work with. - **Lauril Sachet CI**

I have been extremely fortunate during my time in this program to work with a wide variety of clinical instructors, clients, and my peers and I could not be more grateful for the support I've received. My favorite part of clinic is learning alongside our clients, especially when there are mutual lightbulb moments. - **Avery Mondragon (2023)**

Student Clinician of the Month

Proudly awarded to:

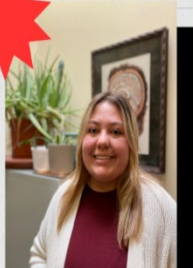
Jerissa Jaramillo

"I have been very impressed with **Jerrissa!** Even though she works nights, Jerrissa stays on top of her work in clinic and meets all deadlines. She is progressing well, becoming more independent each week, and is taking on more responsibility each session. She volunteers for new evaluations and clients, even when her clinic schedule is already full. Jerrissa takes recommendations easily and adjusts quickly. It has been my pleasure watching her grow this semester!"
- Andrea Martinez-Fisher, CI

Mary Hartley
Mary Hartley
Clinic Director

Phyllis Palmer
Phyllis Palmer
Department Chair

Student Quote:
This being my first clinical rotation has taught me so much. I have become more comfortable with being uncomfortable. I have learned to be open minded when it comes to each session because you never know what it's going to entail. Everything I have learned and keep learning is amazing new knowledge. I have really fallen in love with becoming an SLP.



November - Jerrissa Jaramillo

I have been very impressed with Jerrissa! Even though she works nights, Jerrissa stays on top of her work in clinic and meets all deadlines. She is progressing well, becoming more independent each week, and is taking on more responsibility each session. She volunteers for new evaluations and clients, even when her clinic schedule is already full. Jerrissa takes recommendations easily and adjusts quickly. It has been my pleasure watching her grow this semester! - **Andrea Martinez-Fisher, CI**

This being my first clinic rotation has taught me so much. I have become more comfortable with being uncomfortable. I have learned to be open minded when it comes to each session because you never know what it's going to entail. Everything I have learned, and keep learning, is amazing knowledge. I have really fallen in love with becoming an SLP. - **Jerrissa Jaramillo (2024)**

Patient Testimonial

We see a variety of patients in our clinic and while we strive to provide excellent care for our clients, it's always rewarding to receive feedback that confirms we are achieving our goals. Please enjoy some stories from our clinic patients about their experiences.

Our Audiologist, Sarah Duncan is pleased to share some feedback from a couple of patients about the services they received at our clinic. Please enjoy their feedback:

Patient One - Dennis J

What was your main concern about getting hearing aids?

That the hearing aids wouldn't work after 2 previous tries and be a waste of money & effort, again.

What were you feeling at that time?

I was feeling that I needed to get more serious about my hearing problem.

How was it overcome?

Support & encouragement from my wife.

How do you feel now?

Glad I made the decision to proceed.

What was your life like before you started wearing your hearing aids?

Life was frustrating because I couldn't respond appropriately to conversations and I found myself withdrawing from social interactions.

What is your life like now?

I'm doing better.

What made you choose our practice?

Recommendations from a friend.

What surprised you about hearing better?

That I **COULD** hear better! How easy it was. Qualitative improvements in hearing aids.

If you were to recommend UNM Speech and Hearing Clinic to a friend, what you would tell them?

A thoroughly professional, pleasant, reassuring & informative experience

Patient Two - Paul W

What was your main concern about getting a hearing aid?

My main concern was how they would look, and that people would think that I was old, which in fact I am.

How was it overcome?

I got over my vanity very quickly. My hearing is much more important than minor cosmetic issues.

What were you feeling at that time?

At the time I was feeling some relief because it was no longer possible for me to continue as I was. I was relieved because I was addressing a problem that had to be dealt with

How do you feel now?

I feel so fortunate to be living in a time where this technology is available

What is your life like now?

I feel so much better now because I don't feel as isolated as I was before HA's



What was your life like before you started wearing your hearing aids?

Life was frustrating for both myself and my wife. It was impossible to get through a day without having to ask her a multitude of times to repeat herself. It all came into focus when we hosted Thanksgiving dinner. Everyone in attendance could clearly understand each other, but I could not. It was at that moment that I realized that it was time for action

What made you choose our practice?

I chose your practice because I'm enrolled in the UNM health care system. Even more important was the fact that the clinic is not a business. Profit is not their main motivation. Good hearing is what they value the most.

If you were to recommend UNM Speech and Hearing Clinic to a friend, what you would tell them?

I would tell them that Sarah will work very hard to make all the many variables work for you. I never realized how complex the process is. It is NOT a plug and play operation. Every human is unique; therefore, their hearing is too. Sarah worked so hard to get it the best that it could be. Will hearing aids make me to be able to hear as well as I did as a young man? No, but I can hear almost as well as I did years ago.

What surprised you about hearing better?

I was surprised at how much I was missing. It all came into focus when after two or three weeks of using them I could notice clearly how bad my hearing used to be when I took them out at the end of the day. It was as if someone had stuffed cotton in my ears.

Patient 3 - David Gonzales

Maria Strum, MS, CCC-SLP wishes to highlight, David Gonzales. Mr. Gonzales, who sustained a traumatic brain injury (TBI) in April 2023, has reached a significant milestone in his recovery journey with the acquisition of his first permanent augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) device this October.

Following his injury, Mr. Gonzales faced considerable challenges with communication, impacting his daily interactions with family and in the community. The implementation of the AAC device marks a turning point in his rehabilitation process, as he has already successfully incorporated the Lingraphica Touch Talk into his therapy sessions and daily life.

His progress represents the collaborative efforts of his support team, including Lingraphica, Jessica Gabaldon MS CCC-SLP, the patient, his family, caregiver, and the wonderful work by graduate student clinician Madison Dilley, who have all played integral roles in facilitating his communication journey.



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.



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