Welcome to the new periodic update of the EMU Speech-Language Pathology Program! We are pleased to share with you exciting news and notes of the Program in its 55th year. We look forward to hearing from you as well.

Shining Stars: The Delores S. Brehm Endowed Scholarship in Special Education

William and Delores S. Brehm (center, first row), longtime supporters of EMU, recently donated $3.26 million to support students in special education and music therapy. Their gifts to EMU now total more than $8.5 million, making them the largest individual donors to EMU in its history. Students that have received this award for 2015-2016 are as follows: Sara Acton, Charles Bailey, Kira Dallaire, Rachel Humberson, Arista May, Lorielle Moorhaus, Brooke Reed, Tammy Shen, Jacqueline St. Antoine, and Sara Swiercynski.

What's it all about?

The prestigious Brehm Scholarship was started by William and Delores Brehm to provide tuition support for students pursuing degrees in special education. This scholarship is unlike any other EMU has ever received because it is the first $1 million scholarship in EMU history. Ten students who are pursuing either graduate and/or undergraduate degrees in speech-language pathology have received Brehm awards since 2004.

The Brehm Scholarship annually provides in-state tuition stipends for eight qualified students studying in any program within the Department of Special Education. Recipients of this scholarship must demonstrate exceptional pre-professional skills in the area of special education, in addition to an obligation to help serve those with special needs.

In 2010 the Brehms improved this wonderful scholarship program with additional funding to support research conducted by scholarship recipients to support best practice in a constantly changing field of special education.
Welcome Aboard! Meet the New Faculty

The Department is pleased to have new faculty members, Professors Wanda Kent and Audrey Bernard. Below is some background and insights they shared recently during an informal Q&A. Welcome to the EMU team!!

Assistant Professor Audrey Bernard

What brought you to Eastern?
I came to EMU as an undergrad in the elementary education program. I continued on for my Master’s in Speech-language pathology. After years of practice I returned to EMU for my doctorate in Educational Studies. I have been a student, staff, and now faculty member at EMU. The outstanding teacher preparation program brought me to Eastern. The committed and caring faculty members kept me here.

What do you enjoy the most so far with faculty and students?
Their level of commitment to education. So many students balance school, work, family, and more.

What are some of your hobbies? Reading, writing, running.

What do you enjoy most about teaching? Engaging with future professionals. The students here are inspiring.

Have you taught at any other Institutions?
Nope. I am True EMU :)

In your opinion, what do you think makes Eastern stand out from all of the institutions?
At EMU you are treated like a person, not a number. EMU values you as an individual.

Why did you decide to teach Speech-Language Pathology?
Working with children with speech and language has been my passion. I believe the best way to affect change is to prepare the professionals that will be working with those children.

Do you have any advice to students considering the program?
Shadow as many SLPs as possible! Get to know the field and where you would fit in.

What courses are you teaching this semester or in the near future?
SPSI 540-Articulation and Phonological Impairments, SPSI 342-Language disorders in Children, SPSI 336-Anatomy and Physiology

Assistant Professor Wanda Kent

What is your education background?
I received my Doctorate and Master’s degree at Wayne State University.

What brought you to Eastern?
I was drawn by the reputation of Eastern’s program; the opportunity to work in a program that fits my professional background, and the opportunity to work with the Eastern faculty.
What do you enjoy the most so far with faculty and students?
I enjoy the interactions with students in my classes.

What do you enjoy most about teaching?
One of the greatest things about teaching is learning from your students.

What are some of your hobbies?
I always identified myself as a language nerd – I enjoy antique book stores, playing Scrabble, reading, and finding cool new music.

Have you taught at any other Institutions?
I have taught at State University of New York and Wayne State University.

In your opinion, what do you think makes Eastern stand out from all of the institutions?
Eastern is a friendly campus and the class sizes allow you to get to know the students.

Why did you decide to teach Speech-Language Pathology?
I enjoy language and language studies. I knew someone who majored in speech-language pathology so I took one course and fell in love with it.

Do you have any advice to students considering the program?
Speech-language pathology is a demanding program but if you enjoy it, the rewards are great.

What courses are you teaching this semester or in the near future?
The courses that I am teaching are Graduate School Language Disorders and Graduate Early Intervention for Speech Language Impaired Children, and next semester Undergrad in Language Disorders.

**Sara Acton Receives SPARC National Award from ASHA**

Sara Acton, one of Eastern Michigan University’s own Speech-Language Pathology graduate students, has received the prestigious Students Preparing for Academic Research Careers (SPARC) Award from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). Sara is joining a very select group, as ASHA typically grants this annual award to only 11 students across the country, with recipients receiving up to $1,000 for teaching and research activities.

**Acton’s SPARC research project is designed to assist speech-language pathologists working in Cree communities** (First Nations in Canada) provide culturally appropriate services. Prior to applying to the speech-language pathology program, Sara completed her studies in linguistics and built a strong research agenda investigating first language acquisition of Northern East Cree, an Algonquian language related to many languages spoken throughout the United States and Canada.

While working with Indigenous communities, Sara observed first-hand the need for culturally sensitive services to those communities and felt compelled to change her career path and become a speech-language pathologist. "In talking with Cree community members in Quebec, I learned children are under-served due to a need for more community-specific and language-specific information to guide speech-language pathologists working in the area," Sara says. "This is vital work for helping children in the community develop both Cree and English language skills."
“Sara’s background in linguistics is an asset to our program” said Dr. Ana Claudia Harten, associate professor in the speech-language pathology program, College of Education. “Her research agenda has the potential to benefit the provision of care to Indigenous communities and promote cultural competence among professionals in the field of speech-language pathology,” adds Harten, Acton’s primary mentor for the highly competitive SPARC award. This is the fifth SPARC award that an EMU SLP student has received since 2006. “This award speaks highly to the quality of our students, our program, and the College of Education, and certainly brings positive recognition to EMU,” said Harten.

Have you heard? New Language Lab
Dr. Lizbeth Stevens

A new Language Laboratory for the Speech-Language Pathology program opened this fall. Equipment and software was funded by the Eastern Michigan University Faculty Development Center (FDC) and the Special Education Department through an e-Fellows grant awarded to Dr. Lizbeth Stevens. The start-up laboratory, housed in 110 Porter, will focus initially on two practice areas: assessment and communication supports for individuals with limited speech and complex communication needs (CCN).

- In the area of assessment, students will develop skills in language sample analysis, which is important for evaluating and treating children with language impairments. The lab is equipped with a specialized software program to analyze language samples, the Systematic Analysis of Language Transcripts (SALT). Students will apply this knowledge in the speech clinic on campus and in school and pediatric internships.

- Another area of focus is preparing students to serve individuals with complex communication needs (CCN). A wide variety of Speech Generating Devices (SPG) will be maintained in the lab. In addition, students will be trained to use the Boardmaker software program designed for use in creating communication boards and books for individuals with CCN. For many persons with limited speech, the use of alternative forms of communication is required. Graduate SLP students will be able to apply their new knowledge to support these forms of communication.

The new language laboratory will not only improve clinical skills of graduate students in the speech-language pathology program through better instruction but will foster faculty and student research on student learning and other topics, including language sampling.

_Pictured: Annette Shiley & Arista May learning the Boardmaker program._
Voice Lab - Dr. Ana Claudia Harten

Did you know the Voice Laboratory was started in the Fall of 2013? Yes, since the Fall 2013 semester, students, instructors, and clinical educators in the program have access to a Voice Lab, which is comprised by hardware and software geared for assessment and treatment of voice disorders.

The Voice Lab, housed at the EMU Speech and Hearing Clinic, was funded by the College of Education with a main focus on training students in the Speech-Language Pathology Master’s program. Students can use the lab equipment for course purposes, as well as for clinic purposes, when working directly with clients at the EMU Speech and Hearing Clinic. The versatility of the lab also renders itself for use in research projects, as it allows for a variety of analysis procedures, including acoustic and aerodynamic analyses of voice.

Simulation Laboratory is Coming Soon!!!
Dr. Ana Claudia Harten and Dr. Bill Cupples

With the support of the Special Education Department and the e-Fellows grant awarded by the EMU Faculty Development Center (FDC) to Dr. Harten and Dr. Cupples, a start-up Simulation Laboratory will be opened in the Winter of 2016.

- The goal of the lab is to facilitate the implementation of a simulation-based education platform in the program and provide instructors with ways to use technology-based simulations in their courses.

- The start-up lab will be comprised of high-fidelity simulation equipment that will allow instructors to control vital signs/audio and speech output in real-time based on students’ actions during simulated clinical interactions with mannequins. Instructors will be able to “take advantage of the equipment to create realistic scenarios that allow for repeated practice in a risk-free learning environment to the students,” says Dr. Harten.

- The integration of simulation-based education is extensive in medical education, as well as allied health fields such as nursing and pharmacy. Academic programs in speech-language pathology have only recently been taking advantage of simulation-based education to prepare their students for clinical practice. “With advances in medicine, health care professionals, and speech-language pathologists (SLPs) for that matter, have been seeing an increase in the need to provide services for patients with more compromised health, including more complex communication and swallowing needs,” states Dr. Harten.

- While providing services to highly compromised patients, SLPs have to constantly assess how their services may be directly affecting patients’ overall health. “Through simulations, instructors can provide students with opportunities to exercise clinical decision-making skills, prior to working with real patients, promoting the application of those skills without risk to patients or sacrificing the quality of care”, adds Dr. Harten.

The Inside Scoop:
National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSHLA) - EMU Chapter

Chapter’s primary service:
- The Chapters’ goals include fundraising and community education. Many people do not understand the services provided by speech language pathologists (SLP).
- SLP’s provide services to all populations with a variety of speech and language deficits related to traumatic brain injury, stroke, dementia, stuttering, articulation, voice disorders, speech and language pediatric developmental delays, swallowing and much more. SLP’s work in all types of environments such as private clinics, hospitals, home health care and schools.

Types of activities:
- The Chapter engages in many activities including fundraisers and community education services. Money collected at the fundraisers support involvement in programs such as Adopt-A-Family at Christmas.
- In addition, NSSHLA manned a booth last year at the Chelsea Science PTO Fair for the purpose of educating students in K-4 grade. The booth’s purpose was to provide information regarding hearing health (e.g., encouraging students to wear earplugs in noisy environments).
- Other fundraisers include community restaurant days where a percentage of the food tab is donated. The restaurants included Buffalo Wild Wings and Tower Inn. Apparel sales expose the community to the profession of speech and language pathology. Clothing sold includes a speech language pathology theme.

Main Objectives:
- Education and philanthropy via fundraisers and special speakers at the NSSHLA meetings. Speaker’s topics include how to apply for graduate school, experiences of seasoned SLP’s, and planning for future events.

Member numbers and process:
- Approximately 50-75 members. There are two monthly meetings.

Number of community projects planned per semester:
- There are approximately six per semester. This fall semester service projects included Yankee Candle sales, apparel sales, Restaurant fundraiser (restaurant/day not determined at this time) and Adopt-A-Family.
- A favorite project is Adopt-a-Family because it gives families a Christmas that they may not have been able to afford. Families usually ask for mittens, coats, socks and toys.

Alumni member involvement:
- Alumni members do not participate in organizing fundraisers, however, this is something that may happen in the future. At this time, alumni communicate via social media, buy apparel and/or speak at NSSHLA meetings regarding their present job responsibilities. They also give tips on the process to apply for graduate school.

Geographical area:
- Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti
- There are relationships with some local groups, such as the Aphasia Community Friendship Center (ACFC).

Approval process:
The executive board meets in August before the start of the academic year to initiate planning. At that time, NSSHLA registers with Campus organizations. NSSHLA also has to register with the state professional organization of MSHA (Michigan Speech and Hearing Association).

**Chapters biggest strength:**
- This year NSSHLA has attempted to maximize participation by encouraging equal undergraduate and graduate involvement.
- For the first time, the executive board consists of an equal number of graduate and undergraduate SLP students; and the current president is an undergraduate and the co-president a graduate student.
- Members’ responsibilities complement their interests and strengths which fosters motivation and cooperation.

**Process for joining the Chapter:**
- Being a NSSHLA member offers many opportunities including mentor programs, networking within the program, exposure to special need populations via volunteer work, advice on resume writing/applying to graduate school, and the chance to volunteer at the state annual conference in the spring and begin to network with seasoned professionals.
- Members participate in meetings and pay yearly dues of $10.00. The members include undergraduate and graduate students.
- All participants plan to obtain a Speech Language Pathology degree or pursue a career in audiology. EMU accepts graduate students who have degrees in other areas. Some of the common undergraduate degrees include education, linguistics, psychology, marketing, business management and theatre.

**Get involved in NSSHLA!**
- Find out more at [www.emich.edu/nsslha](http://www.emich.edu/nsslha).

Pictured: NSSHLA – EMU Chapter members at one of the Chapter’s community outreach efforts.

The SLP Program wants to hear from you!
Visit the SLP Program at:
http://www.emich.edu/coe/departments/special-education/speech-language-pathology/

Please help us improve our program by completing any or all of the following short surveys (5-10 minutes), applicable to you. (Ctrl + Click to follow links)

(1) Survey of EMU SLP Alums
http://goo.gl/forms/byLy90XXSC

(2) Survey for Supervisors of students in either school or health care internships
http://goo.gl/forms/r6L8tXpabz

(3) Survey for Employers
http://goo.gl/forms/yhRZU4bzxi

Happy Retirement!

A big thank you for your dedication to the Department of Special Education!
- Dr. Ronald Hoodin (36 years)
- Dr. Carole Gorenflo (36 years)

Speech-Language Pathology Faculty:
- Sheila Bentrum, Speech & Hearing Clinic Coordinator, Clinical Educator
- Audrey Bernard, Assistant Professor
- Willie Cupples, Professor
- Sarah Ginsberg, Professor
- Ana Claudia Harten, Associate Professor
- Wanda Kent, Assistant Professor
- Denise Kowalski, Clinical Educator
- Lidia Lee, Professor
- Karen Parish-Foster, Clinical Educator
- Christine Scott, Assistant Professor
- Lizbeth Stevens, Professor