



## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- New Leadership
- Community Outreach
- Student Success

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## A message from Dr. Schmidt

As many of you know, this is the last Newsletter that I will be working on for the Communication Sciences and Disorders Department (CSD). My new role as Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs at Molloy College will not allow me the opportunity to continue in a full time faculty position in CSD. While I am excited about the challenges I face in my new position, I am very sad to leave my daily interactions with friends, colleagues and students in CSD. It has been a long, fruitful, and enjoyable career in this program. I have had the pleasure of teaching more than 14 different courses, sharing my experiences with numerous faculty and staff, while watching the growth of hundreds of students.



When I think about the cold Friday in January of 1988 that I was hired to begin teaching 3 classes on the following Monday, the years of development, the times of frustration, joy, and celebration that I have shared with so many of you, I am truly amazed. I am grateful for all of the wonderful experiences I have had and the people I have met.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone for contributing to a memorable and satisfying career!

## CHANGE in Leadership

As the department offers a warm and appreciative “thank you” to **Dr. Nancy McGarr** for serving as Chairperson of the Communication Sciences and Disorders Department for 2 years, we welcome Dr. Sandy White to that position and **Professor Susan Alimonti** as Associate Dean.

**Dr. White**, who has served as the TSSLD Coordinator for the past 2 years, will continue in that role, while assuming her new responsibilities. A well respected clinician and professor, she will bring a new energy of high spirited leadership to the department.

**Professor Alimonti**, also a seasoned clinician, has served not only as a faculty



*“Your true  
character is most  
accurately  
measured by how  
you treat those  
who can do  
NOTHING for  
you.”*

**Mother Teresa**

Emily Levine, along with her classmates from the graduate M.S. degree program, have organized a fund-raising effort to support the purchase of AAC equipment for a child in Jamaica W.I.

If you are interested in contributing to this project by purchasing a T-shirt or raffle ticket please feel free to contact Emily at

**elevine@lions.molloy.edu**



## Speech Center News:

The Molloy College Speech, Language and Hearing Center continues to follow Molloy College’s mission of study, spirituality, service and community. For the third consecutive year, the students have provided complimentary hearing screenings as a co-sponsor of the Vision-Speech-Hearing Health Fair at Kornreich Technology Center at the Viscardi Center. Dr. Higgins and Jacquelyn Luciano, Class of 2017, gave well-received presentations on hearing and swallowing in the older adult. The students continued to conduct beginning and end of year language testing for all universal pre-kindergarten children in the Island Park School District. We also conducted testing on all kindergarten children in the Island Park district. This year, the graduate students collaborated with other professionals while screening incoming kindergarten children in the Oceanside School District. The students enjoyed conducting voice and speech screenings on all first year students in Molloy’s CAP 21 Theatre Arts program. The speech center’s summer therapy sessions began on June 5, and the clients were excited to return after the short break.

Students from the CSD Department presented at the Natural Sciences Division Colloquium on April 25, 2017. The topics were varied and took either a clinical or a research direction.

Congrats to the following students:

Arielle Mayer	Graduate
Michele Galdi	Graduate
Jaclyn Barcia	Undergraduate
Catherine Mae Rocioppi	Undergraduate

## Continuing Education Programming in CSD

Molloy's Communication Sciences and Disorders Department continues to emphasize the integration of theory and practice with an increasingly diverse population. Through our partnership with the Division of Continuing Education and Professional Development, we are pleased to offer programs each year that meet the needs of speech-language pathologists, audiologists, speech, language and hearing scientists and individuals in related disciplines, who travel from near and far to attend.

This past October we were pleased to provide a program titled, *Solution Focused Brief Therapy: A cutting edge approach in counseling for SLP*. Beryl Adler and Cyndi Stein-Rubin provided an interactive program focused on counseling in speech-language pathology and specifically the method of Solution Focused Brief Therapy to "empower" our clients and their families and caregivers.

On March 29, 2017, through a partnership with St. Charles Hospital, participants enjoyed the program *Traumatic Brain Injury, An Interdisciplinary Approach to Rehabilitation*. Speakers from various disciplines and specialties provided a comprehensive program for team members working with patients and clients who have experienced traumatic brain injuries.

In April over 140 speech-language pathologists attended the Division of Education's Barbara A. McDonnell Early Childhood Conference entitled *Culture, Communication and Collaboration, The Language of Learning*. Along with members of related disciplines, these speech-language pathologists were treated to a day of presentations, a reflection panel, and workshops featuring a variety of invited speakers including our very own Sandy White, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, TSHH, Hia Datta, Ph.D and Jessebell Reyes-Cocuzzo, M.S., CCC-SLP, TSSLD-BIL. The keynote speaker at the event was Carol Scheffner Hammer, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, F-ASHA, Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders, Department of Biobehavioral Sciences, Teachers College, Columbia University.

We provided a two part series on bilingualism and speech-language pathology, when on June 23, 2017, Henriette W. Langdon, Ed.D. F-CCC-SLP, Professor, Communicative Disorders and Sciences, Connie L. Lurie College of Education, San José State University, and Jessebell Reyes-Cocuzzo, M.S., CCC-SLP, TSSLD-BIL, presented *DILEMMAS & SOLUTIONS IN DIFFERENTIATING A LANGUAGE DISORDER FROM A LANGUAGE DIFFERENCE IN ELLs*. Second in this two part series is a program on bilingualism and Aphasia scheduled for October 27, 2017.

Be on the lookout for information on our upcoming programs as well as PROMPT study groups and trainings to be scheduled. Please contact Susan Alimonti, for information on any of these programs.

[salimonti@molloy.edu](mailto:salimonti@molloy.edu) or 516-323-3517

# International Travel

## 2016-2017

### *Dia Dhuit Ireland*

**Jackie Luciano**

The International Education Office and the Communication Sciences and Disorders Department have afforded me and many other students numerous opportunities to travel abroad. Each trip has allowed me to be immersed in the culture of a country and be exposed to different languages, but also allowed me to learn about speech language pathology in each country.

In March 2017 my peers and I traveled with Molloy faculty to Southern Ireland for an amazing international experience. We spent time at University College Cork (UCC), where we met faculty who educated us on speech pathology research being conducted in Ireland and at the University. Among the topics that speakers discussed was acquisition of L2 pragmatics, development of an assessment tool for complex syntax and phonetics of Irish English/Cork

English.

We were also fortunate enough to meet current students at UCC and compare our college experiences. We discussed courses, academic requirements, employment, assessment tools and the field in general. I was inter-

practices in Ireland compared to the United States, as well as how the public healthcare system influences the field of speech language pathology in Ireland.

While in Ireland, we found time to enjoy our surroundings. We visited the Dingle Peninsula, Killarney National Park, Blarney Castle, Waterford and Bunratty Castle. We engaged in a cooking class, took boat rides, walking tours and enjoyed all the beautiful green scenery. Perhaps one of the highlights of the trip was when we learned some Gaelic hurling skills while we were in Kilkenny.

The best part of the trip was sharing these experiences with my peers. We all became great friends over eight days and will forever have amazing memories of the time we shared together in beautiful Ireland.





# Jamaica

Emily Levine

My name is Emily and I am a first year graduate student in the Communication Sciences and Disorders Program here at Molloy College. As many of you may already know, the department allows a number of students to participate in a medical mission trip to Jamaica W.I. biannually. With the supervision of Dr. Schmidt and Professor Alimonti I was fortunate enough to be a part of this experience in March 2017. On this trip, myself and three other students in the graduate program provided services to children and adults who would not otherwise receive speech-language evaluation or therapy services. This trip provided me with the opportunity to gain valuable experience, and immerse myself in a culturally diverse environment.

During this trip we provided screenings to students at a handful of schools on the island. At one of these schools I met a 12 year old with Cerebral Palsy who left a lasting impression on me. Despite his limited verbal output, his personality was something that you could not miss.

As a result of our assessment, myself and the other graduate clinicians observed that this young boy has the requisite skills for a technologically advanced communication device. We left him with individualized manual materials for his use to communicate in the classroom. However given his strong desire and disposition to communicate, a more technologically advanced system is appropriate for him. We are passionate about the positive opportunities on a day to day basis this device could provide him, and are presently fundraising to do so.

This device would give him the opportunity to participate in the classroom, community, and open the door to express himself which in new ways. I hope to return to Jamaica W.I. this upcoming October to train and provide this young boy with the communication device he may otherwise never receive. I am extremely proactive about this project and look forward to returning for a second time. The opportunity to participate in this diverse and worthwhile experience is something I feel separates Molloy College from other programs, and I am grateful to share this exciting project with you!

If you are interested in purchasing a T-shirt or raffle tickets to support this project please feel free to contact me at [elevine@lianc.molloy.edu](mailto:elevine@lianc.molloy.edu). Thank you!



# Health Professions Week

Health Professions Week was September 26-30 2016. In recognition of that week, **Dr. Schmidt** worked with the Social Work, Nursing, Music Therapy, Allied Health and Clinical Mental Health Counseling departments to organize several events. First, there was a table event on Wednesday and Thursday of that week. All disciplines were represented in the lobby of the Hagen Center to distribute information. **Dr. White** and graduate assistant **Daniela Siimone** gladly volunteered for this event. Second a social media campaign was organized and students from various disciplines participated in sharing their experiences in their field. These are just some example of the various student recruitment outreach events that were organized throughout the year.



## Average Accepted Student Profile

2017	3.62 GPA	144 GRE V	147 GRE Q	4 Writing
2016	3.54 GPA	146 GRE V	145 GRE Q	4 Writing
2015	3.59 GPA	146 GRE V	145 GRE Q	4 Writing

## Employment Data

Period	Number of Graduates	Number Employed	Employment Rate
2015-2016	28	27	97%
2014-2015	20	20	100%
2013-2014	18	18	100%

Did you see the new electro-physiology lab?

Stop in and visit on Casey 2



## Joan Fox Recipient



Congratulations!

Congratulations to second year graduate student **Arielle Mayer**, who was selected by the CSD faculty to receive the Joan Fox Award from the Long Island Speech-Language Hearing Association (LISHA). Arielle, earned her B.S. degree at Molloy in May 2015, and received her M.S. degree at the 2017 commencement. A bilingual student, Arielle is well known to everyone as being sincere, hard working and always willing to take a risk. We are proud of Arielle and look forward to hearing about all the wonderful things she is able to accomplish during her career.

“Life is  
either a  
daring  
adventure  
or nothing  
at all.”  
Helen Keller





## Academic Honors

Kelsey Donohue M.S.

## Honorable Mention

Alyssa Vaillancourt, M.S.

**Congratulations to the  
M.S.  
Class of 2017**











*“Success is not the  
key to happiness.  
Happiness is the  
key to success. If  
you love what you  
are doing, you will  
be successful.”  
Albert Schweitzer*

The Communication Sciences and Disorders Department had their annual Rising Star Scholarship Party on November 9, 2016. This annual event offers an opportunity for students, faculty, staff and alums to celebrate together and acknowledge the commit-

ment of the Speech-Language Pathology Program to excellence in education.

It was the pleasure of the department to welcome **Dr. Ann Branchini** as the new Vice President of Academic Affairs to the College and the party.



## AGAIN! AGAIN!

Professor Susan Ali-monti is a busy person, and yet somehow she is instrumental in organizing a successful walk for autism each year. The Molloy College team was recognized by Autism Speaks for 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year as the College of Excellence, for raising the largest amount of money in donations of any local college. The team was



**Department**

*Editor in Chief*

**Barbara Schmidt**

*Contributors*

**Joanne Ascher**

**Susan Alimonti**

**Emily Levine**

**Jackie Luciano**

The Mission of the Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) Department is to provide students with an understanding of human communication and disorders of communication. Our goal is to prepare graduates to engage in interdisciplinary collaboration, ethical practice, and take positions of leadership within the professional community.



**Molloy College**

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**and**

**Disorders**

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**We're on the web!**

***Frequently Asked Questions***

**Q: Do you accept January admissions to the graduate program?**

**A: No. Only fall admissions.**

**Q : Does Molloy offer graduate assistantships?**

**A: Yes. In CSD as well as other departments.**

**Q : Can I attend the M.S. program part time?**

**A: No. Unfortunately the program requires your full time attention**

**Q: Is there an option to do research?**

**Want to refer a client?**

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