The Communication Science and Disorders/Speech and Language Pathology programs experienced a Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) site review and are now once again fully accredited. CAA is the entity within the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), which is authorized to accredit graduate education programs for the professions of audiology and speech-language pathology. We might all share in their joy due to receiving news that reviewers’ careful investigation of every aspect of their program (i.e., administrative structure, curriculum, training environment, program assessment, program management) found evidence of all Standards evaluated! However, one major documentation of our high visibility and validation of our attention to national standards occurred in the MS in Speech-Language Pathology Program (SLP), which received news of being once again accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). The in-depth preparation process was extensive and the site visitors studied every aspect of the program with a positive outcome of 8 years of continued accreditation. It is this kind of reputation and high visibility that sustains their long-standing, large application pools of some of the most academically competitive prospective students. This is a major accomplishment for which we can all be proud!!

The Cole Audiology Lab, directed by Dr. Kelly Jobe, offered hearing evaluations to SFA employees, their families and the general public. Services include hearing evaluations for all ages, hearing aid fitting and repairs, earplugs for noise and swimming, and auditory processing evaluations. Faculty and graduate students in the Speech and Language completed hearing screenings for all students in the Nacogdoches Independent School District.

The Counseling Clinic, directed by Mr. Robert Patterson, provided Substance Abuse Screening for the general student body population.
The **Rehabilitation Career Planning Clinic** provided vocational testing and career guidance to adolescents participating in the Good-will Guide Program for at-risk populations in the surrounding community.

The **Rehabilitation & Counseling Programs** offered free anonymous depression screenings in recognition of National Depression Screening Day (NDSD). Attendees had the opportunity to complete a written self-assessment and talk one-on-one with a mental health counselor in training. Those who appear to need further evaluation will be given referrals to local treatment services.

The **School Psychology doctoral program** admitted its largest cohort since its upstart in 2009. Within this cohort, there were 82% (n = 9) females; 18% (n = 2) males; 82% (n=9) racial/ethnic majority; and 18% (n =2) racial/ethnic minority. We should also have at least one additional graduate, Dr. Marilyn Rumph, during this summer’s commencement.

The state-wide roster of doctoral-level licensed school psychologists, who were also licensed psychologists, was purchased to identify contacts for the purpose of identifying potential practicum and internship sites. Three viable sites resulted that agreed to serve as a future placement site based adherence to NASP and APA training standards: Jacksonville ISD, Deep East Texas Psychological Services, and the SFA Charter School. Beginning Fall 2014, the **SFA Charter School will serve as a paid, pre-doctoral internship site for the first time.**

For the purpose of recruitment, program brochures were mailed to all School Psychology programs nation-wide and an ongoing relationship was developed with the on-campus Psychology Department. The relationship with the on-campus Psychology program has resulted in early identification of future applicants through use of the Overlap program, which allows students to enroll in graduate (masters-level) courses prior to the completion of the undergraduate degree.

The **Speech and Language Pathology** program held their second, annual, mini-conference that consisted of 19 empirical-based research presentations of collaborations between graduate students and faculty.

The Department of Human Services has been notified that based on state law, HIPAA training is required of such faculty/staff and students every 2 years. Consequently, this was our first opportunity to receive access to such training for groups on-line. To be best informed, we assessed the website below, which provided us with a thorough overview of what HIPAA Compliance means and each of the training modules available: [http://www.hipaatraining.com/](http://www.hipaatraining.com/) **HIPAA for Healthcare Providers (Awareness) and Texas House Bill (HB) 300** (Two individuals from among the following ALSO must be designated as recipients of training in Security*): Dr. Kelly Jobe, Dr. Frank Brister, Lydia Richardson, Deena Peterson, Layne Debardelaben, Amy Durham, and Whitney Adams/Minix. **HIPAA for Mental Health Providers and Texas House Bill (HB) 300 (Awareness)** (Three individuals from among the following ALSO must be designated as recipients of training in Security*): Dr. Bill Weber, Robert Patterson, Dr. David Lawson, Dr. Ginger Kelso, Dr. Glen McCuller, and Dr. Luis Aguerrevere. The recommended designees for the Security training are directors and long-term administrative support for the unit. For example, the Healthcare Providers Security training recipients might be: Dr. Kelly Jobe and Lydia.
Richardson. Whereas, the Mental Health Providers Security training recipients might be: Robert Patterson (Counseling), Dr. Ginger Kelso (Basic Skills), and Dr. Luis Aguerrevere (Neuroscience Laboratory).

The SONA system, technology typically reserved for Psychology departments, was purchased to benefit faculty and students’ participation in research. Dr. Luis Aguerrevere assumed leadership of the oversight of this submission process and held a training workshop. The infusion of research participation in course syllabi will further support this chair-led initiative.

The Department had 100% program representation during each summer academic informational and Parents’ Day and Showcase Saturday’s orientation sessions with parents and incoming students.

Faculty/Staff Acknowledgements, Honors, & Awards

Dr. Luis Aguerrevere’s leadership in the revitalization of the Neuroscience Laboratory, productive engagement in recruitment for the School Psychology doctoral program, and successful grant-writing activity brought even greater positive attention to our departmental home-base and SFA!

Dr. Frank Brister, Associate Professor in the Speech & Language Pathology program, has been noted with appreciation for his contribution as a reviewer in the development of a newly published textbook: Martin, F.N. & Clark, J.G. (2015). *Introduction to audiology (12th edition)*. Pearson Publishing: Upper Saddle River, NJ. Dr. Brister was listed as one of the selected reviewers, each being a leader in his field, representing Mercy College, Utah State University, and Minnesota State University-Mankato. Thank you for making us all proud and adding to the strong, positive, reputation and nation-wide visibility of Stephen F. Austin State University and our Speech & Language Pathology program, which is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).

Ms. Deborah Cady, faculty in the Vision Impairment program, and instructor of the program’s required Braille course, was selected to serve on an expert review panel for the Texas Examination of Educator Standards (TExES) Braille Test Review Committee. Because the Texas Education Agency (TEA) recognizes that serving on a committee supports the professional growth of educators, Certificates of Completion will be issued to the esteemed professionals, who are invited to participate. What an honor that one of our own will represent SFA at the table in discussing and developing the future standards for training!

Ms. Deborah Cady, VI program clinical faculty, was awarded a pin and recognized for 25 years of continual service and commitment to the Texas AER and to the field of visual impairment in Texas.

Dr. Nina Ellis-Hervey, Assistant Professor in School Psychology, was invited by the Albany State University in Georgia to speak on College Students’ Psychological Health and Wellness as part of one of the seminar courses for New Freshman and will also serve as the keynote speaker for the Texas State University’s Women’s Empowerment Banquet. The keynote address described her unique
model of holistic health through maintaining psychological, spiritual, and emotional well-being. What an honor to be acknowledged across the nation as an expert in your field!

**Dr. Nina Ellis-Hervey** received numerous honors:

- Honored as a one of the chosen inspirational stories of holistically healthy living (mental, spiritual and physical health) for VIBE magazine (May 2014).
- Gary Job Corp Award of Contribution and Achievement Award as the keynote speaker of the 2014 Women’s Conference and for supporting the goals of the education of the Job Corps (April 2014).
- Colgate University Award of Contribution and Achievement as the keynote speaker of the 2014 Colgate University Wellness Talk Series presentation at the meeting of the Shaw Wellness Institute of Colgate University and for supporting the goals of the education of the Job Corps (April 2014).
- Albany State University Award of Contribution and Achievement as the keynote speaker of the 2014 meeting of the Albany State College Seminar Committee, Albany State University (November 2014).

**Dr. Nina Ellis-Hervey** developed a university-approved SFA School Psychology Assessment Center (SPAC) to provide students’ supervised training in assessment and report writing, which had been a limited in prior curriculum. The Center provides services to the university student population (i.e., Counseling Clinic, Medical Clinic, Military Sciences, and Charter School).

**Dr. David Lawson**, currently Professor in both the School Psychology and Community Mental Health programs, has received the honor of being selected by the American Counseling Association (ACA) to receive the ACA Fellow award for his exceptional contributions to the field of counseling. Recipients of the ACA Fellow award are recognized by long-standing leaders within the field of Counseling for their significant and unique contributions in professional practice, scientific achievement and governance, or teaching and training. Now, this is the standard language used to provide a most concise overview of what it means to be an ACA Fellow, but it really doesn't capture the degree of persisting, life-long commitment to excellence and significant impact in one's field of expertise. Dr. Lawson's numerous publications, including articles, chapters, and books, life-time, positively evaluated teaching, service on editorial boards of professional journals, mentorship of numerous students' scholarship, established expertise in the area of post-traumatic stress, and excellence as a practitioner and clinical supervisor meet the standard that establishes him to be considered among the best of the best in his field of study.

Dr. Paige Mask, Associate Professor & Graduate Coordinator in Special Education, served as the local sponsor and program organizer of the November 7th, Region VII conference entitled The A-Zs of Differentiating Instruction, and the December 9th conference entitled “G” Whiz. These on-campus opportunities for teachers’, faculty, and students’ professional development are excellent examples of professional leadership that brings Stephen F. Austin State University and the Special Education programs special visibility.

Heather Munro, adjunct faculty, was elected to a leadership position in the Orientation and Mobility Division of TAER. She was elected to a four-year term with the first two years serving as vice-chair and the next two as chair of the O&M Division.

Michael Munro, program director in the Visual Impairment program, has also taken a position on the planning committee for the AER International Bi-Annual Conference to be held in San Antonio in July 2014.

In June of 2014, Mr. Munro traveled with an eye medical team to work with teachers and students at an orphanage/school for the visually impaired in Tanzania, located in East Africa. His service there will result in children’s access to canes and devices, which they would not have otherwise. Good for you, Michael! We honor this exemplary act of service and appreciate your willingness to extend yourself in this very important work.

Michael Munro, tenure-track faculty and Co-director in the Vision Impairment program, has officially passed his Comprehensive Examination in the pursuit of his doctoral studies.

Dr. Kathy Sheriff, Assistant Professor in Special Education, served as an invited Board member of the Texas Chargers Organization and presented at their upcoming Annual Conference and Retreat at Camp Allen in Navasota, Texas: *Grandparenting Children with CHARGE Syndrome: Silver Crowns and Silver Linings*. The mission of the Texas Chargers is to encourage, educate, and enrich individuals and families living with CHARGE syndrome, a recognizable (genetic) pattern of birth defects.

Dr. Le’Ann Solmonson and Dr. Wendy Killam, faculty affiliated with our Counseling and Student Affairs graduate programs, have both been selected to receive a 2013 Texas Counseling Association Distinguished Service Award, which will be formally recognized and presented at the Texas Counseling Association’s Awards Ceremony during the 57th Annual Professional Growth Conference in San Antonio (11/21)! In addition to strong teaching and scholarship, these two have ALSO been recognized by their peers for exemplary service as well.

Dr. Robbie Steward was honored by the American Psychological Association (APA) as a Fellow in Division 35—Society for the Psychology of Women.


Frankie Swift and Michael Munro were key players at the state-level in negotiating guidelines for maintaining the current certificates in Vision Impairment. They were successful and effectively maneuvered in tense territory in discussion and resolution of the transition in rules and regulations related to initial and secondary certification.

Retirements (2)

Drs. Melanie McGill, Professor in Special Education, and Dr. Robert Choate, Professor in Rehabilitation Counseling, retired in December. Their long-standing presence as Lumberjacks will be very much missed!

Faculty/Staff Changes (12)

In addition to responsibilities as Department Chair, Dr. Robbie Steward, the Department Chair, also assumed the responsibilities of the position as Interim Program Director for the School Psychology program.

Dr. Wendy Killam, faculty in the Counseling and Student Affairs graduate programs, was promoted to Professor after a review by her peers. Congratulations are certainly in order for Dr. Killam!

Lydia Richardson moved from Clinical faculty status to assume a tenure-track appointment as Instructor as she pursues her clinical doctoral degree. Congratulations, Ms. Richardson!

Seven (7) faculty/staff searches were completed successfully: Dr. Daniel McCreary and Dr. Lisa McCreary (School Psychology); Dr. Frank Mullins (Special Education); Ms. Yuleinys Castillo (Counseling); Ms. Phoebe Okungu (Visual Impairment/Orientation & Mobility) and Ms. Lydia Richardson and Ms. D’Anna Nowack (Speech and Language Pathology/Communication Disorders). The faculty searches continue for two additional tenure-track positions: the Program Director of School Psychology and a Counseling position.

Dr. David Lawson, Professor in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and School Psychology, has moved on to assume a faculty position at Sam Houston State University. We wish for him continued success.

Ms. Crystal Evans was hired full-time as a secretary for the School Psychology program to assist the Department Chair in assuming the additional assignment of interim Program Director of School Psychology.
Special Announcements (3)

Congratulations to Lindsey Kennon, faculty in our Deaf and Hard of Hearing program, and family! Their brand new baby girl, Emerson Claire Kennon, was born April 22, 2014.

Congratulations to Crystal Evans, School Psychology program secretary, and family! Their brand new baby boy, De’Jayden Deadrian Deckard, was born September 13, 2013.

Congratulations to Dr. Le’Ann Solmonson, Program Director of Counseling, is now the proud grandmother, affectionately now known as Lolli to loved ones, to Benjamin David Eichler, who was born October 20, 2013.

Journal Publications (6)


Grants (5)

Dr. Luis Aguerrevere, Assistant Professor in both School Psychology and Speech and Language Pathology and Director of the Human Neuroscience Laboratory (HNL), is the recipient of a Provost-approved, $64,000 Research Development Program (RDP) funding for the upgrade of HNL equipment. Dr. Aguerrevere, a relatively new colleague onboard in the Department of Human Services, has completely revitalized the HNL as a research and training site and now has additional funds to continue in the updating of the technology toward extended engagement in assessment and service delivery to the university and surrounding Nacogdoches communities. We are grateful to have you among us, Dr. Aguerrevere!
Michael Munro, co-Program director and faculty in the Vision-Impairment program, and Barry Stafford, director and faculty in the Orientation and Mobility program, both received SFA Office of Research and Sponsored Programs’ mini-grants of $750 each in support of their travel to present their research results at the AER Orientation & Mobility Conference in New Orleans, LA, 12/10-14/2013. Michael Munro, tenure-track Instructor in Visual Impairment and Co-Program Director, was notified by the Student Engagement Programs – Leadership and Service that his Service Learning Grant proposal was accepted to receive funding for Spring 2014. The grant is hosted by the Braille and Cane Club, club faculty advisors, supported by students from rehab and O&M, and represents a partnership with DARS Division for Blind Services. The project involves the planning and hosting a spring celebration for area students who are visually impaired, their siblings, and families.

Michael Munro, tenure-track faculty and co-Program Director in Vision Impairment, was awarded a mini-grant for $750 to fund his travel to the AAACE conference in Lexington, Kentucky, November 5-8, 2013. This resource is seldom accessed, but thoughtful use can go a long way in supplementing departmental and the Perkins’ professional development resources. Thank you, Michael, for reminding us once again about accessing all on-campus professional development funds.

Dr. Kathleen Sheriff, Assistant Professor in Special Education, and Dr. Robin Johnson in Elementary Education, have been announced as the recipients of a SFA Service Learning Grant. What a model for cross-departmental collaboration in highlighting the importance of ‘inclusion’ of a diverse body of young students with disabilities. The public library is well stocked with books for children, but because of this effort, the library will receive a minimum of 30 specialized adapted books for interactive learning for children with special needs. This is great news for the children and even more so for the SFA College of Education and Special Education/Elementary Education programs. This is the kind of visibility and influence in the surrounding communities that enhances our reputation as change agents toward the common good of all.

Dr. Robbie Steward, department chair and Professor, submitted a grant proposal for $20,000 to the American Psychological Association (APA) to support the establishment of a School Psychology pre-doctoral internship with the SFASU Charter School. Dr. Steward developed an APA-based internship site manual and work with Ms. Lisa Hagan in establishing the first such formal collaboration between the School Psychology doctoral program and the SFA Charter School. The decision had not been finalized at the time of the annual report submission.

Presentations (48)
(Bold indicates Department faculty; Bold-red Department Student)


Cady, D. (2014, March). Fun and valuable experience in learning how to make your assessment fun and valuable. Texas Association for the Education and Rehabilitation for the Blind and Visually Impaired (TAER) statewide conference. Austin, TX.

Cady, D., Hallak, T., & DePountis, V. (2013, November). Body awareness and movement of students with multiple disabilities, including visual impairments. Presentation at the 2013 AER International Orientation & Mobility Conference, New Orleans, LA. (Excellent evaluations were received from attendees.)


Ellis-Hervey, N. (2014, April). The Road to Psychological Health and Wellness: The importance of holistic health. Keynote and presentation at the meeting of The World Natural Hair Show, Atlanta, GA.

symposium presentation at the meeting of the Howard University Black Student Law Group, Washington, DC.

Ellis-Hervey, N. (2014, April). The Road to Psychological Health and Wellness: The meaning in achieving all of your goals. Colgate University Wellness Talk Series presentation at the meeting of the Shaw Wellness Institute of Colgate University, Hamilton, NY.


Ellis-Hervey, N. (2013, November). The psychological health and wellness of college students. Keynote presentation at the meeting of the Albany State College Seminar Committee, Albany State University, Albany, GA.


Pogrund, R., Munro, M. P., Darst, S. (2014, March). *VISSIT, Visual Impairment Scale of Service Intensity of Texas: An innovative new tool to guide TVIs in determining recommendations for type and amount of service.* Texas Association for the Education and Rehabilitation for the Blind and Visually Impaired (TAER) statewide conference. Austin, TX.

Reed, J. & Munro, M. P. (2014, March). How do vision therapy reports fit into the education system? Texas Association for the Education and Rehabilitation for the Blind and Visually Impaired (TAER) statewide conference. Austin, TX.


Steward, R. J., & Ellis-Hervey, N. (2014, July). *Black Female Tenure-Track Faculty Change Agents on a Predominantly White Campus*. Symposium presentation at the annual meeting of the Association of Black Psychologist International Conference, Indianapolis, IN.


Steward, R. J. (2013, October). *Strategies for Effectively Maneuvering through Grief and Loss*. Invited presentation each semester by Communication Studies Professor, Dr. James Towns, in the SFA Department of Languages, Cultures, and Communication.

**Single Session.** A poster presented at the Applied Psychophysiology and Biofeedback Annual Conference. Savannah, Georgia.

**Non-refereed/Invited Publications (n=4)**


http://issuu.com/divinemagazine/docs/final_divinesurvivordigital_69d1e9e742473f/1


### FACULTY COMMITTEE SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Committee/Role</th>
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<td>Ginger Kelso</td>
<td>College Council</td>
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<td><strong>Paige Mask</strong></td>
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<td>Le’Ann Solmonson</td>
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<td>Nina Ellis-Hervey</td>
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<td>Robbie J. Steward</td>
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<td>Melanie McGill</td>
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STUDENT AWARDS/HONORS (5)

Our student, **Rudy Becerra was awarded the Texas Chapter Award.** The award is presented to the individual or organization, not responsible for direct delivery of services to persons who are blind or visually impaired, but who has, in one form or another, made an outstanding contribution to work for these persons. Possible recipients include legislators, eye care professionals, physicians, employers, public officials, and interested individuals or organizations.

**Jennifer Reed,** one of the returning students in the Visual Impairment program, who was nominated for recognition by Michael Munro, Program Co-Director. Ms. Reed was selected to receive a Delta Gamma Foundation Student Stipend to attend the American Foundation for the Blind’s (AFB) 2014 Leadership Conference in New York City at the New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge, February 27-March 1, 2014. The stipend covers conference registration which includes meals and up to three nights at the conference hotel. This speaks volumes regarding the quality of student she represents.

Four of our program **current students or recent graduates also presented at the Texas AER conference,** **Amanda Andersen, Jennifer Reed, Jill Cribbs, Lori King** (each for the first time). Ms. Reed was one of our recent completers in the M.Ed. project.

One of our School Psychology doctoral students has a major milestone to share: a successful dissertation defense! May 1, 2014 @ 10 AM, our soon-to-officially-be, **Dr. Marilyn L. Rumph,** successfully defended her dissertation entitled: *Application of Neural Network Technology for School Psychology.* The Committee, chaired by Dr. David Lawson, included Dr. Nina Ellis-Hervey, Dr. Chris Ninness (retired program director), and Dr. Michael Walker, Student Affairs’ Support Services Assistant Dean.

I am very pleased to announce the brand new affiliation that the School Psychology program now has with the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP). One of our doctoral students, **Cynthia Joachim,** has been accepted as one of a select group of NASP Student Leaders across the country. This affiliation will insure that our student body will be best informed about critical conversations in the field and resources available to them for professional development enhancement. Thank you, Cynthia, for agreeing to assume this position of leadership, increasing the national visibility of Stephen F. Austin State University and the doctoral program. Not only is the program in good standing with the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC), the Psychology Internship Matching process, we now have our students involved with NASP as well!