

**Department of
Speech and Hearing Science**

SHS

**2023 Honors
and Awards**



College of Applied Health Sciences

**APPLIED
HEALTH
SCIENCES**



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Dr. Pamela Hadley

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Dr. Cheryl Hanley-Maxwell

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Abigail Keasler

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Message from the Department Head



Dr. Pamela Hadley

On behalf of the Department of Speech and Hearing Science, I would like to congratulate the recipients of 2023 scholarships and awards. It is a privilege to lead a department with so many outstanding students and it is an honor to celebrate your many accomplishments with friends and families.

This year we also celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Department of Speech and Hearing Science. Throughout this year, we are celebrating 50 years of empowering lives through enhanced communication. As students in this department, you have become part of our collective story, embracing our mission to improve the quality of life for individuals with communication disabilities and their families. I am so impressed by your commitment to solving complex problems, your contributions to research and clinical practice, and your extensive participation in volunteer activities, campus organizations, and professional organizations.

Carry your enthusiasm for learning and creativity into your future endeavors. Be proud of the career paths you have chosen. Your commitment to enhancing communication will make a meaningful difference in the lives of countless individuals. My wish for each of you is that you continue to find purpose and fulfillment as you pursue your professional goals.





Message from the Dean

Dr. Cheryl Hanley-Maxwell

On behalf of the College of Applied Health Sciences, I would like to congratulate you on receiving scholarships and awards from the Department of Speech and Hearing Science and AHS. Your outstanding accomplishments in the classroom, clinic, research lab and community have earned this recognition. I could not be more proud of you for the commitment you have shown to the values and mission of AHS and your dedication to helping others.

You are already making life-changing differences in the lives of so many individuals. Your passion for making the world better will lead to many more contributions in your professional lives beyond campus, regardless of how you apply your degrees. May your work bring you much satisfaction, and may your lives be filled with joy and light. Know that you always have a home in the Department of Speech and Hearing Science, the College of Applied Health Sciences and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.



UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

Nanine S. Breon Scholarship

This scholarship was established by Nanine Breon (LAS 1972) in memory of her father, Robert Cartier. Recipients are juniors or seniors in good standing in the Department of Speech and Hearing Science who are preparing to work in a public school system.



Abigail Keasler

“I have always felt supported in the Speech and Hearing Science Department by my professors and other staff. This support is crucial for students furthering their education to become speech-language pathologists. Thank you again to all the friends and alumni of the department who make these scholarships possible for me and other students.”

Abigail is working toward a bachelor’s degree in SHS, with a graduation date of May 2024. She wants to be a speech-language pathologist who works with children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She said she is interested in working in this field because of her desire to positively impact others’ lives, specifically working with children with disabilities to improve communication outcomes at a young age and to give them a strong foundation for further development.

Abigail currently works as an undergraduate research assistant in Dr. Marie Moore Channell’s Intellectual Disabilities Communication lab. She primarily handles data entry tasks in the lab for a current research project studying autism and Down syndrome dual diagnosis. In the course of last year, she also participated in several enriching activities relevant to her studies. She completed a two-semester internship with The Autism Program, an office on campus that is funded through a state grant to provide resources for autistic individuals. As an intern, she fielded questions from parents, professionals and autistic individuals, in addition to creating and distributing resources like social stories and visuals.

Abigail previously earned the Fred S. Bailey Scholarship for Cause-Driven Leaders and has been a James Scholar and multiple Dean’s List honoree. In her free time, Abigail likes to travel, try new foods, kayak, hike, spend time with family and friends and volunteer.

Doris Strickland-Collins and Edward W. Collins Scholarship

The Doris Strickland-Collins and Edward W. Collins Scholarship was established to enhance and promote academic excellence in the College of Applied Health Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Applicants must be undergraduate students currently enrolled in the College of Applied Health Sciences.



Corrie Penrod

“I feel so honored to be receiving this scholarship. I feel like I am not alone as I work towards my career goals. I am supported by a network of people associated with the university who believe in my ability to accomplish my goal of working with people with disabilities to promote communication for all people of all abilities.”

Corrie is on track to graduate with a B.S. in December 2024. Her career goal is to become a speech-language pathologist to promote the adage that almost every SHS class at Illinois emphasizes: communication is a human right. Her father experienced a cervical level spinal cord injury, resulting in incomplete quadriplegia. During his time in the hospital the intelligence, skill and kindness of the medical professionals treating him made a lasting impact on him as he adapted to life as a disabled man. From a young age, Corrie remembers how highly her father spoke of those medical professionals and the positive impact they had on him.

Corrie said she has had numerous opportunities to supplement learning and expand her knowledge and skills outside of the classroom context. One of these opportunities was to work as an undergraduate research assistant through the SPARK program her freshman year. Through this experience, she was able to conduct her own research project on the Lombard Effect with a partner, compose the results of her study, and present the results at the Undergraduate Research Symposium.

Previously, Corrie has been listed on the Dean’s List and is a James Scholar. In her free time, she enjoys exercising and spending time outdoors.

Susan and Gerald Connor Scholarship

Gerald Connor received a B.S. in Finance from the University of Illinois in 1979. During his junior year he utilized the services of the Speech and Hearing Clinic and was able to overcome his speech impediment. He had a successful career in retail management and met his wife, Susan, in south Louisiana. Susan received her M.S. in Finance from LSU and worked there for 25 years. The Susan and Gerald Connor Scholarship is meant to support either undergraduate or graduate students.



Amber Dorn

"I am extremely honored to be the recipient of this year's Susan and Gerald Connor Scholarship. It feels incredible to have the support of the friends and alumni of the department in pursuing my degree in speech-language pathology. I am incredibly grateful for their kindness and strive to make them proud."

Amber is on track to graduate with a bachelor's degree in May 2023. She aspires to be a speech-language pathologist who works with children in a school setting. Amber had the opportunity to shadow a speech-language pathologist who delivered early intervention services to preschool students, and she was amazed at the range of communication skills the SLP worked on with the kids at such a young age.

Amber has worked as a research assistant in the Child Speech Research lab since her freshman year. In this time, she has assisted with data collection, organization, recruitment and scheduling of participants.

She has also worked as an intern at The Autism Program for two semesters. Common projects included personalized daily schedules, social stories, visual support for different activities and more.

Amber is a James Scholar and a member of the Campus Honors program, and was a SPARK scholar in her freshman year. Last year, she received the Nanine S. Breon Scholarship. In her free time, she enjoys reading, spending time with family and friends and playing with her dog Bella.

Joan Good Erickson Scholarship

The Joan Good Erickson Scholarship in Speech and Hearing Science was established by Professor Emerita Joan Good Erickson, who joined the faculty in 1963 and whose career was devoted to better understanding the needs of multicultural populations. The award honors undergraduate or graduate students in the department who have a demonstrated interest in multicultural issues.



Sarah Pechtl

"I feel privileged to receive the Joan Good Erickson award that encourages exploration in multicultural issues. As a leader of a bilingual organization, multiculturalism and multilingualism lie at the core of my academic interests and personal values. I am extremely grateful for the overwhelming support from alumni and friends that made this award possible."

Sarah is on track to graduate in May and plans to pursue graduate study in speech language pathology. She also hopes to participate in bilingualism research in graduate school, with plans to work in the public schools as a bilingual speech language pathologist.

Sarah has played a role in Dr. Channell's Intellectual DisAbilities Communication lab (IDCL) for four years, thanks to the Students Pursuing Applications, Research and Knowledge (SPARK) program. In Dr. Channell's lab, she became certified in the Systematic Analysis of

Language Transcripts (SALT) transcription, trained other students in transcription and was later able to apply her skills to several research projects in the Linguistics Department.

Sarah has been on the Dean's List multiple times, including Fall 2022 and was a lead presenter at the 2022 Undergraduate Research Symposium. In her free time, she enjoys reading, painting and trying new restaurants around campus.

Sylvia Wacker Herzog Scholarship

Sylvia Wacker Herzog received a B.S. (1948) and an M.S. (1972) in speech correction from the University of Illinois. Mrs. Herzog was employed as a speech-language pathologist in the Tuscola schools for four years and in the Champaign schools for 30 years. With a desire to support future generations of students, Mrs. Herzog established the Sylvia Wacker Herzog Scholarship to provide an opportunity for undergraduate or graduate students to pursue their career goals in the field of speech and hearing science.



Kirsten Osborn

“I am so thankful to receive the support from friends and alumni of the department; their kindness and generosity make a huge impact on the lives of students at the University of Illinois. Personally, the generous scholarship will allow me to continue the path of attending graduate school to earn my Doctor of Audiology degree.”

Kirsten is planning to graduate in May with a B.S. and plans to continue into graduate school to pursue an Au.D. in Audiology. After graduating from the program, she hopes to serve rural and underserved communities by providing easier access to audiological services to these types of communities.

Kirsten has assisted in Dr. Ian Mertes’s Hearing Research lab since January 2022. Throughout her time in Dr. Mertes’s lab, Kirsten has observed various aspects of the research process. She is currently assisting with creating an Institutional Review Board (IRB) protocol this semester. In the summer of 2021, she interned for the Rural Health Health Professions Summer Preceptorship Program in Dixon, Ill., shadowing various hospital department professionals.

Kirsten is a James Scholar and has been on the Dean’s List for five semesters. In the summer, she enjoys playing golf and said she cherishes any time that she can spend with family.



Corrie Penrod

“I feel so honored to be receiving this scholarship. I feel like I am not alone as I work towards my career goals. I am supported by a network of people associated with the university who believe in my ability to accomplish my goal of working with people with disabilities to promote communication for all people of all abilities.”

Corrie is on track to graduate with a B.S. in December 2024. Her career goal is to become a speech-language pathologist to promote the adage that almost every SHS class at Illinois emphasizes: communication is a human right. Her father experienced a cervical level spinal cord injury, resulting in incomplete quadriplegia. During his time in the hospital the intelligence, skill and kindness of the medical professionals treating him made a lasting impact on him as he adapted to life as a disabled man. From a young age, Corrie remembers how highly her father spoke of those medical professionals and the positive impact they had on him.

Corrie said she has had numerous opportunities to supplement learning and expand her knowledge and skills outside of the classroom context. One of these opportunities was to work as an undergraduate research assistant through the SPARK program her freshman year. Through this experience, she was able to conduct her own research project on the Lombard Effect with a partner, compose the results of her study, and present the results at the Undergraduate Research Symposium.

Previously, Corrie earned the Doris Strickland-Collins and Edward W. Collins Award, has been listed on the Dean’s List and is a James Scholar. In her free time, she enjoys exercising and spending time outdoors.

Barbara Williams Hodson Scholarship Fund

The Barbara Williams Hodson Scholarship recognizes high-achieving students who have demonstrated a commitment to service activities and leadership, who have an interest in applied phonetics/ phonology, and who intend to become certified Speech-Language Pathologists. Further preference is given to international students and/or US students who are bilingual.



Natalia Rzepa

“I am very grateful to receive the support of friends and alumni of the department. Receiving this award will ensure that I complete my current degrees and allow me to fund my future education in graduate school. Thank you for your support.”

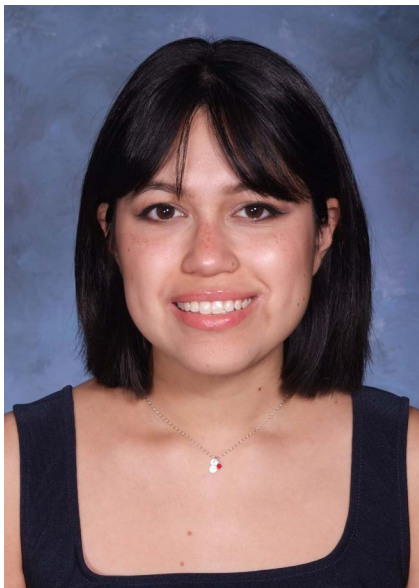
Natalia is on track to graduate in May with a bachelor’s degree in SHS and in May 2024 with a B.A. in Spanish. She is interested in becoming a speech-language pathologist. Specifically, she is primarily interested in swallowing disorders and hopes to work in a hospital setting.

Currently, Natalia is an undergraduate research assistant in Dr. Raksha Mudar’s Aging and Neurocognition lab. This semester, she is working on a project to present at the Undergraduate Research Symposium. More specifically, her group is analyzing strategic attention in older adults and younger adults.

Natalia is a James Scholar and a Chancellor’s Scholar, and was a recipient of the 2023 National NSSLHA Undergraduate Scholarship. In her free time, she enjoys being outdoors, and likes skiing, hiking and camping.

Frances L. Johnson Student Award

The Frances L. Johnson Student Award was created to provide financial support and recognition to undergraduate or graduate students pursuing clinical careers in speech, language and hearing science. Professor Emerita Frances L. Johnson, who established this award, served on the faculty for more than 30 years and was instrumental in raising the status of speech-language therapy programs in the public schools.



Madison Barrera

“I am incredibly grateful and honored to receive your support and assistance in my academic journey at the University of Illinois. It further drives me toward my ultimate goal of creating speech equity and encouraging students to promote acceptance and equality.”

Madison is a senior pursuing a bachelor’s degree in Speech and Hearing Science. After obtaining her undergraduate degree, she plans to earn a master’s degree and work as a speech-language pathologist for children with disabilities in the Chicago Public School system.

Madison currently volunteers with La Casa as a pen pal and mentor to bilingual students in the community. Encouraging young elementary students to practice their writing skills in English and Spanish is meaningful to her because it emphasizes the importance of keeping a connection to one’s culture and native language. She is also a member of the Intellectual DisAbilities Communication lab led by Dr. Channell,

which focuses on understanding communication development in individuals with disabilities.

Madison has been listed on the Dean’s List multiple times and was awarded the Nanine S. Breon Scholarship last spring. She enjoys crocheting pieces of clothing to share with friends and family, and also enjoys running and listening to live music.



Kassidy Reno

“I was honored to receive the Frances L. Johnson award. My experiences at the University of Illinois have created a passion for better speech and language outcomes for children, especially within the education system.”

Kassidy completed her B.S. in 2022 and plans to pursue a career as a speech language pathologist, working with children in order to reach their speech and language goals.

Kassidy said through her time working as a childcare provider, she has noticed a gap in communication between speech pathologists, parents and educational staff. She wants to create better family and faculty interactions in order to optimize outcomes for children in need of speech and language services.

Kassidy has worked part-time at Little Hearts and Hands in Urbana, and volunteered in the Developmental and Neurogenetic Disorders (DND) lab under Dr. Laura Mattie. She was named on the Dean’s List multiple times and in her free time spends time with family and friends and her three dogs.



Sylvia Techmanski

“Receiving this award is a warm feeling of external validation. I feel very extremely grateful to be supported by immensely passionate and generous individuals who have such a strong commitment to the study of Speech and Hearing Science that they give donations for the advancement and success of the next generation.”

Sylvia is working on dual degrees, planning to complete her B.S. in SHS and her B.A. in Spanish by May 2026. She intends to be a multilingual speech language pathologist who works with the Spanish, French and Portuguese speaking communities. The branch of linguistics relating to language acquisition is fascinating to her, she said. She hopes to work with multilingual children due to her interest in how the exposure of multiple languages effects the process of language acquisition.

She is currently volunteering in the community and working in one of the labs within the Speech and Hearing Science department. Sylvia spends two hours a week offering services to local Spanish-speaking Latina mothers at the university’s office for the Integrated Health Disparities Program. For research experiences, she is a language sample transcriber and coder for the university’s Applied Psycholinguistics Lab.

Sylvia was named to the Dean’s List for Fall 2022 and is a Chancellor’s Scholar. The two hobbies she spends most of her free time pursuing are language learning and fitness. She already speaks English and Spanish, but is attempting to add French and Portuguese to her skill set. When not engaged in languages, she enjoys working out, weightlifting, running, biking and playing volleyball.

Peter J. and Ella Montaleone Scholarship

Supported by generous gifts from family and friends, including daughters Tanya M. Gallagher and Mary Ann Tungate, this scholarship honors Peter and Ella Montaleone, longtime residents of Rockford, Ill., who were strong advocates of education. This award is designated for academically talented undergraduate students enrolled in the College of Applied Health Sciences.



Sophia Campa

“Receiving the Peter J. and Ella Montaleone Scholarship means the world to me. I am currently a sophomore here and I have big goals for my future. Receiving this scholarship reassures me that dreams are possible, and that someone believes I can succeed and achieve my goals of improving the quality of life for many.”

Sophia plans to graduate in May 2025 with a bachelor’s in SHS. She wants to become a pediatric speech-language pathologist. Coming out of graduate school, she would like to work in a children’s hospital, specifically helping those who have communication and swallowing problems resulting from brain injuries, strokes or other neurologic conditions.

Currently, Sophia is an active member in the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association at Illinois. Some of the volunteer work she has done through this club are letters of kindness and donations to the local food pantry. She is also working on learning American Sign Language.

Sophia has been a James Scholar and gotten multiple listings on the Dean’s List. She is also on the Illini rowing team, and rowing is something she likes to do in her free time because it gets her day started early at 6 a.m. and allows for maximum productivity the rest of the day.

Edmund J. James Scholars

The Edmund J. Scholars Program, named for the fourth president of the University of Illinois, is the honors program within the College of Applied Health Sciences. The program recognizes undergraduates who have achieved academic excellence and provides them with unique learning opportunities. The following students in the Department of Speech and Hearing Science are 2022-23 James Scholars.

Aamina-Nikole Adebayo	Amber Dorn	Sandra Marquez	Madison Russel
Lindsey Anderson	Maya Dye	Taylor Marzec	Collin Sexton
Julia Anodenko	Zamantha Figueroa	Madison Mattingly	Madeline Shannon
Audrey Arlis	Jennifer Girard	Olivia Maurer	Colleen Shea
Sophia Bach	Elizabeth Gremer	Taylor McCourt	Sara Siddiqui
Madison Barrera	Emily Hackett	Molly Moran	Annalise Soldano
Allison Benivegna	Natalie Hart	Emma Mueller	Samantha Spaulding
Gillian Bowman	Kayleigh Hester	Layna Mullink	Lauren Stec
Amy Burgess	Brenna Hurtado	Lena Neaveill	Makenzie Stevens
Sophia Campa	Margaret Jay	Ketsia Nzeza	Lauren Torres-Turnage
Samantha Chin	Mia Jayes	Katie O'Brien	Leyna Tran
Madelynn Cichocki	Estelle Jones	Kirsten Osborn	Alexandra Trekas
Brooklyn Clough	Abigail Keasler	Makayla Owens	MacKenzie Udani
Caroline Corcoran	Alexis Kent	Holly Panfil	Katherine Varak
Victoria Czochara	Valentina Krasiy	Athanasia Paraskevopoulos	Sofia Vasquez
Madelyn Danosky	Olivia Kuhl	Solomiya Pasternak	Taski Velasquez Perez
Cassidy Das	Josephine Lapapa	Corrie Penrod	Greta Verbrick
Andrea Davila	Isabella Lau	Tessa Perry	Avery Waner
Devin Denoyer	Emily Leon	Zoe Raptis	Hailey Wang
Alicia Diol	Emma Lorentzen	Karla Rodriguez	Sydney White
Melanie Dooley	Diana Makdah	Isabella Rogala	



GRADUATE AWARDS

Bob Bilger Graduate Student Awards

The Bob Bilger Graduate Student Award supports academically talented graduate students who are studying the auditory system. The Bilger Award was established by the late Bob Bilger (1926-2002) who served the Department of Speech and Hearing Science both as a faculty member and department head. Dr. Bilger was recognized internationally as one of the leading researchers in psychoacoustics and hearing.



Kaley Graves

“This award is an incredible honor to me because it is an acknowledgment of my hard work and dedication to the field of audiology. It will help further my academic and clinical training and serves as added motivation to continue to grow and develop into an excellent clinician.”

Kaley is working toward a doctorate in Audiology under the guidance of Dr. Mary Flaherty and hopes to complete her work by May 2025. She plans to specialize in pediatrics or the elderly, but has not decided yet. Her passion for pediatrics is largely because of her mother, who was her biggest advocate in childhood when coping with her own hearing loss.

Kaley currently serves as the president of the Student Academy of Audiology, which is a graduate student organization at Illinois that is dedicated to hearing outreach and protection when working with the public. Additionally, she has worked in hearing research since 2012 and has focused on highly specialized areas that range from regeneration of

hair cells in the cochlea using therapeutic targets in genetically modified mouse models to aging studies that look at the genetics of hearing loss and changes that occur in the auditory pathway.

Kaley was selected as a recipient of two scholarships by the American Academy of Audiology (in partnership with AudiologyOnline as well as Oticon) in August of 2022 based on her dedication to the profession and continued passion for learning. In her free time, she likes to read and play with her dogs.



Gibbeum Kim

“Receiving support from friends and alumni of the department who generously fund the awards program through their donations is an incredible feeling. It is heartwarming to know that individuals who have walked the same path as me and who share my passion for the field are invested in my success.”

Gibbeum hopes to pursue interdisciplinary research in auditory neuroscience after completing her Ph.D. in 2025. Mentored by Dr. Fatima Husain, she is working to identify biomarkers of tinnitus and other sound tolerance disorders by examining brain mechanisms and the psychological, neurological and audiological aspects of the disorders.

Gibbeum worked as a research and clinician at a major hospital in Korea, conducting brain imaging studies of single-side deafness. In her free time, she enjoys hiking and traveling.

Phyllis Ariens Burkhead Memorial Fellowship

The Phyllis Ariens Burkhead Memorial Fellowship is supported by a gift from Mr. Clyde Burkhead. He established the award in 1974 in memory of his late wife Phyllis who was a clinical supervisor in the department. The awards are granted to outstanding Ph.D. students who show strong clinical interest.



Namitha Jain

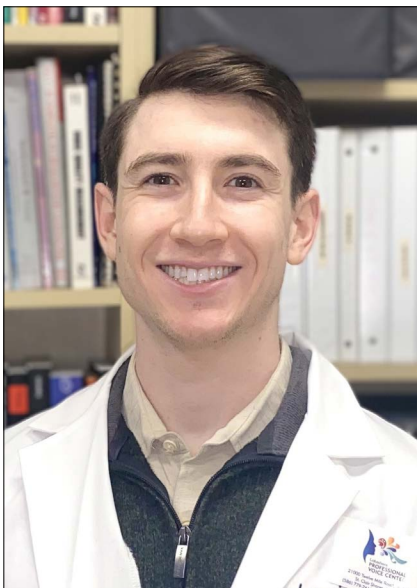
“Being supported by department friends and alumni, who generously fund the awards program, is an honor and privilege. It acknowledges the effort and commitment I have put into Speech and Hearing Science research and highlights the potential impact it can have on individuals and communities.”

After completing her Ph.D. in 2025, Namitha wants to pursue an academic career that includes research and teaching. She is passionate about the field of Speech and Hearing Science and wants to contribute to the field by conducting research, making a positive impact in the lives of individuals with hearing disorders and educating future generations of professionals.

Namitha’s interest lies in understanding the neurophysiological underpinnings of hearing loss and hearing related disorders such as tinnitus (ringing sensation), hyperacusis (decreased tolerance to everyday sounds) and misophonia (hatred of specific sounds). Although these are hearing disorders, their negative effects are not limited to the

auditory domain; they also have an adverse effect on individuals’ emotional well-being, which has recently piqued her interest in understanding the role of cognitive control of emotion in these people.

Namitha is a two-time recipient of the TATA Education and Development Trust Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to students with good academic standing who are pursuing a master’s degree in Audiology and/or Speech-Language Pathology. In her free time, she loves to dance as a way of unwinding and recharging.



Charles Nudelman

“These awards are not just financial assistance, but a validation of my hard work to date; they awards allow me to continue pursuing my dreams, and they reinforce my commitment to research.”

Charles is working on a Ph.D. in SHS under the guidance of Dr. Pasquale Bottalico and intends to pursue a career as a professor in higher education. So far, his research path has been paved by generous mentors, and he hopes to provide similar support to future students.

Charles’ research and clinical interest is voice. As an undergraduate, he established a strong foundation of clinically oriented voice research through involvement in various scientific projects that shared a common thread of actionable outcomes related to clinical voice evaluations. These studies focused on clinical voice recordings and instrumentation, the influence of speaking environment on voice intelligibility and diagnostic voice evaluations.

Charles’ Ph.D. research is centered on the role of real- and virtual-sensory input during voice production, and his interest in voice continues in his free time. He enjoys exploring the vast world of music and listening to audiobooks, particularly those narrated by voice actors who bring the characters to life.

Joan Good Erickson Scholarship

The Joan Good Erickson Scholarship in Speech and Hearing Science was established by Professor Emerita Joan Good Erickson, who joined the faculty in 1963 and whose career was devoted to better understanding the needs of multicultural populations. The award honors undergraduate or graduate students in the department who have a demonstrated interest in multicultural issues.



Tania Aguilar

“I am so thankful to those that selected me for the award. Knowing that there are people on my team, supporting me and cheering me on is exactly what keeps me going. I am so thankful to those that believe in me and continue to see success for me.”

Tania is working toward her Au.D. in Audiology and is on track to complete by May 2025 under the guidance of Dr. Mary Flaherty. Tania said she likes working with a variety of patients and appointment types and ideally would work in a hospital setting.

Tania said she is passionate about community health and outreach. She has volunteered in multiple community settings to spread awareness about hearing health and audiological services, including presenting at a local elementary school, the Urbana Farmer’s Market and a community class.

Under the guidance of Dr. Flaherty, Tania is collaborating with the Illinois Fire Service Institute, hoping to understand how the listening experience of firefighters helps them understand speech-in-noise despite possible noise-induced hearing loss. In her free time, Tania likes to walk her dogs, work out and watch shows/movies.

Dean C. and Kathleen R. Garstecki Audiology Graduate Scholarship

The Dean C. and Kathleen R. Garstecki Audiology Graduate Scholarship recognize outstanding graduate students in Audiology. Dean holds a Ph.D. degree in Audiology from the University of Illinois. During his career as a clinical and research audiologist, he has held faculty appointments at several major universities, including 35 years at Northwestern University where he served as a Speech and Hearing Science Professor and Department Chair. Kathy, a retired health care professional and hospital administrator, has taken courses at the University of Illinois and holds an MBA degree from Northwestern.



Rachel Lowrance

“I am blessed and extremely grateful to receive the support of friends and alumni of the department. Illinois is special in the fact that no matter when you go to school, or if you are on or off campus, you are always part of the Illinois family. This special family supports one another, changes the world and makes a big impact.”

Rachel is working toward a Doctorate of Audiology, working with Dr. Pasquale Bottalico. When she graduates in May 2025, Rachel’s career goal is to become a certified and licensed clinical audiologist. She is interested in this profession because she is able to use her background in music and interest in the auditory system to help others.

As an undergraduate, Rachel got her first taste of research while working hands-on in Dr. Bottalico’s lab (Speech Accommodation to Acoustics–SpAA). Since then, she has been able to continue to grow her research knowledge/experience through her capstone project. Her area of research interest is music and its impact on the auditory system. The way that music impacts the auditory system (positively and negatively), music and its properties as a signal and the importance of the auditory system for musicians intrigues her.

In her free time, Rachel’s main hobby is riding and showing her horse, This Invitations Mine (AKA Finn), at state, national and world-level breed shows. Aside from horse riding, she also enjoys reading, singing and arts/crafts (e.g., crochet, drawing, and embroidery).

Nancy S. Hager and Chester L. Hager Graduate Student Award

The Nancy S. Hager Graduate Student Award in Speech and Hearing Science honors Mrs. Nancy S. Hager (1935-2000), who received a degree in speech correction from the University of Illinois in 1957 and went on to serve a 29-year career with the Carbondale School District, helping children overcome speech and language disabilities. The award was established by her family to support a second-year graduate student who plans to work in public schools.



Rebecca DeAcetis

“I am incredibly honored to receive the Nancy S. Hager and Chester L. Hager Graduate Student Award. I was flattered to even be considered for a Speech and Hearing Science scholarship, and I was even more humbled and grateful to be recognized by such esteemed faculty and alumni.”

Rebecca is working toward completion of a master’s degree by August, working with Dr. Raksha Mudar. As a graduate clinician on the verge of becoming an independent service provider, Rebecca is very interested in bilingual Speech-Language Pathology. Being proficient in both Spanish and American Sign Language (ASL), she plans to integrate these skills into her clinical practice as a tool to provide linguistically competent care.

Over the last six months, Rebecca has worked with bilingual English-Spanish students from the elementary to high school level. These experiences working with bilingual individuals have been incredibly rewarding, she said, and many of these individuals are vastly underserved due to lack of resources and professionals fluent in their dominant language. Currently, she works as an Enrichment Teacher at Carle Foundation Hospital’s Expanding Children’s Hearing Opportunities (ECHO) branch, which provides responsive therapy and education for children with hearing loss.

Rebecca was awarded the Bronze Tablet in 2021 and was recipient of the H. William Porterfield, M.D., and Linda Obenauf Porterfield Speech and Hearing Graduate Fellowship (2022). In her free time, she loves to spend time outside with friends and family, and she loves to travel and plans to do so after graduation.

Sylvia Wacker Herzog Scholarship

Sylvia Wacker Herzog received a B.S. (1948) and an M.S. (1972) in speech correction from the University of Illinois. Mrs. Herzog was employed as a speech-language pathologist in the Tuscola schools for four years and in the Champaign schools for 30 years. With a desire to support future generations of students, Mrs. Herzog established the Sylvia Wacker Herzog Scholarship to provide an opportunity for undergraduate or graduate students to pursue their career goals in the field of speech and hearing science.



Shay Scheri

"I am thankful to the donors of this award for their willingness to support young professionals in the field of speech language pathology. Their commitment to the program helps students achieve their educational and career goals by offsetting expenses through the scholarship."

Shay plans to graduate in May with a master's degree, and her goal is to work in a public school as she has always had a strong interest in working with children to ensure that each individual child is supported in an environment in which they can grow and thrive.

Graduate school has provided Shay with an abundance of experiences, in the school setting, working with children with a variety of diagnoses and speech, language and communication goals. She worked with preschool children at an Early Learning Center in Springfield, Ill., as well as deaf and hard of hearing children at Carle Auditory Oral School in Urbana. These experiences have allowed her to gain a better understanding of various diagnoses and the skills needed to address each student's needs.

Shay says she enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling and being outdoors, especially when it is warm. She also loves attending University of Illinois sporting events and watching her brother play baseball at Creighton University.

Frances L. Johnson Student Award

The Frances L. Johnson Student Award was created to provide financial support and recognition to undergraduate or graduate students pursuing clinical careers in speech, language and hearing science. Professor Emerita Frances L. Johnson, who established this award, served on the faculty for more than 30 years and was instrumental in raising the status of speech-language therapy programs in the public schools.



Melissa Hauptman

“I really appreciate the generous supporters of the department and M.A.-SLP program. I’m eager to continue capitalizing on all Illinois has to offer with the help of this award! I’m so thankful to receive the support of friends and alumni of the department and I appreciate their generosity!”

Melissa is pursuing an M.A.-SLP with an expected graduation of May 2024. She’s not exactly sure what setting and specific population she wants to work with yet, but hopes to be a pediatric SLP.

During her undergraduate career at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Melissa majored in Communication Sciences and Disorders with a minor in Disability Rights and Services. Outside of coursework, she was involved in communication research in the field of developmental disabilities. She also participates in research at the Intellectual DisAbilities Communication lab.

In her free time, Melissa enjoys going to coffee shops around Champaign-Urbana and going to yoga classes.



Elaine Paden Award

The Elaine Paden Award was established through gifts from former students and colleagues of Professor Emerita Elaine Paden and is supported through the ongoing generosity of alumni and friends of the Department of Speech and Hearing Science. Dr. Paden, who served on the faculty from 1952-1983, was known nationally for her pioneering work in phonology. The award recognizes students who demonstrate outstanding academic merit and who conduct research in the area of phonology.



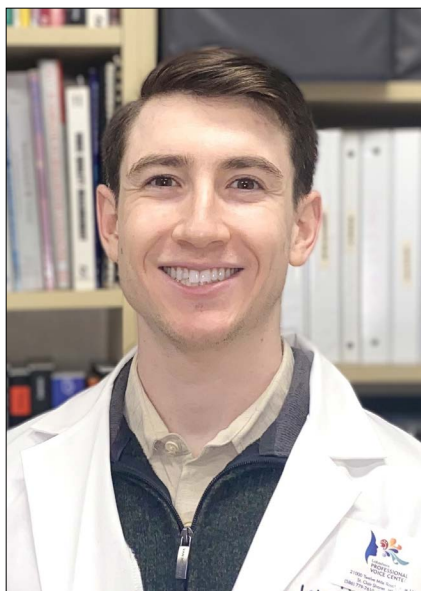
Eliza Baby

“Having been awarded this prestigious honor in the form of the scholarship means a lot to me and my family. This award is the universe supporting me in my attempt to give back to science and the mankind. I am grateful to every person who made this recognition a reality for me.”

Eliza is working toward a doctorate in Speech and Hearing Science, and hoping to complete her Ph.D. by May 2027. Her intention is to develop and advance evidence-based research in communication sciences and disorders.

Eliza has gathered clinical and research expertise in the diagnosis and management of acquired communication and swallowing disorders across lifespan. Her current work focuses on understanding the neurocognitive aspects of communication in the aging population.

Among Eliza’s past honors include University of Mysore Honor Gold Medal for securing highest academic merit in the master’s in Speech Language Pathology, and award for outstanding academic merit in Year 1 Bachelors in Speech Language Pathology and Audiology. Eliza loves spending time with her two-year-old son, and loves experimenting with cooking and taking Latin American salsa lessons.



Charles Nudelman

“These awards are not just financial assistance, but a validation of my hard work to date; they awards allow me to continue pursuing my dreams, and they reinforce my commitment to research.”

Charles is working on a Ph.D. in SHS under the guidance of Dr. Pasquale Bottalico and intends to pursue a career as a professor in higher education. So far, his research path has been paved by generous mentors, and he hopes to provide similar support to future students.

Charles’ research and clinical interest is voice. As an undergraduate, he established a strong foundation of clinically oriented voice research through involvement in various scientific projects that shared a common thread of actionable outcomes related to clinical voice evaluations. These studies focused on clinical voice recordings and instrumentation, the influence of speaking environment on voice intelligibility and diagnostic voice evaluations.

Charles’ Ph.D. research is centered on the role of real- and virtual-sensory input during voice production, and his interest in voice continues in his free time. He enjoys exploring the vast world of music and listening to audiobooks, particularly those narrated by voice actors who bring the characters to life.

H. William Porterfield, M.D., and Linda Obenauf Porterfield Speech and Hearing Graduate Fellowship

The H. William Porterfield, M.D., and Linda Obenauf Porterfield Speech and Hearing Graduate Fellowship is supported through a gift from Dr. and Mrs. H. William Porterfield. Linda received a 1968 AB degree in the teaching of speech from the University of Illinois. The fellowship rewards master's students who demonstrate exceptional academic merit and who plan to be practitioners in the field of speech, language and hearing science.



Emily Falcon

"I am incredibly grateful to the Speech and Hearing Science department and the Porterfield family for helping me complete my professional degree! I am not able to envision attending the University of Illinois without this support. I am so thankful for the friends and alumni of the Speech and Hearing Science department!"

When Emily completes her M.A. in SHS in May 2024, she hopes to work as a bilingual SLP at a Title I early childhood program in her home state of North Carolina. Though her primary interest is working with children, she is also passionate about supporting families, especially those who face barriers when accessing services for their children.

Emily has participated in Dr. Laura Mattie's Development in Neurogenetic Disabilities lab as a research assistant since her first year at Illinois (2021). During her undergraduate career, she interned at the TEACCH Autism Clinic in Charlotte, where she shadowed clinical psychologists, aided in their evaluation process and assisted in the execution of their annual TEACCH Summer Training (2019).

In November 2022, Emily presented the lab's research during a poster presentation at the annual ASHA convention. In her free time, she enjoys reading and visiting the Arboretum.



Erin Ahern Redding

“I feel honored to be awarded the H. William Porterfield, M.D., and Linda Obenauf Porterfield Speech and Hearing Graduate Fellowship. Although I have only attended the University of Illinois for a short time, the department has been so welcoming to me and I have loved being a part of this supportive and positive environment.”

When Erin completes her master’s degree in May, her goal is to work in many settings as a speech-language pathologist, including working in schools and in medical settings. She is currently working with children, ages birth to three years old, and she evaluates the child’s language and feeding skills while working with the parents to promote development in these areas.

Erin has volunteered for the Special Olympics to administer hearing assessments to Special Olympic athletes with audiology students and other speech language pathology students. She has many areas of

interest in the field of speech language pathology. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, reading, painting and watching movies.



Camille Osborne

“It is exciting to be recognized by the Speech and Hearing Science department and nominated for The H. William Porterfield, M.D., and Linda Obenauf Porterfield Speech and Hearing Graduate Fellowship. The support of alumni and friends of the department gives me and other students that extra push to keep striving towards their academic and career goals without extra worry.”

When Camille completes her master’s degree in 2024, she plans to become an accredited speech-language pathologist. She feels she can make a positive impact in the lives of each individual and parent she sees. She also has a goal to open a private practice in her hometown to offer affordable speech and language services to families of lower socioeconomic status.

Camille has been a research assistant of the Applied Psycholinguistics lab since the summer of her senior year of undergraduate studies. This lab entails research related to how children typically develop language and children who are at risk for language disorders. Her main areas of research interest are preschool language disorders and augmentative and alternative communication (AAC).

Camille, who competes on the Illini track and field team, was named to the Academic All Big Ten team and has been a multiple honoree of the Dean’s List. She enjoys running, working out and volunteering.

John C. and Judith D. Turner Applied Health Sciences Scholarship

The John C. and Judith D. Turner Applied Health Sciences Scholarship will be awarded to graduate students in SHS from the state of Illinois, with a preference to students who give back to the university and community through volunteerism. John received three degrees from the University of Illinois from the College of ACES (1955 & 1959) and College of Education (1964) and Judith received a degree in speech correction from the University of Illinois (1959).



Kaley Graves

“This award is an incredible honor to me because it is an acknowledgment of my hard work and dedication to the field of audiology. It will help further my academic and clinical training and serves as added motivation to continue to grow and develop into an excellent clinician.”

Kaley is working toward a doctorate in Audiology under the guidance of Dr. Mary Flaherty and hopes to complete her work by May 2025. She plans to specialize in pediatrics or the elderly, but has not decided yet. Her passion for pediatrics is largely because of her mother, who was her biggest advocate during childhood when coping with her own hearing loss.

Kaley currently serves as the president of the Student Academy of Audiology, which is a graduate student organization at Illinois that is dedicated to hearing outreach and protection when working with the public. Additionally, she has worked in hearing research since 2012

and has focused on highly specialized areas that range from regeneration of hair cells in the cochlea using therapeutic targets in genetically modified mouse models to aging studies that look at the genetics of hearing loss and changes that occur in the auditory pathway.

Kaley was selected as a recipient of two scholarships by the American Academy of Audiology (in partnership with AudiologyOnline as well as Oticon) in August of 2022 based on her dedication to the profession and continued passion for learning. In her free time, she likes to read and play with her dogs.



Jillian Campbell

“I am very honored to be chosen as a recipient of The John C. and Judith D. Turner Applied Health Sciences Scholarship! Being chosen for this award shows me that the faculty, friends and alumnae of this program are confident I can uphold the beliefs set forth by John C. and Judith D. Turner.”

Jillian is working toward an Au.D. under the guidance of Dr. Mary Flaherty and is on track to complete her doctorate by May 2024. Looking forward to the next step in her career, Jillian will be completing her fourth-year clinical externship at Emory University in Atlanta, beginning in May. She'll be working primarily with an adult population with an emphasis on hearing devices, such as hearing aids, cochlear implants and bone-anchored hearing systems. After obtaining her Doctorate of Audiology, Jillian would like to continue working in a large hospital setting with patients across the age range.

Jillian has acted as a front desk associate at the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Clinic since January 2021, and is also involved in multiple research studies as a part of the Child Speech Research Lab under the direction of Dr. Flaherty.

In her free time, she enjoys reading, spending time with friends and family and playing with her dogs.

William K. and Emily H. Wickhorst Scholarship

This scholarship was established to support fellowships at the graduate level for studies in speech disorders with preference being given to the study of stuttering.



Vaishnavi Krishna

“It is truly an honor to be a recipient of this scholarship. This scholarship will allow me to stay motivated and will help me succeed in my goals and aspirations. I feel extremely blessed to study in an environment that passionately supports speech language pathologists in the field of research and academics.”

Vaishnavi plans to graduate in May with a master’s degree in SHS and said the training has equipped her with academic and clinical expertise and enabled her to apply this knowledge to the diagnostic, therapeutic and educative roles of a speech-language pathologist. Vaishnavi also works as a research assistant at the Exercise, Technology and Cognition lab under the guidance of KCH Associate Professor Sean Mullen.

In the future, Vaishnavi hopes to be a practicing speech-language pathologist and be involved in clinical research investigating cognitive changes in individuals with neuro-communication disorder and its

effects on feeding and swallowing function.

Vaishnavi is passionate about identifying, examining and executing the most effective pioneering methods for maximizing communication, health and well-being in individuals with dysphagia and neuro-communication disorders, and hopes to study and explore varying patterns of swallowing in individuals with cognitive communication disorders. In her free time, Vaishnavi enjoys going on long walks or a run.



Elisabeth Coster

“Words cannot express how grateful I am to have received the William K. and Emily H. Wickhorst Scholarship. Because of your generosity, I will be able to support expenses for future research and graduate experiences, including presenting my first study at a national conference and relocating for a summer externship at Mayo Clinic.”

Elisabeth plans to complete an M.A. in speech-language pathology by August and hopes to pursue a Ph.D. next. She has been a research assistant in the Voice and Rehabilitations lab and Speech Accommodations lab, and has been collecting data related to voice and the cognitive effort associated with speech tasks.

Her current areas of research include studying the differential diagnosis process between expert and novice clinicians of vocal tremor. The goal of this project is to better equip younger clinicians in the skill and subsequent treatment of voice disorders.

Prior to graduate school, Elisabeth participated in semi-professional and professional productions, and in her spare time, she loves to bake, sing, participate in a local church, hike and do house projects with her significant other.

Ehud and Janie Yairi International Graduate Student Award

The Ehud and Janie Yairi International Graduate Student Award is supported through a gift made by Dr. and Mrs. Ehud Yairi. Dr. Yairi is internationally recognized for his research on stuttering. Janie, a retired speech-language pathologist, is actively involved in many Champaign-Urbana public service organizations. The award recognizes outstanding international doctoral students in the department with preference given to those students who are pursuing research related to stuttering.



Gibbeum Kim

“It is a great honor to be recognized by individuals who understand the importance of education and the impact it can have on individuals and communities. I am grateful for their generosity and support and will do my best to make the most of this opportunity.”

Gibbeum hopes to pursue interdisciplinary research in auditory neuroscience after completing her Ph.D. in 2025. Mentored by Dr. Fatima Husain, she is working to identify biomarkers of tinnitus and other sound tolerance disorders by examining brain mechanisms and the psychological, neurological, and audiological aspects of the disorders.

Gibbeum worked as a research and clinician at a major hospital in Korea, conducting brain imaging studies of single-side deafness. In her free time, she enjoys hiking and traveling.





ADDITIONAL RECOGNITION

Ron and Sonita Gaitros Scholarship

Alexandria Barkhimer

Silvia Murgia

Rebekah Bosley

Kaley Graves

Elisabeth Coster

Gibbeum Kim

Applied Health Sciences Student Council

Sarah Pechtl

National Student Speech-Language- Hearing Association Executive Board

Emilie Schramer, President

Natalia Rzepa, Vice President

Emma Mueller, Secretary

Alexandra Trekas, Treasurer

Student Academy of Audiology Executive Board

Kaley Graves, President

Yadira Alonzo Espinoza, Vice President

Madison Oakes, Secretary

Yoonjee Sim, Treasurer

Rhiannon Hinckley, Membership Director

Rachel Lowrance, Public Relations Director

American Sign Language and Deaf Culture Club Executive Board

Dahlia Davis, President

Alexis Ferraren, Vice President

Sara Siddiqui, Secretary

Sydney White, Treasurer

Christopher Perdriau, Membership Director





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