

Mississippi University for Women Speech and Hearing Center Fall 2016 Newsletter

WELCOME to the 2016 edition of the MUW Speech-Language Pathology Program's annual newsletter! This year's theme is the Wizard of Oz. Just like it took courage, heart, and brains to navigate the land of Oz, it takes that and more to achieve great things for this profession. We are proud of a program that has a legacy of preparing students to face whatever adventure awaits them when they graduate. Following the yellow brick road this semester are 13 new graduate students, eager to find their place during practicum and help client's achieve wonderful things. Best of luck ladies! Let the adventure begin!



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The 1st year graduate students were thrown a party to end the long week of orientation. Each day of orientation, the girls learned some foundational knowledge about what to expect during their first clinical experience and what all was expected of them as new clinicians.

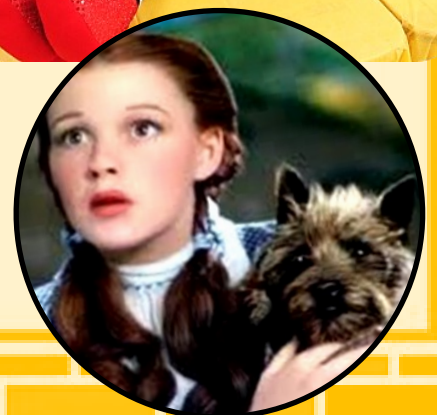


Pictured below from L to R on the top row: Kate Ellard, Amanda Randolph, Ruth Foster, Ashley Smith, Haylie Savage, Krysta Randolph, and Cynthia Carter.

From L to R on the bottom row: Mary Heflin Alexander, Shellie Smith, Sadie Fears, Lexie Higgins, Emily Sanderson, and Emily Floyd



Toto, I've a feeling
we're not in undergrad
anymore.



Meet the Newest Girls in Oz!

Mary Heflin Alexander earned her undergraduate degree in psychology at Mississippi State University. She was born and raised in Meridian, Mississippi. Her passion is in dancing, especially with her hula hoop!

Cynthia Carter, from Caledonia, MS, received her undergraduate degree in SLP from the W in 2015. She is excited about her future in the field of Speech-Language Pathology.

Kate Ellard earned her first bachelor degree in Elementary Education from Mississippi State University in 2010. Teaching for 3 years in Natchez, Mississippi led her to want to further her education but was undecided about the direction. After being randomly exposed to the work of a speech-language pathologist, she knew she had found the perfect profession. After moving to the area in 2014, she earned her second Bachelor's degree in Speech-Language Pathology from The W in 2016. She claims that by the grace of God she was accepted to The W's Graduate program this fall, and is loving every second so far!

Sadie Fears earned her undergraduate degree in speech language pathology from MUW! She is from Saltillo, MS and got married this past summer on June 4. She says she is loving married life.

Emily Floyd from Booneville, MS, got her undergraduate degree from MUW in Speech-Language Pathology. She loves to read, travel, and spend time with her family. Emily says, "I chose speech path because I wanted to be in a field where I helped people every day. After researching careers and shadowing an SLP, I knew speech path was where I wanted to be. I am excited to start my graduate school journey!"

Ruth Foster received her undergraduate degree in Speech-Language Pathology from MUW. She is from Cedar Bluff, Mississippi- a small community north of Starkville. Ruth loves to read and loves all things football! As a little girl, she learned ventriloquism and occasionally performs for churches and community groups.

Lexie Higgins earned her undergraduate degree at The W in Speech Pathology. She is from Tupelo, MS. She loves coffee, speech pathology, and Jesus! She is engaged and getting married on December 17th!

Amanda Randolph earned her bachelor's degree in Speech-Language Pathology from Mississippi University for Women in December of 2015. Her original plan was to enroll in nursing school at USM, but knew it was not her niche. She is affiliated with the Air Force and stumbled upon speech-language pathology shortly after moving to Columbus. Amanda says that she absolutely loves the W and, more specifically, the speech-language pathology program because it is a very intimate and client focused program.

Krysta Randolph earned her undergraduate degree in Speech-Language Pathology at The Mississippi University for Women. She is from Fulton, Mississippi. She is engaged and will be getting married on October 1, 2016.

Emily Sanderson earned her undergraduate degree in Speech-Language Pathology at MUW. She is from Aberdeen, Mississippi and got married in July! When she has her morning prayer time and daily exercise, it is a great day for her!

Halie Savage graduated with her undergraduate degree at MUW, majoring in Speech-Language Pathology, minoring in Public Health. Her hobbies include dancing, fishing, and attending church small-groups.

Ashley Smith received her undergraduate degree at The W in Speech-Language Pathology. Her father inspired her to pursue speech pathology her junior year of high school. She enjoys travelling, watching movies, and spending time with her family. Ashley is from Corinth, Mississippi and is so excited to become a speech-language pathologist one day!

Shellie Smith earned her undergraduate degree from MUW in Speech Pathology, with a minor in Psychology. She is from Brookhaven, Mississippi, but Starkville is her second home. She loves speech pathology and can't wait to see where her future takes her!



Camp Jabber Jaw at the T.K. Martin Center on MSU's campus was held on June 5-10, 2016, and the 2nd year grad students served as camp counselors, group leaders, and communication partners to the campers. The **focus** of Camp Jabber Jaw is to help children who need and use augmentative and alternative communication devices by immersing them in an environment in which they can feel comfortable to use their "talkers" **to communicate with other children who are like them.** "Safari, So Good" was the theme of camp, and as usual, the T.K. Martin Center was extravagantly decorated with life-sized stuffed animals, jungle foliage, and even the Amazon River!

Camp began each day with different age groups leading the flag ceremony on their devices. Then, campers participated in a ton of **fun activities** each day, including scavenger hunts, horseback riding, obstacle courses, an old fashioned egg race, and more! Many campers went **swimming** at the Sanderson Center's pool each evening and participated in **movie night**. On one very special day, campers were able to interact with **a snake!** The most fun was had at **the dance** in which campers, parents, and the grad students dressed up as Jungle Boogey-ers and danced together for hours! The **graduate students learned a great deal** during this awesome week, and made memories and friendships that will never be forgotten!



This year's NSSLHA officers pictured from left to right: vice president, Shelby Serio, president, Alyka Williams, treasurer, Elizabeth King, and secretary, Lexy Pharr



NSSLHA News



For their fall service project, members will be gathering canned goods, nonperishables, and children's books to deliver to Starkville and Columbus food pantries in time for the holidays. In January, members will be participating in legislative day. MUW's NSSLHA chapter and others from MS will go to the state capital to advocate for our profession. They will also perform hearing screenings on legislators and representatives.



Awards

At the MSHA conference this year, **Mary Margaret Robbins** received the Outstanding Graduate Student Award. The outstanding graduate student is selected by the faculty. Some of her fellow classmates knew about the award and got her there for the presentation without letting her in on the secret. They cheered her on along with the faculty and some 1st year grads and undergraduate students.

Pictured to the right are **Mallory Little** and **Megan Givens**. Mallory received the Academic Award for maintaining the highest average in the 1st year graduate class, and Megan received the Clinical Award for her hard work and creativity in her first year of clinic .



Here lately...



Dr. Smith and some of the 1st year grads conducted hearing screenings at Heritage Academy and Columbus Middle School on September 15th and 19th.



As a follow-up to her presentation on Autism in December 2015, Mrs. Hanson wrote an article entitled "Light It Up Blue Year Round" for the New Teacher Institute Spring 2016 E-Newsletter. In April, she presented on early literacy and the warning signs of dyslexia at the First United Methodist Church Child Development Center in West Point. The Speech and Hearing Center now serves 15 clients with dyslexia and the graduate students are getting wonderful experience in diagnosing and treating it.

The Demonstration School (now Turner Hall) is being recommissioned as an academic building to support the enrollment growth in the College of Nursing and Speech-Language Pathology.

Mrs. Townsend has been working on the plans for Turner Hall and is super excited that the speech-language pathology program has been selected to occupy this new facility. Hopefully, many of you will attend the dedication in the fall of 2018. It would be great to see you and catch up on your professional and personal lives. In the meantime, send us updates or drop by for a visit. We are always glad to hear from you.



Faculty and Staff: What's Happening Behind the Curtain?

Mrs. Townsend writes, "It is difficult to believe that another year has passed and it is time to send all of you another update. Life at the Speech and Hearing Center continues to be busy for me, but it is good work. I have always felt that way and continue to enjoy what I do. Personally, my family continues to grow. I now have six grandchildren! They are dear to my heart!! They are Dunkin, 6 years old; Elly, 4 years old; Noble Grace, 2; Riley, 2; and Lilly Kate, 10 months. Our newest addition is Wade, 16 months. My son and daughter-in-law are currently in China completing the adoption process and should arrive in Columbus with him on the day after Thanksgiving. I am anticipating a joyous holiday season with all of these little ones!

Take care and best wishes to all of you!"

Dr. Harmon says, "Hello everyone. All is pretty much the same with me. While that may sound a bit boring, sometimes it is a really good thing. I do have two sweet little grandchildren, John and Maria Michelle (guess who she is named after...well, at least in part). It really lightens my heart just to look at a picture them. John was born in January 2015 and Maria was born in June of this year. Since they are both in Florida, I don't get to see them much, but I do Skype with them once a week pretty regularly. My daughter-in-law also sends me lots of pictures. I will be seeing them this Christmas and am really looking forward to being with them. I hope all of your lovelies are doing well and that you are really loving your work as you know we do here. It is wonderful when I get to hear how successful you have become. May you have a wonderful Christmas and many blessings in the New Year!"

Ms. Donna Burlingame is currently teaching undergraduate classes as well as supervising many therapy sessions at the Speech and Hearing Center. She supervised diagnostic sessions this summer before spending a month with her daughter, son-in-law, and 6 year old grandson, Hudson. She and Hudson made many "car hikes" around Eugene, OR. Hudson started first grade at a private school this fall and will join the second grade class for reading and math after the holidays. Her son was recently promoted to CEO of his company headquartered in Miami, FL. She is looking forward to spending part of the holidays in Florida and Oregon.

Dr. Carrie Smith says, "Hello all! The Audiology Clinic is picking up steam as we have been seeing more and more new clients and giving our SLP graduate students lots of interesting experiences with different types of hearing loss and introducing them to the many options of amplification to benefit those with communication needs. On a personal note, my family will be growing by one this spring! Our daughter Maggie, 5, and son Oliver, 3, are excited about getting a new baby brother or sister next year, and are also anxious for Christmas time this year."

Faculty and Staff: What's Happening Behind the Curtain?

Mrs. Hanson is enjoying her 21 month old grandson, Ayden. It is fascinating to see the concepts she teaches in Normal Language Development manifested as he learns to communicate. She made it to and from Hawaii with her sister's family in May with only one minor occurrence of sea sickness during a sunset cruise. Her favorite parts were watching the sea turtles at North Shore and visiting the Pearl Harbor memorial. Her parents are experiencing some health issues, but other than that, all is well with her husband and sons. Mrs. Hanson became the Graduate Practicum Coordinator in July, and she is grateful that she can learn new skills in her old age and is appreciative of the mentoring provided by Mrs. Townsend. Mrs. Hanson continues to be interested in dyslexia.

Mrs. Cheryl Wright says, "Hello everyone!!!!!! Hope you are well. It has been a very busy year. More gray hair for me. LOL!! For those of you who remember Kendra, she is now in college at EMCC. She loves it. January 27 will make 20 years that I have been at the MUW Speech and Hearing Center. Time flies, doesn't it? For the last few years, we have hosted a brunch during homecoming and several students made their way to Columbus to visit, and we sure enjoyed seeing them and reminiscing. Hope to see you here in the future."

Hey there, seeing as I am a faculty newbie let me take a minute to introduce myself: My name is **Monica Johnson**, I completed my undergraduate degree from the University of Mississippi (Hotty Toddy) and graduate degree from University of Louisiana at Lafayette. I recently returned to the area after practicing at a rehabilitation hospital in Casper, WY. And, although the Wild Wild West was amazing, it has been great returning to my southern roots. I was provided the opportunity to pursue my passion for teaching here at The W, and it has been nothing short of wonderful. As you know, the faculty and staff are one of a kind and the students too. It has truly been a blessing working with the staff, inspiring young undergrads, and training graduate clinicians. I hope to begin working on my Ph.D. in order to pursue my passion for teaching (and research) full time, because when I 'grow up', I want to not only aid in developing the young minds that **will be** the change but **be** the change myself. Cheers to a great holiday season!

Bonner Whittington writes, "As one of the newest additions to the Speech and Hearing Center, I would just like to say thank you for this great opportunity to work with such wonderful women. I have thoroughly enjoyed the past months here and look forward to a long future with MUW. Just a snippet about me, I have lived in Starkville for 9 years but I grew up in Webster County for the most part. For the past 7 years I have been married to my husband Wil. Wil has his PhD in Mechanical Engineering from MSU and has worked at the Center for Advanced Vehicular Systems (CAVS) for the last 8 years. We have two little girls, Britten who is 5 years old and AddyGrace will be 3 in December. This past May I received an associate's degree in Interpreter Training for American Sign Language (ASL) and have taught ASL enrichment courses in my spare time; however, I am not a certified interpreter but you never know about one day. Any hooooo, hope you all have Happy Holidays!"

Second Year Grads

Sarah Glenn Bolen is serving the preschoolers at New Hope in Lowndes County School District under the supervision of Mrs. Emily Monahan, an MUW alumni. She has her hands full of personality and energy with all preschoolers, but is loving every minute with them. Her favorite memory from this semester was during 1st grade language screening week with all the SLP's from Lowndes County schools. She asked a student, "Why do we wear shoes?" and his reply was, "Grandmama says it's so we don't get no corns on our feet!" She counted it as a correct response, of course.

Georgia Bowlin is completing her school rotation at Caledonia Elementary School under the supervision of Mrs. Heather Weber. Her favorite memory from graduate school so far was watching her camper cheer on other campers at Camp Jabber Jaw!

Hannah Cade is completing her practicum at West Lowndes Elementary School under the supervision of Ms. Stephanie Kelley, an MUW alumni. She serves all grades from Pre-K to fifth grade and sees a few students at the Lowndes County Alternative School. Hannah's favorite part of being placed at West Lowndes is seeing all the children's eagerness to improve and willingness to work every day.

Lauralee Fant is completing her practicum at Henderson Ward Stewart in Starkville, MS under the supervision of Ms. Erin Sanderson. She serves the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders. Lauralee's favorite memory at MUW was seeing the smiles on her client and his wife's faces as they reviewed how much progress he had made throughout the spring and summer.

Megan Givens is doing her school rotation at New Hope Elementary, where she gets to work with Kindergarten through 5th grade and she enjoys every minute of it. Her favorite memory at New Hope was working with a nonverbal child when she said "yay" for the first time.

Mallory Little is doing her school rotation at Sudduth Elementary in Starkville, where she gets to work with just kindergarteners every day and she loves it! Her favorite part is when little kids call her Miss Wiggle and Miss Wittle.

Melissa Luke is completing her clinical practicum this semester at Caledonia Elementary School under the supervision of Laura Harmon. Her favorite memory from this semester was seeing her student's face light up when she finally produced the sound she has been working so hard to master. She was so excited!

Second Year Grads

Meagan Marchioni is completing practicum in Columbus High School and Coleman Head Start Center under the supervision of Mrs. Joy Bailey. Meagan's favorite memory from working with the kids at Head Start was when a little boy on the Autism Spectrum successfully used PECS to say, "Go!" after many other failed attempts to elicit communication.

Mallory McKissick is serving at Hatley School in Monroe County under the supervision of Jennifer Pounders. One of the most memorable moments she's had at her school practicum site was when she was working with an autistic child, who has been mostly echolalic, walked into the speech therapy room and spontaneously stated, "I'm hungry". She says, "It has been a rewarding experience filled with many fun memories, like each student making a feather with their speech sounds for our thanksgiving turkey!"

Victoria Stewart was placed at the T.K. Martin Center this semester and her supervisor is Christan Toney. She had so much fun there at Camp Jabber Jaw this past summer as a volunteer that it really was a perfect fit to complete practicum at the center.



Emelia Strickland is completing public school practicum at Gordo Elementary School where her supervisor is Bettsy Cunningham. Her favorite memory is working with her camper at Camp Jabber Jaw. Emelia says, "I loved getting to know the camper and his mom. When the week came to a close, I felt like I had gained two family members. It was an awesome experience!"

Rebecca Varnadore is serving this semester in Franklin Elementary and Columbus Middle Schools. Her supervisor is Thelma Bowles, and her favorite memory was watching one of her middle school clients get completely shocked by her saying "Y'all," and then burst out laughing when he realized she really does say that. She states, "I guess I was the first one he ever actually heard use that word."

Alumni Updates:

1972:

Mary Helen Harris: Still retired after almost 20 years of exciting work. Helped Start Speech clinic in Fayetteville, NC; started a speech clinic at the Army Hospital in Nuremberg; taught as a clinical coordinator at University of Georgia; one year in the public schools and finally worked for the Health Department in Stamford, CT for seven years serving the pre-school population. Returned back south to Marietta, GA and retired, becoming a volunteer in many areas. Still married to JR, and now Grandmother to Turner, 3 months old! Both sons now live in Texas. Mark and his new family in Austin & Lee in Houston.

2000:

Vivian Haughton: Hi this is Vivian!!!! I am currently living and working in San Antonio, TX at Stone Oak Therapy Services and Learning Institute, a fantastic outpatient pediatric rehab clinic that specializes in autism. I have had the privilege of learning so much. We currently have 8 SLPs, 8 OTs, 1 COTA, 3 PTs and 1 PTA and about 20 Registered Behavior Therapists. Many of our patients attend our 10000 SN facility anywhere from 3 -25 hours per week. Great stuff going on here and I'm loving it!!! We also have a pool and do aquatic therapy as well. I'm living with my 28 year old daughter that is currently in school.

2001:

Christy Sanders Pumphrey: I have had a change this year. I'm still in Columbus, Indiana. I now work for the school system full time. I have 3 kids and celebrated my 10th wedding anniversary this fall.

Jennifer Farragut Martin: I live in Hattiesburg, MS. I own a small private practice company, Aspirations Therapy Services, and specialize in childhood speech and language. I have been married to my husband Matt Martin for 6 years.

2002:

Adrienne Purdue Golden: I graduated in 2002 and reside in Columbus, MS with my husband and three children. I am licensed in AL and MS and do occasional PRN work but mainly a stay at home mother to my seven year old twins and four year old.

Crystal Gard: SLP for Headland Elementary, Headland Middle, and Headland High School in Headland, AL. Married to Darrin Gard for 14 years...2 children, Abby Grace (11) and Hayden (9)!

2003:

Dara Campbell: Still live in Jacksonville, FL. Married 12 years to John Campbell & have 2 children (Caroline 6 years, Cooper 3 years). I took a position as an SLP evaluator through the Duval County Public Schools in Aug 2015.

Amanda Winters Grissom: Married to Joseph Grissom for 18 years, 4 daughters--Sadie age 6, Shelbe age 8, Sarah age 10, Savannah age 11, and work part time at Baptist Memorial Hospital-Golden Triangle doing mainly inpatient speech.

Alumni Updates

2003:

Mandy McCarthy Wheeler: SLP for the Itawamba County School District. In December my husband Bryan and I will celebrate 14 years of marriage. We have 2 girls, Molly Beth, 4 and McCarthy, 1.

Kara Analla Williamson: SLP for the Fayette County School System. In December Chris and I will celebrate 15 years of marriage, and we have 8 year old triplets Nathan, Kaden, and Wren.

2004:

Mandy Lollar: I have been married for 6 years, working at Generations of Red Bay as SLP and Facility Coordinator and Generations of Vernon as Facility Coordinator

2005:

Ange Godfrey: I graduated in 2005. Wow, I cannot believe it has been eleven years! The wonderful instructors and professors at MUW will forever be in head as I am writing evaluation reports and care plans. I am so much more appreciative of their corrective criticism now than I ever was in graduate school. I feel like I was better prepared to provide therapy than most of my same age peers entering the field at the same time. I will forever be grateful to the MUW speech program for that gift. My husband, Justin and I have been married for 11 years. We have learned so much about each other and life over those years. Thankfully we are eager to keep learning together! We have four children, Owen age 10, Meg age 7, Max age 6, and Kate age 4. We are BUSY, but at the end of the day I am saddened to know that these days, chasing after little ones, are coming to an end way faster than I would like. Professionally, I am working my dream job. I have been blessed to have been able to experience multiple settings in which I gained valuable therapy experience and knowledge, professional connections, and personal relationships. After working in a hospital setting treating inpatient as well as outpatient pediatrics, I was struggling with providing the level of care that I knew I was capable of and meeting the needs of my little friends and their families. In 2014, I started my private practice. It has been the best decision for our family, (most days!) The learning curve feels more like a circle some days as insurance is always changing, but we have been very successful over the past 2 years. The majority of my caseload at this time is children ages 16-36 months with undiagnosed or newly diagnosed as being on the autism spectrum. The rest of my caseload consists of phonological processes, feeding, myofunctional disorders, and language delays. There are so many new and exciting things going on in our field. It feels like a part time job staying on top of the new therapy approaches and research!

Natalie Boggan May: I'm currently in my 8th year of working at Newton County Elementary School in Decatur, MS. I work with kindergarten through 2nd grade students. It is so rewarding to work with this age group! My husband, Caleb, and I live in Union with our three daughters. Our twins, Katherine and Anna Lola, are five and our youngest daughter, Elle, is one.

Alumni Updates

2005:

Lana Langley: I live in Fayette, AL with my husband, Chuck. We have 2 children, Sara, 22 and Alan 21. Both are at the University of Alabama. (Roll Tide). Sara will graduate with her Master's in Social Work in May and Alan is a senior, majoring in Economics and Spanish. We have recently become foster parents and been privileged to have 3 brothers, ages 15, 14, and 12 live with us. I worked in the Fayette County Schools for many years, serving students 3-21. I am now working as a Speech Pathologist for Children's Rehabilitation Service, through the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation. I cover 12 counties, evaluating for cleft palate, feeding, and augmentative communicative. I provide PRN speech therapy services for Fayette Medical Center Home Care and dabble in some private therapy. I serve on the Alabama Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology representing District 4. I also serve on the Speech and Hearing Association of Alabama Board as ABESPA Liaison and Counselor for Speech Language Pathology.

Cheryl Lee Whitaker: Currently the regional director for Diversicare Therapy Services in MS. Still living in Hamilton, MS with my husband Landon of almost 12 years, and my kids JD (8) and Ava Kate (5). Super blessed to have worked with some of these awesome girls! (Carla Weaver, Emily Glenn, Elaina Baggett, and Jamie Boyd Whitney)

2006:

Laura Harmon: I worked 7 years in long term care. I am now in my 3rd year at Caledonia Elementary. My husband and I have one daughter, Caraline (6).

Ashley Holdiness Reynolds: Speech pathologist at Winston Medical Center. I work in outpatient, hospital and nursing home settings. I also contract for the public schools one day a week. Married to Greg for 11 years and we have 3 beautiful children, Luke 9, Addie Grace 6 and our newest addition Brynlee is 1.

Jamie Boyd Whitney: Director of Rehab at RiverPlace Nursing Center. Married to Chris for 10 years and have a 2 year old little girl, Elliott Claire.

Becky Strickland Carsten: SLP at Joyner Elementary School in Tupelo, MS serving kindergarten through 2nd grade students. Married to Beau for 2 years. We are expecting our first baby girl at the end of January 2017.

Andrea Weaver Myers: SLP at Webster County Schools. 2 kids: Katy, who is a freshman at the W majoring in speech pathology, and Seth, who is a senior at Eupora High.

Jamie Steele Brannon: I've lived in Rome, GA since graduation. I'm married with two beautiful daughters, Tatum (3yo) and Lily (15mo). Currently, I'm the Assistant Director of Corporate Health with Floyd Medical Center.

Miranda Faulk Malley: Married with 3 sons, David (10), Seth (8), and Shepard (6). I've seen with therapy management corporation (TMC) for 10 years and I am an area manager in North MS and the internal travel coordinator.

Alumni Updates

2006:

Emily Glenn: I live in Amory, Ms. I have worked for Methodist Senior Services in Tupelo MS for the past 6 years. I am married to Allen Glenn and we have 7 year old twins-Anna Kate and Drew.

Lynn Hooker: I am still living in Greenville, M.S. with my husband, Daniel, and 4 littles: Hannah Kate (9), Reed (6), Campbell (4), and Julia (2). I have recently gotten my Arkansas license and I'm doing PRN work for Southeast Rehab Hospital in Lake Village, AR while my youngest two are starting school a couple of mornings a week.

2007:

Terra Moody Cravens: I live in Trussville, AL and work part-time for Over the Mountain Speech Therapy Services in Birmingham. Happily married to Allen for 8 years and have three super rambunctious boys, Jack (6), Witt (5), and Price (2).

Elaina Baggett : Still working in Tupelo going on 10 years, but no longer for Aegis therapies. We were bought out by Diversicare. I am currently on maternity leave with my second child.

Carla Weaver: SLP for Methodist Senior Services on the Tupelo Campus. Married to Chris weaver for 11 years. We have two boys, Chanapon, age 7 and Paxton, age 5.

Anna Burris Hudson: I live in Columbus where I have worked at Baptist Hospital for over 6 years. I am married to Robby and we have 2 precious children, Ellis (4) and Marlee Cate (8 months).

2008:

Joanna Bowlin Ozbirn: I work for the New Albany public school system with the 3-5 year old population. Tommy and I have been married 10 years, and we have a set of 3 year old twins, Noah and Lucie. We reside in New Albany, MS.

Kasandra Cole-Richardson: Currently working full time for MS Methodist Senior Services at Dugan Memorial Home in West Point, MS. My husband Rob & I live in Cumberland, MS. We have been married 6 years & have 3 boys. My "bonus child" Logan is 7 & we have a 5 year old, Rhett, & a 1 year old, Reeves.

Leiloni Smith: I am the senior director at McCulloh Therapeutic Solutions; an outpatient pediatric practice. Chris and I have been married 5 years, and we have a 4 year old & 1 year old. We reside in the upstate of SC.

2009:

Emily Schuster Morgan: Working full time at NMMC West Point, MS inpatient/swing bed/outpatient. Love every single day at "work." Two healthy, wonderful children (Isabella - 5; Sam -14 months). Will be married 8 years December 27th.

Alumni Updates

2009:

Lee Anne Rawson Morgan: I work in a pediatric private practice at Moyer Physical Therapy in Southaven, MS. I've been married to Matt for 4 years. We have a 20 month old girl, Hannah Bess, and we just welcomed a baby boy, Finn Aaron, to our little family in September.

Brittney Buttrey: I've been happily married to Clint for 7 yrs with 2 sweet girls, Braye Lee (4), Eloise Claire (3), and a new baby boy Nolan (4m)!!!! :) I work for private practice contracted into the county schools where I live in Loudon, TN!!! LOVE my family, LOVE the mountain life, and absolutely LOVE my career!!!! Thank you to all my MUW professors and classmates for believing in me!!!!

Emily Carpenter Alford: I work for Bolivar Medical Center in Outpatient Pediatric Therapy Clinic. Married to Jeremy Alford and we have 1 son Henry William who is 6 mo.

2010:

Lauren Neyman: graduated with her Masters in 2010. She worked in the healthcare setting for 6 years and transitioned to New Hope Elementary this year as a full time SLP for Kindergarten-3rd Grade. She is loving the career change and working with kids full time. Lauren has been married to Curtis for almost 4 years, and they have one son, Andrew, and another son who will be named Levi, due Nov 18.

Anna Maria Elliott: Working for Amedisys Home Health in Hattiesburg since graduation. Love everything about what I do!

Suzanne Flurry Geno: Working in Booneville School District in Booneville, MS. I serve the Head Start, preschools, and grades K-4. My husband and I are the proud parents of an 11 month old boy, Davis.

Brittany Henderson Bevil: I have been married to Nick for 6 years. We reside in Thaxton, MS. We have a 3 year old named Abram and welcomed Roman June 23 of this year. I recently accepted a staff SLP position at NMMC-Pontotoc where I serve acute/swing bed/long term care/outpatients from pediatrics to geriatrics.

2011:

Kylie Browning Hill: Graduated undergrad in 2011, masters in 2013. I live in Hernando, MS with my husband and 20 month old son, Cruz. I'm currently working at Methodist LeBonheur Hospital- South in Memphis, TN, where I am the SLP for acute care and outpatient rehab. I service birth—geriatrics, and see a variety of diagnoses. I currently hold a certification in Modified Barium Swallow studies, implementing the MBSimp protocol. As of this month, I've begun my training for E-swallow certification and training for pediatric feeding and swallowing disorders! I'm really excited about the new journeys professionally and could not think of doing anything else but this! Thank you to MUW and the awesome professors/SLPs in the speech department for preparing me to succeed and grow in this amazing field! Hope everyone is well!

Alumni Updates

2011:

Amber Shoffner: I graduated with my B.S. in 2011 and will be graduating from The Univ. of Alabama in May of 2016. I have taken a fellowship position with a non-profit in Lusaka, Zambia to treat and assess the children in the city and surrounding area with local SLPs, Special Ed-instructors, nurses, and other staff.

Cara Carson: I work for Gentiva Home Health. My husband Robbie and I have 2 children, Rhett-10 and Aniston-4!

Cassie Lynn Wilson: I work for Lee county schools. Married to Cayce Wilson for 8 years with two precious girls: Caylynn (4) and Annalise (2).

April Steele: I'm currently Therapy Program Manager for Encore Rehabilitation Services at a SNF in Ripley. I've been married to Preston for 3 years. I'm stepmom to two of his children (Brayden, 10 and Brylee, 8) and we have one daughter together (Presley, 18 months).

Corre Looney: Working as travel speech pathologist with Delta Healthcare Providers for the past year and a half. I'm currently living in Castro Valley, CA through June and working at Oakland high school. With traveling, I've gotten to work in several different settings, meet/work with amazing people and experience life in different parts of the country. I'm happily exploring the San Francisco Bay Area and the rest of the west coast!

2012:

Suzanne Henry Moore: I work at a pediatrician private practice in Southaven, MS called Moyer Physical therapy. I have been married to Josh for 8 years. We have one son, James Ricky. He is 3 years old.

Amber Karr: I work at Ozarks Community Hospital in Gravette, Arkansas. I've been married to my husband Kyle for 2 years, and we have a 4 month old daughter named Maggie.

Lindsey Trenor Henderson : I work for Pearl Public School District at Pearl Lower Elementary and LOVE IT! My husband and I are proud parents of our 9 month old baby girl, Ellie.

Amanda Jeanfreau Morris : I live in Bowling Green, KY. I work for Bowling Green City Schools. My husband and I have been married for 4 and a half years, and we have a 2 year old named Caroline.

2013:

Sarah Carter Donald: I work at Louisville Healthcare, where I am the clinical manager as well as SLP. My husband, Wesley, and I are proud parents to our son, Cason, who was born in January. We are about to begin building a new house and can't wait to get started!

Christin Sanders: I work at Henderson Ward Stewart Elementary in Starkville. 1st year full time at HWSE but 4th year in the district.

Carmen McCool Dennis: I live in Brandon, MS and work for Rankin County School District at Stone Bridge Elementary. It is my fourth year with the district. I have been married for 3 years and love working for the school I went to as a child!

Alumni Updates

2013:

Layken Garner: I live in Flowood, MS. I am working on my third year with Rankin County School District, where I serve K-6th grade. I also work for Tara Therapy at a SNF 3 days a week.

2014:

Rachel Robertson Price: Currently working at Eastside Elementary in the Clinton Public School District. My husband and I are expecting our first child, a baby girl, this December.

Samantha Wood Webb: I am currently working full time at Kids Therapy Spot in Starkville, MS. My husband and I live in Starkville with our son Hudson, and are excited to welcome baby #2 in April 2017. I am so thankful for the education I received at MUW and think of all the wonderful faculty often!

Katie Rose Ricks: I work at Sudduth Elementary School in Starkville MS. I've been married to Casey for almost 4 years. We have a 2 and a half year old girl, Anna Tyler, and we just welcomed a baby boy named Butler in September.

Janna Caffee Stafford: I work full time for Itawamba County School District and prn for Midsouth Rehab and LTC Rehab. I live in Shannon, MS

Emily Lauren Edmonson: I have been married one year to my husband Dustin and in January we will be welcoming Paul Thomas. I have been working at Saltillo Primary for two years. This year I serve preschool and work with early intervention services.

Susan Spearman Hunt: I work for Webster County School District, and I live in the big city of Mathiston, MS. My husband and I are proud parents to our newborn daughter, Mary Henley, and our rambunctious cat, Bitsy.

Jianwen J. Crump: B.S. from MUW in 2012, M.A. from Louisiana Tech in 2014. Recently completed Ed.S. in Assessment and Instructional Leadership from William Carey University. I currently work in various settings from Early Intervention to the SNF setting. I have been married 2 years and live in Byram, MS with my husband and two dogs!

Kristen Keeton: I live in Starkville. I work for West Point Consolidated School District. My sites are East Side Kindergarten and Central School (5th and 6th). This is my 3rd year with WPCSD.

Laura Leigh Nabors: I work for Kosciusko School District. This is my third year with KSD. I currently serve pre-k students, and I love it! I live in Kosciusko, MS, with my husband and two dogs.

Alumni Updates

2015:

Bekka Rich: 2nd year to be SLP at Anderson Elementary School in Booneville, MS.

Kelli Holloway Honnoll: I live in Caledonia, MS and work at Windsor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Columbus, MS. Married to Thomas for almost 3 years.

Sydney Sanders Nolen: I live in Hamilton, MS. I work for Therapy Management Corporation at a SNF in Aberdeen, MS. I have been married for 3 years. We just welcomed a baby girl, Ella James, on November 8th.

Haylyn Potter Kracalik: I work for Champion Partners in Rehab at a rehab facility/SNF in Northport, AL called Forest Manor. I also travel a lot to Arbor Woods Health and Rehab in Reform. I recently became certified in NMES. I've been married two years and just became an aunt. I live in Northport. My husband and I plan to visit Columbus this December to get our Christmas tree at the tree farm and to go to the Wassail fest!

2016:

Lindi Morgan White began working at Brandon Court, a SNF in Brandon, MS mid-June. She also got married early June and Lindi and her husband currently live in Madison, MS. She writes, "Missing the W and all of the wonderful people who taught me SO much!"

Joy Browning, class of 2016, is a traveling speech-language pathologist for TMC, currently serving in several SNFs in southeastern Kansas. She lives in Sedan with her journalist husband, William, and three special fur babies: Bombay, Harper and LB. She and William spend their free time exploring the Midwest one culinary, musical, or sporting event at a time and look forward to returning home to Mississippi one day. She misses debating with Dr. Harmon the most!

Megan Johnson: M.S. class of 2016 at Jackson State University. Currently completing CFY in Missouri as an internal travel SLP with TMC.

Ashley Joyner: I'm currently living in Greenville, NC with my yorkie, Lexy! I'm employed by Venture Rehab Group! I'm working as a contract SLP for Craven County School System serving preschool through 5th grade!

Maghan Knight Otey: I am working at a nonprofit organization called Regional Rehabilitation Center in Tupelo, MS serving all ages and disorders.

I am also living in Tupelo with my new husband and old dog.

Mary Margaret Robbins is currently working for Scott County School District and serving the preschools and Head Start programs. She and her husband TJ are living in Decatur, MS, and just welcomed their son Jace in to the world! She graduated May of 2016, and is completing her CFY.

Alumni Updates

2016:

Amy Scott: I graduated in May 2016 and I've been working for the Tupelo Public School District this year. My home school is 3rd-5th graders and I visit the high school one day a week. I love it so much!!

Victoria Scott: Bachelors from MUW in 2014 and Masters from Ole Miss in 2016. I'm completing my clinical fellowship year in Melbourne, Florida at a pediatric private practice

Bethany Yoder graduated in 2016 and is working in the school system for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. She writes, "I'm very blessed to be working for the tribe. They paid for my education, and now I'm paying them back by helping their youth. I work with children from 2 years to 18 years, so I have a wide range of children that I get to work with." Bethany is married and she and her husband have no children except their dog, Gandalf.

Kelsey Wilson: Since graduating this past May 2016, I am currently working at Southeast Elementary School as an SLP. This is not the area I expected to work in but I have been so blessed at this job. I am working alongside my supervisor who has been my long time mentor ever since I chose to go into the field of Speech-Language Pathology. It's been stressful but I have learned first-hand so many things under her supervision the right way! Since graduating, I have gotten engaged and plan on getting married next year sometime. (Hopefully... Ha!) I miss the closeness and supervision from all the professors at the W and miss the sisterhood we had as a class that helped me make it through grad school!



Alumni: You're worth more than ruby slippers!

Thank you so much to all the Alumni from Mississippi University for Women's Speech-Language Pathology program! It is wonderful to hear how well all of you are doing and the joy speech-language pathology brings to your hearts! We wish you all the best as you progress in both your careers and families!

Thinking about applying for graduate school?

To apply to our graduate degree program, you will need to submit the following by March 1, 2017:

Official Application and \$25 Application Fee

Official Graduate Record Examination Scores

Official Academic Transcripts

Statement of Purpose (1 Page)

Three Professional Letters of Recommendation

Immunization Records

*Please visit our website for specific instructions and additional information.



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**Department of Speech-Language
Pathology Speech and Hearing Center
1100 College Street MUW-1340
Columbus, MS 39701-5800**

Phone: 662-329-7270

Fax: 662-329-7460

**E-mail: jrtownsend@muw.edu
(Joy Townsend)**

Website: www.muw.edu/speech

The Speech-Language Pathology/Audiology graduate program enables students to develop professional knowledge and clinical skills. Traditional and non-traditional students will demonstrate leadership, critical thinking, and problem-solving abilities professionally and competently in a variety of clinical settings. The graduate program offers a Master of Science degree in Speech-Language Pathology. The program is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). A graduate of the program will meet the academic requirements for the ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC-SLP), licensure from the Mississippi Department of Health, and teacher licensure from the Mississippi Department of Education.

If you would like to make a contribution to the MUW Speech-Language Pathology program, please make your check payable to: MUW Speech and Hearing Center. Earmark the check as: Donation. Please send any checks to the address listed above. Also, feel free to contact us with any additional questions about our program!