Contribute to the Speech-Language Hearing Sciences Doctoral Student Fellowship

Thank you to all who have donated since our Annual Alumni Event on November 22, 2013.

Three funds have been set up to honor three colleagues who contributed importantly to our program: Professors Moe Bergman, Arthur Bronstein and Martin Gitterman.


Moe and Hannah Bergman Scholarship for Conference Travel: The Moe and Hannah Bergman Award makes funds available to students who travel to present research papers at conferences.

Martin Gitterman Excellence in Teaching Award: The Martin Gitterman Teaching Award gives awards for Excellence in Teaching.

We have also set up a new fund to honor Dr. Norma Rees. The fund is called the: Norma Rees fellowship for scholarly excellence for doctoral students in Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences.

These awards are given to a number of students each year. To contribute to one or either fund, please send a check payable to The Graduate Center Foundation. All checks should include account number 212731. Please indicate this number as well as the name of the award in which you want your contribution placed (e.g., Bergman, Bronstein, Gitterman, Rees).

In addition to the above accounts the program also has a discretionary fund. The account number for this fund is 213933 which the program is free to use at their discretion.

All checks should be made out to The Graduate Center Foundation and sent to:

CUNY Graduate Center
Attention: Development Office
365 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10016

Please be sure to put the account number 213933 or 212731 in the memo section of your check.
ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Dissertation Defenses

Please join us in congratulating the following students who have successfully presented their Dissertation Defenses. Congratulations Dr. Abdelrazeq, Dr. Yu, Dr. Conner and Dr. Rota-Donahue!

**Dr. Shukrallah Abdelrazeq** defended on June 19, 2013.  
“Efferent-mediated changes in the composite distortion product otoacoustic emissions signal and its components: A potential tool to investigate auditory processing disorder”  
Chair: Dr. Glenis Long

**Dr. Yan Yu** defended on August 21, 2013.  
“Neurophysiological indices of mandarin lexical tone processing”  
Chair: Dr. Valerie Shafer

**Dr. Peggy Conner** defended on September 11, 2013.  
“Novel spoken word learning in adults with developmental dyslexia”  
Chair: Dr. Loraine Obler

**Dr. Christine Rota-Donahue** defended on November 8, 2013.  
“Frequency discrimination in children with auditory processing disorder or specific language impairment”  
Chair: Dr. Richard Schwartz

Second Level Research Projects and Second Examinations

**Luca Campanelli** presented his second level research project on June 3, 2013, “Age differences in language comprehension are mediated by resistance to interference: a lifespan study”. Dr. Klara Marton chaired the project.

**Iris Fishman** passed her second exam on June 19, 2013.

**Zarabeth Waldman** passed her second examination on July 23, 2013.

**Sameer Ashaie** presented his second level research project, “Effect of age, education, and bilingualism on confrontation naming in older illiterate and low educated populations on August 1, 2013. He also passed is second examination on September 10, 2013.

**Eve Higby** passed her second examination on August 8, 2013.

**Wen-Jie Wang** presented her second level research project on September 16, 2013, “Cortical auditory evoked responses to a frequency glide following a steady tone”.
First Examinations

The following students passed first examination:

“Articulatory gestures of mora nasal /N/ in Japanese: An ultrasound study”
Advisor – Dr. Douglas Whalen

“L1 and L2 verbal working memory and their interactions with L2 proficiency during L2 auditory sentence processing in late bilinguals”
Advisor – Dr. Loraine Obler

**Susan Alimonti** – August 21, 2013.
“Reliability of the chin as a measure of mandibular movement”
Advisor – Dr. Douglas Whalen

**Vilena Livinsky** – September 9, 2013.
“Ultrasound measurements of the advanced tongue root in English tense-lax vowels”
Advisor – Dr. Douglas Whalen

**Alahna Cogburn** – September 11, 2013.
“Neural processing of phototactic probability and neighborhood density in toddlers and young children: An event-related potentials study”
Advisor – Dr. Valerie Shafer

**PUBLICATIONS**


Levey, S., Cheng, L. R. L., & Langdon, H. W (2013). The Relationship between Ethical Principles and Clinical Practice in Working with CLD Populations. *Speech and Hearing Review: A Bilingual Annual*, 10-32 (Chinese) and 71-104 (English)


Levey, S., Cheng, L. R. L., & Langdon, H. W (2013). The Relationship between Ethical Principles and Clinical Practice in Working with CLD Populations. *Speech and Hearing Review: A Bilingual Annual*, 10-32 (Chinese) and 71-104 (English)

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**In Press**


**Longtin, S.** (in press). Using the college infrastructure to support students on the autism spectrum. *Journal of Postsecondary Education and Disability.*

**Longtin, S.** (in press) review of Perner, L. 92012) Scholars with autism achieving dreams.


**PRESENTATIONS**


**Barlev, A. and Neumann-Werth, Y.** (2013, November). Quality of Life Indicators in People with Aphasias. Poster session presented at the ASHA Convention, Chicago, IL.

**Barrière, I.** (October 2013) A psycholinguist and policy maker's perspective on Hassidic Yiddish. Panel on Creating Identity: Yiddish Across a
Spectrum of Jewish Communities Today. Guest Speaker at the Annual Naomi Prawer Kadar Memorial Lecture, YIVO Institute at the Center for Jewish History, New York, NY.


Levey, S., & Fligor, B. J. (2013, May 8). Oh where oh where have my sensory cells gone; where oh where can they be? Presented at the Sigma xi Colloquium, Lehman College/CUNY.

Marton, K., Cognitive profiles in different neurocognitive disorders: SLI, Autism, Dyslexia, ADHD. Keynote Speaker at the 4th annual Meixner conference on Dyslexia, Budapest, Hungary.

Marton, K., Contributing factors to individual differences in working memory capacity: Resistance to interference and strategy use in children with and without language impairment. Presented at the Research Colloquium, Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders, New York University.


Preece, J., (2013, November). Gave two presentations on accreditation at the ASHA Convention in Chicago, IL.


AWARDS AND HONORS

**Katherine Dawson** was awarded Best Student Poster/Presentation for:

**Robert Goldfarb** received the following Awards and Honors:
**Professor Recognition Award** (one of six in the University): a salary incentive to tenured full professors who continue to excel in scholarship, teaching, and service in September 2013.
**Fulbright Specialist in Applied Linguistics/TEFL** in Bogota, Colombia in April-May 2013.

**Klara Marton** received the PSC-CUNY Research Award for Resistance to interference in children with language impairment. 2013, July-June, 2014

**Monica Wagner** was awarded summer support of research at St. John’s University in Summer 2013. She was also received the Faculty Ward for Research at St. John’s University in Fall 2013.

Other News

**Dr. Nassima Abdelli-Beruh** has published a new research paper (See In Press section in this newsletter), on vocal fry which is a follow up of *Wolk, L., Abdelli-Beruh, N-B., & Slavin, D. (2012). Habitual Use of Vocal Fry in Young Adult Standard American English Speakers, Journal of Voice. 26(3). 111-116,* which attracted national and international media attention in December 2011 and thereafter. In 2011, while still in press, she did a camera interview that aired on NBC today and [http://www.today.com/video/today/4568125?clipId=9414680&topVideoCatNo=238447&autoStart=true](http://www.today.com/video/today/4568125?clipId=9414680&topVideoCatNo=238447&autoStart=true) and a New York University phone interview.

**Dr. Maureen Casper** appeared on National Public Radio, The Brian Lehrer Show: Explanatarium, on July 10, 2013 were she discussed Autism Spectrum Disorders.

**Dr. Catherine M. Constable** was elected to ASHA SIC 1 Language Learning Education, Coordinating Committee for 2014-2016.

**Iris Fishman** has been hired as Director of the Speech, Language and Hearing Clinic in the Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders at New York University.

**Dr. Yael Neumann-Werth** was an invited lecturer at Columbia University in New York, in July, 2013. *Neurolinguistics and Psycholinguistics: Language in the Real World.*
Dr. Loraine Obler was a Visiting Fellow at Hong Kong University in May-June, gave an invited lecture on Language in Aging and one on Mixing in Bilingual Aphasia at the University of Edinburgh, gave a Keynote presentation on Multilingual Aging at the Neurobilingualism Workshop in Groningen, Netherlands in August, and gave a presentation on Bilingual Aphasia and Executive Functions at the opening meeting of the Oslo Center for Multilingualism Across the Lifespan where she serves on the Advisory Board. She was also invited to speak on Language in Aging at the Institute of Psychology of the Chinese Academy of Science in Beijing. In addition, with Klara Marton, Mira Goral, Virginia Vallian and Jungmee Yoon, she organized a session on Executive Functions and Bilingualism at the International Symposium on Bilingualism in Singapore in June.

Dr. Luis F. Riquelme has been quite busy this year. In addition to his presentations and publications (see Publications and Presentations), he has been promoted to Associate Professor at New York medical College in Valhalla, NY, and is serving as Vice Chair on the New York State Board for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and the Specialty Board on Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders. In addition to two presentations (see Presentations), Dr. Suzanne Thompson has been appointed to the Executive Council of the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association, began a three year term as Consultant for Educational Programming, and accepted a position as Assistant Professor in the Communication Sciences and Disorders Department at St. John’s University. And she rounded the year off with marrying Brady Miller on September 28, 2013.


Dr. Douglas Whalen is the Chair of the Linguistic Society of America’s Nominating Committee.

Dr. Geraldine P. Wallach served as one of the editors of, Handbook of Language & Literacy: Development & Disorders (NY: Guilford).

In June 2013, Dr. Robert Goldfarb suffered a major brainstem stroke that left him paralyzed on his right side. After intensive therapy throughout the summer at the Rusk Institute and as an outpatient, he was able to return to full-time work in September, albeit with a cane. He would like to thank everyone who offered good and well wishes.

Dr. Harry Levitt who retired at the end of 1999, is still active in research. He has recently been awarded a five-year research grant from the National Institutes of Health to develop an efficient, practical method of evaluating how well a person with a hearing loss is able to participate in a conversation.'
We would like to wish a Happy Retirement to:

**Margaret Meth**. She has retired from her position as Clinic Director for the Speech and Hearing Clinic at William Peterson University. She is now working as a consultant at various facilities.

After over 26 years, **Carol Alpern** is retiring from her position as full Professor and Program Director for Communication Sciences and Disorders at Pace University.

**Memories and Messages about Norma Rees**

As many of you know, Norma Rees passed away this year. During this year’s Annual Alumni Event on November 22nd, we announced that a fund has been created in her name called the Norma Rees Fellowship for Scholarly Excellence for Doctoral Students in Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences. At the event, there was a short memorial where Joel Stark, Richard Schwartz and Joyce West spoke about Norma Rees. Since there were so many requests to speak from former students and colleagues, we have collected messages for this newsletter. Thank you to all that shared your memories of Norma Rees.

**From: Geraldine P. Wallach**
Dr. Norma Rees was a major influence in my life. I was fortunate to fall under her spell when I studied at the Graduate School/CUNY. I completed my Ph.D. in Speech and Hearing Sciences in 1977 with a specialty in child and adolescent language. As a Professor in the Department of Communicative Disorders at California State University, Long Beach, Long Beach, California, I still assign many of her articles to my students. She once said to me: "Gerry, I wanted to be an opera singer, but speech and language had other plans for me. I think you wanted to be an actress, but the same thing will happen to you. You will be famous (in child language)." I'll never forget her words and many others through the years. I hope I have lived up to her prophecy. Thanks, Dear Norma. You taught me well. The children and adolescents I serve are better for the care you took with me. I will miss you.

**From: Susan Longtin**
Norma Rees was the Advisor for my Master’s thesis, “An Investigation of Verbal Symbol Learning in Five-Year-Old Children”, a somewhat conventional title in the field of child language in the early seventies. What was not conventional was Norma’s interpretation of my study in the context of “word magic” which led to my exposure to the broad and diverse perspectives of philosophy, psychology, psychotherapy, and mythology. A short time later, during my first year of doctoral studies in 1976-77, I had the opportunity to serve as Norma’s research assistant. By that year, the tides of child language were changing once again and Norma, a force behind the pragmatics revolution’s impact on our field, simply told me that she wanted to read “everything pragmatic.

**From: Harvey Halpern**
In the Fall 1962 semester, I was nervous about an up-coming classroom observation of my classroom teaching abilities. Norma tried to allay my fears by telling me about her own experience with a classroom observation of her teaching abilities. She was teaching a course that
required information about the speech producing mechanism (vocal tract). Norma told me that the way she described it and drew it on the blackboard, the speaker would have choked every time he went to speak. It was an uncharacteristic error that passed without comment since the two observers were not versed in the field of speech and language pathology. In 1962, the Dept. of Speech consisted of instructors in the dramatic arts, oral interpretation, rhetoric, public speaking, television, and speech and language pathology.

My own classroom observation was ok because the person who observed me fell asleep for most of the lesson. The observer was in the area of rhetoric. Thanks Norma. Harvey Halpern.

From: Harry Levitt
“I worked closely with Norma for many years and we got on extremely well. We both enjoyed a little humor in our daily routine. I was a great admirer of her sharp wit and how she often used humor to get her point across. I remember one graduation ceremony when a rather staid member of the Graduate Council complained, immediately prior to the graduation ceremony, of the utter lack of decorum exhibited by certain male Executive Officers who kissed female graduates after capping them at the ceremony. Norma's response was unspoken and precisely on target. When it was her turn at the graduation ceremony to perform her function as Executive Officer of our program she made a point of kissing the male graduates after capping them. This was done with a fine touch of indecorum that brought applause.

I also remember my last exchange with Norma as Executive Officer. She had just been promoted to Dean and I congratulated her, with the usual indecorum to which she was accustomed, by kissing her and announcing that I had always wanted to be a Dean's lover. She replied promptly that my hopes were too high in that she was only the Acting Dean. My response, which Norma enjoyed immensely, was that I would then be her acting lover. It was this playful lack of decorum that contributed to a very pleasant working environment. We both worked hard and long in our respective roles on the doctoral faculty and our mutual respect, expressed with a touch of humor, made our working relationship memorable.

From: Elaine Silliman
I became familiar with Norma Rees’ stature long before I met her. She had a reputation as a formidable scholar in child language and disorders, one who was unafraid of challenging the established orthodoxy. Of course, her reputation made her formidable to me and, when I took my first course with her as a new doctoral student, it took me nearly half a semester to realize that she was an articulate teacher who respected her students’ intelligence. Over the years of my doctoral preparation, I came to know Norma well as she was my advisor and then my dissertation advisor. Through these interactions, I became acquainted with other Norma traits apart from her keen mind. For example, she had the kind of New York wit that resonated with such grace, one never forgot this unique part of her. She seldom brooked any excuses not to do one’s best, always encouraging in her approach, and ready to offer strategies for solving obstacles particularly in an era when women earning doctoral degrees was not common. Norma was my role model and my mentor. There never will be anyone else like her.
Norma Rees first entered my life when she joined the Masters' program in speech disorders at Brooklyn College. I too was in the program as were a number of other newly minted undergrads. From day one Norma was a force to be reckoned with. No nonsense, focused and probably the smartest person in a group of very smart people. We formed study groups, and I was in Norma's group. Guess who quickly became the leader? "No Nonsense Norma". She challenged her peers, professors and clinical supervisors alike. Norma Rees thrived in this kind of situation. It was in this environment that our friendship solidified. The study group members were passionate about the field and it showed in our discussions often led by Norma. Most of us went on to earn doctorates. Some I think because they wanted to show Norma they could do it.

What brought Norma and I together as friends was our passion for the study of language disorders. She focused on children and me on adult aphasia. Neither area of study was very popular at the time. Both of us started to become involved with ASHA. We were often quite vocal at business meetings, recognizing ASHA's potential for becoming a powerful voice for the discipline of communication disorders that included hearing. It was time to break away from "Speech". Norma pushed to give a voice and role to the younger members and especially the women joining ASHA. It was very male dominated organization at the time. Norma helped change that. She pushed to have the study of language and language disorders given its proper due. Our conversations about these issues continued up to the time of our last lunch together, just a few months before she left us.

Norma stayed in New York and I went off to the University of Utah. Although there was distance between us, we stayed in touch. Seeing each other at ASHA meetings and catching up on the major issues in the field.

One our biggest achievements with respect to ASHA took place when I was working in Florida, not in Speech Pathology, but as Chair of the Department of Psychology at FJU. I had become active in FLASHA and was elected as the State's Senior Delegate to the Legislative Council. It was a time of turmoil, big debates concerning Audiology and Language and whether to change the name of the Association. Norma was President of ASHA at the time and taking no prisoners. She wanted to make sure that language was represented in our name. Not a particularly popular position at the time. Norma drew on our friendship and we worked together to get the Legislative Council to act on the name change. The Council did act, and passed a motion that Norma and concocted to get "language" and hyphen into our name. It passed a bit after midnight on the last night of the legislative session. That is why we are the American-Speech-Language and Hearing Association, ASHA.

I moved on to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Norma arrived shortly thereafter taking a senior administrative position at the University. Her hard driving focus pushed the University forward, it was clear that Norma Rees was Presidential material. For me and my family, her coming to Milwaukee enabled us to renew our friendship, at a much more mature level. Dinners...
together often led to discussions of University issues that could not easily be discussed in the typical venues. That trust that began in those study sessions at Brooklyn allowed this to happen. My hope was that Norma would take the reins at the University when the then current President left. It was not to be, but that didn't stop Norma from moving forward.

During her stay in Wisconsin Norma's friendship and concern for our wellbeing came to the fore. My family suffered a major tragedy that significantly impacted on my work at UWM. Norma came to rescue. She found a way to get me off campus and into the newly emerging field of brain imaging. I truly believe that she knew I would somehow try to fit my interest in aphasia into this work. She was right again. This was a side of Norma that I had never before seen. Her understanding and compassion came through in ways I never expected. I owe much to her for rescuing me and my entry into the field of brain imaging.

Norma eventually moved to California to become a distinguished, forceful and creative President of a sleepy California State University in Hayward. As president she turned the place into a significant player in the California State University System. It is now California State University-East Bay. This is truly a monument to the Force that was Norma Rees.

Norma was now in California and in 1995 I moved to New York. My son ended up living in Oakland, not too far from Hayward. Time to renew old friendships, so when Rita and I visited our son we always arranged to have lunch with Norma, and whenever Norma came to New York, never often enough, a "gang" of us would get together and party at Annette Zaner's or go for breakfast in the Village. Our friendships grew stronger.

Lunch with Norma in California was always special. Her sharp sense humor was always there, but one could see that her physical vigor was fading. She tried hard to play these "little things" down. It didn't work, and this was especially clear during our last lunch get together this past summer. Her mind was as sharp as a tack, and though she was officially "retired" she was as busy as ever with projects. Our conversation focused on the future of higher education and our beloved profession. When lunch was over and she headed home, my wife and I wondered how much longer she could hold out. She worked up to the last moment. I spoke with her by phone several times over the course of the next few months. On one of the calls, her son Ray said she was tired and sleeping and to call back the next day. I did, but again, she was taking a nap, and Ray, her son, said she wanted to talk with me and would call me back. The call never came.

Let's all celebrate the life of Norma Rees one of the true giants of our profession who, at her core, was always a Speech Language Pathologist. May her "force" always be with us.