KILT Kicks Off

Edinboro University’s Communication Sciences and Disorders Department was excited to introduce a regionally unique program this fall. The Kids Intensive Language Training (KILT) offers intensive language therapy to preschool-age children with hearing loss. The 12-week program is classroom-based and uses a bilingual/bimodal approach that encourages children to become independent communicators in both American Sign Language and spoken English. The premise behind this approach is for children to reap the cognitive benefits of exposure to both visual and auditory environments while learning language. This is accomplished through the integration of two valid and effective approaches: strengthening the auditory system (giving children the full benefit of their listening devices) and developing a visual language base using American Sign Language. This language-intensive, holistic program addresses the cognitive, social, and cultural aspects of language development while meeting each child’s individual language and learning needs. By providing rich visual and auditory language models, KILT provides the tools to be successful communicators and learners.

Both Dr. Jane Puhlman (the director of the program) and Ms. Casie Lucas-Szumigala supervise the graduate clinicians that are the backbone of the program. On Mondays and Wednesdays, the clinicians’ voices are turned off and all instruction is done through American Sign Language. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, the clinicians use listening and spoken language principles to facilitate the matching of spoken English to the learned signed vocabulary from the previous day. In addition to graduate student clinicians, 22 undergraduate teacher assistants (TAs) were used to help support the activities in the classroom.

“It’s such a wonderful opportunity working in KILT,” said graduate student Amber Litwiler (’18).
Dr. Mary Beth Mason entered her second year as graduate program director and chair this fall, but not for the Speech, Language, and Hearing Department. This fall, the department’s name changed. It is now called Communication Sciences and Disorders Department.

According to Dr. Mason, the new designation is consistent with contemporary nomenclature across the United States, especially for programs closely aligned with science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

“This may assist us as we work to attract students and faculty in the coming years,” Dr. Mason said.

“Communication Sciences and Disorders would help to make our undergraduate and graduate curricula more visibly STEM and possibly put us in a stronger position to seek funding as we continue to align with STEM targets.”

Dr. Mason said that the speech-language pathology program also will continue meeting national standards from the Council for Academic Accreditation (CAA) in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology, the entity that facilitates development and improvement of audiology and speech-language pathology programs.

There are more changes in store for the Communication Sciences and Disorders Department. Dr. Mason said the department is continuing to work on curriculum changes for the graduate department that will involve the rearrangement and addition of classes and content. Those changes will hopefully be implemented in the Fall of 2019, she said.

NEW DUTIES

Dr. Mary Beth Mason, PhD

Dr. Mary Beth Mason, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, has been appointed as the Commissioner on Issues and Planning to the Council of State Speech-Language-Hearing Association Presidents (CSAP). Dr. Mason currently serves as President-Elect for the Pennsylvania Speech-Language-Hearing Association (PSHA). As part of her appointment to CSAP, she will be responsible for educational activities of the Council, monitoring the strategic plan, and coordinating with the rest of the executive board on emerging issues impacting the membership of the Council. CSAP is the premier organization where state leaders meet to cultivate a unique culture of growth and knowledge through collaborative efforts.

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2017 CONFERENCES IN REVIEW

PSHA 2017—Harrisburg, PA (March 29th-April 1st)

The Cochlear Connection interviewed students from the graduate class of 2018 about their observations and experiences at PSHA in March.

This year’s PSHA convention was held at the Hilton Hotel in Harrisburg, PA, from March 29th to April 1st, 2017. During the convention, students had the opportunity to attend many presentations by professionals in the field, explore products provided by exhibitors in the Exhibit Hall, speak with potential employers, and attend social events with peers.

When asked which presentations stuck out most to her, Kelsey Greathouse, class of 2018 graduate student, reported that she enjoyed many presentations, but two in particular were still on her mind. The first was a presentation on “Routines-Based Intervention,” by Elizabeth Kriston and Missy Casses. The presentation focused on early intervention and the importance of teaching children in their natural environment, as well as a family-centered approach to therapy for young children. The second was a presentation on “ASD: Application to Treatment,” by Martha Burns. This presentation outlined the advances of science in the world of autism spectrum disorders, the importance of making the right connections because the most malleable part of the brain is connectivity, and some specific programs that could be beneficial to children with autism.

Students recounted that the Exhibit Hall was full of so many interesting exhibitors there was barely time to visit them all. Many of the exhibits had valuable materials for therapy that students said they would likely invest in.

There were multiple opportunities for students to speak with potential employers at the convention. The employers provided pamphlets and mailing lists to those they spoke to and were willing to talk specifically about caseloads, populations, and flexibility. Kelsey Greathouse said, “This gave me hope that jobs are readily available in many different settings, and there are agencies that can help to place you after graduation.”

The social events and down time throughout the convention allowed students in the graduate class of 2018 to get to know each other better. They were able to spend time discussing their experiences at different presentations, share their educational thoughts and ideas, and bond with one another. Students also reported that being at the convention allowed them to meet other students in the field and compare their experiences.

For students attending the PSHA convention in the future, here are some tips from those in the graduate class of 2018 who attended this year:

1. Don’t be afraid to speak up and talk with professionals.
2. Make sure to get rest for a long day of learning.
3. Plan which presentations you want to go to beforehand.
4. Attend as many social events as you can; they are worth it.
ASHA 2017—Los Angeles, CA (November 9th-11th)
The Cochlear Connection interviewed Mary Unruh (‘18) regarding her experiences as an attendant of ASHA this year.

The conference was held in two main buildings, one for the exhibit hall and one for presentations. The convention center housed the exhibit hall, which Mary likened to a state fair when describing it because of its size and the amount of booths to visit. In the exhibit hall, there were various vendors ranging from small, independent businesses to large, well known ones such as Super Duper. There were also employers from around the country there. Attendees could choose from one-to-two-hour seminars, 30-minute flash sessions, and poster presentations.

When asked what her favorite presentations were, Mary responded that she greatly enjoyed a motor speech Grand Rounds session where four prominent clinicians each spoke about a complex case they had worked. Mary appreciated this presentation because she wanted more exposure to this topic [motor speech disorders] because she has not had the opportunity to take a motor speech class. Mary also attended sessions on dysphagia, and exercise rehabilitation, and viewed research posters. One poster that she particularly enjoyed was one that examined the benefits that a modified Shaker method exercise had on voice production. Mary shared that if she was given the opportunity to present a poster at the ASHA convention, she would because “it is a great way to have a discussion with other professionals about work that is meaningful and interesting to you.” Mary had the opportunity to speak with professionals at the employment booths as well as within the poster sessions. She reported that the poster presentations make it more feasible to speak with the researchers/presenters.

Mary and her peers who attended the convention made time to see the city of Los Angeles while they were there, something Mary highly recommends. She said this added to the overall excitement of being there. Mary also mentioned that with the volume of lectures, vendors in the exhibit hall, and poster presentations, it is necessary to have a mental break and taking time to explore the area is a great way to do this.

For those attending ASHA next year, here are some tips from Mary:
— Make plans for what you want to see before you go, but be prepared to drop them when you get there.
— Beware the exhibit hall: it’s like a casino. There are no clocks, vendors pushing freebies, and sales people trying to get you to purchase skin care or massage products.
— You may be able to fit more in by attending the one-hour sessions rather than the two-hour ones.
— To get around more easily, do the math beforehand to decide whether getting an Uber/Lyft or renting a car is cheaper.

EUP AT ASHA
Two Edinboro University of Pennsylvania poster presentations were accepted at the 2017 ASHA Convention:


The university was also represented by Dr. Mason at two meetings:
— The Council of State Speech-Language-Hearing Association Presidents Meeting
— SIG 15 Affiliate Meeting
29th Annual Speech-Language Pathology Alumni Conference

The National Student Speech-Language and Hearing Association (NSSLHA) proudly hosted the 29th Annual Speech-Language Pathology Alumni Conference on Friday, October 13th, 2017, at the Frank G. Pogue Student Center, with the enthusiastic attendance of many alumni, faculty, university administration and current students. The conference, which was coordinated by department faculty and graduate students over the course of several weeks, attracted 136 attendees. Attendees enjoyed a delicious catered breakfast and lunch. A presentation of awards and scholarships honored alumni and student accomplishments. The conference also gave attendees continuing education.

The event featured two presentations by three speakers. Dr. Lissa Power-deFur, professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Longwood University in Virginia, presented “Aligning the SLP’s Work with Education Standards.” Anita Wasileski, M.S., CCC-SLP, graduate clinic supervisor and instructor at Bloomsburg University; and Dr. Pamela Smith, who has 30 years of experience as a medical speech-language pathologist, presented “Long Term Recovery in Aphasia: The Magic of Groups and Making Them Work.”

Dr. Power-deFur, and Mrs. Wasileski and Dr. Smith each spent the day giving a seminar to conference attendees split into two groups. The accomplished speakers discussed and lectured about their respective areas of professional interest, covering an array of unique and innovative topics within the field of speech-language pathology. Dr. Power-deFur’s seminar focused on analyzing the education standards and the SLP’s role. Mrs. Wasileski and Dr. Smith’s seminar examined the use of groups to provide ongoing therapy for people with aphasia.

Students and alumni were also honored at the luncheon, with select student recipients earning the Dr. Frank Johnson Scholarships, the Dr. Richard Forucci Scholarship, and the Dennis Ranalli Scholarship. Clinician attendees who completed supervised graduate clinical work were awarded the Certification of Clinical Competence (CCC) by ASHA at the luncheon. Alumni who earned the Award for Continuing Education (ACE) also were honored.

The conference additionally offered attendees the opportunity to support NSSLHA and MASLP students through a basket raffle fundraiser and a shirt/jacket sale, where attendees could purchase EUPMASLP gear.
2017 Alumni Conference Scholarship Winners

**DR. FRANK JOHNSON SCHOLARSHIP (I)**

MacKenna Grubiss (‘19, right) graduated Summa Cum Laude from Edinboro University in 2016 with a Bachelor’s degree in Speech and Hearing Sciences and a minor in Spanish. She is from Akron, OH. As an undergraduate, she was Vice President of Edinboro Circle K. Since 2015, MacKenna has volunteered as a Spanish conversation partner in a group called Tertulia. She is currently a head swim team coach for the Eastside Family YMCA Swim Team.

**DR. DENNIS RANALLI SCHOLARSHIP**

Sarah Fischer (‘19, right) graduated Summa Cum Laude from Edinboro University with a Bachelor’s degree in Speech and Hearing Sciences and a minor in Biology and Psychology. Sarah is from Meadville, PA and works as a graduate assistant in the clinic. As an undergraduate, she worked in Edinboro’s Office of Students with Disabilities. She also worked as a special needs aide at Meadville Cooperative Preschool. Her career goal (at this time) is to work in a NICU and help infants with feeding and swallowing issues.

**DR. FRANK JOHNSON SCHOLARSHIP (II)**

Kyle Lyon Taylor (‘18, middle) is a 2015 graduate of The University of Iowa, where she earned her Bachelor’s degree in Speech and Hearing Science. Kyle is from Wilmington, DE, and presented with a faculty member at the 2017 Academic Festival at Edinboro University. She interned this summer at Park Avenue Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Meadville, PA. Kyle says she highly values education, but her road has not always been an easy one. She believes you should learn who you are, and what you need, and it will come together.

**DR. RICHARD FORCUCCI SCHOLARSHIP**

Amber Litwiler (‘18, left) graduated Summa Cum Laude from Edinboro University in 2016 with a Bachelor’s in Speech and Hearing Sciences and a minor in Special Education. She is from Conneaut Lake, PA. Amber presented research at the 2017 Pennsylvania Speech Language-Hearing Association Convention, and is currently part of our department’s KILT intervention program. Amber interned this summer at Park Avenue Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Meadville, PA. She was last year’s recipient of the Dr. Frank Johnson Scholarship (I).

*Congratulations MacKenna Grubiss, Kyle Taylor, Sarah Fischer and Amber Litwiler!*
Extending the Classroom: Nasendoscopy Training

We are excited to share a few photos and student comments about our Fall 2017 nasendoscopy training, which included a half-day workshop for first year students with Theresa Richard, MA, CCC-SLP, BCS-S, owner of Mobile Dysphagia Diagnostics (near Buffalo, N.Y.), followed by small group sessions for second year students who wanted to participate. Several students volunteered to serve as patients, but Roseanne Joseph, MA, CCC-SLP, brought her special skills to several sessions, offering encouragement and of course a bit of song! Spring 2018 will bring additional opportunities for first year students to pass the nasendoscope and learn how to administer swallowing trials. Moving forward, Dr. Kate Krival, PhD, CCC-SLP, aims to ensure that all students have experience with flexible and rigid endoscopy within their first year, and that students have opportunities to continue their training in the Leader Clinic and beyond.

Guest expert Theresa Richard, MA CCC-SLP BCS-S, instructs first year student Kayla Hilla to pass the scope on fellow first year Emily Luther, while classmates Sarah Fischer ('19), Mary Rosatti ('19), Mary Unruh ('18), Kim Neubauer ('19), and Jordan Schuler ('19) observe.
'Learning about endoscopes from a textbook is one thing ... but having the chance to actually use one on your classmates or professors is a whole different animal! It was intimidating to hold such an expensive piece of equipment in my hands, all the while having to pass it through Dr. Krival’s nasal cavity. This experience made me appreciate how much finesse is involved while passing an endoscope. I hope we have more opportunities to practice this in the future!'

— Kim Neubauer ('19)

'The scoping session was a valuable learning experience, especially because of the opportunity to get hands-on practice and individual feedback throughout the session. The small group dynamic was also beneficial in that we were able to learn from and support each other through the process, which made an intimidating task really exciting!

— Jordan Schuler ('19)
NSSLHA IN THE NEWS

NSSLHA members, including officers Olivia Stamm (President), Amber Litwiler (Vice-President), Emily Schrader (Secretary), Bre Gardner (Treasurer), Haley Novak (Events Coordinator), and Nicole Culek (Graduate Office Liaison), have been busy during the 2017 spring, summer and fall semesters. Here is a list of events they have participated in.

Decorating Clipboards Night for Clinicians (Social Event) - February 22nd
2017 Walk for Autism (Volunteer Event) - April 22nd
Paint Night (Social Event) - March 23rd
Jane's Stromboli's Fundraiser (Fundraiser) - February 2017
Signing the National Anthem @ Erie SeaWolves game (Volunteer Event) - August 5th
MECA Adaptive Baseball League (Volunteering) - June-July 2017
Parents' Weekend for Clinicians (Social) - April 28-29th
Pittsburgh Popcorn (Fundraiser) - March 2017
Enchanted Edinboro (Fundraiser) - November 2017
Stanganelli's Fundraiser (Fundraiser) - October-November 2017
MASLP Holiday Banquet (Social) - December 2017
2017 Walk to End Alzheimer's Disease (Volunteer Event) - September 2017
MASLP Welcome Picnic (Social) - September 2017
Pumpkin Carving Night (Social) - October 2017
Advance Therapy Teleconference (Social) - October 2017
2017 EUP College Bowl (Volunteer) - November 2017
2017 EUP & NSSLHA Alumni Conference (Mandatory; Volunteer event) - October 2017
Finally, 2018 NSSLHA class officers

Congratulations to the graduate MASLP team of Mary Unruh ('18), Amanda Zbinovec ('19), and Melissa Scott ('19), for their showing at the College Bowl this year. Our team survived 3 rounds in the graduate division of the Bowl.

The competition was held in the Frank G. Pogue Student Center in November. Great work, team!

would like to congratulate the newly elected NSSLHA officers for the class of 2019: Haley Streubing (President), Amanda Alflin (Vice-President), Claire Pilewski (Secretary), Aleigha Haase (Treasurer), Kayla Hilla and Jordan Schuler (Events Coordinator), and Emily Luther (Graduate Office Liaison). Best of luck to the new officers as current officers embark on their externships this spring.

ABOVE: Class of 2018 graduate students Emily Dincher, Alyssa Sutter and Olivia Stamm show off pumpkins they carved at a social event. RIGHT: Children enjoyed meeting a princess, Emily Schrader, at Enchanted Edinboro, a fundraising event.

COLLEGE BOWL 2017

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It’s with great pride and well wishes that Edinboro faculty and first years bid adieu to the graduate students from the graduate class of 2018 as they embark on their school and hospital externships this coming Spring 2018. Below is a list of students placed in externships, as well as a list of their school and hospital placements. Congratulations and good luck to all.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List of Students</th>
<th>School Internship Site/Districts</th>
<th>Hospital Internship Sites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Katie Cogswell-Mattern</td>
<td>Grandview Elementary School</td>
<td>LECOM-Millcreek Community Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bethany Cousino</td>
<td>Children’s Specialized Hospital</td>
<td>Lancaster General Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicole Culek</td>
<td>Cheyenne Mountain School District</td>
<td>University Health Hospitals-Cleveland Medical Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caitlin Datt</td>
<td>Pine Richland Elementary School</td>
<td>UPMC-Passavant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lauren Dilla</td>
<td>Robison Elementary</td>
<td>Jefferson Regional Medical Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emily Dincher</td>
<td>Glenwood Elementary School</td>
<td>UPMC Susquehanna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathryn Earls</td>
<td>Shewsbury Elementary School</td>
<td>Rehabilitation at Queensgate-Wellspan Health</td>
</tr>
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<td>Heather Fasano</td>
<td>Edinboro Elementary</td>
<td>Winchester Medical Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kevin Finch</td>
<td>Children’s Institute Day School</td>
<td>HealthSouth Sewickley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Breanna Gardner</td>
<td>Washington Park Elementary School</td>
<td>Washington Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kelsey Greathouse</td>
<td>Cochranton Elementary School</td>
<td>Sharon Regional Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emily Hamm</td>
<td>Belle Valley Elementary School</td>
<td>VA Medical Center – Erie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carly Lenart</td>
<td>Wattsburg Elementary Center</td>
<td>VA Medical Center – Erie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amber Litwiler</td>
<td>Hempfield Elementary School</td>
<td>Meadville Medical Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haley Novak</td>
<td>Grove City School District</td>
<td>Butler Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alyssa Rhone</td>
<td>Charles W. Longer Elementary School</td>
<td>HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Altoona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jaynie Rossiter</td>
<td>Clark Elementary School</td>
<td>UPMC Hamot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily Schrader</td>
<td>Bridgeway Academy</td>
<td>U. of Utah Voice Disorders Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Olivia Stamm</td>
<td>Hasson Heights Elementary</td>
<td>Warren General Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alyssa Sutter</td>
<td>Dutch Ridge Elementary School</td>
<td>Sharon Regional</td>
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<td>Kyle Taylor</td>
<td>Northwestern Elementary School</td>
<td>Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ashley Turner</td>
<td>Fairview Elementary School</td>
<td>LECOM Institute for Successful Aging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Unruh</td>
<td>Roseville City School District</td>
<td>St. Jude Center for Rehabilitation and Wellness</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Welcome to Edinboro! Class of 2019

Amanda Zbinovec
Edinboro University
Lyndhurst, Ohio

Sarah Fischer
Edinboro University
Meadville, PA

Aswathy Anakkathil Pradeep
Manipal University, India
Kerala, India

Kimberly Neubauer
Temple University
Philadelphia, PA

Melissa Scott
Marshall University and Post-Baccalaurate Program at Edinboro University
Erie, PA

Emily Luther
Allegheny College
Erie, PA

Julie Rhines
Edinboro University
Erie, PA

Mary Rosati
Edinboro University
Pittsburgh, PA

Claire Pilewski
Edinboro University
McKean, PA

Breanna Purnell
Edinboro University
Palmyra, PA

Sarah Rossi
Gannon University and Post-Baccalaurate Program at Edinboro University
Waterford, PA

Kayla Hilla
Edinboro University
Edinboro, PA

Aleigha Haase
Edinboro University
Conneaut Lake, PA

Elaine Grazulis
Eastern University and Post-Baccalaurate Program at PITT
Malvern, PA

Haley Struebing
Edinboro University
Buffalo, NY

Melanie Webber
University of Connecticut
Lawrenceville, NJ

Amanda Alflen
Kent State University
Howland, Ohio

MacKenna Grubiss
Edinboro University
Willoughby Hills, Ohio

Jordan Schuler
Edinboro University
Pittsburgh, PA

Emily Mills
Edinboro University
Cranberry Township, PA

Blaire Mertz
Ohio University
Defiance, Ohio

Sarah Kaveney
Pennsylvania State University
Erie, PA

Jacqueline Sallade
Pennsylvania State University
Elizabethtown, PA

Kylee Deal
Clarion University
Meadville, PA
Graduate students received lab coats with the Edinboro University logo at the 2017 Holiday Banquet. This will be an annual tradition for first year students, according to Dr. Mason.
Meet the New Clinic Secretary

The Gov. George Leader Speech and Hearing Center welcomed a new clinic secretary this school year: Sue Altoff. Sue has worked for Edinboro University of Pennsylvania for 27 years across a variety of departments. She began her career here in Records and Registration. She also has worked in ROTC, International Student Services, the Graduate Office, Health and Physical Education, Academic Support Services and Admissions.

She is excited to have joined the Communication Sciences and Disorders department, where some of her many secretarial responsibilities are scheduling appointments for clinic clients, billing reports, Typhon clinical hour entries for students, scheduling clinic rooms, general clerical duties with her graduate assistants, organizing and filing student clearances, answering any and every question, and providing emotional support to stressed out graduate clinicians.

Away from work, Sue likes to spend time at home. She also likes to spend time with friends and family, going to sporting events, riding her motorcycle, boating, and hanging out by the pool.

Sue grew up in Erie, and lived in Florida for a time. She has two grown children. Nicholas, 39, graduated from Edinboro with a degree in marketing. He works for Globus Medical in Denver, CO, and is a building developer in South Dakota. Virginia, 29, recently moved back from Las Vegas with her four children. Sue said she’s “been blessed to raise my grandson, Jamionn, 11.”

Over the holiday break, Sue said she’s looking forward to having dinner with her family.

When asked if she had any advice for the graduate class of 2018 as they depart for their school and hospital internships, Sue said to tell them to “keep up the good work.”

As for the first years as they prepare for clinic in the spring, Sue said, “Just do your best.”
MORE PHOTOS FROM EUP COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS DEPARTMENT

2018 NSSLHA OFFICERS

From left: Emily Luther (Graduate Office Liaison), Jordan Schuler (Events Coordinator), Claire Pilewski (Secretary), Kayla Hilla (Events Coordinator), Haley Streubing (President), Amanda Alflin (Vice-President). Not pictured is Treasurer Aleigha Haase.

Members of the Class of 2018 relax at the Welcome Picnic.

From left: Kathryn Earls, Nicole Culek, Olivia Stamm, Emily Schrader and Bre Gardner attend the Signing the National Anthem event at the Erie SeaWolves game.

Members of the Class of 2019 get to know one another at the Welcome Picnic.

Members of the Class of 2018 relax at the Welcome Picnic.
The Edinboro University MASLP program has been rated as one of the top SLP Masters programs in the nation. Speech Pathology Graduate Programs looked at more than 240 schools offering ASHA CAA-accredited master’s programs and selected Edinboro University's MASLP as the best of the best for prospective students:

Find out more at https://www.speechpathologygraduateprograms.org/top-slp-masters-programs/