Welcome to Dr. Mason-Baughman

Mary Beth Mason-Baughman joined the Edinboro University faculty in 2015. She had several years of experience as faculty in higher education in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education prior to her joining the Speech, Language, and Hearing Department at EUP. She has several publications in the area of adult neurogenic communication disorders. She has numerous presentations at state, national, and international conferences. She has been an invited speaker at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) annual convention.

Mary Beth is very active in professional service. She has served as the Pennsylvania Speech-Language-Hearing Association Vice President for Convention Planning and Program, Local Host Chair of the 2016 ASHA Convention Planning Committee, and has held leadership positions in ASHA Special Interest Group 15 Gerontology. She is active in a variety of community organizations, with noted service to the Alzheimer’s Association. Specific to Edinboro University, she is involved in the Curriculum Committee, Graduate Admissions Committee, and Scholarship Committee; Edinboro APSCUF Legislative Chair.

Dr. Mason-Baughman answered additional interview question for the Cochlear Connection as follows:

What do you consider your specialty? Adult neurogenics, specifically aphasia and cognitive-communicative deficits associated with dementia, and gerontology. I have several publications investigating the role of distinctive semantic feature knowledge in adults with aphasia and numerous articles related to dementia and aging in the ASHA SIG 15 Perspectives.

Interview Continued on page 13...
If you think back to the proudest achievements in your life, what would make your top three? Chances are that each item on your list had a high degree of difficulty, took a significant amount of time to accomplish, and required repeated practice so that you could perform it very efficiently and accurately. But how did such a thing even arrive on your radar, let alone make your must-do list? Perhaps it was something that you observed or experienced personally, that elicited a strong emotion in you and a call to action. It may have been something that was a family tradition or something that came unexpectedly; a vocation or an avocation.

First it left an impression on you and then it became a goal that you felt compelled to pursue. Perhaps you were motivated to prove others wrong about your ability to do it, or to prove right, those individuals who believed in you more than even you initially did. A passion began that gave you a higher level of energy and resilience. It enabled you to not only remain focused on the goal by recalling the purpose and its importance to you, but to perceive the journey more as a labor of love than a dutiful, tiring, or trivial commitment.

Each of us has under-developed talents, which if cultivated and combined with a passion, can move mountains. In our discipline, we have an opportunity to positively improve one of the most fundamental assets of being human – communication with other humans – in individuals who have deficits in those skills. Our work requires a major commitment throughout our years of education and professional practice, but if the true passion for it is there, the purpose of our work will keep us motivated to do what it takes to do it well and continue to love what we do (see former Super Bowl commercial “So God Made a Farmer” for a more audiovisual image).

I hope the holiday season will remind us to express appreciation to those who helped us discover our potential: family members, colleagues, classmates, teachers, coaches, and others. They not only tolerated our idiosyncrasies and the long hours directed toward meeting our goals, but encouraged and supported us in spite of them.
The Alumni Conference of 2015 was a success with record attendance of 170 attendees seeking professional development. This year we were fortunate to have two amazing speakers present at our annual alumni conference. Dr. Paula Leslie shared her expertise on clinical decision making, ethics and palliative and supportive care. Dr. Erin Redle covered an amazing amount of information on Childhood Apraxia of Speech and pediatric dysphagia.

The presenters facilitated a special time of discussion at the end of the conference where seasoned professionals collaborated on various case studies. The 170 participants divided into 16 groups to discuss 8 different case studies, sharing their experience and knowledge with all of the participants. It was especially rewarding for the graduate student participants to glean knowledge and skill from future colleagues in the field whom are experts with various populations and disorders.

Dr. Leslie offered additional guidance for graduate students:

◊ What led you to choose your current position and place of employment and what is most satisfying about your work?

I was approached to apply for the clinical doctorate director post after Dr. James Coyle and I did a session for ASHA and Pitt heard about a similar program we ran in the UK. I love Pittsburgh and odd as it may sound from a professor… I love my students – mostly.

◊ With increased involvement of insurance companies, increased state-related paperwork and increased caseloads, how can practitioners remain positive and inspired in their work?

That is a personal thing: remember why you came to this profession in the first place, put the patient first, but look after yourself. Advocate for patients and their services – if we don’t shout out no-one will.

◊ What advice would you give to new and recent graduates?

As soon as possible learn to focus on the patient rather than trying to remember everything you were taught in grad school or how Professor X approached problem Y. Yes you need to know some stuff (that’s why the patient is with you and not a life coach!) but more importantly you need to be able to help the patient figure out what their goals are.
2015 Fall Scholarship Winners

Dr. Frank Johnson Scholarship I
Awarded to Colleen Holl

Colleen is from Mayville, NY, a 2014 alum of Edinboro and in her first year of graduate school. Colleen has worked on research projects in the areas of tele-therapy and child communication. She is a member of the Edinboro Chapter of NSLHA as well as the National Honor Society. For the past seven years, Colleen has enjoyed volunteering for Special Olympics hosted in Jamestown, NY.

From left to right: Kelsey Nuhfer, Jean Johnson, Grace Johnson, David Johnson and Colleen Holl

Dr. Frank Johnson Scholarship II
Awarded to Kelsey Nuhfer

Kelsey, of Warren, PA, is an alum of California University of Pennsylvania earning an undergraduate degree in Communication Disorders with a certificate in Gerontology. She is in her second year of graduate studies and has completed training and received certification in Lee Silverman Voice Treatment. Last summer, Kelsey interned at Warren Manor and is scheduled to intern next semester in Sarasota County Schools and HealthSouth in Sarasota, Florida.

Dr. Richard Forcucci Scholarship
Awarded to Kelly Kohr

Kelly is from Chardon, Ohio, a 2014 alum of Edinboro and in her second year of graduate school. In her spare time, she is President of the Edinboro Chapter of NSLHA and often can be found in the gym. Since the summer of 2008, Kelly has volunteered at Sue Osborn Camp for special needs children. She interned last summer at Vibra Hospital Systems in Warren, Ohio. This spring she is scheduled to intern at Bay Village School District in Cleveland and Lee Memorial Health in Fort Myers, FL.

From left to right: Kelly Kohr, Hal Blount and B.C. Markley

Dennis Ranalli Scholarship
Awarded to B. C. Markley

B.C. is from Youngsville, PA, a 2015 alum of Edinboro with undergraduate degrees in Speech and Hearing Sciences and World Cultures & Languages. B.C. has studied abroad in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico and Antigua, Guatemala, also volunteering as an ESL and life skills teacher. B.C. is now in her first year of graduate studies, but has dedicated her time in the past to American Red Cross in disaster relief for hurricanes, tornadoes and Flight 93.

From left to right: Kelly Kohr, Hal Blount and B.C. Markley
How my master’s degree will impact my career.

Although it is well known that the Speech and Hearing program is imperative to becoming a licensed speech-language pathologist, it may be a secret what this graduate studies program can produce in the form of professional clinicians.

First, a program that is equivalent to the toughest Tough Mudder of races, it is not for the faint of heart. Designed to challenge, infuse with knowledge, and to develop experience and professionalism all within a short but intense two years, this program creates dedicated clinicians that are enthusiastic, compassionate, life-long learners.

Second, the environment of the clinic confined to one floor of the Jeremey D. Brown building, the class requirements and the long hours of graduate assistantship in the first year provide an atmosphere for collaboration and alliance. This program molds a group of strangers into a team and then into a network of colleagues that will forever remember each other and the challenges and experiences that they conquered together.

Finally, the faculty and staff are truly invested and amazingly compassionate. The amount of time they spend collectively and individually in the up-bringing of new clinicians is astounding. They are the most dedicated, knowledgeable, compassionate and inspiring individuals ever encountered on a college campus and the reason I have pursued speech-language pathology as an occupation. Since joining this graduate studies program, I have discovered even more about them. They are just as passionate over the well-being of the graduate students as they are for the families and individuals that walk through the halls of Leader Center in need of services. Because of them, I feel privileged to be a part of this program and have found that the bar is set very high with their example of dedication, commitment and professionalism.

So how might this translate to my career?

Supported by a group of faculty and staff that are ensuring my success by their commitment and compassion elevates my sense of worth and my expectations for myself and my future. The vast amount of knowledge and experience in the form of classes and hands on training provide for successful application in a clinical setting and heightened confidence in the field immediately following graduation. The SLP alumni of Edinboro University, past, present and future, are a network of colleagues that will become a priceless body of specialized consultants in my imminent career.

Although some of this program may be designed to accomplish the fantastic outcomes mentioned here, I don’t believe all of these positive aspects are intentional. This kind of training is elusive if not extinct in the corporate world. It is dynamic and priceless. It is the secret sauce that has been producing amazing speech-language pathologists for years, of which I am privileged to be a member!
Dr. Matina Balou, an Edinboro University alum, recently participated in the therapeutic preparation and recovery of Pat Hardison, a volunteer firefighter, after an amazing full facial transplant.

Dr. Balou, a native of Greece, graduated with her Master of Arts degree in Speech-Language Pathology in 2008. She later received her Ph.D. from the University of Arkansas focusing in swallowing disorders and head and neck cancer. She is employed by New York University-Langone Medical Center where she received the honor of participating on a large team of doctors in a world renowned facial transplant surgery.

Dr. Balou assisted in the recovery of Hardison pre-operatively and 300 hour post-operatively to restore swallowing, speech and facial reanimation. Find great footage of Dr. Balou in action on ABC News coverage of the story found at the link below.


Dr. Balou expresses her thanks to the Speech Pathology Program:
“Thank the department for providing excellent education and invaluable opportunities to your students.”
Over 13,000 professionals and students attended ASHA in Denver this year. Among the group was fourteen of our own graduate students, Dr. Shinn and Dr. Mason-Baughman. The keynote speaker was Dr. Kelly Mcgonigal, author of The Upside of Stress. Her presentation challenged the audience to find coping techniques for stressful situations so that they can help themselves and help others through changing their thinking processes. Many of the graduate students where deeply inspired, not only by the keynote, but also by the many presentations attended and the convergence of professionals within the field. A special thank you for the GPDP funding which made it possible for so many to attend. Each attendee received $298 dollars to put toward their expenses.

What was rewarding about going to ASHA?

“It was good to go to seminars and learn more about Evidence Based Practice. I attended presentations in Dysphagia and Autism.” – Emily Werner

What was unexpected about ASHA?

“Overall, the amount of people there. There were so many interesting people there and they had such great ideas.” – Amy Meyer

What was your favorite part?

“I went to an LSVT reception for certified clinicians. I got to meet the creators of the program and the researchers.” – Kelsey Knuffer

“I left with a setup for a phone interview for a school in Oregon and several potential employer contacts.” – Andrea Hackett

What was the most difficult thing you experienced at ASHA?

“Choosing between all of the seminars was extremely hard since there were so many great topics. I ended up picking topics that were related to my upcoming internships.” – Natalie McCloskey

What advice would you give to future grad students?

“Just go- even though it is expensive, it is worth it!” – Natalie McCloskey

“Take notes during session. Most presenters don’t put notes online. Take pictures of the screen with your phone. Go to sessions early so you can chat with experienced SLPs.” – Kelsey Knuffer

“Don’t forget to bring your resume!” – Andrea Hackett

“Plan out your sessions in advance.” – Amy Meyer

“In the exhibit hall visit the posters presentations where the speaker presents a 30 minute condensed version of their research.” – Natalie McCloskey
Since the opening of the Leader Center in the new Human Services Building (Spring 2011) a traditional gift has been left behind by each class of graduating students for the grad students to come. Thank you to the Class of 2015 for the much needed refrigerator and previous classes for the coffee machine and artwork. What will this year’s class do?
The 9th annual College Bowl took place on our campus this year in Frank G. Pogue Student Center on Tuesday, November 10th. The College Bowl is an academic competition in which graduate and undergraduate teams selected by each department within the university compete against each other by answering trivia questions. The MASLP graduate team consisted of Robert Chirila, Anne Adams and Rebecca Taylor. Bob stole the show answering the most questions for the team according to one of his team mates. The graduate team earned second place each winning a gift certificate to the campus book store and an EUP T-shirt! Congratulations! The undergraduate team included Tessa Skurka, Kelly Payer, Katelyn Lake and Katherine McAtee. Cindy Reyes-Pabon was the represent faculty advisor for the both teams. The College Bowl is organized by Dr. Jerra Jenrette of the History, Anthropology and World Languages Department. Sponsors include SGA, APSCUF, AFSCME-Office of the Provost, Graduate School, Office of Advancement and Marketing.

• After last year’s Alumni Conference, the graduate students, faculty, and community members participated in the Celebrate Sound Walk to promote hearing health in the Edinboro community.

• Last November, a group of graduate students attended the ASHA convention in Orlando, Florida where they attended informative seminars and networked with students and professionals.

• The Chapter members hosted three “parent’s night out” events involving age-appropriate child care activities for children in the community and feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

• In March, a group of graduate students traveled to Harrisburg, PA to attend the 2015 PSHA Convention. In addition, our students collected donations for Operation Smile which covered the cost of “smile bags” and therapy materials for children who have had corrective surgery for cleft lip and palate.

• In April, a large group of graduate and undergraduate students participated in the Autism Walk held in Erie, PA.

• This fall, a group of graduate and undergraduate students participated in the 2015 Walk to End Alzheimer’s to raise awareness about the impact of Alzheimer’s disease. Our team raised money to donate to the cause.

• The club would like to thank the Office of Graduate Studies and Research and the Provost’s office for supporting travel to Denver, Colorado for the 2015 ASHA Convention.

• The club raised funds from doing a basket raffle along with selling sweatshirts and Yankee candles at the conference and to members of the community.

President– Kelly Kohr
Vice President –Allison Gibbens
Treasurer-Amy Meyer
Secretary-Alexanne Shorts
This Fall the graduate program expanded to include 24 new graduate students!

Welcome Class of 2017!
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<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>School</th>
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In Memorium: David R. Potoker

David R. Potoker, of Erie, Pa., age 72, passed away on Wednesday, December 24, 2014, at his residence. David was born January 18, 1942, in Brooklyn, N.Y., the son of the late Irving and Freda Potoker.

He graduated from Fort Lee High School (New Jersey) in 1959, earning a Bachelor's Degree from Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus in 1965. He went on to earn a Master's Degree in 1966 and Doctorate in 1973 from the Teachers College at Columbia University, all Degrees having a concentration in Speech/Language Pathology. He spent two years at Brookhaven National Laboratories in Upton, N.Y., researching his Doctoral thesis on speech disorders associated with Parkinson's Disease, prior to beginning his career as a speech pathologist.

He came to Erie in 1973 to work at Edinboro State College, teaching students in both the speech and special education programs until 1980; prior to the Adjunct Faculty Gerontology Program at Gannon College from 1980 until 1990. He began his private practice in speech pathology in 1974, concentrating primarily on adult patients with neurodegenerative disorders and stroke; was a contract provider for many home health agencies and nursing homes in Erie County, including Pleasant Ridge Manor, from which he retired in 2010 after 30 years of service. He also served on the medical staff of the Erie VA Medical Center, Metro Health Center and Millcreek Community Hospital, from which he retired in 2011, after 32 years of service.

Interview with Dr. Mason-Baughman continued:

◊ **What interests do you have outside of your career as an EUP associate professor?** I value time with my family. I live in Edinboro with my husband and 2 children. We have a 9-year-old daughter named Ellie and 6-year old son named Sam. They are in third grade and kindergarten at Edinboro Elementary. We have 2 dogs, 3 cats, and 1 turtle. I am also close with my mom and sister. My mom lives in Clarington and makes the 2-hour drive each week to help babysit my children. My sister is an attorney in Meadville. My entire family has been very supportive of my move to Edinboro University. We are currently working on renovating the house we bought this summer in Edinboro so I watch way too much HGTV. *The Middle* is my favorite television show.

◊ **Anything else you would like to share?** I am very passionate about helping adults with dementia and supporting their families and caregivers. My father passed away from frontotemporal degeneration on February 5, 2011, which was my 31st birthday. I am also proud of my presentation and publication record. I have been an invited speaker at the ASHA Convention in 2014 and 2015. All of my journal articles/publications are posted on the bulletin board outside of my office if you want more information.