Along with the seasonal change, the groundbreaking for the new $5 million Human Services Building at Edinboro’s 20th Annual Alumni Conference marked an exciting future for both the Speech, Language and Hearing and Nursing departments.

The ceremony commenced with President Jeremy Brown addressing the audience of more than 200, highlighting the evolution of change and continuation of “great things” happening at the University. Because of growth in both these community-service departments more space and state-of-the-art facilities are required.

At the heart of the campus and lying along the southwestern edge of Mallory lake, the new two-story building will provide private, intimate, and advanced clinical technology. President Brown said that the groundbreaking “represents another example of how Edinboro University is taking academic excellence to another level.”

The Speech, Language and Hearing Department will be housed on the second floor of the new building and occupy approximately 12,500 square feet compared to the present 4,600 square feet of the Governor George Leader Speech and Hearing Center.

A more effective learning environment, will permit establishing a stimulating language development preschool class integrating children with language learning disabilities with normal developing children. The facility will continue to maintain current ethical practices, however the clinical space will provide more flexibility for clinicians to treat patients in a more intimate setting.

The new building is one of the stepping stones to making Edinboro a great institution of higher education. Construction of the building is expected to commence in Spring 2009 and be open for use in late Fall 2010.

Edinboro University President Dr. Jeremy Brown addresses the audience of more than 200 at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Human Services Building.

Strollo Architects Design of New Human Services Building

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In Fall 2007, the Speech Language and Hearing Department welcomed a new assistant professor, Dr. Patricia Leigh. Dr. Leigh earned her PhD in Communicative Disorders and Sciences from the State University of New York at Buffalo. A PA licensed and ASHA certified speech-language pathologist, Dr. Leigh is a member of ASHA’s Early Intervention and Higher Education Special Interest Divisions. She is certified also as a Professional Development Instructor to early childhood and school-aged professionals in Pennsylvania. In the Speech, Language and Hearing Department, she currently teaches courses in Communication Development Across the Lifespan, Survey of Communication Disorders in Children, Early Intervention, Augmentative and Alternative Communication, Phonological Disorders, Language Disorders, and Advanced Clinical Practicum. She is also serves as an advisor to the undergraduate Speech and Hearing Club and co-advisor with Clinic Director Cindy Grazio to the graduate program’s National Student Speech Language and Hearing Association (NSSHLA) chapter.

Since coming to Edinboro, Dr. Leigh has taken steps to implement changes in the clinical setting and classroom to develop her students’ skills and strategies for increasing language development in young children using her certification in the Hanen Program "It Takes Two to Talk."

She also continues to foster and facilitate students’ interest in speech and language while guiding and preparing undergraduate students for graduate school. Her dedication to her students and profession was recognized by her students who nominated her for Educator of the Year last Spring.

In addition, Dr. Leigh contributes her knowledge and experience within the community in hopes that daycare providers, parents, and teachers can learn how to stimulate language development in a way that will increase a child’s ability to use language. Twice a year, Dr. Leigh delivers presentations at Erie’s Children’s Museum on “Talk for Success: Encouraging Communication For Young Children” to teach caregivers and parents techniques to stimulate communication with children and further develop the child’s language skills. Through community presentations like the informative session on “Encouraging Communication in Infants & Toddlers in the Early Childhood Setting” given at the Porreco Center, she hopes to increase awareness and improve communication skills between caregivers, parents and their children.

Dr. Leigh’s professional development extends beyond the classroom, clinic, and community as she mothers four energetic children under the age of five years.
At the recent ASHA convention in Chicago, Dr. Leigh presented on Relationship-based Intervention: Building Bridges To Increase Therapy Outcomes. The purpose of the seminar was to have clinicians gain an understanding of the importance of affect, emotions, and relationships on the growth of a client’s communication skills and how to incorporate them into therapy. The seminar outlined specific skills needed by clinicians to build strong relationships with their clients and the people in their clients’ lives. Participants at the seminar had the opportunity to practice using relationship-based strategies and techniques that incorporate affect and emotion as guiding learning principles, and to reflect on their usefulness in the therapeutic settings. Additionally, the course presented a historical perspective on the use of relationship-based models in the treatment of communication disorders with all types of clients.

New NSSHLA Chapter Leaders were announced in December at the annual SLP end-of-the-year Banquet held at the Riverside Inn in Cambridge Springs. Julie Trimarco was elected as Chapter Leader President and Sameeksha Dixit as Vice-President. Supporting NSSHLA officers are Allison Bush, Nicole Kesselak, and Krissy Myers. Candidates for these positions were selected by the department faculty based on a written statement of interest and mission.

And the Awards goes to......

Awards were presented at the recent Alumni Conference and the unexpected, yet pleasantly surprised recipients were Akshada Shinde and Raelene Persad-Maharaj who each received a Dr. Frank Johnson Scholarship. Established by Dr. Frank Johnson and the EUP Alumni Board in 1999, this endowed scholarship annually provides two high achieving graduate students with a modest award to help with their college related expenses. Dr. Johnson was responsible for the establishment of the undergraduate program in Speech & Hearing Disorders at Edinboro in 1960, including its home in Leader Clinic. He passed away in September 2006 and his son David (joined by his wife, Dawn and his mother, Jean) has presented these scholarships at the annual Alumni Conference since 2006.

Kristen Myers, a first year graduate student in SLP, received the Dennis Ranalli award along with a five hundred dollar check. The Dennis Ranalli Award is funded by Dennis Ranalli and friends and is for a high achieving 1st year graduate student in SLP who received his/her undergraduate degree in Speech and Hearing from Edinboro University. (Continued on page 5).
Dr. Shinn keeps the noise out of the Clinic

The new Human Services Building, which will be the future home of the Speech, Language and Hearing Department and the Nursing Department, would not be quite as special if it weren’t for the advice of our resident audiologist, Dr. Roy Shinn. Taking into account present needs and allowing flexibility for future (40 years) growth, Dr. Roy Shinn consulted with Strollo Architects, based out of Cleveland, to develop an intimate, yet professional setting where clinicians could provide therapy to clients in a quiet, yet state-of-the-art environment. Additionally, the plans provide for a language preschool classroom to facilitate integration of language impaired children with typically developing children. The language preschool program would encourage language enrichment and stimulation so that parents can gain a better perspective on how children develop communication skills and hopefully transfer these stimulating techniques to the home setting to foster their child’s language development.

In order to meet the 2002 National Standards for classroom acoustics, the therapy rooms will be equipped with microphones and one way glass for family and supervisor observations. Students will monitor therapy activities from a computer terminal with the appropriate IP address. The digital camcorder built into the wall will allow full view of the room and clients will be wired directly to a DVD recording system for storage, review and editing. Additionally, the classrooms will include modern teaching technologies. To fully comply with HIPAA, undergraduate classes will be taught on the first floor, and the second floor will be restricted to clinic supervisors and staff, faculty, graduate students and clients.

The Human Services Building will also provide special parking areas so that clients and their families can access the clinical area without having to cross the road. An elevator to the second floor will open into the clinic’s vestibule, where clients and their families will be welcomed by a receptionist. A children’s play area will be available while the client and/or families wait. The reception suite will provide ample room for storage and organization of documents.

Adjacent to the reception area, the left side of the corridor will house the graduate classroom, 8 faculty offices, a graduate student work room, and a research lab space. The other side of the corridor will house 6 treatment rooms with private observation entrances to avoid disruptions, a preschool room, and a preparation room for clinicians. Additionally, a library equipped with lockers for graduate students, a computer lab, a set of audiometric suites, and a spacious instrumentation lab will provide flexibility for other academic, research or clinical activities. The audiometric booths will have a sunken floor to provide full accessibility to individuals with disabilities. A kitchenette will permit modest food storage and preparation for clients, students, and faculty.

Careful consideration of every detail, from the floor to ceiling, has been considered: from the direction of the sun shining into the building, to the carpeting and acoustics in the room to ensure that the same dB will be heard at any place in the room. Although carpeting can diminish added noise contributed by tile or hard wood flooring, an appropriate textile had to be chosen to prevent full sound absorption.

The blueprints of the new facility illustrate the vision of a well thought out plan to achieve an intimate and stimulating learning environment for both clients and new clinicians to practice their knowledge and skills. The new Human Services Building brings opportunity for growth and development of both departments. The highest standards of service delivery with state-of-the-art services to clients and their family, will be the continued hallmark of the SLH department in its education and training of students.
Mr. Ranalli received his undergraduate degree in Speech & Hearing at Edinboro in the 1970s. He is a member of the Edinboro University Athletic Hall of Fame for tennis, and has served on the EUP Alumni Board. The award is presented annually, but is contingent on the level of giving. Anyone can contribute to any of these funds (or establish new ones) and 100% of those donations benefit our students directly in the form of scholarships. These awards were presented at the luncheon of the annual Alumni Speech, Language and Hearing Conference so we could share the pride we have for our students with alumni and area practitioners. The Speech, Language and Hearing Department congratulates all recipients on their dedication and diligence.

Nearly all newborns in the U.S. now have their hearing screened and this has led to far earlier identification and intervention, and far better outcomes, for those born with hearing loss. When the family elects to develop their child’s listening and speaking abilities, hearing aids are first fitted. If the hearing loss is severe and the hearing aids are providing limited benefit, many opt for one or two cochlear implants. Earlier implantation is associated with better outcomes, with the goal of accelerating verbal language development so that the child can catch up with his/her peers and then maintain subsequent normal verbal language growth. Ms. Robbins discussed development benchmarks for these very young children so that clinicians can compare their clients’ linguistic performance and make appropriate adjustments. She also addressed the benefits of, and methods for, integrating music into the treatment for these children.

This field trip was made possible by the support of the Edinboro University Graduate Student Council and the Student Government Association, which funded the registration fees and transportation expenses. Participants enjoyed breakfast and lunch at the Embassy Suites, along with opportunities to interact with the speakers and other attendees.
In the past year and a half, the second year students have dipped their feet in the water of various clinical settings, including schools, and nursing homes. As their last semester approaches, they will be leaving their nest at Leader Clinic and preparing for exciting internship experiences in pediatric and adult care settings. Just prior to completing their last placement, they will return in May for a graduation reception and walk through graduation. We wish them all the best at their varied internship sites and look forward to hearing about their experiences. The following is a list of their placements for Spring 2009 (continued on page 7).

### NSSHLA takes on Chicago!

**NSSHLA’s 2008 Chapter Leader, Andrea Mussari, coordinating officers and second year graduate students attended ASHA’s annual conference in Chicago November 20-22.** The convention experience allowed students to gain and share new knowledge and strengthen their professional knowledge. In keeping with tradition, two yard sales were organized this past summer to raise money to attend the ASHA Convention. September kicked off the year with some of the Speech & Hearing faculty, and members of the chapter participating in the Memory Walk to benefit Alzheimer’s Disease. NSSHLA also hosted the 20th Annual Alumni Conference organized by NSSHLA Chapter Advisor and Leader Clinic Director, Cindy Grazio, who dedicated a tireless amount of hours of work to make the conference a huge success. Dr. Paula Leslie, Cert MRCSLT, one of the keynote speakers provided a session on *Decision Making in Dysphagia: Evidence Ethics*, while Dr. Patricia Leigh, CCC-SLP, presented on *Infusing Relationship-Based Therapy into a Behavioral Program: Increasing Expressive Skills in Kids on the Autistic Spectrum*. The conference provided 5 ASHA CEUs, lunch, and multiple fundraising raffles. Continued success and professional learning experiences are expected in the new year!
2nd year grads embark on a new journey

Across:
1. four chambers filled with CFS
3. expressive communication
7. driving force for speech
10. acoustic impedance audiometry
14. CVA
15. variations in frequency
16. windpipe
19. VPD

Down:
2. below the folds
4. unstressed and neutral
5. Individuals with Disabilities Act
6. projection tracts
8. sound
9. lack of oxygen in the brain
11. awareness
12. reduced pressure in the ME

National Examination in Speech–Language Pathology (NESP)

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<th>Speech-Language Pathology Program Data</th>
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<td>2007-2008</td>
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<td>Number of students taking exam</td>
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<td>Number (and %) passed</td>
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Median NESP Exam Scores

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Employment/Job Placement Rates as of December 2008

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<th>Academic Year</th>
<th>SLP Employment Rate in Profession (%)</th>
<th>Academic Year</th>
<th>SLP Program Completion Rate (%)</th>
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<td>2008 Graduates</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>2008 Graduates</td>
<td>16/16 (100%)</td>
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Calling all recent graduates from graduating classes of 2006, 2007, and 2008. Please click on the link below to complete a survey about your perceptions of your academic and clinical training at EUP. The survey link will be active from February 15 through April 15 2009.

We value and appreciate your feedback to make our program better!

HTTP://SURVEYS.EDINBORO.EDU/SLPALUM/SLPALUM.HTM