A MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR:

Written by Sue Moineau

"If one is lucky, a solitary fantasy can totally transform one million realities."  
- Maya Angelou

When I was hired in 2006, it was with the goal of developing a master's program in speech-language pathology that could address the significant shortage of SLPs in North County. I had been a practicing clinician for 10 years and had just completed my doctoral degree. I had no prior work experience or concrete knowledge in developing graduate level curriculum that would meet accreditation standards. I had taught a few courses as an adjunct lecturer and had done my fair share of clinical supervision but trying to build a program from the ground up was a completely new endeavor for me. I was struck by both fear and an intense desire to see if I could do it. I wanted to succeed in building something special – a program deeply rooted in and responsive to the needs of our community and the individuals we serve, while also focusing on the experiences of the students. I wished for faculty colleagues that would share my vision of content without silos and one that celebrated collaboration and co-creation of curriculum and clinical training opportunities. With the help of amazing clinical colleagues in the local community and equally generous academic colleagues across the state and nation who were willing and eager to assist, the program got underway.

Our first years had many bumps and we learned equally from the insightful feedback of our students and our community partners.

As we quickly approach our 11th year of operation, I have stopped to take stock of all that we collectively achieved. We have built successful and vibrant post-baccalaureate and bachelor’s programs and will soon be opening a speech-language pathology assistant program. We have graduated hundreds of students who possess knowledge and skills around the development, functionality and breakdown of communication – one of the most basic and fundamental elements in human interaction and connection. Our students and our graduates are truly transforming lives, and with every life they touch I can’t help but wonder if my solitary fantasy of building one little graduate program will eventually result in the transformation of one million realities, if even by proxy? Wouldn't we be so lucky!

Given our calling to work with individuals with disabilities, I am reminded that the great Maya Angelou had selective mutism for almost five years. A world without her words would indeed be a world worse off.

Sue Moineau, Ph.D., CCC/SLP Chair, Department of Speech-Language Pathology

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS - UPDATES & EVENTS
NSSLHA

CONTRIBUTED BY AYLIN HERNANDEZ ROMO, CSUSM 2020/2021 CHAPTER PRESIDENT

NSSLHA is a student organization for pre-professionals studying communication sciences and disorders. We provide social and professional networking opportunities, leadership opportunities, and opportunities to learn more about speech-language pathology and the field of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

In March, we hosted our monthly Trivia Night. The topic was neurology and deglutition. We also held the NSSLHA Hangout where members were provided the opportunity to meet and connect with fellow NSSLHA members.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

In April we will be holding elections for a new executive board.
The Students of Speech and Language for Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity (SSIIDE) organization has officially become a part of ASI. As a student-run organization, they welcome the leadership of their elected board officials – President Lisa Naudi and Treasurer Amy Boucher.

Monthly meetings have been taking place where members have focused their efforts on planning events for the school year. A vision statement, mission statement, and community norms have been established. Subgroups include marketing, pipeline/mentorship, workshops/guest speakers and resources. A resource library has been initiated and a Facebook page has been created. More social accounts are in the works as well.

Members of SSIIDE were invited to speak as panelists in this year’s CSHA Convergence Conference. Their conference panel was entitled “Nurturing Cultural Enrichment as Student Leaders.” It was a successful and educational event.

Monthly meetings will continue and membership to students remains open as the SSIIDE organization will continue to work towards their goal of hosting meaningful events that promote inclusion, diversity and equity.

"I have a lot of gratitude for the SSIIDE organization, so it is with joy that I will be serving as President. I am looking forward to working alongside faculty, students, and alumni to perpetuate a culture at CSUSM that is seeking positive change and furthering representation in the SLP field that is more inclusive and equitable. SSIIDE will continue to be a safe space that supports and takes action for the BIPOC and underrepresented communities."

- Lisa Naudi, SSIIDE President
The Teaching, Advising, Leadership, and Counseling (TALC) program is designed to provide CSUSM undergraduate (B.S.) and post-baccalaureate (post-bac) students with specific and customized guidance from current graduate (M.S.) students on important topics related to graduate school. In the TALC program, the B.S. and post-bac students function as mentees and are matched with graduate student mentors. Mentors and mentees will meet once a month (via Zoom) to discuss important themes related to graduate school (e.g., obtaining letters of recommendation, how to prepare for interviews, etc.). During the course of the program, mentors will provide mentees with guidance on a range of specialized areas, including:

- Course curriculum and strategies to retain important information that is necessary for graduate school. (Teaching)
- How to successfully and efficiently approach the application and school selection process (e.g., GRE vs no GRE, online vs in-person, etc.) (Advising)
- Types of leadership opportunities that can help students bolster the competitiveness of their school applications (Leadership)
- Steps to help students prepare mentally, emotionally, environmentally, etc. for graduate school (e.g., financing education, working vs not working while in school, etc.) (Counseling)

Next round of TALC applications for both mentors and mentees will become available in the upcoming Summer 2021. Interested students who would like to be notified as soon as applications become available, please email talc@csusm.edu with the following information: first/last name, campus e-mail address, and your Cohort (e.g., Cohort 5, Cohort 10, etc.).