

44400 Boylan

The Newsletter of the Program in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, Department of Speech Communication Arts and Sciences

Looking Back

Oliver Bloodstein, professor emeritus

My fifty-two years in the speech and hearing program at Brooklyn College appear in memory as an endless stream of scenes and people. The early years were dominated by the large presence of **Robert West**, one of the founders of our discipline and our professional organization. He was a wise and remarkably generous man, treating me as an expert on stuttering even though I was a young newcomer with notions on the subject derived from Wendell Johnson, with whom he disagreed. Recently, when my tribute to West was published by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), I received many fervent letters from students of that era, which recounted the impact that he had on their lives and their veneration of him.

When West retired in 1963, his place as director was taken by **Boyd V. Sheets**. A native of Utah, forty-seven years of age, with strong features and prematurely gray hair, Boyd was a deeply serious man with a sense of mission and a high moral character; derived in part from his steadfast Mormon faith. Those of less sober character were sometimes seized by a contrary impulse to be facetious in his presence. Shortly after assuming his post as director, he invited all of the faculty and clinic staff to his home for dinner. After the dishes had been cleared, he announced that he had

prepared an entertainment. He gave each of us a little book of inspirational literature from which each person was to find and read aloud a passage that contained an apt reference to his or her own character. When, after a few minutes, he called for someone to begin, there was a prolonged silence. Unfortunately, my eye had fallen on the



Oliver Bloodstein.

sentence, "When a man lives an upright life, he has a perfect mind in a perfect body," and the devil getting into me, I blurted it out. Everyone laughed—they would have laughed at anything at that moment—and Boyd joined in with obvious pleasure. Happily, that ended the entertainment.

Few knew that during most of his tenure at Brooklyn College, Boyd was suffering from angina attacks. In 1973 he became gravely ill. Early in the fall semester, at fifty-seven, only ten years after he had arrived, he died of a heart attack. He was an able and decent man who left our speech and hearing program better than he had found it.

James K. Lang was a notable figure on our faculty for many years. He was one of those wizards who understood easily what most of us labored over. Jim was our expert on statistics for master's students during their thesis research. When operant conditioning swept the field, he taught our students about it. Later, he became our expert on computers. Jim was a great teacher. He recognized that the highest form of teaching involves a germinal relationship between student and teacher, and he was forever sitting down with individual students in the lab. His sudden death, while bent over his work in the Brooklyn College computer lab, left many students heartsick.

Phyllis Gildston, who recently retired from our faculty, also evoked strong emotions. Phyllis was a demanding teacher. Many students thought she gave them too much work, but the best ones respected her knowledge and intelligence, and there were some who even idolized her. One of her gifts was an uncanny ability to draw people out. During one of our ASHA site visits, Phyllis's interview took an extraordinarily long time. Finally the site visitor emerged, his face aglow, and remarked, "That was interesting." The reason for the length of the interview became apparent. She had been interviewing him.

In 1985 I was named director of the program. In 1995 I retired formally, though I have continued to teach part time as an emeritus. Others who have had long careers in the program are **Guillermo Pieras, Ronald Feldman,**

and **Flora Meltzer Drillings**, all of whom are now living in Florida, and **Jerry Koller**, who recently moved to Israel.

Finally, in recollecting over a half century of events, most of my memories are of the students themselves. They have enriched my life in countless ways, some becoming lifelong friends. In many instances, I have known students first as undergraduates who never said anything in class, then as graduate students with voices, and finally as colleagues on whom I could rely for advice and information. To have been a part of Brooklyn College's speech and hearing program for so many years is to have had the fascinating privilege of observing human change and development—in clients, students, and colleagues. It's no wonder that, at eighty, I still haven't put down the blackboard eraser and chalk.

Growing Research Opportunities: Many Masters, Many Ways

Klara Marton, assistant professor



Undergraduate student Nicole Bianrosa shares the results of her study at the first annual Senior Thesis Seminar.

The interest in research among Brooklyn College's speech-language pathology and audiology students is growing.

They want to integrate what they've learned from their classes and clinical practice. **The Speech and Hearing Center**, with its diverse programs and clientele, provides these students with an excellent setting in which to conduct applied research under faculty supervision. To facilitate these efforts, the program has initiated a **Student Research Group** (SRG).

The new group is oriented toward students who previously have not considered, but are interested in and capable of, careers in research. Its focus is on student participation as a means of enriching the learning process. Activities illustrate relevant theories and encourage the development of important technical, organizational, computer, and critical and quantitative reasoning skills. SRG students also acquire collaborative skills through teamwork on various projects across settings, which prepare them for careers in the continuously changing health care system.

SRG students participate in every phase of research from design of the study to subject recruitment to manuscript preparation. They practice community outreach by engaging parents and teachers, as well as other professionals who work with children, in research projects that have clinical and educational implications. SRG projects have included "Working Memory for Structural-Linguistic Information in First- and Second-Language Learners," "Social Interaction Skills and Self-Esteem in Children with Specific Language Impairment," and "Language Learning in Institutionalized Orphans." Future projects will continue to reflect the range of the participants' interests.

Although the **Student Research Group** is new, its success may be measured by the fact that the first participants volunteered to continue their research projects over the summer without receiving pay or course credit for their work. The enthusiasm of these pioneer students has inspired others to choose the **Student Research Group** as an elective course or independent study.

The New Speech and Voice Science Lab

Natalie Schaeffer, assistant professor

Before joining the faculty of Brooklyn College, I had been a senior speech-language pathologist at St. Luke's/Roosevelt Hospital Center, where I treated clients with speech, language, voice, and swallowing problems. As I trained students and provided evaluations and therapy to clients, I realized the importance of instrumentation for accountability, assessment, and treatment as well as for research. I became even more aware of the significance of instrumentation in pursuing my doctorate, as I was required to coordinate instruments for speech-breathing research on normal and dysphonic subjects.

When I arrived at Brooklyn College in September 1997, I inquired about instrument availability and was introduced to a lab area holding a computerized speech lab program and a Visipitch, all in very tight quarters. Although these were important tools, the lab lacked instruments for respiration (e.g., a spirometer), for speech-breathing (a respigraph), and for vocal-fold vibration (an electroglottograph). It also needed an upgraded tape recorder and a data acquisition system for cataloging information. Compounding these shortfalls, the area's sorely limited space would never have been able to accommodate the additional necessary equipment. It became my mission to create a new speech science laboratory with state-of-the-art instrumentation, housed in significantly expanded quarters. The new lab, as I envisioned it, would allow students to conduct research, evaluate clients, and practice biofeedback therapy.

Toward that end, I applied for and received a PSC-CUNY grant with which we were able to purchase some of the instruments, securing others through our department. Through the tireless negotiations of Tim Gura, chairperson of the Department of Speech Communication Arts and Sciences, and

Greetings from the Program Director



Gail Gurland.

On behalf of the faculty and staff of the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Program, I am delighted to bring you the first edition of 4400 Boylan, a newsletter published for individuals whose lives have been touched in one way or another by our academic and clinical programs.

As we enter this new millennium, and reflect on our long and distinguished history, we recognize that our alumni now measure in the thousands and that we have served at least an equal number of children and adults with communication disorders. We have much in which to take pride, and to those who have shared in these accomplishments, we express our deepest appreciation.

We acknowledge that our current program rests firmly on the shoulders of those who have come before, literally pioneers in the field of communication sciences and disorders, and, more recently, on the new faculty and young colleagues who are making their way in this ever-changing profession. As a student, alumna, faculty member, and most recently as program director, I have seen the

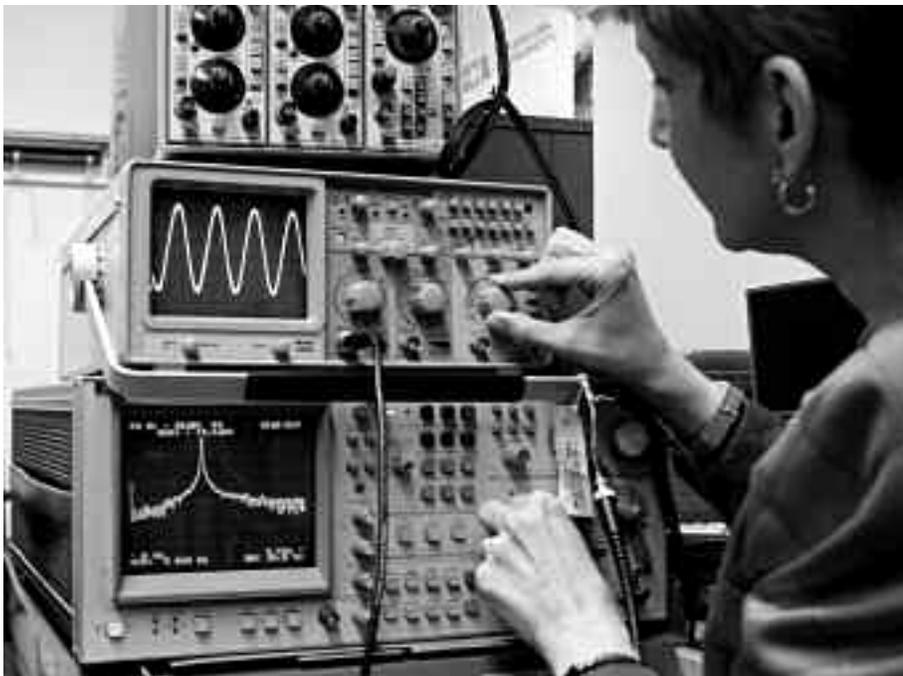
program evolve into one of the largest and most highly regarded academic disciplines in the college. While 4400 Boylan Hall remains the "heart and soul" of our clinic, faculty and students are now engaged in research and clinical practice in newly renovated state-of-the-art clinic suites and laboratories, and in the assistive technology center, developed in collaboration with Premier HealthCare of YAI: National Institute for People with Disabilities.

The faculty and staff roster, while still containing names recognizable to most alumni, now includes new members of equal energy, vision, and commitment. Many of us recall the teachers and mentors who shaped our professional lives, and we can take great comfort in knowing that the mission continues, sustained by those who follow in their paths, while facing the challenges of a somewhat different journey.

We invite you to share in our triumphs, learn of our challenges, and take heart in knowing that this program, which changed your lives and no doubt fondly remains in your memories, continues to attract "the best and the brightest." We have been given a wonderful legacy and intend to pass it on to those who follow. In future issues of the newsletter, we hope to include a column focusing on your professional accomplishments, and I encourage you to send such news to 4400 Boylan Hall.

Gail B. Gurland

Murray Koppelman Professor and program director



New state-of-the-art speech, voice, and hearing science laboratory facilities.

Gail Gurland, deputy chairperson, unused quarters were renovated and the new lab was finally created in December 2000.

The first sight of the beautiful new facility was thrilling. The large and airy rooms, with walls painted a shade of

mauve and the floors carpeted in gray, comprised a speech and voice science lab, a waiting room, and a separate lab dedicated to medical-auditory research conducted by Shlomo Silman and Michele Emmer.

This new space, however, still had to be transformed into a working laboratory. First, personnel from the college's Office of Facilities moved in all the equipment. Then each device was connected, coordinated, and tested to ensure proper functioning. Through the generous help of Michael Bergen, head of Audiological Services, the lab was soon up and running as a major arm of Brooklyn College's Program in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology.

While some refinement of instrument coordination is still required for research purposes, the facility was available this past spring for a course in voice disorders. We look forward to offering a special lab course so that students may be taught how to use the equipment and even conduct small research projects using this new facility.

To the staff of our department, I offer my gratitude and affection for their encouragement in bringing this project to fruition.

Clinic Directorship Changes Hands: New Programs Emerge, Old Projects Resurface



Patti Bottino, director of the Speech and Hearing Center.

In July 2000 the Brooklyn College Speech and Hearing Center assumed a new leader: **Patti Bottino**, a graduate of the undergraduate and graduate speech-language pathology programs at Brooklyn College, came to the center with a diverse background in both business administration and speech-language pathology. She succeeded Jerry Koller, who had served as director for fourteen years.

"When I returned to school after a thirteen-year hiatus, I had two career goals in mind," reflected Patti Bottino. "One goal was to work with voice-disordered actors, actresses, and singers. The other was to administer a clinic where I could blend my business background with my soon-to-be-acquired clinical skills. Coming back to Brooklyn College is the fulfillment of a career dream. One down, one to go!"

With a background in personnel, finance, and administration, Patti Bottino brings a fresh outlook to the clinic. Focusing on community outreach and expansion of the client base, she has implemented an accent modification clinic and has instituted January and June intersessions to help clients maintain their gains between semesters. This fall the clinic began providing services on Saturday mornings and hopes to resume clinical services on Sunday mornings in the near future. Fast ForWord®, a computer-based language therapy

program, has also returned this fall.

New programs are being developed for early literacy skills, social skills, and parent-toddler interaction groups. "We have an opportunity here to help children and families with, and at risk for, speech, language and hearing disorders by promoting early intervention for preliteracy and social skills," said Patti Bottino. "Group sessions offer our clinical students hands-on experience in collaborative and inclusive settings and provide affordable services for those clients most in need."

Celebrating Better Speech and Hearing Month

Michael Bergen, supervisor of audiological services

ASHA has designated May as the month in which speech-language pathologists and audiologists all over the world celebrate their work. The Speech and Hearing Center at Brooklyn College was very busy this past April and May reaching out to the campus community and the community at large through an awareness and prevention campaign created by Cheri Horn, our graduate fellow, and presented by Patti Bottino, clinic director, and myself.

In April the center was a participating screening site for the annual **International Noise Awareness Day**, organized by the New York League for the Hard of Hearing. The Speech and Hearing Center has participated in this event since its inception in 1996, by providing free hearing screenings to the general public. Free earplugs and literature describing the hazards of noise were distributed.

Also in April the center presented an exhibition at District 22's annual Health Fair, sponsored by Easy Does It, a drug prevention and health awareness program. The fair, held at PS 153 on East 23 Street in Brooklyn, attracted more than three hundred participants. Our exhibit featured information on the warning signs of potential speech, language, and hearing disorders. We distributed a wide variety of literature, including ASHA's *Tools for Living*. This comic book, which presents information about communication, speech, language, and hearing in a colorful format, was a big hit with the children. It was interesting to note how many people were not aware that there was a Speech and Hearing Center just up the block. This feedback has reinforced our commitment to continue to prioritize community outreach.



Graduate students Katie Allison and Malkie Morgenstern at the Brooklyn College Wellness Festival exhibit.



Michael Beggen

District 22 annual Health Fair.

Early in May we participated in Brooklyn College's fifth annual Wellness Festival. The Speech and Hearing Center has been a steady presence in the festival since it was initiated in 1996. This year's well-organized event benefited from the crystal-clear, seventy-degree weather: Our exhibit table on the Quadrangle displayed literature on a wide range of speech, language, and hearing services offered by the college, and more than seventy-five people had their hearing screened in test booths in Boylan Hall. We are grateful to undergraduate and graduate students Katie Allison, Malkie Morgenstern, Martha Peralta, and Marina Shraybman, who assisted visitors in registering for their hearing screenings.

Better Speech and Hearing Month concluded on Wednesday, May 23, with a poster session, "Prevention and Remediation of Speech, Language, and Hearing Disorders," presented at Brooklyn College Faculty Day by Patti Bottino and myself. The exhibit offered the latest data on noise-exposure risks as well as facts about the prevention and remediation of various speech and language disorders.

Annual Symposium

Adrienne Rubinstein, professor

For nearly twenty years the Brooklyn College Speech and Hearing Center has sponsored annual symposia in the areas of speech-language pathology and audiology as a way of supplementing student education with perspectives from professionals working outside the college. Through symposia we encourage

our students to recognize the value of further education after graduation and we provide a local site for the continuing education of our graduates, supervisors, and other professionals in the field. The symposia also provide a context for alumni wishing to maintain contact with fellow alumni and faculty.

In selecting topics for the symposia, we place a strong emphasis on subjects related to cutting-edge issues, state-of-the-art technology, and the perceived needs of the professional community. Previous workshops have focused on early intervention, central auditory processing, oral motor and feeding dysfunction, language and learning disabilities, hearing aid technology, augmentative communication, and cochlear implants. A workshop on human brain dissection, with an accompanying lab, was a great success and has been incorporated into the graduate speech and hearing curriculum on anatomy and physiology.

Symposia are cosponsored by the Graduate Student Speech and Hearing Association, Sigma Alpha Eta, and the Department of Speech Communication Arts and Sciences. Occasionally programs are cosponsored with other organizations outside the department or the college. In May a symposium on



Gail Gurland

Former graduate students Effie Karalekas and Pamela Sydney at brain dissection symposium.

autistic spectrum disorders, cosponsored by Queens College and the Brooklyn College School of Education, was widely attended and very well received. The most recent symposium, "Caring for Urban Children with Disabilities: A Multidisciplinary Approach," cosponsored by SUNY Downstate Medical Center and the Institute for Basic Research in Developmental Disabilities was held on October 19, 2001.

Maintaining the F.O.C.U.S.

Patti Bottino, director, Speech and Hearing Center

Last fall F.O.C.U.S.—Families Organized for the Community Understanding of Stroke—celebrated the arrival of the twenty-first century by marking twenty-one years of commitment to supporting stroke survivors and their families. F.O.C.U.S. was founded by a group of



From left to right: Klara Marton, Natalie Schaeffer, Roberta Chapey, Michael Bergen, Lucille Nielsen, and Patti Bottino at Faculty Day 2001.

educational events oriented toward increasing their understanding, management, and acceptance of stroke.

an integral part of the F.O.C.U.S. paradigm. Participating students benefit from firsthand observation of disorders caused by stroke and their effect on family dynamics.

This summer F.O.C.U.S. members enjoyed a variety of social activities, including a Brooklyn Cyclones minor league baseball game. Regular meetings are held at the Brooklyn College Student Center on the second Wednesday of the month. Call (718) 951-5186 for a list of meeting dates or a copy of the latest newsletter.

Faculty Accomplishments and Achievements

Michael Bergen was named Clinician of the Year by the New York City Speech Language Hearing Association (NYCSLHA).

Patti Bottino, director of the Speech and Hearing Center at Brooklyn College, is the coauthor with Altagracia Santana of *CESPI: Comprehensive Early Stimulation Program for Infants* (Wayne State University Press, 1999).

Roberta Chapey is the editor of *Language Intervention Strategies in Aphasia and Related Neurogenic Communication Disorders*, 4th ed., (Lippincott Williams and Wilkins, 2001).



Current and former F.O.C.U.S. members with graduate student Reva Gorin.

speech-language pathologists who believed that therapy and rehabilitation should include the patient's family and community in order to effect an optimal readjustment after stroke. To achieve this goal, F.O.C.U.S. holds monthly meetings that provide members and visitors with a variety of social and

F.O.C.U.S. has met continuously for more than two decades under the leadership of Gail Gurland, one of its founders, and volunteer group facilitators Harriet Seidman and myself, whose affiliations with F.O.C.U.S. began when we were students in the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Program. Student involvement, in fact, is



Loreta Hutchinson

Professor Rochelle Cherry presents the NYCSLHA Clinician of the Year Award to Michael Bergen, supervisor of Audiological Services.

Rochelle Cherry, head of Audiology, has published a monograph and several articles on aural rehabilitation. She developed and currently supervises the aural rehabilitation program for the Department of Speech Communication Arts and Sciences. She serves as the professional advisor to the Brooklyn College chapter of SHHH.

Michele Emmer has been appointed as a faculty member to the Department of Speech Communication Arts and Sciences. She has also been appointed as senior researcher in the newly opened Center for Audiology and Medical Research.

Gail Gurland was named a Murray Koppelman Professor for 2000-2002 and was awarded a Workforce Development Initiative Grant in collaboration with Kathleen McSorley, Brooklyn College School of Education.

Klara Marton recently received a grant from the National Institute of Health (NIH) to study child language disorders.

Lucille Nielsen has developed and implemented the new curriculum in infant/toddler assessment and intervention for the Program in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. She is currently developing a training manual for the introductory level clinical practicum.

Adrienne Rubinstein has received several research grants to investigate the use of hearing aids and the aural rehabilitation of adults.

Natalie Schaeffer, who created and coordinates the Speech and Voice Science Lab, has published articles on stuttering and speech breathing. Presently she is conducting research on speech breathing and vocal fold function.

Shlomo Silman is a Broeklundian Professor in the Department of Speech Communication Arts and Sciences. He will be the director of the newly established Center for Audiology and Medical Research. He and Daniel S. Arick, M.D. recently received one million dollars from the National Institute of Health (NIH). The research grant was awarded for the investigation of a non-surgical technique for the elimination of middle-ear fluid.

Gail Gurland, Klara Marton, Natalie Schaeffer, and Shlomo Silman were awarded PSC-CUNY grants.

Reaching Out to Establish Research and Clinical Partnerships

Gail Gurland, program director

The delivery of health care services has changed dramatically in the last decade. In preparing our recent graduates and current students to take their place in the health care system, we recognize the importance of working collaboratively across disciplines and settings. Our curriculum reflects the faculty's awareness of changes in the scope of professional practice in speech-language pathology and audiology and the need to provide educational and training experiences within the medical setting. Similarly, our colleagues in medicine have recognized the importance of providing students and pediatric residents experience in the general area of child development and disabilities, specifically in communication disorders.

After several months of discussion among their administrations and faculties, Brooklyn College and SUNY Downstate Medical Center have resolved to join forces with the Institute for Basic Research in Developmental Disabilities, a New York State research facility located in Staten Island, to develop innovative collaborative training and research opportunities for students and clinical and educational services for children with disabilities in Brooklyn and Staten Island. This initiative will bring together experts from pediatrics, neuroscience, genetics, psychology, speech-language pathology, audiology, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and education. Graduate students from Brooklyn College's programs in special education and in speech-language pathology and audiology will participate in this effort.

The first formal program presented by the three institutions was on October 19, 2001, at the medical school. The full-day conference, "Caring for Urban Children with Disabilities: A Multidisciplinary Approach," featured presentations by nationally and internationally recognized scholars and clinicians. Speakers included Dr. Michael Alexander (Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children), Dr. Ted Brown (Institute for Basic Research), Dr. Herbert Cohen (Albert Einstein College of Medicine), Catherine Crowley (Teachers College, Columbia University), Dr. Maria Mody (Harvard University Medical School), and Dean Deborah A. Shanley (Brooklyn College School of Education).

Plans are being made for intercampus visits by graduate students and residents; a series of interdisciplinary symposia; research initiatives; and comprehensive diagnostic, treatment, and educational services for children with developmental disabilities. The Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Program will thus reaffirm its commitment to prepare its graduates to work collaboratively with physicians and related healthcare providers in early intervention, acute and sub-acute clinical, and educational settings.

Celebrating Ten- and Twenty-Year Anniversaries of the Brooklyn College Chapter of SHHH and ALDC

Rochelle Cherry, professor and head of audiology

Self-Help for Hard-of-Hearing People (SHHH) is a nonprofit, international consumer organization dedicated to

improving the quality of life for people with hearing impairments. SHHH makes mainstream society accessible through education, advocacy, and self-help. In 1981 Sylvia Schechter, the program's first president, and I founded the Brooklyn College chapter of SHHH, which holds monthly meetings that are open to the community, families, and friends of people who are hard of hearing as well as to students of the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Program.

In 1991 a \$10,000 grant, funded by public and private agencies, was awarded to the Brooklyn College Speech and Hearing Center and the Brooklyn chapter of SHHH to establish the Assistive Listening-Device Center (ALDC), 4408 Boylan Hall. Open by appointment only, the center affords hearing-impaired people an opportunity to test and compare various commercially available alerting and communication devices in a safe, nonthreatening environment. Fred Camin, the current co-president of the Brooklyn College chapter of SHHH, is the director of the ALDC.

This fall these landmark anniversaries—twenty years for the Brooklyn College chapter of SHHH and ten years for ALDC—were celebrated with a reception on October 12 at the Speech and Hearing Center. If you are interested in attending a SHHH meeting, call the center so that we may add your name and address to our mailing list.



Emily Goh

Michael Bergen, supervisor of Audiological Services, performs an otoscopic examination.

4400 Boylan would like to hear from you

Let us include news of your professional accomplishments in the next issue of *4400 Boylan*. Please include your phone number or your e-mail address. Send tales of your triumphs to: Patti Bottino, director
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Patti Bottino, *director of the Speech*
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Michele Emmer, *assistant professor*

Susan Longtin, *assistant professor*

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Lucille Nielsen, *assistant professor*

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assistant professor

Natalie Schaeffer, *assistant professor*

Shlomo Silman, *Broeklundian professor*

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