

4440 Boylan

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

Graduate Fellows: Past, Present, and Future Friendship and 4400 Boylan Hall

Graduate Fellows

*Vanessa Dilworth (2003–2005),
Allison Greenberg (2002–2004),
Laurie Michaels (2002–2004)*

"Find something you love to do and you'll never work a day in your life" is a credo shared by past and present graduate fellows of the Brooklyn College Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Program. Why do they feel this way? In search of answers we asked past fellows about their experiences. Their responses, which follow, reflect the same pride and excitement that we feel about holding this prestigious position and hinge on their enthusiasm for teamwork and our field.

"I was given an amazing opportunity, and I have had the privilege to give in return."

—Gail Gurland, M.S., '72

Before Dr. Gail Gurland, director of the graduate Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Program, joined the faculty, she was a graduate fellow. The position was structured differently then. One of nine graduate fellows, she lived, ate, and almost slept in 4400 Boylan Hall, seeing twenty clients a week, taking classes, and doing thesis research. Her experiences with the faculty, which



*At the summer 2004 graduate orientation, from left to right:
Laurie Michaels, former fellow Leila Weiss, Professor Gail Gurland,
Vanessa Dilworth, and Allison Greenberg.*

included James Lang and Oliver Bloodstein, inspired her to pursue doctoral studies and a leadership role.

"I look back upon those years as being very rewarding."

—Lucille Nielsen-Rosander, M.S., '81

Lucille Nielsen-Rosander describes a graduate fellow as "one who wears many hats." During her "fellow" years, her responsibilities ranged from being a peer adviser to an assistant to the clinic director. Lucille Nielsen-Rosander is currently an assistant professor in the Speech Communication Arts and Sciences Department at Brooklyn College where she educates future speech-language pathologists.

"For me, it's always friendship that stands out."

—Leda Molly, M.S., '81

Leda Molly had "great fun" working with Lucille Nielsen, her "fellow fellow." Molly worked as an administrative assistant for the clinic and was mentored by James Lang, enjoying many opportunities to practice communication skills with people throughout the College. Molly's memories of being a graduate fellow are infused with energy and laughter. These include having wonderful philosophical conversations

with colleagues about their chosen profession; learning how to build a mainframe computer from Dr. Lang; crunching to prepare for an ASHA visit only to have Dr. Gurland demand that a page be retyped because the bottom left corner was creased; and building a friendship with Oliver Bloodstein through lunchtime discussions on religion, politics, and family.

"I have only fond memories of those two years."

—Michele Emmer, M.S., '87

As a graduate fellow, Michele Emmer worked in a small office with Naomi Labovitz and Phyllis Schaeffer-Cohen. The experience brought them closer together, the office becoming a hub for occasional gossip and good games of

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Greetings from the Program Director



Gail Gurland.

It is with great pleasure that we bring you the third issue of our alumni newsletter, 4400 Boylan. Your enthusiastic response to earlier issues demonstrates the continued significance of our program to you. Your letters, e-mails, and phone calls resonate with pride in our achievements. This issue of the newsletter is dedicated to our loyal alumni, particularly to those who have served as graduate fellows and to those whose generosity recognizes

and promotes excellent education at Brooklyn College.

The Brooklyn College Program in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, now in its eighth decade, is one of the country's oldest and most highly regarded academic programs in communication sciences and disorders. Our many recent accomplishments sit squarely on the foundation of our very distinguished past.

We were pleased to see how well prepared we were to meet the new, rigorous, professional training requirements of the American

Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA). The faculty has met regularly to restructure the curriculum in keeping with the revised certification standards that go into effect in January 2005 for speech-language pathology and in January 2007 for audiology. One of the most significant changes will be the development of the clinical doctorate in audiology in affiliation with Hunter College and the Graduate School of the City University of New York.

Research and clinical innovation continue to flourish, with impressive results coming from Natalie Schaeffer's speech and voice science lab, Rochelle Cherry and Adrienne Rubinstein's audiology lab, Klara Marton's language science lab and, most recently, Shlomo Silman and Michele Emmer's Center for Auditory Research.

The Speech and Hearing Center has undergone a face-lift. Old friends and recent arrivals remark on how professionally inviting the clinic has become. In our wonderfully refurbished space, students participate in new and revised courses on swallowing disorders, assistive technology, computer applications, autism-spectrum disorders, auditory-processing disorders, early intervention, and bilingual and multicultural issues. Veteran and skillful new faculty and clinical supervisors engage them in the most current scholarly, clinical, and research issues.

We hope that you enjoy our latest news. As always, we look forward to hearing from you.

darts. "We'd sworn an oath of secrecy," says Emmer, "so all hearsay remained enclosed within those four walls."

Emmer, initially hesitant about becoming a teacher, began her journey in 1986. Fifteen years later she was appointed to a tenure-track position at Brooklyn College. "It did take me some time," says Emmer, "to be able to call fellow faculty members by their first names. At first, they stuck like fish bones in my throat."

"The graduate fellowship provided me with an excellent education that prepared me both academically and clinically."

—Naomi (Labovitz) Shualy, M.S., '88

Naomi (Labovitz) Shualy believes that the graduate fellow position had a tremendous impact on her professional development. Working in the Speech and Hearing Center totally immersed Shualy in the field of speech-language pathology. Her interactions with faculty and students taught her much about

diplomacy and compromise in the workplace. Currently a member of the clinical faculty of the Speech and Hearing Center, Shualy acknowledges that she will always be grateful to Dr. Gurland for guiding her career and for providing so many professional opportunities.

"The debt of gratitude I owe for my selection as a graduate assistant can never be repaid."

—Carrie Idler, M.S., '00

Carrie Idler says that the following quotation from the Talmud best expresses her feelings about her graduate fellowship. In the Mishnah Tractate Avoth (1:6) Joshua, the son of Perachiah, says: "Procure thyself a teacher, acquire unto thyself an associate; and judge all men in the scale of merit." While the opportunity to find a mentor, forge lifelong friendships, and interact with exceptional individuals does not often present itself, Idler feels that the

two years she spent as a graduate fellow afforded her that chance. Being a fellow helped build her confidence and establish her network of friends and colleagues. Idler, now in private practice in Brooklyn, continues to look to Dr. Gurland—her intellect, integrity, and clinical intuition—as a model of professionalism who helps shape her clinical outlook.

"Being a part of this speech community is an experience that I will never forget."

—Cynthia Fritsch Donahue, M.S., '01

Cynthia Fritsch Donahue wishes to thank Miriam Lachman, Carrie Idler, Kathleen Donohue, Oren Abramowitz, and Cheri Horn, for keeping her relatively sane and smiling through some challenging times. She feels privileged that as a graduate fellow she was able to establish a niche for herself in 4400, her "second home." "I had the most wonderful neighbors," says Fritsch Donahue, "my professors and mentors."

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Speech and Hearing Center Renovates for the Future

*Michael Bergen, acting director,
Speech and Hearing Center*

Last summer I was honored to become the acting director of the Speech and Hearing Center. I am humbled when I consider in whose footsteps I follow—if there were a Hall of Fame in our field, several of my predecessors would be there—but with the help of our wonderful faculty and staff, I am confident that I will oversee the clinic's continued progress.

Factoring in the time spent as a student, I have been associated with the center for fifteen years, ten of which have been as a full-time employee. My tenure pales in comparison to that of several faculty members, however, who have been here for thirty years or more—Oliver Bloodstein, who recently retired, began teaching at Brooklyn College in 1948. I consider myself lucky to be working with the excellent educators and researchers here—some of whom are internationally recognized—and to have the pleasure of teaching and learning from our exceptional students. Indeed, our program is in such demand that in recent years we have been able to accept only the top 10 percent of applicants—a testament to our wonderful reputation.

The rich academic history of our program exerts a pull. Many people know that the center was founded in 1931, during the profession's early years. Robert West, one of the first directors, was a pioneer in audiology and the initial president of the organization now known as the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA). When John K. Duffy began teaching audiology courses at Brooklyn College in 1949, they were the first such classes offered in the city. Consequently, whenever I attend conventions, my Brooklyn College

name-tag is a magnet. I meet so many of our graduates at these national events, in addition to others attracted by the program's prestige.

There is also a strong family feeling that pervades our program. A few months ago, my wife and I, both graduates of this program, had the pleasure of attending the wedding of two other program alumni, Oren Abramowitz, '01 and the former Andrea Tuil, '00. Oren currently teaches as an adjunct instructor, and Andrea is an externship supervisor. In fact, many of

equipment. The facility may have been crumbling around us, but dealing with those physical limitations enhanced our team spirit.

I am happy to report that now the bad linoleum is no more than legend. Soon after my appointment as acting director, the provost granted some modest funding, stipulating that it be used prior to the end of our fiscal year or be lost. Spending guidelines convinced us to begin the much-needed renovation. While the sum was insufficient to do all that we envisioned, we were able to



The new reception area augments the friendly, professional atmosphere of the Speech and Hearing Center. From left to right: Lorna Barton, college assistant; Elizabeth Rosas-Diaz, administrative assistant; Michael Bergen, acting director of the Speech and Hearing Center; Sarah Streiter, undergraduate; and Vanessa Dilworth, graduate fellow.

our teachers and supervisors are alumni. I believe that they are drawn back by the warmth of this accomplished department. For those that return, it feels like coming home.

Our speech and hearing family shares a bit of the program's less illustrious past as well. Its old brown, green, and black tiles, peeling paint, and unsightly furniture gave students and faculty a common bond that spanned decades. As a public university, we always have operated under budgetary constraints. The limited funds that we did secure had to be spent on

supplement the public monies with a generous donation from Diana Rogovin Davidow, '71. It is so fitting that the alterations were made possible in part by an alumna, someone who has memories—as do we all—of those tiles.

Renovations are expensive. While we could not afford marble entryways, designer colors, and high-end furniture, we were able to have the clinical suites, waiting room, and reception areas painted, re-tiled or carpeted, and furnished with new chairs and file and storage cabinets. Our entryways were also refurbished. Being decor-challenged,

I could not have overseen this transformation without assistance. It is thanks to Gail Gurland, Lucille Nielsen-Rosander, Natalie Schaeffer, Beryl Adler, Elizabeth (Lisa) Rosas-Diaz, and our graduate fellows that we now have matching furniture, tiles, and carpet. The improved physical environment finally corresponds to the high quality of service that we proudly provide. Make no mistake, we don't intend to stop here. As the tireless efforts of Gail Gurland yield more funding, we plan to install audiovisual equipment to allow more efficient observation and videotaping of clients for classroom use or family and patient counseling.

As we renovate for the future, we maintain our links to the past. With input from alumni like you, we feel that the future of Brooklyn College's Speech and Hearing Center is bright. Indeed, all of you who spent time in 4400 Boylan Hall continue to exert an influence, because education is reciprocal. Just as students learn from faculty members, students teach their professors as well. In this way, each of you remains a part of the center for years after you've graduated.

Please come see for yourself how the center has changed but still feels like home. We would like to have your suggestions for further improvements. Call us, check our Web site and, by all means, stop by to say hello. When you visit, you will be able to inspect the other major renovations that have occurred around the campus, such as our renovated and greatly expanded new library and the absence of the Bedford Avenue overpass, the removal of which was the first step in the construction of the new West Quad. Come explore! We think that you will be proud of your alma mater. The Brooklyn College Speech and Hearing Center, past and present, certainly has a lot to offer. As we plan for its future, we feel sure that it will become even more exciting. And you, dear alums, are part of it all.



Presidential Professor Shlomo Silman and Associate Professor Michele Emmer, the director and the associate director of the newly chartered Brooklyn College Center of Auditory Research.

Brooklyn College Center of Auditory Research

Shlomo Silman, Presidential Professor

The Brooklyn College Center for Auditory Research is completing a study sponsored by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) that investigates the use of a nonsurgical device for the elimination of middle-ear fluid and associated hearing loss in children ages four to eleven. I am the principal investigator; Dr. Daniel S. Arick is the medical director; and Michele B. Emmer is the senior researcher. The results of this seminal research, which uses a double-blind design, are very encouraging. We hope that soon children with middle-ear fluid and associated hearing loss will no longer have to undergo surgery after surgery, entailing the inherent risks. Our team recently applied for another NIH grant to treat middle-ear fluid and hearing loss in adults and teens stemming from airplane travel, scuba diving, or aging. We are planning to expand our original study to include children younger than age four as well.

We are happy to announce that the Board of Trustees of the City University of New York has approved the

establishment of the Brooklyn College Center for Auditory Research, founded by Michele B. Emmer and myself, three years after its conception. The center will explore research avenues that will enrich the knowledge base in audiology and hearing science. Topics currently under discussion include brain plasticity as related to hearing, treatment of middle-ear fluid and hearing loss, and other issues of contemporary interest. The center will also conduct seminars and workshops on various state-of-the-art practices and current topics in audiology and hearing science. At this time the center is negotiating with NIH for workshops and seminars designed to encourage students to pursue degrees beyond the master's level and careers in research.

The center's advisory board comprises well-known physicians, hearing scientists, audiologists, and other practitioners. I am the director of the center. Michele B. Emmer is the senior researcher and associate director. At this time, the center has complete ear, nose, and throat facilities and is staffed by three prominent otolaryngologists: Dr. Daniel S. Arick, Dr. George Braun, and Dr. Abraham Sinnreich.

Annual Spring Symposium

Natalie Schaeffer, assistant professor

The March 2003 symposium, Stroke and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI): Neurological Update and Clinical Intervention, was presented by Martha Burns, Ph.D. Dr. Burns, a practicing speech-language pathologist for more than thirty years, specializes in the treatment of neurologically based communication disorders. She has published numerous journal articles on neurological language disorders and has written two books on the subject.

Dr. Burns gave an intellectually exciting, informative presentation. She first delineated current research on brain functioning, comparing healthy individuals and individuals with brain impairment secondary to stroke or trauma. The clarity of her explanations gave the audience an excellent understanding of how the brain operates in individuals with differing language disorders. She then linked videos of clients with language difficulties to an analysis of their brain functioning and the relevant therapeutic intervention. The juxtaposition of these aspects was extremely effective for student learning. The conference demonstrated the importance of research to the understanding of therapeutic applications. Participants were enthusiastic about their experience and expressed their appreciation for the speaker's professionalism and the practical nature of her presentation.



*Symposium 2003, from left to right:
Dr. Martha Burns and Assistant Professor
Natalie Schaeffer.*

Making A Difference

Gail B. Gurland, program director

Back in the '70s, I didn't know my fellow Brooklyn College student Diana Rogovin Davidow very well. She had completed the master's program before me and worked as a clinical supervisor during the years that I was teaching in the New York City schools. In 1978 I heard that she had relocated to Los Angeles. Our paths rarely crossed after that.



*At the Presidential Luncheon commending Diana Rogovin Davidow, '66, M.S. '71, from left to right:
Provost Roberta Matthews, Professor Gail Gurland, the honoree, and President Christoph Kimmich.*

In California Diana went back to school to pursue a career in counseling, eventually founding a program for gang members and troubled youth in South Central Los Angeles, as part of the nationally acclaimed organization A Place Called Home. She continued pursuing her avocation, painting, and gained a considerable reputation as an artist. In addition to raising her family, she also found time to devote to numerous community and charitable causes and, despite the years and the miles, never forgot 4400 Boylan Hall.

In 1998, twenty years after Diana left Brooklyn, a meeting of academic program directors in Palm Springs and an annual convention of ASHA in San Francisco brought me to California, and serendipitously, to Diana's home in Santa Monica. The reflections we shared prompted Diana to visit the campus on a trip to New York the following year.

Having earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in 1966 and 1971, respectively, and having worked as a

clinical supervisor until 1978, Diana returned to campus with "excited anticipation" and "a great deal of curiosity." She walked into the clinic, recognized the familiar setting, and expressed her amazement at how little things had changed in one way and yet were so very different in many others.

When Diana recalls saying goodbye to Brooklyn in 1978, she notes, "It was as if I were leaving a family, a place where I matured professionally and personally. Brooklyn College enabled me to receive an incredible education that I could never have afforded at a private university." Diana's training in

communication disorders had enabled her to develop a clinical service program in her Belle Harbor community and establish a successful private practice.

Leaving the east coast had also meant a career change for Diana and, at least temporarily, giving up the pursuit of a doctorate. However, the legacy of her educational experience at Brooklyn College, with such mentors as Boyd V. Sheets, Oliver Bloodstein, and James K. Lang, demanded that she continue to be of service to those in need. This is evident in her counseling center, her art, her personal relationships, and most recently in her commitment to give back to the place she says, "nurtured her growth and transition to adulthood."



Members of the Department of Speech Communication Arts and Sciences faculty, from left to right, standing: Shlomo Silman, Adrienne Rubinstein, Michele Emmer, Michael Bergen; seated: Natalie Schaeffer, Rochelle Cherry, Gail Gurland.

Diana has made an exceptionally generous gift to the Speech and Hearing Center so that new generations of students may learn to be of service to their communities. She hopes that they, too, upon attaining their goals, might consider giving something back to their alma mater. For this, I thank her on behalf of my colleagues and our past, present, and future generations of students.

Faculty Achievements

Michael Bergen is the director of audiology for the New York State Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NYSSLHA) for 2003–2004 and has been nominated for the same role for the 2005–2006 term. He is the chairperson of the audiology program committee at the NYSSLHA 2004 annual convention and is a member of the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association (ASHA) committee that wrote the 2004 ASHA Audiology Scope of Practice. He also published the article "Audiology Scope of Practice Expands as Profession Grows," in *ASHA Leader* 8, no. 6 (April 1, 2003).

Rochelle Cherry was named Murray Koppelman Professor, 2003 to 2005, for her outstanding service to Brooklyn College and its community. She is the recipient of a 2003–2004 PSC-CUNY grant to investigate children's ability to listen despite ambient noise.

Michele Emmer received an Excellence in Teaching award, which was presented at the 2003 Brooklyn College Faculty Day.

Gail B. Gurland presented "Speech and Language Evaluations: Who, When, and Why?" with Beryl Adler, '69, at the eleventh Annual Symposium on Pediatric Otolaryngology and Communicative Disorders held at Long Island College Hospital (LICH) in February 2003. She is the recipient of a 2003–2004 New York State Education Department grant to develop specialty curriculum in autistic-spectrum disorders, with Kathleen McSorley, assistant dean, School of Education, Brooklyn College; Fredda Brown, professor of special education, Queens College; and Sima Gerber, professor of linguistics and communication disorders, Queens College.

Susan Longtin delivered a paper, "Infant-Toddler Language Development and Facilitation," at the Brooklyn College Early Childhood Center in 2003.

Klara Marton received a grant from the National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Deafness and Communicative Disorders (NIH/NIDCD) to study working memory in children with specific language impairment (SLI). The Hungarian Department of Education has funded her cross-cultural study of executive function in children with SLI. She is the coauthor, with Professor Richard Schwartz, Graduate Center, of "Working Capacity and Language Processes in Children with Specific Language Impairment," in *Journal of Speech-Language-Hearing Research* (2003). Her article, "Research-Based Practice or Clinically-Oriented Research: Theory and Praxis in Child Language Studies" was published in the *Journal of Special Education* (2003).

Lucille Nielsen-Rosander was selected as an outstanding faculty member by students in the Department of Speech Communication Arts and Sciences in 2003. She is the recipient of a 2003–2004 PSC-CUNY grant to study the effects of persistent otitis media with effusion (OME) on school-age children.

Natalie Schaeffer presented a paper, “Severe to Profound Apraxia of Speech,” at the 2003 ASHA annual convention. She was the coordinator of the Brooklyn College symposium, Stroke and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI): Neurological Update and Clinical Intervention, held in March 2003.

Adrienne Rubinstein is engaged in a project to raise the awareness of audiologists and speech-language pathologists about the relationship between genetics and hearing loss.

Shlomo Silman and **Michele Emmer** wrote “Prediction of Hearing Loss in Persons with Cerebral Palsy Using Contralateral Acoustic Reflex Threshold for Broadband Noise,” in *American Journal of Audiology* (2003). They received a second-year renewal of the NIH grant for “Nonsurgical Treatment of Middle-Ear Fluid and Associated Hearing Loss in Children.” They also received a second-year renewal of a PSC-CUNY grant for “Relationship of Transient Otoacoustic Emissions and Broadband Noise.”

Shlomo Silman was named editor of the year for the *Journal of American Academy of Audiology*.

Graduate Fellows

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She glows as she describes her daily experience working with remarkable children and exceptional colleagues, one of whom, Dena Levin, M.S., '71, benefited by having Gail Gurland as a participant-observer:

“Sincere friendships emerged, including, most importantly, the one with Andrea, whom I married last September.”

—Oren Abramowitz, M.S., '01

Oren Abramowitz, an adjunct instructor in the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Program, has wonderful memories of being a graduate fellow. The knowledge he gained from the extraordinary faculty at Brooklyn College made a lasting impression. His most powerful memories, however, are of interactions with fellow students. In his role, Abramowitz met virtually everyone in the program.

“Being a graduate fellow has inspired me personally as well as professionally.”

—Leila A. Weiss, M.S., '03

Leila Weiss notes that once a graduate fellow, always a graduate fellow. She attributes this to the unique position of being both a graduate student and a junior member of the faculty with access to current and future leaders in the field. Because of the relationships that she formed, Weiss was able to obtain two

prestigious clinical fellowship year (CFY) positions. She has a singular memory of Dr. Gurland burning sage to rid 4400 of negative energy, and many others of such experiences as the annual “after orientation” dinner; weekly meetings with Dr. Gurland, and daily discussions of reality television, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, and *General Hospital*.

While the role of graduate fellow has changed over time, what remains constant are the relationships that we make along the way. The singular nature of the remarks that we collected reveals the true significance of the position. It is a stepping-stone to a strong support system, which leads to professional success and enduring friendships. As Helen Keller reflected, “The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt within the heart.” We, the current fellows, are honored to learn from the experiences of the extraordinary individuals who have preceded us.

The Program in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology thanks the following donors for their generous 2002–2003 contributions.

Oren Abramowitz
 Beryl Adler
 Beverly Fass Barzey
 Barbara Bennett
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 Mela Brandt
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 Cynthia Fritsch Donahue
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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: Michael Bergen, acting director
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 Gail B. Gurland, *deputy chairperson, program director*
 Rochelle Cherry, *Murray Koppelman Professor, head of Audiology*
 Oliver Bloodstein, *professor emeritus*
 Michael Bergen, *supervisor of Audiological Services; acting director, Speech and Hearing Center*
 Roberta Chapey, *professor*
 Michele Emmer, *associate professor*

Susan Longtin, *assistant professor*
 Klara Marton, *associate professor*
 Lucille Nielsen-Rosanders, *assistant professor*
 Adrienne Rubinstein, *assistant professor*
 Natalie Schaeffer, *assistant professor*
 Carol Schaeffler, *director, Premier Healthcare Center for Assistive Technology*
 Shlomo Silman, *Presidential Professor*

Adjunct Faculty

Beryl Adler, *adjunct lecturer*
 Simeon Blitman, *adjunct lecturer*
 Charles Goldman, *adjunct assistant professor*
 Patricia Kerman-Lerner, *adjunct assistant professor*

Clinical Faculty

Barbara Bennett, M.S., CCC-SLP
 Genevieve Davitt, M.S., CCC-SLP
 Lillie Epner, M.S., CCC-SLP
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