

Speech and Hearing Clinic Helps Hundreds of People Overcome Communication Challenges Each Year

The UGA Speech and Hearing Clinic is equipped to provide prevention, evaluation and treatment for people of all ages who have communication and swallowing disorders.

Lecturing professors and cheerleaders alike often visit the clinic to reclaim their overused voices and learn techniques to enhance and protect their vocal ability. Clinic workers also see many university students who speak English as a second language and who appreciate the chance to refine their proficiency and clarity. The clinicians also evaluate and treat problems such as language delays and disorders and speech problems related to strokes, neurological diseases, brain damage, and hearing loss.

The clinic operates on revenue from sliding-scale fees, providing low or no-cost services for people who otherwise would be unable to receive care. “We don’t turn anyone away for therapy services just because they can’t pay,” said Clinic Director Carol Ann Raymond. The clinic is the only speech and hearing resource in northeast Georgia that can provide services free of charge for eligible patients.

In 2006, the clinic screened 1,800 Athens-Clarke County children and adults for speech and hearing problems at free screening locations throughout the area. The clinic also provides services at UGA’s McPhaul Child and Family Development Center, the Oglethorpe County Preschool Program, the Athens Adult Day Care Center and various other community centers.

All graduate students in the UGA speech-language pathology program must complete a practicum, a set number of hours of practical experience, before they graduate. The clinic gives students the chance to work with clients in a safe environment while supervised by highly

experienced faculty members.

Students gain invaluable experience to prepare them for careers in speech-language pathology while supporting the university’s commitment to excellence in research and service. The field of speech-language pathology continues to expand with new job opportunities for qualified, experienced professionals, and UGA’s program is highly competitive.

“Being able to communicate is so important to your health and happiness,” said Raymond. “We cross everyone’s lives in a way to help them be happier in their environment.”

SPEECH AND HEARING CLINIC AT-A-GLANCE

Founded: 1954

Home department: Communication Sciences and Special Education

Location: 593 Aderhold Hall

Director: Carol Ann Raymond

Brief description: The clinic offers evaluation services for people with suspected communication disorders and also conducts free speech and hearing screenings twice a year. The clinic provides speech therapy for people of all ages and is prepared to assist clients to overcome stuttering, learn proper voice projection and deal with many other speech and language issues. Audiology services include hearing evaluations, hearing aids, assistive listening devices, and aural rehabilitation.

Number of students involved: 44 graduate

Number of faculty involved: 16 (2 audiologists, 6 speech-language pathologists, 8 academic faculty)

Clients seen annually: 1,000

Web: www.coe.uga.edu/csclinic.html

Phone: 706/542-4598



PHOTO BY NANCY EVELYN

Lindsey Yarbrough, a graduate student/clinician in the College of Education, helps Lucy Zhu with some reading exercises in UGA’s Speech and Hearing Clinic. Zhu had a successful cochlear implant and attends the clinic for therapy sessions.

Founder: Stanley Ainsworth
The clinic was founded by Stanley Ainsworth, a pioneer in the speech-language pathology field. From 1949 - 1953, Ainsworth taught speech correction at UGA, and was chair of what was then called the speech correction area and program for exceptional children. Ainsworth, who earned his doctorate from Northwestern University in 1946, was especially renowned for his expertise in techniques for correcting stuttering problems. Well-known for his professionalism and calm manner, Ainsworth mentored many students in the field during his long career, which included positions at Ohio State and Florida State universities and election as president of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. He passed away in January of 2000 at the age of 87.

See feature on UGA’s Center for Counseling, complete list of COE centers on coeNEWS at www.uga.edu/coenews