

Head Search 2012-2013
Department of Speech and Hearing Science
College of Applied Health Sciences
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Brief Summary of Position

The Department of Speech and Hearing Science is seeking an experienced leader with the ability to shape, guide and enact a departmental vision, the ability to foster continued departmental growth that will both sustain core disciplinary missions and push the boundaries of the field through innovative interdisciplinary research. Candidates should be outstanding scholars with an established record of contribution to the field or related disciplines, and have a compelling vision for the future of communication sciences and disorders. We believe this is an exciting opportunity for an individual with vision to lead the Department of Speech and Hearing Science, an expanding department in a vibrant college at a major research university, and to help shape the future for the field of communication sciences and disorders.

Department of Speech and Hearing Science (SHS)

Mission: The Department of SHS focuses the university's trifold mission of research, teaching, and service on understanding the entire spectrum of human communication, with a particular emphasis on communication disorders associated with speech, language, and hearing impairments. To meet this core mission, the department: a) educates students in communication sciences and disorders; b) serves communities by developing and implementing methods to prevent, identify, assess, and treat communication disorders and by preparing speech-language pathologists and audiologists for clinical careers; c) contributes to our understandings of the biological, cognitive and social aspects of communication abilities and disabilities through faculty research programs and by preparing the next generation of researchers in the broad field of communication sciences and disorders. In addition, SHS contributes to the educational and scholarly efforts of the campus through general education course offerings, research that spans multiple disciplines and engagement both across campus and within the local, regional, state and national communities.

Highlights: The University of Illinois *Speech Clinic*, which operated within the Department of Speech Communication in the late 1930s, was one of the first programs of its kind in the country. The Department of Speech and Hearing Science, formally established in 1973, currently has over 40 faculty and academic staff, including 19 full-time tenure track faculty, with a student body of about 300 undergraduate majors and 70 graduate students each year. Housed in two buildings, the department offers four degrees (BS, MA, AuD, and PhD), including two ASHA-CAA accredited pre-service training programs (for audiologists and speech-language pathologists), and a series of American Sign Language (ASL) courses that meet the university's foreign language requirements.

Curriculum: The undergraduate curriculum is designed to provide a broad background in the theoretical, basic, and applied aspects of biological, behavioral, linguistic, and social foundations of human communication, and educates students who intend to pursue careers and graduate study in fields related to communication, education, health, and medicine. The graduate programs focus on research and clinical education in communication, its disorders, and the treatment and prevention of communicative disabilities, with courses, practicum, and research opportunities designed to prepare students for clinical and research careers. The most recent *U.S. News and World Report Departmental Rankings* listed the clinical master's program for speech-language pathologists as 11th and the clinical doctorate for audiologists as 29th in the country. Graduates of the PhD program have accepted post-doctoral fellowships, and faculty and administrative positions in institutions around the world.

Structure and Budget: The Department of SHS operates under the direction of a Department Head in consultation with faculty, including professors, associate and assistant professors, instructors, lecturers and academic staff. Consistent with the shared governance policies of the University of Illinois, the SHS *bylaws* outline departmental administrative organization and procedures, which serve to supplement the *Bylaws* of the College of Applied Health Sciences, the *Statutes* of the University of Illinois, and specific actions of the Board of Trustees. Faculty are involved in departmental administration through the faculty-elected Advisory committee, four appointed standing committees (Admissions, Education Policy, Program Policy, and Research and Grant Writing), and ad-hoc committees as needed. Daily operations are managed by the Department Head, the Associate Head, the Program director, and by departmental and college support staff. The department head stewards a general operating budget of approximately \$2,000,000 per year based upon tuition revenue from majors and course enrollments, with additional targeted funding brought in through external grants, endowments and unrestricted gifts, and clinical revenues.

SHS Faculty Research and Professional Activities

Research Labs, Funding, Interdisciplinary Collaborations: SHS faculty are involved in a broad range of research programs including physiological research into speech, swallowing, and hearing processes in humans and non-human animals; behavioral research examining human sensory-motor, linguistic and cognitive development in both typical and atypical populations; and sociocultural research examining issues of ethnic and linguistic diversity and everyday communicative practices of individuals with communication disorders. To accommodate the diverse needs of different research programs, research labs for SHS faculty are housed around campus, including in the SHS building, Huff Hall, Beckman Institute, and Engineering. Faculty research is funded through internal mechanisms (e.g., Campus Research Board), and competitive grants from major foundations (e.g., Autism Speaks; ASHA) and federal agencies (e.g., NIH; NSF; Department of Education; Department of Defense). SHS faculty are actively involved in interdisciplinary collaborations and research projects with faculty from other departments (e.g., Engineering, Linguistics, Kinesiology, Psychology, Special Education, English) and hold affiliate appointments with other units and programs on campus (e.g., Psychology,

Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology, Graduate Program in Neuroscience).

Clinical Programs, Outreach, and Research: SHS clinical instructors, who hold ASHA certification in audiology or speech-language pathology, provide pre-service practicum opportunities for graduate students by maintaining clinical caseloads within the department's audiology and speech-language pathology on-site clinics, and by arranging external placements with cooperating clinicians at over 50 institutions locally and across the country. Through the Audiology Clinic, instructors and graduate students provide diagnostic and rehabilitation services to children and adults, including assessing, fitting and dispensing hearing aids and assistive listening devices. The Speech-Language Pathology Clinic is located in Research Park, the University's startup and innovation incubator. Instructors and students provide a wide range of on-site diagnostic and individual and group therapy services, and contract services in area schools. Both clinical sites have been recently remodeled with state-of-the-art facilities and equipment designed to meet clinical and research goals.

Awards, Recognitions and Professional Activities: Courses in Speech and Hearing Science are taught by members of the faculty who bring their expertise and personal commitment to the classroom creating a learning environment where student initiative is encouraged. Semester ratings by students place the courses and instructors in the department well above campus averages. SHS faculty and instructors have been recognized with AHS College and Campus Awards for Excellence in Teaching, the Campus Award for Excellence in Public Engagement, and received Provost's Initiative on Teaching Advancement (PITA) funding to support course development. SHS faculty have been awarded Graduate College Focal Point Grants for projects designed to stimulate intellectual communities of faculty and graduate students around important issues and problems of our times, and have been recognized by ASHA for contributions to the field. SHS faculty also serves on editorial boards for professional journals and on national review panels.

College of Applied Health Sciences

The Department of Speech and Hearing Science is one of three departments situated within the College of Applied Health Sciences (AHS), <http://www.ahs.illinois.edu/>. In addition, the College of AHS houses the Division of Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES), the Center on Health, Aging, and Disability, and the newly appointed Center for Wounded Veterans in Higher Education. College supports for individual units include undergraduate advising, IT support, web development, grant and contract services, pilot grant funding, a Teaching Academy, and collaborative cross-departmental research opportunities.

All units within the college are focused on empowering individuals with disabilities to live full and independent lives, promoting the development of healthy communities, and improving the quality of life of people of all ages and cultures. The college is a campus leader in developing interdisciplinary programs. It currently offers an interdisciplinary

undergraduate program, i-Health, which prepares students for a wide range of graduate study in health-related fields, and pre-professional study for a range of biomedical careers. The college is in the process of developing an interdisciplinary PhD in Disability and Rehabilitation Science, which focuses on common elements of disability within society, including the integration and rehabilitation of individuals with complex developmental and acquired disorders.

The College of AHS is proud to continue the long and distinguished history of innovation and provision of educational services at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign that has enabled students with potentially disabling conditions to attain a world-class education in a comprehensive number of fields. Under the leadership of Dr. Tim Nugent and driven in part by the needs of returning WWII veterans, historic breakthroughs at Illinois have included the first curb-cuts, the first public bus equipped with a wheelchair lift, the first competitive sports teams for persons with physical impairments, the development of architectural accessibility standards that were later adopted nationally, and most recently, the first campus to provide a transitional student dormitory for students with severe and multiple physical needs.

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is among a handful of preeminent public universities in the nation. As one of three campuses, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign houses 16 colleges and schools and currently enrolls approximately 46,600 students and professionals. The campus is a vibrant and active intellectual community as evidenced by the Office of Public Engagement, the Academy for Entrepreneurial Leadership; various lecture series, such as the CAS/MillerComm Lecture Series by the Center for Advanced Study, and universal unit representation in the faculty Senate.

In its 2012 rankings, U.S. News & World Report's America's Best Colleges rated Illinois as the number 13 public university and the number 46 national university. The 2011-2012 Times Higher Education ranked the University of Illinois at number 31 in the world. The University Library is one of the largest public university collections in the world with 11 million volumes in its 37 unit libraries. Undergraduate admission is highly selective. In the 2001 freshman class, students in the middle 50% had ACT scores between 25 and 30 and ranked between the 83rd and 96th percentiles of their high school graduating classes.

The University enrolls approximately 11,000 graduate and professional students in more than 100 disciplines. It is among the top five universities in number of earned doctorates awarded annually in the United States. The campus offers an opportunity to collaborate with world-class departments, for example psychology, linguistics, neuroscience, and special education. In addition, the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology is a model for interdisciplinary research, where eighteen research groups from sixteen University departments work within and across three broadly defined themes: biological intelligence, human-computer intelligent interaction, and molecular and electronic nanostructures. Finally, the Institute for Genomic Biology, established in 2003, is dedicated to the advancement of life sciences research and bioeconomic development. The institute

includes more than 150 faculty members and 600 students and postdoctoral researchers from 30 departments across the University of Illinois.

The Goals of SHS and Role of the Department Head

- To effectively communicate the SHS vision, inspire others to achieve it, and be an effective agent of change within campus, state, national, and international communities
- To identify, attract, retain, and support diverse and talented faculty, staff, and students
- To balance stewardship of departmental resources with innovation to advance our departmental vision
- To bridge research and clinical endeavors in a way that supports human communicative practices across a full spectrum of ability and age