

University Speech, Language & Hearing Clinic: A United Way Facility

713-743-0915

Volume 1, Issue 4

Newsletter

Fall Schedule:

- August 30th
Clinic Begins
- September 6th
Holiday
(Clinic Closed)
- November 23rd
Last Day of
Clinic



United Way of Greater Houston

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INSIDE OUT

In April, 2010, The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders had the honor and pleasure of hosting more than 100 members of the Houston community for a special screening of the award winning documentary "Inside Out," by Houston filmmaker, Adam White. This film was a REMI winner at the 42nd Annual WorldFest-Houston International Film Festival, and was among the official selections at the Comic-Con International Film Festival in San Diego last year.

"Inside Out" is a half-hour documentary, told from a father's perspective, about his five year old son, Christian, who was diagnosed with severe autism as he approached his second birthday. The film chronicles the sudden and dramatic changes in Christian's communication and social skills around the time of his diagnosis, through the emergence of his personality and love of comic books and monsters. The film focuses on getting past the stereotypes of autism and finding out that the person is more than the disorder. It shows the challenges that Christian faces and how the media portrayal of autism focuses primarily on those challenges. Through interviews with his therapists and family members, the film also shows the other side of Christian – the fun loving kid who many people looking in

from the outside may not get a chance to see.

Adam White is an alumnus of the University of Houston, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Media Production from the School of Communication. He has received numerous awards in the areas of directing, screenplay, and soundtrack for his innovative and diverse films. Adam's previous features have included science fiction, "mockumentaries," and even a musical comedy. He was recently featured on Fox 26 News following his capture of this year's George Lucas Fan Film Award for his short film, "The Unconscious Sith," with Christian in a starring role. Adam, his wife, Diane, and Christian live in Houston and are part of our University Speech Language and Hearing Clinic "family." You can view both "Inside Out" and "The Unconscious Sith" by going to Adam's website: www.adamwhiteproductions.com.

The University Speech, Language and Hearing Clinic, a United Way Agency, offers individualized programs for intervention in all areas of communication disorders, including autism, for both children and adults. **In January, 2011, an Autism Preschool Program will be launched for four children with a 1:1 ratio of clinician to child. Contact Ingrid Bowling at 713-743-0714 to refer a child or for more information.**



Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

“The Centers for Disease Control estimates that the prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorders in children in the United States is 1 in 110.”

There are increasing numbers of children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) or demonstrating deficits in social-pragmatic aspects of language without an ASD diagnosis but accompanying language disorders. The Centers for Disease Control estimates that the prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorders in children in the United States is 1 in 110. A study reported in the October 2009 issue of the *Journal of American Academy of Pediatrics* reported that, based on parent report, 1 in 91 children in the United States between 3 and 17 years of age has an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Children diagnosed with ASD require speech and language therapy in addition to other special education services to develop school readiness and social interaction skills.

Beginning in the Spring semester of 2011, the University Speech, Language and Hear-

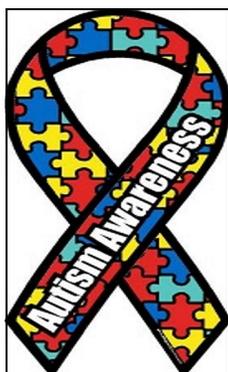
ing Clinic (USLHC) will offer a group therapy program for preschool children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) & Related Communication Impairments to prepare future speech language pathologists to work with this population. The program will utilize aspects of several evidence-based approaches for children with ASD. There will be a one-to-one ratio of clinicians to children and a maximum group size of 4 children.

During the first week of clinic, each client will come in for an individual session to meet the clinicians and become comfortable with the room. One of the clinicians will take a spontaneous language sample and record observations about the child's behavior while another clinician interviews the parents/caregivers. The results of the interview and observations will be used to plan therapy

goals tailored for each child. Group therapy will begin the following week and sessions will be held Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:30 AM until 12:00 PM. Story time, music, art, free play, snack, fine & gross motor activities will be included in the daily routine. Every week a different theme and communication strategy will be highlighted.

Each family will have the opportunity to sign up for a time slot each week to observe the group with the clinical supervisor present. This observation time will be used to guide the family members on ways to support and improve their child's social interaction skills at home. This is intended to facilitate carry-over of the skills learned in therapy to other parts of each child's life.

For further information, please contact Ingrid Bowling, M.S., CCC-SLP at idbowling@uh.edu or 713-743-0714.



USLHC Added a Bilingual Diagnostic Team in Summer 2010!



“The hands-on experiences gave me the opportunity to learn how to plan and to provide appropriate services to clients who are bilingual,” said Amanda Walley, a monolingual graduate clinician.

Recognizing the growing population of clients in the nation and particularly in Houston who are culturally and linguistically diverse (CLD), the USLHC has taken steps to better meet this need. Four graduate clinicians, two monolingual and two bilingual (Spanish speaking) were invited to participate in a “Bilingual Diagnostic Team” under the supervision of Dr. Rachel Aghara and Rebecca Gonzalez during the month of July, 2010.

With the addition of Dr. Aghara and Dr. Bunta to the faculty Communication Sciences and Disorders (ComD), students are acquiring the coursework needed to competently distinguish between communication disorders in clients who are culturally and linguistically diverse and language differences or issues that are particular to individuals learning English as a second language. Introducing the bilingual diagnostic team was the next step in providing the hands-on experience and specialty supervision needed to appropriately meet the needs of this diverse population.

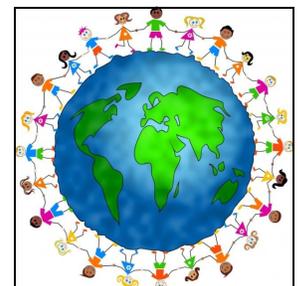
Many factors must be taken into account over and above the information needed when working with native English speakers. Besides the traditional case history, it is important to know the country of origin, length of time in the United States and/or exposure to each language, when and how the client learned each language and language of instruction if school-aged. Best practice is to assess the client in the language(s) (s)he speaks. Many instruments are now available for assessment of Spanish speaking clients but normative samples must be viewed carefully to insure that the client’s profile matches the instrument being used.

Kari Alexander, Paola Chavarria, Daniela Rangel, and Amanda Walley are graduate students who participated on the Bilingual Diagnostic Team and learned that each assessment is double the time and effort. Once the case history is known, the next step is to select formal and informal evaluation instruments and assessment strategies to use in each language. Clinicians were paired so that each team

consisted of a monolingual and a bilingual graduate student. Pre-assessment planning, preparation for diagnostic evaluation, conducting the evaluation, interpreting test results, and report writing was a team effort.

Daniela Rangel stated, “Working on the Bilingual Diagnostic Team gave me a better understanding of the need for such a thorough evaluation. Although it is time consuming and of increased difficulty, it was great to know that the child was given the opportunity to demonstrate his/her abilities in both languages.”

Efforts to increase the knowledge and skills of graduate students working with CLD clients will continue with the addition of Ms. Gonzalez this fall as a clinical supervisor. The USLHC is committed to providing the most appropriate diagnostic and intervention services to all our clients from all linguistic and cultural backgrounds.



University of Houston

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United Way of Greater Houston

The mission of the University Speech, Language and Hearing Clinic: A United Way Facility is to provide services to adults and children for the evaluation, remediation and prevention of speech, language, learning and hearing disorders, and training of students in Communication Sciences and Disorders.

These programs are offered:

- *Speech & Language Diagnostic Services*
- *Speech & Language Treatment Services*
- *Autism Spectrum & Related Disorders: Preschool Program*
- *Language Learning Group: Preschool Program*
- *Post-Stroke Communication Services*
- *Cougar Communication Groups: Summer Camp*
- *Hearing Diagnostic Services*
- *Hearing Management & Rehabilitation Services*
- *Hearing Aids & Assistive Listening Devices*
- *Accent Modification Program*
- *Fluency Specialty Clinic*
- *Voice Program*
- *Communication Enhancement Group (CEG)
An Augmentative & Alternative*

Becky Gonzalez Joins the Team

Mrs. Rebecca Gonzalez has 32 years experience as a speech-language pathologist working in the public schools and private practice. Her expertise is in the area of working with culturally and linguistically diverse (CLD) populations. She has provided presentations and workshops on CLD issues throughout the state for school districts, educational service centers, and regional associations. Ms. Gonzalez currently supervises graduate students at the USLHC involved in assessment and treatment of bilingual clients.



Becky Gonzalez

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The upcoming issue will feature:

- **Autism Spectrum & Related Disorders: Preschool Program**
- **Cougar Communication Groups: Summer Camp**