

Diversify the field of speech-language-hearing sciences

Multiple and diverse perspectives among our faculty and students not only build a stronger department, but also reflect the communities in which our students will be living and working. We must model the world's changing demographics and include scholars and students from underrepresented backgrounds to fully and fairly address the needs of the members of these communities.

- ✓ Your **scholarship** gifts will help us recruit undergraduate and graduate students from underrepresented and under-resourced backgrounds, including students of color, low-income, and first-generation college students.
- ✓ Gifts for **endowed chairs, professorships, and research funds** will help us recruit and retain the best underrepresented faculty, staff, and students to Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences.



"I found my motivation and drive in the Department of Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences."

"Your education is what you make it," says speech-language-hearing sciences (SLHS) senior Victoria Idowu. As a first generation woman of color, she has excelled in her studies, research, and extracurricular involvement.

Working with SLHS professor Evelyn Davies-Venn, a scientist who specializes in computational modes of hearing, Idowu is helping to create better sensory aids, including hearing aids. After graduation, Idowu will pursue graduate studies. She hopes to continue her research in order to develop new technologies and innovative therapies that help underserved and underrepresented communities.

SHATTERING EXPECTATIONS The Campaign for Liberal Arts

DEPARTMENT of SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING SCIENCES CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES



In every corner of the country, our alumni are transforming lives.

As clinicians, they're in schools, hospitals, clinics, and in the companies they've launched, helping people at every stage of life to express what they want to say, and to understand what is being said to them. On university faculties from coast to coast, they're advancing the speech-language-hearing discipline and educating the next generation of practitioners and scholars.

Studying the complex mystery of human communication, our world-class faculty are pushing research boundaries and applying that research to real life. Our students are working right along with them. They're involved in breathtaking projects like voice banking, a revolutionary technology that may allow people with degenerative diseases like Lou Gehrig's Disease to speak by using a life-like, computer-generated version of their own voices.

They're working with faculty in the new Center for Applied Translational Sensory Sciences, a multi-disciplinary project specializing in sensory deficits such as low vision or hearing loss. And they're getting hands-on experience at the Phillips Neighborhood Clinic in Minneapolis and in the Julia M. Davis Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic right here on campus. In these settings, education merges with practice to provide a suite of services ranging from individual therapy for children to help for adults with traumatic brain injury.

It is no wonder that virtually 100 percent of our graduate professional students with degrees in audiology and speech-language pathology find employment after graduation. They're ready for a world that needs them.

You can join us in shaping the future of discovery and clinical service delivery in the field of speech-language-hearing sciences. Your gifts will help activate our exciting goals as we prepare the next generation of scholars, educators, and practitioners.

Advance innovative research

Our world-class faculty are pushing research boundaries and applying that research to real life. They're identifying effective language interventions for children with neurodevelopmental issues like Down syndrome or autism. They're examining psycholinguistic and sensory-motor processes in children and adults who stutter. They're studying how language is acquired by non-native speakers of English. They're exploring how listeners with severe hearing losses understand complex speech with cochlear implants. And they're investigating linguistic variation in gender and sexuality.

The broad reach of speech-language-hearing sciences provides many opportunities and challenges for our researchers to explore promising ideas and compete for competitive grants. Your investment can provide critical resources for their innovative work.

- ✓ Your gifts will provide **seed grants** for faculty who want to initiate a new direction in their research or develop innovative projects that will allow them to expand into new areas and generate findings that improve lives.
- ✓ Your gifts will provide **fellowships** to help attract outstanding, full-time graduate students who engage with our faculty on critical research that advances our field. Fellowships for graduate students to conduct mentored research during the summer months and to practice at clinical sites is especially needed.



"We study real-world problems of people with hearing and vision loss. Here we re-create challenging listening situations—a crowded restaurant, listening to television, listening to music, or even a conversation in a quiet living room. During those re-creations, we test sensory aids and we try to improve their performance. Our research is already influencing product development, and we expect to improve the quality of life for millions of people with sensory deficits."

—Peggy Nelson, professor and director, Center for Applied Translational Sensory Science (CATSS)

Engage with our community

Our students are not just scholars but community members as well. With our faculty, they're engaged citizens who contribute in numerous ways to the community, with activities including hearing screenings for the Special Olympics, partnering with the Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance, hosting the Camp for Kids Who Stutter, and working with organizations like Minnesota Connect Aphasia Now (MnCAN).

- ✓ Your gifts will help us expand opportunities for **internships, community partnerships, and service learning opportunities.**

Each summer, children who stutter come to the U to become more confident in their communication skills. The Camp for Kids Who Stutter started back in 2009, when alumnus Leo Sioris and his wife, Cheryl, approached the department with a desire to give back. Sioris, CEO and cofounder of SafetyCall International and a professor in the U's College of Pharmacy, had never forgotten how a University of Minnesota speech-language pathologist helped him in his own struggles with stuttering. "I wouldn't be where I am today if I didn't have that help back then," he says.

Thanks to generous gifts from the Siorises, a new generation—more than 100 kids since 2009—is becoming more confident in their communication skills. Dozens of graduate students studying speech-language pathology have participated in the camp as part of a practicum required as part of the master's program. The Siorises' gift also supports two former U of M grad students, both people who stutter, who lead camp activities—and serve as role models for the campers.



Observing the campers and counselors who benefit from the program, Sioris says,

"These kids are talking to each other and relating and feeling good about themselves because they're not all alone."

One young camper, Joshua, says, "You realize that you are not alone in your stuttering and there are many people your same age going through the same things that you are."