



Hears the News

AUGUST 2020
VOLUME 4.
ISSUE 1

Long Island AuD Consortium Newsletter



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So the World May Hear El Salvador Mission Trip



In January 2020, seven-third year audiology doctoral students and two clinical professors, Dr. Ianthe Dunn-Murad and Dr. Rose Valvezan had the unique and humbling opportunity to travel with the Starkey Hearing Foundation to El Salvador, Central America to provide hearing services to over 1,200 individuals with hearing loss and hearing impairments. With only one Audiologist currently practicing in El Salvador, access to hearing care is often not available to those in underrepresented groups.

Upon arriving in San Salvador, the capital of El Salvador, they completed a Starkey hearing aid fitting training including hands-on training about how to properly fit hearing aids using a community-based model. This is because the Starkey program has a unique protocol that was designed to cater for third world countries. Our students spent two full days (Jan. 9th and Jan 10th) seeing patients for hearing aids fitting

including taking ear molds' impressions, cerumen management and other services. In two successful mission days in San Salvador, our students and faculty were able to fit over 1159 people with hearing aids. The consortium family had the opportunity to experience and enjoy the culture on their third day of the mission trip. That day included a trip around the country, enjoying the traditional foods and spending time with the Starkey volunteers.

Our faculty members and students enjoyed every single moment creating fond memories with the consortium family.



So the World May Hear

El Salvador Mission Trip



Third year students, had this to say about their experiences:

"I will never forget my very first patient that I saw on the first day. It was an older woman who was accompanied by her daughter. Her daughter informed me that her mother has not been able to hear for many years and they did not have the financial resources to buy hearing aids. After we fit her with hearing aids, her face lit up and she started to cry because she could hear us, seeing how happy she was to hear with the hearing aids is one moment that will stick with me forever. My professors had explained some of the reactions, but to witness it first hand was magical!" – Kristen S. Brancucci

"Having this opportunity changed my perspective on life completely! This experience opened my viewpoint about the hearing health discrepancies in the world and put into reality how some people suffer because they have no resources available to them. This opportunity was truly an unforgettable experience. Every student should take the opportunity to go on a Starkey Mission Trip!" – Raissa El-Houayek



So the World May Hear



El Salvador Mission Trip



Starkey Hearing Innovation Expo 2020



Starkey Hearing Technologies hosted the fifth Hearing Innovation Expo at The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas. That event was held on January 15-19, 2020, and more than 3,000 hearing professionals, scientists, industry experts and business leaders from more than 30 countries were in attendance. Three fellow students: Kristen Brancucci, Richard Selleck and Jaclyn Russo from the consortium attended the event.

Here is what Kristen Brancucci expressed about her participation in the Starkey Expo 2020:

"This past January I had the pleasure of going to Starkey's Hearing Exposition in Las Vegas with two fellow classmates: Jaclyn Russo and Rich Selleck. As student volunteers, we had the opportunity to help set-up for events, help collect CEUs, sit in on awesome break-out sessions, meet fellow audiology students and see Las Vegas! It was a great experience to be a part of such a large event and to see so many audiologists from across the country coming together. Their breakout sessions included topics like AI and hearing aids, improving patient satisfaction and OTC HA's potential influence in our field. It was a very extravagant event featuring many interesting keynote speakers—Gary Vaynerchuk, Daymond John and Matthew McConaughey to name a few. But beyond that, it was an opportunity to learn about Starkey's newest products and innovations firsthand. I'm grateful to have had this experience!"

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2020



Although commencement looks a lot different this year, that doesn't take away from all of your hard work and dedication throughout your time at the Long Island AuD Consortium! We are so proud of our graduating Class of 2020!



You have remained steadfast during this time of uncertainty, representing the best of the consortium! On behalf of all of us, we wish you continued success!
Congratulations

Preceptor Spotlight: Denise Passerieux, Au.D.

Dr. Denise Passerieux is currently an audiology clinical supervisor at the Hofstra University Speech-Language Hearing Clinic. She joined the Long Island Audiology Consortium in 2016. Denise earned her Bachelor and Masters of Arts from the University at Buffalo in 1993 and 1995, respectively, and her Doctorate of Audiology from A.T. Still University Arizona School of Health Sciences in 2010. Prior to joining the LI AuD Consortium, Dr Passerieux had the opportunity to have gained experiences in a variety of audiological settings including major hospital and specialty eye/ear hospitals in Manhattan, audiological support/trainer at a major hearing aid manufacturer, ENT practices as well as with private audiology practices. During her tenures she was able to gain experience in a variety of audiological practices including complete audiological assessments with pediatric and adult populations, complete vestibular assessments, universal hearing screenings, hearing aid fittings utilizing verification and real ear measurement, assistive devices, and aural rehabilitation.



Dr. Passerieux's areas of interest lie in hearing aid verification, vestibular assessment and especially loves pediatrics. Her favorite thing over the years has been working with audiology students. "I love working with the students. They really keep you humble, on your toes and on top of your audiological knowledge." In addition, to her time at Hofstra, Dr Passerieux has been adjunct professor at Adelphi University since 2017. She also has had the opportunity to have lectured regarding NY State infection control and telecoil/assistive devices protocol since 2017. She is also a member of the Long Island Speech Language Hearing Association and volunteers on various committees. She holds her Certificate of Clinical Competence from ASHA and is a fellow of the American Academy of Audiology. Personally, Dr Passerieux has been married to her husband for 18 years and has two children, two dogs and two cats who also keep her busy. She has volunteered in the PTA including serving as treasurer, school district's PTA council and countless committees. She has also received recognition with the New York State PTA Honorary Life Membership Award for her PTA work.

Thank you, Dr. Passerieux, for all that you do!



The Grand Annual Audiology Debate

On April 23rd, 2020 our third year students took part in the 4th Grand Annual Audiology Debate which was a virtual event via zoom. This years topic was the Pros and Cons of Tele-Audiology. Panelists from each side, Pros and Cons, shared their experiences and perspectives on the role of tele-health in today's healthcare scenario. Both teams presented well-researched arguments. Overall this student-led debate explored both sides of this important and timely topic.

The panel of judges included:

Dr. Bopanna Ballachanda, PhD, is a president at Premier Consulting and Adjunct Professor at Texas Tech University. He is an experienced president with a demonstrated history of working in the professional training and coaching industry. He has a PhD focused in Auditory Neuroscience from the University of Texas at Dallas. He was a leader in establishing telehealth care in audiology practice in the United States.

Dr. Christina Callahan, AuD, is the head of the Clinical Audiology at Lively in the New York area. She developed and managed an innovative tele-audiology service model, conducts video consultations, conducts hearing aid fittings and remote follow up services as well. In 2016 she was awarded the Joan Fox Memorial Award in recognition of outstanding scholarship and service to the speech, language and hearing field. She was also awarded the Academy Research Conference Poster Presentation Scholarship.

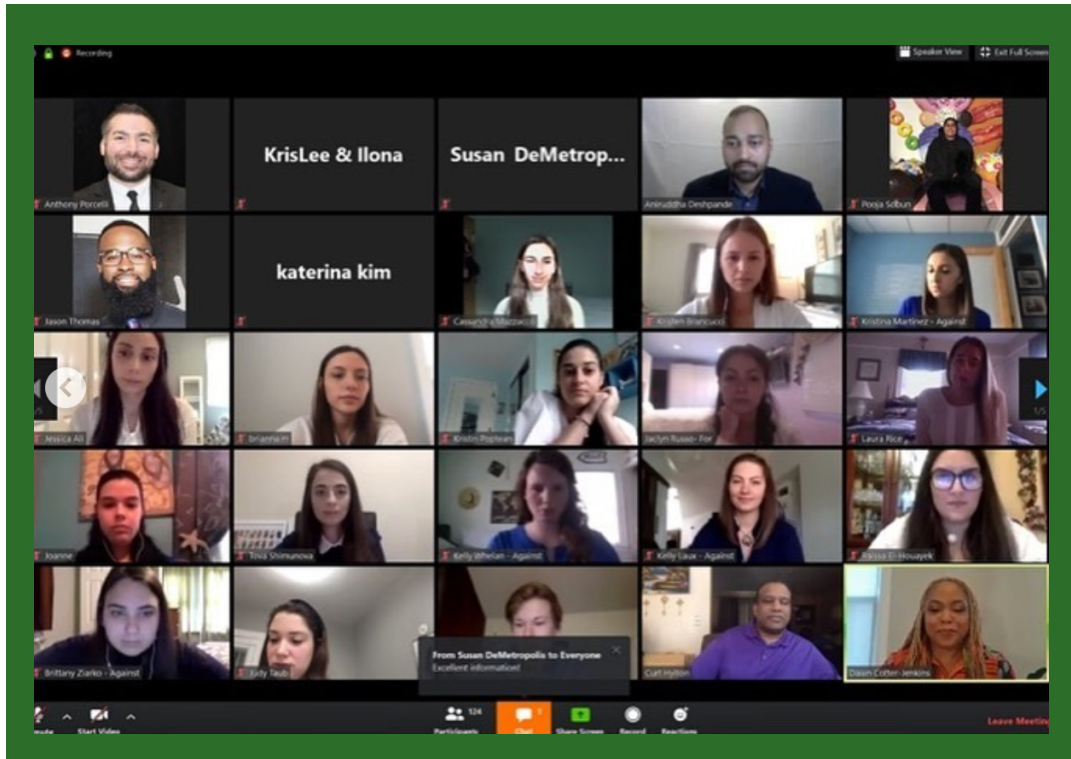
Dawn Cotter-Jenkins, MA, is a Clinical Speech Supervisor at the Hy Weinberg Center for Speech and Hearing on the campus of Adelphi University. She is an independent consultant and private practice contractor in speech-language pathology in the areas of both professional speech and clinical speech. Her main areas of specialty include Accent Modification, Professional Communication Skills, Early Intervention and Special needs.


Dr. Aniruddha K. Deshpande, PhD., CCC-A is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences at Hofstra University and coordinator for The Grand Audiology Debate. His research interests include tinnitus, hyperacusis, amplification, noise induced hearing loss, hearing conservation, and how technology plays a role in these conditions. Dr. Deshpande directs research projects at his lab - The Hear-Ring Lab. His research has been supported through intramural and extramural funding. Dr. Deshpande has authored several publications, presentations, and book chapters.

The debate was one of the signature events featured during the National Public Health Week. This virtual debate via zoom was well attended by faculty, students and professionals. The team that argued about the 'Cons of Tele-Health' won the debate. Thank you to Dr. Deshpande and the third year students for a successful and engaging event!



The Grand Annual Audiology Debate





National Public Health Week
AN INITIATIVE OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION


This event will begin shortly.

Please keep your video camera off.

Participants will be muted.
If you have a question, please type your question at any time using the Chat function. Questions will be answered at the end.

Thank you for your cooperation!

**4th Grand Annual Audiology Debate:
Pros and Cons of
Tele-Audiology**



HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS & HUMAN SERVICES



Bopanna Ballachanda, PhD
Founder, Premier Hearing Centers
Adjunct Instructor, Audiology
Texas Tech University Health
Sciences Center



Christina Callahan
Head of Clinical Services
Lively Hearing



Dawn Cotter-Jenkins, MA
Clinical Speech Supervisor
Hy Weinberg Speech and
Hearing Center
Adelphi University



Facilitated by Aniruddha Deshpande, PhD
Assistant Professor, Director of The Hearing Ring Lab, Department of SLHS
Hofstra University/Long Island
AuD Consortium

Fourth Year Spotlight:

Joanne Pisciotta



Joanne Pisciotta is a fourth year doctoral student with the Long Island Au.D. Consortium and her home school is St. John's University. She also attended St. John's University for her undergraduate studies where she received a Bachelors degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders and a Bachelors degree in Italian. During her undergraduate years at St. John's, Joanne was a member of the Speech and Hearing Club, President of the Italian Club, and had the opportunity to intern in Rome. Growing up she always knew she wanted to help others, but she didn't know what direction to go towards, until she observed her first audiological evaluation. As undergraduate student, Joanne was indecisive on whether she wanted to pursue Audiology or Speech Pathology. It wasn't until her senior year when the Speech and Hearing Club held a "Meet and Greet" with members of the Long Island Au.D. Consortium, that she knew audiology was the profession for her and the Long Island Au.D. Consortium was the way to succeed.

Joanne's clinical placements included NY Audio Associates, Manhattan Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery, and NYU Audiology Associates. Each clinical rotation was challenging in their own way, but she felt she grew as an individual and as an audiologist from each experience. She is so grateful for the opportunities she has had including clinical placements, Oticon summer camp, a graduate assistantship, and the Starkey Mission trip in El Salvador. For her fourth year externship, Joanne is attending NY Audio Associates in Brooklyn. Although this placement wasn't her original plan for fourth year (due to the pandemic), she finds her experience so rewarding, where she can return to her first placement and continue to grow as an audiologist. When looking for an externship, the most important thing for Joanne was to have a placement that does a variety of testing for different populations. She wants to get as much experience as possible before she graduates, so she would be ready for her career. NY Audio Associates offers diagnostic testing for adults and pediatrics, hearing aid services, newborn ABR testing, and VNG testing. After her first rotation, Joanne realized she enjoys working with ENTs in a fast-paced environment with diverse populations and she is so happy to be back in this practice. Joanne is excited to refine her testing skills, expand her knowledge of hearing aids, and become proficient in ABR and VNG testing during her fourth year. She couldn't imagine being any place else or doing anything else but audiology, all thanks to the Meet and Greet event in senior year.

Good luck at your Fourth Year Externship, Joanne!



Third Year Spotlight: Cam Orologio



Cam Orologio is a third year doctoral student in the consortium. Cam attended Adelphi University for his undergraduate studies and was part of the baseball team. Cam believes that the past three years have flown by and he is grateful for the great experiences and great friendships. Cam is an Adelphi home school student and started his clinical rotation at the Hy Weinberg center, where he expressed as "an amazing chance to work with a diverse group of clients". His following two rotations were at Hostra University and St. Johns University.

Cam believed that these in-house clinical rotations have allowed him to continue to hone his skills and learn from incredible professionals. His most recent externship was conducted at Hearing Life in Bellmore. Cam stated: "I loved working with this staff and the consortium did a great job at matching me with a preceptor that guided me and taught me in an effective manner. I look forward to my upcoming rotations and am excited to find out where they will be". In the future Cam sees himself working in private practice as he states that having the ability to find the best intervention for clients is extremely rewarding. Cam also added that as technology continues to grow the ever changing capabilities of hearing aids are interesting to work with and is exciting to present to patients.

Thank you for being so involved, Cam!

Second Year Spotlight:

Melissa Baker



Melissa Baker is a second-year doctoral student at the Long Island Doctor of Audiology Consortium. She earned her B.S. in Communication Sciences and Disorders at Queens College in 2019. She was first introduced to Audiology when she was senior in High School. One of her little sisters required a complete audiological evaluation and her mother needed someone to come with her to translate what the clinician was saying. After seeing how important the role the Audiologist was in the diagnosis of her little sisters' condition, she decided to learn more about the field and has since then chosen to pursue Audiology. Her embrace for both Dominican and American culture was one of her sources of inspiration for getting involved in scientific research, more specifically electroencephalography.

She was also a lab manager for a period of time. Her latest presentation was at the Society of Neurobiology of Language Conference in 2019 in Helsinki, Finland where she was an award recipient and presented preliminary data on the difference in speech discrimination between monolinguals and bilinguals by evidence of mismatch negativity. Growing up in underserved communities with her mother, she has developed an understanding of how impactful healthcare professionals are to those who need their services the most. This, along with her passion to help other, has been her driving motivation behind pursuing Audiology and giving back to those communities. In the future she hopes to go on a mission with the Starkey Hearing Foundation and be more involved in community outreach. Her clinical interests include inter-operative monitoring, electrophysiological testing, amplification and hearing conservation. In her spare time, she enjoys taking photographs of architecture and creating graphic designs. She's a die-hard city girl and spends most of her spare time in Manhattan finding cool foodie spots. She also manages her dog's Instagram account and has recently found an obsession with Hamilton the Broadway play. Lastly, she is thankful to be a part of consortium family and looks forward to the next three years in this program.

So happy to have you, Melissa!



Award Season



Congratulations to Kristen Brancucci, Cassandra Mazzacco, and Judy Taub for receiving LISHA awards. Each student received the Joan Fox Award for excellence as student clinicians!



Alumni Check In:

Keidy Sanchez Pereira, Au.D.



Dr. Keidy Sanchez Pereira, was born and raised in the Dominican Republic and moved to New York when she was 14 years old. Moving to a whole new country came along with many struggles. She faced the struggles of not speaking the language, not having any family here, not having any friends and being too young to be in the grade she was. With a lot of hard work, discipline and enthusiasm she overcame all these obstacles. She attended Brooklyn college where and obtained her bachelors in Speech Language Pathology and Audiology and Children Studies. In May 2016, she graduated with her doctoral degree in Clinical Audiology at the Long Island Au.D. Consortium. Her most recent clinical experience was as an Audiologist at ENT associates of NY/ Total Hearing Care. Her past experiences consist of Brooklyn Audiology Associates, Lutheran Medical Center, Audiological Diagnostics, and her residency at SUNY Downstate Medical Center/ Liberty Hearing Centers. Dr. Sanchez Pereira gained exposure to the battery of tests used in clinical settings and received hands-on experience with the fitting of amplification and assistive listening devices within the geriatric and adult populations. Brooklyn Audiology Associates (BAA), offered an unique experience of learning the evaluation process and fitting process of the Lyric hearing device.

Dr. Sanchez Pereira gained exposure to the battery of tests used in clinical settings and received hands-on experience with the fitting of amplification and assistive listening devices within the geriatric and adult populations. Brooklyn Audiology Associates (BAA), offered an unique experience of learning the evaluation process and fitting process of the Lyric hearing device. At Lutheran Medical Center she gained experience with the pediatric population as well as with electrophysiological testing such as ABRs and VNGs. Furthermore, at Audiological Diagnostics, she was able to have more hands-on experience with programming and troubleshooting hearing aids. During her residency at SUNY Downstate Medical Center/Liberty Hearing centers, she was able to fine tune her diagnostics skills with the adult and pediatric population. She had the opportunity to see a variety of otologic pathologies that are rarely seen in the University or private practice setting. At SUNY Downstate, she was involved in the cochlear implant program where she was part of the team who revised and strengthened the protocol to be followed for CI evaluations and follow ups. Dr. Sanchez Pereira participated in meetings with Ear, Nose and Throat Physicians and organized and hosted grand round presentations for the ENT residents. The dual modality of this practice also allowed her to dispense and fit hearing aids from three of the top manufactures in the industry. At ENT associates of NY/Total Hearing Care she had the pleasure and honor of making use of her bilingual skills to serve the Spanish speaking community in Queens. At this office, she put into practice all of the skills mentioned above in the language that suits this community best. The fact that there was, not only a Spanish speaking audiologist in the practice, but a professional who culturally related to patients, elevated and widen the practice's market and brought convenience, joy and satisfaction to the community and myself. Dr. Sanchez Pereira current interests in the field include diagnostics, cochlear implants, hearing aids and aural rehabilitation. Some Fun facts about Dr. Sanchez Pereira: she is a Sunday school teacher to children from ages 7-9. She sings in her church's choir. She is very involved in the youth and womans ministries at my church. Her hobbies has to do with decorating for parties or events, in fact, she is in charge of decorating for most events hosted by my family, friends or church.

It is so great to hear what you're up to, Dr. Sanchez Pereira!

Navigating CSD as a Diverse Student



Diversity in CSD?

I will never forget the day when I was considering communication sciences and disorders (CSD) as an undergraduate declared major, and my advisor at the time sat me down to have “the talk.” She told me, “You may want to consider declaring a different major. You are doing well in your coursework but it will be very difficult for you to get into graduate school. Your GPA is not good enough and CSD programs are very competitive. You won’t get into any graduate programs.” At the time I was stunned but not discouraged. Coming from a diverse background, being bilingual and excelling in coursework, I didn’t understand why my interest was not matched with support. I believed that my bilingual skillset and background would be of added value in the profession. It was challenging early in my academic studies to find the mentorship and guidance of someone in the field to help lay the foundation for a successful career. As a first-generation college student and Afro-Latina I had to navigate the world of academia on my own. I could have easily taken my advisor’s counsel, however coming from a strong family that stressed education, supported my ambition and never backed away from hard work, those words motivated me to focus and continue my pursuit of a degree in CSD. Despite the advisor’s advice, I pursued my academic interest in audiology, went beyond my initial goal and earned a doctorate degree in audiology. I found guidance and mentorship within other academic areas, a mentor outside the field who provided support and offered genuine care for my educational path and growth. The biggest takeaway of my journey was the

importance of mentorship and support that I received, and I make every effort to pay it forward.

Looking back, I think of the many students who may have received similar advice to drop pursuit of a CSD program. I was part of a cohort of five minority students, of which only three pursued their professional degrees in CSD upon completion of undergraduate studies. It is especially difficult for those students who are unaware of the field of CSD, or who do not see themselves in these careers due to lack of exposure to professionals who share their cultural background, look like them or support their aspiration. According to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association’s 2017 year-end membership and affiliation counts (ASHA, 2017), 92% of ASHA’s total membership identify as White, four percent Black or African American, three percent Asian, one percent of multi-racial background and fewer than one percent identify as Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander. These statistics generally mirror the racial ethnic breakdown of students pursuing advanced or professional degrees within the profession, suggesting that change is not imminent.

Generally, to be a professional from an under-represented group is often to be alone. Most minorities who work in professions that require specialized training and credentialing work in environments where they are in the racial minority. This is my reality as an audiologist; I am part of the statistic which makes up less than eight percent of the professional population in this field according to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, *Highlights and Trends: Member and Affiliate Counts, Year-End 2017*.

I get hit by this sobering reality every time I walk into a new work space, a national conference, local workshop or welcome the new incoming classes of the profession. Little has changed in regards to the ethnic and racial composition of the profession over the years. While those around me may not notice, because their realities and experiences are so different, I feel a

sense of obligation to bring this matter to the forefront as the journey has not always been easy. My colleagues are some of the brightest and kindest people I have ever encountered and to not have a discussion regarding such a pressing issue is a disservice to the profession of CSD, specifically audiology. Our field is facing a whirlwind of challenges. Now more than ever we live in a world that is globally connected, and our profession should reflect that phenomenon. It should be a priority to bring different perspectives and backgrounds to coalesce on both a scholarly and professional level as we move forward in the field of CSD.

Although, today’s audiology workforce is more racially and ethnically diverse than it was more than 20 years ago when I entered the field, members of racial minority groups continue to remain significantly underrepresented in the field. Of the 185,563 individuals represented by ASHA, 11,958 (six percent) indicated they met the ASHA definition of bilingual service provider. Of these, 10,930 were ASHA certified SLPs and 749 were ASHA certified AUDs. The majority (80 percent) of ASHA bilingual service providers were White. This poses a very relevant question: What can we do to increase diversity in CSD?

I believe that greater effort and resources should be dedicated to recruiting a diverse student body on the academic level, thereby increasing the professional output of graduates within the profession. As we continue to evolve globally with population shifts, it is critical that we have a professional workforce with both the perspectives and backgrounds to provide culturally competent services, and produce scholarly research and materials that reflect the communities in which our services are needed.

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Thank You

A special thank you to all the faculty during these unprecedented times. All of the consortium is thankful for accomadating us and guiding us through the tough times. We could not ask for better faculty members.



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