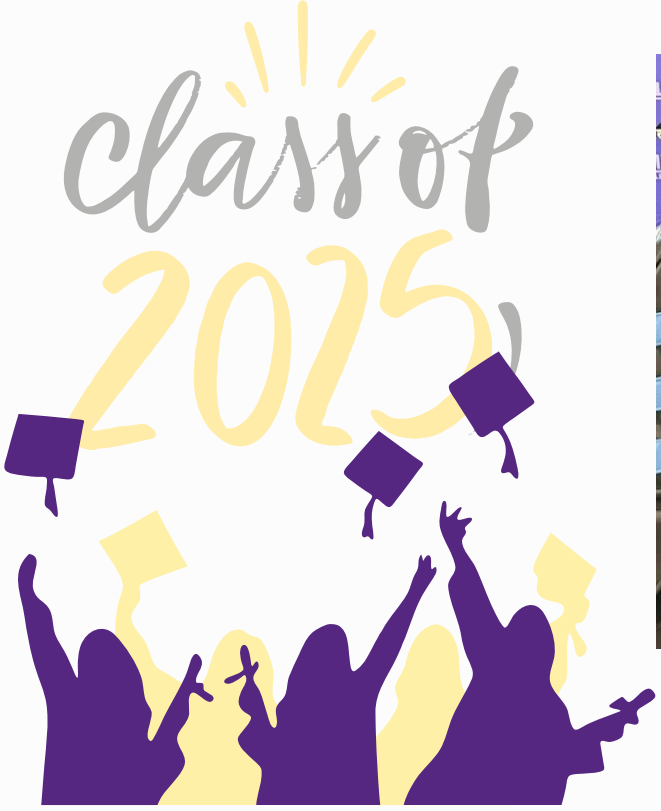



# 2024-2025 Communication Disorders *Newsletter*






## Recognized Students

**Kelly Anders**
Outstanding Audiology Student

**Rachel Dupuis**
Donald L. Rampp Award

**Hannah Hoffer**
Outstanding SLP Student

**Kate Lougon**
Donald L. Rampp Award

**Taylor Stansberry**
Harriet & Charles Berlin Award




Congratulations to our Master of Communication Disorders and Doctor of Audiology graduates! We're also celebrating THREE years in a row of a COMD faculty member receiving the Allen A. Copping Award. Congrats to Dr. Leslie Lopez!



# Meet THE CREW



JORDAN LINS



DEANNA LIVERS



JOLANDA ROYAL

We've welcomed new faculty and staff to our COMD family.

**Jordan Lins, MS, CCC-SLP** is the Instructor of Neuroscience, Neurogenic Communication Disorders I & II, and Motor Speech Disorders. She is completing a PhD in Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of South Alabama.

**Deanna Livers** is the Clinic Manager for Communication Disorders. She has been with us for almost a year and manages the day-to-day operations for the Clinic. She has a Master's in Health Administration from LSU Shreveport.

**Jolanda Royal** is the Department Assistant. She is a recent graduate of the Health Information Management program. She is passionate about supporting efficient, organized systems.

# Faculty AWARDS




Dr. Leslie Lopez

Dr. Leslie Lopez was the 2024 recipient of the Jeannette Laguaite Award. This award recognizes persons who have demonstrated outstanding service to speech-language pathology or audiology in a setting of higher education while also serving as an active contributing member of the Louisiana Speech-Language-Hearing Association (LSHA). Dr. Lopez holds a LSHA Board of Directors position as the Director of Legislative Affairs. Congratulations, Dr. Lopez!




Mrs. Brittney Wright

Brittney Wright, MCD, CCC-SLP was awarded a prestigious Chancellor's Excellence Award. Through her clinical and course teaching, her service endeavors, and community partnerships, Brittney embodies the values of LSU Health, New Orleans, demonstrating excellence in teaching, clinical preparation, and community engagement. Her commitment to reducing health disparities, improving developmental outcomes, and empowering underinvested communities reflects the highest standards of professional service and leadership. Congratulations, Brittney!

## SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to Dr. Megan Guidry and Dr. Megan Majoue for receiving the 2024 SAHP Intramural Research Grant for their project titled "Critical Thinking: A Program Review of Allied Health Students"!

# Student AWARDS

## SPOTLIGHT



The SLP Program held their annual White Coat Ceremony in the summer of 2024. This special event emphasizes the professional and ethical responsibilities associated with the practice of SLP, and the students' continued pursuit of the Master of Communication Disorders degree.




Vanna Do was this years recipeint of the Sharon Anderson Sanders Memorial Scholarship presented by the Louisiana Academy of Audiology




Miranda Gaddis has been awarded the prestigious Student Humanitarian Program Award! This program is designed to offer audiology students and their universities an opportunity to participate in a structured and supervised philanthropic event.




Brittany Knoerzer has been awarded the Speech Pathologists and Audiologists in Louisiana Schools Student Scholarship, which recognizes speech and audiology students with a passion for working in school districts.

# Community OUTREACH

## OZANAM INN

Audiology students spent Saturday morning at Ozanam Inn, providing hearing screenings to the unhoused population. Students had the exciting opportunity to work directly with other health fields and even got to observe techniques of cerumen and foreign object removal! A special thank you to Ozanam Inn for providing an exceptional environment for our students to serve this community and practice their interprofessional skills. We thoroughly enjoyed our time here and are eager to work with you all again!





## LIGHTHOUSE LOUISIANA'S SPOOKY FEST

Audiology and Speech Pathology Students got into the Halloween spirit Saturday at The Lighthouse for the Blind's Monster Mash! Lighthouse's annual Spooky Fest is a Halloween celebration for the youth, families, and faculty at Lighthouse Louisiana. It was an exciting Saturday full of spooky costumes, sensory activities, games, and lots of treats! We're always grateful for the opportunity to participate in fun community events, and we hope to be back next year!

# Community OUTREACH

## Zoo-To-Do

The annual Zoo-to-Do fundraiser by Children's Hospital was a blast! We had the opportunity to talk to kids and families about audiology and our 9th floor clinic, while taking advantage of free ice cream, face glitter, and live music:) Our volunteers definitely enjoyed themselves at this event, and we already looking forward to coming back!



## AAC Awareness Month






October was Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Awareness Month. LSUHSC's chapter of the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSSLHA) partnered with Team Gleason to raise awareness and celebrate the powerful and diverse ways we communicate. LSUHSC NSSLHA successfully raised funds and presented Team Gleason with a check to support their efforts in providing people with AAC.

Additionally, Mrs. Wright's AAC class adapted books for children with complex communication and health needs, focusing on accessibility and engagement. These books were given to children at Aveanna Health Clinic during the holiday season, spreading the joy of reading to all.

# alumni spotlight



## **ASHLEY** MCINNIS

Ashley McInnis, MCD, CCC-SLP is a 2020 graduate of the SLP program. She is the founder of Bright Start, a private pediatric therapy practice that offers speech, feeding, occupational, physical and behavioral therapy in homes, daycares and at their on-site clinic. Bright Start is also an agency within the Louisiana Early Steps program. Ashley was featured in NOLA Family magazine for her work as an early intervention SLP and business owner. Her magazine feature can be found at: https://nolafamily.com/ashley-mcinnis/

# Until Next Year!