

DECEMBER 2022
VOLUME 15

IN THIS ISSUE

MENTORS-4-US

PHI BETA KAPPA
INDUCTEES

SLHS HONORS
PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED
QUESTIONS

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

WHAT I WISH I KNEW

SOCIALS & MORE

SLHS STUDENT VOICE

The Official Newsletter of
IU Speech, Language and
Hearing Sciences



Cover photo from the Division of Student Affairs



Announcement: **Mentors-4-Us**




Interested in having a mentor for grad school applications?

Mentors-4-Us is a free peer-mentoring program for underrepresented minority students interested in applying to graduate school for professional training in speech-language pathology.

Mentors - 4 - Us

- 1 Peer mentoring for undergraduate students from underrepresented backgrounds
- 2 Mentoring for preparation of graduate school applications in speech-language pathology
- 3 Peer mentors are SLHS graduate students or recent alumni
- 4 Mentees are not required to be SLHS majors



Please scan the QR code to complete a brief 2-minute application if you are interested in joining the program.

For additional details, continue to the next page!

Mentors-4-Us

Continued...

A message from Dr. Rita Patel:

Mentors-4-Us Program

Drs. Rita Patel and Michele Morrisette have teamed to establish a peer mentoring program called, Mentors-4-Us: Mentors for underrepresented minority students interested in careers in speech-language pathology, aimed at addressing racial inequalities in speech-language pathology graduate programs.

The mission of the Mentors-4-Us program is as follows:

Mentors-4-Us is a free peer-mentoring program for underrepresented minority students interested in applying to graduate school for professional training in speech-language pathology. The program is designed to increase underrepresented students with diverse backgrounds not limited to race, ethnicity, abilities, marital status, sex, sexual orientations, veteran statuses, national origins, gender identity and expressions, socioeconomic status, religion, color, or otherwise disadvantaged, in graduate programs in speech-language pathology. The goal is to build future leaders who embody diversity and inclusiveness.

Our goal is to recruit eligible mentees from various unrepresented backgrounds. Each mentee will be paired with peer mentors. Peer mentors can be current graduate students or IU alumni. Please go to the QR code in the attached document and complete a brief 2 minute application to be considered in the Mentors-4-us program.

If you have any questions you can contact Dr. Rita Patel directly at: patelrir@iu.edu or Dr. Michele Morrisette at: mmorrisse@iu.edu



Announcement:



SLHS Phi Beta Kappa Inductees

Six SLHS students have recently been elected to Phi Beta Kappa, the oldest and most prestigious academic honors society in the country. Only a select number of students at member institutions are elected annually. The IU Chapter of PBK recognizes the following students for the excellence and breadth of their undergraduate scholarly accomplishments:

Fall 2022 Phi Beta Kappa inductees:

Erica Beckstrom

Shelemiah Crockett

Karen Magana

Kaylie Maucieri

Grace Orzechowski

Anna Spirtas



The **PHI BETA KAPPA** *Society*

THE NATION'S OLDEST ACADEMIC HONOR SOCIETY

— Founded December 5, 1776 —

On the Ground

The SLHS Honors Program

Contributors: Alexis Svihlik & Ana Valdez

The Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences would like to congratulate those who have been accepted into the SLHS Honors Program! For those who are not familiar with the honors program, it is a three semester program in which students get the opportunity to work closely with a faculty member on an independent research project. There are an abundance of benefits to participating in the honors program, one being the opportunity to create a strong relationship with a faculty member. It also exposes students to different aspects of the department not available to most students. The program also gives the opportunity to build skills that could be used for graduate school and future careers. When applying, applicants were required to submit a cover letter, resume, a previously written academic paper, and a copy of their transcript. This year our department accepted the 8 applicants listed below:

Student

Brook Albert
Elizabeth Drobny
Allison Harris
Morgan Haynes
Ryane Hohman
Gabrielle Lane
Lily Peters
Bethany Yagoda

Mentor

Dr. Raquel Anderson
Dr. Gavin Bidelman
Dr. Brielle Stark
Dr. Julie Anderson
Dr. Rita Patel
Dr. Ishanti Gangopadhyay
Dr. Ishanti Gangopadhyay
Dr. Brielle Stark



FAQs

Contributors: Emiko McClaine & Kierra Wiles

The SLHS department has a new advisor, Annelies Stoelinga! The contact information for SLHS advising is the same as before. Her email address is slhsadv@iu.edu, and her office is the same as Mia's in Woodburn room 365. She is currently accepting appointments only for advising meetings (no drop-ins). Annelies wants students to know, "The hours will be a little chaotic over the break until Spring semester starts, but I'll always have options for you and you're welcome to contact me if none of them work. I've really enjoyed working with those of you that I've met so far so please don't hesitate to set up appointments with me!"

What information is good to know about the new advisor?



If I'm applying for graduate school, what do I need to know about CSDCAS?



CSDCAS is the centralized application system for students who plan to apply for graduate school in Communication Science & Disorders Programs. It can be confusing! There is a helpful FAQ website at https://help.liaisonedu.com/CSDCAS_Applicant_Help_Center that can answer most questions. If you have further questions, reach out to Annelies, and she will look over it with you.

Letters of recommendation are an important part of the application process, and 2-3 letters are usually needed. Throughout your time at IU, make an effort to connect with academic faculty (does not necessarily have to be SLHS faculty) who you have in class and/or in a research lab. Their perspective is highly valued as they are able to get to know you, your skills/abilities, and academic potential for success in a graduate program. Then, when the time comes to complete applications, you'll have mentors you feel comfortable asking who can give you a strong recommendation. Just remember to ask them if they're willing ahead of time.

Anything else I should know about preparing for graduate school?



Student Spotlight: Comfort Fabode

Contributor: Olivia Geers

For this edition of Spotlight, I sat down with Comfort Fabode, who is both an Au.D. and Ph.D. student here at IU Bloomington. She is from Ellicott City, Maryland, and she attended the University of Maryland, College Park for her undergraduate degree. Initially, Comfort went in as a Pre-Dental major. It was not until she had an internship with a dentist who was deaf that she began to think that audiology was the path for her.



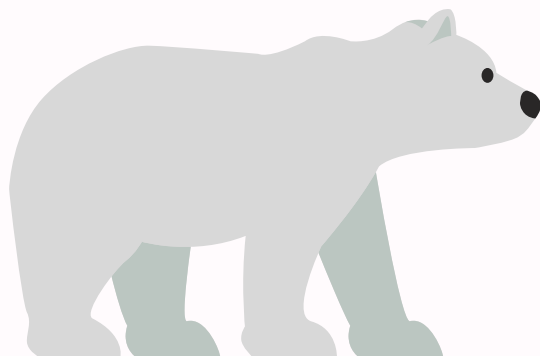
She mentioned how the dentist she had her internship with, “catered to the deaf and hard-of-hearing population, which I found totally fascinating.” She continued to explain how it was that internship that got her thinking about audiology and different hearing-related outcomes. So, by the end of her sophomore year, she had switched her major to Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences. In terms of free time, she admitted to not having a lot of it. However, when she does have some extra time on her hands, she likes to read, play soccer and basketball, and watch Netflix.

As mentioned before, Comfort is pursuing both her Au.D. and Ph.D. When asked about why she chose to do both, she discussed wanting to be a part of a program that, “aimed at getting underrepresented groups into Ph.D. programs and into academia.” She explained, “being a part of that program really spread my interest in research and research outcomes, especially for people you know who aren't researched a lot.” She liked the idea of diversifying the field and seeing the impact she could make. Her research interests revolve around the cognitive aspects of hearing, especially in children. She said, “Currently, we're looking to see if we manipulate a visual space, how that affects how a child learns a word, and whether there's a difference between children with normal hearing and children with hearing loss.”

Comfort touched on transitioning from an undergraduate student to an Au.D./Ph.D. student. She said, “I feel like my current cohort of Ph.D. students was very welcoming, very accepting, and the faculty had been wonderful as well. This made it a lot easier to enter a new state and a

new program. What has somewhat surprised her about pursuing her Ph.D. is how it is a lot less structured than undergrad, and she has a lot of say over what she does with her studies within reason. She commented, "I do think that it helps you with self-efficacy, you know, because in life, everybody's not going to tell you do this, do it then, do it now or whatever. So, you know, better to learn earlier than later." Comfort has really enjoyed the lab space here at IU and how she, Dr. Gershkoff, and the research assistants were able to make the place their own. As far as the program goes, her favorite part is how available the faculty has been to help her during this process. She explained how accessible Dr. Gershkoff was before she retired and after. She noted, "I liked being able to stop by her office and meet with her to talk about what I'm currently working on, and any struggles or challenges that I might be having. Then, even now that she's not here, just being able to email back and forth with her and get feedback on things like what I'm doing, if things are going well, stuff like that, so I like the support from the faculty."

Lastly, I asked Comfort about any advice she has for Ph.D. students or undergraduates interested in pursuing their Ph.D. For Ph.D. students, she suggested taking things easy. The program can be stressful and time consuming, but it is important to enjoy it. For undergraduates, she said, "Don't be afraid to approach your professors; they are people too." They are more than willing to help and answer any questions. As always office hours are a great option. She adds, "They will know that you put in the effort to learn what they're trying to teach."



What I Wish I Knew...

As a Student of Color in the Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences Major

Contributor: DeAvianna Abrons



Jessica Bell

“Something that I wish I knew being a student of color are all the resources that are available for minorities to help with school. I didn’t do my research until the end of my junior year, and I wish I would’ve been more active and researched this when I was a freshman. Another thing that I wish I knew was how your professors are there to help you succeed. Normally, I feel nervous going to class since I’m one of the few African Americans that are enrolled. But once I started meeting with my professors more, they really helped me understand the material. They also started to know my personality which helped my grades to improve. Don’t ever hesitate to reach out to your professors because they can help you more than you ever know.”

Helen Chen

“I wish I would’ve known about the lack of diversity in our major. During freshman year, I had switched my major to speech, language, and hearing sciences and wasn’t prepared to see that there was barely anyone who resembled me in the major. I would’ve loved to see more people of color in our major!”

Alondra Rodriguez

“Being a first-generation college student, a student of color, and being in a smaller major where I’m the minority was initially incredibly intimidating. I wish I hadn’t been so hesitant to be involved in my first year as a SLHS major. I started participating in a research lab within the department, I am an undergraduate student representative in the DEI Committee in the SLHS department, and I also currently serve underclassman as a Peer Academic Coach! Through these experiences, I’ve realized that involvement within my major has made a positive impact on my college career.”

Did you know?

In December, ASHA recognizes:
International Day of Persons With Disabilities
(December 3)

Source: <https://www.asha.org/events/observances/>

Contributors

Alexis Svihlik

Kierra Wiles

Ana Valdez

Lily Peters

Ava Lukacsek

Mirjana Vraniskoski

DeAvianna Abrons

Olivia Geers

Elizabeth Drobny

Rachel Ostrowski

Emiko McClaine

Ryane Hohman

Hannah Brownd

Shelemiah Crockett

Follow the IU SLHS Department on [Twitter @iusphs](#) and [Facebook page @Indiana University - Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences](#)



If you have any suggestions of what you would like to see in the Student Voice newsletter, please email Hannah Brownd at hbrownd@iu.edu!