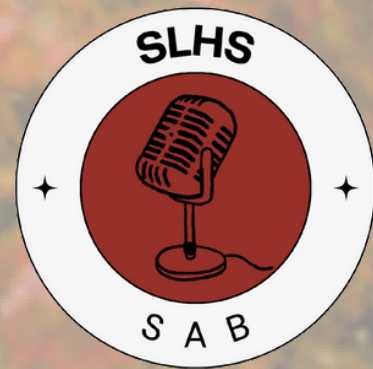


# Newsletter



OCTOBER 17, 2024

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# A WELCOME LETTER

FROM THE SLHS DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

**Dear SLHS Students,**

Welcome to the 2024-25 academic year! My name is Michele Morrisette and I am a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences (SLHS). I am delighted to be writing to you as the new Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS) in SLHS!

While I know many of our returning students from SLHS courses that I have taught over the past several years, I am looking forward to meeting and working with even more of our majors in my role as DUS. We have approximately 264 students enrolled in degree programs in SLHS this year, including 51 new freshmen and 8 transfers who were admitted to the College this fall and declared SLHS as their major. Congrats to our new admits!

Beyond taking courses for your SLHS degree, I would also like to take this opportunity to encourage all of you to find experiences in SLHS that fit your interests and get involved! This might be by joining a student organization, the ASL club, volunteering in a SLHS research lab, or applying for one of our departmental programs (e.g., the honors program, undergraduate teaching assistant program, or speech-language pathology assistant program). Participating in these opportunities is a great way to further your undergraduate experience and connect with other SLHS students and faculty. To learn more about these opportunities, visit the [College Experience Finder](#) or our [SLHS site](#).

In closing, I want to extend a huge thanks to Olivia Geers and other SAB members for their efforts in putting together this important newsletter. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have questions about the undergraduate program or opportunities in SLHS. My email is [mmorrisse@iu.edu](mailto:mmorrisse@iu.edu).

Have a great year!  
Dr. Michele Morrisette

# WELCOME LETTER

FROM THE SAB PRESIDENT

## Hello SLHS undergraduates!

My name is Olivia Geers, and I am thrilled to be serving as this year's president of the Student Advisory Board (SAB). We are excited to bring you the first edition of the Student Voice newsletter of the year!

For those of you who do not know about SAB, we are a student-led organization dedicated to keeping SLHS undergraduates informed about major information and opportunities through this newsletter. We also organize a major-related event that is held in the spring, so stay tuned for details on that as the semester progresses!

We have several exciting updates for the year so far:

1. **BeInvolved Registration:** We are now officially registered on beInvolved as a student organization! This will improve the visibility of our organization, allow us to participate in the Involvement Fair, and authorize us to reserve meeting rooms on campus. Check out our beInvolved page using the link below.
2. **New Logo:** You might notice our new logo on the newsletter's title page. We will be using it in our newsletters and other club materials as a way of improving the branding for our organization.
3. **Lab Highlight Segment:** We are introducing a new segment in our newsletter called "Lab Highlight." Each edition will feature a different departmental lab, allowing you to learn more about their research and the opportunities.
4. **Upcoming Email and Instagram Account:** We have requested an official IU email address for SAB, which will be used for organizational communications and to create an Instagram account. We hope to have both the email and Instagram set up by our next publication, so anticipate further announcements regarding this!

I want to thank our new organization advisor, Dr. Michele Morrisette, for her guidance, and our SLHS advisor, Annelies, for her contributions. And, of course, thank you to all SAB members for their hard work on this newsletter. We hope you find it useful!

Best,  
Olivia Geers  
President, Student Advisory Board

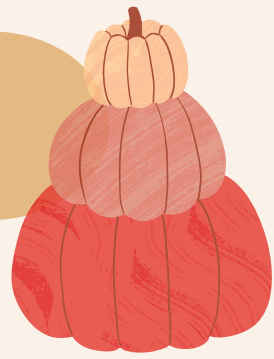
### BeInvolved Page:

<https://beinvolved.bloomington.iu.edu/organization/SLHS-SAB>

### New Logo:



# ON THE GROUND



**On Monday, October 14th, NSSLHA had an information panel with various staff members and graduate students. Here is a recap of their advice for graduate school applications!**

## **QUALITIES IN A STRONG APPLICATION**

- Don't just list one strength on your application
- Quality over quantity (stick with a couple of activities you are passionate about)
- The application process is holistic (so there aren't points on each section, rather the reviewers look for how you have applied your skills across different experiences)
- Showcase strengths and make a connection to things outside the field (i.e., working a customer service job and tying that to helping people in the field)
- Tell a story about yourself
- Grades are important, but not the only part of the application that is taken into consideration
- Highlight your passions and personal growth

## **HOW TO DECIDE WHICH SCHOOLS TO APPLY TO**

- Go in person to the campus to see if it would be a good fit for you
- Interview them as much as they are interviewing you
- Do your research and do not ask questions you can find the answers to on their program site
- Look for GA positions and other funding opportunities

## **WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE MORE OR LESS OF IN APPLICATIONS?**

- More proofreading (misspelled words in your application can make it look like you do not care)
- Highlight what you have learned in classes and how you have applied those skills to real-life situations
- They don't want to see the phrase "I want to help people" as much (expand on that idea)
- It's okay to say that you are still working on a skill set
- More of referencing why you want to be in this specific program

## **WHAT CHANGES WOULD YOU MAKE IN YOUR APPLICATION PROCESS?** **(ASKED TO THE GRADUATE STUDENTS)**

- Show commitment a few passions rather than listing multiple experiences you were not routinely involved in
- Don't stress too much (there are over 300 speech pathology programs and about 80% of applicants are getting into at least one program)
- Giving it your all (it is okay to brag about yourself)

## **INTERVIEW PROCESS (IU DOESN'T DO AN INTERVIEW)**

- Identify the top 5 things that you want them to know about you and work those statements in throughout the interview
- Have multiple questions prepared that you want to ask them (you are interviewing them too)
- Be yourself



# FAQS



ANSWERED BY OUR SLHS ADVISOR, ANNELIES

**Were the math requirements for the Bachelor of Science changed? If so, what changed?**

Yes, the math requirements have changed for the SLHS Bachelor of Science! Requirements are based on the year that you started at IU, so continuing students must still follow the requirements that were in place before (although talk to your advisor if you're interested in adopting the new requirements instead). New students follow the new requirements automatically. The old requirements included four math classes: one finite, one calculus, and two math electives. The new requirements allow you to count any math or natural science class towards the electives, opening up many more options! Please check the Undergraduate Bulletin for your specific options based on the year you started at IU.

**What should I do if I was not able to get into ASL 1 because they were all full?**

I have two main pieces of advice for getting into ASL: 1) Try again! Moving forward there will be a few seats per section reserved for SLHS majors so you will not have to battle all the other IU students for a spot. 2) Waitlist!!! The more you waitlist, the better your chances of getting in. Sometimes more seats get added to sections after registration has started so waitlisting multiple sections really helps your chances of getting a spot.

**What are the study abroad opportunities we can take for our major?**

If you are interested in completing SLHS classes while you're abroad then Christchurch-IES in New Zealand is the program for you. There are tons to do in New Zealand, multiple SLHS courses you can take, and even the opportunity to participate in field excursions. However, it's completely possible to study abroad on other programs that don't have SLHS courses available and still graduate on time. Many SLHS students in the past have picked programs based on the location and then worked towards completing general education requirements or even their minors. Don't let the lack of SLHS courses offered abroad stop you from going!

**What should I get involved in? How to build resume? Any recommendations?**

NSSLHA is always my first recommendation for getting involved in something related to SLHS. Otherwise, what interests you specifically? Resume-building is more about creating your own personal story and developing your strengths than just adding on something that might look good. Find what you're passionate about and I guarantee there's at least one skill that is transferable to graduate school and the working world. I literally talked about working as a waitress in a national park during my job interview for becoming an academic advisor! If you haven't figured out what interests you either yet that's totally fine. Ask your friends what they're into and don't be afraid to try something new at least once.

**CONTRIBUTOR:  
KATE FOLLIN**



# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



## ASSISTANT PROFESSOR SAMANTHA GUSTAFSON

For this edition of Spotlight, we had the opportunity to interview Assistant Professor Samantha Gustafson, who recently joined IU's Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences Department. Dr.

Gustafson grew up in Tempe, Arizona where she cherished the breathtaking sunsets. Her academic journey began at Arizona State University, in Tempe, Arizona, where she completed her bachelor's and master's degrees. She then pursued her PhD at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. Additionally, she was able to complete a semester abroad, studying in Australia. Dr. Gustafson's interest in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences sparked during her high school years when she worked as a teaching assistant for blind children, during the summer. From this experience, she learned that she wanted to pursue a career working with children with additional needs. After taking an "Introduction to Audiology" course as an undergraduate, she found her passion for Children's Auditory Research.

Now in her first semester as an Assistant Professor at Indiana University, Dr. Gustafson brings six years of college teaching experience from her previous position at the University of Utah. She ultimately chose to join IU to be closer to her family, as her husband is from Indiana, and she appreciates the larger size of the SLHS program here. When asked what she enjoys most about teaching, she responded, "helping students identify what they are passionate about." One of her favorite aspects of her job is the "super nerdy" thrill of seeing research data align with real-world results. She thoroughly enjoys brainstorming new ideas and having the opportunity to share her results.

Dr. Gustafson shared extremely valuable advice for students pursuing a career in SLHS. She recommends students build collegial relationships with faculty, as they enjoy engaging with students and can enhance your academic experience. Additionally, she advises students to seek out volunteer or research opportunities, even if research isn't your primary interest. She also encourages undergraduates to reach out if they're interested in her developing research lab, stating, "Don't be afraid to come to RAHC." Dr. Gustafson's CARES lab aims to understand how they can better support school-age children with hearing differences. We want to say thank you to Dr. Gustafson for being involved in this edition of Spotlight! We were so happy to have gotten to interview you and are so glad to have you at IU!

Samantha Gustafson AuD, PhD, [sjgustaf@iu.edu](mailto:sjgustaf@iu.edu)

**CONTRIBUTORS: KAILEY PHIPPS AND SIYA PATEL**



# WHAT I WISH I KNEW

“What I wish I knew about SLHS as a freshman is that clinical observation hours are required for speech pathology grad school. I didn’t know beforehand that there were a certain number of hours, which I believe is 25, that they want you to accomplish before graduate school. There are so many ways for you to reach these hours, whether that is going into the SLHS clinic and signing up to shadow, or even doing it at home at a local clinic!” — Talya C.

“What I wish I knew about the SLHS department as a freshman is that there are so many clubs to join. As a freshman, I was only aware of NSSLHA, which I got involved in, but I wish I knew I could do more earlier on. I think all underclassmen should look into the linguistics club, the ASL club, the Student Advisory Board, and more, because they are such easy ways to meet new people who you share similar interests with!” — Zara G.

“What I wish I knew about the SLHS department as a freshman is that I could get involved in research labs on campus. I am currently an undergrad research lab assistant at Dr. Ishanti Gangopadhyay’s Language Experience and Multilingualism Research (LEMuR) Lab, and I got involved at the lab through Dr. Ishanti Gangopadhyay inviting me to work in the lab through the IUUR STEM program for the summer but was also invited to work in the lab during the school year! I love being part of the LEMuR Lab as it teaches me how to be a successful research lab assistant, I can take part in SLHS based research, and they are understanding of your time as a student, so the time commitment is only around five to seven hours a week. If you are considering being a research lab assistant, go for it!” — Trinity W.

# LAB HIGHLIGHT

## DR. SPENCER'S SPIN LAB

We had the opportunity to sit down with Dr. Caroline Spencer, who is the lab director of the Speech, Imaging, and Neuroscience (SPIN) Lab here at IU! The SPIN lab focuses on understanding how people produce speech. Dr. Spencer focuses mostly on disordered and developmental speech in children and trying to understand patterns in disordered speech to improve identification and treatment. Her research involves behavioral and neural measures, including having children take standardized tests, using acoustic analyses, and performing ultrasounds and fMRIs. Despite the many technological assessments, Dr. Spencer says that the easiest way to get data is to simply listen to the child speak. She also believes in using a different technique when gathering data from fMRI.

Traditionally, patients are asked to not move at all while in the MRI machine. However, Dr. Spencer will study overt speech, allowing participants to speak while in the scanner. Many find it challenging to get children to not move during the fMRI, but Dr. Spencer believes that if she can get participants to speak while keeping the rest of their body still, the machine can capture an image of the participant's brain while receiving the audio input and responding to a sound before the next image develops. Running a lab can be very tedious. Dr. Spencer does a wonderful job organizing all of the analyses and research her lab produces. She reveals that research is the fun part! While there is often a lot of scientific, logical, and rational thinking involved in a lab, working with kids can also bring a lot of creativity!

An undergraduate assisting in Dr. Spencer's lab would have the opportunity to collect new data, recruit participants, and aid in study procedures, among many other tasks. Currently, there are a couple of ongoing analysis projects in which an undergraduate would get the chance to learn about new software programs and use them to perform acoustic analyses. Students may also work on phonetic transcriptions or review literature that might help the lab in its studies. Dr. Spencer is currently investigating /ɹ/ development and wants to determine whether there is a way to identify and provide interventions for children who may eventually require speech therapy.

Dr. Spencer wants students and faculty to know that she is "hoping to build a lab where people feel comfortable coming to learn, and where they do not have to already be an expert." She hopes for her lab to be a collaborative space for everyone, even herself, to learn new things. She says, "If we all knew everything, there would be no reason to do research." Thank you, Dr. Spencer, for taking the time to discuss your work with us. Be sure to check out the SPIN Lab website or contact them via email for more information!

**Website Link:** <https://www.iuspinlab.com/>  
**Lab Email:** [spinlab@iu.edu](mailto:spinlab@iu.edu)

