

Department celebrates anniversary

BY HUONG TRAN
Staff Reporter

During its 50 years at Truman State, the communication disorders department has seen an increase in yearly enrollment, more sophisticated technology and a broader community outreach.

The communication disorders department will host an open house 2-4 p.m. Saturday at the Speech and Hearing Clinic to celebrate its 50th anniversary.

"The biggest change is the number of students that we serve," communication disorders professor Sheila Garlock said. "It's probably doubled in the last 10 years."

The increase is part of a nationwide trend. "It is one of the top 25 professions as far as potential job openings in the next few years," Garlock said. The baby boomer generation is entering an age range when strokes are more common, and strokes often create language impairments and problems swallowing. The speech and language lab works with these issues.

Students can choose to specialize in areas including fluency, voice, early language and autism.

The anniversary celebration will be a yearlong event, said Janet Gooch, dean of the School of Health Sciences and Education. The kick-off will be at the open house from 2 to 4 p.m.

"It will provide the opportunity for people in the community to come and visit the new facility," she said.

There will be tours of the new facility at 3 p.m., as well as a ribbon cutting ceremony, remarks and a check presentation from the Scottish Rite Organization.

With approximately 150 undergraduate students, 30 to 35 graduate students and six professors, communication disorders is a relatively small department compared to other departments at Truman, Gooch said. However, it has been increasing dramatically compared to the past.

Communication disorders originally was located in Violette Hall, and moved to Barnett Hall in 1995. This semester, it moved again, this time to the new health sciences building.

Gooch said the department frequently uses technology in the program. They have an on-site Speech and Hearing Clinic equipped



Left, junior Rebecca Greiner has an otoscopy performed on her by junior Carolyn McManus, right, which lets McManus see into the into Greiner's inner-ear canal at the Hearing Clinic, which opened this year in the new Health Sciences building.

with new technologies such as digital recorders that will record speech-language hearing sessions. These recordings are useful for clinical and instructional purposes.

Kristi Langendoerfer, a communication disorders graduate student, said every therapy room in the clinic has a camera system so faculty members can watch and supervise all sessions live from their offices. Professors can give comments and advice to help students succeed based on these observed sessions.

Paula Cochran, communication disorders professor and chair, said the Speech and Hearing Clinic serves more than 1,000 clients every year from throughout Northeast Missouri. This number has largely increased throughout the years. The services the clinic provide are free for the client. Insurance coverage for these types of services has decreased and people are experiencing difficulty funding these services. The fact that the clinic can provide services to people who could not afford to obtain them before has re-

sulted in an increase in the number of people seeking services.

Gooch said the department also sends graduate students to work in public schools, the homes of infants and toddlers, and local hospitals to provide clinical services under the direct supervision of licensed and certified speech-language pathologists.

"You can apply what you learn in class immediately to what you're doing in a therapy setting," Langendoerfer said. This is the only free clinic in northeast Missouri so it gets a variety of cases and students can learn a lot from this opportunity.

Langendoerfer said she has worked with a variety of clients, from newborns to the elderly. She has done speech and hearing screenings, hearing evaluations and language therapy. She has helped patients who have had traumatic brain injuries, strokes and children with language disorders. Working in the clinic helps Langendoerfer and other students feel more prepared and

get as much experience as possible for their future career.

Corchran said the department offers students a clinical experience. Freshmen and sophomores have the opportunity to observe therapy sessions, while juniors can volunteer to be a clinic assistant for one semester. Seniors and graduate students can apply for clinical practicum credit and work as clinicians under faculty member supervision.

She said the communication disorders department works closely with local organizations like Head Start, which screens children for possible speech and hearing disorders. The department is heavily involved with the community through the clinic. The department also receives a lot of donation and financial support from clients, parents and families and community civic organizations like Quota Club and Scottish Rite. All donations are used to buy supplies and materials in the clinic or to support Communication Disorder students.

HOFFMAN | Truman chemistry professor of 40 years passes away, remembered by students and coworkers

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For that reason, Hoffman's classes were always full and he was loved by his students, Moody said. He was very easygoing, which made students feel comfortable, she said.

Alumna Holly Weber was one of Hoffman's students during the '80s. He was her teacher, adviser and research mentor. She said he was a fabulous teacher and a man of integrity who really cared about his students. He also was a very interesting man.

"There aren't many people that are Black Angus cattle ranchers and have a Ph.D. in organic chemistry," Weber said.

She said she always will remember how much he loved Mountain Dew. He would drink it all the time while snacking on peanut butter crackers, she said.

He also was a good colleague to have in the department, chemistry professor Dana Delaware said.

"Since he taught here so long, he had a good recall of the past and of what we had done," she said.

Delaware said Hoffman always could give him insight about what the department had tried before and what had or hadn't worked.

He wasn't afraid to express his opinion and always was willing to do his part for the department, Delaware said.

Hoffman's passion was working on the farm with his cattle, agricultural science professor Glen Wehner said. He grew up on the family farm and was highly involved with the Angus Association at the state and national level, he said.

"We had a lot of fun together since we both raised cattle, but we raised different breeds," Wehner said. "We used to poke fun at each other back and forth, so that will be one of the things that I'll miss about him."

Wehner said Hoffman was a generous person and often was seen at cattle sales talking to people and giving them advice. He also was involved with the high school FFA, even after his children no longer were in the program.

Schulte said he never quite understood how Hoffman did everything he did. Both his farm and Truman were full-time jobs, but he pulled it off, he said.

"It was a privilege to know him," Schulte said. "He's going to be sorely missed."

Number of organizations requesting FAC funding by year



FUNDS | FAC sees increase in organizations requesting money, Senate helps in funding

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"I would say, estimated, I got about one third what I asked for," Manougian said. "I was under the impression that pretty much the majority of what we asked for, we were going to get."

Forty-two organizations asked for funding this year, an increase from years past.

"This year, they had a phenomenal amount of applications, which is fantastic," said Laura Bates, director of Student Involvement and Campus Activities. "I know a lot of other places have started grant opportunities and part of that is that students want to do high quality programming, and unfortunately, that costs money."

Truman currently has 255 organizations in good standing. FAC has to balance out funds based on priority and divide it between Inter-Collegiate Athletics and FAC Programming, like movies and guest speakers, Bates said.

"Every year it's been increasing, so even though they have the same budget, the more people that ask for funding, it makes us sacrifice what we need funding for," Manougian said. "We got funded \$1,000 for the spring, and last spring, we got funded significantly more."

Manougian applied and was funded by a Student Senate grant last month for the soccer team to go to a regional tournament in Columbia, Mo.

Manougian said he'd apply again to Student Senate if the team needs funding for another tournament.

Organizations not funded by FAC, Student Senate sponsorships or grants often have other ways of receiving funding, like alumni contributions and off-campus grants, Bates said.

"I'm really proud of them for thinking about the grants because a couple of years ago, students would come in a lot and ask for money hit or miss and this does add a formal legitimate process," Bates said. "They've set a budget to help students do on-campus programming, and it's a smaller award amount than FAC, but it still provides an opportunity for additional collaboration."

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