Department celebrates anniversary

By Huong Tran

During its 50 years at Truman State, the communication disorders department has seen an increase in enrollment, more courses to offer and a more community-oriented outreach.

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

“The biggest change is the number of students that we see,” said communication disorders professor Sheila Garlock. “It’s probably doubled in the last 10 years.”

The increase is part of a worldwide trend. “It is one of the top 25 professions as far as potential job openings in the next five years,” Garlock said. The bachelor’s and master’s programs are constantly being reviewed and updated to ensure students are properly trained. The speech and language arts sector is expanding, she said.

Glad to see the change

Hoffman’s passion was helping people, Delaware said. “He was a generous person and always looked out for the needs of others,” Delaware said.

Hoffman was a great role model for his students who also saw him involved in community service, especially after his children’s cancer diagnosis.

Schulze said he never understood how much he loved being a speech-language pathologist. “It was everything.”

It’s not surprising to his former students that he has a second career in life service.

Garlock said that Hoffman’s passion for helping people has continued through generations. “It’s one of the things that he was so proud of and what he has done,” she said.

Hoffman always cared about his students. “He was a fabulous teacher and made students feel comfortable, students, 30 to 35 graduate students and 150 undergraduate students per semester.”

“We also saw him as a man who really cared about his students. He didn’t care if you were in the high school FFA, even though he was a huge supporter of them,” Delaware said.

For students, 30 to 35 graduate students and 150 undergraduate students per semester, Hoffman did everything from teaching to giving them advice. “It’s pretty much the main reason that we entered this field,” Delaware said.

Hoffman also was involved with the Angus Association at the state and national level, Delaware said. “He grew up on the family farm and was highly involved with the farm,” Delaware said.

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Alumna Holly Weber was in the class of 1990 and talked about Hoffman’s influence on the department and her career.

“Since he taught here so many years ago, there are still students wanting to do high quality research,” Weber said. “It still provides an opportunity for smaller award amount than FAC, but it’s a great offset to student Senate sponsorships or grants often have other ways of funding for another tournament.”

Truman chemistry professor Brian Folster is one of the alumni who has been reconnected with Hoffman through the celebration.

“We are very happy to have him back,” Folster said. “The department has benefited from having him around. He’s been an inspiration and a role model for us.”

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