

2024

SAHP CHRONICLES: ROARING SUCCESSES IN ALLIED HEALTH

LSU Health
NEW ORLEANS

School of Allied Health Professions



ABOUT LSUHNO SAHP

The School of Allied Health Professions (SAHP) at Louisiana State University Health New Orleans (LSUHNO) was established in 1970 by the Board of Supervisors and comprises undergraduate and graduate programs.

Baccalaureate degrees (Bachelor of Science) are offered in Cardiopulmonary Science and Medical Laboratory Science. The Department of Communication Disorders offers a Master of Communication Disorders degree in Speech-Language Pathology and a Doctor of Audiology degree. The Department of Occupational Therapy offers the Master of Occupational Therapy degree, the Department of Physical Therapy offers a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree, and the Department of Counseling offers the Master of Health Sciences degree. The SAHP also includes the Human Development Center, which provides programs to increase the capacity of professionals in health, mental health, education, and rehabilitation to support individuals with developmental and acquired disabilities and their families to participate in all aspects of community life.

The SAHP provides multidisciplinary outpatient services to achieve various patient objectives, including diagnostic, therapeutic, and restorative services. These services enable patients to gain as much functional, social, and occupational independence as possible.



SAHP MISSION

The School of Allied Health Professions (SAHP) is committed to educating and empowering the future healthcare workforce by leading advancements in education, research and scholarship, clinical service, and leadership.



EDUCATION

To foster innovative learning environments and experiences for the next generation of allied health professionals, we are dedicated to shaping competent and compassionate professionals, advancing clinical practice, research, and ethical care.



RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

To advance research and discovery on health issues focusing on rehabilitation and habilitation across the lifespan, we are dedicated to excellence in research initiatives focused on interdisciplinary rehabilitation, leveraging clinical partnerships and community engagement.



SERVICE

To promote interprofessional education and collaboration across multiple healthcare disciplines, we aim to provide exceptional, equitable healthcare services and personalized support for individuals with developmental and acquired disabilities, promoting their growth and independence.



LEADERSHIP

To cultivate leadership skills and opportunities within the allied health professions, we are committed to developing leaders who will drive innovation, advocate for health equity, and inspire positive change in healthcare systems and communities.

SAHP VISION

To be a leader in transforming healthcare through innovative education, research, and clinical service.



SAHP VALUES



Excellence



Innovation



Collaboration



Integrity



Advocacy

SAHP GOALS

ELEVATE EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE AND RESEARCH INNOVATION

Enhance teaching methods and expand interdisciplinary research in rehabilitation and health sciences.

STRENGTHEN COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Build and sustain partnerships with healthcare providers and community organizations to enhance clinical services and research.

PROMOTE HEALTH EQUITY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Implement outreach and preventive care programs to address health disparities and improve health outcomes in Louisiana.

MAXIMIZE COMMUNITY AND ALUMNI IMPACT

Increase community engagement and strengthen alumni and donor support to expand the school's influence.

TRANSFORM CULTURE AND OPERATIONS

Transform and optimize our culture and operations.

FROM THE DEAN

ERIN M. DUGAN, PH.D.

Throughout the past year, the School of Allied Health Professions strengthened our infrastructure to advance our mission in teaching, research, and service. In the teaching area, we continued to increase and recruit new faculty across departments to bolster support for existing faculty and students. Additionally, we received additional funding to purchase educational resources and supplies to enhance student learning and skill acquisition before clinical fieldwork experiences. An Office of Research Services was approved and filled in the area of research. A research coordinator will also be hired to support the office's infrastructure and the faculty's research. In the area of service, our dedicated faculty continued to serve the school and university.

Faculty clinicians provided direct patient care in our on-campus clinics and at external contracted sites, including hospitals. New contracts and agreements continue to be established, benefiting student learning and community development. In addition to these many efforts, the SAHP has taken significant steps to enhance our programs and support faculty. Administrative positions were filled in the areas of Student Affairs, Alumni & Community Affairs, and Clinical Operations. Lastly, we continued to increase faculty travel support to recognize the importance of disseminating research and scholarly work.

As part of our commitment to excellence, the School of Allied Health Professions worked toward finalizing our strategic plan to ensure alignment with LSUHNO's broader goals. To strengthen our sense of community, we expanded event offerings. These gatherings, including alumni events, partner day, white coat ceremonies, research day, dean's quarterly meetings, and student engagement activities, provide connections, celebration, and collaboration opportunities.

Thank you for your continued dedication to building a thriving academic environment within the School of Allied Health Professions.

Sincerely,
Erin Dugan, PhD



The School of Allied Health Professions has made significant strides in teaching, research, and service this past year. We are dedicated to recruiting top faculty, securing funds to enhance student learning, forming beneficial partnerships, supporting innovative research, and expanding patient care services. Together, we are shaping a brighter future for healthcare education and community well-being.”

-Dr. Erin Dugan

FROM THE OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

ANDY PELLETT, PH.D.

Dr. Andy Pellett served his first full year as associate dean of academic affairs in 2024. In addition, he served as chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, the Promotion and Tenure Committee, and the newly created LSU Health Sciences Center Academic Affairs Council. He also maintains the School of Allied Health Professions' student handbook, faculty manual, and process of identifying the recipient of the Allen A. Copping Award for Excellence in Teaching.



As associate dean of academic affairs, Dr. Pellett deals with occasional student grade appeals and misconduct allegations. Fortunately, much more common duties involve aiding departments in navigating curriculum and course changes, as well as establishing new programs.

FROM THE OFFICE OF RESEARCH AFFAIRS

NOELLE MOREAU, PH.D.

Dr. Noelle Moreau was appointed the associate dean of research in the School of Allied Health Professions. In her new role in the Office of Research, she will work closely and collaboratively with faculty, department heads, staff members, and represent the school regarding research activities internally and externally. Goals include the following:

- Lead SAHP strategic research initiatives, including the strategic plan, and enhance our school's visibility.
- Provide guidance and mentorship to faculty on research career aspects and developing a research program.
- Plan and implement faculty development activities
- Implement a sustained intramural grants research program



ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2024

- Updates to the strategic plan have been proposed to strengthen the SAHP's research position within the health sciences center and to highlight the strengths of our departments and programs.
- Expansion of the Intramural Research and Travel Grants program, including implementation of standardized procedures and reviewer guidelines
- Developed a procedure for the internal routing of grant submissions for approvals
- In collaboration with fiscal affairs, provided training resources for staff involved in pre- and post-award grant procedures.
- One-on-one meetings with faculty for guidance and mentorship have been implemented.
- Department-specific needs assessments have been performed regarding research and scholarship to guide faculty development activities in the new fiscal year.

Stay Tuned – More to come in 2025!

FROM THE OFFICE OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

KEVIN LORD, PH.D.

Dr. Kevin Lord was appointed in May 2024. In his new role in the Office of Student Affairs, Dr. Lord will work with each of our allied health departments for various initiatives, including:

- Student recruitment opportunities throughout the state of Louisiana
- Developing formal procedures for student documentation for clinical rotations.
- Increase awareness of our allied health programs at various undergraduate institutions.
- Mentoring our Student Government Association to increase interdisciplinary student interaction and engagement.



STUDENT AFFAIRS STAFF



Yudi Cazan



Samoa Hempfling

FROM THE OFFICE OF ALUMNI AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

ALANNA GLAPION, ED.D.

Dr. Alanna Glapion was appointed in May 2024. Her office oversees alumni communication, event planning, and community relations. Community service opportunities, fundraising, and community partnerships are also included in her role. Through this office, we are excited to grow our relationships with our graduates, healthcare professionals, hospital and clinic organizations, and community stakeholders.



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2024

- Initiation of the Purple and Gold Card with local businesses
- Establishment and maintenance of community partnerships, including our clinical affiliation sites
- Assistance with SAHP Partner Day
- Establishment of fundraising opportunities within the community
- Fall Alumni Event in November 2024
- SAHP Self-Care Day, in collaboration with our Communication Disorders department

Stay tuned for more in 2025!

To contact Dr. Glapion for alumni or community events, please reach out via email: Aglap1@lsuhsc.edu.

FROM OUR FACULTY ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT BRANDON WALKER, OTD



The Faculty Assembly comprises nine elected delegates serving three-year terms and two alternate delegates representing the nine academic programs within the School of Allied Health Professions (SAHP).

MISSION

The Faculty Assembly promotes communication between faculty and administration and provides a structured mechanism for faculty input into academic processes. It is made up of all full-time faculty members with the rank of instructor or higher. The Assembly serves as a bridge between faculty, the dean, the Faculty Senate, administration, staff, and the chancellor.

2023-2024 FACULTY ASSEMBLY DELEGATES

Megan P. Majoué, President

Communication Disorders (Audiology)

Brandon J. Walker, Vice President

Occupational Therapy

Molly Quinn Jensen, Secretary

Cardiopulmonary Science

Michael Norman, Immediate Past-President

Human Development Center

Daniel Held, Delegate

Medical Laboratory Science

Alanna Glapion, Delegate

Occupational Therapy

Brittany G. Hall, Delegate

Physician Assistant Studies

Leslie Lopez, Delegate

Communication Disorders (Speech Pathology)

Ngozi Akotaobi, Delegate

Physical Therapy

2024-2025 FACULTY ASSEMBLY DELEGATES

Brandon Walker, President

Occupational Therapy

Brittany G. Hall, President-Elect

Physician Assistant Studies

Megan R. Guidry, Secretary

Communication Disorders (Audiology)

Megan Majoué, Immediate Past-President

Communication Disorders (Audiology)

Ngozi Akotaobi, Delegate

Physical Therapy

Nicky Gillies, Delegate

Human Development Center

Stephanie Eschete, Delegate

Physician Assistant Studies

Holly Walters, Delegate

Counseling

Lauren Delaune, Delegate

Medical Laboratory Science

Luther Gill, Alternate Delegate

Physical Therapy

FROM OUR FACULTY ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT BRANDON WALKER, OTD

SCHOOL COMMITTEES

The Faculty Assembly plays an active role in the oversight and function of various committees within the School of Allied Health Professions, ensuring faculty involvement in key decision-making processes.

FACULTY ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS (2024-2025)

Academic Affairs Committee

Andy Pellett, Cardiopulmonary Science

Admissions Committee

Erica Cardosi, Communication Disorders (Audiology)

Alumni Affairs Committee

Jade Schoendorf, Medical Laboratory Science

Clinical Coordinators / Clinic Committee

Megan Guidry, Communication Disorders (Audiology)
Stephanie Eschete, Physician Assistant Studies

Community Engagement Committee

Dania Rishiq, Communication Disorders (Audiology)
Laura Stazio, Human Development Center

Faculty Manual Committee

Andy Pellett, Cardiopulmonary Science

Grants and Research Committee

Luther Gill, Physical Therapy

Honors Committee

George Hebert, Counseling

Professional Development Committee

Rachel Wellons, Physical Therapy

Promotion & Tenure Committee

Andy Pellett, Cardiopulmonary Science

Strategic Planning Committee

Brandon Walker, Occupational Therapy

Student Affairs / Recruitment Committee

Holly Walters, Counseling

Student Promotion & Remediation Committee

Ha Hoang, Physical Therapy

LSU HEALTH NEW ORLEANS SAHP FACULTY SENATE

MISSION

The Faculty Senate represents the collective voice of the faculty, fostering communication between faculty members, the Chancellor, and the administration of LSU Health New Orleans.

The Senate consists of elected representatives from the six schools on campus (Allied Health, Dentistry, Graduate Studies, Medicine, Nursing, and Public Health) and representatives from the LSU Health New Orleans library.

2023-2024 SAHP SENATORS

Luther Gill, Senator

Physical Therapy

Alanna Glapion, Senator

Occupational Therapy

Megan P. Majoué, Senator

Communication Disorders (Audiology)

Amber Weydert, Senator

Physician Assistant Studies

Brittney Wright, Senator

Communication Disorders (Speech-Language Pathology)

2024-2025 SAHP SENATORS

Luther Gill, Senator

Physical Therapy

Brittany G. Hall, Senator

Physician Assistant Studies

Megan P. Majoué, Senator

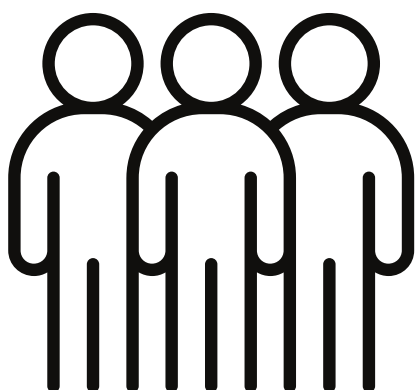
Communication Disorders (Audiology)

Brandon Walker, Senator

Occupational Therapy

Amber Weydert, Senator

Physician Assistant Studies



The Faculty Assembly and Faculty Senate are vital conduits for faculty representation, collaboration, and advocacy within LSU Health New Orleans. Thank you to all our elected representatives for their leadership and service.

SAHP YEAR IN REVIEW

SPRING 2024



JANUARY

MLK DAY OF
SERVICE



MARCH

SGA SOIREE



APRIL

OT
LEGISLATIVE
DAY

JANUARY

SAHP STUDENT
ORIENTATION



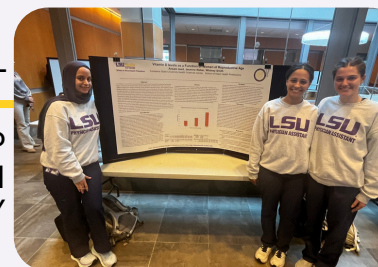
MARCH

SAHP JOB FAIR



APRIL

SAHP
RESEARCH
DAY



APRIL

PARTNER DAY



FALL 2024



MAY

SAHP
COMMENCEMENT



SEPTEMBER

SAHP JOB FAIR



NOVEMBER

SELF-CARE DAY BY
COMMUNICATION
DISORDERS DEPT



DECEMBER

OT RESEARCH
DAY

AUGUST

PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT



OCTOBER

SAHP OPEN
HOUSE



OCTOBER

ALUMNI WATCH
PARTY



DECEMBER

HOLIDAY PARTY



ALUMNI & COMMUNITY EVENTS



Graduate Alumni Networking Social
May 10, 2024



Kids Zoo-to-Do
April 26, 2024



LSU Watch Party at Bayou Beer Garden
November 15, 2024



Don't miss out on the SAHP's exciting community and alumni events! Whether you're looking to reconnect with classmates, expand your professional network, or simply have fun, our events offer something for everyone. Be a part of our vibrant community and help us continue the tradition of excellence and camaraderie. Stay connected, get involved, and join us at our next event.

FOLLOW US!

Follow us and stay tuned for email updates for upcoming events.



WEBSITE

alliedhealth.lsuhschool.edu



FACEBOOK

LSUHSC, School of Allied Health



INSTAGRAM

@lsuhealth_neworleans_sahp

GRANTS

The LSU Health New Orleans School of Allied Health Professions is honored to receive prestigious grants for innovative projects in 2024. These awards underscore our commitment to advancing health sciences, transforming healthcare education, and building the capacity of future professionals to better care for individuals with disabilities through the lens of social determinants of health and person-centered planning.

5 HIGHEST SAHP GRANTS IN 2024

- EARLY HEAD START**

Human Development Center

Early Head Start Child Care Partnership

\$3,991,821
- UCEDD (CORE)**

Human Development Center

University Center for Excellence on Development Disabilities

\$606,330
- LEND**

Human Development Center

Leadership Education In Neurodevelopmental and Other Related Disabilities

\$464,000
- WIPA**

Human Development Center

Louisiana Work Incentive Planning and Assistance

\$265,000
- INTERPROFESSIONAL PREPARATION**

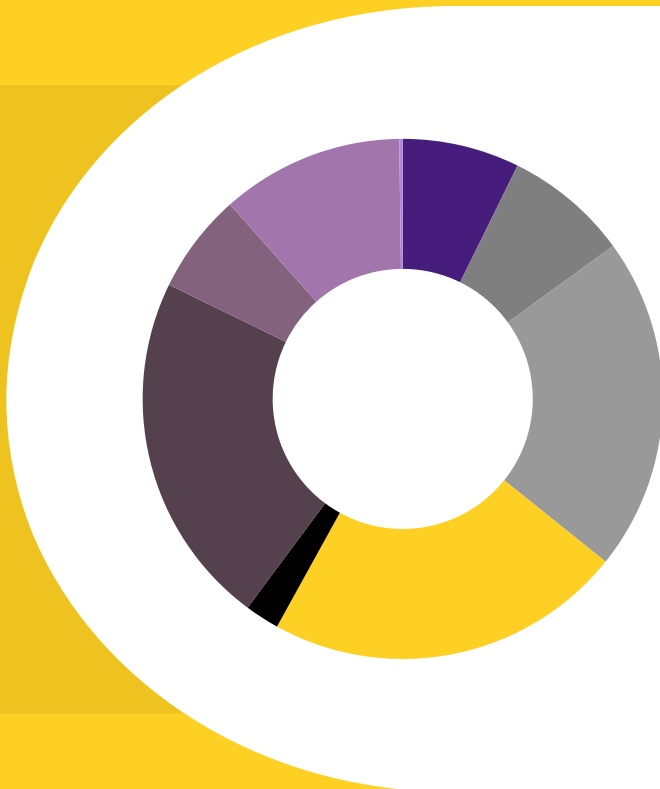
Human Development Center

Interprofessional Preparation for Related Services Personnel Serving Children With Disabilities Who Have High Intensity Needs

\$249,869



2024 BY THE NUMBERS



ENROLLMENT SPRING 2024

Audiology	34	
Speech-Language Pathology	45	
Physical Therapy	102	
Occupational Therapy	103	
Counseling	25	
Physician Assistant Studies	103	
Cardiopulmonary Science	23	
Medical Laboratory Science	52	
Non-Degree, Allied Health Undergraduate	1	

GRADUATES BY SEMESTER

Spring 2024	164
Summer 2024	4



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

AUDIOLOGY

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

ABOUT US

The LSUHNO Audiology Program continues to promote excellence and compassion in audiological care.

The program provides students with hands-on experience while serving the community through an on-campus clinic. With a commitment to academic success and clinical proficiency, students are empowered to become skilled audiologists ready to make a meaningful impact in the lives of others.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

KELLY ANDERS, ANDI BUISSON, AND COURSEY PITTS

Did you know that smoking can increase your risk of hearing loss, imbalance, and tinnitus? Or that the smoking rate in Louisiana is higher than the national average? LSUHNO students Kelly Anders, Andi Buisson, and Coursey Pitts partnered with the Louisiana Campaign to compile research on the effects of smoking on the hearing and balance systems.



They had the fantastic opportunity to share their research at the Louisiana Academy of Audiology (LAA) conference, and thoroughly impressed us with their presentation. Great job, girls! Thank you for representing LSUH with excellence!



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Dania Rishiq

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Dr. Rishiq is a new LSU Health New Orleans faculty member, joining the Communication Disorders Department in January 2024. She earned her doctoral degree from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, TN. Following her graduation in 2013, she worked at multiple research sites, such as Starkey, the Mayo Clinic, and the University of South Alabama.

Rishiq's research background is extensive and can accommodate and fit students with various interests. She is primarily interested in speech-evoked auditory brainstem responses, aural rehabilitation, hearing aids, cognition and aging, understanding speech in noise, and the relationship between cardiovascular health and the auditory system. She is currently interested in gait and postural stability assessments and hopes to use them as outcome measures of audiologic interventions.

At a personal level, she enjoys road trips, hiking, and traveling. She also enjoys participating in diversity events and hopes to support diverse populations in her research.

When asked to advise current graduate students, Dr. Rishiq said, "I would like to advise young students to take their twenties very seriously. It's the most important decade of their lives, and it influences the rest of their future decades. Life is too short and fleeting! Go out there and achieve your dreams!"

PUBLICATIONS

Congratulations to Dr. Dania Rishiq on her publication in the Journal of the American Academy of Audiology titled Different Attention Domains and Speech-in-Noise Performance: A Preliminary Study. Accepted at the Journal of the American Academy of Audiology

RESEARCH AND GRANTS

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

This interprofessional project aims to characterize baseline critical thinking skills of health professions students and identify factors that predict critical thinking abilities across several health professional programs.



AUDIOLOGY

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

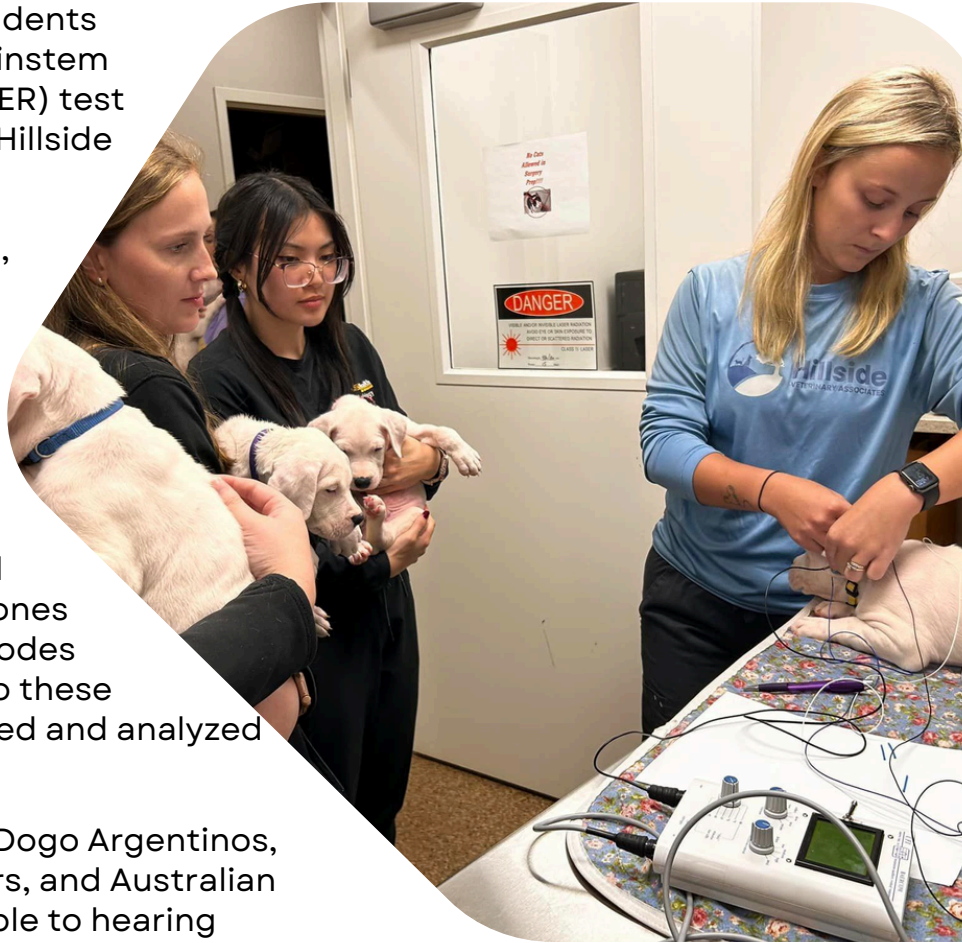
STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Our second-year audiology students were allowed to observe a Brainstem Auditory Evoked Response (BAER) test on Dogo Argentino puppies at Hillside Veterinary Clinic!

The BAER test is a non-invasive, painless procedure that measures your pet's brain activity in response to sound. It evaluates the function of the auditory pathways from the ear to the brainstem. During the test, electrodes are placed on your pet's scalp, and they are exposed to clicks or tones through earphones. The electrodes capture the brain's response to these sounds, which are then recorded and analyzed to assess hearing function.

Certain dog breeds, including Dogo Argentinos, Dalmatians, Boxers, Bull Terriers, and Australian Shepherds, are more susceptible to hearing loss due to genetic factors, especially those with coat colors like white or merle. The BAER test can also be used for pets with a history of ear infections, head trauma, or suspected hearing loss.

Thank you, Hillside Veterinary Clinic for giving our students such an adorable experience!



FOLLOW US!



WEBSITE

[www.alliedhealth.lsuohsc.edu/
cd/audiologyaboutus.aspx](http://www.alliedhealth.lsuohsc.edu/cd/audiologyaboutus.aspx)



FACEBOOK

[AudiologyLsuohsc](https://www.facebook.com/AudiologyLsuohsc)



INSTAGRAM

[@audiology_lsuohsc](https://www.instagram.com/audiology_lsuohsc)

AUDIOLOGY

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

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 observe cerumen and foreign object removal techniques! 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!



ZOO-TO-DO

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



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 with spooky costumes, sensory activities, games, and many treats! We're always grateful for the opportunity to participate in fun community events, and we hope to be back next year!

AUDIOLOGY

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

AWARDS



SHARON ANDERSON SANDERS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Louisiana Academy of Audiology
Sharon Anderson Sanders
Memorial Scholarship Recipient
Vanna Do (right)



STUDENT HUMANITARIAN PROGRAM AWARD

Miranda Gaddis (right) has been awarded the prestigious Student Humanitarian Program Award! This program allows audiology students and their universities to participate in a structured and supervised philanthropic event. Through this initiative, Miranda will travel to Guatemala, where audiology mentors will guide her to provide best-practice care to individuals in need. Brittany Knoerzer (left) has been awarded the SPALS Student Scholarship, which recognizes speech and audiology students passionate about working in school districts. This honor reflects Brittany's dedication to fostering inclusive learning environments for children with hearing and speech challenges.

AUDIOLOGY

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

DEPARTMENTAL EVENTS



NATIONAL SPEECH- LANGUAGE-HEARING MONTH

This May is the first to be recognized as National Speech-Language-Hearing Month, formerly known as Better Hearing and Speech Month! To celebrate, students provided LSUH students, faculty, and staff free hearing and cognitive screenings. We also had the privilege of advertising with the representatives from Starkey and Cochlear, who passed out resources and other goodies to those walking by. It was an exceptional opportunity to reach our community and promote awareness of communication disorders. We love our field and are thankful to all the speech, language, and hearing professionals for their work and the care they provide daily!



SELF-CARE DAY

For our annual Self Care Day (11/15), Audiology and Speech-language pathology students were privileged to hear from a fantastic guest speaker- Nicole Walker! Nicole, LSU's Interim Assistant Director of Outreach and Engagement and Senior Learning Specialist at the Center for Academic Success, shared valuable tips on juggling school and self-care like a pro! She spoke about the benefits of planning, balancing academics and personal time, and how stress can impact productivity. Students also learned about the CAS approach to test prep, the difference between passive and active learning, and how to combat test anxiety through grounding techniques. We wrapped up the day with much-needed relaxation and a little fun at the SAA party! Big thanks to Nicole for lending us her time and for an outstanding presentation!

AUDIOLOGY

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

DEPARTMENTAL EVENTS



LIGHTHOUSE LOUISIANA

The Louisiana Lighthouse for the Blind recently held its Rise & Shine Fundraiser. Patrons and donors raised their glasses to ignite change in the Baton Rouge community by gathering at Capitol Park Museum for Rise and Shine, a brunch experience that fused celebration with a great cause. Our own, Dr. Megan Pollman Majoue, is a newly appointed Board Member!

Guests heard keynote speaker, Dr. K. Renee Horton, a NASA Space Launch System (SLS) Quality Engineer (pictured on the right) who is hearing impaired and a proud member of the Lighthouse Board. She shared her inspiring story of overcoming challenges and not letting her disability hold her back.

AUDIOLOGY FUN FACT

Did you know a cow can hear up to around 37,000 Hz? That's approximately 17,000 Hz greater than the human ear can hear! Our students spent an enjoyable afternoon at the Global Wildlife Center, interacting with various animals while learning about comparative anatomy. We enjoyed spending this time together outside of the classroom, and a special thanks to our department head, Dr. Annette Hurley, for hosting the students, teachers, and family for food and games afterwards!

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

SPEECH-LANGUAGE

PATHOLOGY

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

ABOUT US

Our program is dedicated to training future speech-language pathologists (SLPs) who are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and compassion to make a meaningful impact in the lives of individuals with communication and swallowing disorders.

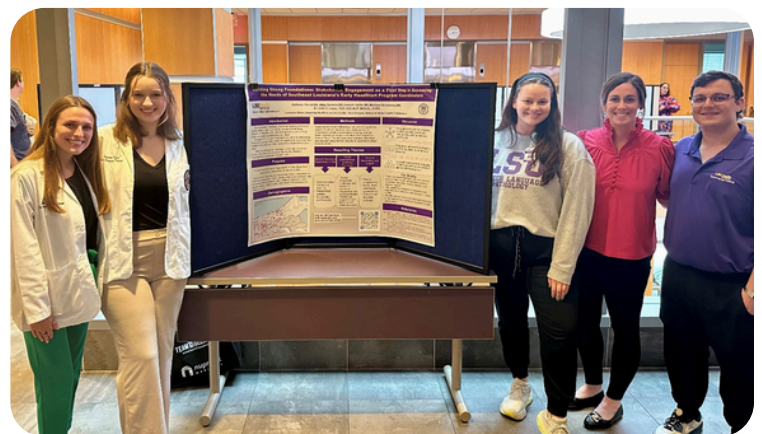
Our on-campus clinic provides services including prevention, identification, diagnosis, consultation, therapy, and remediation for persons with speech, language, and swallowing disorders, allowing our students to gain clinical expertise for various professional practice settings.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

Abby Samaha and Kathleen Perrot

Abby Samaha (left) and Kathleen Perrot (right), second-year SLP students and scholars in the Louisiana Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) program, and Hannah Hoffer and Matthew Schonberg, first-year SLP students and research assistants, completed a community-based participatory action research project to identify the needs, perceived barriers, and preferences of early childhood educators for improving developmental monitoring in southeast Louisiana's Early Head Start programs. Mentored by Dr. Leslie Lopez, the students presented their mixed methods study findings at the annual SAHP Research Day symposium.



**SPEECH-LANGUAGE
PATHOLOGY**
ACADEMIC PROGRAM

FACULTY SPOTLIGHTS

The SLP program had two new faculty join our team in 2024!



Jordan Lins

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. Jordan's primary area of research interest is in acoustical characterization and the use of eye tracking to measure reading prosody in persons with aphasia. Welcome, Jordan!



Laura Landry

Laura Landry, MCD, CCC-SLP, MST, is a Clinical Instructor and Instructor of Normal Language Development, Clinical Phonetics, and Issues in Communication Disorders. Laura's areas of clinical interest include school-age language disorders, dyslexia and literacy intervention, articulation disorders, and speech fluency disorders. Welcome, Laura!

**SPEECH-LANGUAGE
PATHOLOGY**
ACADEMIC PROGRAM

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Ashley McInnis, MCD, CCC-SLP, is a 2020 graduate of the SLP program. She founded 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/>

WHITE COAT CEREMONY

The SLP Program held its annual White Coat Ceremony in the summer of 2024. Students, accompanied by their guests, were honored at this ceremony that marks the transition from student to healthcare professional. 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.



SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

STUDENT ACTIVITIES



AAC AWARENESS MONTH

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



ADAPTED CHILDREN'S BOOKS

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.



SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Community Outreach



In April, SLP faculty and students participated in the annual Zoo-to-Do fundraiser that Manning Family Children's Hospital hosted. SLP students could share information about our program and the services offered at our on-campus Speech-Language Clinic with several families in the community.



SLP students Kate Lougon (left) and Rachel Dupuis (right), accompanied by faculty Dr. Leslie Lopez and Brittney Wright, attended the Louisiana Speech-Language-Hearing Association's (LSHA) annual Advocacy Day at the Capitol on May 9, 2024. Students and faculty had the opportunity to engage with members of the Senate and House to share information about the profession of speech-language pathology, and were present in the Capitol Rotunda for the official recognition of May 9 as Communication Awareness Day through the proclamation on the House Floor.

FOLLOW US!



WEBSITE

[www.alliedhealth.lsuhsu.edu/
cd/slaboutus.aspx](http://www.alliedhealth.lsuhsu.edu/cd/slaboutus.aspx)



INSTAGRAM

@nsslha_at_lsuhsu

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

AWARDS

Molly Brouillette

Molly Brouillette, MCD, CCC-SLP, was awarded the Allen A. Copping Excellence in Teaching Award at the annual Pre-Commencement ceremony. The Copping Award is named in honor of Dr. Allen A. Copping, who served as Louisiana State University Medical Center Chancellor and then President of Louisiana State University. Dr. Copping established this award to recognize faculty who are excellent teachers, who have demonstrated a lifelong quest for discovery, and who inspire their students. Congratulations, Molly!



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!

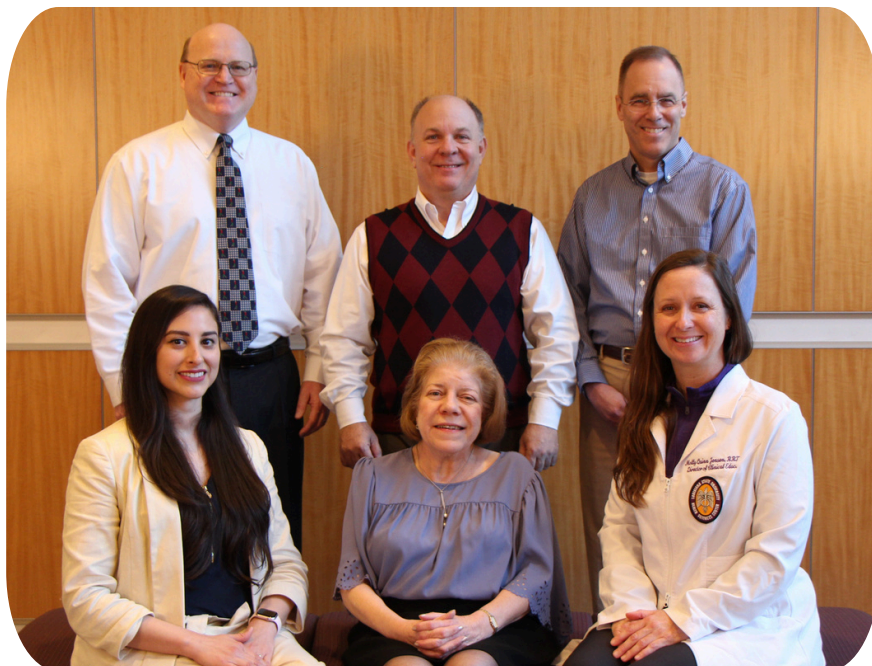


Dr. Leslie Lopez

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 higher education setting while also serving as an active contributing member of the Louisiana Speech-Language-Hearing Association (LSHA). Dr. Lopez is the Director of Legislative Affairs for the LSHA Board of Directors. Congratulations, Dr. Lopez!



DEPARTMENT OF **CARDIOPULMONARY SCIENCE**



John Zamjahn,
Kevin Lord,
Andy Pellett,
Brenda Ramirez,
Charlaine Ritter,
Molly Quinn Jensen

ABOUT US

The Department of Cardiopulmonary Science offers a bachelor's degree in cardiopulmonary science, specializing in **CARDIOVASCULAR SONOGRAPHY** or **RESPIRATORY THERAPY**.

Cardiovascular sonography merges cardiac sonography and vascular technology, using noninvasive techniques to diagnose cardiac abnormalities and circulatory system disorders. Respiratory therapy involves the evaluation, treatment, and management of patients with respiratory or cardiopulmonary disorders.

CARDIOPULMONARY SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT

FACULTY SPOTLIGHTS



Khyleyah Fisher

Khyleyah (Khy) Fisher joined the Cardiopulmonary Science faculty on July 1, 2024 as the new director of clinical education for the respiratory therapy program. Khy graduated from the program in 2019. She earned her MBA from LSU Shreveport in 2023. She brings a wealth of clinical experience, having previously worked as a registered respiratory therapist at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center in Baton Rouge, Ochsner Medical Center in Jefferson, and Torrance Memorial Medical Center in California. She most recently worked as a clinical specialist for Verathon.

Kevin Lord, Ph.D, MS, RRT

Dr. Kevin Lord joined the Department of Cardiopulmonary Science faculty in February of 2024. He was born and raised in New Orleans, is married to Stephanie, a graduate of LSUH's nursing program, and is the proud father of three children.

Dr. Lord received his PhD in pharmacology & experimental therapeutics, his Master of Health Sciences, and bachelor's degree at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center -



New Orleans. He served as faculty from 2001 to 2008 in the Department of Cardiopulmonary Science before leaving to serve as a faculty member and, soon thereafter, assistant dean for student affairs at the Feik School of Pharmacy in San Antonio. He later served as the associate dean for biomedical sciences and associate dean for research, innovation, and collaboration at Sam Houston State University School of Medicine in Conroe, Texas.

Dr. Lord's current research interests include the use of haptic technology in teaching clinical skills, the use of artificial intelligence to understand and better provide directed healthcare for underserved populations, and the application of hyperbaric treatment in combination with cannabinoids to manage anxiety and posttraumatic stress disorder.

Much of Dr. Lord's time has been spent as the new assistant dean of student affairs in the School of Allied Health Professions.

CARDIOPULMONARY SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

FACULTY AWARDS

CoARC Award

Our respiratory therapy program was among a select group of programs recognized by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) to receive the Distinguished RRT Credentialing Success Award. This award is presented as part of the CoARC's continued efforts to value the RRT credential as a standard of professional achievement.

From a program effectiveness perspective, the CoARC views the RRT credential as a measure of a program's success in inspiring its graduates to achieve their highest educational and professional aspirations. Programs were required to: (1) have three or more years of outcomes data; (2) hold accreditation without a progress report at the end of the year; (3) document RRT credentialing success of 90% or above, and (4) meet or exceed established CoARC thresholds for TMC exam high cut score and retention.



OUTSTANDING THERAPIST AWARD: DR. JOHN ZAMJAHN

The Louisiana State Society for Respiratory Care (LSRC) awarded John Zamjahn, PhD, RRT, RRT-ACCS, RPFT, the 2024 LSRC Outstanding Therapist Award "in appreciation for his contribution, dedication, and volunteerism to the profession of respiratory care and his spirit of commitment that best exemplifies the mission and vision of the LSRC".

SPIRIT OF EDUCATION AWARD

The LSRC and Medical Specialties awarded Molly Quinn Jensen, MS RRT, RRT-ACCS, NPS, the inaugural Terry Forrette Spirit of Education Award "in recognition of her extraordinary passion and professionalism in respiratory care education of all who seek better patient care." This award is dedicated to the memory of long-time Louisiana/LSUH educator, Terry Forrette. Terry dedicated a significant portion of his life to giving above and beyond the service of excellence, through educating, mentoring, and inspiring numerous students and therapists, who are leading our profession today. He motivated many of his students to become educators themselves.

**CARDIOPULMONARY
SCIENCE**
DEPARTMENT**STUDENT
AWARDS****STUDENT AWARD RECIPIENTS**

Madison Broussard received the John B. Bobear Award for Outstanding Student in Respiratory Therapy, and Kylie Duffy received the Award for Outstanding Student in Cardiovascular Sonography at the pre-commencement ceremony in May.

**LAMBDA BETA NATIONAL
HONOR SOCIETY**

Hoang Nguyen and My Do were inducted into the Lambda Beta National Honor Society, the national honor society for the respiratory care profession.

Pictured left to right: Dr. John Zamjahn, Hoang Nguyen, Madison Broussard, My Do, and Molly Quinn-Jensen.

**LSRC Pelican
Bowl Champions!**

The student team “Cystic Fine-Bro-Sis” comprising seniors My Do, Hoang Nguyen, and Madison Broussard, and junior Erin Vogt, were LSRC Pelican Bowl champions. There were thirteen teams competing from nine Louisiana respiratory therapy programs. The team went on to compete in the American Association for Respiratory Care Congress Sputum Bowl representing Louisiana in Orlando, FL in November, finishing 5th out of 18 teams.



CARDIOPULMONARY SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

WHITE COAT CEREMONY



The Department of Cardiopulmonary Science recently celebrated a historic milestone with its inaugural White Coat Ceremony for the classes of 2025 and 2026. This event marked a pivotal step in the students' journey, symbolizing their transition from the classroom to clinical training and their commitment to the values of professionalism, patient care, and lifelong learning.



The ceremony underscored the significance of new graduates in shaping the future of healthcare. Considered to be more than just a rite of passage, the white coat tradition represents the core principles of humanism in medicine. Embodying compassion, empathy, and ethical responsibility; qualities essential to providing exceptional care.



Distinguished speakers Andy Pellett, Brenda Ramirez, John Zamjahn, and Kevin Lord delivered inspiring remarks, emphasizing the vital roles that cardiovascular sonographers and respiratory therapists play in the healthcare system and the responsibility of wearing the white coat. Family, faculty, and friends gathered to celebrate this milestone, recognizing these future clinicians' hard work and dedication.



**CARDIOPULMONARY
SCIENCE**
DEPARTMENT**STUDENT
ACTIVITIES****LSU Day at the Capitol**

On April 24, 2024, at the Speaker's Health Fair at LSU Day at the Capitol, Brenda Ramirez, John Zamjahn, and Kevin Lord performed screenings on legislators and even LSU President William Tate. Brenda scanned the carotid arteries while Drs. Zamjahn and Lord assessed lung function.

**Student Preceptor Training**

Respiratory therapy seniors (class of 2025) completed the American Association for Respiratory Care Clinical Practices of Effective Preceptor Program. The valuable training gained in clinical preceptorship encourages students to become effective preceptors and train future respiratory therapy students throughout their careers. Pictured left to right top: Ashley Knox, Miranda Strassel, Terrica Louis; bottom: Amyri Lopez and Erin Vogt.

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DEPARTMENT OF COUNSELING

ABOUT US

The Master of Health Sciences in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (MHS) program is fully accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). It is a 60-credit hour graduate program, with an on-campus instruction environment focusing on counseling. The program prepares counselors to assume the full range of professional responsibilities required in community counseling organizations, including private, public, and non-profit institutions. Finally, the program focuses on scholarship contributions and service locally and nationally.



First Row Faculty: Dr. Rose Angelocci (Adjunct), Dr. Holly Walters, Dr. Adrienne Frischhertz, and Dr. Erin Dugan

Second Row: Dr. George Hebert, Dr. Henry McCarthy, Dr. Rashunda Miller Reed, Ms. Jeri Brumfield (Academic Coordinator), and Dr. Brian Canfield (Department Head)

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NEW FACULTY

Dr. Brian Canfield

Dr. Canfield is a full professor and Head of the Department of Counseling in the School of Allied Health Professions. He is a Licensed Professional Counselor - Supervisor (Louisiana), a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist - Supervisor (Louisiana), and a Licensed Psychologist (Arkansas).



Dr. Rose Angelocci

Dr. Angelocci joined the counseling faculty in 2024 and brings over 35 years of experience. She earned a doctorate in counselor education with a minor in qualitative research methods from the University of New Orleans. She specializes in working with individuals with disabilities, especially those who are blind or deaf/blind.



Dr. Rashunda Miller Reed

Dr. Miller Reed joined the counseling faculty in 2024. She has served as the 2023-34 President of the Louisiana Counseling Association and in several other local and national positions. With over 14 years of clinical experience, she specializes in working with clients in schools, home-based settings, and private practice.



RESEARCH

Dr. Hebert hosted the Annual Department of Counseling Research Symposium.



DEPARTMENT OF
COUNSELING



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The department participated in the Metropolitan Human Services District Annual Recovery Walk.



DEPARTMENTAL EVENTS

The department welcomed new members of the Advisory Board.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES



The counseling department held an alumni event inviting their alumni to play pickleball at The Exchange!



DEPARTMENTAL EVENTS

As a departmental member of the Louisiana Counseling Association, the counseling faculty co-hosted a mixer with Xavier University for all schools in the region.



The LSUHNO Department of Counseling and the University of Holy Cross Department of Counseling & Behavioral Sciences co-hosted an all-day workshop before the ACA Conference. It was well attended online and in person, and we look forward to working with the University of Holy Cross again!



AWARDS

JERI BRUMFIELD

Jeri Brumfield, Academic Coordinator, won the outstanding staff award in 2024.



Outstanding Staff Award

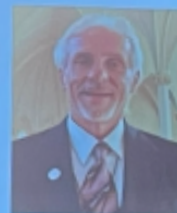
Jeri Brumfield
Department of Counseling

JAMES F. GARRETT AWARD RECIPIENT

DR. HENRY MCCARTHY

The James F. Garrett Award recognizes a person who has a distinguished career in rehabilitation research, which includes excellence in research contributions over one's career. The nominee's published research must span at least 15 years and focus on rehabilitation counseling.

Congratulations, Dr. McCarthy!
Dr. McCarthy is a Professor Emeritus in the Department of Counseling and still sits on our Advisory Board.



Dr. Henry McCarthy spent his entire vocational life committed to the fields of rehabilitation counseling/psychology and disability studies. As an undergraduate, graduate student and professor on retirement, he worked in several settings with people, most of whom had physical disabilities, on their daily living tasks, vocational goals, and other aspirations. His academic career was focused on (a) classroom teaching and clinical supervision of students in their practicum settings; and (b) advocacy and scholarship on disability rights, holistic understanding of the disability experience, and promotion of quality of life. His work is reflected in 70 publications, 10 research/fellowship grants, and two documentary films. Collaborations and presentations have brought him to many sites in the Caribbean, Central America, Europe, and the United States. After 31 years on the LSU Health Sciences Center faculty, he retired in 2016. He now does consultation on disability issues and volunteer work for various community, cultural, peace and social-justice organizations. His hobbies include swimming, dancing, pickleball, photography, and enjoying performing arts concerts. He and his wonderful wife of 40 years have two talented sons and one amazing grandchild.

James F. Garrett Award: Dr. Henry McCarthy

PRESENTATIONS

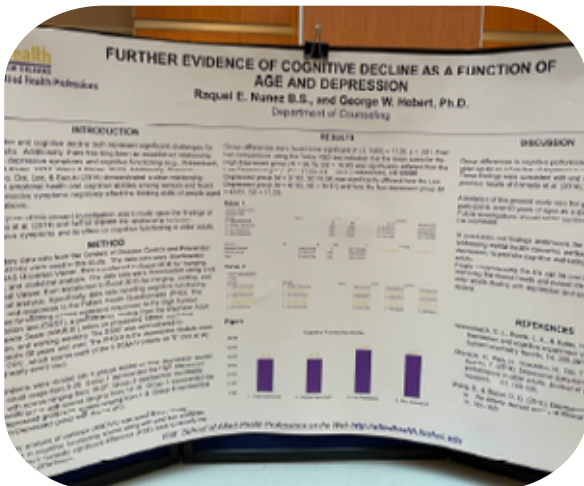
Faculty presented a workshop for the Louisiana Counseling Association (LCA) entitled “Implementing Social Emotional Psychoeducation in Play Therapy.”



Another great presentation! Dr. Hebert and Dr. Walters presented at the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children.



The Department of Counseling and the Human Development Center invited the American Rehabilitation Counseling Association (ARCA) to host the Pre-Conference Symposium on Wednesday, April 10, 2024.



DEPARTMENT OF **MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE**

ABOUT US

Medical laboratory scientists (medical technologists/clinical laboratory scientists) perform analytical tests on blood and body fluids. As vital members of the health care team, they provide information necessary for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of disease. Medical Laboratory Science requires precise and accurate evaluation techniques and keen problem-solving and judgment skills.



NEW FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Hello everyone! My name is Lyndsey Gisclair, and I'm thrilled to join the LSUHNO School of Allied Health community as part of the Medical Laboratory Sciences Program faculty.

I hold a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology and Medical Laboratory Science and am certified by ASCP. I will complete my Ph.D. in microbiology from LSUHNO in spring 2025. My professional background includes working in clinical microbiology for multiple New Orleans area hospital systems, where I developed a passion for educating and training future MLS professionals. I believe strongly in medical laboratory professionals' critical role in patient care and hope to inspire my students to approach their work with dedication and compassion.

As an alum, I'm honored to have the opportunity to be part of this fantastic program and look forward to working with the talented students, faculty, and staff here at LSUHNO.

CURRENT AND PAST MLS FACULTY



2024 GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

Olivia Barnes – Chancellor’s Award Nominee

Ashley Anthony – Betty Lynne Theriot
Outstanding Student Award

Samantha Morales – Dean’s Award Nominee

Daïson Faciane – J. Clyde Swartzwelder “C2”
Award

Lauren Montgomery – Scholastic Achievement
Award

Megan King – Faculty Award for Excellence

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WHITE COAT CEREMONY

Our MLS department celebrated their White Coat Ceremony on November 14, 2024.

BETTY LYNNE THERIOT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Betty Lynne Theriot Scholarship is in honor of Betty Lynne Theriot, an innovative and creative educator who developed instructional methods in laboratory science. Factors considered in awarding this scholarship include academic success, financial need, and support of the underserved.



**Joel
Gabourel**



**Jasmine
Holcomb**



**Vy
Nguyen**



**Michelle
Perkins**



Taylor Wiley



LINDBERG SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Vy Nguyen

This scholarship honors the memory of the late Dr. David S. Lindberg, who served as Assistant/Associate Dean for Academic Affairs from 1974 to 1986. The scholarship is awarded annually based on the highest grade-point average (GPA) and financial need.

DEPARTMENT OF **OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY**

ABOUT US

The Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT) Class of 2025 held their White Coat Ceremony on March 15, celebrating their imminent transition from the academic portion of their learning to the clinical portion, as they embark on their first Level II fieldwork in the summer. Outstanding Alumnus of the Year Sally Richardson gave the keynote address to over 200 friends and family who attended the event to support our students. Congratulations to the Class of 2025 on achieving this milestone in their occupational therapy education!



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Sally Richardson, LOTR

The MOT Class of 2025 selected Sally Richardson, LOTR, as Outstanding Alumnus of the Year. Sally graduated from the program in 2019 and has stood out in the OT community due to her neurorehabilitation expertise and advocacy for patients. In addition, she is a frequent guest lecturer, volunteering her time to give exciting and engaging lectures to our students. We are so proud to say that Sally Richardson is an alumna of the SAHP!

DEPARTMENTAL EVENTS

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The year 2024 marked the 50th anniversary of occupational therapy education at LSUHNO. We celebrated this milestone by creating a logo, rotating images from the department on the Tulane Avenue billboard, and implementing our second annual Occupational Therapy Research Day in December. However, we topped it off with a Back-to-School Happy Hour celebration and fundraiser in August.

The department was transformed with decorations, food, drinks, games, an 'Antiques Roadshow' that showcased scary equipment from years past, a wall of OT school memories for attendees to add to, and tours of our classrooms, labs, and clinic spaces. Generous local businesses provided items to raffle, with special thanks going to the CEO of University Medical Center, Mr. John Nickens, who donated a one-night stay at the Virgin Hotel. The atmosphere was electric as attendees enjoyed reconnecting with old friends and making new ones. We lost count of those who told us, "You should do this every year!"

We are proud of our legacy of providing 50 years of outstanding occupational therapy education in Louisiana and the many clients whose lives have been impacted by our graduates.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Congratulations to second-year MOT student Ashley Carswell on being one of only three occupational therapy students in the nation to win the American Occupational Therapy Association E.K. Wise scholarship! This scholarship recognizes students who demonstrate leadership, community service, and strong academic standing and whose application essay reflects their plan to contribute to a well-prepared and diverse occupational therapy workforce.

The LSUHNO Department of Occupational Therapy is not surprised by this acknowledgement of Ashley's intelligence, hard work, and initiative.

PUBLICATIONS

Dr. Mark Blanchard and Dr. Ingrid Franc published an article in the Journal of Interprofessional Practice and Collaboration on the effectiveness of an educational video intervention for people with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis prior to power wheelchair evaluations. They co-authored it with prior students Kelly Connelley, Emily Copeland, Quinn Malbrough, and Sara Pendleton.



Front Row: Rebecca Callais, Alanna Glapion, Brandon Walker **Second Row:** Jessica Allemand, Ingrid Franc, Lauren Cheramie

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DEPARTMENT OF **PHYSICAL THERAPY**

ABOUT US

The Department of Physical Therapy began in 1971 and the first class graduated in 1973. The mission of the program is to develop graduates with outstanding clinical skills in physical therapy, including diagnosis, clinical reasoning, program planning, and therapeutic intervention. The program offers highly qualified faculty and state-of-the-art facilities and is located in the heart of the LSUHNO medical complex.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Welcoming Dr. Hao Liu, PT, PhD, MS, FGSA

Dr. Liu joins our physical therapy department as the new department head. Dr. Liu received his degrees in physical therapy (MS) and anatomy (PhD) from the University of Mississippi Medical Center, neuroanatomy (MS) from the Suzhou Medical College, and Medicine (BS) from the Jiangxi Medical College in China. Before joining LSU Health New Orleans, he taught at the University of Central Arkansas, the University of North Texas Health Sciences Center, and Allen College in Iowa. Welcome, Dr. Liu!



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

JENA BRATTON

Jena Bratton, a proud native of Slidell, Louisiana, earned her Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy from the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans in 1996. Since then, she has been committed to her career as a physical therapist specializing in outpatient orthopedics. In 2005, she became the owner and lead therapist at Bratton Physical Therapy, a private practice located in Slidell, where she made it her mission to help individuals in her community regain their health and lead active lives.



CLASS OF 2024 PRE-COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY



DEPARTMENTAL EVENTS



The PT Class of **1974** celebrated their 50th reunion, reconnecting and reflecting on five decades of growth in the physical therapy profession.



The DPT Class of **2027** represented LSUH at the APTA Fall Business Meeting in Baton Rouge, LA, engaging in professional advocacy, networking, and leadership development.

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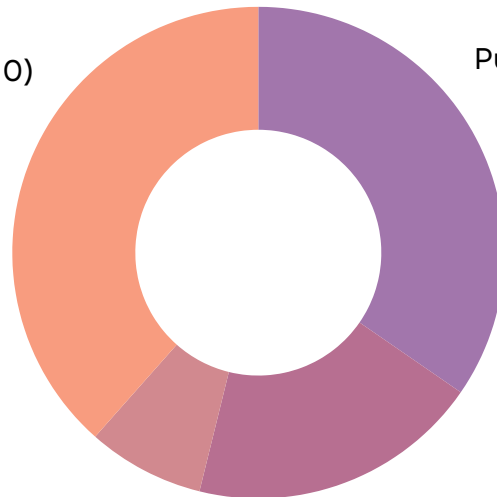
FACEBOOK

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RESEARCH ACTIVITY

Platform Presentations (10)
38.5%

Publications (9)
34.6%



Grants (2) 7.7%
Poster Presentations (5) 19.2%

GRANTS

Dr. Noelle Moreau and Dr. Liz Simon Peter were awarded the LSU Health Sciences Center-Wide Intramural Research Grant titled “Molecular regulation of skeletal muscle function in children with cerebral palsy: implication for therapeutic targets.”

Dr. Howe Liu, Jessica Allemmand, Rachel Wellons, and Katherine Atiyeh received a Parkinson Foundation Community grant for a “Virtual Tai Chi Program for People with Mild to Moderate Parkinson's Disease and Their Caregivers in a Community with Diversity.”



DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES

ABOUT US

With a focus on primary care, the LSUHNO Department of Physician Assistant Studies awards a Master of Physician Assistant Studies degree following 29 months of intensive academic and clinical

training. Of the 29 months, the 17-month academic phase is conducted in New Orleans with state-of-the-art training equipment and facilities. A 12-month clinical experience is conducted at a variety of sites throughout Louisiana.

We've made an exciting move within our institution, transitioning from the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies to the Department of Physician Assistant Studies, representing a big step forward for our program.



SPOTLIGHTS

The LSUHNO PA Program was excited to welcome two new team members in the summer of 2024. Madison Rovira, PA-C, joined the faculty as an assistant professor and will be teaching multiple courses in the didactic phase of the program. She brings extensive clinical experience in urology and emergency medicine, enriching the curriculum with her expertise. Additionally, the program welcomed Mykell Venable as our new program coordinator. With a strong background in administration, Mykell has quickly become an integral part of the team, ensuring the program's operations run smoothly and efficiently. We are thrilled to have them both on board and look forward to the contributions they will make to our students and program!



Madison Rovira
NEW FACULTY



Mykell Venable
NEW STAFF

FACULTY PRESENTATIONS

Stephanie Eschete, PA-C, Assistant Professor, was honored to present at the annual Louisiana Academy of Physician Assistants (LAPA) Conference. Her lecture, "The ABCs of IBD," provided valuable insights into diagnosing and managing inflammatory bowel disease.



Stephanie's gastroenterology expertise continues to benefit our students and the broader PA community. We are proud of her contributions and dedication to advancing PA education and clinical practice!

ALUMNA SPOTLIGHT

On January 17th, Molly was inducted into the St. Scholastica Athletic Hall of Fame!

Molly, a 2018 alumna, had an incredible career as a standout runner in cross country and indoor and outdoor track. During her senior year, she earned All-State honors in all three sports, won an individual cross-country state title in 2017, and was crowned the 1600-meter state champion in 2018.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Grace Turner was featured in an article by Manning Family Children's Hospital. Her story is a heartwarming full-circle moment as she now cares for others in need. Her story can be found here: [Grace's Amazing Journey: Overcoming Traumatic Brain Injury with Support from Children's Hospital New Orleans](#)

DEPARTMENT OF
**PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT
STUDIES**



GRADUATION

The LSU Health-New Orleans PA Program proudly celebrated the graduation of the Class of 2024! These new Physician Assistants are well-prepared to serve and make a meaningful impact in healthcare, meeting the needs of our community with skill, compassion, and dedication.

We congratulate them on this incredible achievement and look forward to seeing the difference they will make in the lives of their patients!

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DEPARTMENT OF
**PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT
STUDIES**

DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

As part of their didactic coursework, the class of 2026 embraced the spirit of service by participating in various community service projects. Students volunteered at various organizations, from homeless shelters to local community events, demonstrating their commitment to compassionate care beyond the classroom.

A standout initiative was their involvement in a diaper drive, where students collected essential supplies and donated them to organizations supporting families in need. Their dedication to serving the community reflects the core values of the PA profession, and we are incredibly proud of their efforts!



MILESTONES

The Class of 2025 celebrated a significant milestone as they transitioned into the clinical phase of their education during the White Coat Ceremony. This special event symbolizes their commitment to patient care and professionalism as they take the next step in their journey to becoming physician assistants.

We are proud of their hard work and dedication and look forward to seeing them apply their knowledge and skills in clinical practice!



HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CENTER

ABOUT US

The Human Development Center (HDC) at LSU Health New Orleans is Louisiana's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD).

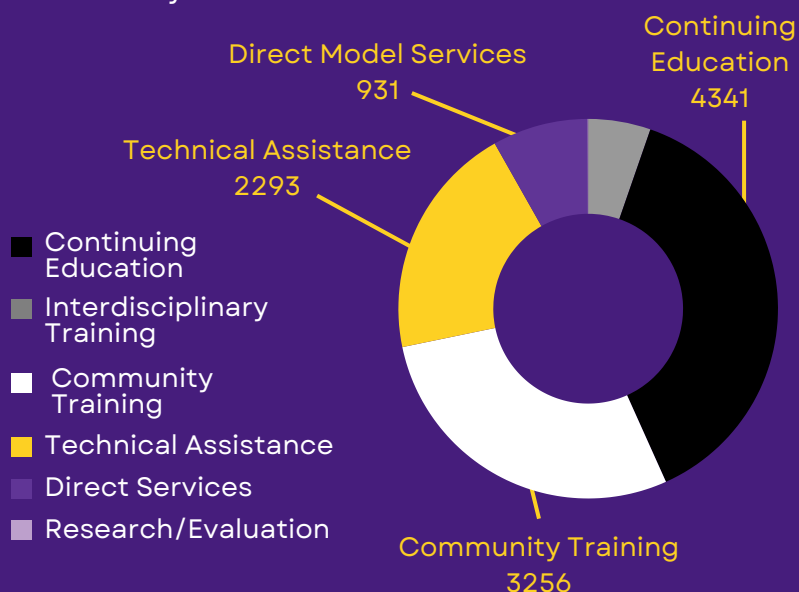
HDC serves as a resource to people with disabilities and their families, service providers in health, education, and rehabilitation, and policy-makers. Our mission is to build Louisiana's capacity to ensure that people with disabilities can participate fully in all aspects of community life.



SERVICES PROVIDED









As a UCEDD, HDC is tasked to fulfill the purpose of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act through interdisciplinary training, research, and community service.

Our services reached
11,435
individuals
in the 2024 fiscal year.



OUR FOCUS

HDC's programs currently focus on the following areas:

-  Early Childhood Education
-  Access to Education & Individualized Supports
-  DeafBlind Support
-  Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Education
-  Postsecondary Transition
-  Competitive Integrated Employment
-  Work Incentive Planning
-  Interdisciplinary Training
-  Community Health

For a full look at our programs, visit www.hdc.lsuhschool.edu.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CENTER

HDC COURSES AT LSUHSC

Improving Accessibility in Healthcare with Dr. Rose Angelocci

In 2024, HDC faculty member Dr. Rose Angelocci guided 12 students from various LSUHSC schools through a dynamic course focused on effective communication strategies for working with individuals who are blind or visually impaired. This course equips future healthcare professionals with essential skills to enhance patient care and promote inclusivity in medical settings.

“*Being in medical school, I will undoubtedly have patients who are visually impaired, and now I have more resources to support them. I’m also proud to have learned the braille alphabet.*” – 2024 Student



Ready to expand your skills?

HDC faculty are now enrolling for two courses open to all LSUH students for Spring 2025:

- **INTER 302:** Communication Skills for Working with People Who Are Visually Impaired or Blind with Dr. Rose Angelocci
- **INTER 300:** American Sign Language I with Nicky Gillies, MS, NIC

GRANTS & CONTRACTS AWARDED TO HDC

In fiscal year 2024, HDC secured nearly \$8.5M in funding, including over \$6M from federal grants. The LASARD project, which provides training and coaching for K-12 educators, received over \$1.6M in contracts from school districts across Louisiana. Additional revenue was generated through tuition for the Early Learning Center, fees for pre-employment transition services in partnership with Louisiana Rehabilitation Services, and other income from clinical services, professional development, and post-secondary transition services.

Collectively, these funding streams enable HDC to support a workforce of over 40 full-time staff and faculty members.



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HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CENTER

BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF LOUISIANA PROFESSIONALS

Incorporating evidence-based practices, HDC works with educational and multidisciplinary support professionals to create more inclusive, accessible environments for individuals with disabilities.

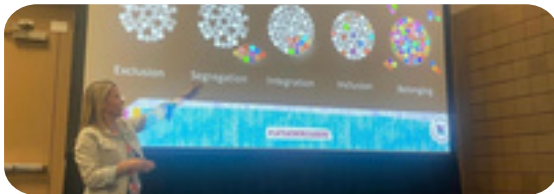
In FY24, HDC provided **268 hours** of professional development and **2,558 hours** of coaching to **2,787 individual professionals**.

2024 CONFERENCES

HDC made a splash at two major conferences held in New Orleans:

Teacher Leader Summit

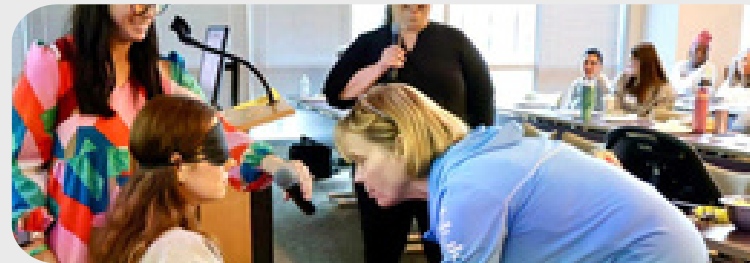
Teacher Leader Summit is Louisiana's premier professional learning event. Thousands of Louisiana educators dedicate part of their summer break to improving their craft and preparing for the school year ahead. HDC staff presented five sessions on a variety of topics.



2024 TASH Conference

TASH advances equity, opportunity, and inclusion for people with disabilities, focusing on those with the most significant support needs, in education, employment, and community living. HDC staff and faculty presented three sessions focused on inclusive education and transition, including the conference's plenary session.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SPOTLIGHT



LADBP hosts statewide CVI workshops

The Louisiana DeafBlind Project (LADBP) hosted "Cerebral/Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI): Impact and Compensatory Strategies" workshops in Lafayette, New Orleans, Ruston, and Alexandria in spring 2024. With more than 138 participants across the state, the workshops' turnout included a diverse group of early intervention providers and special education personnel.

GeneBIORETS

HDC's Dr. Michael Norman is co-director of the GeneBIORETS program within the LSUH School of Medicine. This program provides Louisiana high school teachers specialized training to enhance their science curricula. Dr. Norman offered educators a greater understanding of supporting students with disabilities, including disability policy and Universal Design for Learning. Additionally, HDC's Dr. Rose Angelocci and Nicky Gillies conducted hands-on training sessions with a particular emphasis on supporting students who are deaf or hard of hearing, blind, or have low vision.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CENTER

BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF LOUISIANA FAMILIES

At HDC, our commitment to families is at the heart of everything we do. We strive to empower individuals and strengthen communities through inclusive programs, family-centered support, and collaborative partnerships.



EHS-CCP
enrolled
126 children
in Early Head
Start programs



ASDID clinic
evaluated
10 children
for Autism
Spectrum
Disorder



LADBP provided
technical
assistance to
**73 children and
their families**



10 families
hosted LEND
scholars in the
Family Mentoring
Experience



PAYCheck
supported
**27 transition
students and
their families**

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HDC PROGRAMS, VISIT WWW.HDC.LSUHSC.EDU

Empowering Families Through Conscious Discipline

In 2024, our Early Head Start Childcare Partnership launched “Family Nights,” a series of parent education seminars designed to strengthen family engagement through the principles of Conscious Discipline. These interactive sessions equip parents with practical strategies to foster emotional intelligence, self-regulation, and positive behavior in young children.

Bringing DeafBlind Families Together

LADBP created “Families Together,” a monthly virtual meetup for Louisiana families whose lives are affected by DeafBlindness.



Connecting Families with Supports for Success After High School

PAYCheck is crucial in supporting families by connecting them with essential services like Louisiana Rehabilitative Services (LRS). This partnership helps ensure a smooth transition for students with disabilities as they move from high school to adulthood. Through this collaboration, PAYCheck facilitates access to vocational training, employment opportunities, and other vital resources that empower individuals to lead independent and fulfilling lives after graduation.

SAHP CLINICS

Clinics at the
LSUHNO School of
Allied Health
Professions had
3,465
patient encounters
in 2024.

Our on-campus clinics
include:

- Audiology
- Counseling
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Speech-Language
Pathology



In addition to on-campus clinic services, our multi-specialty clinicians participate in continuous collaborative endeavors for education & service. They do so by partnering with entities small and large. They help improve and diversify clinical education opportunities for students by participating as site supervisors at various clinics throughout the community. Clinicians also provide direct services as part of practicing and promoting their clinical expertise. Some community partner sites include:

- American Hearing + Balance
- Jefferson Parish School Board
- Early Detection Screenings, Inc.
- Veteran's Affairs
- Dept of Southeast LA
Veteran's Health Care System
- LCMC
- The Split-Second Foundation, Inc.
- Tulane University
- Ochsner Clinic Foundation
- Young Audiences Charter Schools

AUDIOLOGY CLINIC

The LSUHNO Audiology Clinic provides an environment for graduate students to work with faculty, providing exemplary care to a diverse patient population. The clinic offers a vast array of evidence-based services for all age ranges. It also provides an opportunity to complete research to test and provide the most current methods of audiological care.

PROVIDERS

- 👤 Erica Cardosi, Au.D., CCC-A, FFF-A
- 👤 Megan Guidry, Au.D., CCC-A, FFF-A
- 👤 Annette Hurley, Ph.D., Au.D., CCC-A
- 👤 Megan Majoué, Au.D., CCC-A, FFF-A
- 👤 Emily Mutter, Au.D., CCC-A

SERVICES

- + Hearing Tests
- + Balance Testing
- + Hearing Aids
- + Tinnitus Management
- + Cochlear Implant
- + Auditory Processing
- + Hearing Protection



📞 **(504) 568-4346**

🌐 www.alliedhealth.lsuhsu.edu/clinics/audiologyclinic.aspx

The clinic offers comprehensive diagnostic evaluations including pediatric testing. Clinicians work with all major hearing aid manufacturers and use verification measures to ensure quality fittings. The Audiology Clinic works with cochlear implant patients in pre- and postoperative assessment, programming and troubleshooting, and in rehabilitation and counseling for all cochlear implant brands. The clinic has on-site electrophysiology and vestibular equipment for students to get hands-on advanced testing.



PATIENT REVIEW

Very informative, kind and professional. "







5 STAR RATING FOR OVERALL EXPERIENCE

CHILD & FAMILY COUNSELING CLINIC

The LSUHNO Child & Family Counseling Clinic is an outpatient mental health clinic designed to provide mental health services to children, adolescents, and their families.

The clinic provides supervision and consultation services to students and professionals seeking to earn continuing education hours toward licensure/certification, professional development training, and mental health consultation.

PROVIDERS

-  Erin Dugan, PhD, CRC, NCC, LPC-S, Registered Play Therapist Supervisor
-  George Hebert, Ph.D, Licensed Psychologist
-  Holly Walters, Ph.D., LPC-S, CRC
-  Rashunda Miller Reed, PhD, LPC-S, LMFT-SC

SERVICES

- Individual, Group, and Family Play Therapy
- Psychological Assessment & Testing
- Social Skills Groups
- Filial Therapy
- Child Parent Relationship Therapy
- Caregiver Consultations
- Parent Strategies
- Professional Consultations
- Professional Seminars & Speaker Events
- School Trainings/Seminars
- Telehealth Services
- Supervision



 **(504) 556 - 3451**

 www.lsuhsu.sc/cfcounselingclinic

The mission of the Child & Family Counseling Clinic is to encourage the unique development and emotional growth of children, adolescents, and their families through proper assessment, diagnosis and treatment.


PATIENT TESTIMONY

I tell everyone that I can about the work done by Dr. Dugan and her team! Endlessly grateful!"


OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY CLINIC

The LSUHNO Occupational Therapy Clinic offers outpatient rehabilitation services for adults with vestibular disorders, orthopedic injuries, neurological disorders, chronic conditions, and numerous other factors affecting normal daily functioning. The clinic provides individual services and caregiver training sessions to reduce the effects of impairments and increase function in patient-identified, valued occupations.

PROVIDERS

 Rebecca Callais, MOT, Herdman
Trained Vestibular Therapist

AREAS OF SPECIALTY

 Vestibular Rehabilitation



 **(504) 568-4302**

 www.alliedhealth.lsuhsu.edu/clinics/otclinic.aspx

OUTPATIENT REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR ADULTS WITH:

- + Vestibular disorders
- + Orthopedic injuries
- + Neurological disorders
- + Chronic conditions
- + Numerous other factors affecting normal daily functioning

PHYSICAL THERAPY CLINIC

The LSUHNO Outpatient Physical Therapy Clinic offers physical therapy services for patients needing rehabilitation after injury, illness, and a variety of other diseases that affect movement and mobility. Our therapists work with patients to reduce pain and the effects of other impairments and increase function to the highest attainable level based on patients' personal activity goals.

PROVIDERS

- 👤 Rachel Wellons, PT, DPT, NCS
- 👤 Katherine Atiyeh, PT, DPT, OCS
- 👤 Ngozi Akotaobi, PT, DPT, COMT, FAAOMPT

AREAS OF SPECIALTY

- Vestibular rehabilitation (gaze stabilization and ocular motor exercises, canalith repositioning)
- Balance training
- Gait training
- Strengthening
- Aerobic conditioning
- Patient education
- Orthopedic specialist for: spine, shoulder, elbow, hip, knee, foot/ankle



📞 (504) 568-4042

🌐 www.alliedhealth.lsuhscl.edu/clinics/physicaltherapyclinic.aspx

SERVICES

- + **Adult Neurorehabilitation & Vestibular Rehabilitation**
- + **Therapeutic Exercise**
Exercises provided in direct contact with a physical therapist aimed to improve strength, endurance, range of motion, and flexibility.
- + **Manual Therapy**
Procedures involving soft tissue or joint mobilization to improve stiffness and pain
- + **Dry Needling**
This technique is performed by physical therapists in conjunction with therapeutic exercise to reduce pain, muscle tension, and improve functional mobility. The therapist inserts a thin filiform needle, without medication or injection, through the skin into painful muscles throughout the body known as trigger points.

SPEECH- LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY CLINIC

The LSUHNO Speech-Language Pathology Clinic offers a full range of speech and language services for people of all ages by nationally certified and state-licensed speech-language pathologists. Graduate students provide evaluations and therapy under close supervision by certified speech-language pathologists.

PROVIDERS

- 👤 Molly Brouillette, MCD, CCC-SLP
- 👤 Leslie C. Lopez, Ph.D., CCC/SLP, BCS-CL, CHES +B8
- 👤 Michelle Willis, MCD, CCC-SLP
- 👤 Brittney Wright, MCD, CCC-SLP

The ability to communicate our feelings, basic needs, and thoughts is taken for granted by most people; however, there are persons of all ages who are unable to communicate effectively or efficiently.

The goal of the LSUHNO Speech-Language Pathology Clinic is to provide services including prevention, identification, diagnosis, consultation, therapy, remediation and referrals for persons with speech and language disorders.



(504) 568-4348



[www.alliedhealth.lsuhsu.edu/
clinics/speechpathology.aspx](http://www.alliedhealth.lsuhsu.edu/clinics/speechpathology.aspx)

SERVICES

- + Neurological disorders including stroke, TBI, brain tumors, progressive/degenerative diseases, concussion management
- + Voice & resonance disorders
- + Gender affirming voice therapy
- + Accent modification training
- + Adult and pediatric swallowing disorders
- + Language delay or disorders
- + Literacy disorders
- + Fluency disorders
- + Articulation and motor speech disorders
- + Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC)
- + Aural rehabilitation for the hearing impaired
- + Adult and pediatric swallowing disorders

SAHP RETIREMENTS

The Medical Laboratory Science department celebrated the careers of three esteemed faculty members who retired in January 2024.



Mona Bakeer, Ph.D., MT (ASCP)

Medical Laboratory Science

17 YEARS SERVED

Dr. Mona Bakeer dedicated 17 years of service to the MLS department, teaching genetics, molecular diagnostics, and clinical microbiology.



Angela Foley, MS

Medical Laboratory Science

35 YEARS SERVED

Angela Foley was a 35-year faculty member who taught Clinical Hematology I and Clinical Hematology II to the MLS students.



Patsy Jarreau, MHS

Medical Laboratory Science

35 YEARS SERVED

During her 35 years of service, Patsy Jarreau served the MLS department as program director and taught Quality Assurance, Immunology, Serology, and Laboratory Management.



Their dedication, expertise, and countless contributions have left a lasting impact on our department and students. We thank them for their service and wish them all the best in their new chapters!

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

LSUHNO School of Allied Health Professions offers a world of opportunity through our various student organizations.

From professional development to community outreach, these groups are designed to enrich students' educational journey and foster lifelong connections.



SGA

The Student Government Association (SGA) at LSUHNO School of Allied Health Professions is the heart of student advocacy and leadership. Representing student interests, the SGA fosters a collaborative environment, promotes academic excellence, and organizes impactful events.

STUDENT AMBASSADORS

Our Student Ambassador Program encourages student representation, involvement, and leadership in the School of Allied Health Professions' interdisciplinary efforts. SAHP Student Ambassadors serve as allied health representatives through participation in recruitment initiatives, student engagement activities, community service, and alumni involvement. Meet our 2024-2025 Student Ambassadors!



Lauryn Goff
Physical Therapy



East Guilbeau
Physical Therapy



Haleigh Lozano
**Speech-Language
Pathology**



Xavier Cruz Maldonado
**Medical Laboratory
Science**



Thu Hien Nguyen
**Speech-Language
Pathology**



Savannah Samuel
Physician Assistant

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

STUDENT ACADEMY OF AUDIOLOGY



The Student Academy of Audiology (SAA) at LSUHNO SAHP introduces students to lifelong involvement in activities that promote and advance the profession of audiology and provides services, information, education, representation, and advocacy for both the profession and consumers of audiology services.



Fall Risk Assessments

The CDC estimates that every second, an older adult falls. Audiology students attended a training on screening for fall risk and assessing fall risk factors. They learned how to safely perform various functional transfers and practiced transfers involving ambulation or gait devices with fellow students. We want to thank Mrs. Rebecca Callais, occupational therapist and Clinical Instructor, for leading us through this training and giving us new ways to keep our patients healthy!



Advanced Implantable Devices

Our third-year students had an inspiring Advanced Implantable Devices class on Tuesday. After learning about the different bone conduction systems offered by MED-EL, students could simulate a Bonebridge implant surgery! Students could pick the placement of their device, drill to the appropriate width and depth in the skull, and screw the implant into place. It was a ton of fun and certainly gave us a unique perspective of the implantation process! Thank you, @medel_usa, for a great afternoon!

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

STUDENT PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION



The Student Physical Therapy Association (SPTA) at the LSUHNO School of Allied Health Professions is dedicated to advancing the field of physical therapy through student engagement and professional development. The SPTA organizes educational workshops, community outreach programs, and networking events to enhance clinical skills, promote health awareness, and foster connections within the physical therapy community.



STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

CHI IOTA SIGMA DEPARTMENT OF COUNSELING



LSU Health New Orleans Counseling Department is the Rho Chi Chapter of Chi Sigma Iota's International Honor Society. Our current chapter officers are:

President: Andrew Turner

Vice President: Susan Ragusa

Social Chair: Ana Nacianceno

Historian: Anika Beasley



The Rho Chi Chapter initiated new members.



The program held a Chi Sigma Iota Mixer with area schools offering CEs to professionals.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

PI THETA EPSILON

Pi Theta Epsilon is the National Occupational Therapy Honor Society.



SOTA

The Student OT Association (SOTA) participated in a Wheelchair Wash event at Split Second.

COTAD

Coalition of Occupational Therapy Advocates for Diversity



STUDENT AWARDS

EAST GUILBEAU RECEIVES 2024 ASAHP SCHOLARSHIP OF EXCELLENCE

Each year, the Association of Schools Advancing Health Professions (ASAHP) offers a scholarship program for health professions students enrolled in its member institutions. The purpose is to recognize outstanding students who are achieving excellence in their academic programs and have significant potential to assume future leadership roles in health professions. Each student chosen for an award will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.



“His genuine passion for the profession of physical therapy, empathy, and unwavering compassion embody the qualities of an exceptional clinician and future leader in the healthcare industry.”

-Dr. Katherine Atiyeh, PT
Faculty



East is committed to the field of physical therapy and has excelled in his program while holding multiple leadership positions, including being SGA president and a Student Ambassador.

“Throughout my professional journey, I intend to utilize the skills I have gained through various organizational leadership positions to become a leader within the field of PT and healthcare overall. I intend to continuously advance my own expertise as I advocate for healthcare to be accessible, technologically advanced, inclusive, and effective.”- East Guilbeau

CHANCELLOR'S LSU HEALTH EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Each year, the Chancellor's LSU Health Excellence Awards are given to faculty and staff, honoring those who significantly advance the university's vision and mission and recognizing their hard work, dedication, and outstanding achievements. We were proud that Chancellor Steve Nelson, MD, awarded two of our very own this year.



Brittney Wright
Department of Speech-Language
Pathology



Pam Galindo
Office of the Dean

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www.alliedhealth.lsuhschool.edu



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**YOUR GIFT MOVES
SAHP EXCELLENCE
FORWARD.**