

USC_COMD Newsletter

Spring 2023

Top Articles:



[Language and cognitive development researcher Erin Smolak joins COMD](#)



[2022-2023 SPRAC Graduate Research Grants awarded to 12 Arnold School graduate students](#)



[Study seeks to understand aging-related decline among mothers who carry FMR1 premutation](#)



[Danielle Varnedoe retires after 40 years with Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders](#)



[Office of Research honors extraordinary researchers at USC with the 2023 Breakthrough Awards](#)

Announcements:

Save the date: **April 26th, 2023**

Aphasia Community Event hosted by Aphasia Laboratory at USC. This event is for people with aphasia, care partners, therapists, students and anyone interested in aphasia. Please [click here](#) for more information and how to register.

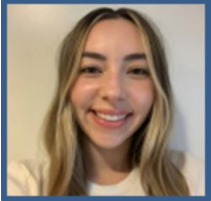
Save the date: **April 28th, 2023, 7PM** at **Drayton Hall Theatre** (1214 College St, Columbia, SC 29201)

Anything but Cinderella is an original comedy created in partnership with USC_COMD and Department of Theatre and Dance. **Admission is free** and [click here](#) for more information.





[Communication sciences and disorders department boosts auditory neuroscience expertise with arrival of Meisam Arjmandi](#)



[I am Public Health: Kaigen Benning](#)



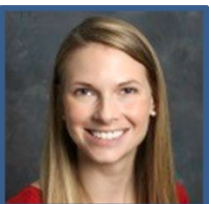
[Doctoral graduate continues literacy, speech, and language development, disorders work with tenure-track position](#)



[Study reveals quality of life declines due to COVID-related social isolation among older adults](#)



[Montgomery Clinic wins Best Speech Therapy, Best Audiology/Hearing Center in round up from The State](#)



[New center takes a multifaceted research approach to neurodevelopmental disorders](#)



[New vice president for research aims to mentor junior faculty](#)

A huge thank you to all volunteers, students, and employers who came out to our meet and greet event on February 11th!

Many of our faculty, staff, doctoral and master students presented at the SCSHA 2023 Conference. USC_COMD had a total of 8 presentations and posters represented in-person.

Congratulations to USC_COMD faculty Abigail Hogan, Danielle Varnedoe and Alissa Yeargin who are were recognized by students through the Thank-A-Teacher Program recognition list for Fall 2022!

It is with great sadness that USC_COMD said goodbye to Montgomery Speech and Language Clinic Director, Danielle Varnedoe. Danielle had retired on December 15th. We miss you, Danielle!





Recently Awarded Grants and Awards*:

Meisam Arjmandi, Travel Award, ASHA 2023 Lessons for Success, 2023.

Roozbeh Behroozmand, 2023 Breakthrough Star, 2023.

Paige Banaszak (graduate student), Webber Scholarship, 2022.

Kaigan Benning (graduate student), Webber Scholarship, 2022.

Marren Brooks (doctoral student), SPRAC Graduate Research Grant, 2023.

Ellie Cooper (doctoral student), Elaine M. Frank Fellowship, 2022.

Julius Fridriksson, administrative supplement, \$111,750 *Climate Associated Patterns of Stroke*.

Laura Friedman (doctoral student), NIA/NIH Fellowship Grant \$214,578 *Neuropsychological Profiles and Risk for Dementia-Related Diseases in Mothers of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder*.

Jessica Klusek, 2023 Breakthrough Star, 2023.

Martine Moore (graduate student), SCSHA Foundation Scholarship, 2023.

Nadia Sabeh-ayon (graduate student), SCSHA Foundation Scholarship, 2023.

* Recent Grants and Publications from October 2022 – March 2023

Faculty members are **bolded**

Mentees are underlined



Recent Publications*:

- Cook, S., & **Adams, C.** (202). An Adolescent with Cluttering. In K. Eggers & M. Leahy (Eds.). *Clinical Cases in Dysfluency*. London: Routledge.
- Adams, C.** Book Review: *Too Fast for Words: How Discovering That I Don't Stutter but Clutter Changed my Life*, R. Wilhelm. *Journal of Fluency Disorders*, 74.
- Apel, K.**, Henbest, V.S., & Petscher, Y. (2022). Effects of affix type and base word transparency on students' performance on different morphological awareness measures. *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*. https://doi.org/10.1044/2022_JSLHR-22-00195
- Everly J, Plummer J, Lohman M, **Neils-Strunjas J.** (2023). A Tutorial for Speech-Language Pathologists: Physical Activity and Social Engagement to Prevent or Slow Cognitive Decline in Older Adults. *Am J Speech Lang Pathol*. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36450149/>
- Castilla-Earls, A., Ronderos, J., & **Fitton, L.** (2022). Can bilingual children self-report their bilingual experience and proficiency? The Houston Questionnaire. *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*. https://doi.org/10.1044/2022_JSLHR-21-00675
- Matchin, W., Den Ouden, D. B.,** Hickok, G., Hillis, A. E., Bonilha, L., & **Fridriksson, J.** (2022). The Wernicke conundrum revisited:evidence from connectome-based lesion-symptom mapping in post-stroke aphasia. *Brain*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/brain/awac219>
- Werfel, K., Reynolds, G., & **Fitton, L.** (2023). A longitudinal investigation of code-based emergent literacy skills in children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing across the preschool years. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*. https://doi.org/10.1044/2022_AJSLP-22-00169

