

Hello from the Wisconsin Intelligibility, Speech and Communication (WISC) lab! So many exciting projects are ongoing and the team continues to grow in leaps and bounds! Out of that excitement comes this newsletter. We are so happy to share this update with our families!



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Waisman Center
1500 Highland Ave.
Madison, WI 53705

A note from Dr. Hustad

As always, thank you to all the families who continue to give their time and commitment to this project. Your efforts are contributing to ground-breaking insights into our understanding of how communication develops in children with cerebral palsy (CP).

We hope this newsletter finds you well! We have enjoyed seeing many of you for visits at the lab over these summer months, and we are so glad to announce that Lynn & David Renner are the 2019 recipients of the Friends of the Waisman Center Family Volunteer Award!



Over the years, Lynn and David Renner have been involved with the research, education, and clinical services provided by the Waisman Center. Lynn enrolled David in our longitudinal research project 13 years ago, and David made his first visit in August 2005 at the age of 4. At 17 years old, David continues to make annual visits to the project. David has spent over 36 hours engaged in our research protocols and Lynn has spent countless hours providing invaluable information through parent report. As a small child, David attended the Waisman Center Early Childhood Program and has received services through CDP and CASC since he was very young. David continues to receive clinical care at the Waisman Clinics. Lynn and David have been members of the Waisman community for over 14 years. Not only have they utilized services provided by the Waisman Center but they have made such a tremendous contribution via their commitment to ongoing research. This award recognizes that commitment and celebrates their role in executing the mission of the Waisman Center. Lynn and David were honored at a reception in August. Congratulations and thank you for your many contributions!



Dr. Hustad continues to direct the WISC lab and is a faculty member in the Communication Sciences and Disorders Department at the UW. Her three children also keep her quite busy!

Meet Clare Koopmans!



Clare may look a little familiar to some as she has worked with us during her time as a student on campus. Clare received her under-

graduate degree in Linguistics from the UW-Eau Claire in 2014. In May 2019, Clare graduated from the Master's program in Communication Sciences and Disorders at UW-Madison and is continuing in the lab in the role of Speech-Language Pathologist! We are so excited that we are able to keep Clare at the WISC lab! We love her hard work and dedication.

Clare is particularly interested in early communication development in young children, as well as language development in school-aged children

with cerebral palsy. Clare will be taking the lead on some research involving eye tracking and language assessment for children who are non-verbal. Clare is most excited to be working with all the wonderful staff members and students in the WISC lab and to continue building relationships with families who participate in our research studies. In her free time, Clare enjoys spending time with family members (especially her niece and nephew) attending live music in the Madison area, and playing volleyball.

WISC Lab at the ASHA conference

The WISC Lab has a lot to share at this year's American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) conference!



AMERICAN
SPEECH-LANGUAGE-
HEARING
ASSOCIATION

This annual conference brings together researchers, speech-language pathologists, and audiologists with the goal of sharing new findings, educating professionals and students, and improving clinical care. Conferences like ASHA provide an important opportunity for the WISC Lab to share our findings with speech-language pathologists from across the world, and to learn from others who are helping children with developmental disabilities. Thank you for contributing to this important work!

Dr. Katie Hustad will share data on speech intelligibility development in typically developing children from 2.5

to 4 years of age. When children are in this age range, their speech is still developing and it is hard to determine the differences between developing speech and disordered speech. Researchers know a lot about when children learn to say specific sounds, but by using data that focuses on overall intelligibility, it may be possible to learn more about how to identify speech disorders in children who are at risk of not being well understood as they grow older.

Helen Vradelis will present data on using machine learning strategies to help develop speech recognition programs for child speech. Helen's work focuses on how successful different machine learning systems are at breaking up children's speech into individual sounds. This work will rely on new technology to help speech-language pathologists create more sophisticated tools to measure and observe speech development, and will help us to identify speech disorders earlier.

Dr. Tristan Mahr will present data on intelligibility in connected speech in children with CP. These data come from children in our longitudinal sample from their earliest visits until 8 years of age. Data for this talk came from 513 different visits to the lab! Tristan will explain how he used novel statistical approaches to estimate the growth of speech intelligibility over time for children, and will explain why these estimates are useful for speech-language pathologists when making long-term goals for therapy. These data also show that children with language impairment are likely to have speech intelligibility that is even further reduced, which can also impact how speech-language pathologists should plan treatment goals.

As always, you can access all published reports at:

<https://kidspeech.wisc.edu/our-publications/>



Back to school season is here!

Here are some tips and tricks to ease the transition back to school!

- **Organize all the paperwork**

Make sure to have a specific spot to keep track of all of the paperwork and important meetings you have coming up. Staying organized will help relieve some of the back to school stress!

- **Start a communication log**

Have one place where you keep track of all calls, emails, and notes from meetings. This will help when you need to reference this information in the future!

- **Review your child's current IEP**

Look for things that you liked about your child's IEP and make note of



them. Also be sure to note the things you may want to change or add!

- **Relieve back-to-school jitters**

Talk with your child about the upcoming year. Try to mention upcoming events to look forward to, as well as talking about things that have been easy or pleasant in the past.

- **Keep everyone informed**

You and the school should have great communication. If you have any concerns or questions, make sure to address these with the staff! It is easier to solve problems as they emerge than after they've become routine.

- **Establish before- and after-school routines**

Discuss the changes that will happen with your child's routine once school starts. Make sure everyone in the

household has the same expectations for timing and routines.

- **Attend school events**

Take advantage of events like Open House, and Back-to-School nights. If your child is transitioning to a new school, this will help them to become more comfortable on the first day. Meeting new staff at these events is always helpful.



- **Relax!**

Staying calm will help everyone as they adjust to a new year.

For more information, visit: <http://www.ldonline.org/article/38406/>

Meet Alex Maloney!

Alex Maloney is transitioning from life as an undergraduate student at UW-Madison to life as a graduate student! In the fall, Alex is starting the Master's Program in Speech-Language Pathology. Learn more about Alex in the Q & A below!

Q: Where are you from?

A: San Diego, California

Q: Why did you decide to go to school in Wisconsin?

A: I was looking to experience a brand new environment that offered me opportunities I wouldn't have had at home. Of course, the weather has been an adjustment

but I have grown to love Madison and all of it's beautiful components.

Q: What is your favorite part about the UW-Madison?

A: My favorite part of UW-Madison is the vast quantity of experiences available to students: work, research labs, and internships to name a few!

Q: How long have you been a member of the WISC lab?

A: This is now my 3rd year as a member of the WISC lab. I am officially a seasoned veteran!

Q: What is the best part about being in the WISC lab?

A: Working with all the staff, students and families. The environment here is a perfect mix of professional and fun!

Q: What are you most excited for in grad school?

A: I am most excited to begin working with clients to gain more exposure to the Speech and Language Pathology field as well as further identifying my niche for my future career!



Fresh ideas for your next visit!

- **Madison Metropolitan School District Planetarium**



The MMSD Planetarium is presenting a line-up of 4 of the 5 visible planets! The planetarium shows

will teach you how to find these planets in the sky, and will take you on a virtual trip to each planet to see them up close and share some of the latest discoveries. When weather permits, you can participate in using the telescope to see the Moon and planets! Tickets are \$2.50 and go on sale a

month in advance (and should be purchased ahead of time if possible). <https://planetarium.madison.k12.wi.us>

- **Kids in the Rotunda**

Singers, jugglers, scientists, zoo-keepers and more! With three performances each Saturday, the Kids in the Rotunda series is popular with Madison-area families. Kids in the Rotunda events are held at the Overture Center and accessible seating is available. Kids in the Rotunda performances are FREE and are enjoyed by the whole family. Performers are selected with children 9 and younger in mind.

<http://www.overture.org/programs/kids-in-the-rotunda>

- **UW Badger Sporting Events**

Fall and winter sports at UW include football, volleyball, basketball, hockey, wrestling. Come and cheer on the Badgers and check out the famous UW Marching Band! Accessible seating at Camp Randall and the Kohl Center is available for purchase, or standard tickets may be exchanged for accessible seating (with companion seating).

www.uwbadgers.com/calendar.aspx



Upcoming Waisman Center events

- **Waisman Whirl, October 6th**

The fifth annual Waisman Whirl 10k, 5k and 1 mile Run, Walk & Roll for All Abilities will be held on October 6th. The event will start and finish at the Waisman Center. Families can choose the race length and style that is best for them! All proceeds benefit individuals and families affected by developmental disabilities and neurodegenerative diseases. Early registration ends on September 20th.



- **Day with the Experts—CP, November 2nd**



Join us for the annual 'Day with the Experts' for CP. This event will include presentations and panel discussions by researchers, clinical providers, and families on relevant topics in CP. Find new resources and connect with other families! This event will be on November 2nd from 9:00am-12:30pm.

- **John D. Wiley Seminar—Cathy Binger, PhD, February 28th**

Join us for a John D. Wiley Seminar on February 28th, 2020. Guest lecturer Cathy Binger, PhD will be giving a lecture on Augmentative and Alternative Communication and Child Language. Dr. Binger is a faculty member at the University of New Mexico and researches language development for kids who use alternative strategies and assistive technologies for communication. The event will be from 12:00PM-1:00PM.

