

**APRIL  
10-11  
2025**

**33RD ANNUAL  
IOWA  
CONFERENCE ON  
COMMUNICATIVE  
DISORDERS**



**University of  
Northern Iowa.**

# 33RD ANNUAL IOWA CONFERENCE ON COMMUNICATIVE DISORDERS

The Iowa Conference on Communicative Disorders provides continuing education activities in speech-language pathology that are acceptable to the State of Iowa and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Areas of emphasis include adults and pediatrics.

The Iowa Conference on Communicative Disorders is a student-run conference for professionals. The conference is in its 33rd year.

The conference co-chairs are Isabelle Fransen, B.A., Karson Swim, B.A., and Paige Layman, B.A. Advising the conference is Ms. Suzanne Dripps, M.A., CCC-SLP.



**ASHA CE  
APPROVED PROVIDER**

Iowa Speech-Language-Hearing  
Association

The course is offered for various levels up to 17 contact hours/1.70 ASHA CEUs.

*ASHA CE Provider and use of the Brand Black does not imply endorsement of course content, specific products, or clinical procedures.*

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## THURSDAY, APRIL 10

8:00 am - 10:00 am	<b>CHILD</b> <i>Complex AAC - Case Studies Including Hands-on Strategies to Give Every Child a Voice</i> Lacey A. Wolf & Sydney Euchner	<b>ADULT</b> <i>Interpreting Mild, Moderate, and Severe Dysphagia with FEES</i> Joy Hesse
10:00 am - 10:15 am	<b>BREAK</b>	
10:15 am - 12:15 pm	<b>CHILD</b> <i>Intensive Therapy for Childhood Apraxia of Speech</i> Dr. Heather M. Clark	<b>ETHICS</b> <i>Beyond Likes: Ethical Considerations of SLP Social Media Use</i> Dr. Emily Gunaseelan
12:15 pm - 1:15 pm	<b>LUNCH</b> <i>Collaboration Among Speech and Occupational Therapy Students and Professionals</i> Dr. Katie Jo Funk	
1:15 pm - 5:15 pm	<b>CHILD</b> <i>Accurate Speech-Language Assessment for Dual Language Learners</i> Dr. Philip Combiths	<b>ADULT</b> <i>Apragmatism: Communication After Right Hemisphere Stroke</i> Dr. Margaret Blake

## FRIDAY, APRIL 11

8:00 am - 12:00 pm	<b>CHILD</b> <i>A Holistic Approach to Pediatric Feeding and Swallowing</i> Kalista Rudd	<b>ADULT</b> <i>Differential Diagnosis of the Dysarthrias</i> Dr. Julie A.G. Stierwalt
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	<b>LUNCH</b> <i>Graduate Student Poster Presentations</i>	
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	<b>AUDIOLOGY</b> <i>Changes in Cochlear Implant Candidacy and Future Innovations</i> Dr. Michelle Hughes	<b>ADULT</b> <i>Enhancing Auditory-Perceptual Skills and Optimizing Scaling Methods for Dysarthria Assessment</i> Dr. Mili Kuruvilla-Dugdale
3:00 pm - 3:15 pm	<b>BREAK</b>	
3:15 pm - 5:15 pm	<b>CHILD</b> <i>Creative Drama to Support Social Communication Skills</i> Dr. Jennifer Garrett & Gretta Berghammer	<b>ADULT</b> <i>Multimodal Communication for Engagement</i> Dr. Julie H. Gatts

# MEET THE SPEAKERS

## JOY HESSE, M.A., CCC-SLP, BCS-S

**Joy Hesse**, M.A., CCC-SLP, BCS-S, is a board-certified swallowing specialist and certified lymphedema therapist for the head and neck. She has been a speech pathologist for 35 years and has worked at Iowa ENT Center for 25 years providing comprehensive swallowing and voice evaluation and treatment. She specializes in professional voice and head and neck cancer. Joy is a frequent lecturer for the Iowa Choral Directors Association and the Des Moines Metropolitan Opera Young Artists. For the past 8 years, she has worked closely with Mercy Des Moines Oncology providing proactive dysphagia evaluation and treatment for their head and neck cancer program.

Joy has lectured at the American Speech and Hearing Association on FEES, for Cross Country Education on voice and resonance disorders, and has consulted with SEC Medical Speech Pathology training both FEES and Video stroboscopy providing in-house training for speech pathologists and physicians. Presently, Joy has started her own company with Shelly Ryan, a Physical Therapist, offering manual therapy courses for head and neck cancer patients.

## DR. HEATHER M. CLARK, PH.D., CCC-SLP, BC-ANDCS

**Dr. Heather M. Clark** is Chair of Speech Pathology in the Department of Neurology and Professor in the College of Medicine at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. She is board-certified by ANCDs and a Fellow of ASHA. She and her team at Mayo Clinic provide clinical care to children with Childhood Apraxia of Speech and have an active research program characterizing the nature of CAS, its comorbidities, and outcomes of Dynamic Temporal and Tactile Cueing Therapy.

## DR. EMILY GUNASEELAN, PH.D., CCC-SLP

**Dr. Emily Gunaseelan** is a school-based, teletherapy SLP at Green Hills AEA. She serves PreK-Grade 12 students in two school districts south of Des Moines. She has been in her current role for almost 2 years. Prior to returning to clinical practice, Emily worked as an associate professor at St. Ambrose University, and an assistant professor at the University of Toledo. She previously served as the Professional Development Manager for ASHA Special Interest Group 16 (School-Based Issues), as well as the Editor of SIG 16 *Perspectives*.

## DR. PHILIP COMBITHS, PH.D., CCC-SLP

**Dr. Philip Combiths**, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, Director of the Graduate Certificate in Multilingualism and Culturally Responsive Practice, and Director of the Clinical Linguistics and Disparities Lab at the University of Iowa. Dr. Combiths teaches courses in phonetics, phonology, speech sound disorders, multilingualism, and culturally responsive practices and maintains an active research program targeting communication health disparities in speech-language pathology, especially those affecting multilingual learners from minoritized backgrounds.

## DR. MARGARET LEHMAN BLAKE

**Dr. Margaret Lehman Blake** is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Houston. Her research focuses on apraxia and cognitive disorders associated with right hemisphere brain damage with the goal of understanding the underlying deficits and developing treatments. She is the author of *The Right Hemisphere and Disorders of Cognition and Communication*, a founding member of the International Right Hemisphere Collaborative, and the co-creator of RightHemisphere.org. She has also co-authored two textbooks: *Clinical Neuroscience for Communication Disorders: Neuroanatomy and Neurophysiology* and *Acquired Neurogenic Communication Disorders: An Integrated Clinical Approach* and is the recipient of the University of Houston Teaching Excellence Award.

## DR. MICHELLE L. HUGHES, PH.D., CCC-A

**Dr. Michelle L. Hughes**, Ph.D., CCC-A, is a Professor and Director of the Cochlear Implant Research Laboratory (CIRL) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in the Department of Special Education and Communication Disorders. She received her M.A. in Audiology and Ph.D. in Hearing Science from the University of Iowa. Research interests involve examining the relation between physiology and perception in cochlear implants and investigating ways to incorporate telepractice into cochlear implant service delivery. Her current work has expanded to include an NIH-funded project to examine the effects of chronic substance misuse on auditory and vestibular function.

## KALISTA DANAYE RUDD, M.A., CCC-SLP

**Kalista Danaye Rudd** attended the University of Northern Iowa, earning her undergraduate degree (BA) in Communication Sciences and Disorders in 2020 and her graduate degree (MA) in Speech-Language Pathology in 2022. She is an ASHA certified medical speech-language pathologist with three years of clinical experience working with neonates, medically fragile infants, toddlers, adolescents, and adults, and a myriad of patients with complex developmental and medical needs. Her clinical career began at the North Kansas City Hospital. During this time, Kalista facilitated the establishment of a comprehensive neonatal rehabilitation team and served as the primary speech-language pathologist in a level II neonatal intensive care unit. Her current position as a pediatric speech-language pathologist at Huntsville Hospital for Women and Children allows her to serve patients within a level III neonatal intensive care unit, pediatric inpatient and intensive care units, wellborn nursery, and outpatient settings. She is a clinical doctoral candidate through Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions, and her doctoral degree is anticipated for Summer 2025. In partial fulfillment for her clinical doctorate, she is conducting research to investigate the effects of virtual feeding training on caregiver self-efficacy in fostering oral feeding success in preterm infants. She is dedicated to advancing her professional career through maintaining a membership of the National Association of Neonatal Therapists (NANT) and working toward becoming a Certified Neonatal Therapist (CNT) and Board-Certified Specialist in Pediatric Feeding and Swallowing Disorders, anticipated in 2025. In collaboration with her current department, Kalista has aided in developing and presenting on the topic of pediatric feeding and swallowing to a comprehensive pediatric medical team in the state of Alabama.

## DR. MILI KURUVILLA-DUGDALE, PH.D.

**Dr. Mili Kuruvilla-Dugdale** is an Associate Professor at the University of Iowa, and directs the Speech Perception and Kinematics Lab. Her research focuses on improving foundational knowledge about speech physiology in neurodegenerative diseases, with the goal of developing more sensitive assessments. Another line of her research is aimed at developing optimal auditory-perceptual scaling methods for dysarthria assessment that are grounded in psychophysical principles and have strong psychometric properties. Dr. Kuruvilla-Dugdale and her collaborators are also developing innovative systems to accurately track tongue dysfunction and build personalized electronic voices for individuals with progressive speech loss. Her work is funded by the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation. She has published over 40 papers in leading scientific outlets and has presented her work at premier international and national conferences.

## LACEY A. WOLF, M.S., CCC-SLP & SYDNEY EUCHNER, M.S., CCC-SLP

**Lacey Wolf** is a dedicated pediatric speech-language pathologist who has been serving children and families in the Ames area for the past 14 years. Through her work in both outpatient settings and her private practice, *Playful Speech & Feeding*, Lacey has gained extensive experience across nearly every aspect of pediatric speech-language pathology. Her work spans a wide range of challenges, from helping babies with feeding difficulties, supporting children with reading disorders, to working with those who use augmentative and alternative communication devices. Lacey is deeply committed to understanding and celebrating the uniqueness of every child.

Lacey's leadership extends beyond her clinical practice. She has served in various roles with the Iowa Speech-Language Hearing Association, including Vice President and President, and is currently an active member of the board for *Cultivating Hope Farms*. At *Cultivating Hope Farms*, she is spearheading the creation of Iowa's first farm school for children of all abilities, a project close to her heart. Lacey is also a board member with the Ames Girls Softball Association.

Outside of her professional life, Lacey is a passionate supporter and coach for her four daughters, often found on a softball field or in a gymnasium cheering them on. When she's not busy with family and work, Lacey enjoys baking chocolate chip cookies, sipping hot chocolate, soaking up warm weather, and spending time at Lake Okoboji.

**Sydney Euchner** has practiced as a certified and licensed speech-language pathologist (CCC-SLP) throughout the state of Iowa for the last 10 years. Sydney has previously worked for the AEA, serving both the schools and birth-3 population through Early ACCESS but has spent the last 5 years in a private pediatric clinic in Hiawatha.

Sydney has worked extensively with toddlers, preschoolers and school-aged children and has specialized training in Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC), Childhood Apraxia of Speech, Sensory Processing/Regulation, Visual Phonics®: See the Sounds, MNRI® (Masgutova Neurosensorimotor Reflex Integration) Archetype Movement Integration, TOTS (Tethered Oral Tissues), Orofacial Myofunctional Therapy, and Pediatric Feeding Disorders. Additionally, Sydney is NLA (Natural Language Acquisition) Trained, specializing in communication support for Gestalt Language Processors.

Sydney, her husband and two daughters love living in their small town of Van Horne. In her free time, Sydney enjoys spending time with her family at their cabin in Wisconsin, camping, attending outdoor concerts and county fairs/festivals and listening to audiobooks.

## DR. JULIE H. GATTS, SLPD, CCC-SLP

**Dr. Julie H. Gatts** is a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Kansas. She has worked in health care settings and has been a clinical educator in higher education for most of her 37 year career. She has worked with individuals with acquired disorders in a variety of clinical settings. She is committed to providing consumer centered care. Her clinical expertise is with individuals who have aphasia, cognitive communication disorders, and fitting and supporting use of AAC for individuals who have acquired communication disorders. She provides services in group and individual contexts. In addition to being focused on life participation and engagement, she works closely with Music Therapy to provide interdisciplinary group services to individuals with acquired disorders.

## DR. KATIE JO FUNK, PPTD, MOT, OTR/L

**Dr. Katie Jo Funk** is associate professor at Allen College in the Master of Occupational Therapy Program. Katie has a wide range of clinical experience and interest areas including assistive technology, adult & pediatric intervention, sensory processing, and mental health. She has experience in outpatient pediatrics including assisting with establishment of UnityPoint Health outpatient pediatric clinic development. In practice, she experienced multi-disciplinary approaches to treatment of children working closely with physical therapy, speech therapy, and treating psychiatrists. Her pediatric practice includes a variety of treatment including physical disabilities, sensory processing, behavior, and mental health. Katie continues to practice through Free Clinics of Iowa as well as consulting for local preschools, daycares, and Roy Eblen Speech and Hearing Clinic at the University of Northern Iowa. Katie has led her students in research interests including community access and adaptive program development. Doctoral research included type one diabetes quality of life impact on caregivers and occupational based coaching models for diabetes intervention. Katie has been an integral part of Panther Academy of Water Safety (PAWS) providing the training for sensory awareness and serving individuals with varying abilities and needs. Partnership with PAWS has led to the Collaboration for Adaptive Aquatic Therapy and Safety Program (CAATS) where Allen OT students and UNI Speech Therapy students work together to serve local preschool classes in both land and water-based interventions. Recent research includes collaboration with UNI Spectrum project regarding the lived experience of participating student volunteers. Katie holds STAR level I certification and is currently working on receiving certification in Jean Ayres CLASI EASI assessment and intervention. Katie's future vision within academic practice includes adaptive community programming development, advocacy for occupational therapy role within community settings, and immersion of type one diabetes intervention within occupational therapy practice.

## JULIE A.G. STIERWALT, PH.D., CCC-SLP, FASHA

**Dr. Julie A.G. Stierwalt**, Ph.D., is a Consultant in the Division of Speech Pathology, Department of Neurology and Associate Professor in the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester Minnesota, where she serves as a consultant for individuals presenting with a wide range of speech, language, cognitive, and swallowing impairments. Prior to her work at Mayo, she was in academia where she taught courses in dysphagia, motor speech disorders, acquired communication disorders, structural-based communication disorders, and medical speech pathology. Dr. Stierwalt received her B.A. and M.A. degrees from the University of Northern Iowa, and her Ph.D. from the University of Iowa. She has numerous journal publications, chapters, a co-authored textbook titled "Brain-Based Communication Disorders" as well as, "Aphasia and Related Neurogenic Language Disorders 5th Edition" co-edited with Leonard LaPointe, a text that has been translated and published in Mandarin Chinese and Greek. In 2009 ASHA recognized Dr. Stierwalt's contributions to the field with Fellow status.

## DR. JENNIFER GARRETT, PH.D., CCC-SLP & GRETTA BERGHAMMER, MFA

**Dr. Jennifer Walz Garrett**, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, is an Associate Professor and also serves as the department head of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI). Dr. Garrett received her doctoral degree from the University of Cincinnati in 2007, prior to which she worked as a school speech-language pathologist. Dr. Garrett has expertise in school-aged literacy and language disorders, genetics/syndromes and counseling skills. In the past, she has collaborated with Gretta Berghammer to offer Spectrum Drama Play Dates for preschoolers and currently offers a school-aged social skills group at UNI.

**Gretta Berghammer**, Emeritus Professor at University of Northern Iowa (UNI), holds an MFA in Drama Education and Theatre for Youth from the University of Texas. She taught coursework in drama education and theatre for youth at UNI and served as the Artistic Director for the Sturgis Youth Theatre. In 2010, she founded the Spectrum Theatre program for kids on and off the Autism Spectrum which provided in and after school drama based interventions that best support the development of pretend play, social interaction and non-verbal communication. Gretta retired from UNI in 2022 and is currently involved with the Timeless Journey storytelling project at Western Home Communities.

## LOCATION:

Diamond Event Center  
5307 Caraway Ln  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

## AVAILABLE LODGING:

Hilton Garden Inn  
7213 Nordic Drive  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613  
(319) 266-6611

## CONFERENCE FEES:

### PROFESSIONAL

\$190, ONE DAY

\$280, TWO DAYS

\*PROFESSIONAL'S LUNCHES ARE INCLUDED IN COST

*Anyone who has voluntarily supervised UNI students off-campus in the past two years can attend two days for \$175 or one day for \$110. If you would prefer to register online, please email us at [iccd@uni.edu](mailto:iccd@uni.edu) for the discount code.*

### STUDENT

\$25, ONE DAY, NO LUNCH

\$35, THURSDAY, WITH LUNCH

\$30, FRIDAY, WITH LUNCH

\$45, TWO DAYS, NO LUNCH

\$60, TWO DAYS, WITH LUNCH

### VENDOR

\$30, THURSDAY WITH LUNCH

\$25, FRIDAY WITH LUNCH

\$55, TWO DAYS WITH LUNCH



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