



IN SEARCH OF...

FALL/WINTER 2001
VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
UW SPEECH & HEARING CLINIC

WHAT IS IN SEARCH OF...?

In Search Of... is a newsletter published out of the University of Washington Speech and Hearing (UW SP&H) Clinic whose intended audience includes both individuals with aphasia and their support systems. Designed as a vehicle **for individuals with aphasia by individuals with aphasia**, members of the UW SP&H Clinic Aphasia Group generate ideas for the newsletter, edit columns of the newsletter, and formulate and write articles for each issue. The final editing and formatting is performed by clinical supervisors and professors from the UW Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences (SPHSC) and the UW SP&H Clinic.

The Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences (SPHSC) is a unit of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Washington, and offers the Bachelor of Science, Master of Science, and Doctor of Philosophy degrees. There are approximately 30 faculty members including clinical supervisors and professionals and 240 students at all levels in the department.

The UW Speech and Hearing Clinic Aphasia Group hopes that this newsletter will become an interesting, educational, and supportive publication aimed at individuals with aphasia as well as their families, friends and caregivers.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Intro to <i>In Search of...</i>	1
Mission Statement	1
UW SP&H Clinic Aphasia Group	2
What is Aphasia?	2
Stroke Facts	2
Events & Announcements	3
Introducing Our Editors...	4

DID YOU KNOW?

The Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences (SPHSC) at the University of Washington was ranked **second** in speech-language pathology and **fourth** in audiology. This ranking is an acknowledgment of our outstanding program of teaching, research, and service.

UW SP&H CLINIC MISSION

The mission of the UW Speech and Hearing Clinic is to be a center of excellence in education, research, and clinical practice serving speech, language, and hearing needs within the university and the community.

WHO ARE WE?

THE UW SP&H CLINIC APHASIA GROUP

The University of Washington Speech and Hearing Clinic offers many types of support for their clients. One of these is a group specifically designed for adults with aphasia as a result of stroke and/or brain injury. The group meets on a weekly basis and is facilitated by Nancy Alarcon, M.S., CCC-SLP.

Members of the group state that the group helps them with “understanding the experience” [of aphasia] and that it offers them a “comfortable environment” in which they can share a “common tragedy”.



UW APHASIA GROUP 2001

Left to Right: Doug Graham, Jean Williams, Bob Anderson, Bev McMullen, Bob Lender, Marilyn Baldwin, Brian DeRemer, Nancy Alarcon, Dennis Duva

WHAT IS APHASIA?

SOME FACTS:

- Aphasia is a language impairment. It may affect any number of communication components including: speech, writing, reading, gesturing, and understanding the spoken word.
- Aphasia is caused by damage to certain areas of the brain.
- The most common cause of aphasia is stroke.
- Aphasia can vary in severity.
- Aphasia can change over time.
- Aphasia **does not** affect intelligence.

Facts obtained from: Parr, S.; Byng, S.; and Gilpin, S. (1998). *Talking About Aphasia*, Open University Press: Philadelphia, pp. 1-3.

DID YOU KNOW?

STROKE FACTS:

According to the National Institute of Health (NIH), stroke is the third leading cause of death.

Approximately 80,000 to 112,000 Americans develop aphasia each year.

Facts obtained from Chapey, R. (1994), *Introduction to Language Intervention Strategies in Adult Aphasia*. In R. Chapey, *Language Interventions Strategies in Aphasia*.

THE FIVE MOST COMMON SYMPTOMS OF STROKE:

1. Sudden numbness
2. Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding
3. Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes
4. Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, or difficulty with coordination
5. Severe headache with no known cause

(Facts obtained from National Stroke Association)

**UW APHASIA GROUP
FALL AND WINTER
BIRTHDAYS**

Brian DeRemer	Sept. 14
Jean Williams	Sept. 20
Bev McMullen	Oct. 2
Marilyn Baldwin	Oct. 4
Doug Graham	October 5
Chris Adam-O'Coyn	Nov. 11
Bob Lender	Jan. 13
Bob Anderson	Jan. 17

**YOU SHOULD SEE THESE
WEB SITES**

American Speech-Language
Association (ASHA)
www.asha.org

American Heart Association
www.americanheart.org

National Aphasia Association
www.aphasia.org

Aphasia Chat
[www.clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/
aphasiatalk](http://www.clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/aphasiatalk)

UW Speech & Hearing Clinic
[www.depts.washington.edu/sphsc/
clinic.htm](http://www.depts.washington.edu/sphsc/clinic.htm)

National Stroke Association
www.stroke.org

**ASHA CONVENTION 2001:
NEW ORLEANS**

This year's American Speech-Language and Hearing (ASHA) convention was held in **New Orleans, LA** from **November 14th through the 18th**.

Many clinical speech-language pathologists and audiologists attended the convention, as well as students, professors and researchers from around the country.

Among the many other speech, language and hearing topics discussed in presentations at ASHA, several lectures were given about aphasia and individuals with aphasia.

Three of our own faculty members, Nancy Alarcon, Margaret Rogers, and Pat Dowden introduced their internet-based communication board builder in a talk titled, *Using the Internet for Research, Education, & Intervention*.

Another presentation, given by Aura Kagen and Rochelle Cohen-Schneider from the Aphasia Institute in Toronto, Canada, and Roberta Elman from The Aphasia Centre of California was titled *But My Husband Can't Talk: Conversation Groups and Severe Aphasia*. The presenters discussed the role of aphasia groups, the use of conversation in these groups, and the strategies that spouses and other conversational partners can use to support the communication of individuals with aphasia.

Kagen, Cohen-Schneider, and Elman also talked about the importance of the ability to get one's message across as well as the significance of using conversation as a means of social participation.

These were just a few of many lectures and talks given at ASHA. Both the convention and the visit to New Orleans were well worth the long lines at the airport!

Need A Great Gift Idea?

Try *Coping with Aphasia*
by Jon Lyon

Find this book at Singular Publishers

**A UW Speech & Hearing
Clinic Aphasia Group
Publication**

University of Washington
Speech and Hearing Clinic
4131 15th Ave, NE
Seattle, WA 98105-6299

Phone: (206) 543.5440
Fax: (216) 616.1185

[Http://depts.washington.edu/
sphsc/clinic.htm](http://depts.washington.edu/sphsc/clinic.htm)

INTRODUCING OUR EDITORS...

Doug Graham is both a member of the UW Speech and Hearing Clinic Aphasia Group as well as the primary editor of the *In Search Of...* newsletter. Doug suffered a stroke approximately three years ago, and has been a dedicated member of the aphasia group since 1999.



Dana Mead is a second-year Master's student at the University of Washington in the Speech and Hearing Sciences Department. She received her B.A. in Speech-Language Pathology from Western Washington University in 1999. Currently, Dana works as a student clinician in the UW Speech and Hearing Clinic and offers her support for the aphasia group as an editor of this newsletter.

Catherine Off is a first-year doctoral student in the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences at the University of Washington. She received her M.S. in Speech-Language Pathology from the University of Wyoming. Prior to her acceptance into the UW Speech and Hearing Sciences doctoral program, Catherine worked at the VA Medical Center in Philadelphia as a Speech-Language Pathologist. Currently, Catherine is a supervisor in the SPHS Clinic and offers her support for the aphasia group as an editor of this newsletter.