



# 2023

THE CLASS OF



**SPEECH, LANGUAGE, AND HEARING  
SCIENCES**

College of Public Health & Health Professions

BACHELOR OF HEALTH SCIENCE IN COMMUNICATION SCIENCES & DISORDERS  
MASTER OF ARTS IN SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY  
DOCTOR OF AUDIOLOGY

# 2023 GRADUATES

## BACHELOR OF HEALTH SCIENCES IN COMMUNICATION SCIENCES & DISORDERS

Emerson Arai \*  
Gracen Ayers \*  
Kimberly Balbino \*  
Nicolette Becker \*  
Jennifer Benenhaley \*  
Amy Bouchard \*  
Alyssa Claudio \*  
Allison Cohen \*  
Lauren Coiante \*  
Sydney Cope \*  
Kimberly Correia \*  
Hannah Couture \*  
Sarah Daly \*  
Brianna Dames \*  
Kira Davis \*  
Megan Doerr \*  
Alexandria Dykhuizen \*  
Kathryn Fanelli

Juliana Foinquinos \*  
Yessenia Garcia  
Catherine Garrick  
Sheila Gonzalez Souto \*  
Brynn High \*  
Julia Hoffman \*  
Melissa Holifield \*  
Raven Horowitz \*  
Deborah Howington \*  
Charis Ivey \*  
Tamara Jaber \*  
Carley James \*  
Abigail Lebedeker \*\*  
Joely Liacone \*  
Vanessa Marinacci \*\*  
Nicole Mckinnon \*  
Samantha Meador \*\*  
Erin Mixon \*  
Geri Montero

Mikayla Mozo  
Grant Oberle \*\*  
Jordan Pack \*  
Hunter Patteson \*  
Katherine Pelaez \*  
Holly Petersen \*  
Lauren Petrides \*  
Melina Redondo \*  
Lauren Roberson  
Dalia Roman \*  
Morgan Rubin \*  
Abby Sapp \*  
Sophia Varjabedian \*  
Myah-Raye Vickers \*  
Zoe Vinacco  
Sarah Williams \*  
Priscilla Zhao \*  
Katie Zidik

## MASTER OF ARTS IN SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

Loic Adjevi-Neglokpe  
Gabriella Bellamy  
Rachel Berman  
Chandler Bray  
Aryana Burkes  
Gina Cortino  
Genevieve Cosentino  
Carly Crisafulli  
Daniella Dellisanti  
Kasey Diodati  
Ayanna Frederick  
Allison Gaukel  
Valeria Gonzalez  
Hannah Harrison  
Katherine Howard  
Kylie Hunt

Kerestyn Kesgiropoulos  
Yasneli Lleo  
Katherine Logan  
Lindsay Mateo  
Courtney McClutchy  
Mikaela Mesch  
Tyler Parris  
Alessandra Rodrigues  
Renee Ryden  
Halle Schoen  
Erin Stidham  
Meghan Taylor  
Jordan Thorp  
Danielle Tjon  
Emily Zezas  
Lydia Gagnon

## DOCTOR OF AUDIOLOGY

Kayla Borges  
Daniella Fragnito  
Allison Layne  
Tammy Le  
Kelli Meyers  
Bailey Oliver  
Elisabeth Rymer  
Nathan Strom

\* CUM LAUDE  
\*\* SUMMA CUM LAUDE

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



### DR. CHARLES ELLIS

Dear Graduates of Speech Language and Hearing Sciences (SLHS),

Congratulations on behalf of the department SLHS. It has been my extreme pleasure to serve as your department chair. For many of you, I have had the opportunity to teach you, learn about you and hear your stories. My life as well as the lives of the faculty and staff of our department has been enriched because of you. I learned many years ago that graduation messages should always be short and direct to allow for time to celebrate this major accomplishment with your family and loved ones. With that in mind, I offer you this one thought from poet and activist Maya Angelou *"Be certain that you do not die without having done something wonderful for humanity."* I request from each of you to use everything that you have learned at UF to give back to society in any and every way possible. The world needs your talents so go forward and continue the excellence that is Gator Nation. My best to you on your new beginnings.

**Go Gators!**



# UNDERGRADUATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS



*To the BHS CSD graduating class of 2023, I'd like to say congratulations and farewell. For the past few days, I have thought a lot about this cohort. As a class, you have motivated me, inspired me, and pushed me to my limits. I'm a better person and professor because of each of you. You've shown me what grace looks like in human form and taught me lessons that I'll never forget.*

*As you leave this program, I just want to thank you for being amazing students, putting in the necessary effort, thinking critically and asking thought provoking questions. The dedication you showed throughout your time in this program is unimaginable. There is no doubt, that this dedication will serve you well and take you to new dimensions in life.*

*Finally, I urge you to be kind, humble, and flexible in your thinking. Whenever you encounter someone who has an opposing point of view or they might not do things exactly as you would such as twisting an Oreo apart or eating chocolate and vanilla swirled ice cream, I hope you'll think of me and those hills I spoke about in class because life will have many "hills". However, I hope you'll remember that valuing relationships and people is also important, and you don't have to die on every hill you climb.*

*I wish you all the best!*

**Dr. CAM**

## OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Deborah Howington

- 4.0 in the CSD program

### Jessica Goel

- Matriculating into the PhD program in Biomedical Engineering at Johns Hopkins
- Publication in JASA - Express letters

### Charis Ivey

- Earned Cum Laude for a Bachelor of Health Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders and Cum Laude for a Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics
- Earned honors for the President's honor roll and Dean's list of both PHHP and CLAS
- Study Assistant for the Automatic Speech Recognition Transcription Study with the Linguistics department at UF
- Attending UF for Master's degree in 2023

### Samantha Meador

- Honors Thesis on Impact of Background on Language Use for Heritage Speakers of Spanish
- Founding Member of the Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences Bilingual Language Access and Outcomes Lab
- Hearoes for Hearing Director- (Student-led nonprofit supporting patients at UF Health's Cochlear Implant Program)
- President of UF Special Olympics 2021-2022 and 2022-2023
- Assistant Coach for Special Olympics Unified Basketball Team, selected for World Games in Berlin

### Priscilla Zhao

- Research Assistant for the Speech Development Lab
- Will be attending James Madison University's Master's program in Speech-Language Pathology

## PRESENTATIONS

### Kimberly Balbino

- National Black Association for Speech-Language and Hearing (NBASHL) - 2023

### Jessica Goel

- 18th Annual Neuromuscular Plasticity Symposium - 2023
- 183rd Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America - 2022
- Undergraduate Research Symposium - 2022

### Abigail Lebedker

- Boston Speech Motor Control Symposium - 2023
- 184th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America - 2023
- Spring Undergraduate Research Symposium - 2023
- 18th Annual Neuromuscular Plasticity Symposium - 2023
- PHHP Annual Research Day - 2022
- Fall Undergraduate Research Symposium - 2022

### Samantha Meador

- National Black Association for Speech-Language and Hearing (NBASHL) - 2023
- Undergraduate Research Symposium - 2023

### Grant Oberle

- Undergraduate Research Symposium, University of Florida - 2022
- College of Public Health and Health Professions Annual Research Day, University of Florida - 2023
- 18th Annual Neuromuscular Plasticity Symposium, University of Florida - 2023
- Spring 2023 Undergraduate Research Symposium, University of Florida - 2023
- 184th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America - 2023
- Boston Speech Motor Control Symposium - 2023

### Priscilla Zhao

- BHS-CSD Research Day - 2022



## AWARDS

### Raven Horowitz

- Rivas Study Abroad Endowment Scholarship Recipient - College of Journalism and Communications - 2022
- Presidents' Honor Roll and Dean's List

### Samantha Meador

- Dean's Scholar Award
- Presidential Service Award - 2023

### Grant Oberle

- Edna L. Povey Scholarship - College of Public Health and Health Professions, University of Florida - 2022
- University Scholars Program Award - Center for Undergraduate Research, University of Florida - 2022
- Honors Program Graduate - College of Public Health and Health Professions, University of Florida
- President's Honor Roll (Fall 2021, Spring 2022)

# MA-SLP ACCOMPLISHMENTS



*To our graduating Masters degree students: I am so proud of all your accomplishments, from clinical prowess to research endeavors - you have taken full advantage of what graduate school had to offer. I know that you will be successful Speech-Language Pathologists, and continue to make us proud representing the Gator Nation!*

**Dr. Hegland**

## PUBLICATIONS

### Ayanna Frederick

- "The Global Rate of Post-Stroke Aphasia" research publication in the ASHA Journals

### Valeria Gonzalez

- "Disparities in Healthcare Utilization among Deaf and Hard of Hearing Adults" In Press in research publication in the ASHA Journals

## PRESENTATIONS

### Loic Adjevi

- National Black Association for Speech-Language and Hearing (NBASHL) Virtual Presenter -2023
- Fall Voice Conference - Attendee 2022

### Gabriella Bellamy

- Florida Speech Language Hearing Association (FLASHA) - 2023

### Aryana Burkes

- National Black Association for Speech-Language and Hearing (NBASHL) - 2022
- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Annual Conference - 2022

### Ayanna Frederick

- National Black Association for Speech-Language and Hearing (NBASHL) - 2022
- 16th Annual Elanor M. Saffran Conference on Cognitive Neuroscience & Rehabilitation of Communication Disorders -2022
- Ole Miss Fall Institute - 2022

### Valeria Gonzalez

- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) - 2021 and 2022
- National Black Association for Speech-Language and Hearing (NBASHL) - 2022 and 2023
- 16th Annual Elanor M. Saffran Conference on Cognitive Neuroscience & Rehabilitation of Communication Disorders - 2022
- Florida Speech Language Hearing Association (FLASHA) - 2023

### Yasneli Lleo

- National Black Association for Speech-Language and Hearing (NBASHL) - 2022 and 2023
- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) - 2021
- Florida Speech Language Hearing Association (FLASHA) - 2023

### Courtney McClutchy

- The Fall Voice Conference - 2022
- University of Florida's 36th Annual Research Day - 2023
- The Voice Foundation's 52nd Annual Symposium - 2023

### Mikaela Mesch

- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) - 2022
- Florida Speech Language Hearing Association (FLASHA) - 2023

### Alessandra Rodrigues

- National Black Association for Speech-Language and Hearing (NBASHL) - 2022

### Danielle Tjon

- National Black Association for Speech-Language and Hearing (NBASHL) - 2022 and 2023
- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) - 2022
- Florida Speech Language Hearing Association (FLASHA) - 2023



# MA-SLP ACCOMPLISHMENTS



## AWARDS

### Aryana Burkes

- UF Graduate School Travel Award

### Ayanna Frederick

- University of Florida Graduate School Travel Award
- Graduate Dean's Scholar Nominee

### Valeria Gonzalez

- Conference Travel Award - UF College of Public Health and Health Professions/UF Health
- Conference Travel Award Awarded by Temple University for the 16th Annual Eleanor M. Saffran Conference
- Dean's Scholar Award
- UF Graduate School Travel Award

### Hannah Harrison

- INSPIRE scholarship recipient

### Kerestyn Kesgiropoulos

- Thomas B. Abbott Scholar Award in SLP - Academic year 2021 - 2022

### Yasneli Lleo

- INSPIRE scholarship recipient
- UF Graduate School Travel Award

### Courtney McClutchy

- UF Graduate School Travel Award

### Mikaela Mesch

- UF Research Travel Award

### Alessandra Rodrigues

- UF Graduate School Travel Award

### Halle Schoen

- Bellevue Hospital Robert Regula Employee Children's Scholarship

## OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Courtney McClutchy

Master's Thesis - March 2023

- Title: The Impact of Inspiratory Muscle Strength Training on Vocal Loudness in Individuals with Parkinson Disease: A Case Series
- PI: Dr. Karen W. Hegland, Upper Airway Dysfunction Lab

### Mikaela Mesch

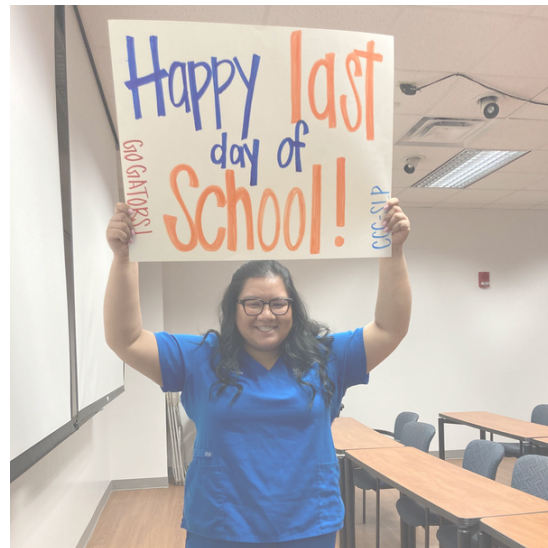
- Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA) Student Certification
- MBSImP Training for Swallow Physiology and Impairment
- Vice President of UF Graduate National Student Speech-Language and Hearing Association (GNSSLHA)
- Student Volunteer at ASHA Convention
- Student Volunteer at FLASHA Convention

### Halle Schoen

- Social media chair for UF Graduate National Student Speech-Language and Hearing Association (GNSSLHA)

### Danielle Tjon

- Student Volunteer at ASHA Convention - 2019, 2021 and 2022
- Student Volunteer at FLASHA Convention - 2022
- Graduate teacher's assistant for a full course load (three courses of ASL 1 and 1 Deaf Culture class)



## THE GROWERS.

*That is what I think of when I collectively reflect on the incredible class of 2023. The first class emerging from a pandemic that changed the face of healthcare and our profession, you were eager and ready to absorb all the knowledge you possibly could. You were steadfast in being involved with community events, conferences, extracurriculars, and connection with each other and our field. It has been an absolute joy to see each of you progress through our program. Achievements like this do not occur without growing pains, challenges, tears, and discomfort that are balanced with successes, celebrations, skills development, and personal growth. I am proud of your cohort as a whole and of each of you. I cannot wait to see where you travel and grow in our field. Thank you for choosing UF and congratulations for all you've achieved.*

Kristy

# AUD ACCOMPLISHMENTS



*"The 2023 audiology cohort faced many hurdles throughout their four years in the program. Despite this, they have demonstrated tenacity and perseverance. An example of their determination and "go-getter" attitude is evident by each member of the audiology cohort receiving a job offer prior to graduation. We are proud of all that they have accomplished thus far and wish them well in their future careers!"*

HR

## AWARDS

### Allison Layne

- Carl Crandell Scholarship - Academic year 2021-2022

### Bailey Oliver

- Carl Crandell Scholarship - Academic year 2020-2021

### Elisabeth Rymer

- First place Abstract at UF's Public Health and Health Professionals Research Day, "Effects of Ovariectomy on Auditory Brainstem Response Wave Amplitudes in CBA/CaJ Mice Across the Lifespan"
- F. Joseph Kemker Scholarship Award - 2022

## OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Bailey Oliver

- Extern year completed at UF Health Shands and The Oaks Gainesville, FL
- Accepted a Pediatric, Cochlear Implant Audiologist position at an ENT practice in Jacksonville, FL

## PRESENTATIONS

### Tammy Le

- Gator Otolaryngology Virtual Research Day - 2021

### Bailey Oliver

- American Cochlear Implant Alliance (ACIA) presentation - 2020, 2021, 2022
- American Cochlear Implant Alliance (ACIA) eHighlight Award - 2021
- Conference of Implantable Auditory Prosthesis (CIAP) - 2021
- American Auditory Society (AAS) - 2022

## PUBLICATIONS

### Kayla Borges

- "Effects of Visual Speech Envelope on Audiovisual Speech Perception in Multi-talker Listening Environments" in the AJSLHR (American Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research) - 2021

### Daniella Fragnito

- "Sex differences in body composition, voluntary wheel running activity, balance performance, and auditory function in CBA/CaJ mice across the lifespan" Hearing Research - 2022

### Kelli Meyers

- "Effects of Visual Speech Envelope on Audiovisual Speech Perception in Multi-talker Listening Environments" in the AJSLHR (American Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research) - 2021

### Elisabeth Rymer

- "Sex differences in body composition, voluntary wheel running activity, balance performance, and auditory function in CBA/CaJ mice across the lifespan" Hearing Research - 2022

### Nathan Strom

- "Sex differences in body composition, voluntary wheel running activity, balance performance, and auditory function in CBA/CaJ mice across the lifespan" Hearing Research - 2022



*Congratulations graduates! You made it! We are so proud of your hard work and dedication. It has been a joy to be part of your journey. Go do great things! Go Gators!*

Emily G

Hollie Ryan

Charles Ellis Jr.

Kweil

Candice Adams-Mitchell

Shinichi Somya

Rachel Smith

Krista Lewandowski



Emily A. Gaines

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES FROM ALL OF US AT SLHS

Laurie M. Jaeger



Sharon M. DiFino

Sue Beebe

Aaron McEly

Cileen Phillips

[Signature]

Susa Fitt

Megan Jacobsen

Emily Plowman

Molly Jones

Matthew Masapollo

Brenda McDonnell

Zelena Santos

[Signature]