The primary research focus in the Cognitive-Communication Laboratory is to understand the effects of cognitive impairments on communication ability in adults. Specifically, the aim is to contribute to existing knowledge of language and cognition, focusing on executive and memory processes and the comprehension and production of discourse.

Research from the Cognitive-Communication Laboratory merges the fields of linguistics, neuropsychology, cultural anthropology, and communication sciences and disorders to explore cognitive-communicative behavior in clinical and nonclinical populations of adults. Examining cultural influences on the access and utilization of community and therapeutic services in normal and disordered populations is also a vital aim of the laboratory.

The Cognitive-Communication Laboratory provides supervised experiential research instruction for undergraduate and masters-level students in the Communication Disorders Program at Texas State University – San Marcos. A primary goal is to create knowledgeable consumers and future producers of research.

A stroke blocks the path of needed oxygen and nutrients from reaching brain cells. Damaged brain cells can cause lasting physical and mental problems. The symptoms of a stroke are often ignored.

If you see or have any of these symptoms call 911 right away: sudden numbness or weakness in the face, arm, or leg-especially on one side of the body, sudden confusion or trouble speaking or understanding, sudden problems seeing in one eye or both eyes, sudden dizziness or a loss of balance/coordination and or sudden severe headache with no known cause.

Sometimes A TIA (transient ischemic attack), also called a mini-stroke has the symptoms of a stroke, however they only last a few minutes and go away. A TIA is serious, and is a warning sign of a future disabling stroke. It is important to talk to your doctor before a stroke occurs to find out ways to lower your risk of a stroke.

For more information about strokes visit the National Institute on Aging website at:  http://www.nia.nih.gov

Cognitive-Communication Laboratory’s Recent Scholarly Presentations


New Second-Year Students Begin Research in the C²L

The Cognitive-Communication Lab is housed within the department of Communication Disorders at Texas State University. Graduate and undergraduate students gain knowledge about the effects of cognitive impairments on communication ability in adults. In addition to supporting Dr. Fleming in various areas of research in adult neurogenic disorders.

Angela Banduch is a second year graduate student studying Speech-Language Pathology at Texas State University-San Marcos. Angela Banduch earned her undergraduate degree at Texas State University in Communication Disorders. Her clinical experience includes treatment and evaluation of children with Down syndrome, Autism, and language delays. Angela is interested in the treatment of adults with dysphagia and neurological disorders. She is currently an intern at Victoria Warm Springs Hospital.

Lindsay Walling is a second-year graduate student in Speech-Language Pathology at Texas State University in San Marcos. Lindsay earned her bachelor’s degree from the University of Texas at Austin in Communication Studies. Her interests include treatment of cognitive communication disorders and their implications on functional communication skills in the adult population. Outside of school, she enjoys jogging, traveling, and spending time with her friends and family.

REP Funds Research Study

Texas State’s Research Enhancement Program (REP) is an internally funded grant competition intended to encourage and provide support for faculty research and other creative activities. All full-time Texas State faculty members, tenured or tenure-track, are eligible to apply. Dr. Valarie B. Fleming, Director of the Cognitive-Communication Laboratory (C²L) recently received a 2009 REP grant in the amount $8000 to fund the study “Underlying mechanism of change in spoken discourse: Close linguistic inspection.” The purpose of this retrospective study will be to examine a corpus of spoken discourse samples and to determine how executive function contributes to spoken discourse production. The specific aims of the project are to 1) determine the dynamics of the relationships among age, components of executive function, and spoken discourse production ability and 2) continuing the investigation of the utility of a spoken discourse production task as a brief assessment of cognitive-communicative ability in normal and pathologically aging adults. The significance of this study lies in its potential to provide an explanation for the discrepancies in current age-related spoken discourse production literature as well as provide important foundational information necessary to advance knowledge of discourse and executive function in order to design more sensitive assessment tools and treatment in disordered populations.