

Dean's Colloquium

Dr. Debra Dwight, Assistant Professor

Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders



When: Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Where: Turner 129

Time: 3:30 – 3:50 pm, Q&A: 10 min.

Topic: "Verbalizations for the Non-Verbal Client Across the Lifespan"

Abstract: This presentation highlights my recent work in helping young non-verbal children with Autism obtain speech as the primary mode of communication. It further details paths for helping adults who are non-verbal due to medical insults such as strokes, accidents, injuries, etc., regain speech. A case study presentation of both a child with Autism and an adult silenced for two years following a stroke will be discussed.

Bio: Debra M. Dwight, Ed.D., CCC- SLP, received her doctorate and a master's degree in education from the University of Alabama, with a major in Communicative Sciences and Disorders (CSD). She received a master's degree in Early Childhood Education and a bachelor's degree in Speech Therapy, with a minor in Psychology from the University of South Alabama. Dr. Dwight has worked in numerous professional settings including public and private schools and universities, university speech therapy clinics, regional departments of education, home health, private practice, and university teaching and supervision. She was program director when the University of West Georgia received initial certification from the Council of Academic Accreditation (CAA) of the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) in 2005. Regardless of work setting, Debra's professional interests centered around quality of clinical services to patients and their families. This interest led to the publication of a textbook, currently in the third edition, which focuses on the effective delivery of speech therapy services.