

Slovakian Fulbright Scholar Learns at Clarke

Daniela Hudecova, a cochlear implant researcher from Slovakia, says she fell in love with Clarke's Northampton campus at first sight. Hudecova had become friends with George Fellendorf, former Executive Director of the Alexander Graham Bell Association, when he was a missionary in Slovakia five years ago. After finishing her Ph.D., Hudecova went to visit Fellendorf in New Hampshire, and he brought her to

Clarke to observe classes and meet with professionals.

"I knew right away I had to come back," Hudecova said. Back in Slovakia, she applied for and won a Fulbright Scholarship to study at Clarke. By September 2008 she was back in Northampton, this time for six months.

Early in her career as a speech pathologist in Slovakia, Hudecova vividly remem-

bers a sobbing mother bringing her baby to the hospital because the child was deaf and the mother did not know what to do. At that moment, Hudecova knew she would dedicate her life to helping children and their parents in this situation. "I promised myself that I would do all I could to make sure I never saw another mother crying like that," she said.

At Clarke, Hudecova spent most of her time in the Parent Infant and Preschool programs studying the development of pre-verbal and early verbal behavior and listening skills in young children who have received cochlear implants. She found that children at Clarke develop pre-verbal skills more rapidly than their Slovakian counterparts because Clarke children receive extensive therapy after implant surgery and are immersed in a school environment that supports communication and listening skills. In Slovakia, children who receive cochlear implants see a speech pathologist only once or twice a month. As a result, the children are in the pre-verbal stage for much longer than Clarke's students.

"Clarke students are immersed in their

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Fulbright Scholar Daniella Hudecova studied the development of listening and verbal skills of children with cochlear implants on Clarke's Northampton campus and will share the knowledge she gained with parents and professionals in Slovakia.

New Website Coming Soon!

Clarke is pleased to announce the launch of our brand-new website, coming in Summer 2009!

See page 4.

New Director Leads New York Outreach

With the appointment of a new director and new initiatives to increase outreach and referral rates, it's a big year for Clarke School-New York. Meredith L. Berger was recently appointed as the new director of our New York program, located at 80 East End Avenue. Berger's years of experience and considerable contacts in the New York area make her an ideal choice to spearhead Clarke New York's increased outreach efforts.

"Meredith has extensive experience as a teacher of the deaf with a strong understanding of the New York City education system," said Clarke President Bill Corwin. "Her experience and skills are an excellent match for our New York program."

Berger received a Master of Science degree in Education of the Deaf from Canisius College in Buffalo, NY and Bachelor of Science degree in special education/elementary education from

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"I am confident that Clarke will be strongly positioned to move forward."

Bill Corwin, President

Challenging Times Bring New Opportunities

Throughout its history, Clarke has adopted new technologies, responded to new educational developments, and adapted to meet the changing needs of the children and families we serve. Today we continue to position ourselves for the future by seeking ways to take advantage of new opportunities that will both further our mission and enhance our economic health.

As we are all aware, the current economic crisis has impacted organizations throughout the world, and Clarke has not been exempt from the economic downturn. Fundraising and other revenues have decreased at a time when many Clarke families' financial aid needs have increased. In the face of these challenges, we are developing strategies to adapt our services to best meet the needs of current and future Clarke families.

For example, we are moving forward with offering a wider array of teaching and other services to deaf and hard of hearing children in mainstream classrooms, leveraging Clarke's expertise to make sure that as many deaf and hard of hearing children as possible are receiving the services and support they need to succeed.

This new direction was recently endorsed by our Strategic Analysis Committee, a group of Clarke trustees, staff and advisors that gathered for a series of meetings during the first few months of 2009. The group examined ways for Clarke to best focus on achieving our mission and on our long-range economic vitality, and will issue a full set of recommendations later this year. The expansion of our mainstream services is just one example of an opportunity to serve more children and families.

Of course, we remain strongly dedicated to providing children with the vital services they need to succeed in the speaking world. Each day at our five campuses we see the progress being made by Clarke children, and it is that great progress that keeps us firmly committed to our mission. Thanks to the commitment of our staff, our volunteers, our current and past Clarke families, and our many friends, I am confident that Clarke will be strongly positioned to move forward as an organization as the economic environment improves. As always, I am grateful for your support of our work.

Spotlight:

PARENT INFANT PROGRAMS

Bella DeLeo

Eva DeLeo still tears up when she talks about her two-and-a-half year old daughter Bella.

Bella was diagnosed with a profound hearing loss at birth and has been coming to Clarke's Early Childhood programs since she was three months old. "Before our first visit to Clarke, I was afraid," Eva said. "But it is a warm, inviting place where there are no limits. Everyone is so positive. Bella loves to talk now and nothing stops her."

Clarke's Parent Infant programs on five campuses are transforming lives. We partner with families as they learn about deafness and help them make informed decisions. Today, hearing loss can be diagnosed at birth. Clarke professionals are ready to help.

"She's the cutest, spiciest, sassiest, sweetest girl in the world."



S.U.N.Y. at Buffalo State College. After many years as a teacher of the deaf in the New York area, she most recently worked as a deaf and hard of hearing educational specialist at the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary. There she educated families of newly-diagnosed children, trained teachers and therapists in mainstream settings, and guided families and educators in creating appropriate educational environments for children with hearing loss.

Clarke School-New York was recently approved as an Early Intervention Services Coordinator in New York City, which allows Clarke to service children with hearing loss who may be receiving other early intervention services elsewhere or children who are referred by other early intervention agencies in New York City. Clarke is currently working with the Early Childhood Direction Center (ECDC) of Manhattan and other auditory/oral administrators to hold training and information sessions to help parents of children preparing to transition out of preschool get the knowledge they need to advocate for their children.

Future plans for Clarke School-New York include establishing community hearing screenings, planning cochlear implant team meetings, working with Clarke Pennsylvania to develop more thorough evaluation protocol for students, and increasing contact with local early intervention and cochlear implant centers.

Not long after Berger began as Director she had the opportunity to meet many of the families who were helped by Clarke New York at a "family reunion" held at the school. "I was

astounded to see more than 100 alumni and family members in attendance," said Berger. "Clarke means so much to them. It makes me proud to be Clarke's new director so I can reach out to even more families in New York."



Clarke School-New York Director Meredith Berger with preschooler Edward Vest.

New Website Coming Soon!

Clarke is pleased to announce the launch of our brand-new website, coming in June 2009.

The new website will serve as a resource for families who have just received a diagnosis of hearing loss and will include sound, video and interactive features to showcase the amazing success that Clarke students achieve every day! We are grateful to the Johnson Scholarship Foundation for their support of our website project.



**Send Us Your Email Address—
Win A Prize From Clarke!**

We'd love to add you to our **e-news** mailing list! To receive exciting e-mail updates from Clarke and be one of the first to view our new website, please send an e-mail to develop@clarkeschool.org.

Send us your e-mail address by June 19th and you will be entered into a drawing to win a special Clarke prize. Three names will be selected at random by a Clarke volunteer on Wednesday, June 24th. Winners will be contacted by a Clarke staff member, and their names will be announced on our website on July 1st. Join the fun and get the latest news from Clarke.

Clarke Professionals Earn Listening and Language Certification

A group of Clarke educators and therapists are among the first professionals to earn the designation of Listening and Spoken Language Specialists (LSLS), a new professional certification program created by the AG Bell Academy for Listening and Spoken Language, a subsidiary corporation of the Alexander Graham Bell Association. The certification was developed to help build an international network of distinguishable spoken language specialists and provide parents with a standard to look for when selecting a listening and spoken language program for their child. The LSLS exam was administered for the first time at the June 2008 AG Bell convention in Milwaukee, and is now being offered in cities across the country and abroad.

Clarke is pleased to recognize the following staff members who have earned the LSLS certification to date: Susan G. Allen; Alisa Beard-Demico; Sherri Fickenscher; Marian Hartblay; Alli Holmberg; Cara Jordan; Julie Neumann; Cynthia Robinson; and Jessica Tofany.

A Family's Gift to Other Families

"An unexpected blessing" is how Susan and John McClave describe the scholarship monies that helped their son, Scott McClave CS '97, attend Clarke's residential program in Northampton. Although it was a big decision to enroll Scott at Clarke, over 800 miles away from their North Carolina home, the McClaves knew that their local school could not provide the expert support and individual attention Scott needed.

Today, John McClave calls Scott's move to Clarke "one of the best decisions our family ever made." At Clarke, Scott gained the communication skills and confidence he needed to succeed back at his local high school, where his graduating class had over 800 students. His experience on the Clarke Cougars basketball team even prepared him for two seasons on his high school varsity team.

Today Scott is a manager at Lowes where he currently is the top salesperson. "Had he not been oral, he wouldn't have this job," Mr. McClave said. "Had

Clarke not had the ability or the willingness to offer Scott a scholarship, I don't know where he'd be or what he'd be doing in life."

Scott's success inspired the McClaves to set up a charitable trust as a way to provide scholarship support to Clarke students in the future. More than \$1 million is needed in scholarships each year, according to Susan Frost, V. P. for Development. "The McClave family has blessed future families by establishing a charitable trust," she said.

"We were indebted to Clarke," said Mr. McClave. "Clarke was a life saver for us, and creating this trust allows our family to help Clarke so they can help other families. This trust is a return on Clarke's investment in our son."

For more information on various types of planned gifts that provide donors with income during their lives and immediate tax benefits and provide support to future Clarke children, please call Susan Frost in the Development Office at 413-584-3450 or email her at sfrost@clarkeschool.org.

You Are Invited to Lunch and Learn at Clarke

Despite a growing public awareness of cochlear implants and the benefits of auditory/oral education, most people are still not aware of what is possible for deaf and hard of hearing children. To help educate the community and allow more individuals to see the success of Clarke students firsthand, Clarke has launched a series of events at each of our locations.

The hour-long events are designed to generate community awareness and forge connections both with people unfamiliar with Clarke and those already actively engaged in our programs. During each brief, but powerful session, visitors learn a little about Clarke's history and evolution, tour the facilities, hear from Clarke professionals about their work and see the children in action, as well as enjoy breakfast or lunch.

"Being able to visit Clarke is truly a gift to me," said Melissa Boyle, a member of Clarke's Northampton Steering Committee. "I take every opportunity I can to invite friends and colleagues to Clarke so they can be inspired as well!"

Clarke Pennsylvania's "Coffee at Clarke" has been very successful, while Clarke East, Clarke Jacksonville, Clarke School-New York and the Northampton campus have launched "Lunch and Learn" events. For those who can't get away from the office to attend an event, Clarke takes the show on the road by presenting to community businesses and other organizations at their locations.

"We want our visitors to see the significant role that Clarke plays in the future of these young students," said Clarke Trustee Barbara Maddern, a Jacksonville resident. "The Lunch and Learn events jump start the process of getting the local community to see what Clarke is doing. When new visitors see deaf and hard of hearing kids learning to speak, it's invigorating!"

If you would like to attend a Coffee at Clarke or Lunch and Learn event, please contact one of our Regional Development Directors (see sidebar).



Young Alumnus Turns Lemons into Lemonade to Support Clarke

Eleven-year old Lance McGlockton may be Clarke's youngest fundraiser. Lance attended Clarke Jacksonville from 2003-2005 and now attends Cornerstone Christian School in Jacksonville. Last fall, Lance set up a lemonade stand at the Florida A&M University Homecoming football game in Tallahassee with his father and donated the \$100 he raised "to help other kids at Clarke." Thanks, Lance!

Your support of Clarke helps children

like Zach and Will Rukakoski reach their full potential. Zach and Will have both benefited from the Parent Infant Program and the Hearing Center in Northampton. Zach's mother, Lori Martinez-Rukakoski, says

"I feel very blessed to have Clarke's services available for my family and see the success of both of my children directly linked to those fine services."



PIVOT MEDIA PHOTO

EVENT UPDATES

Gift of Sound Celebration

Clarke School East's Gift of Sound Celebration was held at Brookmeadow Country Club in Canton, MA and included a delicious buffet brunch, live jazz music, exceptional alumni speakers, and bidding on an array of silent auction items. Over 100 Clarke friends attended, raising more than \$17,000 for Clarke School East. We extend special thanks to Clarke Trustee Matt Long and his wife Lynn for underwriting the cost of the food and venue.

A Perfect Match

Clarke's Northampton campus took its traditional Sports and Leisure Auction event to the next level this year by adding a wine and spirits tasting and holding the event at the Clarion Inn & Conference Center in Northampton. With an attendance of over 300, \$77,000 was raised to benefit Clarke children and families. We thank the following top-level sponsors for their generous support of this event: Angelica Brothers Electrical Contracting; Aquadro & Cerruti General Contractors and Engineers; CBS 3 Springfield; Daily Hampshire Gazette; Lathrop Retirement Communities; M.J. Moran, Inc. Mechanical Contractors; PeoplesBank; TD Banknorth; WRNX, 100.9. Save the date for next year's A Perfect Match – November 10th, 2009!

Mark Your Calendars! Upcoming Events

- May 14 Celebration of Sound Breakfast**, Clarke Jacksonville
Contact kmitchell@clarke-jax.org for more information.
- May 28 Fabulous! Spring Cocktail Reception Benefit** for Clarke School-New York with special guest **Clinton Kelly** from **What Not to Wear**.
Contact kwashburn@clarke-nyc.org for more information.
- May 31 Talk of the Town Fashion Show and Brunch**, Clarke Pennsylvania
Contact thenry@clarke-pa.org for more information.
- June 12 Celebration of Sound Benefit**, Clarke Northampton
Hosted by Clarke Trustee Mansour Ghalibaf, Hotel Northampton
Contact ezelazo@clarkeschool.org for more information.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORS

For more information about Clarke events and programs or to schedule a visit, contact the Regional Development Director in your area. We'd love to hear from you!

NORTHAMPTON
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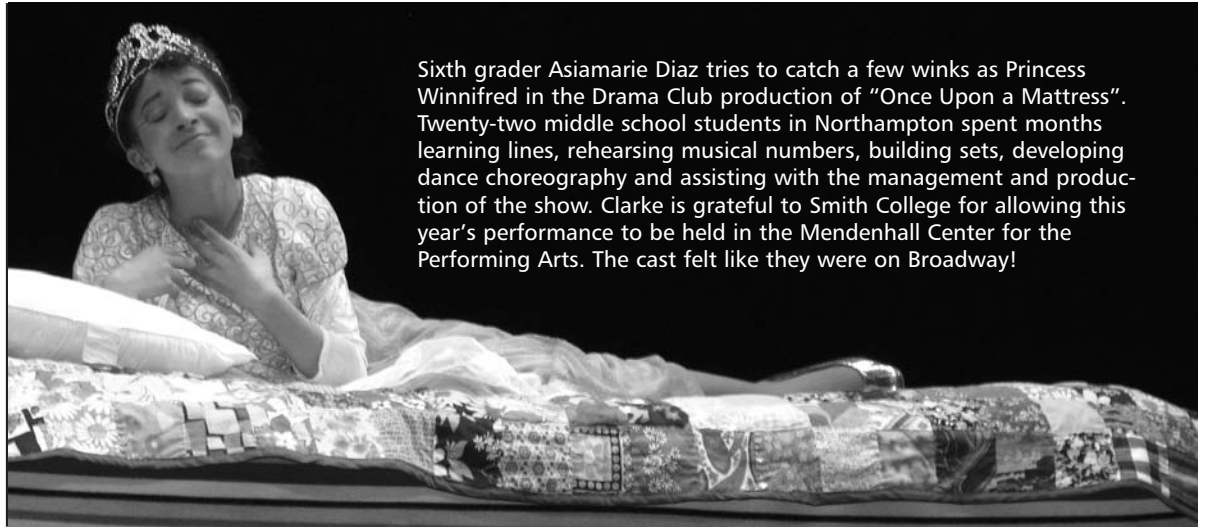
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Para información

sobre nuestros programas y servicios en español, favor de contactar la Oficina de Información de Programas al 413-587-7334.



Sixth grader Asiamarie Diaz tries to catch a few winks as Princess Winnifred in the Drama Club production of "Once Upon a Mattress". Twenty-two middle school students in Northampton spent months learning lines, rehearsing musical numbers, building sets, developing dance choreography and assisting with the management and production of the show. Clarke is grateful to Smith College for allowing this year's performance to be held in the Mendenhall Center for the Performing Arts. The cast felt like they were on Broadway!

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and Clarke Team Up for Cochlear Implant Training Program

For the past two years, Clarke Pennsylvania has partnered with Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and Smith College to provide professionals from across the country and around the world with the knowledge and skills needed to work with children who use cochlear implants.

As more and more children with implants enter the educational system, it is imperative there be knowledgeable professionals to assist them in maximizing the potential of their devices. Professional Preparation in Cochlear Implants (PPCI) is an intensive program designed specifically for teachers of deaf children, speech language pathologists

and educational audiologists, providing an innovative and intensive curriculum for those working with children with implants for the first time.

The PPCI program includes independent study courses, thirteen days of intensive on-site learning, an individual mentoring program and a final capstone experience. Clarke Pennsylvania serves as one of the on-site locations (other sites are located in Georgia and California), providing direct classroom observation and collaboration with Clarke professionals. Participants are trained to assess children's audition, speech, and language, while also learning to foster professional advocacy,

engage in program development and establish collaborative relationships.

In the past three years, PPCI has trained 95 individuals from across the United States, Canada, South Korea and Nigeria.

"It's an honor for Clarke to be a part of this program," said Judy Sexton, Director of Clarke Pennsylvania. "PPCI participants benefit from the experience of our highly trained staff, working in acoustically appropriate classrooms with a good student-to-teacher ratio." In return, Clarke gains valuable opportunities for collaboration and contact with educators and professionals worldwide.

"PPCI provided me with the unique opportunity to participate in both a hospital-based and a school-based experience," said Catherine Drez Self, a Teacher for the Hearing-Impaired in Lake Charles, Louisiana. "The staff at Children's Hospital and Clarke shared a wealth of knowledge and a contagious level of enthusiasm. I was inspired to set a higher standard for both myself and my students, and I couldn't wait to return home and spread the word about the spoken language potential for our students with hearing loss."

For more information on the PPCI program, visit www.chop.edu/ppci.



T. HIRST

REMEMBERING A CLARKE FRIEND: Fred Knittle

The Clarke Community was deeply saddened by the passing of its former Development Director Fred Knittle in January. His jovial nature, quick wit and deep passion for helping deaf children earned him the title of “friend-raiser,” as well as fundraiser. In his career at Clarke, which spanned nearly three decades, he raised more than \$22 million and set a strong foundation for the school’s development program. When he retired, he found fame as a singer in the Young at Heart Chorus and was prominently featured in the popular movie documenting the group of senior performers.

Knittle encouraged friends to put Clarke in their wills and set up gift annuities to benefit both themselves and the schools. He and his wife Barbara remained involved in Clarke’s development efforts even

after his retirement, and Clarke is proud that an endowed scholarship was created in his name.

In 1967 Knittle was made an honorary alumnus of Clarke, which he called “the finest tribute” he’d ever received.

Gifts in memory of Fred Knittle may be sent to his endowed scholarship fund at Clarke.



FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR *continued from page 1*

education, really learning,” Hudecova said. “They are living the spoken life.”

Hudecova lived in Clarke’s residential dormitory and loved the experience of meeting students from all over the world. “They liked to tell me where their parents were from and compare it to Slovakia,” she said.

Now that she has observed the successful therapeutic methods used at Clarke, Hudecova is pleased to bring her knowledge back to Slovakia. She will hold workshops and conferences to help parents learn how to more effectively communicate with their children

Hudecova says the best part of her experience at Clarke was the relationships she developed. She is grateful to Clarke’s staff for being “extremely helpful, supportive, and inspiring. They put so much energy into working with me and teaching me. I will live their ideas and give my heart to those children that have hearing loss.”

Clarke’s Mainstream Center will host its **30th Annual Fall Conference on Mainstreaming Students with Hearing Loss**, “*A Look Below the Surface*,” on October 15 – 16, 2009 at the Sheraton Hotel in Springfield, MA. The conference focuses on maximizing success for students, parents and professionals in mainstream settings. For more information call (413) 587-7313 v/tty or e-mail brochon@clarkeschool.org

Tiffany Gundler CS '06 was awarded the **Community Partnership Award** by the Federation for Children with Special Needs for her outstanding work as a self-advocate. She received the award at the Federation’s annual Visions of Community Conference, held in Boston.

Clarke’s Alumni Homecoming on the Northampton campus will be held Saturday, October 3, 2009. Check the Alumni page at www.clarkeschool.org for upcoming announcements about Homecoming activities and programs!

A review of ***Friends Like You***, a children’s book and early education kit created by Clarke Mainstream Writer Melissa Griswold, was **featured in the official magazine for the British Association of Teachers of the Deaf**.

Friends Like You was created to help children develop a basic understanding of hearing loss and learn how to communicate successfully with classmates or friends who are deaf or hard of hearing. For more information or to order *Friends Like You*, e-mail mgriswold@clarkeschool.org.

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Learn, Grow and Make New Friends!

Clarke's Summer Programs 2009

Summer Adventure July 12-24

Clarke's Northampton campus will host its 27th annual two week Summer Adventure for deaf and hard of hearing children July 12-24. Led by experienced teachers of the deaf, the program gives kids ages 9 to 13 the chance to connect with other children who use hearing aids and cochlear implants and build their self-confidence, while enjoying recreation, arts and crafts, hiking, swimming, field trips and more!

The year's theme, Going Green!, will encourage children to take a leadership role in educating themselves and others about caring for the Earth. Field trips will include a whale watch to learn about the success of protecting the world's largest endangered mammals, visiting recycling centers and learning about solar energy, while building solar model cars. Limited financial aid is available.

Family Weekend July 24-26

A fun and informative get-away for the whole family, July 24-26! Families of children ages birth-13 who are deaf or hard of hearing are invited to spend the weekend on Clarke's beautiful Northampton campus to learn from Clarke professionals, meet other families and have fun! While parents participate in presentations and discussion sessions, children will enjoy supervised play and activities. Families will also enjoy a campfire, cookout, swimming in Clarke's indoor Olympic size pool and Family Game Night! On-campus meals and lodging are provided. This year we welcome David Luterman, Professor Emeritus at Emerson College and a panel of experts to meet our families.

For more information on Clarke's Summer Programs, please contact the Program Information Office at 413-584-3450 or email info@clarkeschool.org



Clarke admits students of any race, gender, color, national or ethnic origin to all its programs. Clarke does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration of all its programs.