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UNH Provides New Audiology Clinic for Campus and Surrounding Communities

By Sharon Keeler
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DURHAM, N.H. -- The University of New Hampshire Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders has expanded its outreach mission to offer diagnostic audiology services for the University and surrounding communities.

The new clinic complements speech and language diagnostic and therapy services already offered through the department. The use of state-of-the-art equipment enables clinicians to provide comprehensive audiological assessments for clients of all ages, including those with multiple disabilities.

Mary Jane Sullivan has been appointed as clinical instructor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders and the clinic's director. She has extensive experience in the field of clinical audiology, including auditory evoked response, otoacoustic emissions, aural rehabilitation, hearing aid assessment, pediatric evaluations, and industrial audiology.

Prior to her arrival at UNH, Sullivan was the clinic coordinator for the audiology department at North Shore Medical Center for 17 years. She also serves as a consultant to the Bureau of Maternal and Child Health in their efforts to establish universal newborn hearing screening in the state of New Hampshire.

In addition to providing diagnostic audiological evaluations for the University and surrounding communities, Sullivan says the clinic enhances the academic curriculum for UNH students studying for their master of science degrees in speech-language pathology.
"The clinic serves as a learning facility for students, where they can gain experience by observing and assisting with assessments," says Sullivan. "It provides them with valuable clinical experience to complement the classroom curriculum."

Sullivan adds that children with hearing loss often develop speech and language disorders. The new audiology clinic adds an important component to the department and its ability to treat clients with a range of communication disorders.

In addition, an aural rehabilitation class is planned for this fall. It will be offered in Hewitt Hall and is designed to provide speechreading and listening strategies for adults with hearing loss. Open to the general public, it will consist of eight one-hour sessions and be organized in a small group format. There will be a minimal fee. The schedule times and days are dependent on the needs of interested parties.

For more information on the services offered through UNH's audiology clinic, to schedule an appointment, or to inquire about the aural rehabilitation clinic, contact Mary Jane Sullivan at (603) 862-5077. Referrals are accepted from physicians, school departments, and individuals.

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