



FACULTY FOCUS

For a full list of department faculty and information on their teaching interests, see www.communication.northwestern.edu/faculty.

AMY BOOTH studies how infants and young children learn. Specifically, she explores the remarkable capabilities of young children for organizing their perceptual experience into meaningful categories and learning words to refer to those categories.

Examining typical populations and those with dyslexia, attention deficit disorder, or other learning disabilities, **JAMES BOOTH** studies the mechanisms of brain development to devise better diagnostics and treatments.

SUMITRAJIT DHAR studies the sounds created within the inner ear, then examines their behavior under a variety of conditions. He hopes that better understanding of the ear's physiology may lead to improved diagnostic tests for hearing loss.

NINA KRAUS investigates the neurobiology underlying speech and music perception and learning-associated brain plasticity.

PATRICK WONG researches central auditory processing and neuro-physiology, especially speech perception and learning, auditory skill levels and deficits, and interactions between speech and music. His work on brain-mechanism differences between younger and older adults won a prestigious Independent Scientist Award from the National Institute on Aging, part of the National Institutes of Health. Said Wong, "This research will hopefully guide the design of treatments for older adults who suffer from communication disorders."

The National Institutes of Health also recently awarded a \$1.4 million, five-year grant for studying bilingualism to a research team led by faculty member **VIORICA MARIAN**. "The project focuses on cognitive architecture of bilingualism and examines consequences of bilingualism for cognitive and linguistic processing and language learning," said Marian. Her work in bilingualism is increasingly important in a country where a fifth of US residents speak a language other than English at home.

CHARLES LARSON studies the neural mechanisms controlling the voice and the larynx.

MOLLY LOSH focuses on delineating the nature and basis of language impairment in autism, fragile X syndrome, and other neurogenetic disorders.

MARIO RUGGERO studies all aspects of the ear, from the external ear to the auditory nerve, shedding light not only on how the normal ear works but also on what causes deafness and how it might be treated.

PAMELA SOUZA directs a long-standing research program on the effects of hearing aids, particularly for older adults and those with severe hearing loss. Her research is driven by and focused on clinical questions: why do two people with the same hearing loss, fit with the same hearing aid technology, have such different outcomes?



CYNTHIA THOMPSON focuses on normal and disordered language and how people with brain damage—for instance, from a stroke—recover the use of language.

BEVERLY WRIGHT explores the general principles of auditory learning, a process that leads to dramatic improvements in perceptual skills. She seeks to identify the circumstances that are necessary for learning to occur as well as those that disrupt learning.

STEVEN ZECKER studies the role of attention and auditory processing skills in learning.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

RUPIN PARIKH

Class of 2013

Hometown Livingston, New Jersey
Major Human Communication Sciences (premed)

Rupin knew about Northwestern because his older sister had already chosen the School of Communication and was having a great time. Rupin's experience has been no different. "Throughout my time at Northwestern, I have been surrounded by faculty who actually take a genuine interest in a student's life beyond the classroom, as well as friends who are always ready to be by your side." Rupin has become a true Wildcat, and an active one. Invited into both the Communication Century Scholars and Lambda Pi Eta, he's open to whatever life brings. "I am constantly trying to take advantage of all the activities, events, and student groups Northwestern has to offer in order to never miss out on anything worthwhile. From advance movie screenings with director Q & As to scientific presentations, I try to use everything Northwestern throws at me."

FROM MY CALENDAR

Tuesday

9:30 a.m.
Breakfast in Allison Hall

10:00 a.m.
CHEM 210 Organic Chemistry

11:00 a.m.
HINDI 111 Hindi I

12:30 p.m.
Tutor science at the Evanston Township High School study center

1:45 p.m.
Lunch at Norris Center

4:00 p.m.
CSD 336 The Field of Special Education

7:00 p.m.
Introduce Lambda Pi Eta speaker at Annie May Swift Hall

8:30 p.m.
Work out at Henry Crown Sports Pavilion



ALUMNI CAREERS

NAVEEN MALIK (C05), formerly the Illinois new media director of the Obama for America 2008 Presidential Campaign, is the US Department of Defense's deputy director for Qatar, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates.

TIM LOUIS (C86) is an active venture capitalist who helped found the Desert Voices Oral Learning Center, Arizona's first oral-curriculum school for deaf children.

DEBORAH HAYES (C71, GC73) is professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation and of pediatrics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and the chair of audiology at Denver's Children's Hospital.

Swallowing-disorder specialist **JERILYN LOGEMANN (C63, GC64, GC68)** is the Ralph and Jean Sundin Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Northwestern. The modified barium swallow test she developed has become the standard diagnostic test in many clinical environments.