

## Now what?

by Tammy Fredrickson

I'd really hoped that 2021 and the advent of a vaccine would change things for the better. Alas....things aren't back to 'normal'. I don't know about you, but being in a near-constant state of be-ready-for-everything-to-change-quickly isn't my idea of a good time! I much prefer to be able to predict what's coming and the time to make a plan for whatever it is!

I've realized that the need to be prepared for whatever may be coming our way this school year isn't as scary as it was last year. I'm prepared! I've been through it already – and survived. And I dare say I think AuD students are better for having lived through it all too! They have learned to show grace with themselves and one another and to be more flexible than they ever thought they could be. Those traits will come in handy as they continue in the program and, ultimately, enter the work force!

It's been a bummer to not hold in-person graduation for the past 2 years. Graduation day is one of my favorite days of the year! 2021 grads have shared some fabulous photos with me – find them (and celebrate!) on page XX of this newsletter.

Let's all find reason to celebrate – whether it be graduation or learning a new skill or trying something you're uncomfortable with or just making it through a tough day!

And as always, THANK YOU to preceptors for all you do for our audiology program and for our students – you're vital to our students' success! And THANK YOU to our alumni who have taught me a lot while, hopefully, learning a lot themselves!

Tammy

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# Perspectives on Precepting

By Tammy Fredrickson

Today's topic:

## Student Evaluations

Some of us have a knee-jerk reaction to the word "evaluation" – it makes us cringe! Evaluation of student performance serves an important purpose: learning!

Believe it or not: Students appreciate your feedback and evaluation! They're seeking opportunities for learning. Your feedback provides that!



## Benefits of Student Evaluations

Evaluations help students improve their performance. They can help students learn about their strengths AND about the things they need to focus on for improvement.

Mid-semester evaluations help students identify what they need to focus on for the remainder of the semester. It also provides the student an opportunity to ask questions! It is important to document performance – both for those students who are performing above expectations *and* for those who aren't performing up to expectations.

## How to Prepare for Student Evaluations

Be sure you're familiar with what is expected of the student. Our program has a document to help preceptors with this: The Calipso Rating Indicators document. This document outlines expectations of students as they progress through the AuD program. Of course, this document can't and doesn't address each and every detail; if you have questions about what is expected of a student, please don't hesitate to reach out to me!

Then, collate any notes you may have taken throughout the time you've been working with the student. I've found that taking notes enables me to provide students with formative feedback at the end of a clinic day and helps me when it comes time for evaluations (I can't count on my memory!).

Consider the student's goals for the rotation. Each semester, both at the mid-semester and end-of-semester evaluations, I ask students to reflect on their experiences and skills and identify goals to share with their preceptor(s).

## Conducting a Helpful Evaluation

Provide examples whenever possible (this is where those handy notes you've taken come into play!). Examples help to clarify your feedback and provide support/evidence for the scores you provide on an evaluation. Providing comments, examples, and observations to supplement numeric ratings is incredibly helpful!

Other things to consider:

- Does the student communicate well/clearly with you? With patients?
- Does the student demonstrate initiative?
- Have you seen improvement?
- Has the student incorporated feedback that you've provided?
- Does the student think critically?
- Does the student know what is expected of them?

Schedule a time to discuss your evaluation with the student. Ideally, this meeting will take place in a quiet location free of distractions. The meeting need not be long! Just enough time to cover things and allow for questions. Consider silencing your phone and computer so you don't get distracted!

## Avoid Common Pitfalls

You're evaluating a student's knowledge and skills – not their personality! Someone's personality may well be an 'A', but if their knowledge and skills aren't meeting expectations, it's important that the student know he/she isn't meeting expectations.

Try to stay neutral; avoid judgements.

Instead of stating something vague (e.g., "Jane is great with patients."), be specific: "Jane demonstrates good listening behaviors by leaning in and re-stating the patient's concerns."

## Your feedback is vital to student learning and improvement!

The time you invest in students (and the evaluation of students) is incredibly valuable! THANK YOU for investing in student learning!

## Support SAA!

Purchase a mug, water bottle, or T-shirt and support SAA!

Email SAA at [saa@colorado.edu](mailto:saa@colorado.edu) to learn more or to make a donation!

Introducing...

SAA's 2021-2022

Board of Directors



## New leadership stepped in this summer!

Eileen Ford, President

Kate Lemons, Vice President

Hannah Wilson, Secretary

Katie Lohr, Treasurer

Celine Minasian, Social/Education Chair

Courtney Conolly, CAA Representative

Mackenzie Myers, Graduate Student Advisory Board Representative

Mara Smith, Undergraduate Representative

# Student Academy of Audiology

CU's SAA group has been busy! Check out what great things they've been up to....

Welcome! It's a new school year! SAA held a welcome picnic to kick things off.



## Another Award!



CU's SAA chapter won *ANOTHER* chapter challenge award! This year, it was in the Overall category – for the chapter that accumulated the most chapter challenge points overall! That's 6 years in a row of national awards... Way to go, SAAers!

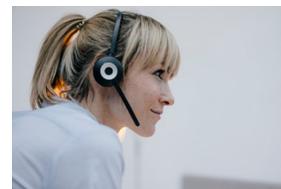
## Events for Undergraduate Students

SAA will continue to help undergraduate students learn about audiology. AudSquad is for undergraduate students interested in learning more about audiology and provides them with opportunities for hands-on experiences with audiological equipment – something that many undergraduates do not have an opportunity to do. SAA will also host information/help sessions about grad school and applications.

## Audiologists panel

In spring, SAA presented a panel of audiologists for both CU and UNC students – all of whom had different specialties! Some were even from other states! (See, we knew there was a benefit to Zooming!)

The panelists shared a bit about how they found their niche as well as their favorite aspects (and least favorite ones too) of their jobs. Panelists shared what a 'day in the life' was like and answered students' questions. I think it's safe to say that this type of panel will be coming back this year!



# Congratulations to the Class of 2021

**It's been so much fun to watch you grow! Wishing you all the best as you embark on your career...**

Front row: Carlie Runge, Jamie Falcone

Back row: Jenny Masters, Kailey Durkin, Alina, Peisley, Sarah Mullervy, Nina Harris, Trista Smith, Vanessa Olivares



# Alumni Updates!

Are you an alum who'd like to share an update with fellow alumni and preceptors via this newsletter? Let me know! [fredrict@colorado.edu](mailto:fredrict@colorado.edu)

## New!

This is a new addition to the newsletter - one that I thought would be super fun. 😊

## Lauren Mola – Class of 2019

Dr. Mola is an audiologist focusing on pediatrics (yep, peds!) at Wellington Hospital in New Zealand!

She's got a new puppy that she's raising to be a guide dog for the NZ Blind Foundation. (Isn't he adorable?!)



See Lauren in action in her recent video project here:

<https://www.ccdhb.org.nz/our-services/a-to-z-of-our-services/audiology/>

Here's an update from Class of 2019er, Aijiana Zanders (and her dog!):



I was lucky to complete both my undergraduate and graduate degrees at CU (go BUFFS).

Life after graduation was much different than I thought it would be... Prior to graduation, I never thought I would EVER think about leaving Colorado. As a Colorado native, I never pictured myself being anywhere else. Well, long story short I did end up leaving Colorado. I accepted my first job as an Audiologist at the Children's Hospital of Michigan. It was a scary yet extremely rewarding decision. The scariest part about accepting this position took place days prior to me moving. My sister (age 26 at the time), had a brain aneurysm erupt 3 days before I moved to Michigan. Yes, it was awful! It was the scariest thing I have ever experienced in my entire life. Thankfully, my sister is alive and thriving today!

I learned a lot about myself throughout the journey of my sister's healing process. While enduring all of the stress and anxiety that came with my sister's health situation (Oh, and the Covid Pandemic took place not too long after that), my job was the most rewarding and enjoyable experience that I could ask for. At Children's Hospital of Michigan, I have worked with a variety of patients that differ in age, disorders, cultural backgrounds, languages, and economic status'. During a typical week I perform behavioral testing, ABR's (sedated and non-sedated), fit/dispense hearing aids/bone conduction devices, and work with Cochlear implants. Working here has provided me with a very diverse and well-rounded clinical experience.

I am now about to embark upon a new journey in a different state. I recently accepted a position at Seattle Children's Hospital! I am beyond grateful for my Michigan journey and I am excited to be joining the team in Seattle! Outside of audiology, I love spending time with friends/family and spoiling my dog (toy poodle named Reece). Future graduates that are reading this, don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone and be willing to try new things/places!

**AuDs &  
Ends:  
News about  
CU's AuD  
Program**

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I hope you've enjoyed this issue of our AuDs & Ends newsletter! We'd like to share news with you twice per year – every August and again in January.

If you think you know someone who'd be interested in receiving this newsletter, please share it with them!

**Thank you for supporting our students and our program!**

**Visit our website: [slhs.colorado.edu](https://slhs.colorado.edu)**