Dee M. Lance, Ph.D., CCC-SLP/L has worked in the field of Speech-Language Pathology since 1988. Currently, she is a professor and serves as Chair in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss).

During her time in higher education, she has served as a clinical educator and developed specialty clinics for children with reading difficulties. As a didactic course instructor, she has developed and taught a variety of courses, but her favorite topics are language acquisition and disorders.

Her research interests center around reading difficulties in children with language disorders. During her time in higher education, she has directed thirty-four undergraduate and master’s research projects and eight doctoral research projects. In addition, she has collaborated on several research projects on both state and national levels. Since 2006, she has served as an accreditation site visitor for Council on Academic Programs for Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) and a candidacy site visitor for CAA since 2012.
SEMESTER REVIEW
FALL 2023

Understanding Early Literacy Conference
Fall Institute
NSSLHA Updates

Interprofessional Practice
Interprofessional Education
MSHA & ASHA
Alumni Spotlight

SPRING 2024

Sensory Bunny
Mississippi Day
Sign Rave

Special Guest
New Team Members
CSD and the North Mississippi Literacy Project partnered to organize a highly successful 1st Annual Understanding Early Literacy Conference held at the Oxford Conference Center. By combining in-person and online formats, the conference was able to open the doors to a diverse range of attendees both locally and across the US.

Keynote Speakers Included:

Dr. Nadine Gabb
From the Pediatric Practice to the Classroom

Dr. Eric Tridas
Early Identification of Children at Risk of Literacy Problems

Dr. Tim Odegard
Science of Reading & Structured Literacy

Photos by SAS Marketing
Our annual Fall Institute, hosted by the UM NSSLHA Chapter and the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders took place at the Ole Miss Student Union on October 19-20, 2023.

Presenters for 2023 Fall Institute:

Haley Messersmith, AU.D.CCC -A
Kimberly Ward, AuD., CCC - A
Tracy Pate MS, CCC – SLP
Shari Robertson, PH. D, CCC-SLP
Jazmine D. Kelley

Photos by SAS Marketing
President - Caroline Pickens, Vice President - Grace Ellen Crongeyer, Secretary - Caroline Rader, Treasurer - Kaylee Hill, Historian - Audrey Howard, Volunteer Chairs - Lydia Scott and Iris Ball, Social Chairs - Caroline Harrington, Haley Crawford, Public Relations Chair - Alli Neas. Submitted Photos.

FOLLOW US on Instagram @olemiss_nsslha
Fall Carnival

Ole Miss NSSHLA hosted their third annual Fall Festival in October. This Halloween themed event caters to children who require a more sensory-friendly environment. The event had fun activities and games such as pumpkin painting, corn hole, sack racing, and even a photo wall. Food and drinks were also offered, and children wore their best costumes! Handband gave an amazing performance and signed The Monster Mash and Thriller. All proceeds went towards helping the UM HILL program, PLG program, and NSSHLA.

Sensory Santa

Sensory Santa provided a calm, sensory friendly environment for children with autism for the HILL and PLG student programs to be able to enjoy a visit with Santa.

The Spring Simulation focused on Ethics. The simulation was an open discussion between current UM Pharmacy, CSD, and Social Work Students. Photo by SAS Marketing.
MSHA & ASHA

Mississippi Speech-Language-Hearing Association (MSHA)
2023 Outstanding Student Clinician

RECAP 2023-2024

Elizabeth Peeler
2nd Year Grad Student
The 2023 ASHA Convention was held November 16–18, 2023, at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center in Boston, Massachusetts. The ASHA Convention is one of the largest professional development events for audiologists; speech-language pathologists; and speech, language, and hearing scientists. Submitted photos.

Emily Ward

Emily presented a poster session titled, "Indirectly and Directly Involved Students’ Perspectives on Multi-modal Communication Treatment in Persons with Aphasia".

Paige Kessler

Paige presented a poster session titled, "Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Pragmatic Language Deficits in Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder".
Children who are a part of the HILL and PLG programs experienced a sensory friendly activity with an Easter Bunny and live bunnies. They were able to hold, touch and feel at their own pace for a personalized one on one experience. Ole Miss NSSLHA members helped set up and experience this event with the children.

Photos by SAS Marketing
**Mississippi Day** is a daylong celebration to highlight the university's achievements, programs, and services. The annual event launched in 2022 and gives future students and community a chance to see what Ole Miss has to offer. This day included hands on learning activities and games, along with food trucks and more. Here is a glimpse of what the CSD tent this year.
Our Handband presented their Spring Sign Rave at the Union Plaza to celebrate Disability History Month. They signed fun upbeat songs including “Happy,” “Walking on Sunshine,” and “Can’t Stop the Feeling.”
SPECIAL GUEST APPEARANCE

Our HILL Program had a special guest reader, Kyle Wakefield, student manager from Ole Miss Men's Basketball. Wakefield interacted with the class while reading during story time, and shared his story on his journey through speech therapy.

Photos by SAS Marketing
Seattle Seahawk’s player, DK Metcalf, has drawn attention on the football field with his use of American Sign Language. In an article with The News Tribune in Washington, Metcalf noted a few people to thank for his journey with ASL, including his former professor, Dr. Ronda Bryan.

DK Metcalf seen using sign language during NFL game. Submitted photo.

Ronda Bryan joins Jake Garcia from KING 5 NBC - Seattle to discuss Metcalf’s time as an Ole Miss student in ASL. Submitted photo.
NEW TEAM MEMBERS

Kris Colvin
Instructor ASL
Interpreting Minor

Sandra Evans
Office Manager

Ole Miss
Communication Sciences & Disorders

Roc Cook
Academic Advisor