

## DEPARTMENT OF SPEECH PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY

### History

- One of the first two programs in the country, founded by the famed Charles Van Riper who, until his retirement in 1966, was the most published author and researcher in the field.
- The program was the first in Michigan, and one of the first six in the nation (of approximately 172 programs) to become accredited.

### Programs Offered

- B.S. in Speech Pathology and Audiology
- M.A. in Speech-Language Pathology (SLP)
- Doctor of Audiology (AuD)
- Both of the Department's graduate programs are accredited by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology

### Did you know?

- The Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology programs at WMU are regularly ranked among the top 50 in the nation.
- Over the past three years SLP and AuD graduates had a 100% pass rate on the national certification exam.
- The Carls Foundation of Detroit, Michigan has recently awarded \$62,200 to the Van Riper Clinic to assist with the prevention and treatment of hearing loss in young children in the Kalamazoo area.
- The Van Riper Lectures Series, offered annually, allow national experts from a variety of specialty research and clinical areas to offer excellent presentations that enhance the reputation of the department, college, and university.

### Enrollment and Graduates

- The program attracts a very high quality pool of students. From over 200 applicants in 2007, the graduate SLP class numbers 27 with an average GPA of 3.56
- Graduation rate: Undergraduate – 80%; Graduate – 98%
- Over the past three years, 97% of our graduates are employed in the professions.

### Average Salary

- The median salary for an audiologist is \$62,112. and the median for a speech-language pathologist is \$58,475.
- Both professions are ranked in the top 25 best careers with projected growth over the next 7 – 10 years.

### Research, community service, teaching highlights

- The program has demonstrated excellent research productivity. Currently, two faculty have federally funded grants from the National Institutes of Health in speech perception and recognition, and augmentative/alternative communication.
- The Van Riper Language, Speech, and Hearing Clinic, located in the Unified Clinics, provides excellent service to the Southwest Michigan area for persons with a large variety of communication problems. The clinic directly serves about 700 clients each year.
- Specialty clinics in voice pathologies, assistive technology, neuromotor and stroke related disorders, infant hearing screening and hearing aid evaluation/dispensing have a strong reputation of excellence in the community.
- The excellence of the faculty is reflected in the receipt of numerous national awards. Also, the faculty have received notable awards from WMU, including the Distinguished Researcher Award and Distinguished Service Award.