

Professor Teaches Students to Help Stroke Victims and Others Recover Speech



Biola professor Matthew Rouse is obsessed with talking — helping people learn to talk, that is.

Rouse directs the communication disorders program at Biola and the “Biola Speech and Language Clinic,” where 60 students are learning to help people solve their problems with speech, language and hearing. Some people are born with communication problems, and others lose their ability to communicate through strokes or other health problems.

“Communication is so vital; we’re using it constantly,” Rouse said. “So, to suddenly lose the ability to tell your wife or kids that you love them is devastating to people.”

The Biola Speech and Language Clinic is staffed by senior-level students majoring in communication disorders. Currently, it serves 20 adults and children who suffer from conditions like autism, Down Syndrome and strokes. Many of the patients have no health insurance, so the clinic is a low-cost option, costing \$100 for an entire semester. (Other clinics charge up to \$100 an hour.)

One current patient is Fred [not his real name]. One night, Fred was at home with his wife watching television when he suffered a stroke. The right side of his body went limp, and he couldn’t speak. At the hospital, a speech-language pathologist informed Fred that the stroke had caused speech and language disorders known as “aphasia” and “apraxia of speech.” At Biola’s clinic, Fred is learning to speak again and, in the meantime, students are teaching him sign language so he can communicate with his wife.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, speech-language pathology and audiology will be among the fastest-growing careers in the next decade. Biola started a major in communication disorders in 1997, and Rouse joined the faculty in 1999. He has an M.S. in communication disorders from the University of Redlands in California, an M.A. in Christian apologetics from Biola, and he’s completing a doctorate in speech-language pathology from Nova Southeastern University in Florida. For more information about the clinic, call (562) 777-4068.

Faculty Highlights



Dr. **Mike Longinow** [journalism] presented in five workshops at the national convention of the Associated Collegiate Press and College Media Advisers, held Oct 26-30 in Kansas City, Mo. He spoke on campus news reporting, racial diversity in campus news, politics of media-administration relations, and campus cultures in the 21st century. Longinow also spoke at a conference for Latino journalists of faith, held at Biola on Nov. 4-5, co-hosted by the Biola Journalism Program and the World Journalism Institute. Longinow came to Biola in July, after 16 years on the journalism faculty at Asbury College in Kentucky.



Dr. **Michael Wilkins** [New Testament] was among 12 scholars who were invited to attend a meeting of the “Jesus Study Group,” held July 20-25 at the University of Tübingen, Germany. The group, sponsored by the Institute for Biblical Research, is an evangelical think-tank that examines and defends the historical authenticity of events in the life of Jesus. Dr. Wilkins presented a paper on “The Confession by Peter of Jesus as Messiah.” The paper will be published in the *Bulletin for Biblical Research*.



Dr. **Judy TenElshof** [Christian ministry, leadership and spirituality] helped oversee the purchase of property in Idyllwild, Calif., to replace the “Hilltop Renewal Center” in Cedar Pines Park, Calif., which was destroyed during a wildfire in 2003. The new retreat center, named “The Hermitage,” serves Christian leaders, including students at Biola’s Talbot School of Theology. The 3,000 square-foot building sits on nine acres of land that back up to a quarter of a million acres of National Forest. Judy and her husband, Gene, the president of Hilltop Renewal Ministries, plan to rebuild the first retreat center. For more information, visit: www.hilltoprenewal.org.



Kevin Lewis [theology and law] received the 2005 “Provost’s Award for Biblical Integration” — awarded by Biola provost Dr. Gary Miller — for his work in the integration of theology and law. In 2003, Lewis founded the “Evangelical Law Institute,” an institute dedicated to the task of restoring the theological foundations of law and justice in society (www.lawandjustice.org). Lewis teaches a class at Biola’s Talbot School of Theology titled “Theology of Church and State.”