



Northwestern  
University

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**NUCASLL News**

Monthly updates from the Northwestern University Center for Audiology, Speech, Language, and Learning

May is recognized as National Speech-Language-Hearing Month, a time dedicated to raising awareness about communication health and the importance of access to hearing, speech, language, voice, and cognitive care.

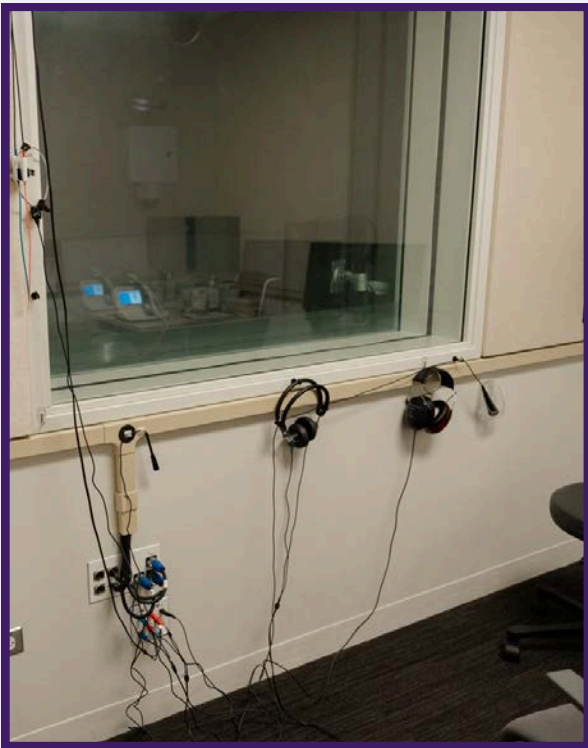
This month also serves as a reminder that communication challenges are not always immediately visible. Increased awareness, early support, and accessible care can make a meaningful difference in helping individuals stay connected, confident, and understood.

## Ever Wonder What a Hearing Test Actually Looks Like?



Hearing evaluations take place in carefully controlled environments designed to help clinicians better understand how individuals hear and process sound. These spaces allow for accurate testing and a deeper look at listening challenges that may not always be obvious in everyday life.

At NUCASLL, evaluations are approached thoughtfully and collaboratively. Clinicians and student clinicians work together to ask the right questions, examine patterns carefully, and ensure each patient receives individualized attention.



Hearing loss does not always happen all at once. In many cases, it develops gradually, making it easy to overlook subtle changes such as difficulty hearing in noisy environments or frequently asking others to repeat themselves.

Recognizing those small shifts early can play an important role in long-term hearing health.

## Celebrating 10 Years of Leadership & Service

On **May 15th**, we proudly celebrate an incredible milestone for Josie Bodeker, NUCASLL's Practice Manager, who marks 10 years with our team.

For the past decade, Josie has been a steady and supportive presence behind so much of what makes NUCASLL special. From supporting clinicians, students, and staff to helping ensure patients have a positive and welcoming experience, her impact extends across every part of our center.

We are deeply grateful for Josie's dedication, leadership, and commitment to the NUCASLL community.



Celebrating 10  
Years of Excellence

*Thank you, **Josie Bodeker***

# Stroke Awareness Month: Michelle's Story

May is also Stroke Awareness Month, a time to recognize the many individuals navigating recovery, rehabilitation, and communication challenges following stroke.

We are honored to highlight Michelle Clemens, a dedicated member of the NUCASLL community since 2018. Michelle is an author, motivational speaker, stroke survivor, and advocate who recently celebrated what she calls her "new birthday," marking the anniversary of her stroke and the beginning of her recovery journey.



At 25 years old, Michelle experienced a ruptured brain aneurysm that resulted in a stroke and changed the course of her life.

Since then, she has worked tirelessly through speech therapy, perseverance, and support to navigate aphasia and apraxia while continuing to share her story with others.

Her journey serves as a meaningful reminder that recovery is ongoing, progress is possible, and communication support can play a powerful role in rebuilding connection and confidence.

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# Communication Looks Different for Everyone



Communication does not always begin with spoken words. For many individuals, tools such as picture boards, communication devices, and alternative forms of expression create meaningful opportunities to connect with others and participate more fully in everyday life.

At NUCASLL, we recognize that communication is deeply individual. Care begins with understanding each person's unique strengths, needs, and goals, and building support from there.

Because better understanding leads to better care.

As we recognize National Speech-Language-Hearing Month, we remain grateful for the clinicians, researchers, students, patients, and families who make this work possible every day. Together, we continue supporting communication, connection, and access to care across our communities.

***The Northwestern University Center for Audiology, Speech, Language, and Learning***

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