



CENTRAL INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF

Spring/Summer 2004

For alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends of CID

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*Central Institute for the Deaf is a financially independent affiliate of CID at Washington University School of Medicine, which operates CID-developed research, adult clinic and professional education programs to benefit people with hearing loss.*

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## From out-of-state and faraway lands, families choose CID

The Sookun family moved more than 10,000 miles so one of their sons could attend CID.

Coral reefs and crystal clear lagoons, lush subtropical forests, volcanic mountains, waterfalls. Situated between India and Africa in the Indian Ocean, the diminutive island of Mauritius holds myriad enchantments, but it has little to offer children diagnosed with hearing loss.

When Mauritians Ajade and Parbha Sookun were informed that their 2-year-old, Akash, had a hearing loss, they had few choices. "Hearing-impaired children there can go to regular school, but most stay home," Parbha said.

One day, Parbha met another mother with a hearing-impaired child who told her about the John Tracy Clinic in Los Angeles. That began a long correspondence, resulting in a referral to CID. When Akash was 5 years old, the Sookuns bid farewell to family, friends, home and livelihood to move to St. Louis (10,157 miles as the crow flies) so he could attend CID on a full tuition scholarship.

Four years later at age 9, Akash's teachers say he is working at second- or third-grade level, depending on the subject.

"He started with little language and we're happy to see that he has made fast progress," Parbha said. "He's talking, reading, writing, jumping, playing. He does everything."

"Our son is doing well, but is not ready to graduate," Ajade added. "He has several years to go and we did not come this far just to take him halfway."

In Mauritius, Ajade's position as a senior customs and excise officer enabled the family of four to live comfortably in a big house with a big yard. Today, the Sookuns rent a small apartment in Richmond Heights and the parents make ends meet as managers of Subway stores. They have figured out how to buy a car with credit, a practice not typical in Mauritius, and to stay ahead of the laws

that permit them to live and work in the U.S. Recently, they applied for permanent residency.

The immigration maze has been difficult, but the Sookuns say their most compelling challenge is being separated from their people, a sacrifice painfully heightened last year when Ajade lost his mother. Still, the family presses on.

"When Akash grows up, he wants to be a policeman ... or a chef ... or a pilot," Ajade said. "His aspirations change from week to week. We are simply grateful that he will have choices."

Since 1914, CID school students have originated from 48 states and at least 24 other countries, including Bermuda, China, Guam, Haiti, India, Malaysia, Monaco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russia, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela.

In recent years, coinciding with increased early identification practices nationwide as well as parents' unwillingness to separate from young babies, enrollment in the residential program has dwindled to only seven students. Therefore, CID will end the program next year. Most of our residential families plan to move to St. Louis so their children can continue at CID.

Although the CID school population is generally younger than in the past, enrollment numbers have remained constant since 1996.



This year, CID students whose families have come from other locales include (from left): Matthew Monette from Kansas City, Kansas; Akash Sookun from Mauritius; Ardian Pollo from Albania; Zainab and Arooj Ajaz from Pakistan and (front) Ryan Schmidt from Columbus, Ohio. Typically about 18% of CID students have one or more family member who moves to the St. Louis region so the child can attend CID.



Robin M. Feder  
Executive Director

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## COC winter projects raise more than \$23,500

### Vision and action: a strong tradition

In 1914, Max Goldstein started CID in a modest way, but with an amazing dream — to enable deaf children, at the time called deaf-mutes and all but dismissed by society, to talk and participate in the world. He looked at deaf children and saw their potential, then worked tirelessly to bring his vision to members of the community with the means to make the dream come true.

It was not always easy, but in the end the community came through. And they have done so again and again over the course of CID's 90-year history — through the development of a science called audiology and the evolution of today's intensive, assessment-based educational methods that help hearing-impaired children learn to listen and talk.

Due in large part to work at CID, we are now truly in an era where audiology and education combine to produce unprecedented opportunities. Early identification laws and technologies such as digital hearing aids and cochlear implants are giving deaf and hard of hearing children more auditory information than ever before. Early, intensive, specialized education is helping them prepare for the mainstream

in fewer years. At no other time has our approach been more effective. So where do we go from here?

At any given moment in its history, CID has addressed critical issues for parents and their hearing-impaired children, starting in 1914 with the needs for both basic speech instruction and teacher education. In the 1950s and 60s, we saw potential in working with babies and developed the nation's first parent-infant program, which became a model for all to follow. The 1970s and 80s brought research on speech perception, language acquisition and goal-based, individualized instruction. In the 1990s, we designed a curriculum now used throughout the world to make optimal use of exciting new hearing technologies.

Today's needs, too, are compelling. For example, despite all the advances, the average reading level for deaf people (notwithstanding CID graduates, who typically achieve much higher) still hovers at around the fourth grade level. Even within our own school population, children can still have difficulty acquiring appropriate social skills, cultural knowledge and a natural facility with language that would make it

easier for them to succeed in the mainstream.

To address today's critical needs, we are taking a hard look at every aspect of our teaching and are working to incorporate exciting new ideas and techniques that combine expertise in regular education with our own depth of experience with deaf children. In the months and years ahead, our staff will design, incorporate, document and assess promising curricula and strategies to meet the critical needs of our students, including a special focus on early literacy and pragmatic communication skills. As has been true so many times in CID's history, the process will eventually produce research-based program enhancements and educational tools that will improve opportunities for all children with hearing loss.

CID started as a dream and became a reality because of a generous community with the vision and courage to see it through. Today, because of the continued support of many, we provide top-notch oral education for hearing-impaired children while serving as a proving ground for ideas that will help shape the future of the field.—*RMF*



CID Corporate Outreach Committee members Jennifer and Bob Cullen (right) with volunteer Jeff Wolfe (left), and fellow members Tim Barringhaus and Morgan Jensen (middle).

The CID Corporate Outreach Committee (COC) has raised more than \$23,500 through a letter-writing campaign and a Trivia Night to benefit CID school children.

The COC is a group of young professionals who serve as CID ambassadors in the St. Louis community, raising awareness and support from individuals and businesses. Members include Tim Barringhaus of U.S. Bank, Bob Cullen of Ernst & Young, Jennifer Cullen of the Hazelwood School District, Kelley Farrell of Carmody MacDonald, Morgan Jensen of J.W. Terrell, Danielle Mangogna of Bryan Cave, Kevin



Zak Miles was among the children who spoke at Trivia Night.

McDaniel of Lockton Companies, Eric Stisser of the St. Louis Rams, Jeff Tucker, a CID alum and University of Michigan law student, Todd Weaver of Legacy Building Group and Steve Williamson of Midwest Systems.

"It costs about \$40,000 a year to help a deaf child learn to listen and talk," said CID executive director Robin Feder. "We're thrilled to have this energetic group working so hard on behalf of the children and families CID serves. Their dedication is an outstanding example of how the St. Louis community has come together to support CID for the past 90 years."



1982 CID alum Tadd Simmons, a systems architect at Unisys Corporation, was the Trivia Night guest speaker.



On April 30, staff, students and guests gathered for a special Founder's Day celebrating 90 years since CID was started by St. Louis physician Max A. Goldstein. The students enacted a 1900s wax museum, impersonating Dr. Goldstein and others from the 1900s, including G.W. Carver, Marie Curie, Albert Einstein, Louis Armstrong, Isadora Duncan, Georgia O'Keefe, Clara Barton, Alexander Graham Bell and the Wright brothers. Guests included Dr. Goldstein's grandson, Tom Wolff, and great granddaughter, Laurie Miller, both CID board members. They are shown with Dalton Coon, who played Dr. Goldstein, and school principal JoEllen Epstein.



Left: Ultimate Picnic committee members Anabeth Weil and Bill and Kim Miller shared the wonderment with CID students Zak Miles and Ashley Yount. Below: Board of managers president Bob Clark and committee members Cheryl Warren and Ellen Clark with Trent Thomas, Mari Soliz and Darryl Pointer.

## Help support a child — name a scholarship fund

Since its founding in 1914, CID has received many generous gifts earmarked to help families afford a CID education for their children with hearing loss. These funds typically have been named in honor of or in memory of special friends and family members — often people who have demonstrated a deep commitment to CID.

A contribution of \$10,000 or more is required to start a named endowed scholarship fund (use of interest only, with the principal unspent). Of course, we gratefully accept gifts in any

amount for annual scholarship support or to existing endowed scholarship funds: *CID Alumni Association Fund*, *Frances and Milton Arenberg Fund*, *Robert Newman Arthur Fund*, *John Allan Bauchman, Jr. Fund*, *Louis D. Beaumont Fund*, *Elizabeth D. Blocker Fund*, *George and Laura Born Fund*, *Mary S. Burton Fund*, *Edwin R. Christman Fund*, *The Coates Family Fund*, *Philip J. Dabl Fund*, *Sadye Edison Fund*, *General School Fund*, *Morris D. Gilliam Fund*, *Joseph and Sara Goldstein Fund*

*The Howe Family Fund*, *Victoria J. Kozak Fund*, *Ann F. and David J. Kreager Fund*, *Helen S. Lane Fund*, *Robert H. and Ethel G. Mayer Fund*, *J. Reynolds Medart Fund*, *Teddy and David Moog Fund*, *Joseph A. and Florence A. Roblee Fund*, *Rookie Teacher of the Year Fund*, *Alice R. Scheeline Fund*, *William and Florence Schmidt Fund*, *Olinda C. and John F. Schwartz Fund*, *The Sheldon Family Fund*, *Springer/West Fund*, *Benjamin M. Vogel Fund*, *Alfred and Gustave Vorhaus Fund*, *Elizabeth M. West Fund*, *Samuel T. and Margaret C. Woods Fund*, *Herbert S. Worth Fund*

For more information, please contact development coordinator Mary Middleton: 314.977.0220.



CID/Washington University 2004 graduates (l to r): front—Christina Borders of Greenfield, IN, Christa Garrett of Fenton, MO, Alexis Zendejas of Corpus Christi, TX, Kacey Lindgren of Greensboro, NC; second row—Jamie Bailey of Hampton, VA, Karen Schrappen of St. Louis, Kelly Herron of Gillespie, IL, Kara Fisher of Appleton, WI; third row—Nancy Barklage of St. Louis, Stacey Morgan of Petersburg, IL, Robyn Patton of St. Louis, Stacy Allen of Warrensburg, MO; fourth row—Ashlea Wyrick of Cabot, AR, Amy Smith of St. Louis, Kathleen Faulkner of Denver; fifth row—Regina Rotert of Kansas City, MO, Megan Terry of Mt. Vernon, IL, Ann Erwin of Hurricane, WV; sixth row—Gretchen Haywood of Blue Island, IL, Emily Bradof of Spartanburg, SC, Krisjeana Ballard of Ramsey, IL, Kelly Constable of Moscow Mills, MO. Back row: Lisa Davidson of St. Louis, Nicole Wham of Parker, CO, Rebecca Zellmer of Sherwood, AR. Not shown: Susanne Tershak of Evansville, IN.

*Three hundred and twenty people attended this year's Ultimate Picnic on April 24, raising over \$260,000, including two extraordinary gifts, to benefit children at CID. The theme, "Meet Me in St. Louis," called forth the magic of the 1904 World's Fair. The evening featured auctions, music by Ralph Butler, a performance by CID*



*students and a multinational "World's Fare" dinner in a festive atmosphere of turn-of-the-century wonder. We are grateful to all of the attendees as well as to the generous donors and volunteers who worked tirelessly to make this night a success on behalf of the children. We would like to extend special recognition to our creative and dedicated 2004 Ultimate Picnic steering committee: Bonnie Andrews, Ellen Clark, Carolyn Freeman, Doug Harbison, Mindy Jeffries, Kathy Leonard, Kim Miller, Paul Nix, Janice Rohan Hulse, Jerry Talamantes, Cheryl Warren and Anabeth Weil. Thank you one and all!*



Mike Martin, Debbie Finklang, Bonnie Bell, Phil Bushman and Betty Bresnahan were among 19 NIKE employees who visited CID in February. The volunteers spent time with the children in the classrooms before teaming up in the gym for Olympics-style games. Bell, a CID board member and the director of human resources at NIKE IHM Inc. of St. Charles, has organized this event for the past four years. She and her coworkers teamed with Whitney Garmon, David Lowery, Armani Moore, Matthew Monette and Anuye Hill.



Ann Holmes, a CID Family Center teacher, works one-on-one with two-year-old Connor Hale in the nursery class.



Ethan White and his grandmother, Robin Roberts, try to hold still while Katie Faulkner, a recent audiology graduate from CID at Washington University School of Medicine, secures Ethan's first hearing aids. Katie completed a practicum in the CID pediatric audiology department.

## Joanne Parrish Knight Family Center receives special gift

The Anheuser-Busch Foundation has donated \$30,000 to support hearing-impaired children from birth to age three and their families in CID's Joanne Parrish Knight Family Center.

"Learning that your baby has a hearing loss can be extremely difficult," said Family Center coordinator Chris Clark. "But the good news is that early intervention, an important key to success at learning to talk, is becoming the norm due to state-mandated hospital screening programs. We are grateful for this timely gift."

The Joanne Parrish Knight Family Center starts by teaching families what they can do at home to help their children begin to learn spoken language. CID teachers and counselors help family members encourage their child to develop listening, understanding, vocalizing and speaking skills that are individually defined for each child. The Family Center provides weekly education sessions for family members and babies under two, a parent support group, regular hearing evaluations, a site-based Parents as Teachers program for children living in Missouri, and educational evaluations for three-year-olds.

In nursery classes for two-year-olds, trained teachers, an audiologist and a speech pathologist work with the children in small groups and individually. Parents are invited to observe through a one-way window to learn how to reinforce skills introduced in the class. Staff are credentialed providers for Missouri's First Steps program and Illinois' Child and Family Connections program.

The Family Center serves families from the St. Louis metropolitan area and a few who commute from southeast Missouri and southern Illinois. Nearly half of the children enrolled in the program are from disadvantaged families. State funding covers less than a third of the cost of educational services and counseling.

With the CID school population getting younger each year, gifts to the Joanne Parrish Knight Family Center are increasingly important. In 2003, the Family Center served twice the children it served in 1999.

The Anheuser-Busch Foundation corporate contributions program is designed to benefit, support and strengthen the communities where the company operates major facilities.

## The new age of pediatric audiology

Seven-month-old Ethan White was a bundle of ever-changing expressions as, held by his grandmother, he was tested to ensure that his new digital hearing aids were fitting properly. After being referred for further assessment by his birth hospital in Carbondale, Illinois, Ethan came to CID in June of 2003 at the age of two months with a moderate hearing loss. Since then, his parents have traveled to CID every month from Marion, Illinois, 130 miles from St. Louis. Ethan receives regular audiological services and his family receives counseling and education at the Joanne Parrish Knight Family Center.

With hearing screening legally mandated in Missouri and Illinois before newborns leave the hospital, CID is seeing increasingly younger babies, according to Lisa Davidson, PhD, coordinator of pediatric audiology.

"This has many positive implications for hearing-im-

paired children," Davidson said. "First, we are identifying mild and moderate losses much earlier than ever before. This allows for fitting of appropriate devices and implementation of intervention strategies that really have a positive effect on early language learning.

"Second, cochlear implants are being used earlier for severe to profound hearing loss. Again, it's so important for children to derive benefit during the early months and years crucial to learning language. They do better in school and typically spend less time in special education settings preparing for the mainstream."

The Whites have already experienced the benefits of early intervention. Their first child, Mariah, born with an underdeveloped cochlea, used hearing aids until age 21 months when a bump on the head caused the complete loss of hearing. Doctors recommended a cochlear

implant. She enrolled in the CID nursery class then underwent the surgery.

For a year, the Whites drove Mariah to CID three days a week. Then they rented an apartment in St. Louis for two years so she could attend the preschool. Now attending her hometown public kindergarten, Mariah still comes to CID for implant programming.

"Mariah is very social," said her mom, Aleah White. "She knows everybody at school ... and is doing well with the class work."

Mariah's brother Ethan is also doing well at age level. He babbles and attends to speech, for example emitting delighted squeals in response to the audiologist's "Buh buh buh."

"Of course, each child is different," said Davidson, "but prospects are excellent that Ethan will require less special educational management than what might have been expected with a later diagnosis."



*Congratulations to Lisa Davidson, who successfully defended her dissertation in September to earn a PhD in speech and hearing sciences from CID/Washington University. Davidson, the school audiologist since 1987, became CID coordinator of pediatric audiology in the fall of 2002. Her expertise on cochlear implants in children is evident in her doctoral research comparing the benefits of implants and digital hearing aids, slated to be published in Ear & Hearing. Her innovative focus on making soft sounds audible when programming these devices is being described as a landmark approach that will help make it possible for deaf children to more easily acquire incidental language.*

## Parent-infant baby becomes teacher of the deaf



Jenni Current

When Jenni Current was a baby, her parents voiced concern to their doctor that she was not talking or responding to them as expected. The doctor told them not to worry: Jenni was “just language delayed and would talk when she was ready.” Finally, two months before her third birthday, the Currents brought her to the professionals at CID, who confirmed their suspicions: Jenni had a severe to profound hearing loss. They got her hearing aids and enrolled her in the CID parent-infant program.

Jenni traveled to CID with her parents for a couple of years before enrolling in a mainstream nursery school in her hometown, Warrenton, Missouri. She was seen regularly by a speech-language pathologist and was fully mainstreamed in kindergarten in 1983. She graduated from high school in 1995 and in 1999 earned a bachelor’s degree in deaf education and elementary education from Fontbonne College (now University). She moved to

San Antonio, Texas and taught at Sunshine Cottage School for Deaf Children in the first and second grades and pre-kindergarten.

Last summer, Current returned to St. Louis — this time to enroll in the graduate program at Fontbonne. She will receive her master’s degree in early intervention/deaf education in August.

By virtue of an agreement between Fontbonne University and the *CID at Washington University School of Medicine* program in audiology and communication sciences, Current is doing practicum work in CID’s Joanne Parrish Knight Family Center, coming full circle at CID from client to provider of care.

“I’m really enjoying my experience,” she said. “It’s hard to believe my parents were once attending parent-infant sessions at CID to learn how to teach me how to listen and talk and now I’m on the other side.”

Both at CID and at Sunshine Cottage, Current has found she loves working with parents, including showing them what children with hearing loss can achieve. In the fall, she will continue this work teaching preschool-kindergarten at St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf-Carle at Champaign-Urbana, Illinois.



## Catching up with the Gjerdingens

Dennis Gjerdingen first came to CID in 1967 to inquire about enrolling his son Eric in the school. Upon entering the building at 818 South Euclid Avenue, he spotted a sign that said “Director” and boldly walked in, expecting to find a secretary. Instead, it was the private office of then-director S. Richard Silverman.

By the time Gjerdingen left the office, Silverman had convinced him not only to send Eric to CID, but also to enroll himself in CID’s professional training program. So began a career that has spanned over three decades.

As a graduate student at CID, Gjerdingen worked in the dorm with the older boys and also worked all of his summers in the research department. He was an assistant to Lois Elliott, was project manager for James D. Miller’s well-known project on the effects of noise on humans, and spent several summers assisting Hallowell Davis, using brain waves to measure hearing. After he graduated from the program, Gjerdingen taught in the school for four years before becoming administrative assistant to the next director, Donald Calvert. He also taught in the professional training program.

In 1978, Calvert asked Gjerdingen to become head of the school, where he served until 1981 when he was named president of Clarke School

for the Deaf/Center for Oral Education in Northampton, Massachusetts. Gjerdingen has spent 22 years as president at Clarke. During that time, he was elected president of the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and was named by Congress to the Commission on the Education of the Deaf.

His son Eric, who started in the CID parent-infant program, was ready to move to a mainstream classroom at the third-grade level. He attended Clayton public schools through his freshman high school year. He earned his varsity letter in swimming and became an accomplished water polo player.

In the summer of 1981, as his family prepared to move to Massachusetts, Eric left St. Louis to train for the Deaf Olympics. He later played water polo in Germany for the U.S. team.

Eric finished high school in Massachusetts and attended Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), earning a degree in criminal justice. At RIT he served as president of his fraternity and of the student government. Upon leaving college, he started his own business, Thrills Unlimited, with a focus on extreme sports.

Eric first tried a venture in Hawaii, but met the



Dennis Gjerdingen with 1985 CID school alum Heather Whitestone, Miss America 1995. Above left: Gjerdingen’s son Eric on a recent trip to Australia.

inventor of bungy jumping, who was seeking an American partner, so instead started his first bungy jumping business near Orlando, Florida and a second in Las Vegas. He eventually sold his share of the company to his professional partner from New Zealand, champion bungy jumper A.J. Hackett.

Eric then moved back to St. Louis to join his friends, who were also CID alumni and with whom he loved to go fishing. One of his great stories is a trip to Australia where he fought for six hours and hauled in a marlin that weighed over 1,000 pounds.

Currently, Eric works to help other deaf people at an emerging firm called Communication Services for the Deaf, headquartered in South Dakota. Today he lives in Sioux Falls and very much enjoys his work as research manager.



## Simerman adds to family legacy

Arline Simerman

Arline Simerman's father brought her to CID in 1929 when she was two. She even remembers sitting on Max Goldstein's lap and hearing her father say he could not afford tuition, to which Dr. Goldstein replied: "Don't worry. I'll take care of it."

Arline started at CID the next day. She graduated at age 15 and became the only hearing-impaired student in her high school and then at Monmouth College in Illinois. Arline also became the first person in her family to graduate from college. Her father, Carl Laemmli, was so appreciative, he left \$75,000 to CID when he died in 1988. Mr. Laemmli had

been an executive with the Boy Scouts for many years.

Arline served on the 1986 alumni reunion committee and co-chaired the 50th reunion in 1991. She said she appreciates everything CID has done for her and is grateful for her many friends from CID. Like her father, she has arranged to include CID in her will, creating a lasting family legacy.

"We are enormously grateful for Arline's commitment," said CID executive director Robin Feder. "It's very special to see two generations giving back so that others will have the opportunity to succeed."



## Remembering Mae Galli — 40 years at CID

In 1971, CID director S. Richard Silverman presented Mae Galli an award from the Conference of American Schools for the Deaf and the Convention of American Instructors of the Deaf. At that time, the award honored her for 30 years of teaching.

We join all of the CID family to mourn the loss of Mae Galli, a teacher at CID from 1941 to 1981. Galli died of cancer. She was well-loved and will be sorely missed by many people. Her former students at CID submitted many loving tributes.

"Miss Galli devoted her life to deaf children," wrote a 1987 graduate. "She was the best at teaching speech. After she retired, she continued teaching ... speech part-time. I admired her."

"I remember her steely eyes, soft silver hair and warm affection," wrote another former student. "I remember when she tried to get me

to pronounce [words] right. She was gentle but firm. ... She would tease us in the classroom. She would reward us for good efforts. If we did not do it right, she was patient with us. There were times that I would disagree, but she was kind and caring. "... I [will] not forget her gentle hugs, the gold stars, the treats and birthday parties she threw for each of us. She was my favorite teacher back then."

"Miss Galli ... was my first teacher at CID during the late 60s and I remember her as a wonderful teacher with a big heart," wrote a 1971 graduate. "I really

regretted not being able to thank her for preparing me [to enter] the hearing world."



Natalie Walker and Jeremy Marler

## Marler dies in car accident

We are sad to report the tragic loss of 1989 CID school graduate Jeremy Marler of Nashville, Tennessee. Marler, 29, was killed in March when his car hit a tractor-trailer truck.

After graduating from high school, Marler attended Rochester Institute of Technology for two years. He worked for Rand McNally and was engaged to Natalie Walker, whom he had known since they were 13 and fellow residential students at CID. Many remember Jeremy's great sense of humor, abiding friendliness and compassion. He is memorialized at [www.pkreations.com/jeremy/view.asp](http://www.pkreations.com/jeremy/view.asp).

Our heartfelt condolences go to Natalie, to Jeremy's mom, Cynthia Lister, and to all of his family and friends.

## Saigh Foundation gives \$40,000



Fred Saigh

CID has received \$40,000 from the Saigh Foundation of St. Louis. The funds will be used to help children in the school.

"This donation will help fund some of the educational costs not covered by tuition," said CID executive director Robin Feder. "We appreciate the Saigh Foundation's generous support

for the children and families we serve."

The Saigh Foundation's mission is to enhance the quality of life in the St. Louis region through charitable projects and innovative initiatives that benefit children and youth through education and health care.

The Foundation was created by Fred M. Saigh (pronounced "sigh") to serve as a legacy of the gifts he gave to the St. Louis community.

Fred Saigh was known as an extraordinarily generous man. He touched the lives of many people by sensing their need for assistance and offering help at critical times in their lives.

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The CID professional education library and Goldstein collections are now part of the Bernard Becker Medical Library under the watchful eye of CID alum Cathy Sarli.

## St. Louis oral schools are rich resource for Washington University researcher

### CID cedes library to Becker

Washington University and CID have announced the transfer of the CID Speech, Hearing and Education Library to the School of Medicine's Bernard Becker Medical Library.

The transfer took place in conjunction with the recent agreement between Washington University and CID, creating *CID at Washington University School of Medicine*. CID remains financially separate, but continues to provide faculty and practicum for the University's graduate programs in audiology and deaf education. The CID library continues to serve students, faculty and staff in these programs.

"The CID library is one of the most comprehensive scholarly collections on deafness and related fields," said Paul Schoening, director of the Becker Medical Library.

"We plan to integrate this enormously valuable resource with the technological tools of the 21st century in our commitment to fulfill the academic and scientific endeavors of the University's graduate program in audiology and communication sciences."

Founded in 1931, the CID library houses a premier collection of materials devoted to deafness, deaf education, audiology, language development, acoustics, digital instrumentation, neurology and otolaryngology. The library also contains student dissertations, theses and independent study reports dating from 1925 as well as archival material dating from the 19th century.

Early volumes were part of the personal collection of Max A. Goldstein, founder of CID. In 1977, CID donated more than 900 books from this collection on otology, deaf education and speech defects to the Becker Library to ensure their preservation and accessibility to scholars. Now, the CID library has been merged with the CID-Goldstein collection, already housed in Becker's archives and rare books department.

The librarian for CID from 1998 to 2003, Cathy Sarli, MLS, assisted with the transfer and continues as a librarian for Becker. Sarli is a 1966 graduate of the CID school.

Over the 15 years since the FDA approved cochlear implants for children, these devices have helped increasing numbers of deaf children make unprecedented strides in acquiring speech and language.

In addition to expert educational intervention, a factor crucial to this success is the quality of the audiological MAP — produced by programming an external speech processor to deliver a precise level of sound at each frequency to each electrode along an array inside the cochlea. It takes great care and patience over time to produce the best MAP for each child, and the programming must be monitored for changes.

"MAPping is expensive, so there is great pressure to streamline the process," said Margaret Skinner, PhD, director of the cochlear implant and hearing rehabilitation program at Washington University School of Medicine.

Skinner is a world-renowned scientist who has worked at CID as a clinical audiologist, researcher and audiology faculty member and earned her PhD from CID/Washington University. She is conducting a five-year National Institutes of Health (NIH) study examining and producing tools to assist audiologists with MAPping. Her co-investigators are the lead audiologist from each of the private oral schools in



*"Having three oral schools in St. Louis gives us extraordinary opportunities and responsibilities."*—Margaret Skinner, PhD

Using the resources of the schools in collaboration with Washington University surgeons and St. Louis Children's Hospital audiologists, Skinner seeks to develop a fine-grained understanding of the MAPping process. The goal is to design a realistic protocol to produce faster, improved results for children. Such a protocol would take its place beside a lifetime of Skinner's seminal work, including a widely used audiology textbook, as part of the curriculum for training future audiologists.

Skinner's study incorporates examinations of objective measures, using clinical software that measures auditory neurons' electrical responses to the implants' electrodes, along with behavioral measures and results of teacher and parent questionnaires.

St. Louis: Lisa Davidson at CID, Beth Holstad at Moog Center for Deaf Education and Beverly Fears at St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf.

"Typically, schools for the deaf don't have on-site audiologists, so MAPping takes place in hospitals and centers." Skinner said. "But we are in the exceptional position of having a large population of children with implants along with audiologists highly experienced at getting them to respond reliably to behavioral tests in order to create optimal MAPs."

"Having three oral schools in St. Louis gives us extraordinary opportunities and responsibilities," she added.

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Congratulations to *CID at Washington University School of Medicine's* audiology program, once again ranked among the nation's top 10 by *U.S. News & World Report* in 2004.

## Fair weather



*Jim Meyer, a musician with the St. Louis Symphony, played the shakuhachi during a dramatic reading of the children's book, The Paper Crane. Meyers and his wife Virginia, the school nurse, performed during the CID literacy event, "Rock Out to a Good Book" Fair. The students were introduced to stories with musical themes accompanied by creative activities, including an origami presentation by Virginia and boombox-enhanced readings of Dr. Seuss stories by Heidi Winters of Stages St. Louis.*

*Megan Bingham of Fredericktown, Missouri, and David Lowery, Zainab Ajaz and Armani Moore of St. Louis were among CID students who spent an hour learning moves from 16 All-Star players of the Major Indoor Soccer League in February. Shown with the children are Marco Lopez of the Monterrey Fury, Dino Delevski of the Kansas City Comets, last year's league MVP, and league legend Sloba Ilijevski, a former goalie for the St. Louis Steamers. The visit to CID was part of MasterCard All-Star Community Day, during which the professional athletes visited children at area hospitals and schools.*

*Four-year-old Celeste Lohman of Affton, Missouri, showed off her project, Backyard Animals, in the first-ever CID preschool-kindergarten science fair. Mom and Dad helped with the projects, which ranged from mixing colors, to exploring the universe, to experiencing the effect of wind on a toy sailboat, to demonstrating how tornados are formed. The age-appropriate science fair was a learning experience for the students, parents and teachers.*



*Zak Miles of Poplar Bluff, Missouri, and Mari Soliz of Tyler, Texas, were named 2004 Students of the Year by the Optimist Club West of St. Louis. At a breakfast in March, the students gave speeches and posed for a photo with adults (from left): CID Optimist Club sponsor Tom Kavanaugh, school principal JoEllen Epstein, assistant houseparent and graduate student Jamie Bailey and primary-middle school coordinating teacher Barb Lanfer.*

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