

## Bess Sirmon-Taylor, PhD

[sirmontaylor@utep.edu](mailto:sirmontaylor@utep.edu) ~ 915-202-7271

### EDUCATION

- 2006      **Doctor of Philosophy in Linguistics**  
University of Georgia, Athens, GA  
Dissertation: *Patterns of Language Use in Mania*
- 1992      **Master of Science in Psychology**  
Georgia College and State University, Milledgeville, GA  
Thesis: *Spectral Analysis of the Speech Sounds Perception Test and the Potential Relationship to Hearing Loss*
- 1987      **Master of Science in Speech Pathology and Audiology**  
Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL
- 1984      **Bachelor of Science in Speech Pathology and Audiology**  
Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL

### UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

#### **University of Texas at El Paso, Graduate School, El Paso, TX**

**Associate Dean of the Graduate School** – 2013 to present. Responsibilities include:

- Leadership of Graduate School Communications, including website, graduate student orientation, and development of Graduate Education Days, recruiting plans, newsletter, and Amigo Miners
- Project management of cyclical graduate program reviews mandated by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB)
- Grant Preparation Co-PI for Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP)
- Dual Credit Initiative for Teachers team, for high school teachers to receive graduate-level credentials to teach college-level courses to high school students
- Management of pool of awards: Diana Natalicio Dissertation Fellowship, Dodson Research Grants, Graduate Student Travel Awards, Fellowship Incentive Program, Summer RA awards
- SACSCOC Steering Committee representative (site visit in 2016)
- Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) and Association of Texas Graduate Schools (ATGS) meetings
- Professional Development for Graduate Students workshop presenter
- School of Pharmacy Accreditation Advisory Committee
- Oversight of renewal of international MOU with CONACyT
- Office of Research and Sponsored Projects Council Representative
- Graduate Faculty Marshall for Commencement
- Graduate Scholarship Committee Ex-Officio

**Interim Dean of the Graduate School** – April to July, 2014. Responsibilities included:

- Oversight of all Graduate School operations and management of staff of 16 through leadership transition period
- Represented the Graduate School in Executive Administration and Deans' Council meetings, Doctoral Hooding Ceremony, UTEP Centennial Commencement, and related activities
- Coordinated graduate program reviews for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
- Served as Ex-Officio to the Graduate Council

**Chair, Search Committee for Dean of the College of Health Sciences, Fall 2016-Spring 2017**

## **ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

### **University of Texas at El Paso, College of Health Sciences, El Paso, TX**

Tenured Associate Professor of Speech-Language Pathology - 2012 to present

Assistant Professor of Speech-Language Pathology - 2006 to 2012

- **Teaching Responsibilities – 2006 to present**
  - **SPLP 1312** – Survey of Speech, Hearing and Language Disorders
  - **SPLP 3313** – Disorders of Articulation and Phonology
  - **SPLP 3314** – Disorders of Language in the Preschool Population
  - **SPLP 3318** – Principles of Clinical Management in Speech-Language Pathology
  - **SPLP 4320** – Independent study addressing patterns of bilingual acquisition
  - **SPLP 5330** – Differential Diagnostics in Speech-Language Pathology
  - **SPLP 5366** – Communication Disorders and Literacy
  - **SPLP 5372** – Patholinguistics: Patterns of language use in mental illness
  - **SPLP 5372** – Medical Speech-Language Pathology
  - **SPLP 5376** – Multicultural/Multilingual Issues in Communication Disorders
  - **SPLP 5398/99** - Thesis
  - **GRAD 6394** – Doctoral level independent research
  - **CHSC 6398/99** – Dissertation
  - **Guest lectures** – multiple SLP, Physical Therapy, and Occupational Therapy classes
- **Senior Faculty**
  - Peer observation of teaching for faculty in Rehabilitation Sciences
  - Tenure/Promotion Review Committee for CHS and School of Nursing
  - Mentor new teaching instructors
- **Associate Director, UTEP Concussion Management Clinic**
  - Supervision of data collection, worked with post-doctoral fellows, served as community liaison, prepared manuscripts and presentations primarily focusing on policy
- **Graduate Advisor**
  - Responsible for advising graduate students and applicants to the program
  - Liaison with Academic Advising Center in College of Health Sciences
  - Graduate student orientation
- **Participation on graduate student committees**
  - Benigno Valles, PhD in Interdisciplinary Health Science (director)
  - Roxana Delgado, PhD in Interdisciplinary Health Science (committee)
  - Jose Arturo Jaime, PhD in Interdisciplinary Health Science (committee)
  - Angelee Shamaley-Kornatz, PhD in Interdisciplinary Health Science (committee)
  - Edina Bene, PhD in Interdisciplinary Health Science (committee)
  - Danielle Webster, PhD in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences (committee)
  - Over 80 thesis and capstone committees in Speech-Language Pathology, Nursing, and Linguistics since 2007
- **Grant Activities**
  - Salvatore, AP, Sirmon-Taylor, B, Summers, CL, Mueller, VT, Desjardins, J. (2015). Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students, Health Resources and Services Administration, for recruiting and retention activities, including funding tuition and expenses for 15 speech-language pathology graduate students per year for four years. *Not Funded*.

- Sirmon-Fjordbak, B. (2011). CHS Technology Initiative. This project targeted development of a website to serve as a resource for information about concussion for consumers and professionals, including definitions, legislation, prevention and management tips, and will meet objectives of Healthy People 2020. **Accepted.**
  - Sirmon-Fjordbak, B. & Salvatore, AP. (initially submitted in 2010; revised and resubmitted in 2011). US Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (projected at \$1,000,000) Training grant to educate speech-language pathologists in concussion management; also establishing a community-based network for continuum of service, continuing education and concussion prevention activities. In preparation for this project, participated in Grant Proposal Preparation Workshop with the Monarch II Center, Chicago, IL. *Not funded.*
  - Tansey, T. N. & Sirmon-Fjordbak, B. (2011). Understanding self-regulation: A basic research proposal. National Institutes of Health (NIH) - National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). \$403,700. *Not funded.*
  - Tansey, T. N. & Sirmon-Fjordbak (2010). Capacity building in rehabilitation counseling. Submitted to the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), U. S. Department of Education, Project proposal: Sept. 2010-Aug 2015. \$1,000,000. *Not Funded.*
  - Salvatore, AP, & Sirmon-Fjordbak, B. (2010) National Institutes of Health R-21 grant to address collaboration between middle school science class cohorts and the Concussion Management Clinic, involving early exposure to neurosciences. \$1,280,000 for five years. *Not funded*
  - Solorio, T. & Sirmon-Fjordbak, B. National Science Foundation (*Funded at \$105,000* [\$22,000 for UTEP subcontract]) Co-PI with Thamar Solorio, PhD, from University of Texas at Dallas Computer Science Department - Collaborative Research: Statistical Methods for Learning to Diagnose Specific Language Impairment in Bilingual Children. **Funded** 2008-2009.
  - Liu, Y., Solorio, T., & Sirmon-Fjordbak, B. National Institutes of Health grant (\$300,000) [Liu and Solorio from the University of Texas at Dallas Computer Science Department] – Language Models in Bilingual Children with Specific Language Impairment, 2007. *Not funded, but recommended for revision and resubmission.*
  - Solorio, T. & Sirmon-Fjordbak, B. National Science Foundation grant (\$440,000) – Language Models in Code-switching in Bilingual Children with Specific Language Impairment, 2007. *Not funded.*
  - Sirmon-Fjordbak, B. UTEP University Research Institute grant (\$4995) as Principal Investigator – Patterns of Bilingual Language Acquisition in Spanish-English Speaking Children in the El Paso Borderland Region. **Funded** 2006 - 2007.
- **Advisor for Student Grant Activity**
    - Hispanic Health Disparities Research Center Student Pilot Project Award to Jacqueline Lopez (\$10,000) for two consecutive years to study Hispanics’ perceptions and attitudes regarding voice disorders. **Funded** 2009 - 2010. Served as thesis director.
  - **Committee Appointments/Service**
    - University: Vice-Chair of the Graduate Council  
Graduate Research Expo judge  
Campus Concealed Carry Task Force Member/presenter  
Leadership Development Institute Steering Committee  
Bookstore Advisory Committee  
UTEP Women’s Advisory Council  
PUENTES Internal Advisory Board

- College: Round Table moderator on Mentoring at UTEP Sun Conference  
Plenary Speaker for UTEP LIVE event  
Invited speaker for Ability Awareness Week Opening sessions  
Invited speaker for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars event  
Multiple search/interview committees  
Executive Committee for CHS IHS PhD program  
FACES PhD Program Coordinator  
Social Work Interview Committee  
Graduate and PhD Faculty Appointments  
Chair, SPLP Faculty Search Committee  
Search Committee for Director of Rehab Counseling program  
Search Committee for Speech-Language Pathology Faculty Position  
Search Committee for Occupational Therapy Faculty Position  
Search Committee for Rehab Counseling Faculty Position  
Interim Chair and Co-Chair, Community Affairs Committee  
MC of CHS Gold Nugget Ceremony, 2010 - 2016
- Departmental: Graduate Student Advisor  
Curriculum Committee  
Scholarship Selection Committee, sponsored by EPSHA  
Council for Academic Accreditation preparation work  
Faculty peer reviews  
Mentor to part-time instructors

**Universite Methodiste au Katanga, Mulungwishi Station, Katanga Province, DR Congo, Africa**  
Guest lecturer - June, 2012

- College of Information Technology – introduction of Kindle technology, consultation during inservice training for faculties of elementary and high school on implementation of Kindles
- College of Education and Psychology – review and feedback on senior thesis projects

**University of Georgia, Dept. of Communication Sciences and Special Education, Athens, GA**  
Instructor, Program in Communication Sciences and Disorders - 2004-05

- **CMSD 4130** – Language Science
- **CMSD 6540** – Assessment and Intervention of Preschool Language Disorders
- **CMSD 6700** – Diagnostics in Speech-Language Pathology
- **Guest Lectures:** CMSD 6600 – Research Design; CMSD 6840 – Neurogenic Speech Disorders; LING 2100 – Intro to Linguistics; CMSD 6560 – School-age Language Disorders

**University of Georgia, Adult Neurogenics and Language Processing Laboratories, Athens, GA**  
Graduate/Doctoral Studies Research and Teaching Assistant - 2002-03

- TA for CMSD 4500 – Language Development, and CMSD 4520 – Language Disorders.

**Georgia State University, Dept. of Educational Psychology and Special Education, Atlanta, GA**  
Clinical Instructor, Communication Disorders Program - 2000-02

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

- Models of ethics education in healthcare disciplines
- Public Policy in Concussion Management – analysis of policy diffusion trends in legislation related to management of concussion in school-aged populations.
- Concussion Management – study of changes in neurocognitive/linguistic function after mild TBI/concussion in athletes, and soldiers returning from deployment in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- Patterns of Language Use in Mental Illness, a longitudinal corpus linguistic study

## **PUBLICATIONS**

- Sirmon-Taylor, B** & Edge, RE. (submitted). Review of Ethics Continuing Education Requirements in State Licensure Laws for Speech-Language Pathologists.
- Sirmon-Taylor, B** & Abbassi, EN. (submitted). Recovery progression and symptom resolution in sport-related mild traumatic brain injury.
- Sirmon-Taylor, B** (submitted). Standardized assessment. *Encyclopedia of Human Communication Sciences and Disorders*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.
- Salvatore, AP & **Sirmon-Taylor, B**. (submitted). Concussion. *Encyclopedia of Human Communication Sciences and Disorders*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.
- Salvatore, AP, Bene, ER, Cannito, M, **Sirmon-Taylor, B**. (in revision). Auditory comprehension performance of students with and without a sports-related concussion on subtest VII of the Computerized Revised Token Test. *Concussion*.
- Sirmon-Taylor, B**. (in press). Review of *Ross Information Processing Assessment: Geriatric (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed)*. In J. F. Carlson, K. F. Geisinger, & R. A. Spies (Eds.), *The nineteenth mental measurements yearbook*. Retrieved from the Buros Institute's Test Reviews Online website: <http://www.buros.org/>
- Edge, RL, **Sirmon-Taylor, B**, and Prezas, RF. (2016) A Comprehensive Review of the 2016 ASHA Code of Ethics, *Journal of Human Services: Training, Research, and Practice*: Vol. 1: Iss. 2, Article 5.
- Crawford, N. & **Sirmon-Taylor, B**. (2014). Community-based resources for concussion management. *Seminars in Speech and Language, 35*(3), 166-172.
- Lo, C. & **Sirmon-Taylor, B**. (2014). A model of prevention of sports concussion in adults. *Seminars in Speech and Language, 35*(3), 211-220.
- Sirmon-Taylor, B** & Salvatore, AP. (November, 2012). Consideration of the federal guidelines for academic services for student-athletes with sports-related concussion. Invited manuscript for ASHA Special Interest Group 16 *Perspectives on School-based Issues, 13*, 70-78.
- Dretsch, MN, Thiel, KJ, Athy, JR, Irvin, C, **Sirmon Fjordbak, B**, & Salvatore, AP. (2012). Working memory functioning mediated by mood symptoms in active-duty Soldiers being treated for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder. *Brain and Behavior*, open source, DOI:10.1002/brb3.53
- Sirmon Fjordbak, B**. (2011, August 30). Concussion legislation: How the states stack up. *ASHA Leader, 16*(10), 1.
- Salvatore, AP & **Sirmon Fjordbak, B**. (2011). Concussion management: Speech-Language Pathologist's Role. *Journal of Medical Speech-Language Pathology, 19* (1), 1-12.
- Wettig, H.H.G., Franke, U., **Fjordbak, B.S.** (2006). Evaluating the Effectiveness of Theraplay, in C.E. Schaefer and H. Kaduson (Eds). *Contemporary Play Therapy: Theory, Research and Practice*, New York: Guilford Publications.
- Covington, M.A., He, C., Brown, C., Naci, L., McClain, J.T., **Fjordbak, B.S.**, et al., (2005). Schizophrenia and the structure of language: The linguist's view. *Schiz Rrch, 77*, 85-98.
- Fjordbak, T. & **Fjordbak, B.S.** (2005). WAIS-III Norms for Working-age Adults: A Benchmark for Conducting Vocational, Career and Employment-related Evaluations. *Psychological Reports, 96*, 9-16.
- Fjordbak, B.S.** (2003). Sommerfriezeit für Behinderte Kinder [Summer Camp for Special Needs Children]. *Schwierige Kinder: Verstehen und Helfen [Difficult Children: Understanding and Helping]*, 29, 8-9.

## **PUBLISHED ABSTRACTS**

- Salvatore, AP, Bene, ER, **Sirmon Fjordbak, B** & Cannito, MP. (2011). Examining cognitive efficiency index score before and after mild traumatic brain injury in college athletes. 15<sup>th</sup> Congress of the European Federation of Neurological Societies, Budapest, Hungary. [abstract]. *Accepted, but withdrawn from presentation due to lack of travel funds.*
- Dretsch, M, Prue-Owens, K, Salvatore, A & **Fjordbak, BS**. (2010). Mild traumatic Brain Injury Moderates Executive Attention in U.S. Army Soldiers with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, *Brain Injury*, 24, 3, 254-255. [abstract]
- Sirmon Fjordbak, B**. (November, 2010). Differential diagnosis of language patterning in mental illness: The SLP's role. Conference proceedings from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Convention, Philadelphia, PA. [abstract]
- Sirmon Fjordbak, B.**, & Salvatore, A.P. (November, 2010). Clinical case studies in concussion management. Conference proceedings from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Convention, Philadelphia, PA. [abstract]
- Salvatore, AP, **Sirmon Fjordbak, B**, Bene, ER, Ponce de Leon, M, & Prue-Owens, K. (2008). Comparison of Concussion in Athletes and Soldiers. Conference Proceedings from *New Developments in Sports-Related Concussion* Conference. [abstract]
- Fjordbak, BS**, Salvatore, AP, Bene, ER, Neal, MR, Nelson, R, & Valles, B. (2008). Sports-Related Concussion and Word Fluency. *Brain Injury*, 22:1, 158. [abstract]
- Fjordbak, T., **Fjordbak, BS**, Faulkner, MD. (2006). Working memory processes and stroke. *Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine*. <http://www.medicaljournals.se/jrm/strokerehab/index.php?p=P-20> [abstract].
- Fjordbak, B.S.** (2003). Spectral analysis of the Speech Sounds Perception Test and the potential relationship to hearing loss. *Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology*, 18 (7), 767-768. [abstract].

## **SELECTED PRESENTATIONS** (75+ presentations)

- Best Practices in Ethics Education.** Sirmon-Taylor, B and Edge, RL. Platform presentation at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association convention, Philadelphia, PA, November 2016.
- Exploring Ethics Education in Speech-Language Pathology.** Edge, RL and Sirmon-Taylor, B. Platform presentation at the Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association convention, Ft Worth, TX, March 2016.
- Invited Keynote to graduates.** Sirmon-Taylor, B., UTEP School of Nursing Master of Science in Nursing Hooding Ceremony, El Paso, TX, December 2015.
- Curricular Models of Ethics Education.** Sirmon-Taylor, B and Edge, RL. Platform presentation for the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Convention, Denver, CO, November 2015.
- Concussion Management for SLPs.** Sirmon-Taylor, B. Invited presentations for the Indiana Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Convention, Indianapolis, IN, April 2015.
- A Model of Concussion Prevention.** Sirmon-Taylor, B., Lo, C., Stewart, M. Poster presentation at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Convention, Orlando, FL, November 2014.
- Concussion Legislation: Where Are We Now, and What Happens Next?** Sirmon-Taylor, B. Platform presentation at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, November 2013.

**Comparison of performance of concussed and non-concussed individuals on Subtest VIII of the C-RTT.** Salvatore, AP, Bene, ER, Sirmon-Taylor, B. Platform presentation at the Clinical Aphasiology Conference, Tucson, AZ. June 2013.

**Block Schedule: A model for integrating research and practice.** Salvatore, AP, Sirmon-Taylor, B, Nelson, R, Valles, B. Platform presentation at the Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders, Phoenix, AZ, April 2013.

**Patholinguistics: Understanding the connections between language and mental illness.** Sirmon-Taylor, B. Invited keynote for the San Antonio Speech-Hearing-Language Association, April, 2013.

**Academic re-entry for student-athletes with concussion: working within the guidelines.** Sirmon-Taylor, B and Salvatore, AP. Podium presentation at the Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Convention, Dallas, TX, March 2013.

**Psychometrics 101: What to do with all that test data.** Sirmon-Taylor, B. Invited presentation at the Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Convention, Dallas, TX, March 2013.

**Pragmatic Language: What it is and how to deal with it,** Sirmon-Taylor, B. Invited presentation to the Rock Hill School District, Ironton, OH, October 2012.

**Patterns of cognitive-communicative change after sports-related concussion.** Sirmon-Fjordbak, B & Salvatore, AP. Podium presentation at the Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Convention, San Antonio, TX. March, 2012.

**Concussion and PTSD: Cognitive-linguistic correlates in athletes and soldiers.** Sirmon Fjordbak, B, Salvatore, AP, Bene, ER. Podium presentation at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Assn Annual Convention, San Diego, CA, November 2011. *\*\*Selected as Co-Chairs' Premier Presentation for 2011.*

**Examining Cognitive Efficiency Index Score Before and After Mild Traumatic Brain Injury in College Athletes.** Salvatore, A. P., Bene, E. R., Sirmon-Fjordbak, B., Cannito, M. P. 15<sup>th</sup> Congress of the European Federation of Neurological Societies, Budapest, Hungary, September 2011. *Accepted as a peer-reviewed/refereed presentation, but withdrawn due to lack of travel funds.*

**Correlation Between ImPACT Reaction Time and CRTT Efficiency Score in Concussed Athletes.** Salvatore, AP, Sirmon Fjordbak, B, Bene, ER, Islas, AA. Platform presentation at the Clinical Aphasiology Conference, Ft. Lauderdale, FL. June 2011.

**Conversations with the Experts: Panel Discussion on Legislative and Licensure Issues.** Sirmon Fjordbak, B., Higdon, LW, Hanna, MJ, Sancibrian, S. Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Convention, Houston, TX, March 2011.

**Case Studies in Concussion Management.** Sirmon Fjordbak, B., Salvatore, AP. Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Convention, Houston, TX, March 2011.

**Legislative Update 2011.** Sirmon Fjordbak, B., Higdon, LW, Hanna, MJ. Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Convention, Houston, TX, March 2011.

**Current legislative issues and health professionals (Panel Discussion).** Sirmon Fjordbak, B. (participant). Legislative Summit Meeting of the Texas Society of Allied Health Professionals (TSAHP), Round Rock, TX, January, 2011.

- Differential diagnosis of language patterning in mental illness: The SLP's role.** Sirmon Fjordbak, B. Podium presentation at the annual meeting of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Philadelphia, PA November, 2010.
- Clinical case studies in concussion management.** Sirmon Fjordbak, B. & Salvatore, AP. Podium presentation at the annual meeting of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Philadelphia, PA, November, 2010.
- Investigation of Linguistic Markers in Mental Illness.** Sirmon Fjordbak, B. Invited speaker at UTEP Linguistics Colloquium, El Paso, TX. September, 2010.
- Prevention and care of concussion in school-aged athletes.** Salvatore, AP, Sirmon Fjordbak, B. Invited podium presentations over two days to middle and high school coaches and staff in the Socorro Independent School District, El Paso, TX, August, 2010.
- Identification and Management of Neurocognitive Changes after Concussion.** Sirmon Fjordbak, B. Health Research Symposium, a joint teleconference venture between UTEP College of Health Sciences and Victoria University, Australia, August, 2010.
- Perception and identification of voice disorders: A comparison study between Hispanics and non-Hispanics.** Lopez, JN & Sirmon Fjordbak, B. Poster presentation at the Hispanic Health Disparities Research Center Health Literacy in Hispanics Conference, El Paso, Texas. June, 2010.
- Collaboration in the Management of Sports-Related Concussion: Athletic Trainers and Concussion Management Clinic.** Salvatore, AP, Sirmon Fjordbak, B. Islas, AA, Dominguez, D., Sipla, JJ. Sun City Athletic Trainer Association 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium, El Paso, TX. May 10, 2010.
- What clinical professionals need to know about the political process.** Sirmon Fjordbak, B. Invited Speaker at *In Celebration of Nursing 2010: A Symposium for Nurses*. Sponsored by Opportunities for Growth in Nursing, Calhoun Community College, Decatur, AL, April 2010.
- Mild traumatic brain injury moderates executive attention in US Army soldiers with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.** Dretsch, MN, Prue-Owens, KK, Salvatore, AP, & Sirmon Fjordbak, B. Poster presentation at the International Brain Injury Associations Eighth World Congress on Brain Injury, Washington, DC., March, 2010.
- Speech-Language Pathology in Concussion Management.** Sirmon Fjordbak, B. & Salvatore, AP. Podium presentation at the annual meeting of the Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Ft. Worth, TX, March 2010.
- Conversations with the Experts: Round table discussion on Sunset Review.** Sirmon Fjordbak, B. (moderator). Moderated panel discussion at the annual meeting of the Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Ft. Worth, TX, March, 2010.
- Need to know: Ethics and the practice of speech-language pathology.** Sirmon Fjordbak, B. Invited presentation to the El Paso Speech-Language-Hearing Association, El Paso, TX., Jan, 2010.
- Sports Related Concussions for Coaches, Athletic Trainers, Nurses, and Sports Injury Specialists.** Islas, AA, Salvatore, AP, Sirmon Fjordbak, B. Podium presentation at annual meeting of the Texas Assn for Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance (TAHPERD), El Paso, TX, January, 2010.
- The Role of Speech-Language Pathology in Managing Sports-related Concussion.** Salvatore, AP, Sirmon Fjordbak, B., Sipla, JJ, Dominguez, D. Two hour podium presentation at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA, November 2009.



**Bicognition and the impact on Speech-Language Pathology.** Garcia, AL, Alvarez, EC, Sirmon Fjordbak, B. Poster presentation at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA, November 2009.

**Biculturalism and its effect on pragmatics: Language difference or disorder?** Chavez, V., Mendez, T, Bordier, N, Sirmon Fjordbak, B. Poster presentation at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA, November 2009.

**Developmental Patholinguistics.** Sirmon Fjordbak, B. Two hour podium presentation at the Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Convention, Austin, TX, April, 2009.

**Perceptions and Attitudes of Bilingual Speakers on Bilingualism: A Regional Study.** Sirmon Fjordbak, B, Lopez, JN, Martinez, ER, Balderas, M, and Garcia, AL. Poster presentation at the Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Convention, Austin, TX, April, 2009.

**Recovery of cognitive-communicative behavior following concussion in high school and college athletes.** Salvatore, Anthony P. and Sirmon Fjordbak, B. Podium presentation at the Academy of Neurologic Communication Disorders and Sciences Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, November, 2008.

**Survey of Perceptions and Attitudes on Bilingualism by Bilingual Speakers.** Sirmon Fjordbak, B, Lopez, JN, Martinez, ER, Balderas, M, and Garcia, AL. Podium presentation at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, November 2008.

**Continuity of Care and Will's Bill.** Salvatore, AP, Fjordbak, BS, Bene, ER, Neal, MR. Texas Society for Allied Health Professions Annual Meeting (TSAHP). El Paso, TX, September, 2008.

**Comparison of Concussion in Athletes and Soldiers.** Salvatore, AP, Fjordbak, BS, Bene, ER, Ponce de Leon, M, & Prue-Owens, KK. Poster presentation at *New Developments in Sports-Related Concussion* Conference. Pittsburgh, PA, July, 2008.

**Developmental Patholinguistics: Differential Diagnosis of Language Use in Mental Illness.** Fjordbak, BS. Invited workshop for the El Paso Speech-Language-Hearing Association, June 2008.

**Sports-Related Concussion and Word Fluency.** Fjordbak, BS, Salvatore, AP, Bene, ER, Neal, MR, Nelson, RL, & Valles, B. Poster presentation at the Seventh World Congress on Brain Injury. Lisbon, Portugal, April, 2008.

**Critical Thinking & Eductive Reasoning Among SLP Students.** Fjordbak, BS, DeChicchis, AR, Fjordbak, T. Seminar presented at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Convention, Boston, MA, November, 2007.

**An Educational Model to Integrate Research & Practice in SLP.** Salvatore, AP, Fjordbak, BS, Nelson, R, Valles, B. Poster presentation at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Convention, Boston, MA, November, 2007.

**Post-Concussion Management Case Study of a High School Football Player.** Salvatore, AP, Fjordbak, BS, Nelson, R, Valles, B. North American Brain Injury Society 5th Annual Brain Injury Conference, San Antonio, TX, September, 2007.

**Academic Re-entry after TBI.** Fjordbak, BS. Invited speaker at Tri-Unity Community Conference, University of New Mexico, Las Cruces, New Mexico, March, 2007.

**Variations in Patterns of Language use in Mental Illness.** Fjordbak, BS. Invited lecture, UTEP Department of Computer Science Seminar, November, 2006.

**Functional Language Changes After Stroke.** Fjordbak, BS. Invited lecture series, Del Sol Medical Center Rehabilitation Department, El Paso, Texas, October 19, 26 and November 2, 2006.

**Patterns of language use in mania.** Fjordbak, BS. Invited lecture, Artificial Intelligence Center Seminar, University of Georgia, June, 2006.

**Working memory and stroke.** Fjordbak, T; Fjordbak, BS; Faulkner, MD. Poster session, International Stroke Rehabilitation Conference – 2006, Göteborg, Sweden, April, 2006.

**Individual patterns of language use in a case of Major Mood Disorder.** Invited presentation for the Grupo de Neurociencias, Universidad de Antioquia, Medellín, Colombia, October, 2005.

**Schizophrenia and the structure of language: the linguist's view.** Covington, MA; Brown, C; He, CZ; Naci, L; Fjordbak, BS; and Brown, J. Presented at the SANE POWIC Meeting on Language and Psychosis, Oxford (UK), July, 2004.

**Social Skills: Assessment and Treatment of Pragmatic Language Disorders.** Fjordbak, BS. Invited presentation at the 2002 GSHA Annual Convention, Atlanta, GA, March 2002.

**Evaluation and Treatment of Acute Neurological Patients.** Fjordbak, T. Fjordbak, BS. Three-day workshop at Las Palmas/Del Sol Medical Center, El Paso, Texas, May 31 – June 2, 2001.

### **LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION**

- Certificate of Clinical Competence, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (1988)
- Licensed, Texas State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology
- Previously licensed as a Speech-Language Pathologist in Georgia, Florida, and North Carolina

### **PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL EXPERIENCE**

#### **Clinical Supervisor (2006 to 2014)**

Speech and Hearing Clinic, University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, TX

Concussion Management Clinic, University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, TX

#### **Expert Witness/Forensic Consultant (2004 -2005)**

Provide data analysis and review, and expert testimony related to assessment and intervention in the area of pragmatic language and speech-language pathology issues in special education.

#### **Speech-Language Pathologist (2000 - 2006)**

Lumpkin County Schools, Dahlonega, GA and Clarke County Schools, Athens, GA

#### **Speech-Language Pathology Consultant/Director of Speech-Language Education (1999 - 2003)**

The Dogwood Institute, Inc, Roswell, GA: Continuing Ed Administrator to the ASHA Continuing Education Department.

#### **Speech-Language Pathology Department Head (1999 - 2000)**

Children's Therapy Works, Roswell, GA: clinical service provision; Director of *SuperCamp for Special Needs Kids*, a day camp for children with primary diagnoses in the autism spectrum.

#### **Pediatric Program Coordinator/Speech-Language Pathologist (1997 - 1999)**

Dawson County Rehabilitation Center, Dawsonville, GA: In addition to clinical responsibilities, co-founded parent support group, developed and marketed pediatric program; developed, marketed and managed *Camp Summer Fun*, a summer day camp program for special needs children.

**Director of Clinical Operations (1994 - 1997)** Global Rehabilitation Services, Cumming, GA: Oversight to multidisciplinary professional staff which increased fivefold during that time.

**Pediatric Camp Director** (1993 - 1996)

Brain Injury Association of Georgia, Atlanta, GA: Organized, marketed, staffed and managed an overnight summer camp program for medically fragile children with brain injury and other disorders.

**Speech-Language Pathologist/Cognitive Remediation Specialist** (1991 - 1994)

Private Practice, Macon, GA

**Speech-Language Pathologist** (1987 - 1991) Capital Rehabilitation Hospital, Tallahassee, FL, Learning Services-Carolina, Durham, NC, Central Georgia Rehabilitation Hospital, Macon, GA

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

- Member, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)
- Member, Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association (TSHA)
- Institutional member, Council of Graduate Schools (CGS)
- Institutional member, Association of Texas Graduate Schools (ATGS)

**PROFESSIONAL AND SERVICE ACTIVITIES****American Speech-Language-Hearing Association**

- Topic Chair for Traumatic Brain Injury, Convention Planning Committee for 2015 and 2016; organized clinical and research experts as invited speakers in concussion and TBI; recruited review committee
- Reviewer for *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*
- Reviewer for Leadership and Professional Issues topic strand for ASHA 2017 Convention

**Congo Projects for Relief**

- Board member of 501(c)3 NGO based in Texas, serving healthcare, nutrition, educational literacy, and clean water projects in Democratic Republic of Congo, Africa
- Mission team volunteer, Mulungwishi Station, Democratic Republic of Congo, Africa
- Involved with fundraising and development activities to support ongoing projects

**Rotary Club of El Paso**

- Vice President for Programs, Rotary Club of El Paso, 2015-2016
- Participant in 2016 Institute for Leadership
- Volunteer for multiple community-based service projects sponsored by the club

**Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation**

- Board Member and chair of the Education Committee, 2011-2014
- Organizational Committee for the Oscar Mauzy Leadership Conference, 2013
- Round table facilitator on Leadership Styles for Oscar Mauzy Leadership Conference, 2015

**Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association**

- TSHA Leadership Academy Mentor, 2016-2017
- TSHA Political Action Committee (TSHA-PAC) Board Member, 2011-2013
- Vice President for Social and Governmental Policy, 2009-2011
- Provided testimony at legislative committee hearings on Sunset Review and Concussion bills
- Councilor to VP of Social and Governmental Policy, 2008-2009, 2011-2012
- Trainer, Ethics and Legislative Issues for 18 regional meetings across Texas, 2008 to 2012.
- Co-Chair, Grassroots Legislative/Regional Association Task Force, 2007-09, 2012-13

**Georgia Speech-Language-Hearing Association**

- President, and Chair of Executive Council and Officers Council, 1997-1998
- Treasurer, GSH-Political Action Committee, 2000-2002

- Northwest Regional Representative and Chair of Legislative Committee, 1995-1996
- Provided federal testimony on Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Provided testimony on licensure, certification and Medicaid at a committee hearing of the Georgia General Assembly.

### **Special Olympics of Georgia**

- Chair of the Area 02 Management Board, developed and implemented Annual Management Plan, provided oversight for budgetary and correspondence issues, 1999-2000

### **Brain Injury Association of Georgia**

- Program Chair, Brain Injury Association of Georgia Annual Convention, 2000 and 2001

### **Free Romania Foundation, Cambridge, MA**

- Team Leader - Appointed to lead a group of volunteer professionals in a humanitarian relief effort assisting disenfranchised handicapped children in an orphanage in a poverty-stricken rural area of Romania, 1992

### **Other volunteer service activity:**

- Volunteer, Kelly Memorial Food Pantry
- Volunteer, KTEP Public Radio pledge drive
- Volunteer, vacation Bible school and multiple summer camps, Trinity First UMC
- Volunteer, Texas Ramp Project through the Rotary Club of El Paso

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

- 2016 Rising Star Award from the Rotary Club of El Paso
- Graduate of the UTEP Leadership Development Institute, Class of 2011-2012
- Distinguished Service Award, Georgia Speech-Language-Hearing Association, 1999
- ACE Award, American Speech-Language Hearing Association, 1992, 1997, 2000

## **MEDIA SPOTS**

*El Paso Times* (5-27-13). *Health Matters* column – Know what to do in case of a stroke.

*El Paso Times* (5-31-09). Guest editorial: Speech-language pathologists, audiologists enhance many lives.

*El Paso Times* (11-19-07). *Health Matters* column - Spanglish becomes the norm on the border.

*El Paso Inc/Southwest Senior*. (6-11-11). What you can do to keep lines of communication open.

*Communicologist*, Vol. 38 (3), June, 2011.

- 2011 Capitol Visit
- Legislative Update

*Communicologist*, Vol. 38 (2), March/April, 2011.

- 2011 Texas Legislative Update, p.4

*Communicologist*, Vol. 37 (6), December, 2010. Contributed two pieces and edited four others

- Sunset Review: TSHA is ready! (front cover, guest editorial)
- Politics 101: A primer for professionals, pp. 14-15

*Communicologist*, Vol. 36 (5), October, 2010. Contributed one article

- PAC changes mean better statewide representation, p. 25

*Communicologist*, Vol. 36 (4), August, 2010. Contributed three articles

- Members answer the call on District Legislative Day, p. 5
- Annual Report (Social and Governmental Policy section), pp. 9-12

- Legislative Update, p. 18

***Communicologist***, Vol. 36 (2), April, 2010. Contributed three articles

- Town Hall Meetings, p. 3
- Legislative Report, p. 12
- Grassroots Advocacy: The Power of One, p. 14

***Communicologist***, Vol. 36 (1), February, 2010. Contributed two articles

- Growing at the grassroots, p.11
- Golden Crescent Regional Assn sets the standard for grassroots involvement, p.13

***Communicologist***, Vol. 35 (5), October 2009.

- Sunset Review: An opportunity for TSHA (guest editorial, featured on cover)

***Focus on Campus*** on KTEP, El Paso, Texas – invited appearances on a local radio talk show, involving discussions of speech-language pathology (April 6, 2007), and collaborative research in bilingual acquisition (May 4, 2007).

***Perspectives*** on KTEP, El Paso, Texas – invited appearance on locally-produced radio talk show with Dr. Anthony Salvatore to discuss concussion management (air date: October 11, 2008)

***Perspectives*** on KTEP, El Paso, Texas – invited guest expert on live radio call-in show hosted by Louie Saenz to discuss code-switching and Spanglish, with Dr. Thamar Solorio (aired April 16, 2007).