



CENTRAL INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF

Spring 2005

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

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The CID Oral School
and Outreach Center
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 children and adults
with hearing loss.

A day in the life.

Class of 2005.

New board members.

page 2

President Jayne.

Special thanks.

Roses and trivia.

In memory.

page 3

Importance

of parents.

page 4

Cityscapes.

Six-year-old hero.

page 5

Reaching out.

Remembering a pioneer.

From Calcutta and

New York.

page 6

CID at WUSM.

Legendary figure.

page 7

Kid stuff.

page 8



*"Receiving my training
on the CID campus gave me
access to unique resources.*

*It was always easy to consult
with teachers and to arrange
classroom observations."*

— Washington University graduate
Nancy Barklage, in her first year
of teaching at CID

Two-year, CID at Washington University School of Medicine program offers more

Nancy Barklage has accomplished her high school dream of becoming a teacher of the deaf. After two years of graduate training in Washington University's CID-affiliated deaf education program, operated by the Program in Audiology and Communication Sciences (PACS) in the School of Medicine, she joined the CID teaching staff last year.

Barklage chose the PACS program because it provided enough training to meet her needs. "My undergraduate degree is in a different area," she explained. "The other school I considered offered a shorter program. There would have been no time to catch up."

Corine Theobald, a May graduate of the deaf education program, will begin her career next fall teaching in a self-contained oral kindergarten class in DeKalb County, Georgia.

Theobald has an undergraduate degree in communication disorders. She says she too looked elsewhere, but was

most impressed by the CID at Washington University School of Medicine PACS program.

"Another program put us in practicum all day and class all night and through the summer," she said. "When I visited CID, it was obvious they provide the kind of support needed to be successful. They make sure you have a great background before they let you teach in the classroom."

Of the U.S. universities currently offering degrees emphasizing deaf education, Washington University is one of a few with a two-year full-time master's degree program affiliated with an oral school. According to PACS director William Clark, PhD, Barklage and Theobald are among students who have rejected a national trend toward programs as short as a year, cutting study and practicum time.

"Shorter programs usually mean graduates need additional coursework for certification or extra training during their first year teaching," Clark said. In addition, many programs cannot provide students the kinds of access available at the CID school, where experienced teachers serve as faculty and help develop curricula.

"We offer the CID oral school as one of several practicum sites," Clark said, "and CID's teachers and students often serve as an additional daily resource that greatly enhances our graduate training."

"In turn, PACS strengthens CID by keeping our teachers involved in academic instruction and providing top-notch candidates to become our teachers and audiologists," CID executive director Robin Feder said. Recently, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education reaccredited the PACS deaf education program through 2012. The reviewers noted the "outstanding intellectual environment," "rigorous program" and "capable, dedicated faculty."



Legacy of professional training at CID

Teacher training was part of CID from the beginning, when Max Goldstein began instructing teachers of the deaf in rooms above his medical office in 1914. In 1931, the CID program became the first teacher training program in the country to be offered through a university when it affiliated with nearby Washington University. In 1936, CID and Washington University collaboratively began the country's first master's degree program in deaf education.

In the years to follow, CID was instrumental in developing a new discipline, audiology. As a natural expansion of the research and clinical work of the faculty, CID and Washington University established the country's first audiology program in 1947, offering a master's degree first, later a PhD and, most recently, an AuD.

Since 2003, these degrees have been offered independently through the Program in Audiology and Communication Sciences (PACS) as part of a consortium of programs known as CID at Washington University School of Medicine.



Robin M. Feder, MS, CFRE
Executive Director

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Highlights of one day in the rich history of CID

I am often reminded of what a unique organization CID is and how special are the legacy and responsibilities we bear. Here are a few highlights, all from one day in March, 2005:

- Six women — four teachers, an administrator and an audiologist — from the only private oral school in Japan, came to St. Louis for the sole purpose of visiting CID. They described their visit as something they have wanted to do all their lives and said spending just a few hours here was “a dream come true” for them. One of the visitors’ fathers was Oshima Isao, a leading oral deaf educator and a close friend of my mentor, former CID director S. Richard Silverman. She also said the first audiologist in the history of Japan was trained at CID. Our rich connections never cease to amaze me.

- Council on Education of the Deaf certification site visitors said they were thoroughly impressed with our teachers, graduate students and faculty, our children and our school. One of the most meaningful remarks I heard was from one representative who commented on the fabulous read-

ing and early reading programs at CID. Noting the “word walls” in primary-middle school, intensive emerging literacy program in pre-k, and other evidence of reading all around CID, she made a point of saying she is not seeing this kind of progressive reading education in the other schools she visits.

- Also on the same day, I received an e-mail from Dr. Karen Waldron, director of special education at Trinity University, thanking our staff for her previous week’s visit: “I want to extend my sincere thanks to you and your staff for such gracious hospitality. ... Your teachers are doing an outstanding job educating a diverse and wonderful population of students with incredibly varied needs. We learned a great number of excellent and important teaching techniques from visiting classrooms and interviewing your staff. ... It was exciting to have the opportunity to review your [curriculum] and discuss programming ... The interviews provided excellent suggestions for mainstream teachers that will clearly enhance their abil-

ity to teach [hearing-impaired] students in their classrooms.”

- And if all of these accolades and evidence of our rich history weren’t enough, my final e-mail of the night made a perfect ending for the day. The e-mail was from a CID alum, Paige Thompson, asking if she and her fiancé, CID alum Darren Matzker, could have their wedding at CID! Paige wrote: “The school is where we met, back in 1981 when Darren was 6 and I was 5.”

Other than this touching request, this day’s events by themselves are not even very unusual, but together they epitomize the rich, full complexity of CID. Weeks later, I found myself reminded again of this richness at another touching event: the CID school’s joint commencement ceremony with the CID at Washington University School of Medicine PACS graduate programs. As the educators, audiologists and school graduates took the stage together, they participated in a long tradition of children and adults learning from one another and together achieving their dreams.

Every day, I am proud of the accomplishments of our students, and proud to be a part of the wonderful work done by our talented and dedicated staff. I thank all of them and all of you for continued contributions to the rich history of CID.—RMF

Congratulations, class of 2005

In May, CID school students (front row) Ryan Schmidt of St. Charles, Missouri, Ardian Pollo of St. Louis, Whitney Goza of Marble Hill, Missouri and David Lowery of St. Louis joined students of the Washington University deaf education, audiology and communication sciences graduate programs (collectively the CID at Washington University School of Medicine Program in Audiology and Communication Sciences, or PACS) for a dual commencement ceremony. The PACS graduates are: Maureen Valente, Laura Saia, Jaime Carmody, Brent Spehar, Dena Witkin, Raquel Marrah, Amanda Shinall and Corine Theobald. (Bethany Gehrlein is not shown.) In keeping with longstanding tradition, the children presented farewell speeches.

Welcome, board members



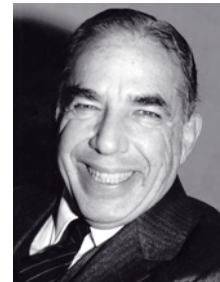
C. Baker Cunningham



Linda Goldstein



Steve McMillan



Edwin B. Meissner, Jr.

In December, CID welcomed four members to the board of managers: C. Baker Cunningham, president, CEO and director of Bel-den CDT Inc.; Linda Goldstein, vice president of CI Flooring Solutions and CI Floor and Furniture Care and a second-term Ward II Alderman in Clayton; Steve McMillan, owner and president of McMillan Cabinetmakers, and Edwin B. Meissner, Jr., a community leader and retired vice president of the Hilliker Corporation. Goldstein is the daughter-in-law of longtime CID board member Sara Goldstein. McMillan’s and Meissner’s late fathers were also CID board members. Meissner is a life member and a returning active member of the board, serving initially from 1957 to 1996.



Michiru Hosoda and Kakuko Kinoshita, teachers at Nippon Rowa Gakko, the Japan Oral School for the Deaf in Tokyo, chatted with 2-year-old family center nursery student Sharitta Givens during their recent visit to CID.



New board president Tom Jayne with CID student Molly Parker at the Ultimate Picnic



Jayne is president of the CID board of managers

At its annual December meeting, the CID board of managers welcomed new president Thomas R. Jayne. Jayne is a senior partner and practice area leader at Thompson Coburn LLP. His practice primarily involves transportation, manufacturing, banking, finance and construction, but he has a strong interest in sci-

ence and medicine. He has successfully tried numerous cases in state and federal courts in 10 states and has published articles on noise and hearing loss. He serves on the executive committee of the National Association of Railroad Trial Counsel, is a member of the board of governors for Truman State

University and is member of an advisory board for the Hugh Knowles Center.

Jayne, previously a vice president, has been a member of the CID board since 1989. He assumes the leadership responsibility from Robert Clark after Clark completed his third (non-consecutive) term as president.

"Few people in the St. Louis area fully understand the worldwide impact CID has had on the fields of hearing and deafness," Jayne said.

"After attending one graduation ceremony, I knew I wanted to stay involved to help ensure that CID continues to have that impact in the future."

Thank you, Mr. Clark!



CID students recently expressed their fondness and appreciation for Robert Clark, who served as volunteer executive director May 2002–October 2003 and recently retired as president of the board. Clark negotiated the historic agreement with Washington University, preserving the CID Oral School and Outreach Center and creating a new consortium of programs, CID at Washington University School of Medicine. He remains a vice president on the board.

Trivia night nets record amount

The CID Corporate Outreach Committee's third annual Trivia Night was a resounding success, netting a record \$11,363 in February. The funds will help students learn to listen and talk at CID.

The Corporate Outreach Committee (COC) is composed of young professionals

who serve as CID ambassadors in the St. Louis community, raising awareness and support from individuals and businesses.

Since its inception in January 2001, the group has contributed more than \$137,000 toward the students' educational costs.

In loving memory

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of CID board of managers member **William B. McMillan, Jr.**, who died in March after a long illness at his home in Ladue, Missouri. He was 78.

Mr. McMillan had been a vice president of the board and a member for 20 years. His business career included being CFO and president of operations at Hussmann Corporation in St. Louis and later working in the investment brokerage business. He served on boards and raised

funds for many St. Louis charities. He cofounded the McMillan-Avery Foundation, which became part of the St. Louis Community Foundation. Mr. McMillan was a caring man who worked tirelessly for the community. He will be missed by many.

We also note with sadness the loss of former CID board member **Carl L. Hall** in January. Mr. Hall was former president, CEO and chairman of Graybar Electric Company. He served on the CID board from 1999 to 2000. He died of cancer in Cincinnati at age 67.

We are also sad to report that **Patricia Housewright**, mother of Andrew Housewright, passed away in March at age 89. Andrew was a student in the CID parent-infant program from 1968 to 1969 and a 1970 graduate of CID.

Finally, we extend condolences to CID board member Ted Armstrong, whose father, **Theodore R. Armstrong**, passed away in April. Mr. Armstrong was 94 years old.

We are grateful for the thoughtfulness of the families who have requested memorial contributions be made to help the children at CID.

320 ladies and gentlemen turned out in their finery to the 2005 CID Ultimate Picnic on May 7. The event, a Kentucky Derby after-party dubbed "Run for the Roses," exuded stylish southern charm complete with mint juleps, CID school students in colorful jockey garb and hundreds of fresh roses. The party featured a performance of "Camp Town Races" by the students, sumptuous southern fare and dancing to the music of Big Bamou. Auction participants bid on a shih-tzu puppy (above, with CID student David Lowery and Ellen Clark), trips to Paris and New York, catered private parties at the Jewel Box and a penthouse overlooking Forest Park, a 4th of July fireworks party downtown and a walk-on at The Muny. Our thanks go to the generous donors and hosts, including steering committee members Bonnie Andrews, Ellen Clark, Martee Combs, Doris Devereux, Doug Harbison, Janice Rohan-Hulse, Mindy Jeffries, Kathy Leonard, Carolyn Lussier, Cathy Lux, Kim Miller, Laurie Miller, Paul Nix, Deanne Parnas, Cheryl Warren and Anabeth Weil.



Parents of CID preschool-kindergartners recently attended an open house to learn what marvels may await their children in primary-middle school.

Monette coaches deaf/hearing basketball team



Parent activity surges at CID

Parents are a child's first teachers and they are integral partners with CID teachers and audiologists in getting the very best education to meet their children's needs.

This year in the Joanne Parrish Knight Family Center, parents kept the two-way mirror observation room in constant use, watching their 2-year-olds in the nursery class and using the opportunity to socialize and learn about one another.

Parents schoolwide had additional opportunities for support and camaraderie during monthly meetings held at CID. Staff and outside experts gave topical presentations and group discussions were held on parents' topics of choice. Teachers showed informative videos and organized panel discussions featuring deaf adults with cochlear implants, students from the CID primary-middle school and parents of young deaf adults.

"It's especially important for parents of younger hearing-impaired children to get

information and discuss concerns with people who really understand how they feel," CID family center coordinator Chris Clark said.

This year, parent involvement reached new heights in the preschool-kindergarten, where parents not only visited at least twice to observe their children, but also worked at home on activities designed to enhance their children's learning at school.

Reading was a constant emphasis. On Mondays, each child was loaned a new library book along with a parent guide outlining what to point out or talk about while reading the book together during the week.

"Homelink" was another recent addition to the pre-k. This letter, which went home to parents on Mondays, described daily things to do and talk about surrounding the department's weekly themes. Every Friday, a pre-k newsletter summed up the week and gave a preview of the next week's activities.

Pre-k parents also joined the students for holiday parties and field trips, with almost everyone coming to the "Sesame Street Live" ice show. In March, the pre-k parents conducted a simple science experiment with their children at home and created a display. CID invited all of the children, parents and staff to April's Simple, Sensational Science Fair.



Larry Nordlof, father of CID graduate Erik Nordlof (1994), participated on a parent discussion panel on cochlear implants.

Also in the spring, the CID primary-middle school held the first "Stepping Up," an open house for pre-k parents interested in CID's continuation of services for children older than 5.

In the primary-middle school "Ready ... Set ... Go!" program, parents of children expected to mainstream in the near future met once a month to learn and talk about issues and concerns. The group discussed placement and support service options, the use of FM systems in the classroom and preparing for an individualized education plan designed for the transition year.

Led by president Becky Schmidt, the parents organization also had an active year. The group raised funds for CID by creating and selling t-shirts, holding a holiday sale, cohosting a Pancake Man event, attending a professional organization fundraiser and helping with Trivia Night and the Ultimate Picnic.

It was less about being competitive and more about having fun, but at the final buzzer of the last game of the season, one might have thought the team had just won the NCAA tournament, according to CID board member, parent and first-time coach Scott Monette.

"The kids started jumping around, shirts flying," he said. "I'll never forget the genuine joy on their faces."

Monette was talking about the CID students and their hearing peers who this year composed a recreational basketball team in the City of Olivette. The team recorded 3 wins, 3 losses and 2 ties.

But the record tells only part of the story. "I think it was healthy for the hearing kids to learn about deaf kids, the things on their ears, how they talk a little differently," Monette said. "And it was great to see the CID kids take initiative. At the first practice, I watched amazed as Dalton told the hearing kids about his implant, what it does, how he can't hear if he doesn't

CID board member, parent and team coach Scott Monette with Molly Parker, Dalton Coon and Zak Miles, who played basketball with hearing children this winter. Not shown: CID teammates Matthew Monette and Trent Thomas.

have it on. It was really a mature thing to do."

Monette has other stories: how, after Zak was fouled and knocked another boy down trying for a rebound, he reached out to help him up (such sportsmanship is rare in league play), how Molly, finally comfortable with shooting, started doing it "almost too much," how his son, Matthew made his first basket and how Trent became the star of the team.

Most of the CID players are previous residential students whose parent/s moved to an Olivette apartment complex this year so the children could attend CID. The Monettes live nearby.

"The kids were going stir crazy and needed to have some fun," Monette said. "I'm so proud of them. I think I got more out of it than they did."



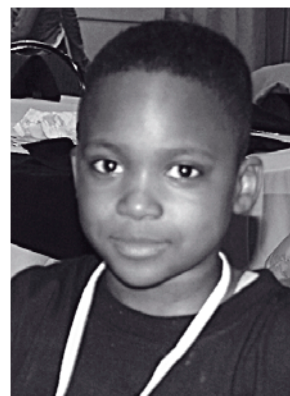
CID alumna Trudy Miller (1962) and Jim Mangano participated on a deaf adult panel at a recent parent meeting.



In April, another CID board member, Kim Miller (middle of photo) also brought deaf and hearing children together when she rented a roller-skating rink and CID students joined their peers from Mary Institute Country Day School for an afternoon of fun.



Winning artist Matthew Monette with Charlie Brennan, KMOX radio talk show host, Mike Jorgensen, general manager of The Westin St. Louis hotel, Randy Jackson, weekend anchor of KMOV-TV News Channel 5 in St. Louis, Fredbird, official mascot of the St. Louis Cardinals, and Betty Cuniberti, a columnist for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

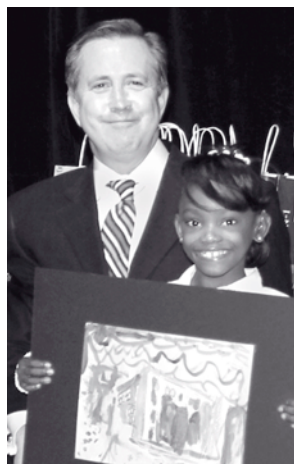


Quick-thinking CID student is family hero

Art contest inspires students to experience St. Louis

Excitement filled the air in April in a packed banquet room at The Westin St. Louis hotel. Adding measured pauses to enhance the anticipation, Charlie Brennan of KMOX radio artfully announced the winners of the CID primary-middle school art contest, "Places in St. Louis." Nine-year-old Matthew Monette won the contest with a painting titled "St. Louis." His prize was a family trip to Disney World.

Second prize, won by 7-year-old Anuye Hill with a painting called "The Hotel," was a weekend at the Chicago Westin, including passes to the zoo and bike-riding along



Lake Michigan. Nine-year-old Ardian Pollo won third prize with his work, "Art Hall." He received a family weekend in Branson with passes to Silver Dollar City and other attractions. Fredbird gave all of the contestants Cardinals baseball tickets.

The art contest was the brainchild of The Westin St. Louis general manager, Mike Jorgensen, whose daughter has a hearing loss. Jorgensen said he wanted to combine his passion for helping deaf children with his enthusiasm for a revitalized St. Louis. He is showcasing



Left: Mike Jorgensen with second place winner, Anuye Hill, and her painting, "The Hotel." Above: Ardian Pollo with his third place picture, "Art Hall."

all of the contest submissions at his hotel. Matthew's winning painting will appear on the children's menu at The Westin's Clark Street Grill.

The students worked with Lezlie Silverstein from the Center of Contemporary Art and CID teacher Julia West to create paintings of city places.

"The children learned as much about landmarks and architecture as they did about painting," West said.

"The contest was a fabulous opportunity for our students to get involved in the world around them through the process of making art," said CID school principal JoEllen Epstein.

The judges were Charlie Brennan from KMOX radio, Randy Jackson from Channel 5, Betty Cuniberti of the *Post-Dispatch*, St. Louis Cardinals manager Tony La Russa and a local artist, Carol Carter. Millennium Communications facilitated the contest.



All of the students, including Austin Spears, had an unexpected thrill at the awards banquet: an autograph session with the legendary Tony La Russa.



The art contest started with a field trip to the The Westin St. Louis, including lunch and a tour of the hotel. The contestants, including Calea Conlee and Whitney Garmon, were treated to fare from the children's menu at Clark Street Grill.

Driving back from Alabama on a trip to visit his dad, 6-year-old CID primary-middle school student Dee Pointer's mom hit a patch of slippery pavement and ran off the road, rolling her SUV three times and landing in a position from which she could not free herself. Thinking fast and figuring out what to do, Dee released his 4-year-old brother from the car seat, got the car seat out of the car, dragged them both to the side of the road, strapped his brother into the car seat and proceeded to flag down help. Dee and his mom moved to the St. Louis area this year so he could attend CID. Dee had a late start learning to talk and recently received a cochlear implant. "We are so proud of Dee," said primary-middle school coordinator Barb Lanfer. "He knew exactly what to do and had the presence of mind to help his family in a crisis situation."

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To receive a copy of the 2004 annual report to the community, please contact Kim Readmond at the e-mail address above.

CORRECTION: Please note an error in the fall 2004 issue of sound effects: Mary Sambo Burgesen is the correct name of the CID alumna pictured on page 8 at the Missouri Association for the Deaf 100th anniversary event last summer.

Reaching professionals far and near



Susan Van Wie, a speech pathologist at Phoenix Day School for the Deaf (back), was among spring cochlear implant workshop attendees who visited CID.

Professional activities continue throughout the year at CID. Recent highlights include:

- In April, 42 professionals from 12 states attended the CID cochlear implant workshop, with 17 staying an extra day to attend a 22-participant seminar on intervention for hearing-impaired babies. Ten developmental therapists attended a half-day CID seminar, "Hearing Loss and the Young Child," designed to introduce them to the special needs of hearing-impaired children. Staff are developing a language-teaching workshop.

- Recognizing the growing demand of parents, CID staff have created consulting and training services for school districts developing oral programs. CID recently entered

into an agreement to provide such services for a consortium of 21 school districts in Riverside, California.

- In October, family center coordinator Chris Clark, teacher Julia West, audiology coordinator Lisa Davidson, PhD and pre-k coordinator Lynda Berkowitz spoke at St. Louis Children's Hospital's conference, "Auditory Intervention and Management of Hearing-Impaired Infants and Children."

- Also in recent months: Davidson presented "Speech Perception of Children with Cochlear Implants or Digital Aids" at the Third International Pediatric Conference in Chicago and the Eighth International Cochlear Implant Conference in Indianapolis.

In memoriam

Leo G. Doerfler, PhD, a graduate of the CID/Washington University deaf education master's degree program in 1941, died in July 2004 in Oyster Bay Cove, New York, at age 85.

Doerfler was a teacher of the deaf before he became an acoustic officer for the U.S. Army, where he made his mark as one of the pioneers of audiology. Later, he

started an audiology program at the University of Pittsburgh he directed for 28 years. He served as president of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and was the first chairman of the American Board of Examiners in Speech Pathology and Audiology. Doerfler was a founding member of the Academy of Dispensing Audiologists and the American Academy of Audiology.

Alumni profile



"CID's rich heritage was felt every moment in everybody around. ... Thanks to your excellent team, parents and children. How much we appreciated the visit to CID!"

— Rekha Roy, founder and director of Speech and Hearing Institute and Research Center (SHIRC) in Calcutta, India. SHIRC offers diagnostic and medical care, hearing aid fitting and academic, arts and vocational training for deaf children and young adults.

Roy pioneers oral education in rural India

When Rekha Roy opened the Speech and Hearing Institute and Research Center (SHIRC) in Calcutta, India in 1978, she dreamed of helping people who otherwise would have no way to communicate or make a living. After 27 years, SHIRC operates 10 rural centers. Currently, it serves 285 deaf people from birth to 22.

In 1971, Roy graduated from CID/Washington University with a masters' degree in speech and hearing. She had come to CID as a Fulbright scholar after teaching at the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing in Mysore. She had attended Man-

chester University in the UK and, before that, Calcutta Teacher Training College, starting at age 16.

Roy fondly remembers her CID instructors, among them Drs. Silverman, Davis, Hirsh, Kleffner and Erber, and Audrey Simmons-Martin, whom she credits for introducing her to the "parent-professional partnership." SHIRC teachers currently visit parents in their homes. Roy is also creating rural home demonstration centers akin to the one started by Simmons-Martin in 1966, now the CID Joanne Parrish Knight Family Center.

In a country of more than a billion people where poverty and disease are pervasive, Roy has come a long way to realize her dream, but still struggles with having adequate means to help deaf children listen and talk. Indian children with hearing loss, especially girls, typically do not go to school and have no access to rehabilitation.

"Also, cochlear implants are a distant dream in India," she said. "Our technology is increasingly outdated and often we do not have the resources we need."

Since leaving CID, Roy has served as principal of the Calcutta Deaf School and Teacher Training College, as an audiologist at Calcutta Hospital, as the director of the National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped and as a member of the boards of studies of five universities. She is past president of the Indian Speech and Hearing Association and of the National Convention of Educators of the Deaf. She has written more than 100 papers and is author/editor of *Status of Disability in India 2000*. She also developed a preschool teaching college degree course for the Rehabilitation Council of India, for which SHIRC is a training site.

Roy's passion for helping deaf people runs in her family. Both of her parents and two of her cousins became teachers of the deaf. Her son is a speech-language pathologist and audiologist in Indiana.

Otto-bruc finds success in the city



Thomas Otto-bruc

at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), he became part owner of a successful apartment search business in New York City with more than 120 employees.

Otto-bruc said he does much of his business using a tele-internet pager, which frees him up to travel often. He credits the help of a deaf fraternity brother for getting his foot in the door of the business. He also knows the value of his childhood education. "Without CID, I don't think I would be who I am today," he said.

Otto-bruc also said he first learned the value of friendship at CID. Through his pager and other means, he stays in touch with his CID friends, including several college fraternity brothers.

Profoundly deaf in both ears, Thomas Otto-bruc came to the CID school with his mother in 1983 so her three-year-old could attend CID. He spent 12 years learning to talk, first in the residential program and then living with his mother, who moved to St. Louis from Monaco after six years. Last summer, less than a year after earning his bachelor's degree in business management from National Technical Institute for the Deaf



Four-year-old CID alumna Taylor Andersen was among students who participated in the age of implantation study led by Johanna Nicholas, PhD.

Nicholas, who joined CID as a research assistant in 1982, has led and contributed to many important childhood deafness studies. She is a research associate professor in the department of otolaryngology, CID at Washington University School of Medicine.



Hirsh is honored

Age of implantation study yields important results for parents

CID students were among 76 North American deaf children participating as volunteer subjects in a five-year study designed to help answer the question: How early should a baby receive a cochlear implant?

Johanna Nicholas, PhD, a scientist at CID at Washington University School of Medicine, grouped the children based on age of implantation and tested their language at 3½ and 4½ years old.

In the fifth year of the study, the differences produced by earlier age of implantation are striking. For example, 3½-year-olds implanted between 12 and 18 months of age averaged nearly twice as many different spoken words in a 30-minute videotaped language sample as 3½-year-olds implanted between 28 and 36 months.

In addition, preliminary data indicate that children implanted before 12 months may receive even more benefit, suggesting that younger may be better. To answer this important question for parents, Nicholas seeks additional funding so she can look at more children implanted between 6 and 12 months. She also wants to test the current study participants again to determine if the positive effects of early implantation hold true at age 8 or 9. In addition, further videotape

analysis will help determine how age of implantation affects speech development.

Nicholas' study is supported by the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders.



"Having a strong relationship with the CID school helps us stay grounded in important practical questions for children and their parents." — Johanna Nicholas

Trials begin for novel treatment of tinnitus

Jay Piccirillo, MD, an otolaryngologist and scientist at the Washington University School of Medicine, is studying a drug that, if found effective, would be the first medication to successfully treat tinnitus, a condition characterized by constant ringing in the ears.

The drug under study, gabapentin, is available in pills normally used to treat seizures and phantom limb pain. Piccirillo got the idea to try it after a simple realization: For some, tinnitus may be a phantom sound generated in the auditory cortex of the brain. In an earlier pilot study, 9 out of 20 patients

found relief after taking gabapentin.

"The reason for their tinnitus is some type of biochemical alteration of the brain," Piccirillo explained. "Whereas, for patients for whom it is not working, perhaps it's the cochlea, the hair cells of the cochlea, or some other reason."

Piccirillo is an associate professor in the department of otolaryngology, CID at Washington University School of Medicine. His tinnitus study is supported by the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders.

Nicholas and Piccirillo are among Washington University faculty conducting hearing and deafness studies as part of a consortium of programs operated by the department of otolaryngology and known as CID at Washington University School of Medicine. The programs are fiscally separate from but affiliated with CID.

"The name Ira J. Hirsh is associated with innumerable scientific contributions, ... outstanding mentoring of research scientists and dedicated service to the fields of acoustics, audiology and psychology." — *Audiology Today*, January/February 2005

In March, Ira J. Hirsh, PhD received the Life Achievement award from the American Auditory Society. He was also honored by his colleagues in a recent issue of *Audiology Today*, the magazine of the American Academy of Audiology, which features an interview.

Hirsh's distinguished career spans more than 50 years and hundreds of research articles. His 1952 book, *The Measurement of*

Hearing, helped shape the discipline of audiology. His voice is that of the famous CID W-22 Word List recordings, still used widely to test the perception of speech.

Hirsh is research director emeritus and executive director emeritus of CID, professor emeritus in the PACS program, and dean emeritus of the Washington University faculty of arts and sciences.

CID at Washington University School of Medicine

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CID at Washington University School of Medicine programs are financially separate from the CID Oral School and Outreach Center. Donations may be earmarked either to train audiologists and teachers of the deaf in the PACS program or to support hearing and deafness research, and can be sent to Randy Farmer, Office of Medical Alumni Development, Washington University School of Medicine, 4444 Forest Park Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63108.



Left: In February, CID board member Bonnie Bell (back) organized the fifth annual Nike Go Day, during which employees of Nike IHM Inc. St. Charles and CID students gave their imaginations a workout. The children and their Nike buddies had fun dogsledding in Alaska and doing the hula in Hawaii, among other imaginative activities. Bell recently announced she is moving out-of-state to pursue a career opportunity.



Three- to 5-year-olds in the CID preschool-kindergarten learned through creative theme-based activities during the year. One weekly theme for May was "Just Add Water." The children created art, made popsicles, read stories about swimming and the ocean and "water-colored" the sidewalk.



In January and February, students throughout CID raised \$409.42, mostly in change, to help the victims of December's devastating tsunami in South and Southeast Asia. In December, the students collected clothes, toys and other essentials for children served by the Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition.



Michelle Beehner and Ardian Pollo were 2005 Optimist Club West St. Louis CID Students of the Year. At a breakfast held to honor them in March, they gave a talk and posed for a photo with principal JoEllen Epstein, teacher Debra Myrick and primary-middle school coordinator Barb Lanfer.

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