

FACULTY

Jessica Berry, PhD, CCC-SLP, is the acting Department Chair and Assistant Professor of Speech Pathology and Audiology at South Carolina State University. Her area of expertise and research focuses on child language development in the context of nonmainstream dialect use, in particular the Gullah Geechee language and African American English.



Financial Disclosures

- Employed by South Carolina State University
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Belinda Daugherty, PhD, CCC-SLP, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Speech-Language Pathology at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB), where she serves as Undergraduate Mentor and co-advisor of the CSULB Gold Honors NSSLHA chapter. She completed her BA in English and Spanish at Spelman College and earned her MA in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology at NYU. After working as a bilingual speech-language pathologist with early intervention populations and specializing in intervention with individuals with autism spectrum disorder, she completed her PhD in Education with a specialization in Human Development and Psychology at UCLA. Her research interests include social skills and parent involvement in children with autism spectrum disorder, as well as barriers to early access to diagnosis and treatment of autism in communities of color. Additionally, she is interested in issues of cultural competence for speech-language pathologists.



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Valarie B. Fleming, PhD, CCC-SLP, is Professor & Chair in the Department of Communication Disorders at Texas State University. She is the Director and Principal Investigator of the Cognitive-Communication Laboratory (C2L) and teaches courses in adult neurogenics and swallowing disorders. Fleming completed her doctoral training in neurogenic communication disorders at The University of Texas at Austin. She received her Master's and Baccalaureate degrees in speech-language pathology from The University of Memphis and the University of Central Arkansas, respectively. As a certified speech-language pathologist, she has rehabilitative experience with adolescents and adults in acute care, skilled nursing facilities, and outpatient settings. Her research focuses on cognitive and linguistic aging, mild cognitive impairment, and variables influencing access and utilization of health services in culturally and linguistically diverse populations. Her passion for teaching and her interests in the access and utilization of health care services spurred her to assist faculty in developing inclusive classroom practices and preparing culturally competent clinicians.



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- ASHA SPLAC member (TEXAS)
- CAPCSD Conference Planning Committee Member at Large

Valerie E. Johnson, PhD, CCC-SLP, (pronouns: she/her/Dr) received her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Speech-Language Pathology from Florida State University and her PhD in Communication Sciences and Disorders from the University of Massachusetts. As a doctoral student at UMass, she worked with Drs. Harry Seymour, Jill de Villiers, and Tom Roeper in the development of the Diagnostic Evaluation of Language Variation (DELV). The DELV is a diagnostic test designed to identify speech and language disorders/delays in children and limits assessment bias for speakers of nonmainstream varieties of English. Currently, Johnson is an Assistant Professor and the Founding Program Director for the newly developed SLP Program at Rutgers University in Newark, New Jersey. Her current research examines language acquisition and its disorders in children who speak African American English and developing assessments to reduce cultural and linguistic biases in language assessment.



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Giselle Nunez, PhD, CCC-SLP, is an Assistant Professor at Saint Xavier University in Chicago, Illinois. Her research interests are in the areas of cultural competency, bilingualism, and child language development.



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