What’s happening this month?

Monday Nov. 4th: NSSLHA 3rd Meeting
  Location: Bonnie Combo Room
  Time: 1pm-2pm

Wednesday Nov. 6th - Friday Nov. 13th: Tote bags/sticker fundraiser

Tuesday Nov. 12th: Alzheimer’s Awareness Table
  Location: Bonnie
  Time: 12pm-2pm

Thursday Nov. 14th: Mingle & Munch - Thanksgiving Craft Night
  Location: Waldron 226
  Time: 5pm-7pm

Monday Nov. 18th: BINGO Game Night
  Location: Heth 014
  Time: 6pm-8pm

Wednesday Nov. 13th - Thursday Nov. 21st: Sock Drive

Friday Nov. 22nd: NSSLHA Facebook Family Photo/Questions Due
Shea Swingle
COSD

Shea is a senior in the COSD program. She is from Northern VA and is the 3rd of 4 kids. Her first name is Madeline, but her parents knew they wanted to call her Shea -- they just didn't want to name her Shea Madeline because they thought it sounded too much like a French restaurant. Initially, Shea wanted to become a nurse or counselor, but she quickly realized blood was not her thing and she began looking into alternative careers. That is when she found COSD and realized it was everything she wanted! This year, Shea is most excited about completing her honors capstone, finding out where she will go to grad school, and planning her sister's wedding!
Rachel Bobbitt
GRAD

Rachel is a first year grad student in the COSD program. She is from Arkansas and is fluent in American Sign Language. She also has two horses at home. Rachel became interested in COSD in high school when she was diagnosed with auditory processing disorder. Now, she wants to help others conquer what she has learned to turn into a great strength! Rachel is most looking forward to working in the clinic and gaining new experiences.
Mrs. Laux has been practicing speech-language pathology since May 2017. She obtained both her bachelor's and master's degree from RU. She met her husband while at RU and they married in Aug. 2017. They welcomed their first child in July 2019. She loves living in the mountains and enjoying the beauty of the New River. She is always promoting the area and trying to get her friends and family to move here.
Mrs. Laux grew up in the Northern Neck of VA on a mini farm. She was first exposed to speech pathology because her mom is an occupational therapist. However, she didn't think about COSD as a career until her brother-in-law made her take a career test and it suggested communications. As she began learning more about the field, she says, "I found it to be a perfect mix of my love for language, one-on-one teaching, creativity and working with children." She also really liked that it is a career that she can have part time and raise a family. Before working here at RU, Mrs. Laux worked at CORA therapy. CORA is an outpatient clinic in Blacksburg, VA. She worked primarily with children targeting language, speech and fluency; but, she also saw adults with cognitive, voice and fluency disorders.

Mrs. Laux's advice for the young SLP: "Seek the advice and guidance of more experienced SLPs. I was fortunate enough to work in a setting with multiple other SLPs, one of which had an office right across from my own. I was always popping in and getting her input on a client or my ideas. Bouncing ideas back and forth was so helpful and she really made my experience as a new SLP so much better. It can be intimidating when you are fresh in the field and are expected to be the expert but admitting your limitations and seeking the help of your co-workers is so beneficial and makes it much more manageable."
Fun Facts About RU’s COSD Graduate Program

- 65 graduate students
- 100% pass rate on National Praxis Exam
- 100% employment rate following graduation from graduate program
- can get Master of Arts or Master of Science
- only 5 semesters!!
- over 170 contracted clinical sites in 13 states (i.e., you can do your externship almost anywhere!)
- not a COSD major? no problem! we have a 3 year track for non COSD majors
- clinical experience with both kids and adults!