FACULTY

Michelle S. Bourgeois, PhD, CCC-SLP, is an ASHA Fellow and a professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of South Florida. She has received numerous grants from the National Institutes of Aging and the Alzheimer’s Association to investigate interventions for spousal and nursing home caregivers designed to improve the quality and quantity of communicative interactions with residents with dementia, to evaluate memory aids and interventions for persons with dementia and traumatic brain injury, and to develop training programs for institutional caregivers. A clinical researcher, Bourgeois has published numerous research articles, training manuals and CDs, and books. She was the recipient of the 2007 Barry Reisberg Award for Non-Pharmacologic Research, Theory, and Clinical Practice.

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- Employee of University of South Florida

Nonfinancial Disclosures:
- Member of volunteer panel for the Alzheimer’s Association
- Volunteer advisory committee member for Alzheimer Montessori Internationale

Becky Khayum, MS, CCC-SLP, is a speech-language pathologist and co-founder of MemoryCare Corporation, a company that provides therapy, support, and counseling for individuals with neurodegenerative disease in the Chicago and Indianapolis areas. She specializes in the non-pharmacological treatment of dementia syndromes, with a focus on person-centered care. Khayum also participates in research targeting treatment approaches for primary progressive aphasia and is currently collaborating with the Northwestern Cognitive Neurology and Alzheimer’s Disease Center on the Communication Bridge Study, an Internet-based speech-language therapy program for individuals with dementia. Khayum holds an MS degree in speech-language pathology from the University of Arizona and a BS degree in communication disorders from Purdue University.

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Darby Morhardt, PhD, LCSW, is an associate professor and Director of Education for the Cognitive Neurology and Alzheimer’s Disease Center at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. Morhardt holds a PhD in social work from Loyola University Chicago. She also completed post-graduate work in family therapy at
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University of Illinois at Chicago. Morhardt has 30 years of clinical experience with cognitively impaired individuals and their families. Her research interests include the experience of families living with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias such as frontotemporal dementia and primary progressive aphasia; the process of tailoring care to needs and symptoms; and the development and evaluation of quality-of-life programs, support groups, and other therapies. Morhardt also partners with underrepresented communities to raise awareness regarding dementia, identify service and education needs, and promote research participation with the goal of improving health outcomes for persons with dementia and their families.

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- Peer reviewer for various journals

Yvonne Rogalski, PhD, CCC-SLP, is an assistant professor in the Department of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology at Ithaca College, where she teaches courses about acquired communication disorders such as aphasia, dementia, and right hemisphere and motor speech disorders. She also supervises graduate students during their clinical practicum assignments, one of which is a dementia group in which participants focus on social engagement through baking and activities that are creative and cognitively stimulating. Her research interests include discourse, memory, and cognition in normal aging and adults with neurogenic communication disorders. In the past few years, she has partnered with audiologist Amy Rominger to investigate the impact of hearing loss on cognition and memory in healthy older adults. Together, they are interested in combining their expertise to find ways to mitigate the problems associated with hearing loss and cognitive decline in aging.

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- No nonfinancial interests to disclose

Amy Rominger, AuD, CCC-A, is a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology at Ithaca College. She teaches courses in basic audiology, aural rehabilitation, and hearing loss in the elderly. Additionally, she supervises undergraduate and graduate SLP students in the on-campus hearing clinic and at off-site hearing screening programs. She participates in community outreach through numerous health fairs and lectures, most often addressing the topic of hearing loss and aging. Her professional interests include collaborating with speech-language pathologists, specifically her colleague Yvonne Rogalski, in researching and
implementing techniques to facilitate interpersonal communication, cognitive health, and aural rehabilitation of older adults with hearing loss.

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