

- Program Committee Co-Chairs **Lori Cochran** and **Hesper Holland** and their strand chair committee members scheduled more than 38 CE credits worth of sessions for attendees. The program that you two put together set a high bar for educational opportunities.
- Career Development Committee Co-Chairs **Rachel Wehner** and **Diane Longnecker** helped facilitate and coordinate a virtual resume review time for Convention attendees. Thanks for finding new ways to serve attendees.
- Spirit Day Committee Co-Chairs **Erin Keeling** and **Zeth Collom** planned a great virtual Praxis Bowl for university students. Way to go! All the students who participated were so grateful for the opportunity to participate in the Praxis Bowl virtually.
- Hospitality Committee Co-Chairs **Holly Ford** and **Nickole Hines-Staples** and Convention Scholarship and Volunteer Committee Co-Chairs **Karen Hennington** and **Casey Taliancich-Klinger** had different responsibilities than they had originally signed up for when the TSHA 2021 Convention was pivoted to a virtual event. Thanks to all of you for being willing to make social media videos to promote convention and to interact on the virtual platform.

Another big thank you goes to the staff of our management firm, **Smith Bucklin and Associates**, who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to create a fantastic, virtual Convention experience.

It was a joy bringing the TSHA 2021 Convention to attendees as a virtual event. However, I'm sure everyone is ready to finally gather together again. Please save the date for the TSHA 66th Annual Convention and Exhibition, set for February 24-26, 2022, in Fort Worth. Until then, thanks to all for making TSHA 2021 a convention to remember.

#### More Executive Board News

- [Volunteer for TSHA Today!](#)
  - [Executive Board Roster](#)
  - [The current TSHA budget is available for review upon request.](#)
- 

## CLD Corner: Voices of the Members of the Cultural and Linguistic Diversity Committee

*By: Daniel Ibarra, MS, CCC-SLP, CLD Committee Co-Chair; Mirza Lugo-Neris, PhD, CCC-SLP, CLD Committee Co-Chair; Maria Resendiz, PhD, CCC-SLP, CLD Committee Member; Christine Jimenez, MS, CCC-SLP, CLD Committee Member; Lauren Weathers, MS, CCC-SLP, CLD Committee Member; Diana Vega, MS, CCC-SLP, CLD Committee Member; Cynthia Godinez, MS, CCC-SLP, CLD Committee Member; Mona Kaddoura, MS, CF-SLP/SLP Intern, CLD Committee Member; Quan Nguyen, BS, Graduate Student CLD Committee Member; Arantxa Salcedo, BS, Graduate Student CLD Committee Member; and Arianna Garcia, BS, Graduate Student CLD Committee Member*



As we embrace all of the changes 2021 has brought, the Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association (TSHA) Cultural and Linguistic Diversity (CLD) Committee has had some new members join our team. In this issue, we wanted to take the opportunity to introduce you to them. We are excited to report that our committee includes members from various cultural and linguistic backgrounds as well as diverse practice settings.

#### **Co-Chairs**

**Daniel Ibarra** is currently co-chair of the CLD Committee. He was born and raised in El Paso, Texas, a strong bilingual and bicultural community. He completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Texas at Austin, where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics with a minor in French and a Bachelor of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders. He worked in several research labs, including Drs. Elizabeth Pena and Lisa Bedore's Human Abilities in Bilingual Language Acquisition (HABLA) Lab. Afterward, Ibarra pursued a Master of Science in Emphasis in Bilingual Speech-Language Pathology at Texas Christian University. He currently works as a speech-language pathologist (SLP) conducting bilingual early childhood assessments for the Grand Prairie Independent School District. His current interests, as a therapist and researcher, are bilingual language acquisition among preschool children, multicultural issues presented within the school environment, and interprofessional practice among the school and medical fields. He is honored and excited to be the co-chair for the CLD committee and has plans to continue the legacy and foundation that previous co-chairs have established for us.

**Mirza Lugo-Neris** is currently co-chair of the CLD Committee. She is a clinical assistant professor at the University of Texas at Austin and has been a member of the CLD Committee since 2017. Born and raised in Puerto Rico, her passion is in working with Spanish-English bilingual children and their families. She has worked as a bilingual speech-language pathologist in private practice and public schools in Puerto Rico as well as in Texas. She currently directs the Bilingual/Multicultural Specialization program at UT Austin and teaches an undergraduate observation course, graduate clinical practicums, and a course on Topics in Cultural/Linguistic Diversity. Her research focuses on assessment and treatment of Spanish-English bilingual children with language impairment, literacy-based interventions, and the scholarship of teaching and learning in communication sciences and disorders.

### ***Members***

**Maria Resendiz** is an associate professor at Texas State University. She teaches the introductory course in communication disorders and courses in bilingual speech sound disorders and evidence-based practice. She conducts research on bilingual language development and how to provide access to speech-language pathology services for people in countries where these services are limited. She currently collaborates with Austin Smiles. They are working together to train local therapists in El Salvador to work with patients after they receive cleft palate surgery. Additionally, she is collaborating with the School of Engineering at Texas State working on an app for identification of people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) that can be used by people around the world from different cultures who speak different languages.

**Christine McClary Jimenez** is originally from the suburbs of Chicago. She grew up speaking English in a monolingual household and learned Spanish as a second language. As a new mom, she is looking forward to the adventure of raising her child in a bilingual home! She obtained her bachelor's degree in education from Boston College. She began her career as a bilingual elementary school teacher through Teach For America, and her passion for all children to receive an excellent education that supports their unique language, culture, and individualized learning needs is what drives her work. She completed leveling coursework in speech-language pathology at the University of North Texas and obtained a Master of Science in Emphasis in Bilingual Speech-Language Pathology from Texas Christian University. She currently works as an SLP in the Fort Worth Independent School District, where she is a member of the Bilingual Team, Racial Equity Team, and Literacy League. Her areas of interest include bilingual language and literacy development, specifically phonological disorders and dyslexia, instructional and linguistic supports for bilingual students in general and special education settings, and issues of access, equity, and inclusion in education.

**Lauren Weathers** was born and raised in Fort Worth, Texas, in a monolingual home within a multicultural community and learned Spanish as a second language. Her first experience with communication and multicultural issues stemmed from observing her father and uncle navigate life

as African American men with fluency disorders. As the granddaughter of a public school educator of more than 34 years, academics and appropriate elocution were always paramount in her household. During her undergraduate studies at Texas Christian University, she received a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and a Bachelor of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders. She then went on to obtain a Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology from Texas Christian University. She then relocated to Fayetteville, North Carolina, for completion of her Clinical Fellowship Year (CFY), gaining experience in the outpatient, pediatric, and school settings. Weathers also has experience in contract travel therapy, working in both Skilled Nursing Rehabilitation and Long-Term Care settings. She is now serving as a bilingual SLP within the Grand Prairie Independent School District, evaluating and providing skilled intervention within the preschool academic environment in both English and Spanish. Previously a guest article contributor for the *Communicologist*, Weathers is excited to serve as a member of the CLD Committee. She believes in using her knowledge and skills to give back to her community and that we serve our students, clients, and families better when we understand all aspects of their cultural and linguistic background.

**Cynthia Godinez Valdez** was born in Reynosa, Tamaulipas, Mexico, and raised in Pasadena, Texas. She completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Texas at Austin, where she obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a Bachelor of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders with a minor in Linguistics. Afterwards, Cynthia began working as a speech-language pathology assistant (SLPA) for two years within the school setting and an outpatient clinic setting in Houston, Texas. She obtained her Master of Science in Emphasis in Bilingual Speech-Language Pathology from Texas Christian University. She currently works as an SLP conducting evaluations and treatment in an outpatient pediatric clinic in Pasadena. Her current interests as a therapist are bilingual language acquisition among the pediatric population, multicultural issues presented when working with families of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, and interprofessional practice among speech-language therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy. She is grateful to be a part of the CLD Committee this year.

**Quan Nguyen** grew up in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. He arrived in the United States in 2013 as an international student. He is serving as a graduate student member and currently pursuing a Master of Science in Communication Disorders at Texas State University. In his studies, he is focusing on developmental and neurogenic communication disorders with a bilingual/multicultural emphasis. He is also furthering his knowledge of how social, cultural, and linguistic biases of health professionals affect clinical practice and patient treatment outcome. In 2020, he co-authored a publication on real-time translations of a children's storybook with Dr. Maria Diana Gonzales, Dr. Amy Louise Schwarz, and Dr. Maria Resendiz. He hopes to one day return to Vietnam, his home country, and serve the people who have given him the inspiration and strength that fostered his character and prepared him for an academic journey in America. He is thrilled at the opportunity to join other professionals in the CLD Committee in infusing diversity issues into the speech-language-hearing community.

**Diana Vega Torres** has been a member of the CLD Committee since 2019, when she wrote and collaborated on several articles for the *Communicologist*. She obtained her Bachelor of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorder from Stephen F. Austin University. She later worked as an SLPA before pursuing her Master of Science in Emphasis in Bilingual Speech-Language Pathology from Texas Christian University. She currently works in an outpatient pediatric clinic, where she is completing her CFY. Her current areas of interest include language acquisition, voice and upper airway disorders, augmentative and alternative communication, and dysphagia. She is excited to continue contributing CLD information to SLPs seeking to grow professionally.

**Arantxa Saucedo** is a graduate student member of the CLD Committee. She was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas. She completed her undergraduate studies at Texas State University, where she obtained a Bachelor of Science in Communication Disorders. There, she had the ability to work under Dr. Maria Resendiz in her research lab, Bilingual Language Acquisition Bunch (BLAB). Currently, she is pursuing her Master of Science in Communication Disorders at Texas State University. She hopes, as a professional, to reach out to the bilingual community.

**Mona Kaddoura** is a graduate student member of the CLD Committee. She is the firstborn to Palestinian immigrants and was raised in a bilingual home, speaking Arabic and English from early childhood. She grew up in Connecticut without a strong sense of her Middle Eastern culture or heritage. Her family later relocated to Lebanon, where she was able to connect with relatives and achieve a greater understanding of her origin. From there, her passion was ignited for culture, language, and travel. She went on to earn her bachelor's degree in International Relations and Spanish from Agnes Scott College. During her studies, she spent an academic year abroad in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Post-graduation, she relocated to Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, where she worked for the United States Embassy in the Consulate. Shortly after, she relocated to the Dallas-Fort Worth area, where she was awarded a scholarship through the Texas Teaching Fellows New Teacher Project to pursue a career in Bilingual Elementary Education. She began teaching in the Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District (ISD). From there, she relocated to the Houston area and has been working in Alief ISD for 12 years in a variety of capacities that include Bilingual Elementary Teacher, Bilingual Special Education In-Class Support, District Special Education Instructional Facilitator, Dyslexia Specialist, and District Behavior Specialist. Through her work in Special Education, she discovered she could do more to help children by combining her knowledge of behavior and building relationships with her students. She decided to transition to speech-language pathology and was accepted into the Texas Woman's University Texas Education Telecommunication Network Distance Program, which aims to address the shortage of SLPs in public schools. She has been studying and working full-time as an SLPA and Bilingual Graduate Clinician for the past two years. She will receive her Master of Science with a certificate in Bilingual Speech-Language Pathology in August 2021. She will begin her Clinical Fellowship Year with Alief ISD during the 2021-2022 school year and will continue to serve bilingual children within the Houston area. She is honored to be part of the CLD Committee and is excited to collaborate with other professionals in the field.

**Arianna Garcia** is a graduate student member of the CLD Committee. She was born and raised in Eagle Pass, Texas. She moved to Austin to pursue her undergraduate studies at the University of Texas, where she received a Bachelor of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders. Currently, she is a third-year Doctor of Audiology student at UT and will begin her clinical externship in the summer. While undertaking her education in audiology, she has worked as an audiology assistant in the private practice setting, where she is able to assist with treatment of hearing loss through the use of hearing instruments. She is thrilled to be a part of the CLD Committee this year and to collaborate with other professionals.

We are excited to work together to continue bringing up-to-date and practical content about culturally and linguistically diverse individuals and issues to *Communicologist* readers over the next year. The CLD Committee also has plans of collaborating with other TSHA committees in order to continue advancing the practice of fellow speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and speech-language pathology assistants in 2021 and beyond. If you have specific questions or topics you would like for us to cover in future issues, please email [publications@txsha.org](mailto:publications@txsha.org).

*The CLD Corner* was created in an effort to provide information and respond to questions on cultural and linguistic diversity (CLD). Please follow the *Communicologist* and TSHA's website in order to obtain new information provided by the CLD Committee.

---