

COMMUNICATION CONNECTION

the OSU Aphasia Initiative: a Year in Review



**OSU
APHASIA
INITIATIVE**

614-688-1188 • aphasiainitiative@osu.edu

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

By Jen Brello

As we close out another busy year, it is sometimes hard to believe the Aphasia Initiative is already 7 years old.

Recently, I met with someone from Pennsylvania who was interested in developing an aphasia treatment program at their university. I spent a lot of time sharing how we went from a 90-minute weekly speech therapy group to where we are today. Not only have we expanded to a 3 day-per-week treatment program, but we now offer case management and support services, occupational therapy, and medical dietetics consultations. After a few days of meetings and observations, they asked me “So, what’s next?” In short, the answer is to continue growing by forging meaningful partnerships. We are working to increase capacity by creating satellite groups both locally and at our regional OSU campuses. To better serve persons with aphasia, we are expanding education on supportive communication strategies to other allied health programs. We have a wonderful partnership with Grange Insurance Audubon Center and are building connections with other organizations in the community. Most importantly, ‘what’s next’ will always be driven by the experts; our members who are living with aphasia that guide our future by letting us know what they need.

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LIFE OUTSIDE ROOM 99: A SOCIAL WORK COLLABORATION

Our collaboration and partnership with The Ohio State University College of Social Work has been a highly beneficial and rewarding experience for many of our members. Our current MSW student, Sarah Laskey, facilitates a series of services including supported counseling sessions, case management, transportation arrangements, and our two support groups: H.E.L.P. and S.P.A.R.C.



BROUGHT TO YOU BY
THE OSU APHASIA INITIATIVE

WHO: Family members and friends of persons with aphasia

WHAT: Got questions? We've got answers! Come learn how to be the best language partner you can be for your loved one!

WHEN: The 1st & 3rd Friday of every month from 11am-12pm

WHERE: ZOOM!

Sign up using the QR code to the right! Simply open your phone camera and hover over the QR code to open the link!



aphasiainitiative@osu.edu • (614) 688-1188



LED BY A MASTER'S OF SOCIAL WORK STUDENT

SPARC is a supportive counseling group for persons with aphasia and other communication disabilities. Come connect with other survivors of acquired brain injury and reflect on your experiences, challenges, and successes.

<https://u.osu.edu/aphasiainitiative/> | 614-688-1188 | aphasiainitiative@osu.edu



MEMBER DONATIONS - THANK YOU!

Thank you so much to our wonderful members for making a variety of donations to our program!

Contributions included LOTS of snacks, coffee, silverware and serveware, and dish detergent. Generous gestures like these help tremendously in ensuring that we can continue to provide quality and affordable services to our members.



RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY WITH DR. HARNISH

There are numerous benefits to participating in research! By getting involved in an aphasia-related research study, you have the opportunity to take an active role in your recovery, contribute to the advancement of science, and be compensated for your participation. Not only will you improve your own experience, you are creating a better future for others with aphasia, too! Check out Dr. Harnish's study below! Email aphasialab@osu.edu for more information or to register.



THE APHASIA LABORATORY
GRANT R01DC017711

APHASIA



RESEARCH STUDY

CONTACT OSU'S APHASIA LAB FOR MORE INFO:

Phone:
614-247-1982

Email:
aphasialab@osu.edu

For more info, visit:
[u.osu.edu/aphasialab/
information-on-aphasia/](https://u.osu.edu/aphasialab/information-on-aphasia/)

Open your smart phone
camera and point it at the
figure for our website



Participants needed for a virtual NIH
study involving a therapy for adults with
language impairments after stroke.

- Minimal in-person contact at your home or in our lab with COVID-19 precautions (mask, face shield, disinfectant, symptom checks).
- Most sessions will be over video.
- We will provide a laptop computer and, if needed, internet access.
- Therapy may help with some of the difficulties experienced with aphasia.
- Compensation will be provided.

UPDATES FROM A FORMER GRADUATE CLINICIAN

By Erin Taylor



My name is Erin (Stefancin) Taylor, and I participated with the OSU Aphasia Initiative from 2015-2019! After graduation, I worked as an SLP at Nationwide Children's Hospital & Ohio State. Now, I work as a consumer specialist for a cochlear implant company called Advanced Bionics. I travel around Kentucky and Ohio for this job, and absolutely love it! The OSU Aphasia Initiative was my absolute favorite experience in my undergraduate and graduate years, and I am forever grateful for the amazing people I met through it, especially THE ONE AND ONLY, Jen Brello. On a personal note, I got married in June of 2020 (what a time that was!) and recently bought a house with my husband, Alex, and dog, Brady, in Worthington!

A SERVICE LEARNING PERSPECTIVE

By Natalie Novak

This was my first semester as a part of the Aphasia Initiative at Ohio State. Coming into it I did not know what to expect. On my first day, I was very excited to meet all of the members and grad students. Within the first 10 minutes of being there, I immediately felt at ease and welcomed. The Aphasia Initiative is like a family. I felt the warmth of everyone as soon as I walked through the door and introduced myself. Jen and Arin truly care about each of the members and it was a great experience learning from them. The members also taught me more than I could have imagined. I worked closely with Sally Ann, Ryan, Tim, Aidan, and so many more. Each of them taught me something different than the next. I loved getting to know each of them. It was exciting to talk to the members and have them update me on how their week went. Next semester, I plan on being a part of the Aphasia Initiative again. I had such a great time helping and getting to know the members that I made sure to leave room in my schedule for it. It will be nice to see new and familiar faces next semester. I will miss everyone up until then!



Natalie Novak, Senior
Major: Speech & Hearing Science
Minor: Human Development &
Family Science

LOOKING AHEAD: 2023 SPRING SCHEDULE

APHASIA INITIATIVE GROUP SCHEDULE

SPRING

2023

MONDAY

AM

AND

PM

Conversation Group
(Pressey, Room #99)
10-11:30am

VNeST Group
(Zoom, link below)
1-2:30pm

<https://go.osu.edu/osuaphasiainitiative>

TUESDAY

AM

OR

PM

Techno Tuesday
(Pressey, Room #99)
10-11:30am

Techno Tuesday
(Pressey, Room #99)
1-2:30pm

WEDNESDAY

AM

Reading Group
(Pressey, Room #99)
10-11:30am

THURSDAY

S.P.A.R.C.

Supporting Persons with Aphasia to Reflect & Connect
every Thursday from 1-2pm on Zoom:
<https://tinyurl.com/y97wmdvs>

FRIDAY

H.E.L.P.

Helping Empower Language Partners
1st & 3rd Friday from 11am-12pm on Zoom:
<https://tinyurl.com/2t3pnwu7>

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Looking to schedule an intake appointment or know someone who could benefit from our group?

Give us a call at 614-688-1188 or send an email to aphasiainitiative@osu.edu to get started!

Dear Friends & Family,

We hope to continue to provide affordable programs for our members and are asking for your financial support. Please consider making a gift to support the OSU Aphasia Initiative using the link below.

go.osu.edu/givetoaphasia

Thank you from our Aphasia Initiative Community!