

Road (block)

WARRIOR



Dr. Jean Mead

Educator's indomitable spirit speaks volumes

"You were wonderful, but we offered the job to the college graduate." These were the words FIU Communication Sciences & Disorders' (CSD) Jean Mead heard as a 35-year-old single mother of two after a job interview. It would be the last time she let something block her path to fulfillment.

After writing her state senator for scholarship assistance, she enrolled in Marshall University to get a degree in Spanish language education. One semester shy of graduation, she met with the local school board about a teaching position.

"What they needed was a speech-language pathologist," she recalled. "I changed my major to fit the job and ended up changing my life's outlook."

Two years later, she graduated with her bachelor's degree in speech-language pathology (SLP), took the school board job, and obtained a master's degree in the discipline. An opening in Marshall's speech-language department brought her back to campus as a professor, where she discovered the joys of academia and elevated her credentials with a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in leadership studies from West Virginia University.

A positive affirmation Dr. Mead made 20 years ago to "live in a fabulous location and work with people I love and respect," eventually led her to Miami and FIU to share her spirited attitude with master's SLP students as Assistant Professor and Coordinator of Clinical Education.

According to Dr. Mead, the SLP student's last semester is hectic preparing for their final clinical, graduation and the licensing exam. But one cohort was especially high strung and hit a mental block.

She summoned her days teaching yoga on a Louisiana TV station and developed a meditation program to test with her students one semester. "We'd spend the first 40 minutes of our weekly hourly meetings solely on meditation exercises. By the last 20 minutes, the students were much more relaxed and responsive to tackle their assignments."

Students were skeptical at first, but Dr. Mead noted their demeanors changed over those eight weeks. "They were even using meditation to prepare themselves and their clients for clinical sessions."

She hopes to incorporate meditation into the syllabus based on the success of that pilot semester. But the larger message she wants students to grasp is that hitting the proverbial wall shouldn't be a roadblock to their aspirations. It can be an inspiration to find another way around.

In addition to yoga instructor, Dr. Mead has a brown belt in karate and runs half-marathons, which she first started doing to commemorate her birthday on 12-12-2012.

"Whether it's out of necessity or curiosity; to prove the critics wrong or prove something to yourself; find your motivation to get past life's stumbling blocks and you'll see that nothing is unattainable."

INSIDE COMMUNICATION SCIENCES & DISORDERS

Chair: Monica Hough, PhD, CCC-SLP

Program(s):

- Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology (MS-SLP)
- Graduate Certificate in Communication Sciences & Disorders

Student Enrollment (in and out of state):

93 (degree program); 171 (graduate certificate program)

Number of Graduates: 44

Graduation Rate: 98%

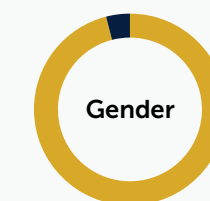
First-Time Board Certification Pass Rate: 93.2%

Overall Annual Pass Rate: 100%

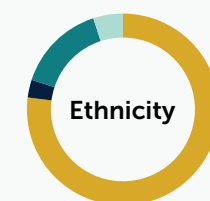
Full-Time Faculty: 6

Accreditation(s): Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)

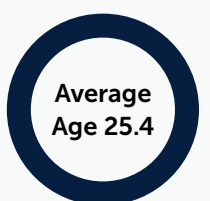
Student Body Diversity:



● 96% Female
● 4% Male



● 77% Hispanic
● 3% Black Non-Hispanic
● 15% White Non-Hispanic
● 5% Other



Average Age 25.4