

CATCHING UP WITH ELISE

College Student Improves Conversational Skills While at ASP

Elise McDaniel is a busy young lady. Recently, the 22 year-old interned at UT President Randy Boyd's office as part of her work training duties with UTK's FUTURE Program. President Boyd noted, "Elise served as my intern every Monday during the fall semester of 2019. She always brightened my day and was eager to help in any way she could." Since turning 17, Elise has been seen by ASP faculty and graduate students to enhance her communication skills for academic, social, and employment settings. Elise has Down Syndrome and was homeschooled by her mother since she was very young. She is a well-traveled (China, Switzerland, Haiti, etc.), interesting young woman who performs with a local dance company, goes on mission trips, and participates in various summer camp experiences. Elise now resides independently on campus in her own apartment. "I have to plan for dinner, do laundry, take the bus, clean, and go to Zumba classes on my own," Elise stated. "It's nice to have some freedom." Elise's mother, Chris McDaniel remarked, "Over the past several years, the Hearing and Speech Center has been instrumental in helping Elise with strategies to increase her conversational abilities." President Boyd would agree. "Elise accompanied me on various speaking engagements, which I greatly enjoyed. I always encouraged her to laugh at my jokes, even when they weren't that funny, and she tried her best!"



NEVER TOO YOUNG

Vestibular Screening for Children with Hearing Loss

Imagine being a young child and unable to describe the feeling of dizziness. According to Dr. Steven Doettl, there are more children who experience balance and dizziness problems than we realize, and the incidence of vestibular issues in children with hearing loss is significantly higher than children with normal hearing. The Audiology Clinic is now screening all children birth to age three for underlying vestibular problems. Dr. Doettl, together with Drs. Erin Plyler, Kelly Yeager and Mary Easterday, is now routinely tracking motor milestones for children seen at the Clinic, as delays in these areas can be a red flag for vestibular issues. The key is early identification to help families identify issues quickly and begin necessary intervention. Dr. Doettl has partnered with physical therapists at East Tennessee Children's Hospital Rehabilitation Center to serve his patients who need physical therapy for ongoing vestibular challenges. Doettl notes, "Families are comforted when they realize these issues are responsive to treatment."

