Alum of the month
Stephanie Russo
Audiologist
Family Hearing Center
CHHS- Class of ’2004 (CSD)

What are you currently doing? What is the most rewarding aspect of your career?
I am currently a clinical audiologist at a private practice in Dutchess County, New York. The most rewarding aspect of my career is to be able to help adults and children reconnect with their environment through the use of hearing aids and other assistive listening techniques. It is amazing to see an elderly patient’s face light up when they can hear their daughter talk to them or to see a baby’s face brighten when I turn on his hearing aids for the first time.

What do you know now that you wish you’d known while an undergrad?
I wish I had taken the time to travel. If I could do it all again, I would have gone abroad while I was a student and traveled during school breaks. It’s not as easy to find the time once you begin working.

What experiences and/or people have significantly impacted your career journey?
As an undergrad, the Chair at the time was my mentor and helped to guide me through the ComDis curriculum. After graduation, my time as a teacher assistant at the NY School for the Deaf helped to solidify my interest in working with the hearing impaired. From there, I went on to apply to the CUNY Graduate Center’s Au.D. program in New York City.

What advice do you have for students interested in your field?
The graduate/doctorate programs in audiology have become very competitive. It is important to keep your GPA up in order to even be considered for a spot in the program. Sometimes, taking a year to work as an intern to boost your application will also be beneficial.

How did you obtain your first job after graduation? What steps did you take, and what would you recommend to others?
I sent in an application to the NYSD. After calling to follow up several times, I scored an interview. Although I have never had a position where it was my job to hire employees, in my experience, applications get lost in the shuffle. If you can follow up and be persistent (without being annoying), it shows the company that you are serious about employment with them.

Based on your experiences and education, what skills do you think have been the most helpful in your career?
The most obvious answer is my clinical skills in diagnostic audiology and amplification (hearing aid fittings). But also my passion to help and genuine care for my patients. Without that, you have nothing.

(Want to know more? Stephanie is happy to talk to you. Email: SRussoAuD@gmail.com)
Do you have ideas, events, photos, updates, jobs, to share for the upcoming February Newsletter?

Contact CHHS Career Counselor, Komal Shah: komal.shah@unh.edu

Handshake is an online recruiting and job platform that connects college students to employers. To know more about the jobs below (and many others!) log in through your Handshake account.

**Jobs and Internships**

- **Scribekick**
  - #824386 Medical Scribe
  - #2077268 Behavior Analyst
  - #2076352 Direct Support Professional - Developmental Services
  - #2122851 Behavioral Interventionist - Children's Services
  - #2077185 School-Based Clinician
  - #2122778 Community Outreach Specialist - Children's Services

- Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester
  - #1933364 Mental Health/Social Service Bachelor Level Internships
  - #1933235 Nurse
  - #1111279 Nurse Practitioner
- Wilderness Adventures
  - #988671 Wilderness and International Trip Leaders
- Unbridled Rehabilitation
  - Camp Cody
  - #2261151 Administrative Assistant Intern
  - #1677516 Exercise Science Internship

**Pro Tip:** During an interview, keep a pen and notebook/padfolio ready. Take notes and have questions ready for your employer. This shows preparation, interest, and professionalism.

**Example**

"As noted on my resume, I will be graduating in May with my Bachelor's degree in Nursing. My interest in this field started when I was in high school, when I volunteered with a local assisted living home and it continued to grow over the last few years throughout my clinical rotations. I was thrilled to have been offered an LNA position while I was attending school because it allowed me to apply the concepts I was learning in the classroom to real-life situations. In this position, I truly developed a passion for patient-centered healthcare and was able to witness, first-hand, how impactful and rewarding my career would be as an RN. Finally, something that's not on my resume, but I believe also speaks to my passion for health and wellness, as well as my goal-oriented mindset, is that I am a marathon runner. Even though it's a lot of work to train for each race, I love the feeling of accomplishment that comes after each finish, and I really want to bring that same level of enthusiasm and dedication to a nursing position in your hospital."

The most common question that every employer asks a person at the beginning of an interview is "Tell me a little bit about yourself" or "Why should we hire you?" There are many versions of this question that employers may ask, however, they are all looking for the same answer: what are your skills, strengths and successes, and how will you fit into their company culture?

What this means for you, is that you should:
- Provide a background to your story – give an overview of your interest in the field and the reasons why you want to work for that specific organization (e.g., your passion, motivation, values, etc.)
- Highlight your past experiences in which you used the skills/strengths that are most relevant to the current job position (give specific examples of ways in which you have used those skills successfully)
- Provide statistical successes or customer/client/patient/past employer feedback
- Provide something UNIQUE about you – something they will not hear from every other candidate, above and beyond the typical, "I want to help people."

Your answer should not be more than 2 minutes. Once your answer is ready, practice saying it out loud and see how it sounds. Make it sound like a story. Starting from why you entered this field, your past experiences, strengths and successes, and what you hope to achieve in the company.

Do you have ideas, events, photos, updates, jobs, to share for the upcoming February Newsletter?

Contact CHHS Career Counselor, Komal Shah: komal.shah@unh.edu