

**University of Northern Colorado Audiology and Speech Language Sciences
Professor Receives Grant from the American Speech Language Hearing Association**

Dr. Mark Guiberson, a University of Northern Colorado Assistant Professor in the School of Human Sciences, College of Natural and Health Sciences recently received an \$11,000 Multicultural Research grant from the American Speech Language Hearing Association. Dr. Guiberson's Early Language Screening for Spanish Speakers (ELYSA) project will describe the effectiveness of parent surveys that measure language development in young Spanish speakers.

Young children who have delayed language development are at risk for a number of developmental problems, including delays in social, behavioral, and academic development. Early childhood is the greatest time of developmental change, and children with language delays who receive early intervention demonstrate favorable long-term outcomes. Thus, identifying children at risk for language and learning problems is of paramount importance during early childhood. As a result, early childhood programs such as Head Start have made screening of preschoolers a priority.

Dr. Guiberson developed the ELYSA project in response to the projected increase in the number of young Spanish speakers entering preschool programs, the challenges that early interventionists have in screening Spanish speaking preschoolers, and the critical importance of providing early intervention services to children with language delays. Dr. Guiberson collaborated with two regional Head Start programs to develop this project. The ELYSA project will include comparing results obtained from parent surveys to those obtained through behavioral measures of language to determine the usefulness or validity of parent surveys.

Dr. Guiberson is a bilingual speech language pathologist who has worked with and studied Spanish speaking children and families for over 12 years. He has published studies on bilingual language development in preschoolers, Spanish parent surveys for infants and preschoolers, and development in bilingual children with communication disorders.