

From the Dean

Dietetics and nutrition faculty member **Danielle Christifano, Ph.D.**, received notice of award for a significant grant sponsored by DSM-Firmenich, a large privately owned company specializing in nutrition, health and beauty solutions. Her project is titled "Optimizing Adherence to DHA Supplementation During Pregnancy" and will study different types of docosahexaenoic acid supplementation during pregnancy. Congratulations.

KU was well represented at the [annual convention](#) of the Kansas Speech-Language-Hearing Association held September 28-29, 2023, in Overland Park, Kansas. Faculty from our Intercampus Program in Communicative Disorders who presented were **Nancy Brady, Ph.D., Mindy Bridges, Ph.D., Meghan Davidson, Ph.D., Julie Gatts, SLPD, Susan Koerner, M.S., Marion Leaman, Ph.D., Kelly Nelson-Strouts, M.A., and Raúl Rojas, Ph.D.** Joining them in presenting were audiology student **Ghina Fares** and speech-language pathology students **Maggie Block, Olivia Boorom** and **Alissa Potocnik**. Very impressive.

Two faculty from our school presented during a research poster day of the Association of Driver Rehabilitation Specialists. **Hannes Devos, Ph.D.**, gave a keynote lecture titled "Autonomous Vehicles: The Role of the Driver Rehabilitation Specialist." **Laurie Steen, OTD**, presented her study titled "Which Cognitive Domains are Most Predictive of Fitness-to-Drive? A Mapping Review" at the event held on November 3, 2023. Well done.

Department of Occupational Therapy Education faculty member **Renee Rains, OTD**, and many KU occupational therapy students volunteered their time at Global One Urban Farming in early October. Global One is a local nonprofit charitable organization that converts unused land into sustainable organic community vegetable gardens to produce and distribute free organic vegetables to seniors, veterans, youth and low-income families in Kansas City. Nice work. [See photos.](#)

Please be safe, and thank you for all that you do.



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