

Vanessa L. Burshnic-Neal, PhD, CCC-SLP

Last updated March 2022

Education

- Ph.D. University of South Florida, August 2019
Communication Sciences & Disorders
Dissertation: *Supporting Persons with Dementia in Communicating their Care Preferences*
- M.A. Central Michigan University, May 2016
Speech-Language Pathology
Thesis: *Caregiver Attitudes Toward Aggression in Persons with Dementia*
- B.S. James Madison University, May 2014, *magna cum laude*
Communication Sciences and Disorders; Minor, Exceptional Education

Professional Positions

- 2022-Present Adjunct Instructor, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
- 2022-Present Speech-Language Pathologist, The Pavilion at Hanna Oaks, Tampa, FL
- 2021-Present Speech-Language Pathologist, Brandon Health and Rehabilitation, Brandon, FL
- 2020-Present Mentor, The Medical SLP Collective, Online Forum.
- 2019-Present Research Consultant, Project Title: Increasing the Preference-Based Care of People in Ohio's Nursing Homes with a Special Focus on People Living with Dementia, Funded by the Ohio Department of Medicaid, Multi-Site Project.
- 2019-2021 Advanced Fellow in Geriatrics, Durham VA Health Care System, Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center, Durham, NC
- 2018-2019 Research Consultant, Project Title: Implementation, Dissemination, and Maintenance of Person-Centered Dementia Care, Funded by the Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program, Tallahassee & New Port Richey, FL
- 2017-2019 Graduate Instructor, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
- 2017-2019 Clinical Fellow Speech-Language Pathologist, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
- 2016 - 2017 Clinical Fellow Speech-Language Pathologist, Voices of Hope for Aphasia, St. Petersburg, FL
- 2016 Speech-Language Pathology Intern, Jersey Shore University Medical Center,

Neptune, NJ

2012 – 2016 Activities Assistant, Bridgeway Senior Care Center, Hillsborough, NJ

2014 – 2015 Graduate Research Assistant, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, MI

2013 – 2014 Student Body Vice President, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA

Professional Memberships

Gerontological Society of America, 2020-Present

Global Implementation Society, 2018-Present

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, 2018-Present

Academy of Neurogenic Communication Disorders and Sciences, 2017-Present

American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine, 2020-2021

Society for Implementation and Research Collaboration, 2020-2021

Academy Health, 2018-2019

Research

Research Interests: Compensatory memory and communication supports for dementia; non-pharmacological approaches to managing behaviors in dementia; person-centered care; staff and caregiver training; implementation science

Journal Articles

Burshnic-Neal, V. L., Knollman-Porter, K., Topper, R., McConnell, E., VanHaitisma, K., & Abbott, K. (In Press 2022) Examining face validity of visual stimuli used in preference assessments for older adults with communication impairments. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*.

Behrens, L. L., Morgan, B., Summerhayes, E., Talwar, S., **Burshnic-Neal, V. L.**, Ersek, M., & Hodgson, N. (2022). Feasibility and acceptability of a web-based advance care plan for dementia. *Geriatric Nursing*, 44, 251–258.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gerinurse.2022.02.022>

Knollman-Porter, K. & **Burshnic, V. L.** (2020) Optimizing effective communication while wearing a mask during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Journal of Gerontological Nursing*. 11 (7-11). DOI: 10.3928/00989134-20201012-02

Burshnic, V. L. & Bourgeois, M. S. (2020) A seat at the table: Supporting persons with severe dementia in communicating their preferences. *Clinical Gerontologist*. DOI: 10.1080/07317115.2020.1764686

Douglas, N.F. & **Burshnic, V.L.** (2019) Implementation science: Tackling the research to practice gap in communication sciences and disorders. *Perspectives of the ASHA Special Interest Groups*. 1(1), 1-5. DOI: 10.1044/2018_PERS-ST-2018-0000

Burshnic, V. L., Douglas, N. F., & Barker, R.M. (2018) Employee attitudes towards aggression in persons with dementia: Readiness for wider adoption of person-centered frameworks. *Journal of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing*. 25 (3), 176-187. DOI: 10.1111/jpm.12452

Lanzi, A., **Burshnic, V. L.**, & Bourgeois, M.S. (2017) Person-centered memory and communication strategies for adults with dementia. *Topics in Language Disorders*. 37 (4), 361-374. DOI: 10.1097/TLD.0000000000000136

Book Chapters

Burshnic, V. L., Previll, L., & McKay, H. (In Press) Prevention and Management of Behavioral Symptoms in Dementia. In T. J. Farrer & E. K. Eifert (Eds.) *Dementia and Memory: Introduction for Professionals in Health and Human Services*. Wiley.

Burshnic-Neal, V.L. (2022) AAC for Dementia. In N. Hall, J. Juengling-Sudkamp, M. L. Gutmann, & E. R. Cohn (Eds.) *Fundamentals of AAC: A Case-Based Approach to Enhancing Communication*. Plural Publishing, Inc. ISBN13: 978-1-63550-353-1

Burshnic, V. L., & Bourgeois, M. S. (2018) Person-centered care. In J. Damico & M. Ball (Eds.), *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Human Communication Sciences and Disorders*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications Inc.

Presentations

Burshnic-Neal, V.L., Knollman-Porter, K., Topper, R., McConnell, E., VanHaitsma, K. & Abbott, K. (Nov. 2021) A person-centered approach to designing multi-use stimuli for older adults with communication challenges. Oral presentation at the annual convention of the *American Speech-Language Hearing Association*, online.

Burshnic-Neal, V.L., Knollman-Porter, K., Topper, R., McConnell, E., VanHaitsma, K., & Abbott, K. (Nov. 2021) Cognitive interviewing to evaluate the content validity of a photo-supported preference assessment. Symposium presentation at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the *Gerontological Society of America*, online.

Burshnic, V. L. (Feb. 2021) Supporting preference communication of people with dementia. Invited presentation at the *Veterans Affairs Speech-Language Pathology Monthly Clinical Forum*, online.

Abbott, K., Heppner, A., Hermes, A., Kasler, K., Poth, S., Cinfio, B., **Burshnic, V. L.**, & Van Haitsma, K. (Dec. 2020). “build that relationship, that’s where it all begins”: Staff perceptions on the implementation of a person-centered communication intervention. Poster presentation at the *13th Annual Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation*, online.

Davagnino, J., **Burshnic, V. L.**, & Tetro, J. (Dec. 2020) Best practices in dementia care. Invited presentation at the *Durham VA Elder Care in Hospital (ECHO) FY21 Interprofessional Geriatric Conference*, online.

Madrigal, C., Behrens, L., & **Burshnic, V. L.** (Nov. 2020) Completely satisfied but: Barriers and facilitators to fulfilling nursing home residents’ preferences. Symposium presentation at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the *Gerontological Society of America*, online.

Burshnic, V. L., Knollman-Porter, K., McConnell, E., Collins, N., & Smith, E. (Nov. 2020). A person-centered approach to designing multi-use stimuli: Photograph supported preference assessment in long-term care. Proposal accepted at the Annual Convention of the *American Speech-Language-Hearing Association*, San Diego, CA (convention cancelled).

Knollman-Porter, K., **Burshnic, V.L.**, & Abbott, K. (Oct. 2020) Implementing an evidenced-based, person-centered care practice for long term service and support recipients. Oral presentation at the Annual Conference of the *American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine*, online.

Burshnic, V.L. (March 2020) Memory and communication interventions for people with dementia. Invited presentation at *Duke Geriatrics Grand Rounds*, Durham, NC.

Burshnic, V. L. (Nov. 2019) A seat at the table: Supporting care preference communication in dementia. Oral presentation at the *American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Convention*, Orlando, FL.

Burshnic, V. L. (Nov. 2018) Needs assessment: A revolutionary approach to planning & evaluating caregiver support. Oral presentation at the *American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Convention*, Boston, MA.

Lanzi, A. & **Burshnic, V. L.** (Nov. 2018) Forever Friends: Bridging the gap between senior citizens and college students. Oral presentation at the *American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Convention*, Boston, MA.

Burshnic, V. L. (June 2018) Employee attitudes towards aggression in persons with dementia: Readiness for wider adoption of person-centered frameworks. Poster presentation at the *AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting*, Seattle, WA.

Burshnic, V.L. (June 2018) Hope for dementia: Strengths-based interventions for preserving dignity and quality of life. Invited presentation at the *Byrd Alzheimer's Institute Excellence in Geriatric Healthcare Conference*, Tampa, FL.

Burshnic, V. L. (April 2017) Caregiver attitudes toward aggression in persons with dementia. Award winning* poster presented at the *Student Association for Research and Teaching in Communication Science and Disorders Research Symposium*, Tampa, FL.

Bourgeois, M., Hinckley, J., **Burshnic, V. L.**, Lanzi, A. (March 2017) Measuring caregiver group outcomes: Ideas from aphasia and dementia caregiver groups. Presentation at the *AphasiaAccess Leadership Summit*, Orlando, FL.

Mini-Webinars/Instructional Videos

How to Support Communication of Preferences using Visual Aids (Sept. 2020):
<https://youtu.be/c6dsY6LFoYA>

Communicating Effectively While Wearing a Face Mask (June 2020):
<https://youtu.be/cWGeqGFY9lg>

Service to the Profession

Journal Manuscript Reviewer: *Clinical Gerontologist, Canadian Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*

Gerontological Society of America Conference Abstract Reviewer, 2021

Co-Chair, Dementia Friendly Hospital Committee, Durham VA Medical Center, 2020-2021

Co-Chair, Global Implementation Society Website Committee, 2018-2020

Member, ANCDS Professional Affairs Committee, 2018-2019

ASHA Convention Proposal Reviewer, Language Disorders in Adults, 2017-2018

President, University of South Florida Graduate & Professional Student Council, 2017-2018

Facilitator, Undergraduate Research and Arts Colloquium, 2017

President, Central Michigan University's NSSLHA Chapter, 2014-2015

Co-Founder, Inter-professional Health Education Alliance of Central Michigan University, 2015

Volunteer, Special Olympics of Michigan, Healthy Hearing Screenings, April 2015

Teaching

Teaching Interests: Adult neurogenic disorders; dementia; aphasia; research methods in communication disorders; phonetics; introduction to communication sciences and disorders

Teaching Experience

Professional Seminar in Communication Disorders (PhD Students). Invited Guest Lecturer, University of South Florida (Fall 2021), Topic: navigating a PhD and research career

Neurologic Communication Disorders in Adults, Invited Guest Lecturer, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill (Spring 2020 and 2021), Topic: assessment and intervention for people with dementia

Aphasia and Related Disorders, Instructor of Record, University of South Florida (Spring 2019)

Aphasia and Related Disorders, Graduate Instructional Assistant, University of South Florida (2017-2018)

Seminars in Aging, Graduate Instructional Assistant, University of South Florida (Fall 2017)

Research Procedures in Communication Sciences and Disorders, Graduate Instructional Assistant, University of South Florida (Summer 2017-2019)

Research in Community Settings, Co-Instructor, University of South Florida (Spring 2017)

Introduction to Aging Studies, Guest Lecturer, University of South Florida, (Spring 2017), lectured on non-pharmacological interventions for people with dementia

Art in Health, Guest Lecturer, University of South Florida (Spring 2017), lectured on engaging people with dementia in conversations about art

Honors, Awards, and Grants

Conference Fellowship Award, *Academy of Neurologic Communication Disorders and Sciences*, 2019

Outstanding in Significance Poster Award, *Student Association for Research and Teaching in Communication Science and Disorders Research Symposium*, 2017

Honors for Outstanding Service to Students, *National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association*, 2015