



TEMPLE UNIVERSITY
A Commonwealth University

College of Health
Professions

Weiss Hall— 265-62
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Department of
Communication Sciences and Disorders

History of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

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The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders has had many iterations in its history. The Department began about 1950 with the merger of the new Department of Speech and Dramatic Arts with the Department of Radio, Theater and Film. (The first Chair was Gordon Hostetler.) By 1963, the Department was called the Speech Department and was comprised of two divisions: Speech and Hearing and Rhetoric. From 1950 to 1984, the Department was housed in the College of Liberal Arts. When the School of Communications and Theater (SCAT) was opened in the mid-60s, the Department was asked to join. In 1984, however, the Department did transfer to SCAT and the 2 divisions split into 2 departments. Our Department became the Department of Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences. In about 1995, some of the people from the other division rejoined the department so the name was changed to Communication Sciences to better reflect the academic scope of the department. Several linguists were added to the department in 1996 or 1997 to strengthen our scope in language. The Department joined the College of Health Professions in 1998. In 2002, the Center for Cognitive Neuroscience moved from the Department of Neurology on the Health Sciences campus to the Department of Communication Sciences. In 2007, the name was changed yet again to the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

The Department was originally located in 2 row houses on Park Ave. (now Liacouras Walk). The original buildings are now part of the Conwell Inn. In 1974, the Department moved to the new Psychology and Speech Building--Weiss Hall. The Eleanor M. Saffran Center for Cognitive Neuroscience was established as part of the Department in 2005 and is housed in Ritter Annex.