

# SLHS STUDENT VOICE

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# WELCOME LETTER

FROM: SLHS '23-'24



Hi all and welcome to our November newsletter! The SLHS SAB has worked hard to provide you with the most up-to-date information from the SLHS department. This newsletter is meant to answer some questions and help you make connections so feel free to reach out!



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# ON THE GROUND

## **Undergraduate Research Symposium and Poster Fair**

The Hutton Honors College's annual IUB Undergraduate Research Symposium and Poster Fair will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2024 in the Education School building. You do not need to be a member of the Hutton Honors College to participate! The symposium is a great chance to display your work and explore what other students are researching. More details about the structure of the symposium will be released in March. Submit your one-page abstract by Sunday, February 18, 2024 in order to apply. Students can also present work that is not yet complete. Additionally, a faculty mentor you are working with on the project must approve your abstract before submission. Annelies noted that this would be a great opportunity for those of you finishing up your departmental honors projects in the spring!


For more information: <https://hutton.indiana.edu/undergrad-research-symposium/main-page.html>



## **IU-wide Undergraduate Research Conference**

Friday, December 8th from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m is the IU-wide Undergraduate Research Conference. It will be at the IU Southeast Campus at University Center North. The conference will include oral and poster presentations from undergraduate students from all IU campuses. The presentations will take place in the morning, followed by a provided lunch. The deadline to submit abstracts has already passed, but students are still welcome to attend.

For more information and the RSVP form:  
<https://www.iu.edu/events/iuurc/index.html>



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# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



## What are the most common minors in our department?


“By far, Psychology! There are currently 48 students with a Psychology minor declared. Human Development & Family Studies and ASL are tied for a distant second with 19 students each. Spanish and Youth Development are tied for third at 17 students each.”

-Annelies Stoelinga

## What is a “hold”, and what does it mean?

“A hold (sometimes also called a “negative service indicator”) is basically a notification that there’s some action you need to take regarding your student records. If you don’t, there may be a consequence until you do. Some of the most common reasons for holds include past due tuition balances and required meetings with your advisor. The most common consequence is that you will not be able to register for any future classes until you complete the required action. Holds aren’t super common, but I always recommend that you double-check for any before registration! You can do so in the Student Center under “My Information”.”


-Annelies Stoelinga



## Where can I find my official transcript? What about an unofficial one?

“Both versions of your transcript can be found in one.iu. The ordering form for official copies can be found in the “eTranscript Request (Recent Students)” tool. Unofficial versions can be viewed directly from the “View Unofficial Transcript” tool. If you need to download a pdf copy of your unofficial transcript, wait for it to load and then click the tiny “Print” button in the upper right-hand corner of the screen. You will be able to generate a pdf instead of actually printing (“Destination” -> “Microsoft Print to PDF” on Windows and “PDF” -> “Save as PDF” on Mac).”

-Annelies Stoelinga



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# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

## Dr. Travis Riffle



For this edition of Spotlight, we got to sit down with Dr. Travis Riffle, who has been at IUB for two years as a Visiting Assistant Professor. Dr. Riffle was born and raised in Point Pleasant, West Virginia. From what we learned, this small town is most famous for being the home of the folklore creature “Mothman.” His favorite thing about his hometown is, because there was not a whole lot to do, was spending a lot of time outside with friends and family. He received his B.S. in biology from the University of Charleston, originally planning on going to medical school. He spent one semester at Marshall University and realized it was not for him. He then considered speech pathology because he had an SLP when he was younger and had a fun experience with them, but after taking some classes, he realized this was not for him either. It was not until he took a combined focused course with speech and hearing that he found out audiology was the field for him. He transferred to Ohio University, where he received his Au.D. and Ph.D. After this, he went to the University of Michigan, where he completed his postdoctoral studies with specialized training in tinnitus. In his free time, Dr. Riffle enjoys anything with music. He has played the guitar since high school and recently formed a band here in Bloomington, and they have recorded their first song! Additionally, he enjoys mountain biking in Brown County, playing pickleball, and being in his softball league with Dr. Lynch. He also has two cats, Ollie and Nilla, whom he loves to spoil!

Dr. Riffle has loved his time at IU, and he hopes to extend and make the position permanent! When asked about what he likes most about teaching, he explained that he “loves the lightbulb moment.” He loves to be around for the whole learning process and “presenting information in a way that people want to learn.” In terms of why he accepted a job at IU, he elaborates on how he loves the beautiful campus, the fun environment, and how it did not take long for Dr. Riffle to feel at home. He has also appreciated how warm and welcoming the department has been, so overall, it was a pretty easy decision. Recently, Dr. Riffle has been spending time focusing on the lab he started alongside Dr. Lynch called the Auditory CAT (cognition, aging, and tinnitus) Lab. This lab focuses on what happens in your brain and the decisions you make when you are listening to sounds, and how that differs based on age and whether or not you have tinnitus. He has enjoyed being able to apply his area of interest—tinnitus—to this lab, and noted how “the CAT name was not a coincidence. I have been thinking about it for years.”

To conclude, we asked Dr. Riffle for advice. In terms of grad school, he recounted some advice he received that he still finds useful today. He was told to “find a topic of interest and learn everything about it,” which he still does to this day. Because this material will take up a lot of your time, he finds a good rule of thumb to be, “If you ever catch yourself thinking about this stuff outside of class when you do not need to be, that is a good indication that it will not overwhelm you when you are in graduate school.” Additionally, we asked Dr. Riffle what advice he would give to those specifically interested in audiology. He pointed out that “audiology seems intimidating from the outside, but do not let physics and math intimidate you.” He wants us to know that it is “important to understand how everything works, but eventually you will get past it and get to do things that you love, like seeing patients, running tests, and clinical application.” Overall, it is very gratifying to work with patients and aid in their hearing journey.

Thank you, Dr. Riffle, for sitting down with us. We hope you stick around for a while!



# WHAT I WISH I KNEW



“Some things I wish I knew as a freshman coming to IU is learning time management skills! It is always a good idea to start on assignments early, even if they seem straight forward, just in case you have questions you need answered or if you have something come up right before the deadline. Also, I wish I knew office hours does not just have to be for homework help. It’s also great to go just to get to know your professor better or to prepare for an exam early! Last, I wish I knew about the research labs happening in SLHS and reached out to faculty about volunteering/ working in the lab freshman year.

Even if they don’t have positions available, it’s important to reach out with interest early on.”

- Sami Branson

“Something I wish I knew freshman year was that your professors not only want you to pass, but to truly understand the material as well. Go to office hours, ask questions, and don’t wait until the last minute to do your work. Get a head start, but remember to have fun”

-Julia Solomon

“Something I wish I knew my freshman year was how to use my time management skills to their best ability. My freshman year was stressful in itself since it was online and the pandemic was still happening, so, having no idea how to function as a college student added more stress in my life. Scheduling time to do work and time to do other things has created a peace in my life that I desperately needed my freshman year.”

- Emma Holmes

