

**Distinguished Alumni Award  
Research Leadership  
2019  
Rachel I. Mayberry**



We honor Rachel Mayberry for her distinguished career as a leader in research and research training in communication sciences and disorders. Dr. Mayberry earned her PhD from McGill in 1979. She continued her research at Northwestern University and University of Chicago. In 1989 she joined the faculty in the McGill school of Communication Sciences & Disorders and served as Director of the school from 1997-2002. Rachel is currently a full Professor at University of California at San Diego in the dept of linguistics where she currently directs the Multimodal Language Laboratory. At UCSD she is also affiliated with the Center for Research on Language, the center for Research and Teaching in Anthropogeny, the Interdisciplinary Doctoral program in Cognitive science, the Program for Human Developmental Sciences and the joint Doctoral Program in Language & Communication Disorders which she co-directed for several years.

Dr. Mayberry is internationally renowned for her research which uses American Sign Language and deafness as a means to model the nature and scope of the critical period for language. With colleagues and students, she also investigates the structure of sign languages cross-linguistically, the psycholinguistic processing of sign language in comparison to spoken language, reading development in the deaf population, and the role of gesture in language acquisition. Her work has been supported for several decades by prominent funding sources, including the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and the Kavli Foundation. She has published over 65 refereed journal articles and conference proceedings and more than 20 chapters and review papers. She has published a book and has another one in preparation. Dr. Mayberry also maintains a broad and active role in research and professional service, having served on multiple editorial and advisory boards and as a reviewer for over 50 different journals. She is a dedicated mentor having

trained more than 20 PhD students and post-docs; most of her trainees have taken up academic posts in the US and Canada.

### **Career Highlights**

- 1971 B.A. English, Drake University
- 1973 M.S Speech & Hearing Science, Washington University
- 1979 Ph.D. Communication Sciences & Disorders, McGill University
- 1979 Assistant Professor, Northwestern University
- 1983 Research Professor, The University of Chicago
- 1989 Assistant Professor, McGill University, School of Communication Sciences & Disorders
- 1995 -2005 Associate Professor, McGill University, School of Communication Sciences & Disorders
- 1997-2002 Director, McGill University, School of Communication Sciences & Disorders  
Associate Dean, McGill University, Faculty of Medicine
- 2005- Associate Professor, University of California San Diego, Linguistics  
Director, Multimodal Language Lab, University of California San Diego
- 2008 Professor, University of California San Diego, Linguistics