

EDUCATION

- PhD, University of Minnesota Expected Summer 2027
Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences
Dissertation: Purpose in Life & Well-Being Among Care Partners of Individuals
with Traumatic Brain Injury–Related Cognitive-Communication Disorders
- MS, Minnesota State University, Mankato 2019
Communication Disorders
- BS, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire 2017
Communication Sciences & Disorders
Latin American Studies

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

- Speech-Language Pathologist
St. Francis Area Schools (Minnesota) 2020–2022
Black River Falls School District (Wisconsin) 2019–2020

PUBLICATIONS

First Author

- Vruwink, O.**, Gregory, S. K., Rawls, E., Willis, C., & Kemp, A. M. (2026). Stories That Speak Back: Participatory Dissemination Through Art After Brain Injury. *Journal of Participatory Research Methods*, 7(2).

Contributing Author

- O'Brien, K. H., Pei, Y., **Vruwink, O.**, Becker, N., Klukas, C., Covington, N. V. (*accepted*). Reading After Traumatic Brain Injury: Shifts in Engagement, Purpose, and Format Across Everyday Material Types. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*.
- Covington, N. V., Friedman, S. E., Klukas, C., Becker, N., **Vruwink, O.**, & O'Brien, K. H. (2026). Open Notes in Brain Injury Rehabilitation Part 2: Provider and Patient Preferences for Artificial Intelligence Solutions. *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*, 107(5), 843–852.
- Covington, N. V., Friedman, S. E., Becker, N., Klukas, C., **Vruwink, O.**, & O'Brien, K. H. (2026). Open Notes in Brain Injury Rehabilitation Part 1: Contrasting Perspectives of Patients and Providers. *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*, 107(5), 831–842.
- Covington, N. V., & **Vruwink, O.** (2025). ChatGPT in Undergraduate Education: Performance of GPT-3.5 and Identification of AI-Generated Text in Introductory Neuroscience. *International Journal of Artificial Intelligence in Education*, 35(2), 627–650.
- Covington, N. V., **Vruwink, O.**, & Radomski, M. V. (2025). Purpose in Life After Brain Injury: Expanding the Focus and Impact of Interdisciplinary Rehabilitation. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*, 34(3S), 1843–1854.
- Kemp, A. M., **Vruwink, O.**, & O'Brien, K. H. (2025). Finding a “NEW VOICE to tell my story” through the Unmasking Brain Injury project: A mixed-method analysis of wellness after brain injury. *Disability and Rehabilitation*, 47(18), 4704–4715.

Arzbecker, L. J., Blacklock, E. A., Crumb, A. M., Doyle, J. D., Esveld, M., Grelson, S. L., Gretzinger, B., Korpela, A., Kressin, K. A., Pakanich, L. M., Pulley, T. L., Nolte Rierdon, N. L., Spreitzer, K. A., Steines, E. L., Strom, B. J., Symons, E. C., Vogelsang, M., **Vruwink, O. N.**, Weberg, K. L., ... Elledge, D. H. (2018). SoTL Lab: Undergraduate student-faculty collaborative research in teaching and learning in CSD. *Teaching and Learning in Communication Sciences & Disorders*, 2(2).

PRESENTATIONS

Invited

Vruwink, O. (June 2026). Practice Case Illustrating Identity Reconstruction After Brain Injury Through Social Engagement [Invited 1-hour oral presentation]. Saugatuck Institute for Neuropsychological Rehabilitation (SINR) – Saugatuck, MI.

First Author

Vruwink, O., Sather, T. W., Orr, B., & Covington, N. V. (November 2026). Reframing Clinical Practice Through Meaning and Purpose: A Pathway to Improved Outcomes and Reduced Burnout [1-hour oral seminar]. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Convention – Indianapolis, IN.

Vruwink, O., Smith, L., & Covington, N. V. (November 2025). *Living with Purpose: Perspectives from Adults with Acquired Brain Injury* [30-minute oral presentation]. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Convention – Washington, D.C.

Vruwink, O. & Covington, N. V. (March 2025). *Relationships between Healthcare Utilization Preferences and Hypothetical Rehabilitation Treatment Decisions: Implications for Patient Education* [Poster]. International Brain Injury Association World Congress – Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Vruwink, O., McCurdy, R., Walsh, K., Duff, M. C., & Covington, N. V. (March 2025). *Expected Outcomes of Traumatic Brain Injury Rehabilitation: Insights and Perspectives from Care Partners* [Poster]. International Brain Injury Association World Congress – Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Vruwink, O. & Covington, N. V. (September 2024). *Going Beyond “Return to Baseline”: Perspectives on Recovery After Traumatic Brain Injury from Patients & Their Care Partners* [Poster]. Eleanor M. Saffran Conference on Cognitive Neuroscience & Rehabilitation of Communication Disorders – Philadelphia, PA.

Vruwink, O., Grabowski, A., McCurdy, R., Duff, M. C., & Covington, N. V. (November 2023) *Measuring What Matters: Converging and Diverging Perspectives of Clinicians and Adults with TBI* [Poster]. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Convention – Boston, MA.

Contributing Author

Dorsey, G., Steblay, E., **Vruwink, O.**, Covington, N. V. (November 2026). *Expanding Accessibility: Adapting a Purpose Renewal Intervention to Support Cognitive Communication Needs* [Poster presentation]. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Convention – Indianapolis, IN.

O’Brien, K. H., Pei, Y., Becker, N., Klukas, C., **Vruwink, O.**, Covington, N. V. (April 2026). “*Reading Self-Efficacy in Young Adult Females with Mild TBI Compared to Uninjured Controls: Group Differences and Functional Associations*” [Poster presentation]. International Paediatric Brain Injury Society 6th Biennial Conference – Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

O’Brien, K. H., Pei, Y., **Vruwink, O.**, Becker, N., Klukas, C., Covington, N. V. (January 2026). “*Read anything good lately?*”: *Evidence for Reduced Engagement with Leisure Texts after Brain Injury* [Oral presentation]. International Cognitive-Communication Disorders Conference (ICCDC) – Nashville, TN.

- Kemp, A. M., **Vruwink, O.**, Willis, C., Rawls, E. (January 2026). *Then and Now: Using Arts-Based Reflection to Explore Self-Awareness Across a Decade of Living with Brain Injury* [Oral presentation]. International Cognitive-Communication Disorders Conference (ICCDC) – Nashville, TN.
- Covington, N. V., Friedman, S., Klukas, C., Becker, N., **Vruwink, O.**, & O'Brien, K. H. (November 2025). *Artificial Intelligence in Brain Injury Rehabilitation in the Open Notes Era: Opportunities and Challenges* [1-hour oral presentation]. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Convention – Washington, D.C.
- Covington, N. V., **Vruwink, O.**, Schaefer, W., Demmers, N., & Kocian, A. (March 2025). *Personalized Cognitive Rehabilitation: Preliminary Results of a Proof-of-Concept Study* [Poster]. International Brain Injury Association World Congress – Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
- Kemp, A. M., **Vruwink, O.**, Callahan, B., Rawls, E., & O'Brien, K. H. (March 2025). *Towards Wellness in Acquired Brain Injury Through Storytelling: The Unmasking Brain Injury Project* [Poster]. International Brain Injury Association World Congress – Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
- Rawls, E., Gregory, S. K., **Vruwink, O.**, Callahan, B., O'Brien, K. H., & Kemp, A. M. (March 2025). *Unmasking Brain Injury: Using Art to Navigate Emotional Experiences in Acquired Brain Injury* [Poster]. International Brain Injury Association World Congress – Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
- Covington, N. V., Radomski, M. V., Castro-Pearson, S., Canavati, H., Herrmann, A., Howe, C., Kath, K., Kocian, A., Kreiger, R., Reger, L., Schwalbe, S., **Vruwink, O.**, Wagener, S., & Zola, J. (March 2025). *Purpose Renewal after Brain Injury: Results of a Feasibility Study* [Poster]. International Brain Injury Association World Congress – Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
- Kemp, A. M., **Vruwink, O.**, Gregory, S. K., & O'Brien, K. H. (April 2024). *Art as a tool for supporting wellness after acquired brain injury*. [Oral Presentation]. Brain Injury Professional Conference, Brooklyn Center, MN.
- Covington, N. V., **Vruwink, O.**, & Radomski, M. (January 2024) *Purpose in Daily Life: An Interdisciplinary Proposal for Promoting Flourishing after Brain Injury* [Panel]. International Cognitive-Communication Disorders Conference (ICCDC) – Orange, CA.
- Kemp, A. M., **Vruwink, O.**, & O'Brien, K. H. (November 2023). *Using Storytelling to Reflect on Experiences with Acquired Brain Injury: The Unmasking Project* [Poster]. American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine (ACRM) Conference – Atlanta, GA.
- Covington, N. V. & **Vruwink, O.** (November 2023) *Large Language Models in Higher Education: Performance of ChatGPT in Undergraduate Neuroscience* [1-hour seminar]. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Convention – Boston, MA.
- Kemp, A. M., **Vruwink, O.**, & O'Brien, K. H. (November 2023). *The Story of Acquired Brain Injury: A Mixed-Method Analysis of Autobiographical Narratives from ABI Survivors* [30-minute technical research session]. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Convention – Boston, MA.
- Covington, N. V. & **Vruwink, O.** (November 2022). *Preparation for Careers Beyond the Clinic: Maximizing the Value of CSD Coursework for All Undergraduates* [Poster]. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Convention – New Orleans, LA.
- Mahowald, M. C., Krenik, E., **Vruwink, O.**, Spicer, B., & Burk, B. (November 2018). *Camp Maverick: An Interprofessional Collaboration to Improve Literacy & Wellbeing among Youth* [Poster]. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Convention – Boston, MA.

Hoepner, J. K., Hemmerich, A. L., Elledge, D., Zigler, E., Grelson, S., **Vruwink, O.**, Strom, B., Nolte Rierdon, N., Doyle, J., & Wolosek, A., (November 2017). *What are the Active Ingredients in Your Teaching Toolbox?* [1-hour seminar]. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Convention – Los Angeles, CA.

Non-referred Presentations

Vick, D., **Vruwink, O.**, & Covington, N. V. (September 2026). *Supporting Care Partners in Brain Injury Rehabilitation* [Oral seminar]. Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute Research Meets Practice.

Kocian, A., Covington, N. V., & **Vruwink, O.** (October 2025). *Purpose in Life After Brain Injury: Insights from a Therapeutic Camp Model* [Oral seminar]. Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute Research Meets Practice.

University-Level Presentations

Vruwink, O., Hoepner, J. K., Pratt, J. (May 2017). *Portability of the Sandwich modified flipped classroom approach in information systems* [Oral seminar]. Provost's Honors Symposium – University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

Vruwink, O., Strom, B., Terrell, R., Hoepner, J. K., Pratt, J., & Hemmerich, A. L. (May 2017). *Portability of the Sandwich modified flipped classroom approach in information system* [Poster]. Celebration of Excellence in Research & Creative Activity – University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

HONORS / SCHOLARSHIPS

Leslie E. Glaze Fellowship Department of Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences University of Minnesota	2026–2027
Conference Travel Grant Council of Graduate Students University of Minnesota	2022, 2026
Student Scholar Award Eleanor M. Saffran Center for Cognitive Neuroscience	2024, 2025
Eleanor Swanson Memorial Scholarship Minnesota Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation	2024
Bryng Bryngelson Research Funding Award Department of Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences University of Minnesota	2022, 2024
Research Mentoring-Pair Travel Award American Speech-Language-Hearing Association	2023
Brain Injury ISIG David Strauss PhD Memorial Poster Award American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine	2023
Communicative Disorders Scholarship Sertoma Inc.	2023
Thank a Teacher Recipient Center for Educational Innovation University of Minnesota	2023
Excellence in Service-Learning Award University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire	2017
Student Staff Award	2016

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

- Neurogenic Communication Disorders (SHS 451) Fall 2026
 - Washington State University
- Language and Cognitive Disorders in Adults (SLHS 5605) March–May 2025
 - University of Minnesota
- Introduction to Neuroscience of Human Communication (SLHS 4301) Fall 2024
 - University of Minnesota

University of Minnesota Teaching Assistant

- Introduction to the Neuroscience of Human Communication (SLHS 4301) Fall 2022, 2023, 2025, 2026
 - Instructors of Record: Natalie Covington, PhD CCC-SLP
Christopher Apfelbach, PhD CCC-SLP
- Rate Your World: Quantifying Judgments of Human Behavior (SLHS 1302) Spring 2025
 - Instructor of Record: Yang Zhang, PhD
- The Sense of Hearing (SLHS 3306) Spring 2023, 2024
 - Instructor of Record: Robert Schlauch, PhD
- Anatomy & Physiology of the Speech & Hearing Mechanisms (SLHS 3302) Fall 2023
 - Instructor of Record: Yang Zhang, PhD
- Capstone Project in Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences (SLHS 3402W) Spring 2023
 - Instructor of Record: Jayanthi Sasisekaran, PhD
- Speech Science (SLHS 3305W) Fall 2022
 - Instructor of Record: Peter Watson, PhD

Guest Lectures

- Language and Cognitive Disorders in Adults (SLHS 5605) April 2026
 - University of Minnesota
 - Instructor of Record: Danielle Schneeman, MS CCC-SLP
 - Topic: Traumatic Brain Injury + Care Partner Well-being
- Neurogenic Communication Disorders (SHS 451) November 2025
 - Washington State University
 - Instructor of Record: Amy Kemp, PhD CCC-SLP
 - Topic: Living with Purpose after Traumatic Brain Injury
- Introduction to Augmentative and Alternative Communication (SLHS 5606) Spring 2025
 - University of Minnesota
 - Instructor of Record: Katlyn McGrattan, PhD CCC-SLP
 - Topic: School-Based AAC Parts I & II
- Introduction to the Neuroscience of Human Communication (SLHS 4301) Fall 2022, 2023
 - University of Minnesota
 - Instructor of Record: Natalie Covington, PhD CCC-SLP
 - Topics: Resting Membrane Potential & Overview to Speech & Voice

MENTORING & SUPERVISION

Undergraduate Honors Thesis: Reviewer

Mary Yassa, Biology Society & Environment BA

Spring 2026

Thesis: Changes in the Daily Practice of Occupational Therapists after
Research Involvement in a Purpose Renewal Intervention

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Speech-Language Pathologist True Friends Brain Gains Camp Camp Courage in Maple Lake, MN <i>Assisted in development of a five-day didactic and interactive group curriculum appropriate for adults with moderate-severe acquired brain injury related to purpose in life after brain injury. Facilitated a majority of the curriculum at the Brain Gains camp at Camp Courage, in collaboration with Allina Health occupational therapists. Supervised MA-SLP student intern.</i>	August 2024
Student Volunteer Chippewa Valley Aphasia Camp University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire	September 2016
AmeriCorps Member Blugold Beginnings University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire	2015–2016
Student Coordinator- Civil Rights Pilgrimage University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire	2014–2016

SERVICE

Graduate Reviewer Arthur “Red” Motley College of Liberal Arts Award for Exemplary Teaching University of Minnesota	2026
SLHS Program Co-Representative Council of Graduate Students University of Minnesota	Fall 2024–Spring 2025
Grant Reviewer Council of Graduate Students University of Minnesota	Summer 2024, Spring 2023
Reviewer (mentored) <i>Journal of Speech-Language Hearing Research</i> <i>Perspectives of the ASHA Special Interest Groups</i>	Spring 2024 Summer 2023

LICENSURE / CERTIFICATION

Licensed Speech-Language Pathologist (#518043) Minnesota Department of Health	2021–Present
Certificate of Clinical Competence & Member (#14132271) American Speech-Language-Hearing Association	2020–Present
Tier 3 License Speech-Language Pathologist (#1004436) Minnesota Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board	2020-2023
Provisional License Speech Language Pathology (#1001350819) Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction	2019-2022