

Communiqué

Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Central Florida

Fall 2010, Volume 7 Number 1

New Home-Like Aphasia House Offers Innovative Therapy

A new facility dedicated solely to innovative therapy for individuals with aphasia, or the loss of speech resulting from neurologic injury, has been established at the University of Central Florida with an anonymous \$25,000 donation.

The Aphasia House provides speech-language therapy in a setting distinct from a typical medical office. Each room is outfitted to resemble a familiar space in a home, including a kitchen, garden patio and garage. The rooms are designed to encourage natural conversations. UCF graduate students studying communication sciences and disorders provide individualized and group therapy

under the supervision of a certified clinical faculty member.

This is the only intensive program for persons with aphasia in the Central Florida area.

Approximately one million people in the United States, or one out of every 275 adults, have some type of aphasia, according to the National Aphasia Association. The most common cause is a stroke.

The facility is a dream-come-true for its director, Janet Whiteside, a clinical educator in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

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◀ Student clinician Nicole Markisen (left) works with client Constance Cardin in the garden patio room of The Aphasia House.

▼ Clinical Instructor Janet Whiteside monitors therapy sessions in a nearby room.



Mullin Serves as Interim Chair

College Dean Michael Frumkin has appointed Associate Professor Emeritus Thomas A. Mullin as interim chair of the department while a national search for a permanent chair is under way. Mullin assumed the position in May after Professor Jane Lieberman stepped down from the position.

Mullin has a long and distinguished history with the department. He was hired as an assistant professor in 1972, when UCF was still known as Florida

Technological University. He went on to be promoted to associate professor and serve the department as both its interim chair from 1992–1996 and graduate coordinator from 2003–2005. He formally retired from UCF in 2005, but he has remained active by serving as an adjunct faculty member in the department.

Mullin earned his doctorate in audiology and speech pathology from Syracuse University, and he is a certified audiologist and speech pathologist. For

more than two decades, he has maintained a private practice in audiology. He began working as an audiologist with the UCF Communication Disorders Clinic in 2008.



Thomas Alan Smille

Interim Chair
Thomas A. Mullin

Aphasia House

(Continued from p. 1)

and chair of the Board of Clinical Educators at the UCF Communication Disorders Clinic. Whiteside is an expert in her field. She received the 2010 Honors of the Association Award from the Florida Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (see p. 4).

“As a graduate student at Vanderbilt University, I saw how effective the use of a home environment was during therapy for children who were deaf or hard of hearing,” Whiteside recalled. “I’ve always wanted to create that type of environment for clients with aphasia.”

She is equally pleased that The Aphasia House is also an educational facility, where students gain experience implementing cutting-edge therapies for the condition. It is conveniently

located in the Central Florida Research Park’s Research Pavilion. The UCF Communication Disorders Clinic is housed in the same building.

Thanks to the donation, Whiteside brought the first group of clients to the house this summer. Four individuals with aphasia resulting from either a stroke or brain injury participated in a six-week Intensive Aphasia Program from June 21 to July 29.

Research has shown that personalized intensive therapy is especially effective in treating aphasia, so each client spends four hours a day, four days a week working directly with one or more student clinicians. The goal of the program is to increase the clients’ communication skills.

Whiteside closely monitors the therapy sessions, noting the clients’ progress and ways to adjust the therapies, which she shares with the students. She and the students also keep the clients and their family members well-informed by providing them with a copy of the protocol and explaining what is being done and why.

The Intensive Aphasia Program will be conducted six times a year in The Aphasia House. Treatment is not free, but the facility takes Medicare and will work with participants to fill out the paperwork for reimbursement.

The donation will help pay for running the intensive programs, education for

those working at The Aphasia House and consultation with experts “to help us become the premier facility of its kind in the nation,” Whiteside said.

Those interested in learning more about The Aphasia House may call 407-882-0468 or visit www.ucfspeechlanguage.com for more information.

About The Aphasia House

- “UCF Tries Novel Approach for Stroke-Rehabilitation Patients,” *Orlando Sentinel*, Aug. 31, 2010: <http://tiny.cc/a381w>



- “UCF Offers Speech Therapy,” *Central Florida Future*, Aug. 25, 2010: <http://tiny.cc/yki23>

About Aphasia Recovery

- “What Can Neuroimaging Tell Us About Aphasia Recovery?,” *ASHA Leader*, July 6, 2010: <http://tiny.cc/5calr>, written by UCF Alumni **Julius Fridriksson (B.A., '95; M.A., '97)** and **Julie M. Baker (B.A., '04, M.A., '06)** [and J. D. Richardson]. Fridriksson is an associate professor and Baker is a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders and Aphasia Laboratory at the University of South Carolina.



Story photos: Keren Guin

Clients sign in when they enter the house’s living room.

Department Seeks New Chair

The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders is currently seeking a new department chair and invites applications for the 12-month, tenure-track (associate- or full-professor level) position to begin July 1, 2011.

The chair provides academic and administrative leadership for the department by overseeing the budget, human resources and academic programming. The chair also engages in individual and collaborative research, grant writing and fund raising; mentors faculty members in securing external funding; and promotes a collegial and collaborative environment.

Qualified applicants will have a doctorate in communication sciences and disorders or a related discipline and a demonstrated record of ongoing research productivity, external funding, and outstanding leadership, management, and communication skills.

**CSD
@
UCF**

Founded in 1969, the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders has the largest student enrollment in speech-language pathology in the nation, with a strong history of excellence in teaching and community service and an evolving robust research culture. It is one of seven departments and schools in UCF's College of Health and Public Affairs and includes 23 full-time faculty members. It offers an accredited master's degree program in speech-language pathology, a pre-professional baccalaureate program, and a collaborative doctoral program with the College of Education that specializes in language and literacy. The department's Communication Disorders Clinic, with several specialty clinics and numerous external affiliations, serves as the centerpiece for clinical education and applied research.

To apply for this position, please visit www.jobswithucf.com and attach the following: a letter of intent describing leadership, administrative experience, teaching interests and experiences, and research activity; a vita; and the names, addresses and phone numbers of five professional references.

Review of applications will begin on September 15, 2010, and continue until the position is filled.

UCF is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Women, minorities and individuals with disabilities are strongly urged to apply. As an agency of the state of Florida, UCF makes all application materials, including transcripts used in final screening, available to the public upon request.

Kong Attends Conference, Promotes Academic Exchange with Taiwan

Anthony Kong, assistant professor of communication sciences and disorders, was one of three UCF delegates to attend the second Taiwan-Florida Education Conference, held July 22-23 in Taiwan.

UCF's Kong; Consuelo Stebbins, assistant vice president for internationalization;

and Paolo Giordano, chair of the Department of Modern Language and Literature, met with academic and government leaders from Taiwan, including President Ma Ying-jeou, to discuss opportunities for academic exchange.

The UCF delegates shared information about Florida's state universities and colleges, including enrollment figures, graduate rates and recent budget actions. They also made a presentation on student exchanges and dual degree and short-term programs.

"It was an exciting experience," Kong said. "I



President Ma greets Assistant Professor Kong (right).

was especially thrilled by the enthusiasm of the government officials."

Kong is optimistic that the conference and future discussions will lead to exchange programs, possibly in language and culture, and research collaborations between faculty members and students from Florida and Taiwan.



Conference attendees with Taiwan's President Ma (center)

Photos courtesy of Anthony Kong

UCF Wins Multiple Awards at Annual FLASHA Convention

Members of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders received several awards at the 2010 Annual Convention of the Florida Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists, held May 27-30 in Orlando.



Janet Whiteside, chair for the UCF Communication Disorders Clinic, was chosen by her peers to receive the Honors of the Association

Award. “Dr. Whiteside was recognized for her clinical work with persons identified

with dementia, TBI [traumatic brain injury] and stroke survivors, as well as for her education of family members and the next generation of clinicians and colleagues in the profession,” said UCF Clinical Instructor Charlotte Harvey. Whiteside’s award plaque reads, “In Recognition of Outstanding Service and Contribution to the Profession and the Association.”



Adam Lloyd, a student in UCF’s master’s degree program in communication sciences and disorders, received the Larry B. Director

Graduate Student Fellowship, worth \$1,000. Lloyd already has a master’s

degree in music. At UCF, he is specializing in voice disorders. Lloyd (left) is shown here with Joseph Langhans, a board member of the FLASHA Foundation.

Janet Proly, a student in UCF’s communication and sciences disorders track in the doctoral program in education, took third place in the poster session for her research on “Language Learning through Graphic Organizers.”



Photos courtesy of Charlotte Harvey

Honors and Awards

Chad Nye, professor and the executive director of the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD), was named a fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). Individuals are recognized as fellows for making outstanding contributions to the profession. About 20 people are selected every year from a field of about 140,000. In addition to providing leadership for CARD, Nye is an accomplished researcher who secured more than \$1 million in grant funding in 2009–2010.

Associate Professor **Jennifer Kent-Walsh** successfully completed a yearlong Research Faculty Fellowship offered by the College of Health and Public Affairs by submitting a grant proposal to a national foundation. Her proposal is titled, “Teaching Children

who use AAC to Ask Inverted Yes-No Questions.” Kent-Walsh also was awarded a sabbatical this fall to further her research agenda.

With Nye’s naming as an ASHA fellow, the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders can claim that all six of its full professors are now ASHA fellows.

Associate Professor **Jaime Schwartz** and **Teresa Daly**, director of CARD, are among the eight researchers in the college selected to be Research Faculty Fellows for 2010–11.

They will attend intensive workshops on advanced methodologies and statistics, receive mentoring on research and scholarship, and receive structured feedback as they develop a research proposal for a federal-funding agency.

Professor **Jack Ryalls** was selected to be a Faculty Fellow in the college’s dean’s office during the fall 2010 semester. He is working to produce a multi-media guide on international activities and research in the College of Health and Public Affairs.

UCF’s College of Graduate Studies selected **Michelle Cardona**, who completed a bachelor’s degree in communication sciences and disorders this May, to receive the university’s Graduate RAMP Fellowship. The fellowship is awarded to “the most outstanding RAMP students who have a stellar academic record and a strong potential for success.” The award includes tuition, a stipend and health insurance coverage, collectively worth \$31,400 over two years. Cardona began the master’s degree program in communication sciences and disorders this fall.

Top 100 Ranking

UCF’s Master of Arts in Communication Sciences and Disorders program remains ranked in *U.S. News and World Report’s* top 100 graduate programs in “speech-language pathology.”



Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students

Communication sciences and disorders' students who face economic hardship may be eligible for scholarship support thanks to federal funding that aims to increase the number of health professionals working in underserved areas.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services awarded UCF's College of Health and Public Affairs \$636,147 to provide scholarships for full-time students in several health-related programs during the 2010–11 academic year.

Full-time undergraduate and graduate students in communication sciences and disorders are eligible to apply for the financial support. Also eligible are radiologic sciences majors and graduate

students in health services administration and social work. Applicants must meet federal poverty guidelines.

This is the second year the college has received a grant through the federal government's Health Resources and Services Administration Scholarship program. The program helps students from disadvantaged backgrounds complete a health or allied health professions program. In many cases, graduates of these programs return to their home communities to work.

Last year's grant provided \$305,984 in scholarship assistance for 62 communication sciences and disorders' students at UCF.

Report of Gifts July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010

The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders appreciates the generous financial contributions of the following individuals:

- Marcus Anderson
- Anonymous Gift
- Jeanne K. Bass
- Robin Brunetto
- Leslie K. Doster ('87)
- Susan A. Evans ('79)
- Jennifer Kent-Walsh ('96)
- Jane Lieberman
- Maria E. McCarthy
- Tyscha Pittman
- Paula G. Plyant ('81)
- Richard Reis
- Dawn Shockley ('90)
- Sheila J. Steirer
- Lina A. Stone ('98)
- Brenda K. Thompson
- Patricia J. Worzalla ('81)

If you made a contribution between July 1, 2009, and June 30, 2010, and your name has been inadvertently omitted, we apologize. Please contact us at kkorkosz@mail.ucf.edu so we can report your gift in the next issue.

Make a Gift

Every gift plays a vital role by enabling the department to improve facilities, enhance

academic programming, and provide greater support to students, faculty members and the community. We invite you to join us in achieving these goals.

Ways to Give

- **Scholarships and Fellowships** – To recruit and retain the best and brightest students to Central Florida to pursue a degree in speech-language pathology
- **Faculty** – To recruit and retain the best faculty members to educate the next generation of speech-language pathologists and perform vital research in speech, language, hearing and associated disorders
- **Clinic** – To ensure that the UCF Communication Disorders Clinic continues to flourish in teaching, research and service. Each semester, the clinic provides speech, language and hearing services to approximately 350 children and adults from the greater Orlando area.

For more information or to make a gift, please contact Katie Korkosz, assistant director of development and alumni relations, at 407-823-1600 or korkosz@mail.ucf.edu.

UCF ALUMNI Are You Interested in Starting an Alumni Chapter?

The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders would like to become more involved with its alumni and wants to know if you are interested in helping to start a Communication Sciences and Disorders Alumni Chapter at UCF. If so, please contact Katie Korkosz, assistant director of development and alumni relations, at 407-823-1600 or cohpa@ucfalumni.com for information on upcoming interest sessions.

Class Notes in Spring 2011

The next "Class Notes" section of *Communiqué* will be published in the spring 2011 issue. Submit news you'd like to share at www.cohpa.ucf.edu/giving/stay_connected.shtml.

Alumni Corner

"Driven to Succeed"

New alumna Katherine Olson (B.A., '10) was diagnosed with severe hearing loss when she was 4. Throughout her childhood, her parents insisted that she attend mainstream schools where she excelled despite the ups-and-downs. After completing high school, she decided to pursue a degree in communication sciences and disorders at UCF. Her own determination and drive led her to the commencement stage on May 7, 2010. Olson plans to help people diagnosed with similar hearing impairments. Learn more about her compelling story at <http://tiny.cc/u1m1r>. For a video about Olson, visit <http://tiny.cc/im7ts>.



Jason Greene

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Region Assistive Technology
Demonstration Center**

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Orlando, FL 32826-2215
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Degree Programs

Bachelor of Arts/Science in Communication
Sciences and Disorders

Master of Arts in Communication Sciences
and Disorders*

Doctor of Philosophy in Education, Communication
Sciences and Disorders Track (Specialization in
School Speech-Language Pathology)

**Accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation of
the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association*

Undergraduate Minors

Communication Sciences and Disorders

Undergraduate Certificate Programs

Language Development and Disorders

Graduate Certificate Programs

Child Language Disorders
Medical Speech-Language Pathology

Faculty

Cecyle Carson, Ph.D., Associate Professor
Joseph DiNapoli, M.S., CAGS, Instructor
Barbara Ehren, Ed.D., Professor and Director of the
Doctoral Program
Bari Hoffman Ruddy, Ph.D., Associate Professor
Jennifer Kent-Walsh, Ph.D., Associate Professor
Anthony Kong, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
R. Jane Lieberman, Ph.D., Professor
Thomas Mullin, Ph.D., Associate Professor
Emeritus, Interim Chair
Chad Nye, Ph.D., Professor
David Ratusnik, Ph.D., Professor
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Jamie Schwartz, Ph.D., Associate Professor
Harold Utt, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
Martine Vanryckeghem, Ph.D., Professor

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Gillian Dreilinger, M.S., CCC-SLP, Clinical Instructor
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Charlotte Harvey, Ed.D., CCC-SLP, Clinical Instructor
Jane Hostetler, M.A., CCC-SLP, Clinical Instructor
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