

Faculty Researcher Bari Hoffman Ruddy is Making a Difference in the Lives of Cancer Patients

Consulting patients with cancer before and after they undergo radiation therapy is a fairly new role for speech-language pathologists. It is also the focus of a new research study recently launched by UCF's Bari Hoffman Ruddy.

Radiation therapy for head and neck cancer commonly leads to dysphagia and can profoundly affect a patient's quality of life. "Swallowing disorders can result in severe medical complications that can negatively impact patient outcomes," explained Hoffman Ruddy, associate professor of communication sciences and disorders. "The effects are devastating and potentially more life-threatening than the cancer itself."

Therapy for Dysphagia

Fortunately, there are strategies that can prevent some of the adverse effects.

Hoffman Ruddy will study one of them, expiratory muscle strength training (EMST), in a yearlong project titled "Device-Driven Therapy for Dysphagia Following Head and Neck Cancer Treatment." The project is funded by Florida Hospital's Gala Endowed Program for Oncological Research.

In a previous study, Hoffman Ruddy's colleagues from the University of Florida found that EMST significantly improved physiological and biomechanical measures of safe and efficient swallowing in patients with Parkinson's disease.

This coming year, physicians at the Florida Hospital Cancer Institute will refer 20 patients who have undergone radiation therapy to Hoffman Ruddy to participate in her new study. After obtaining baseline readings, she and several graduate



Associate Professor Ruddy in her office

research assistants will monitor the patients' ability to swallow and other physiological measures during four weeks of EMST.

(Continued on p. 2)

Lieberman Steps Down, Leaves Substantial Legacy

This May, Professor Jane Lieberman stepped down as chair of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. From 2000 to 2010, she led the



Professor Lieberman with Christensen's "The Balancing Act"

department and forged initiatives that will leave a substantial legacy.

Like the work of art displayed in her office, Lieberman's initiatives continuously demanded a balancing act — sometimes made more difficult by standing on one foot on the back of a moving turtle (Christensen, 1995). Of the department's many accomplishments over the last decade, Lieberman points to three that will have an enduring impact on the department and its growth in stature in the academic community.

Expansion of Clinic Staff, Space and Services

In 2000, the UCF Communication Disorders Clinic had two full-time

staff — a director and clinical educator and a secretary. Under Lieberman's leadership, the clinic grew to a full-scale community speech, language and hearing center. Its space more than doubled in size, and its staff now includes a director and seven clinical educators supported by three full-time office staff and numerous student workers in communication sciences and disorders and health services administration.

As the centerpiece of the master's degree program, the clinic offers specialty services in adult neurogenic disorders; augmentative and alternative communication; fluency disorders; severe oral and written language disorders; and, voice, resonance and swallowing

(Continued on p. 3)

Research: Hoffman Ruddy *(Continued from p. 1)*

Hoffman Ruddy first encountered head and neck cancer patients through her work as a voice-care specialist. She has met patients as director of the Voice Care Center at The Ear, Nose and Throat Surgical Associates in Winter Park, Fla., and the Voice Care Center at UCF's Communication Disorders Clinic. "I love working with this population," she remarked. "It feels right not only clinically, but in my heart."

Modeling Lung Tumor Movement

Hoffman Ruddy's new study with Florida Hospital is not her first to benefit cancer patients. She is currently part of a multidisciplinary team of researchers from UCF and M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Orlando working to improve the accuracy of radiation therapy for lung cancer.

The team is using computed tomography and physiological data from patients with non-small cell lung cancer to develop a model that predicts tumor movement during a single breathing cycle. Hoffman Ruddy is contributing her expertise in pulmonary function testing "to make the model breathe."

"Lung tissue is very fluid tissue and displaced easily," she said. "If a beam of radiation misses the tumor because of a change in breathing pattern or a cough, it affects healthy tissue."

The team's goal is to develop a validated model that depicts patient-specific tumor movement. The model will be used to guide radiation therapy in real time.

Over the course of the study, Hoffman Ruddy has adjusted the way she assesses the patients' pulmonary function. The common technique, spirometry, proved to be uncomfortable for some patients with lung cancer. "Pulmonary tests often require maximum breaths and breath holding, and it was difficult to get patient compliance," she explained.

She now uses a relatively new technique, impulse oscillometry, to measure the patients' pulmonary function. "It's a simple

technique and can be performed during ordinary tidal breathing," she said. Graduate student Adam Lloyd is assisting her.

When Hoffman Ruddy completes the patient assessments, she will move the impulse oscillometry system from the cancer center to UCF to train communication sciences and disorders graduate students studying upper airway disorders. "Medical students and pulmonologists are now being trained to use this equipment, and our students will be prepared to use it as well," she noted.

Sharing Expertise with Students

Hoffman Ruddy's students are clearly among the beneficiaries of her clinical research and practice. In any given lecture, she may share a story about a patient with unusual circumstances, play

a video of an endoscopic exam or display surgical pictures.

She also developed a new elective on management of upper airway and aerodigestive disorders so that students can learn about team management with complex cases. In this course, students will gain hands-on experience with prostheses, devices such as an electrolarynx, endoscopy equipment and adaptive equipment.

Hoffman Ruddy clearly enjoys sharing her clinical experiences with her students, and it shows. In 2006, she received UCF's Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award.

"When I receive feedback from students, they always like the fact that I'm practicing clinically the skills that I'm teaching," she said proudly.

Hoffman Ruddy Coordinates Free Cancer Risk Assessments

Associate Professor Bari Hoffman Ruddy coordinated free individual cancer risk assessments for community members in observance of Oral, Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Week, April 12-18, 2010.

Physicians conducted the assessments on April 15 at the Winter Park Memorial Hospital Medical Library following an expert-panel discussion on team management of oral, head and neck cancer. They also conducted assessments on April 16 — this year's World Voice Day — at the UCF Communication Disorders Clinic. UCF communication sciences and disorders students and medical students assisted with the risk assessments and distributed information on campus to increase awareness.

The activities were jointly sponsored by the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, Florida Hospital Cancer Institute and The Ear, Nose and Throat Surgical Associates.



The expert panelists were (left to right) Laurie Amodeo, M.S.N., head and neck cancer coordinator, Florida Hospital Cancer Institute (FHCI); Jeffrey Lehman, M.D., The Ear, Nose and Throat Surgical Associates (ENTSA), and chairman, Department of Otolaryngology, Florida Hospital; Lee Zehngebot, M.D., medical oncologist and director of research, FHCI; Henry Ho, M.D., ENTSA, and tumor site director, FHCI; David Plank, D.D.S., prosthodontist, FHCI; Hoffman Ruddy; and Vicki Lewis, M.S., speech-language pathologist, ENTSA

Lieberman *(Continued from p. 1)*

disorders. Since 2007, the clinic has housed the Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology (FAAST) Atlantic Region Demonstration Center. This facility serves individuals with severe communication disorders who cannot use their voices to communicate their daily needs. During 2009, the clinic initiated intensive programming for individuals with fluency disorders. And summer 2010 will see the return of an intensive and innovative six-week program for stroke survivors, with plans for continuation throughout the year.

Increased Focus on Language and Literacy

Lieberman also shared her passion for language and literacy with the department. Her influence permeates the curriculum but is especially evident in the department's three-year-old doctoral program in school speech-language pathology with a language and literacy focus. Inaugurated in 2007, the program has attracted a nationally renowned director in school-based issues and adolescent language and literacy and six talented students who have presented and published widely in the United States and abroad. Together the students have amassed seven publications and 14 presentations.

At the master's-level, Lieberman directed a U.S. Department of Education personnel-preparation grant from 2005 to 2010 that prepared 68 speech-language pathologists with dual certification in speech-language impairment and reading. During her "free" time, she co-authored the *Assessment of Literacy and Language*, which identifies young children who exhibit oral language disorders and who may be at-risk for reading difficulties.

Currently, Lieberman is completing a book on the treatment of oral and written language difficulties (OWL-D), and she is collaborating on an application for an Orange County charter school that will educate children and adolescents with severe OWL-D, including dyslexia.

Lieberman will coordinate the school's language and literacy curriculum, and the school will support doctoral scholars in residence who will supervise master's-level students obtaining evaluation and intervention experiences in OWL-D. The goal of this department-school collaboration is to develop the most effective curriculum for children and adolescents with severe OWL-D on a public-school budget.

Growth in Faculty, Research Funding

From 2000 to 2010, the department increased its full-time academic and clinical faculty from 12 to 22 — almost a doubling in size. A prominent goal of both new and more senior faculty members is to increase external funding. In 2000, the department had no external funding. In 10 year's time, funding has increased incrementally and reached its peak in 2009 at \$834,367, with over 30 percent of the faculty contributing to this achievement.

The department is home to both research and service grants. Research grants support investigations in areas such as device-driven therapy for swallowing disorders following head and neck cancer and effective strategies to transition young adults with autism to the workplace. This spring, the department landed a first-of-its-kind National Institutes of Health grant to study discourse in adults with brain injuries. Service grants support the FAAST Atlantic Region Demonstration Center and provide student funding to prepare speech-language pathologists to work with two special populations, children and youth with severe OWL-D and English language learners. (Also see p. 4).

As Lieberman steps down as chair, there is no doubt that the balancing act will continue, though the objects involved in the act will surely change. She looks forward to teaching and directing her first doctoral dissertation. And she pledges her continued commitment as the department strives to attain its overarching goal — the development of a robust research culture.

Honors and Awards

UCF's College of Graduate Studies has selected **Michelle Cardona**, an undergraduate student in communication sciences and disorders, 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 will begin the master's degree program in communication sciences and disorders this fall.

Kimberly Murza and **Janet Proly**, students in the Communication Sciences and Disorders Track in the doctoral program in



education, were awarded Best in Education Awards at the UCF Graduate Research Forum in March 2010. Proly won for her poster presentation entitled "Exploring Students' Perceptions of Evidence-Based Practice." Murza won for her poster presentation entitled "Speech-Language Pathologists' Adoption of a District-Wide Innovation." Professor Barbara Ehren was the faculty mentor for both projects.



Chad Nye was awarded a 2009–2010 Research Incentive Award from UCF in recognition of his research activities, which currently include a five-year study on employment

of adults with autism spectrum disorders. In 2009, Nye was inducted into the UCF Millionaires Club by the UCF Office of Research and Commercialization. The office bestows the honor to researchers who receive \$1 million or more in external support during the fiscal year.

Department Grants and Scholarship

Funded Grants

External

Hoffman Ruddy, B. (2008–2010). *Incorporating 3D lung dynamics for real time radiotherapy*. UCF/I-4. Funded at \$18,877.

Hoffman Ruddy, B. (2010–2011). *Device-driven therapy for dysphagia following head and neck cancer treatment*. Florida Hospital Gala Endowed Program for Oncologic Research. Funded at \$28,669.

Kent-Walsh, J. (2009–2010). FAAST Atlantic Region Demonstration Center. Funded at \$108,000.

Kong, A. P. H., Law, S. P., & Lee, A. (2010–2014). *Toward a multimodal and multi-level analysis of Chinese aphasic discourse*. National Institutes of Health, PAR-08-212: Methodology and Measurement in the Behavioral and Social Sciences. Funded at \$727,000.

Lieberman, R. J. (2006–2010). *Preparing school speech-language pathologists (SLPs) for new educational roles in language and literacy*. U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs. Funded at \$783,272.

Nye, C. (2008–2013). *Vocational rehabilitation service models for individuals with autism spectrum disorders*. National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research. Funded at \$500,000.

Rosa-Lugo, L. (2008–2013). *University of Central Florida Collaborative for preparing school speech-language pathologists to serve English language learners with communication disorders (Project SLP-ELL)*. U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs. Funded at \$785,771.

Internal

Kent-Walsh, J. (2008–2009). *Project TELL: Targeting early language and literacy skills with children who have augmentative and alternative communication needs*. UCF COHPA In-House Grant. Funded at \$7,500.

Kong, A. P. H., & Whiteside, J. (2010–2011). *Narratives of adults with aphasia: Influence of linguistic functioning on concept production*. UCF COHPA In-House Grant. Funded at \$7,500.

Kong, A. P. H. (2009–2010). *The development of a corpus for Cantonese aphasia*. COHPA Dean's Discretionary Funds to Support International Research. Funded at \$3,000.

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Publications

Articles

Bernardini, S., **Vanryckeghem, M.**, Brutten, G., Cocco, L., & Zmarich, C. (2009). Communication attitude of Italian children who do and do not stutter. *Journal of Communication Disorders*, 42, 155-161.

Binger, C., **Kent-Walsh, J.**, Ewing, C., & Taylor, S. (In press). Teaching educational assistants to facilitate the multi-symbol message productions of young students who require AAC. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*.

Ehren, B. J. (2009). Looking through an adolescent literacy lens at the narrow view of reading. *Language, Speech and Hearing Services in Schools*, 40, 192-195.

Ehren, B. J. & Whitmire, K. A. (2009). Speech-language pathologists as primary contributors to RTI at the secondary level. *Seminars in Speech and Language*, 30(2), 90-104.

Ehren, B. J. (2009). Response-to-intervention: SLPs as linchpins in secondary schools. *The ASHA Leader*, 14(6), 10-13.

Ehren, B. J., Laster, B., & Watts-Taffe, S. (2009). Creating shared language for collaboration in RTI. *RTI Action Network*. Retrieved from: <http://www.rtinetwork.org/Get-Started/Build-Support/Creating-Shared-Language-for-Collaboration-in-RTI>.

Fridriksson, J., Baker, J., **Whiteside, J.**, Eoute, D., Moser, D., Vessilnov, R., & Rorden, C. (2009). Treating visual speech perception to improve speech production in nonfluent aphasia. *Stroke*, 40(3), 853-858.

Fridriksson, J., Moser, D., **Ryalls, J.**, Bonilha, L., Rorden, C., & Baylis, G. (2009). *Pars opercularis* supports the production and perception of motor speech movements. *Journal of Speech, Language and Hearing Research*, 52, 812-819.

Has-Vaughn, D. & **Nye, C.** (2009). Understanding high quality research designs for speech language pathology. *Evidenced-Based International Journal of Speech Language Pathology*, 3, 218-224.

Kent-Walsh, J., Binger, C., & ***Hasham, Z.** (In press). Effects of parent instruction on the symbolic communication of children using AAC during storybook reading. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*.

Kong, A. P. H. (2009). The use of main concept analysis to measure discourse production in Cantonese-speaking persons with aphasia: A preliminary report. *Journal of Communication Disorders*, 42, 442-464.

Min, Y., Santhanam, A., Min, Y., Neelakkantan, H., **Hoffman Ruddy, B. J.**, Meeks, S., & Kupelian, P. (In press). Modeling 3D volumetric lung conformal dosimetry. *Physics in Medicine and Biology*.

***Murza, K.** & **Nye, C.** (Commentary authors) (2009). The Lidcombe Program demonstrates positive results for German preschoolers who stutter. *Evidence-Based Communication and Intervention*, 3(1), 15-18.



*Murza, K. & Nye, C. (2009). A clinical language/literacy decision: Evidence-based story grammar instruction. *EBP Briefs*, 3, 29-42.

Nye, C. & Has-Vaughn, D. (In press). Assessing methodological quality of randomized and quasi-experimental trials: A summary of stuttering treatment research. *International Journal of Speech Language Pathology*.

*Perkins, R., Ryalls, J., Carson, C., & Whiteside, J. (2010). Acoustic analyses of two recovered cases of Foreign Accent Syndrome. *Aphasiology*, 1, 1-23.

*Proly, J. & *Murza, K. (In press). Building SLP capacity. *Evidence-Based Communication Assessment and Intervention*.

*Proly, J., *Rivers, J., & Schwartz, J. (2009). Text comprehension: Graphic organizers to the rescue. *Perspectives on School-Based Issues*, 10(3), 82-89.

Santhanam, A., Min, Y., Mudur, S., Divo, E., Kassab, A., Hoffman Ruddy, B. J., Rolland, J., & Kupelian, P. (In press). A hyper spherical harmonic formulation for reconstructing volumetric 3D lung deformations. *Comptes Rendus Mécanique "Special Issue on Inverse Problems."*

Schutz, L. E., Rivers, K. O., McNamara, E., Schutz, J. A., & *Lobato, E. (In press). Traumatic brain injury in K-12 students: Where have all the children gone? *International Journal of Special Education*.

Books

Ehren, B. J., Ehren, T. C., & *Proly, J. L. (2009). *Response to intervention: An action guide for school leaders*. Alexandria, VA: Education Research Service.

Hoffman Ruddy, B. J., Sapienza, C., & Lehman, J. (2009). *Visual examination of voice disorders*. San Diego: Plural Publishing.

Sapienza, C. & Hoffman Ruddy, B. J. (2009). *Voice disorders: A workbook*. San Diego: Plural Publishing.

Book Chapters

Ehren, B. J. (2009). Reading comprehension and expository text structure: Direction for intervention with adolescents. In M. Nippold and C. Scott (Eds.), *Expository discourse in children, adolescents, and adults: Development and disorders*. London, England: Psychology Press.

Hoffman Ruddy, B. J., Hicks, D., & Sapienza, C. M. (In press). Voice disorders. In N. Anderson, & G. Shames (Eds.), *Human communication disorders* (7th ed.). Boston, MA: Pearson.

Hoffman Ruddy, B. J., Lehman, J., & Sapienza, C. M. (2009). Dysphonia in the "high risk" vocal performer. In J. Stemple, *Clinical voice disorders* (2nd ed.). San Diego, CA: Plural Publishing Group Inc.

Schutz, L. E., Rivers, K. O., McNamara, E., & Hughes, C. E. (In press). The rehabilitation of Shaken Soldier Syndrome: A coordinated system of community-situated, postacute treatment for blast-injured veterans. In D. G. Stanton & L. R. Castaneda (Eds.), *Military psychiatry: New developments*. Hauppauge, NY: Nova Science Publishers, Inc.

Book Monographs

International Reading Association (2009). *IRA Commission on RTI: Working draft of guiding principles*. B. J. Ehren (contributor). Retrieved from: <http://www.reading.org/General/Publications/readingToday/RTY-0902-rti.aspx>.

* Students in the Master of Arts in Communication Sciences and Disorders program and in the Communication Sciences and Disorders Track, doctoral program in education

In Memoriam

David B. Ingram, 1936–2010

David B. Ingram, Ph.D., a recognized innovator in diagnosing and treating voice pathologies and retired colleague from the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, passed away on Jan. 2, 2010.



Ingram taught at the University of Central Florida for 28 years. Upon his retirement, he was awarded associate professor emeritus status and UCF's Communication Disorders Clinic's Voice Care Center was named after him.

Ingram also founded and directed the Voice Care Center at The Ear, Nose and Throat Surgical Associates in Winter Park, Fla. He worked with patients in that practice for 26 years, and he was recognized nationally for excellence in patient care. This partnership allowed him to share his clinical experience with students in the classroom.

He is survived by his wife, Sherrill; son, John; daughter-in-law, Melissa; daughter, Elizabeth; son-in-law, John; and five grandchildren.

A scholarship fund has been established in David Ingram's memory. You may send donations to the UCF Foundation, 12424 Research Parkway, Orlando, FL 32826-3208. Please note David Ingram's name on the memo line.

Recent Events



▲ Angel Cardec (standing), director of UCF's Office of International Studies, identified resources for faculty members interested in international research at a brown-bag lunch meeting held Feb. 18, 2010. His presentation and that of others from the university were hosted by the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders and the College of Health and Public Affairs' International Committee and Research Council. Martine Vanryckeghem, professor of communication sciences and disorders, who is actively engaged in international research, co-hosted the meeting. Faculty members from throughout the college attended.

▼ The Seventh Biennial Gene J. Bruten Symposium on Fluency was held at UCF on Feb. 26, 2010. Giri Hegde (standing), professor emeritus of speech-language pathology at California State University, Fresno, spoke on stuttering assessment and treatment practices with an emphasis on experimental treatments for preschool children. The participants included clinicians, students, researchers and others interested in learning about the diagnosis and treatment of stuttering. This year's symposium was developed to increase participants' knowledge of evidence-based practice principles and the limitations of current stuttering approaches.



Class Notes

All degrees in **bold text** were awarded by UCF, either in communicative disorders, communication sciences and disorders (after May 2006), or another program as noted.

Class notes are reported annually in the spring issue. If you would like us to include your information in a future issue, visit www.cohpa.ucf.edu/alumni and click on "Stay Connected."

1985

Gladyz Lopez, B.A., is employed as a speech-language pathologist assistant at Lifespan Therapy: The Therapy Place in Orlando, Fla.

1991

Stacey Brill, B.S., went on to earn her M.S. in speech pathology at Nova Southeastern University in 1993. She is employed at the Gulf Coast Medical Center in Fort Myers, Fla., as a speech-language pathologist specializing in dysphagia and head and neck cancer.

Stacey is VitalStim certified and began a pet therapy program at the Gulf Coast Medical Center using her two English bulldogs. She has received the Autism Centers of Excellence (ACE) award three times. She is also a facilitator for Support of People with Oral and Head and Neck Cancer (SPOHNC).

1993

Lissa Nieparent Greenwald, B.S., went on to earn her M.S. in communication disorders and is working as a licensed speech-language pathologist in her own private practice as well as with HCR ManorCare in Delray Beach, Fla.

1997

Jason Cohen, B.S., is an allied-health division manager for Supplemental Health Care.

1999

Lori D'Ambola Douma, B.S., also earned an M.S. in speech-language pathology from William Patterson University in August

Alumni Spotlight

Rachel Williams, M.A. ('96), was recognized as the FLASHA (Florida Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists) Professional Member Spotlight this April. After completing her master's degree at UCF, Rachel went on to earn her Ph.D. in communication sciences and disorders from Howard University. She began to pursue leadership opportunities in 2007 after completing an ASHA (American Speech-Language-Hearing Association) Leadership Development training program. Rachel is currently the FLASHA treasurer and has held several leadership roles within ASHA, FLASHA and NBASLH (National Black Association for Speech-Language and Hearing).

Rachel also has been recognized many times over the years for her dedication

and service to the field. In 2009, she received the Clinical Supervisor of the Year Award and a President's Faculty Research and Development Grant from Nova Southeastern University, where she is a member of the faculty.



After more than 18 years of practice, Rachel is still most inspired by a speech-language professional's ability to "make a difference in a person's ability to communicate effectively." To read the entire interview, see the FLASHA Professional Member Spotlight at www.flasha.org/memberspotlightwilliams3_10.pdf.



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.

2003. She will earn board certification as a behavior analyst from the Florida Institute of Technology in September.

Mona (Nazworth) Chiles, M.A., is self-employed as a speech-language pathologist. She earned the Pinellas County Council for Exceptional Children Educator of the Year Award in 2005, and she was a finalist for the State of Florida Council for Exceptional Children Educator of the Year Award in 2006.

2000

Becky (Hopkins) Boswell, B.A., went on to earn her M.A. in early intervention in deaf education from Fontbonne University in St. Louis, Mo., and is certified in K-12 deaf education. She is currently employed by Special School District in St. Louis as a teacher of the deaf.

Andrea (Shearer) Beames, B.S., is currently self-employed as a contracted early intervention pediatric speech-language pathologist for children from birth to age three. She works with non-verbal children, children with autism and children with oral-motor/oral-sensory difficulties, and in parent education. Andrea earned a master's degree in hearing and speech sciences from the University of Maryland, College Park. She married a Marine Corps' officer and they are currently living in Lejuene, N.C., with their two young children.

2003

Nidia Correa-Rial, B.A., works for Miami-Dade County Schools and Kinetic Kids, Inc., in Miami Beach, Fla. She and classmate **Maraney Torres (M.A. '03)** had the opportunity to work in Waterford, England, for one year beginning in 2005.

2003

Fran Febus, B.A., M.A. ('08), completed her clinical fellowship year in June 2009 at Our Children's Rehab Center in Winter Haven, Fla. The facility serves Polk County public and charter schools as well as inpatient and outpatient adults at Heart of Florida Hospital's rehabilitation department. She is currently working as a subcontractor for Beckman and Associates, Chapman and Associates, and SpeakEasy Solutions serving children from birth to 21 years. Fran also enjoys working as an Early Steps provider.

2004

Dalymar del Llano, B.A., is currently employed as a speech-language clinician with Orange County Public Schools. She will complete her master's degree in communication disorders at Nova Southeastern University in August.

2005

Courtney (Soloff) England, B.S., married in April 2010. She is currently working as a drug safety associate for Johnson & Johnson.

2006

Laureen Lilian G. Romero, M.A., is working for West Contra Costa Unified School District in Richmond, Calif.; Pro-Source Rehab, Inc., in Alameda, Calif.; Sava Senior Care in Oakland, Calif.; Nightingale Nursing in San Leandro, Calif.; and Bay Area Rehabilitation Services in Alameda, Calif.

2007

Ashley H. Culmer, B.S., worked for two years as a speech-language clinician for Orange County Schools and is now pursuing her master's degree in communication sciences and disorders from Florida State University.

Erin Fitzgerald, B.A., M.A. ('09), is currently employed as a speech-language pathologist for St. Catherine Rehabilitation Hospital in North Miami, Fla.

2008

Virnalisa Jimenez, B.A., is currently employed as a speech-language therapist with the Orange County Public School District.

Deanna L. Lopez, M.A., Graduate Certificate in Reading, is a speech-language pathologist for KinderKare Early Intervention Program in New York.

2009

Kyra S. Vollenweider, B.S., is working as a contract writer for military subsistence for Prime Vendor, Inc.

New Web Site Expands Clinic Reach



The UCF Communication Disorders Clinic recently launched a new Web site (www.ucfspeechlanguagetherapy.com) featuring information about its extensive services and videotaped interviews with clients and faculty researchers. Some pages convert to Spanish to serve a greater population. Janet Whiteside, the clinic director, said, "Having a professional Web site has significantly broadened our marketing strategy. It is so convenient to refer inquiries to our Web site for [prospective clients] to explore our services at their convenience."



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Degree Programs

Bachelor of Arts/Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders

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

Undergraduate Minor

Communication Sciences and Disorders

Undergraduate Certificate Program

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

Kenyatta Rivers, Ph.D., Associate Professor

Linda Rosa-Lugo, Ed.D., Associate Professor

Jack Ryalls, Ph.D., Professor

Jamie Schwartz, Ph.D., Associate Professor

Harold Utt, Ph.D., Assistant Professor

Martine Vanryckeghem, Ph.D., Professor

Clinic Faculty

Amy Barrett, M.A., CCC-SLP, Externship Coordinator

Gillian Dreilinger, M.S., CCC-SLP, Clinical Instructor

Tom Ehren, M.S., CCC-SLP, Clinical Instructor

Charlotte Harvey, Ed.D., CCC-SLP, Clinical Instructor

Jane Hostetler, M.A., CCC-SLP, Clinical Instructor

Carla Parsons, M.S., CCC-SLP, Externship Coordinator

Pamela Resnick, M.A., CCC-SLP, Clinical Instructor

Janet Whiteside, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Chair, Board of

Clinical Educators

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Amy Casady, Office Assistant

Sue Divan, Clinic Office Assistant

Joy Kittredge, B.S., Program Assistant

Steven Lerner, M.A., Coordinator of Academic Support

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