

Communiqué

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

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Students “Sign” with Orlando Magic

Ashley Loomis can't dunk or shoot three-pointers, but she signed with the Orlando Magic last fall.

Loomis, who has been deaf since birth, is one of 35 UCF students who have been taking turns signing the national anthem for deaf and hard-of-hearing fans before all Magic home games, including the preseason and playoffs, during the 2010-11 season.

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ASL student Derek Cassese (center) was the signer at a Magic versus Atlanta Hawks game held in November at Orlando's new Amway Center.

SPEAK STRONG: Fluency Disorders Clinic Offers Advances in Treatment

David Moreland, a 30-year-old employee with PepsiCo in Orlando, thought he'd have a better chance at a promotion if he sought therapy for his mild stuttering problem. So he turned to the Fluency Disorders Clinic at UCF for help.

Eight years earlier he'd gone to the specialty clinic, housed in the Communication Disorders Clinic, for an assessment by Professor Martine Vanryckeghem, the sole American Speech-Language-Hearing Association-Board-recognized fluency specialist in Central Florida.

After conducting tests and observations, Vanryckeghem felt certain she could help. But first she needed to deliver her usual "sermon" for prospective clients:

"You've been stuttering for years. I cannot undo that in a few sessions. You will need

to work on your speech everyday at home, probably for the rest of your life. This is a commitment, a lifelong commitment. Are you ready to take this on?"

Moreland wasn't ready eight years ago, but he was last fall, when he began therapy with Vanryckeghem. During 50-minute sessions held twice a week, Vanryckeghem taught him techniques she thought he'd find useful based on what she observed in his speech.

Among the techniques were reducing his rate of speech and easing into the first words of a sentence.

Moreland's fluency greatly improved after a semester of therapy coupled with his high level of motivation. So much so that he's now attending just one session a week.

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▼ Some clients of the Fluency Disorders Clinic wear a "SPEAK STRONG" wristband to remind them of the strategies they've learned to improve their fluency.

Illustration by David Janosik



“Sign” (Continued from p. 1)

She thought it was great to be part of something that exposes others to sign language and the deaf community.

“One of the biggest challenges a deaf individual faces is separation from the general community due to the language and communication barriers,” Loomis said. “It demonstrates the heart behind the Magic team to reach out to and connect with deaf and hearing individuals.”

Jason Hurdich, an American Sign Language instructor at UCF, said few NBA teams provide signing for all of their games. He said it’s special that the Magic are “taking accessibility a step further than what other teams have done.”

To sign the national anthem, the students work in teams. One student signs next

to the singer. He or she takes cues from a second student acting as a feeder from the sidelines. Because some of the student signers are deaf or hard of hearing, the role of the feeder is to give the signers cues to follow.

The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders offers courses in ASL and is home to the ASL student organization at UCF. It sought the partnership with the Magic to assist fans and give students studying the third-most-used language in the United States invaluable opportunities to practice. It was an easy sell.

Shelly Driggers, director of Arena & Event Presentations for the Magic, said her organization was “very happy to partner with UCF to serve all Orlando Magic fans and create a legendary experience.”



Students practice signing at the Amway Center during a simulation before the start of the preseason.

For more photos and to watch videos of UCF students signing at the Magic’s home games, visit the UCF ASL Team on Facebook at <http://ucflink.me/19>.



Fluency (Continued from p. 1)

“Now we’re working on one of the most important steps in fluency treatment — ‘generalization’ or ‘carry over,’” Vanryckeghem said. “He needs to ‘generalize’ what he’s learned in the secure, comfortable environment of the clinic to the outside world, where people are less patient.”

The two will make trips to local stores and restaurants, where Vanryckeghem will support Moreland as he applies what he’s learned in the clinic to conversations with store and restaurant personnel.

Moreland quickly moved into this phase of treatment because his stuttering is mild and he’s very motivated, she added. It may take other clients much longer.



Moreland (left) and Vanryckeghem at the clinic

“Therapy is highly tailored to a client’s individual needs,” Vanryckeghem said.

Recently, she and Clinical Educator Charlotte Harvey implemented a unique intensive therapy program at the clinic. Vanryckeghem found that many clients fly to cities to attend intensive or “massed” therapy programs, with daily sessions

lasting two to three weeks, that initially work very well.

“It’s like getting ready for an exam. You go over it and over it. You know it well,” she said. “But a month later, you forget it.”

She thinks “massed” therapy must be followed *immediately* by “distributed” therapy, which tapers off over time. “For example, the client attends four times a week for a while, then three times a week, then twice a week, etc.,” she explained.

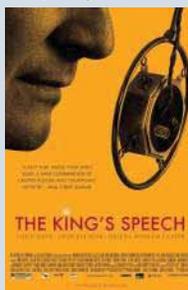
This approach provides the support a client likely needs to take what he or she has learned into the real world.

With an eye toward further enhancing therapy for clients who stutter, Vanryckeghem and Harvey are currently investigating “telehealth” — the secure delivery of health services using telecommunications — as a way to provide sessions for clients who live a distance from the clinic.

This year’s Academy-Award-winning movie “The Kings Speech” depicts our understanding of the nature of stuttering in the 1930s. We’ve learned a lot since then, according to Vanryckeghem.

“We now know stuttering is not caused by changing handedness,” she explained. “A good 60 percent of stuttering is genetically based. And it has a neuromotor component as well. It’s a complex, multi-dimensional disorder.”

Yet, the public tends to have a different perception. During a recent showing of “The King’s Speech,” Vanryckeghem and members of the Orlando Chapter of the National Stuttering Association (www.nsastutter.org), which she chairs, conducted an informal survey of some of the movie-goers *after* the movie. A large majority of the respondents thought stuttering is caused by nervousness, anxiety or other psychological factors.



For more about the Fluency Disorders Clinic, visit www.cohpa.ucf.edu/clinic/FD.shtml or contact Martine. Vanryckeghem@ucf.edu.

Read about UCF graduate student Andrea Snider’s research on stuttering at <http://ucflink.me/1g>.

Students Prepare to Serve the Needs of English-Language Learners with Communication Disorders

A program that will prepare 40 speech-language pathologists to serve the needs of school-age English-language learners with communication disorders is now in full swing, according to Associate Professor Linda Rosa-Lugo.

Rosa-Lugo established the program, "Project SLP-ELL," last year to address an urgent need in Florida and the nation for SLPs qualified to serve this student population. The program is funded by a four-year, \$785,800 grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

The first of four cohorts of master's degree students completed its first year of the program in December, and a second cohort began in January. They are learning research-validated practices that will give them the specialized skills and knowledge needed to work with English-language learners with language, learning and literacy disabilities.

The program also provides students with unique opportunities to learn and share.

Last October, Rosa-Lugo coordinated a colloquium featuring presentations on preventative strategies and interventions for preschool and school-age English-language learners. The first cohort of students attended, as well as other students, faculty members and community partners. Rosa-Lugo anticipates holding a similar colloquium each fall.

In January, Rosa-Lugo and students Giselle Lugo and Megan Northcutt traveled to Miami Dade College to present their experiences at the college's Third Annual Pathways to Excellence in Teaching Project's Conference. The audience included some 250 college students and faculty members, school teachers, and pre-service teachers and school administrators.

Rosa-Lugo said the program will accept a third cohort of students in January 2012 and a fourth cohort in January 2013.



Photos courtesy of Linda Rosa-Lugo

October 2010 colloquium at UCF. (Front row, left to right): Grant principal investigator Linda I. Rosa-Lugo, Ed.D.; student Giselle Lugo; guest speaker Hortencia Kayser, Ph.D., EBS Healthcare; students Megan Northcutt and Sherilyn Williams; guest speaker Julie Esparza Brown, Ed.D., Portland State University; student Alexis Weiland; (back row, left to right): Lisa Rock, M.A. (UCF, communicative disorders, '98), EBS Healthcare; students Michelle Cardona, Michelle Ranc, Alexandra Arredondo, Ashlee Farina, Caroline Krohne



January 2011 presentations at Miami Dade College.

◀ Rosa Lugo (standing) and fellow panelists (left to right) Florin Mihai, Ph.D. (UCF Modern Languages and Literatures), and students Lugo and Northcutt presented "The Merging of Two Disciplines in Working with English-Language Learners: Communication Differences versus Communication Disorders."



◀ (Left to right) Rosa Lugo, Northcutt and Lugo also presented a poster on "Project SLP-ELL" and UCF's master's degree program in communication sciences and disorders. Lugo and Northcutt said it was a "great experience to promote their chosen profession" among Miami Dade College students.

Oral Cancer Screening Draws Hundreds

Volunteer prosthodontists and oral surgeons, in conjunction with the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders and UCF Pre-Dental Society, conducted hundreds of free oral cancer screenings during a Nov. 3, 2010, outreach event held on the Orlando campus.

“Our students and the doctors screened approximately 400 students, staff and faculty over six hours,” said Bari Hoffman-Ruddy, associate professor of communication sciences and disorders. “This was a record for us and the American College of Prosthodontist’s annual screening program.”

The ACP is particularly interested in targeting a younger population for screenings because of the association between human papillomavirus infection and oral cancer. According to the ACP, 25 percent of those newly diagnosed with oral cancer have no traditional risk factors, such as the use of tobacco or alcohol.

“Much of the literature suggests a strong association between transmission of HPV via oral sex, and this is a relatively new demographic with oral cancer,” said Dr. John Whitsitt, a prosthodontist and ACP member from Daytona Beach who volunteered at the event.



Karen Guin



Andrea Shuder

UCF students promoted the screenings (above) and assisted the practitioners (below).

Research News

\$50,000 ASH Foundation Grant Funds Research on Children Using AAC



Associate Professor **Jennifer Kent-Walsh** is one of just three researchers nationwide to receive a 2010 Clinical Research Grant of \$50,000 from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation.

The grant is supporting her study, “Teaching Children Who Use AAC to Ask Inverted Yes-No Questions.” It is the third time she has received financial support from the ASH Foundation.

Special funding for the Clinical Research Grant was provided to the foundation by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association to support investigations that “will advance knowledge of the efficacy of treatment and assessment practices.”

With this support, Kent-Walsh is developing and evaluating a new approach to targeting the expressive language skills of children using augmentative and alternative communication.

Kent-Walsh developed her successful grant proposal while participating in the college’s Research Faculty Fellows Program.



Photos courtesy of Jennifer Kent-Walsh

The ASH Foundation acknowledged Kent-Walsh’s receipt of the grant at its Annual Founders Breakfast, held Nov. 19 in Philadelphia in conjunction with ASHA’s 2010 convention.

This study is one in a larger series of investigations Kent-Walsh has been conducting with student researchers and her main research collaborator, Cathy Binger of the University of New Mexico.

\$7,500 UCF In-House Grant Expands Research on Aphasia



Thomas Alan Smilie

UCF’s Office of Research and Commercialization awarded Assistant Professor **Anthony Kong** a \$7,500 In-House Grant to support his research

on “Quantifying Gesture Use in Aphasia: The Interaction Between Gesture and Language.” An aim of this project is to compare the use of gesture among individuals with and without aphasia and to examine the relationship between gesture employment and aphasia severity. He will launch the yearlong study in May.

New Research Publications

Both Kent-Walsh and Kong have research papers published in the February 2011 issue of ASHA’s *Journal of Speech, Language and Hearing Research*:

Binger, C., Maguire-Marshall, M., & **Kent-Walsh, J.** (2011). Using aided AAC models, recasts and contrastive targets to teach grammatical morphemes to children who use AAC. *JSLHR*, 54, 160-176.

Kong, A. P. H. (2011). The main concept analysis in Cantonese aphasic oral discourse: External validation and monitoring chronic aphasia. *JSLHR*, 54, 148-159.

Associate Professor **Linda I. Rosa-Lugo’s** research on cochlear implants is featured in the March 15, 2011, issue of *The ASHA Leader*: “Assessing Listening Skills in Children with Cochlear Implants: Guidance for Speech-Language Pathologists” (with Susan G. Allen). (Read it online at <http://ucfink.me/1b>.)



Honors and Awards

Professor **Barbara Ehren**, director of the department's doctoral program, and Clinical Instructor **Tom Ehren** received the Annie Glenn Leadership Award at the Ohio School Speech Pathology Educational Audiology Coalition's 2010 conference, held Oct. 24-26 in Columbus, Ohio. The award recognizes their leadership in promoting effective services for children and adolescents who are served by speech-language pathologists in schools. The coalition bestows the award in honor of Annie Glenn, an active community servant who has worked to overcome a severe stuttering problem and the wife of former U.S. Senator John Glenn of Ohio.



(Left to right) John Glenn, Annie Glenn, Tom Ehren and Barbara Ehren

Assistant Professor Anthony Kong received the 2011 Excellence in Research Award from the College of Health and Public Affairs this spring. He is the principal investigator for a \$727,000 National Institutes of Health grant to study aphasia among Chinese speakers and a new \$7,500 UCF In-House Grant (see p. 4).



Professor **Jack Ryalls** was selected to serve as a Faculty Fellow in the college's Dean's Office during fall 2010. As a fellow, he conceptualized and coordinated the production of a video

that highlights international research activities in the college. Assisting him were communication sciences and disorders' students Randi Baumgartner, Gary Adams and Adam Stokey. Ryalls is currently working on the finishing touches of the video, which will be posted on YouTube and shared with prospective students around the world.

CLASS NOTES

All degrees in **bold** text below were awarded by UCF, either in communicative disorders, communication sciences and disorders (after May 2006), or another program as noted. Class notes are reported in spring issues of *Communiqué*. To submit your information for a future issue, visit www.cohpa.ucf.edu/alumni and select "Stay Connected" in the menu.

1996

Rachel M. Williams, M.A., Ph.D., is president-elect of the Florida Chapter of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

1998

A. Meric (Davis) O'Grady, B.A., M.A. ('01), is working toward her doctorate in education (specialization in exceptional education) at Northcentral University in Prescott, Ariz., and anticipates graduating in 2012. She also owns a private practice in Winter Park, Fla., and supervises UCF students during externships. She specializes in infant and child feeding disorders, apraxia of speech, and autism.

1999

Julie Allmaras B.S., M.A. ('02), a pediatric speech therapist in Orlando, traveled with a team of UCF physical therapy students to Kingston, Jamaica, during spring break to help meet the needs of children living in orphanages.

Vincenzo Vurro, B.S., M.A. ('02), is a speech-language pathologist (SLP) specializing in pediatrics at Herman, Vurro and Associates in Orlando.

2000

Andrea (Schearer) Beames, B.S., M.A. in speech pathology, University of Maryland, is a

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self-employed, early-intervention SLP. She and her husband, a Marine Corps captain, reside in North Carolina with their son (age 2) and daughter (age 4).

2001

Christine Carmichael, B.A., M.A. ('03), Ph.D., University of Florida ('07), is an assistant professor in the Department of Communication Disorders and director of the Voice and Swallowing Clinic at the Harry Jersig Center at Our Lake of the Lake University in San Antonio, Texas.

Courtney (Soloff) England, B.A., is a drug safety associate with Johnson & Johnson. She is married and expecting her first child, a daughter, in mid-June.

2004

Casey Hager, M.A., is employed as an SLP with the Los Angeles Unified School District.

2005

Jennifer Dydel, B.S., M.A. ('08), works as an SLP for Sewall Child Development. Her team is contracted to work with Rocky Mountain Service Employment Redevelopment's Head Start Program in Denver, Colo.

Gladys Lopez, B.A., is employed as an SLP assistant at The Therapy Place in Orlando.

Todd Fix, M.A. ('09), received the department's inaugural **Outstanding Alumni Award** at a collegewide celebration on Sept. 22, 2010, at the Orlando Shakespeare Theater. Fix joined



(Left to right) Todd Fix, college Dean Michael Frumkin and department Interim Chair Thomas Mullin

Orlando Regional Medical Center as a speech-language pathologist in 2004. He went on to grow ORMC's SLP department from a staff of one to a current staff of six full-time SLPs. He also developed innovative approaches to promote SLP services among medical staff members, medical students and the community. He specializes in swallowing diagnostics, videofluoroscopic interpretation, clinical assessments and rehabilitation.

In 2008, Fix was promoted to acute neuroscience rehab supervisor at ORMC. He is consistently commended for his ability to positively impact staff morale, customer satisfaction scores, program development and advanced clinical skills.

The Aphasia House, Aphasia Research Featured on UCFTV

Clinical Educator Janet Whiteside and Assistant Professor Anthony Kong discuss the department's programs on aphasia in a new episode of "For Your Health" on UCFTV. The episode first aired on Bright House 1 in February, and it can be viewed now on YouTube at <http://ucflink.me/1a>.

OPEN HOUSE @ The Aphasia House: Thursday, April 28, 2011, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.,
12424 Research Parkway (Main Lobby), Central Florida Research Park, Orlando
Open to the public. For further information, contact stevy.weathers@ucf.edu.



Courtesy of UCFTV

For comments or more information:

Communiqué

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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)

Undergraduate Minor

Communication Sciences and Disorders

Undergraduate Certificate Program

Language Development and Disorders

Graduate Certificate Programs

Child Language Disorders
Medical Speech-Language Pathology

Faculty

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Jennifer Kent-Walsh, Ph.D., Associate Professor
Anthony Kong, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
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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
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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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