

First-of-Its-Kind NIH Grant Will Fund Research on Aphasia Among Chinese Speakers

Anthony Kong, assistant professor of communication sciences and disorders, has been awarded a first-of-its-kind \$727,000 National Institutes of Health grant to study aphasia among Chinese speakers. The study could help tens of thousands of Chinese-Americans who have difficulty speaking after they suffer from strokes or other illnesses.

About 1 million people in the United States have aphasia, a condition in which people have difficulty understanding or speaking, usually after a stroke or head trauma. Up to 38 percent of people who suffer a stroke develop it. A tumor, brain infection or dementia can also cause the condition.

“Aphasia can have devastating effects on daily communication and conversational skills that can severely hamper quality of life,” Kong said. “The overarching goal of this study is to improve assessment methods and provide some treatment guidelines for Chinese speakers with aphasia worldwide.”

Several studies have looked at how the brain processes the English language and how aphasia impacts language ability among English speakers. But no large-scale, comprehensive studies have been conducted among any Asian language speakers.

Contrary to popular belief, people do not acquire and process all languages the same. Existing research shows the brain’s processing pattern for acquiring Chinese languages is quite different from Latin-based languages, which makes it essential to have the kind of information this study will produce available for assessment and treatment, Kong said.

There are very distinct ways that aphasia manifests itself among Cantonese speakers compared to English speakers, Kong added. He saw it first-hand while earning his doctorate and working in a Singapore hospital that saw hundreds of patients with aphasia who spoke English, Mandarin, Cantonese, Malay and Hindi, among other languages.

Much of Kong’s work will be conducted in his native Hong Kong because the community has a homogenous Cantonese-speaking population. Data and recommendations



Kong (left) instructs another Cantonese speaker with aphasia to retell a story using pictures as cues.

LISTEN

Kong was recently interviewed about his research on the BBC’s international radio show “Health Check.” To listen to his interview, visit www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p004klrt and then click on “Listen” (interview starts at 20:52).

Assistant Professor **Anthony Kong** joined the UCF faculty in the fall of 2007. He is originally from Hong Kong, and he completed his Bachelor of Science in Speech and Hearing Sciences at the University of Hong Kong. He stayed at the university to earn his doctorate in the areas of aphasiology and adult neurogenic communication disorders. Prior to moving to the United States, he worked as the department head of the Speech Therapy Unit at the Hong Kong Society for the Deaf and served as the vice chairperson for the Hong Kong Association of Speech Therapists.



During a pilot study, Kong (left) interviewed and evaluated Cantonese speakers with aphasia in Hong Kong. Here, a subject uses a book to assist her verbal expression.

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UCF Expands Recognition of World Voice Day in 2009

UCF significantly expanded its recognition of World Voice Day this year by hosting an expert panel discussion at the university's new College of Medicine. Neurologists, otolaryngologists, speech-language pathologists, vocal coaches and theater professionals gathered on April 28 to discuss vocal care and the management of vocal disorders.

"We were fortunate to have such an expansive panel of professionals," noted Bari Hoffman Ruddy, associate professor of communication sciences and disorders, who organized the event, held at the college's interim facilities in the Central Florida Research Park.

Attending the event were students studying communication sciences and disorders and other health-related fields, music, and theater; participants in the Learning Institute for Elders at UCF; and members of the community. More than 100 participants in all learned about the importance of paying attention to their voices, signs of potential problems,



The panel speakers included (left to right) Jeremy Hunt, D.M., tenor assistant professor of music and voice

area coordinator, UCF Department of Music, and Brian Spector, M.D., otolaryngologist, The Ear, Nose & Throat Surgical Associates and Florida Hospital. (Additional panelist information at right)

including head and neck cancer, and ways to stay healthy.

As an entrée to the panel discussion, the group enjoyed performances by UCF students, primarily in theater and music. Also performing was Adam Lloyd, a communication sciences and disorders' graduate student and research assistant who has sung professionally and taught singing.

During the week of April 15, Ruddy and several communication sciences and disorders' graduate students conducted voice screenings at the Voice Care Center in UCF's Communication Disorders Clinic. And during the last week of April,



Graduate student Adam Lloyd performed.

World Voice Day panel speakers (above, left to right)

1. Bari Hoffman Ruddy, Ph.D., CCC-SLP; associate professor of communication sciences and disorders, UCF; speech-language pathologist and director, The Ear Nose & Throat Surgical Associates' Voice Care Center

2. Jeffrey J. Lehman, M.D.; otolaryngologist, The Ear Nose & Throat Surgical Associates and Florida Hospital; clinical professor of communication sciences and disorders, UCF

3. Christopher McCrea, Ph.D., CCC-SLP; speech-language pathologist, The Ear Nose & Throat Surgical Associates' Voice Care Center; adjunct instructor of communication sciences and disorders, UCF

graduate students continued the annual tradition of visiting local high schools to present information about vocal health to students and teachers in chorus, drama, debate and cheerleading, said Ruddy. "These groups are more 'at risk' for developing voice disorders."

4. Kate Ingram, M.F.A.; associate professor and area coordinator, Graduate Acting Program, UCF Conservatory Theatre

5. Alexis Kramer, M. Mus., private studio, Orlando

6. Henry Ho, M.D.; otolaryngologist, The Ear Nose & Throat Surgical Associates and Florida Hospital

7. Annette May, M.A., CCC-SLP; speech-language pathologist and coordinator of oncology, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Orlando Regional Healthcare

8. Garrett Riggs, Ph.D., M.D.; assistant professor of neurology and medical education, UCF College of Medicine

UCF Student Researchers Present at National Schools Conference

Graduate student researchers from the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders recently presented at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's Schools

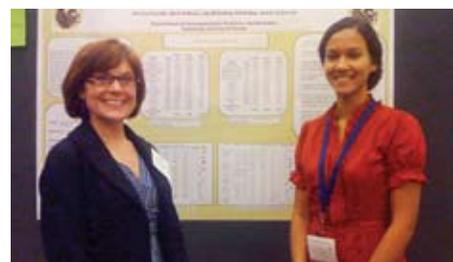


Barbara Ehren (center) co-presented with secondary school speech-language pathologists Kim McCallister (left) and Susan Trumbo (right) a session on "What it Takes to Implement RTI [Response to Intervention]."

Conference — a first in the history of the department. The annual conference, held this year on July 17-19 in Kansas, Mo., focuses on issues that revolve around the practice of speech-language pathology and audiology in schools.

"It was great to see the Pegasus on two key posters," said Barbara Ehren, director of UCF's doctoral program in communication sciences and disorders. "Our two doctoral and two master's students [pictured at right] did a marvelous job presenting their research. Many people came up to me and commented on the quality of their posters and of our students. I popped more than a few buttons."

Ehren herself made three presentations at the conference. Among them was a full-day practicum on the implementation of a workload versus a caseload approach, which she offered in collaboration with other presenters. The practicum will include follow-up during the year and represents a new continuing education delivery model for ASHA.



Poster title: "Effective Storybook Reading for At Risk Preschool Students"

Investigators: Stacey Pavelko, Kera O'Brien, Joy McGahey, Chad Nye and Jamie Schwartz

Pictured here are Stacey Pavelko (left) and Kera O'Brien.



Poster title: "Graphic Organizer Effectiveness Examined through Systematic Review"

Investigators: Janet Prolly, Jessica Rivers, Chad Nye and Jamie Schwartz

Pictured here are Jessica Rivers (left) and Janet Prolly.

Upcoming Events



World Voice Day 2010

Associate Professor Bari Hoffman Ruddy said this year's World Voice Day event was extremely well-received, and she is already coordinating a similar event for 2010. "Next year's event will be held around mid-April," Ruddy said. "We plan to host another great panel discussion, this time focusing on laryngeal cancer and issues related to professional voices." In addition, the event will include a "master class" in which a vocal coach will train a developing singer in front of an audience and a "demonstration class" in which vocal and acting coaches will ask members of the audience to practice techniques demonstrated by the coaches.

For further information about World Voice Day 2010, contact bhruddy@mail.ucf.edu.

Seventh Biannual Gene J. Brutten Fluency Symposium

"Evidence-Based Practice and New Directions in Stuttering Treatment"
Friday, February 26, 2010, 8 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.
Cape Florida Ballroom, Student Union, UCF

Speaker: Giri Hegde, Ph.D., Emeritus Professor, California State University, Fresno

Topics:

- ▶ Morning: Evidence-based practice
- ▶ Afternoon: New directions in treating stuttering in preschool and school-age children

For further information about the symposium, contact martinev@mail.ucf.edu.

Fluency SYMPOSIUM

Chinese Aphasia Research Grant

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from the study, however, will have implications for all Chinese speakers with aphasia around the world. The information also will help further research about language skills and individuals with aphasia across different languages.

Beginning in June, Kong and his team will interview and conduct extensive videotaped observations of more than 360 native Cantonese speakers with and without the condition.

He will then create a database of information, which will include the distinctive linguistic symptoms of Chinese aphasia; the rhythm, stress and intonation of Chinese aphasic speech; and non-verbal behaviors of Chinese speakers with aphasia as a result of stroke. He will also document the same three categories in non-aphasic subjects to create a baseline for comparison.

The information his team will collect is not available anywhere at this time and is essential in developing proper diagnosis and treatment of the condition among Chinese speakers. There are only a few existing tools to assess the condition among Cantonese speakers, one of which Kong developed when he was a graduate student. In comparison, more than 200 assessment tools exist for English speakers.

Kong's team includes Dr. Sam Po Law of the University of Hong Kong, Dr. Alice Su Ying Lee of University College Cork in the Republic of Ireland and several students at the University of Hong Kong. Several hospitals and service agencies also are helping with the study. Pilot programs conducted the past two summers were funded by grants from UCF's College of Health and Public Affairs.

Professor Selected for New Fellowship Program to Promote Faculty Research

The College of Health and Public Affairs has launched the University of Central Florida's first college-based fellowship program to promote the professional development of faculty researchers. Jennifer Kent-Walsh, associate professor of communication sciences and disorders, was one of 10 faculty members chosen to participate in the yearlong program. Each has the goal of submitting a grant proposal to a federal funding agency by the end of the academic year.

Over two semesters, the COHPA Research Faculty Fellows are attending presentations by experts on topics such as federal grant applications, analytical models, collaborative research, human subject protection, budget preparation and grants management. They also are completing assignments, participating in online discussions through Webcourses@UCF, and receiving mentoring and feedback from seasoned researchers. The program is designed to guide the fellows as each expands a three-page preliminary proposal, submitted as part of an application to the program, into a full-fledged grant application.

A college committee selected the fellows based largely on the scientific merit, likelihood of funding, feasibility and significance of their preliminary proposal, according to Tom Wan, the college's associate dean for research and director of the Doctoral Program in Public Affairs.



Kent-Walsh (right) is developing a grant proposal on "Speech, Language and Communication Characteristics of Children with Developmental Disabilities."

UCF Faculty and Students Win Multiple Awards at Annual FLASHA Convention

Faculty members and students from UCF's Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders earned first-,

second- and third-place awards for their poster presentations at the 2009 Annual Convention of the Florida Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists, held May 20-24 in Marco Island, Fla.

Investigators Suzanne King, B.A.; Brian Spector, M.D.; and Bari Hoffman-Ruddy, Ph.D.,

(continued on p. 6)



Investigators Bari Hoffman-Ruddy (left), and Suzanne King (right), with their first-place winning poster presentation

Study: Photography as a Means of Expression

Earlier this year, a research team including UCF Clinical Instructor Janet Whiteside held workshops for people with aphasia to study the value of photography as a tool for self-expression — and to determine if the quality of photos taken by the participants was related to either their aphasia severity or nonverbal cognitive abilities.

Fifteen people with aphasia participated in the study. They attended a series of 10 photography workshops on topics such as “reading” photos, camera operation, composition and lighting, and completed four photography assignments.

Dawn Roe, an assistant professor at Rollins College in Winter Park, Fla., and five Rollins’ photography students selected and scored nine photos by each



Whiteside (right) with one of the participants

participant, rating them on aspects such as “image objects easy to name,” “critical elements in focus” and “image conveys emotions.”

Jennifer Queen, associate professor of psychology at Rollins; Nancy Helm-Estabrooks and Ruby Drew, both communication sciences and disorders’ faculty members at Western Carolina University; and Whiteside then worked together to identify correlations between the photo scores and the participants’ impairments.

The team found that participants with more severe aphasia received more variable scores within their nine photos than people with less severe aphasia. These participants also took pictures with less emotional content. Among all participants, there was no relation found between nonverbal cognitive abilities and photo quality. The team concluded that photography, like drawing and painting, appears to be a viable activity for people with aphasia.

Whiteside said a poster presentation on the study at the Academy of Aphasia’s 2009 meeting in October was “well-received.” To view the poster, visit www.cohpa.ucf.edu/photo-aphasia.shtml. To read an article about the service-learning component of this study, visit

“... photography, like drawing and painting, appears to be a viable activity for people with aphasia.”



These photos were taken by a participant with the most severe form of aphasia. The top photo was judged “weak” and the bottom photo “good!”

www.rollins.edu/news/2009/05/photograph-as-language.html.

The study will continue with a second series of workshops in the spring of 2010. To participate or learn more, contact Whiteside at jwhites@mail.ucf.edu.

New Books and Other Creative Works

1 *Communication and Swallowing Impairments after Brain Injury: A Handbook for Survivors and Family Members*

By **Pak Hin “Anthony” Kong**

Hong Kong: The Centre for Communication Disorders, University of Hong Kong

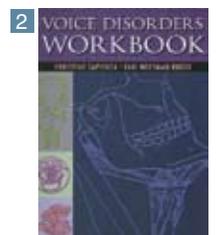
» This book, for practitioners and researchers, focuses on the communication and swallowing needs of Asian people.

2 *Voice Disorders Workbook*

By Christine Sapienza and **Bari Hoffman Ruddy**

San Diego, CA: Plural Publishing

» This spiral-bound workbook, a supplement to the authors’ *Voice Disorders* textbook, allows students to review chapter materials and quiz themselves.



Academic Programs Update

The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders is experiencing exciting changes, some due to the current economy and others a sign of growth at UCF and in the profession.

Increased Demand for Programs.

UCF has had a sharp increase in demand for academic programs in communication sciences and disorders at both the bachelor and master's levels. Demand for the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science programs increased 27 percent from fall 2008 to fall 2009. And the Master of Arts program experienced a 29 percent increase in highly qualified students from fall 2008 to fall 2009, according to department Chair Jane Lieberman.

"This increase in demand has allowed us to recruit the best students from their applicant pool," Lieberman said. "Students from as far away as Ohio, Wisconsin and New York were recruited to the fall 2009 master's class. It's an exciting time to be part of the program." She attributes some of the increased demand to a desire among applicants to increase their future earning power in a lagging economy.

Courses for Majors and Non-Majors.

Faculty members have been working to enhance the delivery of some courses and broaden the student base. Externship Coordinator and Instructor Amy Barrett has been teaching and refining a Web-based course, "Communication Disorders in Literature and Media," which is open to students outside the major. This fall is her third year offering the course and she has received excellent reviews from

both her students and [UCF] Web Courses and Development personnel," said Lieberman.

This fall, Instructor Debra Edgar is teaching the first online offering of "Disabilities in Contemporary American Society," and next fall Instructor Joseph DiNapoli will teach the first offering of "Brain Stories: A Communication Disorders Perspective." Both are open to students outside the major. "These courses offer a way to share our discipline with the broader UCF community," Lieberman noted.

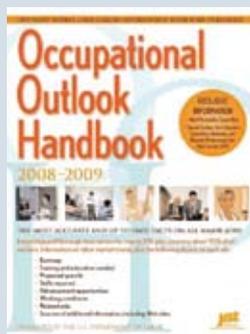
Revised Graduate Certificate. There is also a new add-on option for master's degree students. The Graduate Certificate in Medical Speech-Language Pathology has been significantly revised and now can be earned with only nine additional

credit hours beyond the master's degree. Lieberman said this option will be a great way for students to build the knowledge and skill-base necessary for medical applications in speech-language pathology. The certificate is also available to community practitioners.



Coordinator of Academic Support, Steve Learner, leads an orientation session for students beginning in fall 2009.

Thomas Alan Smilie



"Excellent" Outlook

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2008-2009 Edition*, expects "excellent job opportunities" for speech-language pathologists over the next 10 years, with job growth at around 11 percent. Speech-language pathologists who speak a second language will be in especially high demand. Learn more at www.bls.gov/oco/ocos099.htm.

FLASHA Winners *(continued from p 4)*

earned first place for their poster titled, "A Model of Treating Voice Disorders in School Age Children with a Serious Gaming Environment." The poster titled, "Effects of Peer Instruction on AAC Use In School-Age Children" by investigators Jennifer Kent-Walsh, Ph.D.; Cathy

Binger, Ph.D.; and Julia Quevedo, B.S., earned second place. Third place went to investigators Jennifer Kent-Walsh, Ph.D.; Cathy Binger, Ph.D.; Melissa Malani, M.A.; and Julia Quevedo, B.S. for their poster titled, "Effects of Parent Training on AAC Use and Communication."

UCF also was awarded a special plaque "In Recognition for Attaining the Highest Number of New FLASHA Members" in the statewide college and university competition for new members, said Clinical Instructor Charlotte Harvey.



Alumni Corner

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 2010

The next "Class Notes" section of *Communiq  * will be published in the spring 2010 issue. If you would like us to include your information in this issue, visit www.cohpa.ucf.edu/alumni/stay_connected.cfm.



Honors and Awards

Susha Verghese (M.A. '04)

was selected as the recipient of the Jay W. Sanders Award for Excellence in Audiology. This award is given by the Vanderbilt Bill Wilkerson Center for Otolaryngology and Communication Sciences



Susha Verghese

in Nashville, Tenn. Dr. Jay Sanders was a distinguished faculty member in the Department of Hearing and Speech Science at Vanderbilt University. He is well-known among his peers for significant contributions to the area of diagnostic audiology as well as continued support for dedicated students in the field. Verghese received a personalized plaque to commemorate her award.

Verghese earned a doctorate in audiology from Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in May 2009. She is now working as a clinical audiologist at the Balance and Ear Center in Richmond, Va. Verghese is primarily responsible for clinical assessment and treatment of individuals with balance and hearing disorders. She and her husband live in a nearby suburb of Richmond.

Report of Gifts July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009

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

- Stacey Crockett ('04)
- William E. and Leslie K. Doster ('87)
- Charlotte M. Harvey ('97)
- R. Jane Lieberman
- Henry W. Kielb ('91)
- John Hogan
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- Renee Pellicer ('05)
- Dan McDermott
- Alyson C. Toll ('00)
- Christina Maffei
- Marcus Anderson
- Maria E. McCarthy
- Stacy B. Straus ('92)

If you made a contribution between July 1, 2008, and June 30, 2009, 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 our mission of preparing superbly qualified speech-language pathologists.

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.

New Clinic Services Cards



The department recently developed a series of "rack cards" with information about the services offered by UCF's

Communication Disorders Clinic. This information also will be available on the clinic's news Web site, which will be launched in the coming months at www.ucfspeechlanaguagetherapy.com. For further information, contact kguin@mail.ucf.edu.

For comments or more information:**Communiqué****Department of Communication Sciences
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407-882-0468

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Sciences and DisordersMaster of Arts in Communication Sciences
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