

# Communiqué

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

Spring 2012, Volume 8 Number 2

## Ehren Appointed Department Chair

Barbara Ehren, professor and director of the doctoral program, has been appointed department chair effective May 8.



Alan Smille

Ehren is a nationally recognized leader in language and literacy with a focus on adolescents. She has a special interest in working with states and school districts to improve the effectiveness of literacy programs for diverse learners.

Prior to joining the UCF faculty in 2007, Ehren was a research scientist with the University of Kansas, Center for Research on Learning. Previous positions included work in school district administration and teaching at Florida Atlantic University.

Ehren is a Fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and Board Recognized Specialist in Child Language. She is a recipient of the Clinical Career Achievement Award from the Florida Language, Speech and Hearing Association

“Dr. Ehren is a superb educator and her reputation for the excellence of her work in the area of language and literacy will bring increased visibility and recognition to the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders,” said college Dean Michael Frumkin. “We are indeed fortunate to have her as part of the leadership team of the College of Health and Public Affairs.”

## New Grant Continues Assistive Technology Center at UCF

UCF will continue to offer the latest in assistive technology services for individuals with disabilities thanks to a new grant from the Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology.

From 2005 to 2011, UCF’s Communication Disorders Clinic housed the Atlantic Region Assistive Technology Demonstration Center thanks to grant funding from FFAST. A new grant from FFAST, worth approximately \$550,000, will continue the center’s operations for an additional five years.

“The center has flourished at UCF,” said FFAST ARDC Director Jennifer Kent-Walsh, principal investigator for the original and latest FFAST grants. “Orlando has proven to be an ideal location for the center because many Floridians already come here to access professional and medical services and enjoy our recreational activities. I’m so pleased we can further serve people with disabilities in our 10-county service area.”

*(Continued on p. 2)*



Photos: Abi Bell

## CONTENTS

New Chair .....	1
Assistive Technology Grant .....	1
Helm-Estabrooks Visit.....	2
Honors and Awards.....	3
Other Student News.....	3
Recent Events .....	4
Publications.....	4
Class Notes .....	5
Welcome New Staff.....	5



Three-year-old Meredith Griffen (left and above) recently found her voice using assistive technology at the iCan Communicate program, jointly offered by UCF and the Down Syndrome Foundation of Florida. Read the full story at <http://bit.ly/IwrUbe>.









