

Communiqué

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

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Carson Contributes Expertise on Cleft Population

About one out of every 600 babies is born with a “cleft,” a malformation that occurs during pregnancy and can involve the lips, mouth palate, upper gums or bones of the upper jaw or combinations of these areas. Some clefts are visible, while others are not. Virtually all are treatable.

In Orlando, a child with a cleft may see a team of doctors and other health care professionals during a monthly Cleft Clinic sponsored by Florida’s Children’s Medical Services. Among the team members is Cecyle Carson, a licensed speech-language pathologist and an associate professor at UCF.

Carson’s role on the team is to screen each child for speech problems and recommend next steps. Her recommendations may include obtaining a comprehensive speech-language evaluation, video or endoscopic examination
(Continued on p. 2)



Associate Professor
Cecyle Carson

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UCF, University of São Paulo Explore Partnership Opportunities

A group of seven faculty members and two doctoral students from the University of São Paulo (USP) in Brazil visited Orlando in October to identify ways to partner with UCF in teaching, research and service in the disciplines of communication sciences and disorders, health services administration, and public affairs. USP Associate Professor Jeniffer de Cássia Rillo Dutka, who once taught at UCF, led the group during their week-long “mission visit,” which included meetings, presentations and campus tours.

“They were very impressed,” said UCF Associate Professor Linda I. Rosa-Lugo, who helped coordinate their visit. She is optimistic the two universities will be able to establish a formal partnership agreement.



(Top photo) Dutka (right) with Angel Cardec, director of UCF’s Office of International Studies, and (bottom photo) with University of São Paulo students and colleagues



UCF’s *Third Annual Colloquium on Preparing Speech-Language Pathologists to Serve English-Language Learners with Communication Disorders*, held Oct. 12, featured presentations by three national experts, pictured above: (left to right) Associate Professor Kerry Purmensky, UCF; Professor Emeritus Kathryn Kohnert, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis; and Dean Brian Goldstein, La Salle University, Philadelphia. UCF students and community members attended the colloquium.

AAC-Focused Conference Reaches Hundreds Worldwide

UCF Associate Professor Jennifer Kent-Walsh and Associate Professor Cathy Binger from the University of New Mexico co-chaired the first Augmentative and Alternative (AAC)-focused web-based conference for the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association from June 13-25. The intensive, interactive conference, titled “Partner Instruction in AAC: Strategies for Building Circles of Support,” featured presentations by leaders in AAC research and clinical work. Kent-Walsh said close to 300 speech-language pathologists from around the world attended the event, including UCF Clinical Educator Pamela Resnick.



Cleft Population

(Continued from p. 1)

of the velopharyngeal mechanism and a swallowing evaluation. She also recommends specific treatment goals.

“Speech delays are not uncommon during the first 9 to 24 months of life in children with a cleft palate,” Carson said. “Some of these children will require speech therapy.”

Carson has more than 25 years of experience working at cleft clinics, first in Kansas, then in Wyoming and now in Florida. She’s developed expertise in recognizing the compensatory and articulation errors associated with clefts. She’s also learned to look for indications of a broader syndrome in a patient who has a cleft.

“In particular, I’m on the lookout for velocardiofacial syndrome, which has a high incidence in the cleft population,” Carson noted. “It also has more than 100 features, so its presentation is highly variable.”

Other syndromes that include a cleft are rare and take a highly experienced clinician to recognize. To date, Carson has observed more than 20 different syndromes among patients at cleft clinics.

Carson said relatively few speech-language pathologists work with the cleft population. So she teaches an elective course on cleft palate-velopharyngeal dysfunction for graduate students to further interest in the area. She also invites undergraduate majors to join her at the monthly Cleft Clinic in Orlando. She’s hopeful her efforts will encourage a new generation of clinicians to seek opportunities to work with this unique population.

New Exchange Program Sends UCF Students to Puerto Rico

Four UCF communication sciences and disorders graduate students applied their clinical skills in a culturally diverse setting thanks to a new UCF exchange program with the University of Puerto Rico (UPR). The inaugural program was held June 4-8 in San Juan.

The students traveled to Puerto Rico with Associate Professor Linda I. Rosa-Lugo, who is passionate about preparing speech-language pathologists to address the needs of diverse populations in the United States.

“I wanted the students to experience what it’s like to work with children and adults with communication disorders who speak another language,” Rosa-Lugo said. “Many families from Puerto Rico make their homes here in Florida, especially Central Florida, so an experience like this can be invaluable for students preparing to work with this population.”

To encourage conversations in Spanish and English, each UCF student was paired with a student from UPR’s speech-language pathology graduate program. The student pairs then traveled together to clinical settings on the island.

Some visited a medical campus where they assisted with high-risk infants and adults with neurological disorders. Others assisted at Casa Rosa, a clinical site in Old San Juan, where they learned about programs and services available for preschoolers with autism.

“It was a wonderful learning experience to see SLPs providing therapy in Spanish,” said UCF student Ana Natera.

All of the UCF students valued the opportunity to learn from the UPR faculty members and students. “You gain insight into both their philosophy and how it works in everyday life,” said UCF student Caroline Krohne.

“The program is off to a great start,” Rosa-Lugo said. “I could not have asked for a better partner in this mission than the speech-language pathology program at UPR.”

Grant Support. Rosa-Lugo is developing the UCF-UPR exchange program as principal investigator of a U.S. Department of Education grant that supports the preparation of 40 new SLPs at UCF who can serve the needs of school-age English-language learners. The grant also brings national speakers to an annual colloquium at UCF (see photo on p. 1).



Courtesy of Linda I. Rosa-Lugo

(Seated, left to right) UCF students Astrid Soriano, Ana Natera, Carolina Saldarriaga and Caroline Krohne; (standing, left to right) Professor Maria I. Jimenez, director of UPR’s Speech-Language Pathology Department; Edna Carlo, UPR clinical supervisor; UCF Associate Professor Linda I. Rosa-Lugo; and Estela Estapé, dean of the School of Health Professions and director of clinical research programs at UPR

UCF's Global Reach

Faculty members and students in the department have traveled widely in recent months to share their research and expertise and to promote partnerships with the international community.



Presentation on a Reading Intervention Study

In early June, Chair Barbara Ehren and Clinical Instructor Tom Ehren traveled to Padua, Italy, to present the results of a two-year study on a strategic reading intervention developed for adolescents at the annual conference of the International Academy for Research in Learning Disabilities, of which Barbara Ehren is a Fellow. The conference was held at the University of Padua, established in 1222, where



Courtesy of Barbara Ehren

many notable scholars have taught, among them Galileo, Copernicus and Dante. The Ehrens are pictured here in front of the elevated "desk" from which Galileo taught.



Study Abroad Program

UCF students participated in an inaugural study abroad program at the University of Puerto Rico (see p. 2).



Presentations on Stuttering

At this year's International Conference on Stuttering, held June 7-9 in Rome, Professor Martine Vanryckeghem reported on the use of the Behavior Assessment Battery© with Italian children who do and do not stutter. And, in July at the World Congress of the International Fluency Association in Tours, France, she reported on the use of The KiddyCAT© with Italian preschoolers who stutter, and on data with the Slovenian Communication Attitude Test for Slovenian school-age children who stutter. The standardized tests that she co-authors are now being studied in 21 countries. As a guest professor at the University of Gent, Belgium, Vanryckeghem supervises six master's student theses.



Presentations on Foreign Accent Syndrome and Tone Representations

Professor Jack Ryalls attended the International Clinical Phonetics and Linguistics Association's annual conference, held June 27-30 at the University of Cork (UC) in Cork, Ireland, where he gave an oral presentation, "Is There an Underlying Pattern in Foreign Accent Syndrome?" Ryalls also presented a poster on the representation of tones in the neural lexicon, which he coauthored with UCF Assistant Professor Anthony Kong and UC Assistant Professor Alice Lee.



Presentations on Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Research

Associate Professor Jennifer Kent-Walsh, Clinical Educator Pamela Resnick, FAAST Interim Regional Coordinator Carolyn Buchanan (M.A. '12) and Associate Professor Cathy Binger from the University of Mexico made presentations on research results and practical clinical applications of language interventions for children with development disabilities and AAC needs at the Biennial Conference of the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication, held July 28-Aug. 2 in Pittsburgh, Pa. Earlier in the summer, Kent-Walsh and Binger led a web-based conference on AAC that reached hundreds worldwide (see p. 2).

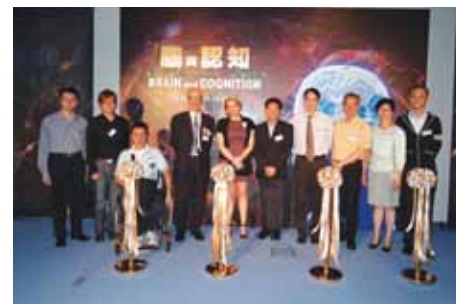


Poster on a Reading Inference Strategy

Professor Chad Nye and Associate Professor Jamie Schwartz attended the annual conference, "Randomised Controlled Trials in the Social Sciences: Communicating about Trials to Wider Audiences," held Sept. 24-26 at the University of York in York, England. They presented a poster on the



effects of a reading inference strategy for adults with Asperger Syndrome authored by former doctoral student Kim Murza (Ph.D. '11), with contributions from Nye, Schwartz, Barbara Ehren and Debbie Hahs-Vaughn.



Photos: Courtesy of Anthony Kong



Exhibit, Public Lecture on Aphasia

Assistant Professor Anthony Kong (above, top photo, second from left) and several colleagues from Hong Kong University contributed to a "Brain and Cognition" exhibit (bottom photo) at the Hong Kong Science Museum, which ran from June 2-Oct. 10. Kong appears here with his colleagues on the exhibit's opening day. On June 24, he gave a public lecture at the museum on aphasia and its treatment.

UCF Takes Top Awards at Annual Statewide Convention

UCF's Associate Professor **Bari Hoffman Ruddy** received her peers' top honor — the Honors of the Association Award — at this year's annual convention of the Florida Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists, held May 24-27 in Lake Buena Vista. She is the fourth UCF faculty member to win the award in the past five years.

Hoffman Ruddy (B.S. '96, M.A. '98) was recognized for her contributions in vocal health care and the treatment of voice and upper airway difficulties. In addition to teaching, she maintains an active clinical research laboratory, authors scholarly articles and books, and mentors graduate students. Hoffman Ruddy also is the director of a voice care center at a private medical practice in Orlando, where she works with adult and pediatric patients and specializes in vocal health issues in professional voice users.

Cheran Zadroga (B.S. '05, M.A. '07), a speech-language pathologist with Orange County Public Schools and student in UCF's doctoral program in communication sciences and disorders, was one of two recipients of the School Clinician of the Year award. She specializes in helping children improve their reading and writing skills.



Award recipients at the 2012 FLASHA convention included Cheran Zadroga (far left) and Bari Hoffman Ruddy (fourth from left). At the time, UCF alumna Rachel Williams (M.A., '96) (second from right) was the out-going president of FLASHA.

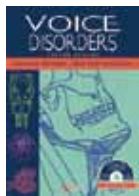
Courtesy of FLASHA

New Publications

Ehren, B. J., Blosser, J., Roth, F. P., Paul, D. R., & Nelson, N. W. (2012, April 3). Core commitment. *The ASHA Leader*. Rockville, MD: American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Blosser, J., Roth, F. P., Paul, D. R., **Ehren, B. J.**, Nelson, N. W., & Sturm, J. M. (2012, August 28). Integrating the core. *The ASHA Leader*. Rockville, MD: American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Rivers, K. O., Hyter, Y., & DeJarnette, G. (2012). Parsing pragmatics: Distinguishing differences from disorders. (2012, October 30) *The ASHA Leader*, Rockville, MD: American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (See <http://bit.ly/Shkmiw>)



◀ Sapienza, C., & **Hoffman Ruddy, B.** (2012). *Voice disorders* (2nd ed.). San Diego, CA: Plural Publishing.

Sapienza, C., & **Hoffman Ruddy, B.** (2012). *Voice disorders workbook* (2nd ed.). San Diego, CA: Plural Publishing.

Sapienza, C., & **Hoffman Ruddy, B.** (2012). *Voice examination of voice disorders* [DVD]. San Diego, CA: Plural Publishing. (For DVD excerpts, see <http://bit.ly/TaqPu0>)

Bernardini, S., Cocco, L., Zmarich, C., **Vanryckeghem, M.**, & Bruten, G. (2012). Behavior Assessment Battery (BAB): An evidence-based approach for the evaluation and treatment of children who stutter. A normative and comparative study of Italian children who do and do not stutter [Published in Italian]. In: G. Soncini (Ed.), *International conference on stuttering*. Rome: Omega Edizioni.

Kawai, N., Healey, C., **Vanryckeghem, M.**, & Nagasawa, T. (2012). Communication attitude of Japanese school-age children who stutter. *Journal of Communication Disorders*, 45, 348-354.

Vanryckeghem, M., & Bruten, G. (2012). A comparative investigation of the BigCAT and Erickson S-24 measures of speech-associated attitude. *Journal of Communication Disorders*, 45, 340-347.

Other Honors

Instructor **Joseph DiNapoli** and Associate Professor **Linda I. Rosa-Lugo** are the recipients of a 2012 Teaching Incentive Award from UCF in recognition of their excellence in teaching.

Master's degree student **Monica Echeverry** was selected to participate in the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's Minority Student Leadership program held Nov. 13-18 in Atlanta.

Alumna Shares Her Experience as a Traumatic Brain Injury Patient

Angel Carson (B.S., '00), a certified speech-language pathologist for Orange County Public Schools (Fla.), had surgery in 2010 to remove a tumor in her frontal lobe. When she awoke from the procedure, she was unable to speak. Carson describes her experience as a mute patient in a recent article posted online in *ADVANCE for Speech-Language Pathologists & Audiologists* (see <http://bit.ly/TcuCNO>).

"I knew what was happening to me and why I was being treated the way I was by my family and the medical staff, but for the patients who don't have my background, treatment of mute patients has to change in order for these patients to move forward."

— Angel Carson



Courtesy of Angel Carson

Angel Carson (left) with her husband, Keith

Calling All Alumni

Interested in attending an informal gathering with fellow communication sciences and disorders alumni? If so, please contact Professor Martine Vanryckeghem at martinev@ucf.edu.





Abi Bell

Schweikert (left) with her painting “Eau de Nil” and Clinical Educator Janet Whiteside. The artist saw the image during a trip to Maine. “The water bubbles fascinated me and were quite a challenge to paint,” she recalled. Learn more about her work at www.denette.net.

Gifts of Art Create Visual Warmth for Clients

▼ In 2011, acclaimed artist Denette Schweikert sought treatment at UCF’s Aphasia House for language and speech impairments caused by a severe stroke. Her experience was so positive, she decided to donate her painting, “Eau de Nil,” to the facility. The painting, which bears the name of the blue-green color in French, now hangs in the viewing room for family and friends.

▼ Kathleen Nemec, whose husband, Roman, completed the outpatient program at Aphasia House in 2010, recently donated her time and talent to the Communication Disorders Clinic by painting a mural, shown below, for a new children’s reading nook.

Why I Give

“Aphasia House offered me unique therapy not available anywhere in our region. Dr. Whiteside and her students are dedicated and their work is exceptional. The atmosphere, although intense, is very comfortable and friendly. [My husband] Jack and I know that our contribution to Aphasia House will be used to help other stroke survivors.”

— Artist Denette Schweikert



Abi Bell

Report of Gifts July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012

The department and college appreciate the generous financial contributions of the individuals listed below. This list includes both donors to the department and communication sciences and disorders’ alumni who have made donations to the department or college.

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www.faast.org/programs/regional-demo/atlantic

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