

By Arline Phillips-Han

Exploring technologies to aid seniors with disabilities through new rehabilitation research center



Dr. William Mann and Dr. Abdelsalam Helal with some of the everyday objects that, with the center's development, could make seniors' lives easier.

For older people with physical and cognitive impairments, little things like wireless phones, motion-sensor lights, remote controls for household appliances and door locks are big factors in promoting independence and quality of life.

To help these seniors expand their abilities to perform daily activities safely, a team of University of Florida specialists in rehabilitation, computer science and engineering is partnering with private industry to capitalize on new assistive products and technologies.

The researchers, now moving into action with the support of a \$4.5 million federal grant, are consulting with an advisory board of older consumers who will define the real-life challenges they face and the kinds of help they need to live with greater independence.

The National Institute for Disability, Rehabilitation and Research, a branch of the U.S. Department of Education, is funding creation of the UF Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Technology for Successful Aging – the first of its kind in Florida. The center will be collaboratively run by the UF colleges of Health Professions and Engineering, and the campuswide UF Institute on Aging.

“We’re taking technologies that already exist or are nearing the production stage and looking at their effectiveness and potential impact

assistive technologies cont. on pg. 3

Brooks Center director begins duties, VA collaboration established

The Brooks Center for Rehabilitation Studies moved into full operation at the start of the new year under the leadership of its first director. Simultaneously, a new center for rehabilitation outcomes research was inaugurated in collaboration with Gainesville’s Malcom Randall Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Pamela Duncan, Ph.D., began her director duties on Jan. 1. She most recently held positions at the University of Kansas Medical Center as a professor of health policy and management and as the director of research for the Center on Aging. She was also a senior health researcher at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Kansas City, Mo.

Duncan leads the Brooks Center’s efforts to develop and test new rehabilitative interventions, assess the effectiveness of existing treatments and examine the health policy implications of rehabilitation care.

“The ultimate goal of the Brooks Center is to provide the most effective rehabilitation services for people who are disabled,” Duncan said.

Other goals of the center include training individuals for careers in rehabilitation and taking an advocacy role to ensure that patients have access to rehabilitation care, Duncan added.

The Brooks Center for Rehabilitation Studies was founded in 1999 as a collaborative effort between the College of Health Professions, UF’s Evelyn F. and William L. McKnight Brain Institute and the Brooks Health System in Jacksonville.

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“The formation of the center shows tremendous vision and builds on community partnerships.”

— Dr. Pamela Duncan



a Message from the Dean

The University of Florida is a truly remarkable institution. Now among the five largest universities in the United States, UF has matched growth in size with increases in quality.

UF's academic excellence is demonstrated by its ranking as third among public universities in the number of national merit scholars. More than 90 percent of all entering freshmen score above the national average on standardized college entrance exams.



Robert G. Frank, Dean

Our university also is a growing source of scientific discovery, yielding more than \$379 million in research and contract dollars within the last fiscal year, a 12 percent increase over the previous year. The growth in the amount of research dollars is testimony to the passion of UF faculty to improve the welfare of Florida citizens.

While UF has demonstrated notable growth and increases in quality, such steps often are expected of great universities. As the state of Florida struggles to address significant budget problems, it is reasonable to reflect upon the value and contribution of state-funded organizations. What should citizens of Florida expect of a university?

There are many ways to judge a university's contributions. We might ask:

Does the university enhance educational opportunities for the state's citizens?

As the largest university in the state, UF produces 22 percent of the college degrees awarded in Florida each year. Most importantly, UF produces 40 percent of the degrees awarded to engineers, 55 percent of the degrees awarded to physicians, 23 percent of the degrees awarded to health professionals, and 13.5 percent of the degrees awarded to our teachers.

Does the university create value that exceeds the investment of the state?

Although UF is most often thought of as a state-supported institution, it is, in fact, only partially supported by state funds. In the current fiscal year, only 39 percent of UF's budget is derived from state funds. The remaining 61 percent comes from research funded by federal and private sources, contracts, and services such as health care.

More than 55 percent of the College of Health Professions' budget comes from sources *other than* the state. However, the state's investment in UF is sound. For every dollar the state spends on UF, the university generates \$5.20 that is spent within the state's economy, with direct benefits to Florida citizens in science, technology, health care and education.

Does the university enhance the welfare of the state's citizens?

When we think of Florida's citizens, we may picture a state comprised of elderly retirees fleeing cold climates. Yet surprisingly, Florida's population of children — more than 3 million — is larger than its group of senior citizens.

Unfortunately, Florida's children disproportionately live in poverty. These children require an educational system that provides opportunities to acquire marketable skills and join the cutting edge of growing, new technologies. There is no question these opportunities are created by great education systems, capped by productive universities.

The University of Florida is such a place.

Faculty Notes

Murray J. Côté, Ph.D., assistant professor, health services administration, received a national award from the Healthcare Financial Management Association for an article he co-authored on predicting consumer demand for health-care services. The article, "Four Methodologies to Improve Healthcare Demand Forecasting," was published in the May 2001 issue of *Healthcare Financial Management* magazine.

Thomas N. Dikel, Ph.D., has been appointed chief psychologist and research director for the Child Protection Team based at the University of Florida. The team is one of 23 state-funded programs that deal with known and suspected cases of child abuse and neglect. Dikel holds a joint assistant clinical professorship in clinical and health psychology and in the College of Medicine's department of pediatrics.

Ronald H. Rozensky, Ph.D., chairman and professor, clinical and health psychology, and Eileen Fennell, Ph.D., professor, clinical and health psychology, have been elected to the American Psychological Association's Council of Representatives. Their three-year terms on the legislative body of the national organization began in January. Rozensky also has been elected chair of the APA's Board of Educational Affairs for 2002. The board works to advance the science and practice of psychology for the public's benefit and enhance the quality of education and training programs in the profession.

The American Psychological Association of Graduate Students named the department of clinical and health psychology the 2001 Department of the Year. The honor is given each year to a student-nominated graduate psychology department that exemplifies outstanding commitment to graduate students and demonstrates excellent faculty-student relations.

Suzanne Bennett Johnson, Ph.D., professor, clinical and health psychology, is the recipient of a Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellowship. Johnson has been spending the year in Washington, D.C., learning firsthand about the health-care policy-making process. She is one of six fellows selected by the Institute of Medicine, an arm of the National Academy of Sciences.

Looking back

Members of the occupational therapy Class of 1964 gather for their graduation portrait. More than 1,400 students have graduated from the occupational therapy department since the first class received degrees in 1961.



assistive technologies cont. from pg. 1

on health, independence and quality of life," said William C. Mann, Ph.D., who directs both the center and its research core and also chairs the occupational therapy department. "Reducing costs of care for this special population is one of our primary goals."

Mann says the connections with industries are expected to speed the transfer of new assistive technologies to the consumers and caregivers who need them. Companies already enlisted in the initiative are Honeywell, IBM, Lifeline, Philips Medical Systems and Motorola.

"We plan to address a host of problems faced by individuals whose aging-related disabilities or frailties hinder their ability to take care of themselves and their household," Mann said. "Emphasis will be placed on the design, testing and implementation of home monitoring and communications systems that are easy to use and contribute to a safer and more supportive living environment."

"For example, we plan to develop and test the use of devices that unobtrusively monitor key needs (taking medicine, eating, drinking) as well as critical events such as falls or a stove left on," he added. "We also will explore the use of computers for active communication to aid self-care in terms of banking, shopping, bathing and dressing."

UF computer science Professor Abdelsalam (Sumi) Helal, Ph.D., who is directing technology development for the center, said "smart phones," containing miniaturized computers, are among the products already under investigation at the College of Engineering, in cooperation with Motorola's iDEN group in Plantation, Fla.

"For elders whose physical, cognitive and sensory skills are fading, smart phones could literally become magic wands that give them greater command and control over everyday activities," said Helal, widely known for his studies of wireless and mobile computing and networking. "In addition to the possibilities for designing computerized phones to open or lock doors, or turn appliances on or off, they could also be programmed to give audible instructions for taking medications or to alert others when help is needed," he said.

"Smart phones that interface with a 'smart home environment' could be valuable intelligent agents that keep track of a person's medication use and determine when a refill is needed," Helal said. "At that point, the programmable phone could dial a designated pharmacy, order the new supply of medicine and arrange for home delivery."

Helal said these are only a few of the functions that could be performed in a computer-assisted environment to help seniors with various physical and cognitive impairments.

"We hope the technologies we analyze and develop—from handheld electronic devices to more extensive communication and health monitoring systems—will add life to years for people who want to live as independently as possible," said Jeffrey W. Dwyer, Ph.D., director of UF's Institute on Aging. Dwyer will lead the project's educational component, aimed at informing elders, caregivers and service providers regarding the assistive technologies available.

"We envision developing product videos and booklets, setting up toll-free phone lines for information on technology, providing free information at seniors' centers and through the World Wide Web, and working with Area Agencies on Aging and other networks to disseminate information," said Dwyer.

Collaborators in the effort include the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Administration on Aging and four other universities and five major aging or aging-related organizations, including AARP, American Society on Aging, National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, American Medical Association and Association of Tech Act Programs.

Brooks Center cont. from pg. 1

The center's research component is located primarily at the College of Health Professions while the patient care element is carried out at Brooks Health System, Shands Jacksonville and other UF affiliated facilities.

"The center gives us a tremendous opportunity to bring together an interdisciplinary group of scientists, clinicians and therapists to provide better rehabilitation services," Duncan said. "The formation of the center shows tremendous vision and builds on community partnerships."

Duncan also has been appointed to direct the new Rehabilitation Outcomes Research Center for Veterans with Central Nervous System Damage at the VA Medical Center in Gainesville. A \$3 million award from the Veterans Affairs Office of Research and Development funds the five-year program.

The center plans to address research on rehabilitation outcomes with a focus on veterans who have suffered central nervous system damage as a result of stroke. The center also will develop a national database of outcomes for individuals who have experienced strokes and test newly emerging rehabilitation therapies for stroke patients.

College of Health Professions faculty and students will have the opportunity to work closely with VA Medical Center investigators with the aim of integrating the skills of both rehabilitation and health services researchers. Additionally, the Rehabilitation Outcomes Research Center's career development program offers funding to faculty, pre-doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows to help clinicians develop skills as health services research investigators.

Interim chair appointed to department of communicative disorders

An internationally known audiologist has been named interim chair of the department of communicative disorders. James Hall III, Ph.D., succeeds Michael Crary, Ph.D., who will continue as a professor and researcher in the department.

Before joining the faculty in July 2000, Hall held clinical and academic audiology positions at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, University of Texas - Houston Medical School and Vanderbilt University's School of Medicine. Hall lectures all over the world on audiology topics and has authored more than 120 journal articles, book chapters and books.

As interim chair, Hall intends to continue the department's focus on offering continuing education programs for audiologists. Since audiology is dependent upon technology, practitioners need regular updates to stay abreast of the latest advancements.

"Here at UF we have state-of-the-art equipment and we know the latest techniques," Hall said. "We need to get the skills and techniques into the hands of audiologists and speech pathologists so all can benefit."

Hall also plans to build on the department's strengths by encouraging faculty research.

His own research interests include auditory electrophysiology, the evaluation of auditory function through recorded responses from the brain. This method is especially successful when assessing the hearing of individuals who can't communicate their responses to testers, such as newborns, Hall said. His book on the technique, *Handbook of Auditory Evoked Responses*, is considered a standard resource for audiologists.

Additionally, Hall's research focuses on treatments for tinnitus, the occurrence of sound such as ringing or whistling in an individual's ears when there are no external sounds present. While the causes of tinnitus aren't well known, the condition affects millions of Americans each year.

Hall's work on how the brain processes sound involves the development of techniques for evaluating and treating school-age children with auditory processing disorders. Since these children may have difficulty following teachers' instructions and reading assignments, they routinely perform poorly in school.

"The main theme of my research is the underserved patient population," Hall said.



Dr. James Hall

Student News

Chris Loftis, a doctoral student in clinical and health psychology, is the elected chairman of the American Psychological Association for Graduate Students for 2001-2004. The organization is the APA's largest subcommittee and has a membership of 50,000 undergraduate and graduate psychology students.

Two health services administration students, Ajani Dunn and Carlton Inmiss, won first-place scholarships in the Everett V. Fox Student Case Analysis and Presentation Competition. The competition is sponsored by the National Association of Health Services Executives. They each received \$3,000 scholarships.

The student-run Health Professions College Council sponsored the first annual Charity Volleyball Tournament last fall. More than 70 students, representing each of the college's departments, competed in the three-on-three volleyball tournament. The "PT Players" team, physical therapy students Peter David, Diana Potter, and Brett Wiegrefe, won the championship game. Participants raised almost \$500 to benefit the American Red Cross Liberty Disaster Fund for victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.



Helping families of children with cystic fibrosis and diabetes adhere to medical regimens

Parents who care for children with chronic illnesses face tremendous challenges. Following their children's prescribed medication schedules, ensuring special diet and exercise needs are met and administering medical treatments are vital.

A College of Health Professions research team, supported by a \$2.6 million National Institutes of Health grant, seeks to define the barriers that keep parents and children from adhering to complicated medical regimens, and to help parents manage the care of children with chronic illness.

Investigators Suzanne Bennett Johnson, Ph.D., and Alexandra Quittner, Ph.D., both professors of clinical and health psychology, will work with 200 families having children under age 11 with cystic fibrosis or diabetes during a four-year study.

"Both of these chronic diseases of childhood are extremely difficult to manage and require several types of daily medical treatment," Quittner explained.

Johnson and Quittner point out that compliance with these medical regimens is, on average, below 50 percent for both diseases. The consequences for not properly following health-provider recommendations can be serious, they said. A decline in a child's health and development, absences from school, increased stress among family members and higher health-care costs for the child's treatment are all results of noncompliance.

The researchers will document the reasons that keep parents from following the regimens prescribed for their children. These may include insufficient skills to carry out the treatment; failure to remember to administer treatment; lack of time management; inability to gain cooperation from the child; and miscommunication between the parent and health-care provider.

Type 1 diabetes adversely affects the way the body uses glucose obtained from the daily diet. Diabetes can cause an excess accumulation of glucose in the blood, which can damage almost every major organ in the body. Children with type 1 diabetes must take multiple injections of insulin each day, timed to coincide with meals. The disease requires the testing of blood glucose, using a finger stick to draw blood levels two to four times a day. The child also is asked to follow a particular diet and exercise plan.

Cystic fibrosis is a genetic condition affecting the glands that produce mucus, sweat, saliva and digestive juices. The most dangerous consequences of cystic fibrosis are lung disease and respiratory failure. Children with cystic fibrosis must take oral or inhaled antibiotics and mucus-thinning drugs two to three times a day. They also must clear their airways using a manual procedure or mechanical device, a 20-to-30 minute task, twice daily to break up mucus in the lungs. They additionally should receive enzyme medications with each meal and snack and consume 50 percent to 100 percent more calories than a healthy child.

To measure the effects of the researchers' efforts, electronic monitors will be used to document when a child's treatments are given. Monitors on pill bottles, blood glucose testers and inhalers will tell investigators the date, time and frequency of use. Each patient's chart will be reviewed to help researchers compare the children's hospitalizations, emergency room visits and extra clinic appointments before and after the study's intervention.

Johnson and Quittner said they hope that by conducting the intervention in families with younger children, they may prevent or minimize the health problems often seen in adolescents with diabetes or cystic fibrosis. Establishing these desirable behavioral patterns should help children effectively manage their own diseases as they enter adulthood, the researchers said.

4 The research will help families like Michael's follow their children's treatment plan. Michael, who suffers from cystic fibrosis, recently underwent a successful lung transplant.



Dr. Alexandra Quittner



Dr. Suzanne Bennett Johnson

Compliance with these medical regimens is, on average, below 50 percent for both diseases.

Claudette Finley

Graduates recognize Finley's teaching contributions



Physical therapy graduates were invited to submit messages to Claudette Finley on the occasion of her retirement. They appeared in *Albert Sez*, the department's alumni publication. Here are a few excerpts from those messages:

"You are, without a doubt, one of the best teachers I ever had. All you taught has stayed with me to this day. You were steadfastly funny, fair, calm and collected. Thank you. You are without equal."

Gigi Benson Kady, '85

"Best wishes for a wonderful, happy retirement. There are hundreds of students out there with fond memories of your classes at UF and for that you should be very proud."

Mary Smith McCombs, '81

"The University of Florida (all of us!) and the incoming students will miss your expertise, clarity and vitality for teaching and learning. Thank you for your commitment to us as a profession and as people. You will be missed, but never forgotten."

Elizabeth Frerking Keith, PT, PCS '93

"You have enriched and touched the lives of many, personally and professionally. We are better people because of you!"

Denise Leach Rice, '77

Looks forward to new adventure

When the physical therapy Class of 1999 announced the establishment of a scholarship in her name, Claudette Finley, M.S., P.T., nearly missed the announcement. Busy admiring the engraved watch the students had presented to her, Finley almost didn't hear the news when it was revealed at the graduation banquet.

"I was so touched by their efforts to go to such lengths for me," Finley recalled. "It is one of the greatest honors a teacher can receive."

By the time she retired as an associate professor of physical therapy on Dec. 31, 2001, Finley had guided 35 years' worth of physical therapy students through the complexities of human anatomy and medical surgical disorders. Throughout her career, she received numerous teaching honors.

"It has been rewarding for me to see the students grow and learn as professionals," Finley said. "It's very fulfilling to see graduating students show maturity and concern for their patients while the patients demonstrate trust in their abilities."

Finley's enthusiasm and dedication to her interests are not limited to the classroom. An avid scuba diver for more than 30 years, Finley travels yearly to the Caribbean and makes monthly trips to Florida springs and rivers to dive and kayak. She incorporates environmental clean-ups into her trips, stopping to throw trash she encounters along Florida rivers into her kayak for later disposal.

She combined her abilities as a diver and a speech clinician to co-author the booklet *Hand Signals for Diving*, one of the first published handbooks on the topic. Finley researched hand communications used by Plains Indians of the Southwest and those used in American Sign Language to write the guide.

Finley's retirement plans include further developing her kayaking skills and investigating opportunities for volunteer work and continuing education.

"Retiring is like the feeling you have when you graduate from high school or college," Finley said. "There's a whole world out there to explore."



Finley's diving excursions include frequent trips to the Caribbean and locations in Florida.

Health Professions employees honored for innovative programs

The 2001 Davis Productivity Awards recently recognized four College of Health Professions employees: Tonia Lambert, grants specialist; Carlos Camejo, computer programmer/analyst; Paul Duncan, Ph.D., professor, health services administration and Colleen Porter, project coordinator, health services administration.

Davis Productivity Awards honor individuals and teams for innovation, creativity and cost-saving achievements that increase performance and productivity in the delivery of state services and products in Florida.

Lambert and Camejo were nominated for their creation of a Web-based salary calculator to help grant proposal writers develop budgets.

Nominator Linda Stallings, associate director, medical/health administration, wrote: "Together, Tonia and Carlos have shown that highly motivated, innovative employees can change the way we do business. Because of their efforts, all who participate in grant preparation have more time to focus on the grant, and, hopefully, achieve greater success."

Lambert and Camejo's salary calculator is available at www.hp.ufl.edu/research/calculation-tools.htm.

Duncan and Porter were recognized as members of a team that conducted the Florida Health Insurance Study, a three-year project that documented the problem of uninsured individuals. The researchers conducted the nation's largest telephone survey of the uninsured and produced an interactive CD-ROM to enhance outreach strategies for coverage expansion programs. The study will be used to guide state policy on health insurance.

College recognizes

employee of the year

Ruth Ann Czerenda,

office manager, department of rehabilitation counseling, was recognized as the 2001 Employee of the Year at the College of Health Professions' Twentieth Annual Staff and Faculty Appreciation Dinner held last fall.

Czerenda was honored for her productive management style, combination of energy and initiative, professional commitment to her job and sensitivity to the needs of other people. She received a \$500 check and a plaque.



Alumni Council formed

It's official! Last fall the Health Professions Advisory Board unanimously approved the formation of the Alumni Council, a new affiliated membership program with the UF Alumni Association.

The Health Professions Alumni Council is an independent decision-making body, but alumni will have all of the benefits of membership in the UF Alumni Association. These benefits include an annual subscription to the *Today* alumni magazine, the weekly *GatorNews* e-mail newsletter, free access to the online alumni directory and Gator\$avor Discounts.

By joining the UF Alumni Association for \$30 (single membership) and paying an additional \$6, alumni can enjoy the benefits of both associations while also providing support directly to the Health Professions Alumni Council.

If you have any questions regarding the Alumni Council or the affiliation, call Melisa Baldwin at (352) 265-8097 or e-mail mbaldwi@ufl.edu

New alumni Web site planned

Health Professions alumni will soon have a new home on the World Wide Web.

The site will feature development and alumni affairs information and announcements as well as a spot for you to share your news and re-connect with fellow alumni. Be sure to respond to the survey question, updated on a regular basis, with questions like "Which Health Professions instructor influenced you the most and why?" and "What are your favorite Homecoming memories?"

Look for more information on the Web site in the next issue of *HP News*.

Health Professions alumni gather for reunion weekend

More than 150 alumni and their families attended last fall's College of Health Professions Reunion Weekend. Activities included a Friday evening reception at the Harn Museum of Art and a Saturday pre-game brunch followed by the Gators' 52-0 victory over Mississippi State University. Watch for more information in coming months on the next reunion weekend, Oct. 11-12.



1 Supporters of the physical therapy program gather at the Friday evening reception. Seated l. to r. are Clint Walding; Tracey Walding, physical therapy student; Claudette Finley, recently retired associate professor of physical therapy; Martha Wroe, former physical therapy faculty member; and Henrietta Goldstein, medical technology '72. Standing l. to r. are Anne Kuhns; Bob Goldstein, physical therapy '72; and Rolf Kuhns, physical therapy '72.

2 Dean Emeritus Richard Gutekunst, Joseph Kemker, Ph.D., professor, communicative disorders, and Anna Gutekunst share food and conversation at the Saturday pre-game brunch.

3 Chuck Young (left), health services administration '77, and guests stop to pose before heading off to the UF-Mississippi State football game.

1970s

Nancy Mandeville Tisdall, occupational therapy '71, resides in Bellingham, Wash., and is the president/owner of Occupational Therapy Consultants Inc. She writes, "I am in the process of relocating to south Florida in hopes of working less and enjoying the sunshine state full time after 30 years of living elsewhere."

Paula Lovett, rehabilitation counseling '73, is the president/co-owner of Counseling & Rehabilitation Associates in Gainesville. She completed a doctorate in counselor education in 1982 and became a licensed mental health counselor in 1983, providing behavioral health care in a private practice setting since graduation.

V. Bruce Mills, rehabilitation counseling '76, has been promoted to the position of branch manager with Genex Services, an international provider of managed health care and cost-containment services, in Tampa, Fla. Mills also was the recipient of the J.C. Penney Golden Rule Award for outstanding community service.

Robert Hosford, rehabilitation counseling '79, is co-owner of Counseling & Rehabilitation Associates with wife Paula Lovett (see above). He provides medical and vocational case management to injured workers and psychotherapy services to a diverse population. He has served on the boards of the American Mental Health Counseling Association and the American Counseling Association.

Pamela Kay Black Matura, rehabilitation counseling '81, is the executive director of the Area Agency on Aging District 7 in Rio Grande, Ohio. She recently formed and is the chair of the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging's rural interest group. In addition, she was selected for inclusion in *The Nationwide Register's Who's Who in Executives and Businesses* 2002 edition.

Ricardo Morales, physician assistant '84, is a board certified physician assistant at Samson Showalter Vascular Specialists in Sarasota, Fla.

Lee Ganger Grant, physical therapy '86, is a staff physical therapist at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City, Mich. She is working part-time in the acute care, inpatient rehabilitation, outpatient neurological and wound care units. She married Charles Grant in June 1999; their daughter Emma Leah was born in April 2000.

Kimberly Kauffman, rehabilitation counseling '91, is the executive director of the Florida Independent Physicians Association, Region 3, Inc., an organization of more than 600 physicians in 16 counties who come together to negotiate with managed care companies. She is married to Douglas Kauffman.

Jackie Krill Selvaggio, rehabilitation counseling '95, is a cancer control program manager for the American Cancer Society's Winn-Dixie Hope Lodge in Gainesville. Winn-Dixie Hope Lodge provides temporary housing for out-of-town patients who are receiving cancer treatment at local facilities. She married Mike Selvaggio in the spring of 2001.

Grant McDougall, rehabilitation counseling '97, is a licensed mental health counselor employed with Counseling & Rehabilitation Associates in Gainesville. He also is a doctoral student in the UF rehabilitation science program. He and his wife Michelle have two children.

1980s

1990s

Alumna
Alumna
Alumna
spotlight

Clinical and
health psychology
graduate a leader
in her field

Innovative research and professional leadership are hallmarks of the career of Eileen Fennell, Ph.D., clinical psychology '78. As a member of UF's clinical and health psychology faculty since 1978, Fennell has been actively involved in pediatric neuropsychology research while holding several positions in national organizations.

"She is a great, award-winning faculty member who thrives on clinical work and classroom teaching," Ronald Rozensky, Ph.D. chairman and professor of the department of clinical and health psychology, said of Fennell. "In addition, her international leadership role in pediatric neuropsychology has helped to define the profession."

Fennell's interest in clinical and health psychology arose out of her work as a research assistant to Paul Satz, Ph.D., a clinical neuropsychologist, after obtaining her bachelor's degree in psychology from UF. Satz, along with Louis Cohen, Ph.D., encouraged Fennell to attend graduate school. She entered UF's doctoral program in clinical psychology in 1974.

"My UF education has allowed me the privilege of being an educator myself while being able to work with our very talented graduate students," Fennell said.

Throughout her career Fennell has focused on pediatric neuropsychology – the study of brain function in children and adolescents and its effect on behavior, emotion and learning. She has conducted several studies involving children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, epilepsy or brain injuries. In one of her research studies she discovered that the mental development of children with kidney failure can vary based on the type of medical treatment they receive.

Fennell has authored or co-authored over 50 research papers and nine book chapters on pediatric neuropsychology, and she has conducted national and international education workshops on the topic. She co-authored the book *Pediatric Neuropsychology in a Medical Setting*.

Fennell lists among her professional highlights her election as president of the Neuropsychology Division of the American Psychological Association. She is an American Board of Professional Psychology board certified clinical neuropsychologist, and she began a three-year term on the APA's Council of Representatives in January.

Fennell has twice been recognized as clinical and health psychology's Outstanding Teacher of the Year.

"I hope to continue to encourage research among my students, to publish and to serve the profession," Fennell said.



Dr. Eileen Fennell

State physical therapy
policy-maker
named 2001 alumnus
of the year

The college's 2001 Alumnus of the Year, Rolf Kuhns, physical therapy '72, has dedicated his career to giving back to the profession that has offered him so much.



Rolf Kuhns

"As a physical therapy student I experienced such a strong commitment from the faculty," Kuhns explained. "In turn, I felt an obligation to give back to the profession."

A leader in developing Florida legislation and policy on physical therapy issues and a supervisor for UF students gaining clinical experience, Kuhns has certainly fulfilled that pledge.

"Rolf Kuhns has played an instrumental role in the development of the physical therapy profession in the state of Florida," Dean Robert Frank said. "At the same time, he has provided support in all facets to UF's physical therapy program."

Although he originally planned to pursue a career in medicine, Kuhns decided to explore other options in the human service field when he realized he was not interested in the demanding life of a physician. His sister, Kaaren Kuhns, physical therapy '63, and Barbara White, former chair of the physical therapy department, influenced his decision to become a physical therapist.

It proved to be the right choice. Kuhns completed his degree by receiving the Outstanding Scholastic Student Award, given to the graduating physical therapy student with one of the highest grade point averages in the class.

Kuhns worked in private practice for several years in Lake City and Orlando and supervised UF students during their clinical internships, an experience that was particularly rewarding.

"It's nice to see the students' successes and know that I had a hand, along with many others, in bringing them along in their careers," Kuhns said.

Kuhns has been an active leader in the Florida Physical Therapy Association, serving on the board for 14 years. He received the association's President's Award in 1991 for his work on legislative issues such as physical therapists reimbursement and modification of Florida's Physical Therapy Practice Act.

In 1994 the Florida Physical Therapy Association also awarded Kuhns the Fred Rutan Service Award. Named after a former UF faculty member who is now deceased, the award is the most prestigious honor given by the association.

"As a student, I had a high respect for all physical therapy faculty," Kuhns said. "Fred Rutan was my role model, and receiving that award has been the highlight of my career."

Kuhns currently is a consultant with Lake Centre Rehabilitation in Leesburg, Fla. He has developed programs to effectively manage and return injured employees to work, including his Injured Employee Management System to track and report injuries and minimize the number of workdays lost to injury.

What's New?



What's New?

If you don't tell us, we won't know. Alumni – please tell your classmates what you are doing.

Name (including maiden name) _____

Major/Year _____

Phone _____

Home address (city, state, zip) _____

E-mail address _____

Current position (Title, company – or enclose a business card) _____

News to share _____