

HP program gives online support to Alzheimer's caregivers

By Jill Pease

Caring for patients with Alzheimer's disease, often an overwhelming task, may be easier for family members worldwide thanks to an interactive program developed by College of Health Professions researchers and available by telephone and the World Wide Web.

The first-of-its-kind program, Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Online, is staffed by Health Professions psychology professionals who conduct live, interactive classes on subjects such as stress management, understanding and dealing with memory loss, and managing difficult caregiving tasks, said Robert Glueckauf, Ph.D., a professor in the department of clinical and health psychology, and the director of the program. A message board and regular telephone conferences with experts in Alzheimer's care also are available so that participants can share comments and ask questions.

Since its launch a year ago, the program has been promoted mainly to caregivers in Florida, which has one of the highest proportions of older adults in the nation.

Based on the success of the service in Florida — more than 2,400 people have called upon the program's Web and phone services for help each month — UF recently launched a Spanish-language version of the Web site.

In the upcoming weeks they also will offer online caregiving classes facilitated by a Spanish-speaking instructor. Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Online will be the only exclusively Spanish site of its kind in the United

States featuring all Spanish links, written materials and classes. UF researchers hope to raise further awareness among Florida Hispanic caregivers and promote the program nationwide.

"Taking care of an older person with Alzheimer's typically includes managing potentially injurious behavior to self or others, issuing frequent reminders, and monitoring hygiene and self-care activities," said Glueckauf, who also is a core faculty member at the UF Institute on Aging. "Unfortunately, such intensive activities are performed at a high cost to caregivers in terms of physical, financial and psychological resources. Caregivers typically experience reduced social activities, disrupted household routine and relationships, and deterioration of physical and mental health."

Approximately 4 million Americans suffer from Alzheimer's disease, a progressive loss of brain cells, which results in memory loss, disorientation,

difficulty performing tasks, and changes in behavior and personality. More than seven out of 10 Americans with Alzheimer's disease live at home, and almost 75 percent of their home care is provided by family and friends, according to the Alzheimer's Association.

Glueckauf said he established the program to address the substantial gap between caregivers' needs and available resources, particularly in rural areas. Funding was provided by the Florida Department of Elder Affairs, the Arthur Vining Davis Foundation, Columbia Health Care and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The program is managed by the UF Center for Research on Telehealth and Healthcare Communications, which Glueckauf directs.

"Sometimes my husband will have episodes where he doesn't recognize me," said Clematis Clark of Jacksonville, whose husband suffers from a memory loss-related illness. "I know exactly how to handle this situation because of the information I've received from Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Online."

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Online's unique offerings include a series of Internet or telephone courses on learning to add opportunities for personal time and relaxation to caregivers' schedules and tips for handling episodes of wandering, aggressive behavior, resistance to bathing and confusion. The program's telephone-based expert forums let caregivers ask questions on issues such as Alzheimer's disease medication, Medicare rights and what to expect at physician visits.

Caregivers can receive individual consultations from experts by phone or e-mail. One of the program's guiding principles is that its services are not a substitute for in-person counseling or crisis care. When traditional community resources are unavailable, Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Online can be accessed any time, even in the middle of the night.

"This program is a bold, innovative step in caregiver intervention," said Larry W. Thompson, Ph.D., a professor emeritus at Stanford University Medical Center and the Goldman Family professor at the Pacific Graduate School of Psychology. "I think the program will be most useful for individuals who like to use the computer for information or for individuals who have difficulty getting out of the house because of their caregiver duties."

While caring for someone suffering from Alzheimer's disease can be challenging and stressful, it also offers rewards, Glueckauf said.

"Caregiving can be a fulfilling activity with opportunities to observe moments of joy, insight and laughter. These may not occur on a daily basis, but they do happen," he said. "Caregivers have shared with us that caring for a loved one has given them the opportunity to give back the same kind of love and sacrifice the loved one has made for the family over the years."

For more information on the online caregiver support program in English or



Individuals caring for loved ones gathered at a recent conference on caregiver issues, sponsored by the Florida Department of Elder Affairs.

a Message from the Dean



Robert G. Frank, Dean

During the past year, the University of Florida has developed a strategic plan for the future of the university. The draft plan, now under consideration by the university's Board of Trustees, offers eight recommendations for the structure and goals of the university.

One recommendation matches the growth and objectives of the College of Health Professions: "the university should support and continue to emphasize the following interdisciplinary research and instructional programs: cancer and genetics; research on the brain; biotechnology particularly at the

interface of medical science and nanoscience; aging; children and families; ecology and the environment; and internationalization of the campus."

At first glance, the advantages of this list to the College of Health Professions may not be apparent. However, a closer evaluation of the university priorities demonstrates that the college is already active in many of these areas. For example, Health Professions faculty have attracted more research money related to aging than faculty in any other college, almost \$2 million more than faculty in the College of Medicine.

Health Professions' aging research projects include:

- The Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Technology for Successful Aging, led by William Mann, Ph.D., chair of the department of occupational therapy.
 - Pain assessment in nursing home residents, conducted by Michael Robinson, Ph.D., professor of clinical and health psychology, and Dawn Bowers, Ph.D., associate professor of clinical and health psychology.
 - Defining the measurement of rehabilitation, conducted by Craig Velozo, Ph.D., associate professor of occupational therapy, Robert Glueckauf, Ph.D., professor of clinical and health psychology, and Giselle Mann, Ph.D., visiting assistant professor of communicative disorders.
 - Improving motor function after stroke, led by Kathy Light, Ph.D., and Andrea Behrman, Ph.D., associate professors in the department of physical therapy.
- Our faculty also has strong research programs in the area of brain research:**
- The study of facial symmetries, led by Dawn Bowers, Ph.D.
 - Memory studies, conducted by Elizabeth Leritz, a graduate student in clinical and health psychology working with Russell Bauer, Ph.D., professor of clinical and health psychology.
 - The interaction between high-level cortex and deeper brain structures that mediate normal and abnormal emotional experience, researched by William Perlstein, Ph.D., assistant professor of clinical and health psychology.
 - The Center for the Study of Emotion and Attention, funded by the National Institute of Mental Health and directed by Peter Lang, Ph.D.

The college's research programs focusing on children include:

- Family interventions and adherence to medical regimens for children with cystic fibrosis, led by Alexandra Quittner, Ph.D., professor of clinical and health psychology.
- Attention deficit disorder in children, conducted by Gregg Selke, a clinical and health psychology graduate student working with Eileen Fennell, Ph.D., professor of clinical and health psychology, and Dawn Bowers, Ph.D.
- Treatments for children with conduct disorders, led by Sheila Eyberg, Ph.D., professor of clinical and health psychology. Stephen Boggs, Ph.D., associate professor of clinical and health psychology, has worked with Eyberg to develop application of Parent Child Interaction Therapy for children with developmental disabilities.

This list is only a sample of Health Professions' faculty research and does not reflect the wide array of research conducted by our faculty in other areas. The diversity of the college's disciplines, which may present a challenge at times, clearly helps to align us with the university's strategic plans. In periods of change, this

Student News

Susan Bongiolatti, a clinical and health psychology graduate student, received the Epilepsy Foundation Behavioral Sciences Student Fellowship, which includes a \$3,000 stipend to work on a three-month epilepsy study project. Bongiolatti will examine impulsivity in children with epilepsy and whether the location of seizure activity in a child's brain is related to increased difficulty in inhibiting actions and behaviors.

Betsy Leritz, a doctoral student in clinical and health psychology, received a National Research Service Award from the National Institute of Mental Health. The annual award of \$26,015 for two years supports her doctoral training and research on how different forms of memory are affected by surgery to relieve seizures in patients with epilepsy in the temporal lobe of the brain. Leritz also is the recipient of the Henry Hécaen Award, given yearly by the American Psychological Foundation in cooperation with the American Psychological Association Division 40 (clinical neuropsychology) to a student who demonstrates a record of achievement that indicates a promising career in the field.

Avani Modi, a doctoral student in clinical and health psychology, received a National Research Service Award from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. She receives an annual award of \$25,750 for two years to support her dissertation research on the patterns of adherence to medical treatments for children with pulmonary disorders, including asthma and cystic fibrosis.

back

Looking ○

Kenneth Bzoch, Ph.D., tests a toddler's language development in this 1979 photo. Bzoch, an international leader in the treatment of cleft lip and palate, served on the communicative disorders faculty for 34 years as a professor and chair before retiring in 1995.



UF Health Science Center wins record level of external research funding

Double-digit increases from almost every major funding source pushed the University of Florida to a record \$437.2 million in research funding during fiscal year 2001-2002, up more than 15 percent from the previous year.

Faculty in the Health Science Center's six colleges accounted for just over half of the university's total. Funding from the National Institutes of Health — Florida's largest source of research funding — rose 11.2 percent to \$103.9 million.

"The faculty have been extraordinarily effective in competing for research funds at the national level," said Douglas Barrett, M.D., vice president for health affairs. "Their creativity, dedication and perseverance have paid off in a big way, leading to significant expansion of research programs in the colleges of Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, Pharmacy, Health Professions and Veterinary Medicine."

Total research funding for the College of Health Professions has soared from \$1.5 million in 1995 to \$6.7 million in 2001, elevating the college to third place among comparable colleges nationwide in terms of NIH funding.

"The college has enjoyed remarkable increases in funding from the National Institute of Disability and Rehabilitation Research and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs," said Dean Robert Frank, Ph.D. "If we add these figures to the NIH funding, we believe our college's research enterprise ranks first among health professions colleges nationwide."

HP students receive

national awards for rehabilitation research

Three College of Health Professions students have been awarded Department of Veterans Affairs Pre-Doctoral Associated Health Rehabilitation Research Fellowships for the 2002-2003 academic year.

Doctoral students in the college's rehabilitation science degree program — Katherine Byers, Elizabeth (Lisa) Hannold and Matthew Malcolm — are among ten students nationally to receive the awards.

The VA Health Rehabilitation Research Fellowships are awarded to graduate students who plan to work on a dissertation relating to the health-care needs of veterans with disabilities. The goal of the fellowship program is to build upon current rehabilitation research while encouraging students to assume leadership roles in rehabilitation research and clinical care. Students receive an \$18,500 stipend to support their research and training.

Byers' outcomes measurement research will focus on examining the reliability of using conversion tables to link two different rehabilitation measures of functional ability.

Hannold plans to study the experiences and perceptions of veterans with a spinal cord injury who participate in locomotor training — stepping on a treadmill with the assistance of physical therapists who guide the legs and feet — in an effort to improve their ability to walk.

Malcolm will investigate nervous system changes that occur during recovery from stroke and how the brain reorganizes in response to an intensive movement therapy program.

Internationally known audiologist named chair of communicative disorders

James W. Hall III, Ph.D., has been named chair of the department of communicative disorders. He succeeds Michael Crary, Ph.D., who will continue as a professor and researcher in the department. Hall's two-year appointment began July 1.

"As a department, we're very excited to explore opportunities for collaboration with other departments and entities on UF's campus," Hall said. "It is also an exciting time to be a part of the College of Health Professions as we look forward to expanding into the new Health Professions/Nursing/Pharmacy complex when it opens in the spring of 2003."

Hall lectures worldwide on audiology topics and is the author of more than 120 journal articles, book chapters and books.

He plans to build on the department's clinical strengths by encouraging faculty research in applied hearing and speech science and by expanding external funding for their research efforts.

"Within the past year, academic faculty members in the department of communicative disorders have more than doubled their volume of sponsored research," Hall said. "We anticipate that this positive trend will continue."



photo by Jeff Krue

Dr. Hall performs an electrophysiological assessment of a patient's hearing function.

Faculty Notes

Gerben DeJong, Ph.D., has been named associate program director for policy for the UF Brooks Center for Rehabilitation Studies, effective Dec. 1. He also will serve as a research professor in the department of health services administration. An internationally known health policy expert, DeJong is a senior fellow and senior research scientist with the National Rehabilitation Hospital Center for Health Disability Research in Washington, D.C., and a professor in the department of family medicine at Georgetown University's School of Medicine.

Pamela Duncan, Ph.D., director of the Brooks Center for Rehabilitation Studies and a professor of health services administration, has been named the American Physical Therapy Association's (APTA) 2003 Mary McMillan Lecturer, the association's highest honor. The annual Mary McMillan Lecture Award is named for a pioneer of physical therapy in the United States who was the founding president of the APTA. Duncan's lecture is scheduled for June 2003 at the association's annual conference in Washington, D.C.



Researchers seek better understanding of human expressions

A UF research team is studying why the left side of the face is more expressive than the right.

You may not see the difference by looking in the mirror, but the left side of your face exhibits more expression than the right.

And although this phenomenon has been well documented by numerous studies, researchers don't know what causes the asymmetry. A new three-year, \$834,393 National Institutes of Mental Health grant, however, may go a long way toward discovering why the left side of the face is more expressive.

A research team led by Dawn Bowers, Ph.D., associate professor in the College of Health Professions' department of clinical and health psychology, will complete a series of studies to test three hypotheses that may explain facial expression asymmetry.

Understanding this complex interaction among the brain, nerves and muscles that produce expressions could provide new insight into human relationships and illnesses in which facial movements can be affected.

These include the flat facade of

Understanding the complex interaction among the brain, nerves and muscles that produce expressions could provide new insight into human relationships.

Parkinson's disease or a facial droop sometimes caused by stroke.

The team's first hypothesis – the left side of the face receives more

information on emotion from the brain – will be tested through the use of transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS). During TMS, a magnetic device is placed on a person's scalp over the area of the brain that controls facial movements. The painless magnetic stimulation produces involuntary movements, such as a wink or upturn of the mouth. Electrodes on the subject's face will record how much input from the brain is sent to the muscles in the left and right side of the face.

The researchers will test two other hypotheses: The left side of the face is more expressive because the right side of the brain (which controls motor function on the left side of the body) is more involved in emotion, and the left side of the brain is inhibiting expression on the right side of the face. Research subjects will review photographs, and their facial expressions will be recorded by video. Subjects might be asked to make an expression that is natural to them, such as smiling while looking at a picture of a baby, or they may be asked to make an expression that is the opposite of what they are inclined to do, like exhibiting the same smile while looking at a photo of a vicious animal.

The taped images of the subjects' facial expressions will be analyzed by UF-developed computer methodology for measuring human expression changes that are undetectable by the human eye. Computerized Human Expression Evaluation System (CHEES) was designed by Didem Gökçay, Ph.D., a UF computer and information sciences graduate. Gökçay, a post-doctoral researcher at the Institute of Neuro-Computation at the University of California–San Diego's Salk Institute, will serve as a consultant to this research project.

HP researcher studying effects of cochlear implants in children



Alexandra Quittner, Ph.D., a professor of clinical and health psychology, has received a \$1 million subcontract from a National Institutes of Health grant to examine childhood development after implantation of devices that aid hearing-impaired individuals.

The \$10 million grant from the National Institute of Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) will enable researchers to evaluate language acquisition, speech recognition skills, selective attention and problem-solving skills, behavioral and social development, parent-child interactions and quality of life measures in 250 deaf children under the age of 3. The study will involve youngsters who receive cochlear implants at six participating centers across the United States.



Dr. Alexandra Quittner

Cochlear implants electrically stimulate the inner ear and enable individuals with severe hearing loss to perceive sound. The implant is surgically placed under the skin behind the ear. According to the NIDCD, about

10,000 children have received cochlear implants in the United States at locations such as the

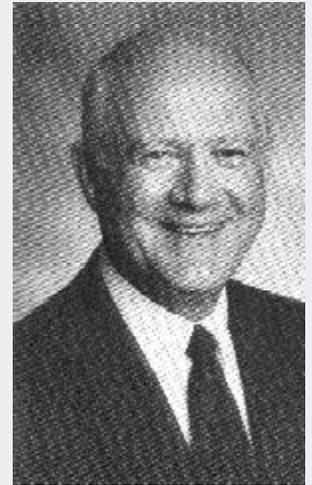
department of communicative disorders' UF Speech and Hearing Center.

Quittner will oversee the design of methods for measuring the cognitive and behavioral development of children before and after implantation. She will code and analyze the data gathered through videotapes of the children performing tasks at implant centers, as well as reports from parents and teachers.

"This study is exciting because while there is good evidence that cochlear implants facilitate communication, speech recognition and language, very little is known about how implants affect the cognitive and psychological development of the hearing impaired children who receive them," Quittner said.

The five-year study is led by John Niparko, M.D., director of otology, audiology, neurotology and skull base surgery at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, Md.

HP grad helps businesses design a great place to work ●



Dr. Aubrey Daniels

Aubrey Daniels, Ph.D., a pioneer in the application of behavioral psychology principles to the workplace and the bestselling author of management books, can trace the roots of his successful career in behavior modification to his UF education.

A tough job market after receiving his undergraduate degree led Daniels to graduate studies at UF, where he earned his master's and doctoral degrees in clinical and health psychology in 1963 and 1965, respectively. As a UF student, Daniels was influenced by the behavior modification techniques he learned from faculty members Nathan Perry, Ph.D., Hugh Davis, Ph.D., and Bill Wolking, Ph.D.

Behavioral psychology demonstrates that an individual's human behavior is governed by the consequences of his or her actions.

He employed behavior modification and positive reinforcement strategies as a psychologist with Georgia state mental health facilities following graduation. The great success he had shaping the behaviors of patients with phobias was a surprise to the facility's staff.

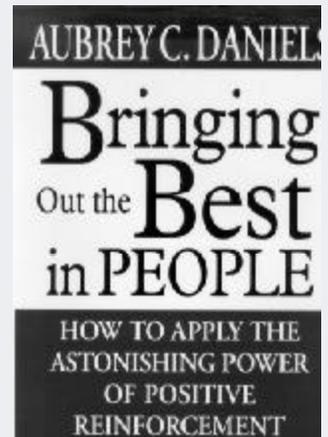
"These were patients that staff had given up on and we 'cured' them," Daniels said. "That created quite a stir."

As the head of psychology for Georgia Regional Hospital in Atlanta in the late '60s, Daniels designed a token system that rewarded patients with prizes for exhibiting desired behaviors. His program resulted in a significant drop in the return rate of discharged patients – 11 percent at his facility compared to more than 70 percent in Georgia's other mental health facilities.

In the 1970s, Daniels decided to apply these strategies to a different setting, the workplace. He founded Aubrey Daniels International (ADI), a management consulting firm, in 1978.

ADI, an Atlanta-based management consulting firm, helps companies solve problems in productivity, quality, cost and morale by utilizing positive reinforcement when managing individuals and groups. Its clients include high-profile corporations like Duke Energy, BP Amoco, State Farm Insurance Companies, NASA and Ford Motor Co.

"ADI helps create a workplace that brings out the best in people," Daniels said. "We want to create an environment in which a company's employees complete tasks because they want to,



A New & Updated Edition of a Classic Bestseller

Daniels has written three books on management practices, including the best seller "Bringing out the Best in People."

Health services administration alumni establish student scholarship fund

A new fundraising campaign is devoted to supporting the education of graduate students in health services administration.

Established by the Health Services Administration Alumni Association, the campaign seeks to raise \$25,000 for a student scholarship fund. The gift also will name a graduate study room in the Health Professions/Nursing/Pharmacy Complex.

"We have wonderful alumni who support the program in so many ways, and once again we have been able to count on their assistance," said Niccye McKay, Ph.D., chair of health services administration.

Student scholarships have always been a strong focus of the alumni association's activities, said Mark Robitaille, '76, president of the alumni association and senior vice president and chief operating officer at Martin Memorial Health Systems in Stuart, Fla.

"In this increasingly competitive environment, we need to offer support so that the program can continue to appeal to quality students," Robitaille said.

The need for graduates in health administration is greater than ever. Employment of medical and health services managers is expected to grow 21-35 percent through 2010 as the health services industry continues to expand and diversify, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. With the expansion of home health care, long-term care, and nontraditional health organizations, such as managed care operations and consulting firms, many opportunities for qualified administrators exist.

For more information on the scholarship fund or to make a contribution, contact Sylvia Hoover at (352) 392-7042 or shoover@hp.ufl.edu.

Alumni reunion weekend 2002



Mike Belbeck, health services administration '90, attended the alumni brunch with wife Janice and children Julie and John.

The College of Health Professions held another successful Alumni Reunion Weekend, Oct. 11-12. Alumni and faculty enjoyed a Friday evening reception at the Harn Museum and a Saturday morning brunch, followed by the UF-LSU football game.

Check out more photos of the event by logging onto the HP Alumni Web site at www.hp.ufl.edu/alumni.

Share your
news online

1960s

1970s

1990s

2000s

George Jarrell, rehabilitation counseling '61, received his doctorate in rehabilitation counseling from the University of South Carolina in 1970 and began his position as associate professor of rehabilitation at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond in 1969. He retired as professor emeritus in 1993. He writes, "I know the profession and the graduate program at UF have come a long way since 1961. For that I am grateful. I will always remember Dr. Bruce Thomason and the impact of the rehabilitation program on my life."

Heyward X. Johnson, rehabilitation counseling '76, is the owner and president of Heyward X. Johnson Inc., a rehabilitation consulting corporation providing medical and vocational case management to the Gulf Coast from Texas to the Florida panhandle. He lives in the New Orleans, La., metro area.

David Rodgers, physical therapy '78, has been providing home health care in the Ocala and Marion County (Fla.) area for the past 22 years. His four children are nearly all grown and Rodgers and his wife Susan are planning to traveling around the U.S. next year.

Kimberly Fahlgren, occupational therapy '92, works part-time as an occupational therapist with the Orange County (Fla.) public school system and as a part-time office manager for her husband's new law practice in Orlando. She has two sons, Caleb, 2 years, and Joshua, 8 months.

Amanda Fatovic, rehabilitation counseling '99, served as an AmeriCorps volunteer in Atlanta, Ga., following graduation. She completed her master's in human resource development from Georgia State University in 2002. She currently is employed as a quality assurance manager for Consumer Credit Counseling Service in Atlanta.

Theresa Smith, occupational therapy '92, received her master's degree in occupational therapy in 1999 from the University of Indianapolis. She is a doctoral student in the occupational therapy program at Nova Southeastern University and on the occupational therapy faculty at the University of South Alabama. Smith writes, "Luckily I am married to a Gator fan, and we are both active members of the Pensacola Gator club."

Morgan Urbach, occupational therapy '99, lives in Naples, Fla., and is an occupational therapist for Lee County Schools. Her wedding to Daniel Sherman is scheduled for December 2002.

Matthew Stacell, health services administration '00, started work as a consultant with a management consulting firm, Cap Gemini Ernst & Young, in June. His current client is Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami, the largest not-for-profit teaching hospital in South Florida.

Air Supply

HP Alumnus Transports Medical Cargo to Needy

As a Wings of Hope volunteer pilot, Darryl Tower, occupational therapy '74, frequently travels worlds away from his job as CEO of General Systems Design, a health-care software design company in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.



Darryl Tower

Wings of Hope is a nonprofit organization that assists other charitable groups by flying to remote areas of the world that may not be easily reachable by other methods of transportation. Wings of Hope planes transport health professionals, medical supplies, food and agricultural materials to areas in Central and South America, Africa and Asia.

His first Wings of Hope experience was in 1999 when he spent five months making trips to sites in Belize, Guatemala, Mexico and Honduras. Tower, who flies his own plane for business, continues to volunteer for Wings of Hope twice a year, flying for two to three weeks at a time to relieve other Wings of Hope pilots in Central America.

Tower said that the average annual income of the people he serves is about \$200 and medical care is practically nonexistent in some areas. During his first trip to Belize, he taught basic first aid skills to staff he met from the national ambulance service after learning they had never been trained as emergency medical technicians.

One highlight of his Wings of Hope missions was a Christmas Eve spent with a family of fifteen in Belize. They all crowded into a home no more than 300 square feet large that had no running water, plumbing or electricity. The family shared a special meal and at midnight sang songs and played the family harp.

"I highly encourage others with health-care backgrounds to volunteer to provide services in needy countries," Tower said. "I have certainly received more from this experience than I have given."

General Systems Design produces software for health-care practice management. They also offer a software system specifically designed for dental schools, which is utilized by one in three U.S. dental schools including UF's College of Dentistry.

Audiology grad welcomes opportunity for continued education

Joseph Luckett, Au.D., communicative disorders '00, has demonstrated that as a health professional, learning is a lifelong experience.

As a member of UF's inaugural audiology distance learning class in 1998, Luckett became a student again 23 years after receiving his master's degree in audiology from the University of Tennessee.

"Continuing my education was a pure joy," Luckett said. "I've always thought of myself as a student."

The first audiology distance learning program created specifically for working professionals, the UF program is offered by communicative disorders and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences' communication sciences and disorders department. Students study on their own with videotapes and meet weekly in Internet chat rooms for class discussions hosted by UF instructors. The nine-course program also includes on-site days when faculty and students meet at one of 22 regional locations throughout the country.

Although Luckett had been in private practice since 1982, he had no difficulty making the decision to become a student again.

"I knew the UF program was a quality educational program, and it was the only one that made it possible for the current practitioner to earn a doctorate," he said.

Nationally, the field of audiology is experiencing a move from a master's degree to a doctoral degree as the requirement for clinical audiologists in order to keep up with the expanding demands of the profession.

"Due to major technologic advances in the diagnosis and non-medical treatment of hearing loss and an expanding scope of practice, the profession of audiology is rapidly transitioning to the doctor of audiology as the terminal academic degree," said James Hall, Ph.D., chair of communicative disorders. "Audiologists around the United States are now, for example, responsible for the hearing screening of all newborns, computer-assisted fitting of digital and programmable hearing aids or cochlear implants, and conducting complex electrophysiologic assessments of hearing and inner ear function."

In his Daytona Beach, Fla.-based private practice, AcoustiCare Hearing Service, Luckett specializes in hearing amplification and conservation and diagnostic testing. He also operates a mobile lab to conduct on-site hearing evaluations in industrial locations.

"Receiving the doctorate of audiology has helped me keep up with the explosion of knowledge in audiology and has increased the public's confidence in my practice," Luckett said.



Dr. Joseph Luckett

What's New?



What's New?

Share your news with classmates! Submissions will be published in the Alumni Updates section of a future issue.

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 _____