

## Russell Bauer named chair



An internationally known neuropsychologist has been named chair of the department of clinical and health psychology. Russell Bauer, Ph.D., succeeds Ronald Rozensky, Ph.D., who will serve as the associate dean for the college's international programs after a sabbatical.

A member of the department's faculty since 1980, Bauer is past president of the American Psychological Association's Division of Clinical Neuropsychology, and is board-certified in clinical neuropsychology through the American Board of Professional Psychology.

In his research, Bauer focuses on acquired and age-related memory and perceptual disorders.

Bauer has also served as director of the department's doctoral program in clinical psychology and as associate chair for academic affairs, earning the UF Doctoral Dissertation Mentoring Award in 2003.

"My goals for the department include developing and implementing a new clinical science program designed to produce academic researchers in clinical psychology, enhancing mentoring programs for junior faculty, and strengthening interdisciplinary relationships between clinical and health psychology and other academic and clinical units in the College of Public Health and Health Professions, the Health Science Center and the UF campus," Bauer said. ●

# Brain gains

## Seniors in mental exercises study experience long-lasting improvements

Just as physical exercise is good for the body, mental training can keep older minds functioning better, with results lasting for years.

Older adults who received just 10 sessions of mental training showed long-lasting improvements in memory, reasoning and speed of processing five years after the intervention, say researchers who conducted the Advanced Cognitive Training for Independent and Vital Elderly study, or ACTIVE. The findings appeared in the Dec. 20 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

"Our findings clearly suggest that people who engage in an active program of mental training in late life can experience long-lasting gains from that training," said study researcher Michael Marsiske, Ph.D., an associate professor of clinical and health psychology at the College of Public Health and Health Professions. "The positive results of ACTIVE thus far strongly suggest that many adults can learn and improve well into their later years."

The mental exercises were designed to improve older adults' thinking and reasoning skills and determine whether the improvements could also affect seniors' capacity to follow medication instructions correctly or react to traffic signals quickly.

The researchers also discovered some evidence of the training's "transfer" to everyday functions. Compared with those who did not receive mental training, participants in the three training groups — memory, speed of processing and reasoning — reported less difficulty performing tasks such as cooking, using medication and managing finances, although the effect of training on performance of such daily tasks only reached statistical significance for the reasoning-trained group.

"We had about 25 years of knowledge prior to the ACTIVE study suggesting that older adults' thinking and memory skills could be trained, but we didn't know whether these mental gains affected real-life skills," said Marsiske, also a member of UF's Institute on Aging. "In this study we see some evidence that training in basic mental function can also improve seniors' ability to perform everyday tasks."

The ACTIVE study is the first large-scale, randomized controlled study of cognitive training in healthy older adults. Funded by the National Institute on Aging and the National Institute of Nursing Research, the study involved 2,802 seniors aged 65 to 96 who were divided into groups to receive training in memory, reasoning or speed of processing in 10 90-minute sessions over a five- to six-week period. A fourth group received no training.

Those in the memory training group were taught strategies for remembering word lists and sequences of items, text material and the main ideas and details of stories. Participants in the reasoning group received instruction on how to solve problems that follow patterns, an ability that is useful in such tasks as reading a bus schedule or completing an order form. Speed of processing training was a computer-based program that focused on the ability to identify and locate visual information quickly, skills that are used when looking up phone numbers or reacting to traffic signs.

When tested immediately after the training period, 87 percent of participants in speed training, 74 percent of participants in reasoning training and 26 percent of participants in memory training showed reliable improvement in their respective mental abilities. In earlier reports, researchers found the improvements had been maintained two years after training, particularly for seniors who were randomized to receive "booster" training one and three years after the original training.

The improvements in memory, problem solving and concentration after training roughly counteracted the degree of cognitive decline that older people without dementia may experience over a seven- to 14-year period, said the paper's lead author, Sherry L. Willis, Ph.D., of Pennsylvania State University.

But researchers have now discovered that participants' cognitive improvements were still detectable five years after training.

"The durability of training effects that we saw in ACTIVE exceeds what has been reported in most of the published literature," Marsiske said. "Five years after training, seniors are still outperforming untrained participants in the mental abilities on which they received instruction." ●

Over the last decade, the People's Republic of China, or PRC, has undergone stunning change. While maintaining political allegiance to communism, the government has allowed a thriving market to emerge in many sectors of the economy.

These changes, combined with easier entry into the country, have resulted in western investment and growth of the economy.

Thomas Friedman, the noted columnist for the *New York Times*, draws an informative comparison of Chinese to Americans. Friedman asks readers to imagine the population of the



Dr. Robert G. Frank

United States is 100 people, 80 Americans would be in "knowledge businesses" and 20 would be manual laborers. China, in comparison, would have 1,000 people, 920 manual laborers and 80 knowledge workers. The dynamic changes occurring in the PRC are transforming the Chinese workforce at a rapid rate; in the not too distant future, more Chinese workers will be knowledge employees and many fewer will be laborers.

Chinese families are willing to sacrifice to provide their children with educational opportunities and American education is widely viewed as the "best" available, but growth in the PRC and entry restrictions to the United States following 9-11 shifted educational opportunities away from the United States. While the number of international students in the United States has now begun to increase, it is clear that countries such as Australia and Great Britain significantly increased the numbers of Chinese students over the last six years. Rather than waiting for Chinese students to come to the United States, American universities must go to China and partner with Chinese universities. Those universities that partner with the best Chinese colleges will have the greatest opportunities in the PRC.

UF established the Beijing Center to help our faculty and leaders meet key Chinese educators and government officials. Through the center, the College of Public Health and Health Professions has initiated conversations with Tsinghua University, one of the oldest and most prestigious universities in China. After more than a year of conversations, PHHP has reached agreement in principle to establish a joint master's in public health degree program with Tsinghua. Students will begin the program in Beijing and after they have completed the basic courses, they will come to UF for a year of advanced course work. They will then return to Beijing to complete their practicum projects.

Why should a state university worry about developing international programs? For many reasons. Most compelling is the need to broaden the experiences and opportunities for our students. In addition, programs such as this have the potential to contribute financially to the college. The state of Florida provides about 35 percent of the cost of running our college — the other 65 percent comes from the efforts of our faculty members. If we successfully implement our partnership with Tsinghua, PHHP will create great opportunities for our students while increasing the success of the college. ●



Dr. Alba Amaya-Burns with kindergartners in San Vicente, El Salvador

## Opening doors for tuberculosis treatment in Latin America

**A**s an infectious disease specialist with the U.S. Agency for International Development, Alba Amaya-Burns, M.D., directed a highly successful tuberculosis program in her home country of El Salvador that is recognized as an international model for prevention and treatment.

Now Amaya-Burns is bringing her expertise to the University of Florida, helping the colleges of Public Health and Health Professions and Medicine forge relationships with other Latin American countries to expand TB public health programs as an associate professor and director of Latin American Training Programs for the Southeastern National Tuberculosis Center, located in the College of Medicine. Directed by Michael Lauzardo, M.D., the center is one of four Centers for Disease Control and Prevention tuberculosis training centers in the United States.

During her five-year appointment with USAID, Amaya-Burns managed the agency's multimillion-dollar programs in HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis prevention.

"Through her wise counsel and effective teamwork, she ensured that USAID resources had an impact on all of El Salvador's health districts, working closely with the Pan American Health Association," said Connie Johnson, chief of USAID's human investment office. "As a result of Dr. Amaya-Burn's efforts, El Salvador's TB program became exemplary in Latin America."

Amaya-Burns' leadership also led to El Salvador receiving a \$27 million grant from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

"In two years we were able to expand the tuberculosis program to 100 percent participation with the country's ministers of health and we achieved an 85 percent curative rate, a critical criterion for the World Health Organization to say that a country is cutting its infection rate," Amaya-Burns said, adding that El Salvador currently has a 92 percent curative rate.

But tuberculosis remains a significant problem worldwide. One third of the world's population is infected

with tuberculosis, and there are 2 million tuberculosis-related deaths every year, according to the CDC. Tuberculosis is also the leading killer of people who are HIV positive. With Amaya-Burns' experience and contacts, the Southeastern National Tuberculosis Center hopes to expand its efforts beyond U.S. borders to the countries that are among the hardest hit for TB.

"We have proposed developing a Latin American Regional Center of Excellence for TB research and training in El Salvador to help other countries reach that level of success in prevention and treatment," Amaya-Burns said.

Plans call for collaboration between UF, the Pan American Health Organization, the University of El Salvador and El Salvador's Minister of Health to offer a TB regional diploma for health workers, advanced training for laboratory technicians and exchange programs for students and faculty, as well as implementation of new WHO tuberculosis strategies. The center of excellence will roll out programs in El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, Honduras and Haiti, with more Latin American countries to come.

El Salvador recently recognized Amaya-Burns' achievements by selecting her to attend the International Convention of Salvadorans in the World. As one of only a handful of conference attendees representing Salvadorans living in the United States, Amaya-Burns took part in discussions on the role of Salvadoran women in academia. She also received the key to her hometown, San Miguel. Years of civil war in the 1980s and natural disasters led to significant migration among Salvadorans — an estimated 30 percent of the population now lives abroad.

Amaya-Burns left El Salvador two years ago for an entirely different reason, namely her husband Allan Burns, Ph.D., associate dean for faculty affairs at UF's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The couple met in Merida in the Yucatan peninsula of Mexico, where Burns was conducting a summer program.

"My friends say, 'Oh, you met a gringo at the embassy in El Salvador,'" Amaya-Burns said, laughing. "I say, 'No, I met him in a third country.'" ●

# College honors former U.S. Senator Max Cleland

**M**ax Cleland, former U.S. Senator from Georgia, has been awarded the College of Public Health and Health Professions' 2007 Darrel J. Mase Leadership Award, the highest award presented by the college.

Cleland was recognized for his leadership of the U.S. Veterans Administration, the nation's largest health care system; strong support of mental health services for veterans; advocacy for improved health care and education; and courageous political decisions.

"Senator Cleland's dedication to preserving and promoting health care and higher education embody the spirit of the work of our founding dean, Darrel J. Mase, a visionary and pioneer in health education," said PHHP Dean Robert Frank.

Cleland is currently a member of the board of directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States and has a long and distinguished career in public service at the state and national levels in both the executive and legislative branches of government.

He successfully ran for the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by retiring Senator Sam Nunn in 1995. Previously, Cleland had the distinction of serving as the youngest Secretary of State in Georgia's history, and the youngest member of the Georgia State Senate.

Under President Jimmy Carter, Cleland became the youngest head of the U.S. Veterans Administration. In that capacity, he instituted the revolutionary Vets Center

program that, for the first time, offered psychological counseling to combat veterans to heal the emotional wounds of war.

Cleland volunteered for duty in Vietnam and was promoted to the rank of Captain in 1968.

He was seriously wounded in a grenade explosion that year, costing him both legs and his right arm. He was awarded the Bronze Star and a Silver Star for gallantry in action.

"Cleland's enormous professional success and public service demonstrates to our students, faculty, patients and community that people can overcome situations that could be devastating," Frank said.

The Mase Leadership Award was established in 1985 to honor the college's founding dean, Darrel J. Mase, Ph.D.

Previous Mase Leadership Award recipients include former U.S. Representative Paul Rogers, Gail Wilensky, former director of the Health Care Financing Administration, and Diane Rowland, executive vice president of the Kaiser Family Foundation. ●



Max Cleland



## LOOKING BACK



Linda Stallings is pictured in this circa 1980 photo with three of her former bosses, the past deans of the College of Public Health and Health Professions: Richard Gutekunst, dean, 1980 to 1995; Howard Suzuki, dean, 1970 to 1980; and Darrel Mase, dean, 1958 to 1970. Stallings has worked with all of the college's deans during her tenure, currently serving as the associate director for medical/health administration. "She has been the right-hand woman for every PHHP dean," said current dean Robert Frank. "Linda is the heart and soul of the dean's office. She knows everything and does everything."

**Diane Jett** (doctor of physical therapy) received the James W. Kynes Memorial Scholarship for her excellent UF undergraduate academic and athletic performance.

**Harrison Jones** (rehabilitation science) received a \$10,000 New Century Scholars Program Doctoral Scholarship from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

**Lisa McTeague** (clinical and health psychology) won the Smadar Levin Award for best poster presentation at the Society for Research in Psychopathology's annual meeting.

The **Doctor of Audiology program** received the Audiology Foundation of America's Award for Educational Excellence.

A team of Master of Health Administration students were one of six university teams to advance to the final round in the Health Administration Case Competition, sponsored by the UAB Health System. Team members included **Jared Amerson, Sharon Goldberg, Mandy Gerlach and Bill Walders.** ●

## faculty NOTES & staff

**Cathy Di Lena**, a human resources specialist, was named the college's 2006 Employee of the Year. She was recognized for her accuracy, attention to detail, patience and helpfulness.

**Sheila Eyberg, Ph.D.**, a distinguished professor in the department of clinical and health psychology, has been named co-recipient of the 2007 American Psychological Association's Distinguished Contributions to Education and Training Award.

**Mary Hennessey, Ph.D.**, an assistant professor in the department of behavioral science and community health's division of rehabilitation counseling, received the National Council on Rehabilitation Education's 2007 Outstanding New Career in Rehabilitation Education Award.

**Genné McDonald, P.T.**, an affiliate faculty member in the physical therapy department, addressed delegates of the Lance Armstrong Foundation LIVESTRONG Summit in October. McDonald also received the American Cancer Society's Terese Lasser Award.

Associate professor **Linda R. Shaw, Ph.D.**, associate chair of the department of behavioral science and community health and director of the division of rehabilitation counseling, was appointed to the Veterans' Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation. ●

# Student Kristin Johnston brings personal experience to audiology practice, research

By Lisa Emmerich

**T**ucked behind a curtain of dark hair, two tiny tubes sloping from Kristin Johnston's ears connect her to the world. Diagnosed with severe hearing impairment and fitted with hearing aids at age 3, Johnston has learned to flourish despite her disability.

After graduating from UF with a doctor of audiology degree, she has spent the past year examining children with chronic ear infections alongside an ear, nose and throat specialist at a North Florida Regional Medical Center otolaryngology office. She also tests children for auditory processing disorders at the UF Speech and Hearing Center, a clinical service of the PHHP department of communicative disorders.

Unlike children with traditional hearing impairments, children with auditory processing disorders say they have hearing trouble despite scoring well on hearing tests. Johnston's research examined how FM transmitters — devices that connect an earpiece in a child's ear to a small microphone near his or her teacher's mouth — can benefit such children. Preliminary results demonstrated that the transmitters improve children's grades and reduce their anxiety and frustration in school.

"One kid started using the system and he has started raising his hand," said Johnston, 26, sipping a Starbucks vanilla crème on a Saturday morning. "Another began laughing at his teacher's jokes, saying he didn't know she was so funny."

Johnston's patients benefit from her personal experience with hearing loss. While it takes many audiologists years to develop a "bag of tricks" to suggest to patients who have hearing impairment, Johnston has one built-in. She can quickly give tips on cell phone use to teenagers or reassure parents craving concrete solutions for their children.

"There are times when a patient feels like it is the end of the world," she said. "I encourage people to see that it hasn't stopped me, it hasn't slowed me down. There are things that I have to do to get around it, I admit. But I can show people



Photo by Sarah Kiewel

they can do it."

Under the mentorship of James Hall III, Ph.D., chief of audiology, Johnston is currently focused on earning a Ph.D. in audiology from UF. It is a degree she hopes will allow her to help people with hearing impairment on a wider scale. Johnston's work was recently recognized by the Audiology Foundation of America, which presented her with a \$5,000 scholarship in memory of Leo Doerfler, Ph.D., a pioneer in the field.

Johnston's face brightens as she describes her plans to write a dissertation about the quality of musical sound in hearing aids. A lifelong piano player and avid music-listener, Johnston wants to make music listening easier and richer for people with hearing impairment.

Although many hearing aids have music settings, she said, the quality of sound varies by type of music and kind of hearing disability.

"A person who plays a string instrument is going to have different needs than someone who just wants to listen to the radio or someone who wants to go to a concert and hear a full-blown orchestra," she said. "I want to be able to hear music and enjoy it, and I realize that hearing aids are not always set

optimally for that kind of listening."

As in treating patients, Johnston brings her personal experience to her research. She knows, for example, that her hearing aid will likely squash a swelling sound in a blues tune and whistle or reverberate when she plays various notes on the piano.

Johnston, who is expecting her first child this summer, credits her husband and family for encouraging her and treating her like any other person. Born before infant hearing tests became routine, Johnston said she has most likely had hearing impairment from the beginning of her life, when she was born not breathing, without a heartbeat.

In all of her childhood, she remembers only one time that her brothers referred to her hearing loss. The family had recently moved to a new neighborhood and one of her brothers introduced her to the neighborhood kids, saying, "This is our little sister Kristin and she can't hear very well, so don't let her run out in the street."

"They just made me feel safe," Johnston said. "I felt I could do anything anyone else could do — and I could. I wanted not only to do my best, but to do *the best.*" ●

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida establishes UF center



Above: Andrea Gregg, College of Nursing Jacksonville Campus director; Cyrus Jollivette, BCBSF senior vice president of public affairs; Win Phillips, UF's vice president for research; Catherine Kelly, BCBSF vice president of public affairs; and R. Paul Duncan, chair of PHHP's department of health services research, management and policy, following the announcement of BCBSF's endowment to UF.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida established a \$3.5 million endowment at the University of Florida to open the BCBSF Center for Health Care Access, Patient Safety and Quality Outcomes. The new center will be housed in the colleges of Public Health and Health Professions and Nursing and will work to significantly improve the health of Florida's citizens.

The endowment totals \$6.7 million with state matching funds.

"The University of Florida is grateful for the generosity of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida and its dedication to improving Florida's health care," said UF President Bernie Machen. "With this new center, the state is positioned to become a national leader."

Through the center, UF leaders and BCBSF hope to address the unique health care issues that affect Florida's quality of life and economic viability. Critical issues include access, the nursing shortage, patient safety and medical errors. Florida also faces unique challenges due to rapid growth, the large elderly population and the diverse and international composition of its residents.

Limited access to health care for many Floridians costs the state's hospitals \$1.7 billion in uncompensated care, according to the Florida Hospital Association.

"Florida is facing many challenges in the effort to provide safe, high-quality health care for all of our citizens," said Robert Lufitano, M.D., chairman and CEO of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida. "The BCBSF-UF Center will bring together experts from a variety of disciplines to design and evaluate improved approaches to health care access and delivery."

In addition to establishing the BCBSF Center, the endowment brings the BCBSF Professorship in Health Services Administration in the College of Public Health and Health Professions to full chair status, allowing for the recruitment of a premier faculty member to conduct research focusing on health care delivery and access. ●

# The road to recovery

## Andrea Behrman works to change the face of neurological physical therapy

By April Frawley-Birdwell

**T**here was no way to know if it was going to work.

The boy was only 4, and he couldn't move. Not an inch.

Kyle Bartolini hadn't been able to wiggle his toes or move his legs since the accident in 2003, when he'd found an unlocked gun at a Labor Day party and accidentally shot himself in the chest. Forget walking — Kyle's spinal cord was so damaged he almost didn't live.

In the 10 years Andrea Behrman had been researching locomotor training at the UF College of Public Health and Health Professions' department of physical therapy, she and her staff had never treated a patient so young, so severely injured. The therapy, which relies on an instinct in the spinal cord to learn patterns and, over time, to help people with incomplete spinal cord injuries relearn how to walk, requires hours of walking on a treadmill and over ground. A 4-year-old might not be able to handle it.

But the risk was worth it. Now 6, Kyle can walk with the aid of a walker, a vast improvement for a boy who was never supposed to walk again.

"I can't even tell you how much she has given my son," said Jamie Bartolini, Kyle's mother. "She's much more to us than a therapist. She's really a friend."

It wasn't just the locomotor training that helped her son, it was everything else Behrman did too, Bartolini said. For starters, Behrman was the only one who agreed to help Kyle. Other institutions Jamie called had turned her away because her son was so young and his injuries were so severe.

"He couldn't move at all," Bartolini remembers. "He was like a noodle."



Dr. Andrea Behrman

Behrman gathered a special team of respiratory therapists and pediatric physical therapists to work with Kyle, and she devised creative ways to make his therapy fun.

"She took a chance on Kyle because of his age, and she gave him the chance of a lifetime," said Bartolini. "She just opened up her heart to him. It was

so much more than just therapy. We feel so unbelievably fortunate.

"We hope soon that locomotor training will just be a part of rehab."

Behrman does, too. Other institutions are using similar body-weight support systems for locomotor training, but the practice is not widespread.

Typical physical therapy for movement difficulties involves walking over ground with the help of therapists, or learning to use walkers or crutches. Locomotor therapy



Kyle Bartolini

is a bit more intense.

Patients are connected to an overhead body support system, and with the aid of two trainers, they walk on a treadmill for hours at a time. The body support allows the patient to walk like a healthy person, retraining the spinal cord to repeat the motion. In addition to the treadmill, patients spend part of their day walking over ground.

Behrman's overall mission is to change the way physical therapists practice and to make her field better and more current using the latest scientific principles. The technology will change throughout the years, but it is those key scientific principles, like understanding how the spinal cord learns patterns, that will help the most people, she said.

Currently, Behrman is working on two clinical trials. One, funded by the National Institutes of Health, is measuring the difference between a locomotor training program and an at-home exercise program to help people who have had a stroke regain the ability to walk. She is also leading a VA Rehabilitation and Research Development-funded trial comparing the effect of locomotor training provided manually by therapists to training provided by a robotic device for people with incomplete spinal cord injuries. Both trials have the capacity to change practice, she said.

But the best moments of her career have been with the patients she has helped.

"That's probably going to carry me to my death," she said with a smile. "The thing I like about rehab is it's the total person. It's affected their entire life. It's happened, and we go forward." ●

# Gator ties run deep for physical therapy graduate

It has been a long time since Arthur Collier, physical therapy '76, has missed a UF home football game.

In fact, Collier has been to every game since 1974, a streak that would have been even longer if not for threat of a hurricane in Fall 1973. Several years ago Collier's former roommate also presented a conflict, but the decision was easy to make.

"My roommate, an FSU graduate, was getting married on a Gator game day," Collier said. "I told him six months before the wedding not to plan it for that day so I skipped his wedding," he said, laughing. "But I'm still friends with him."

Collier, one of the college's 2006 outstanding alumni of the year, can trace his Gator roots to his older brother Ed, a 1973 UF physical therapy graduate, who influenced Collier's decision to pursue a physical therapy degree at UF. Today, the two are co-owners of a successful physical therapy practice, Progressive Step Rehabilitation of Orange Park, which provides outpatient rehabilitation services

for the Clay County (Fla.) area from two outpatient facilities.

As a UF physical therapy student, Collier quickly bonded with the five other males in his class who were easily outnumbered by 27 female classmates. Collier is still in touch with classmate Frank Daugherty and he stays on Daugherty's south Alabama farm every year when he travels to the UF away football games in Alabama and Mississippi.

Following graduation, Collier worked at the county hospital in Jacksonville, now Shands Jacksonville, and in private practice, nursing home and home health settings before starting his own private practice in 1988.

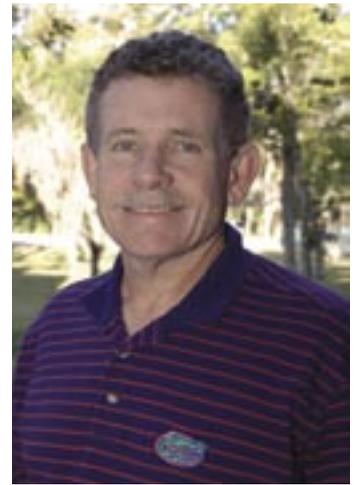
Also a certified athletic trainer, Collier provided rehabilitation services for Jacksonville University athletics in the 1980s and spent a year working with the Jacksonville Bulls of the United States Football League, or USFL. He now provides services to three local high school teams in Clay County.

Collier's dedication to fitness has led him to achieve another impressive streak: He has partici-

pated in the Gate River Run, a 15-kilometer annual road race in Jacksonville, for 30 consecutive years. He has also completed the London Marathon three times.

As a season ticket holder for UF baseball and basketball games in addition to football, Collier never strays far from the Gator Nation. And the tradition continues with Collier's wife, Theresa, and their son, Nicholas, 8, who has attended every UF football game since he was an infant.

"I guess you could say we're Gators through and through," Collier said. ●



Arthur Collier

# Sparrow recognized for contributions to child psychology

Professor Sara Sparrow, Ph.D., clinical and health psychology '68, served as chief psychologist at the Child Study Center at Yale University for 30 years and is senior author of one of the most widely used psychological assessment tools. But among faculty and graduates of the department of clinical and health psychology, Sparrow is also known for giving the department's "most famous" dissertation defense.

Sparrow, who lived in France before beginning her doctoral studies, was inspired to serve champagne and caviar to her committee, led by former faculty member Paul Satz, Ph.D. The tradition of clinical and health psychology students serving food at a dissertation defense, albeit on a less lavish scale, continued for another 20 years, according to department chair Russell Bauer, Ph.D.

"Besides being Paul's first doctoral student and the forerunner of several generations of clinical neuropsychologists, she holds the distinction of having set a standard for the most elegant and gourmet dissertation defense menu served to a committee that those of us who followed her as Paul's students

could never match," said Eileen Fennell, Ph.D., a professor in the department and a 1978 graduate of the program.

Now a professor emerita and senior research scientist at Yale, Sparrow, one of the college's 2006 outstanding alumni of the year, is the author of more than 100 articles and chapters on psychological assessment and developmental disabilities. Her most significant contribution to the field of child psychology has been the development of the *Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales*, designed to measure personal and social skills used by an individual or child in daily situations. Originally published more than 20 years ago, the *Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales* are the most widely used tools of their kind.

The scales are frequently used to diagnose



Dr. Sara Sparrow

autism, a condition whose definition has changed significantly during her years of practice, Sparrow said.

"When I started at the Child Study Center, 95 percent of children who were diagnosed with autism also had mental retardation," she said. "Now many children who receive a diagnosis of autism have normal or very good intelligence. The spectrum has become much wider. We are also able to identify autism at a much younger age so we can begin treatment sooner. With early intervention we can make significant changes in children's lives."

Currently, Sparrow and her husband Domenic Cicchetti, Ph.D., of Yale's School of Medicine and co-author of the *Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales*, are working on a revision of the scales and have completed three of the scales' four components. The husband and wife team have collaborated on numerous projects in 38 years of marriage.

"I met my husband, a biostatistician, when I asked him for help with my dissertation," Sparrow said. "He turned out to be very helpful. We have worked together since the day we met." ●

**David Clark**, occupational therapy '65, has received the Award of Merit from the American Occupational Therapy Association, the association's highest honor for an occupational therapist. David retired in 2000, but is still active in AOTA and serves as the Florida representative to the AOTA representative assembly. He reports that he is a proud Florida Gator and flies his Gator flag frequently.

**Ani Cortinas**, master's in health administration '01, and a graduate of the UF law school, has been promoted to senior corporate attorney for Baptist Health South Florida, the largest not-for-profit health care organization in the region.

**Judith "Judie" Pink-Goldin**, occupational therapy '76, has worked as a therapist with the Veterans Administration for 29 years. A resident of Lutz, Fla., Judie treats active-duty military personnel and was featured on ABC Nightline while working with myoelectric prosthesis. She has three children and the youngest is a UF freshman. Judie would like to hear from classmates from the OT Class of 1976.

**Breanne Hart**, bachelor's in health science rehabilitative services track '01, recently relocated to Panama City and took a position as a full-time occupational therapist at Bay Medical Center, a 413-bed regional facility.

**Roberta Isleib, Ph.D.**, clinical and health psychology '85, has published "Deadly Advice," the first novel in her new murder mystery series, which features a psychologist who writes an online advice column. Roberta writes: "Of course my training gleaned at the UF department of clinical and health psychology is the background for this

series!" For more information on her books, visit [www.robertaisleib.com](http://www.robertaisleib.com).

**Don Neumann, Ph.D.**, physical therapy '76, was named the 2006 Wisconsin Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, the first from Marquette University to win the honor. He is also the first physical therapy professor in the country to be recognized by the Professor of the Year program.

**Janet Norwood**, physical therapy '95, has returned to the work force as a staff physical therapist after staying home with her two sons, Jackson, 4, and Jacob, 2. She works weekends at Grace Hospital and Valdese Hospital in western North Carolina, which, she writes "makes the full-time PTs happy and gives me a little 'break' from my full-time parenting job!"

**Rhona Reiss, Ph.D.**, occupational therapy '75, has joined Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions in Provo, Utah, as the new graduate program director of the transitional Doctor of Occupational Therapy program.

**Cara (George) Sarmiento**, occupational therapy '93, has worked as a therapist in several area nursing homes. She is currently a stay at home mom in Alachua, Fla., with children Carli, who was born in April 2006, Danny, 6, and Peter, 9.

**Sonya Kathke Sherrell**, occupational therapy '99, has been working in hand therapy and has decided to branch out. She started her own company and authored and self-published her first children's book, a soft cloth



The college recognized six graduates at the Outstanding Alumni Awards on Nov. 18. The honorees included Paul Deutsch, Ph.D., rehabilitation counseling '72; Sara Sparrow, Ph.D., clinical and health psychology '68; Ronald Aldrich, health services research, management and policy '66; Darryl Tower, occupational therapy '75; Arthur Collier, physical therapy '76; and Katherine Phelan, Au.D., communicative disorders '02. PHHP News will feature profiles on each of the honorees.

interactive book titled "Go Gators." For more information, visit [www.babyteamplayers.com](http://www.babyteamplayers.com).

**Linda Donnell Smith, bachelor's in health science '80**, received her 25-year service pin from Miami Veterans Affairs Healthcare System. She is a certified inpatient/outpatient coder.

**Tracey Thomas**, rehabilitation counseling '93, has worked with geriatric patients for more than 16 years, with job duties including director of social services, admissions and marketing. Tracey and her husband, Rocky, and son, Lane, 10, live in Sanford, Fla.

**Chuck Young**, master's in health administration '77, assumed the position of director of advancement for the College of Business and Public Administration at Eastern Washington University in September 2006. Chuck writes: "Go Eagles, but go Gators too!" ●



## WHAT'S NEW

### Share your news with classmates!

Submissions will be published in the Alumni Updates section of a future issue of PHHP News.

NAME (INCLUDING MAIDEN)

MAJOR/YEAR

PHONE

HOME ADDRESS (CITY, STATE, ZIP)

E-MAIL ADDRESS

CURRENT POSITION

NEWS TO SHARE

Mail to PHHP News, Dean's Office, P.O. Box 100185, Gainesville, FL 32610; fax 352.273.6199; e-mail [jpease@phhp.ufl.edu](mailto:jpease@phhp.ufl.edu) or post your news online at [www.phhp.ufl.edu/alumni](http://www.phhp.ufl.edu/alumni)

## Meet the alumni

Check out "Meet the Alumni," rotating spotlights posted to our Web site. Learn our graduates' favorite UF memories and little-known facts about them. Read spotlights on **Roberta Isleib**, clinical and health psychology '85; **Bill Kanasky**, clinical and health psychology, '03; **Steve Mounts**, M.B.A./M.H.A. '99 and '00; **Julie Maslinski Prins**, rehabilitation science '01 and rehabilitation counseling '94; and **Deborah LoParco Smith**, occupational therapy '78. Visit [www.phhp.ufl.edu/alumni/meetthealumni.htm](http://www.phhp.ufl.edu/alumni/meetthealumni.htm) regularly for new alumni spotlights.