



Access denied?

Barriers still an issue, number of people with disabilities may rise sharply, report finds

Although the number of older Americans with disabilities has declined, experts anticipate an upswing in disability numbers as the baby boomers head into their golden years, according to a recent report issued by the Institute of Medicine's Committee on Disability in America.

"The good news is that functional disability has been on the decline for older adults and that indicates some progress in terms of aging well in this country," said Elena Andresen, Ph.D., one of a select group of experts appointed to the committee, and chair of the college's department of epidemiology and biostatistics. "But our committee found that people who are now aging into their middle years are experiencing chronic conditions and risk factors that suggest they will not be as healthy. These conditions include, for example, inactivity and concurrent obesity and the chronic conditions that go with them."

In the report, "The Future of Disability in America," committee members also state that although the Americans with Disabilities Act has increased awareness of barriers for people with disabilities since it was passed in 1990, its implementation and enforcement have been disappointing.

"The ADA has really not shown itself to provide the benefits to people with disabilities that one would have expected," Andresen said. "It is such a complex picture that there's no one reason you can cite for that, but enforcing the ADA has been difficult without sufficient financial resources for enforcement and the proactive ability to find and ask for improvements."

Committee members found that accessibility issues continue to persist in health care institutions, including a lack of specially-designed exam tables that allow for easy transfer of a patient from a wheelchair and restrooms that are large enough to accommodate a patient with a disability and an assistant.

"Because of the nature of health care facilities and the fact that they provide care for people with acute conditions, chronic conditions, disabilities and so forth, I think we make the assumption therefore, that these institutions are accessible in every sense of the

word," Andresen said. "But it turns out that physical access to clinics or hospitals can be fairly challenging for people with disabilities."

About 40 million Americans have physical mobility, sensory or other impairments or limitations. The Institute of Medicine report noted progress in the public's increased understanding that disability is not inherent in an individual, but is the result of the person's interaction with his or her surroundings.

People with disabilities have often been referred to as "the disabled," as if they are individuals in some sort of special group, Andresen said.

"Disability is really a much larger conceptual issue and has nothing to do with an impairment itself, but rather the interaction of an impairment a person may have with his or her environment," she said. "An example might be someone who works in our building who uses a cane. The disability is related to when that person and his or her cane encounter barriers either socially with people with whom he or she interacts, or physically, such as when we have a fire drill and the person needs to get down the stairs."

Recommendations made by the committee include streamlining government-funded services and financial support for people with disabilities, raising the profile of disability research and improving access to assistive technology.

"Financing technology development, bringing it to market and then finding ways for people to have access to that technology is a really important issue," Andresen said. "What was intriguing about the committee's discussions on assistive devices was that some of the simplest forms of technology are truly not expensive."

One example cited in "The Future of Disability in America" is button hooks, which were used by women a century ago to hook the numerous buttons on their shoes and clothing. Button hooks could be helpful to people with disabilities, but they've fallen out of fashion and people don't think about them anymore, Andresen said.

"So assistive technology can be anything from the fine-tuned electronic and computer-based technology to the simplest and least expensive technology that people just don't know is available, but may change people's lives," she said. ●

Researchers study behavioral treatment for ADHD

UF researchers are offering a no-cost behavioral treatment for young children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and their families.

"ADHD often leads to serious problems for children such as struggling to pay attention in school, mastering basic skills and getting along with others," said Sheila Eyberg, Ph.D., a distinguished professor in the department of clinical and health psychology. "The good news is that behavior problems can be treated successfully when children are still young."

ADHD affects an estimated 4.4 million children and families.

The UF treatment program uses Parent-Child Interaction Therapy, a step-by-step, live-coached behavioral parent training model developed by Eyberg. The UF team will offer PCIT to more than 120 families with children with ADHD in the Gainesville area. Their work is supported by a five-year \$2.9 million National Institutes of Health grant.

While PCIT has traditionally been offered as an individual treatment, the current program will test the effectiveness of conducting PCIT in small groups.

"Our goal is to discover which approach works best," Eyberg said. "We know parents enjoy individual attention from their therapist, but perhaps parents would like sharing the time with two or three other families as well."

Children who are eligible for the PCIT study should be between the ages of 4 and 6 and qualify for a diagnosis of ADHD during study assessment. For more information on the no-cost treatment program, call 352-273-5236. ●

dean's MESSAGE

I have a ritual. Each morning, I walk into the front entrance of the college. As I approach the large portico inscribed "College of Public Health and Health Professions," I look down at the bricks in the walk bearing the names of our donors and friends. A brick on the left side of our

entrance is especially important to me; it bears an inscription for my father. As I follow this daily routine I think about our college, the beauty of our building and how great it is to work at the University of Florida. I also think a thought or two about my dad.

After more than 12 years at UF, including almost four years in our "new" building, my UF days will end in June. In July, I will become



Dr. Robert Frank

Senior Vice President and Provost at Kent State University. The opportunities at Kent State are exciting and I will enjoy learning a new role in the university. Although I am excited about the opportunity at Kent State, leaving our college and the University of Florida is hard. The UF mystique is unmatched. Yet, the hardest part about saying good-bye is leaving behind the remarkable faculty and staff in the college.

I am very proud of our college's many accomplishments during the years I have served as dean. We have established several new programs including Ph.D.s in Rehabilitation Science and Health Services Research, the Doctor of Physical Therapy, the Doctor of Audiology (with our partners in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences) and the Bachelor of Health Science degree. We have three new doctoral programs under review: Epidemiology (with the College of Medicine), Biostatistics, and Behavioral and Community Public Health. We have also moved the occupational therapy degree to the master's level, and have created international partnerships in Jordan, the UK, Brazil, Australia and the People's Republic of China. We built a new home for the college and remodeled our research and clinical space. Most recently, we have begun a college transformation to integrate public health and we are now the only unit at UF that awards the Master of Public Health degree. The efforts of our faculty have led to a seven-fold increase in our grant expenditures and a four-fold increase in the number of students we educate each year. The list of accomplishments is much longer than these few "highlights."

I believe the best measure of a dean's effectiveness is not the list of accomplishments, but the quality of the people who constitute the college. On this measure, I am confident I will be well regarded in the future. PHHP has retained our best and attracted remarkable new faculty who are fully committed to teaching, research and service. They are led by a remarkable group of chairs who are among the most productive faculty in their specialties. The associate deans and staff in the dean's office, departments and clinics are dedicated and resourceful and are among the best in the university. The quality of the college's leadership, along with their imagination and fidelity to our goals, is so high there is no chance the college will lose ground during the dean transition. Mike Perri will prove to be a superb interim dean and will be ably supported by our associate deans and chairs.

As Janet and I prepare to move north, it is clear the college is in capable and strong hands. Though we will dearly miss our friends at UF, I marvel at the strength, clarity of purpose and abilities of those who will lead the college toward our next set of challenges. Go Gators! ●



Photo by Ray Carson/UF News Bureau

At a dinner given in his honor, Dean Robert Frank received one of the college's highest awards, the Gutekunst Award, named for Dean Emeritus Richard Gutekunst (right).

Dean Robert Frank accepts job at Kent State University

Robert Frank, Ph.D., dean of the University of Florida College of Public Health and Health Professions, has accepted the position of senior vice president of academic affairs and provost at Kent State University in Ohio, effective July 3.

Frank has led the college through a period of remarkable growth during his 12-year term as dean, with dramatic increases in research funding, student enrollment and degree offerings, and the development of the public health enterprise. Under his leadership, the College of Public Health and Health Professions has consistently ranked first or second in federal research funding for colleges of health professions.

"Bob has done an outstanding job here as dean and Kent State's selection of him validates what many of us already knew — that he has the vision and skills to contribute to the success of a major university at the highest levels," said Douglas Barrett, M.D., UF's senior vice president, health affairs.

When Frank arrived at UF in 1995, the college enrolled 450 students and garnered less than \$2 million in research funding. Today, the College of Public Health and Health Professions boasts more than 1,600 students and \$14 million in grant awards.

Frank has spearheaded several major initiatives during his UF career, including the construction of the HPNP Complex, which placed most of the college's units under one roof for the first time in its history, and the creation of the Brooks Center for Rehabilitation Studies and the Florida Center for Medicaid and the Uninsured, of which he serves as director. But his most lasting legacy may be his instrumental role in bringing public health programs to the University of Florida, in the process establishing a new educational model that focuses on the integration of public health problem-solving and individual patient care.

"Bob's leadership was absolutely crucial to taking on the challenge of expanding our public health initiative," Barrett said. "Doing something of that magnitude is daunting. It requires a college's faculty to get outside their comfort zone to look toward the future of what the college could be. And it requires taking some calculated risks to make it happen. Bob was able to communicate that exciting vision, and he had the stamina and perseverance to stick to it and achieve the goal."

Prior to his UF appointment Frank served on the faculty of the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Medicine department of physical medicine and rehabilitation where he established the division of clinical health psychology and neuropsychology. He was a Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellow from 1991 to 1992, working with Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM). After completing the fellowship, Frank returned to the University of Missouri as assistant to the dean for health policy, where he managed Missouri's state health reform effort, the ShowMe Health Reform Initiative, and continued to work on federal and state health policy.

At a dinner last month in honor of Frank and his wife Janet, Frank received one of the college's highest honors, the Gutekunst Award, named for Dean Emeritus Richard Gutekunst, who led the college from 1980 until his retirement in 1995. Frank also received the Presidential Medallion, awarded by UF President Bernie Machen, for outstanding service and contribution to the university.

"Any dean knows the accomplishments of a college reflect the efforts of those around him or her, and we have accomplished more than I ever dreamed possible when I came here in 1995," Frank said. "The progress the college has made in the 12 years I've been dean has been amazing and the most exciting thing I've been involved with in my entire life." ●

Michael Perri named college's interim dean

Michael G. Perri, Ph.D., has been named interim dean of the University of Florida College of Public Health and Health Professions, effective June 18.

Perri succeeds PHHP Dean Robert Frank, Ph.D., who has taken the position of senior vice president of academic affairs and provost at Kent State University in Ohio.

"As associate dean for research, Dr. Perri had a broad view of the challenges facing the college, and he has been intimately involved in all aspects of the college's management. He has strong support from the chairs and leadership group," said Douglas J. Barrett, M.D., senior vice president for health affairs. "Mike also has a keen appreciation for the issues facing the college as the public health initiative is integrated with the traditionally strong health professions components of the college."

Perri was appointed the college's associate dean for research in 2004. He joined the college's faculty in 1990 as a professor in the department of clinical and health psychology and also served as director of the psychology internship program from 1992 to 2004. He has contributed to more than 100 professional and scientific publications and his research on diet and exercise has been funded for 25 years by grants, awards and contracts from public and private sources, includ-

ing the National Institutes of Health and the Veterans Administration Merit Review Research Program. His current research, funded by the NIH, focuses on treating obesity in underserved rural settings.

Perri is a diplomate of the American Board of Professional Psychology and a fellow of the American Psychological Association, the Society of Behavioral Medicine and the North American Association for the Study of Obesity. He has served on the editorial boards of numerous behavioral science journals and on scientific review panels for the Institute of Medicine; the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute; the National Institute of Diabetes, Digestive and Kidney Diseases; the U.S. Surgeon General's Office; and the American College of Sports Medicine.

"Over the past decade, our college has experienced a period of exceptional growth," Perri said. "I look forward to working with our talented faculty and dedicated staff to accomplish the ambitious academic agenda set by Dean Frank." ●



Dr. Michael Perri

UF Doctor of Physical Therapy students **Meryl Alappattu and Stacy Gorski** led the first-ever Florida Physical Therapy Association Student Conference Feb. 2-3 in Gainesville. Nearly 175 students, faculty members and clinicians attended the conference, which featured presentations on research and the transition from student to professional.

The College of Public Health and Health Professions held its 20th Annual Research Fair for students on April 12. Twenty winning research posters were chosen from 63 entries and four graduate students received research grant awards. Undergraduate student honorees included **Erica Cook, Amanda Fogel, Jenifer Greer, Mary Lorincz, Amber Martin, Abbey Sipp and Michelle Vega**. Graduate student honorees included **Joseph Dzierzewski, Lauren Gibbons, Amruta Inamdar, Andrew Johnston, Lisa LaGorio, Andrea Lee, Michael Moorhouse, Adrienne Aiken Morgan, Amy Rodriguez, Barbara Smith, Lauren Sowell, Lauren Stutts and Sandra Winter**. The college awarded research grants to **Chitralakshmi Balasubramanian, Marie Barker, Alex Laberge and Milapjit Singh Sandhu**.

The college's graduating **Class of 2007** raised more than \$1,200 for a class gift, which they presented to the college at commencement on May 3. Students raised the funds through entry fees to the second annual PHHP Trivia Night, an event for faculty, staff and students. ●

faculty NOTES & staff

Michael Crary, Ph.D., a professor in the department of communicative disorders, and **Cathy Di Lena**, a human resources specialist, were recognized as Health Science Center division honorees for UF's Superior Accomplishment Awards program.

Steven George, Ph.D., an assistant professor in the department of physical therapy, received the 2007 Eugene Michels New Investigator Award from the American Physical Therapy Association. The award recognizes physical therapists engaged in research and is named for Eugene Michels, an APTA administrator and leader of the organization's movement to foster research in physical therapy.

Krista Vandeborne, Ph.D., an associate professor and chair of the department of physical therapy, has been named a 2007 UF Research Foundation Professor for her distinguished record of research. The three-year award carries a \$5,000 annual salary supplement and a \$3,000 grant.

The UF Health Science Center honored several college employees for reaching milestones in years of service. They include: **Andrea Burne, Brigitte Hart, Catherine Locklear and Jill Pease, five years; Karen Jaye, 10 years; Linda Garzarella and Donna Stilwell, 15 years; and Marcia McLeod, 25 years.** ●

LOOKING BACK



Occupational therapy alumna and former instructor **Sandra Adams, Ph.D.**, (right), bachelor's '68 and master's '75, and a Shands Hospital occupational therapist (center) demonstrate muscle tone and postural control therapy for a young child while the late **Susan Grenda Asgarinik**, a 1979 occupational therapy graduate, looks on.



Photo by Sarah Kiewel/UF Health Science Center News & Communications

Ready to give back

Universal health care is shaping up to be one of the most important domestic issues for American voters in next year's presidential election and the timing couldn't be better, according to future health care executive Will Jackson.

"Political attention on health care comes and goes," said Jackson, who graduated this spring with a master's in health administration from the College of Public Health and Health Professions. "I want to jump in while it's vibrant and keep the energy alive. If a candidate who supports universal health care wins the election, it is up to those of us in health care to keep them to their word."

Raised in a single-parent family that did not have health insurance, Jackson is well aware of the need for affordable, accessible health care. It was his desire to give others an opportunity his family did not have that led him to choose health care management as a career.

An internship last summer with CHOICES, the Alachua County health care program for workers who have low income and are uninsured, cemented Jackson's belief that such programs can be cost-efficient and effective.

"For what works out to about \$15 to \$20 a year for taxpayers, we can give so many people health care," Jackson said. "After talking with just a few people who receive care through CHOICES, I could see how much it had made a difference in their lives and what a worthwhile program it is. It is satisfying to give back to the level of community that I grew up in."

As a youngster growing up in Columbus, Ga., Jackson was certain he would become a physician. There was never any question. But a class lecture in one of Jackson's undergraduate courses made him re-evaluate his career path.

During Jackson's junior year in the college's bachelor's in health science program, a health care executive gave a guest lecture in Jackson's U.S. Health Care System class and that experience got him thinking.

"It was funny, I hadn't thought about doing anything else but becoming a doctor and I had never considered any other careers in health care," Jackson said. "It kept bothering me over that summer. I thought about why I wanted to be a doctor and that was to help people. But I realized that working in health administration would still allow me to help people while also making wide-scale changes to the health care system that would ensure care is efficient and accessible."

In a field where the American College of Healthcare Executives estimates African Americans make up less than 2 percent of all hospital CEOs, Jackson said he is excited about the challenges ahead of him.

"With drive, experience, networking and patience, I know I'll get there without losing sight of where I came from," he said.

This summer, Jackson will begin a position as administrator-in-training at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center in Baton Rouge, La., a 760-bed not-for-profit acute care hospital led by CEO Robert Davidge, a 1967 alumnus of the college's health administration program. A flagship facility for the region, Our Lady of the Lake has played a critical role following Hurricane Katrina.

"My goal is to stay excited, motivated and focused," Jackson said. "Right now I'm a big sponge; I want to absorb as much as I can." ●

“With drive, experience, networking and patience, I know I’ll get there without losing sight of where I came from.”

— Will Jackson

Holloways establish endowed scholarship fund

Sam Holloway's first introduction to the College of Public Health and Health Professions came through a former client of his, Darrel Mase, Ph.D., the founding dean of the college.

At the time, Holloway couldn't guess the impact the college had made on health care education, or the important role he would play as an ambassador and supporter of the college.

"Back then I didn't realize the significance of the college and the fact that it is the first one of its kind in the United States," said Holloway, the founder and CEO of Holloway Financial Services Inc. in Gainesville.

It wasn't until years later that Holloway became chair of the college's advisory board and impressed by the quality of the college's faculty and students, made a major gift to support student scholarships.

The Sam and Connie Holloway Scholarship Endowment in Public Health and Health Professions is awarded to undergraduate or graduate students who portray exemplary leadership and academic excellence. With the Holloway's \$110,000 gift, previous scholarship contributions raised through the Horse Farm 100 Bike Ride and state matching funds, the endowment totals nearly \$300,000.

"I hope that the students who receive the scholarship create a legacy of their own and a loyalty to the college," Holloway said.

Janet Brishke, a 2007 graduate of the college's bachelor's in health science program and past president of the PHHP College Council, is the first recipient of the scholarship.

"The Holloways are important members of the PHHP family and have done a lot for our college," Brishke said. "I am pleased that out of all the student leaders and scholars in my graduating class, I was chosen to be the inaugural recipient of this award."

A Jacksonville native, Holloway started his agency in 1964 and has worked in insurance and financial planning ever since. He and wife Connie met on a blind date while he was a student at Stetson University and she at Florida State University. They will soon celebrate 50 years of marriage along with their four children and seven grandchildren.



Sam and Connie Holloway

As his business has grown, so has Holloway's community involvement. His volunteer positions have included president of the Gainesville Chamber of Commerce, president of the local chapter of the United Way, vice president of the local American Cancer Society and founding board member of the Oak Hammock at the University of Florida retirement community, a project of which he is particularly proud.

Currently, Holloway serves on the Shands executive committee charged with raising \$50 million for the planned Shands at the University of Florida Cancer Hospital. The cancer hospital and the colleges of Medicine and Public Health and Health Professions are Holloway's two civic and financial support priorities, he said.

"As a board member I have gotten to know the College of Public Health and Health Professions' faculty and respect their work," Holloway said. "The college produces quality professionals who do remarkable things."

Scholarship support is essential to attracting the best and brightest for the next generation of health care professionals, Holloway said.

"Funding scholarships may not have the zing of building a locker room or a monument on a golf course, but if students get a good education and they appreciate the opportunity, in the years to come they may support the college with not only their interests, but their talents and treasure," he said. ●

The following awards were presented at the College of Public Health and Health Professions' commencement ceremony on May 3.

Dean's Office

Dean's Scholar, undergraduate – Jessica Neff and Marimily Rivera

Dean's Scholar, master's – Sharon Goldberg

Dean's Scholar, doctoral – Harrison Jones

Judson A. Clements, Jr. Memorial Scholarship – Nnonye Umerah

Sam and Connie Holloway Endowment in Public Health and Health Professions – Janet Brishke

Shands UF Auxiliary Scholarships

Frantz Antoine, Stacy Gorski, Diane Jett, Jenna Lee and Lindsey Waddell

Behavioral Science and Community Health

Bruce Thomason Memorial Award – Holly Robinson

Horace Sawyer Clinical Excellence Award – Paula Patterson

John Muthard Research Award – Mike Moorhouse

Ronald J. Spitznagel Fellowship in Rehabilitation

Counseling – Tanisha Hamilton

Undergraduate Leadership Award – Alexis Flores

Communicative Disorders

Kenneth R. Bzoch Speech-Language Hearing Award for Excellence in Research – Amy Rodriguez

Lowell C. Hammer Outstanding Clinical Speech-Language Pathology Award – Jennifer Heffelfinger

Kenneth C. Pollock Outstanding Clinical Audiology Award – Cassie Eiffert

Clinical and Health Psychology

Molly Harrower Award for Excellence in Psychodiagnostic Assessment – Lauren Sowell

Florence Shafer Memorial Award for Excellence in Psychotherapeutic Counseling – Mary Keeley

Research Award for Excellence in Clinical Psychology Research – Adam Hirsh

Geoffrey Clark-Ryan Memorial Endowment Award for Excellence in Pediatric Psychology Research – Susan Bongiolatti

Robert and Phyllis Levitt Research Award for Excellence in Clinical Neuropsychology Research – Michael Larson

Excellence in Health Psychology Research Award – Sally Jensen

Scientist-Practitioner Award – Mary Keeley

Health Services Research, Management and Policy

Master of Health Administration Faculty Award for Excellence – Sharon Goldberg

Master of Health Administration Alumni Award for Service – Ameen Baker

Master of Health Administration Excellence in Teaching Award – Randall Jenkins

Malcom Randall Fellowship in Health Care Administration – Jacqueline Ramirez

Thomas and Trudy Summerill Scholarship in Health Administration – Jared Amerson

Occupational Therapy (awarded in Dec. 2006)

Alice C. Jantzen Award for Academic Excellence – Kari Wagner and Jeannine Gonzalez

Ann Sirmyer Ballard Memorial Award for Outstanding Graduate – Jill McCarthy

Jane Slaymaker Memorial Award – Katie Dougherty

Kay F. Walker Award – Brian Lai and Mary Capoccioni

Physical Therapy

Martha C. Wroe Outstanding Clinical Performance Award – Kristin Swank

Outstanding Scholastic Student Award – Maria DeLazzer

Claudette Finley Scholarship – Diane Jett

Frederick Family DPT Student Scholarship – Meryl Alappattu and Stacy Gorski

Frederick Family RSD Level Student Scholarship – Joel Bialosky

Dr. Mark Trimble Memorial Scholarship – Jack Dunn

Julia Conrad Trojanowski Scholarship – Lindsay Perry

Public Health

M.P.H. Exemplary Student Award – Tina Arcomone

Public Health Award for Faculty Excellence – Dr. Barbara Curbow

Health Science

Outstanding Student Award – Amy Benford and Erica Cook



SUPPORT TEAM PHHP

Horse Farm 100 Rides Again

Join Team PHHP faculty, students, staff, family and friends as we raise money for student scholarships in the annual Horse Farm 100 cycling event on Sunday, Oct. 21, 2007. For more information or to make a gift, it couldn't be easier. Just go to our Web site www.php.ufl.edu, click on "Alumni and Giving," click on "Make a Gift," click on "College of Public Health and Health Professions," and then click on "PHHP Horse Farm 100 Event/Holloway Fund." ●

Aldrich named alumnus of the year

The College of Public Health and Health Professions has named Ronald Aldrich, the first graduate of the master's in health administration program, the college's alumnus of the year. He was recognized at the college's commencement ceremony on May 3.

Aldrich was a member of the master's in health administration's first graduating class in 1966. And by virtue of having a last name that begins with the letter "A," Aldrich believes he was actually the first graduate of the program.

Since that time Aldrich has distinguished himself as a national leader in health care administration, having served as the CEO of three Catholic multi-hospital systems, and was a key leader behind what was, at the time, the nation's largest not-for-profit health care merger.

Aldrich's 40-year career includes top leadership positions at national and regional health care systems, including ServantCor in Urbana, Ill., Franciscan Health System in Aston, Penn., and Catholic Health Services in Long Island, N.Y.

Aldrich believes his most significant contribution to health care was his role in the integration of three large Catholic health systems to form Catholic Health Initiatives in 1996, which included 126 health care facilities in 21 states.

"The experience was a very meaningful part of my ministry in Catholic health care," he said. "I had the opportunity to take all my health administration experience and education and make the best possible contribution to the merger."

A Fellow of the American College of Health Care Executives and a Life Member of the American Hospital Association, Aldrich has served on the boards of directors of six Catholic health systems and was chair of the Catholic Health Association of the United States. He is also the first Public Health and Health Professions alumnus to serve on the UF Foundation Board of Directors.

Currently, Aldrich does health care consulting work through Limberpine Associates Inc. and is an executive in residence and a visiting professor in the college's department of health services research, management and policy.

"Ron Aldrich has made many significant contributions to health administration and graduate education in our field," said R. Paul Duncan, Ph.D., professor and chair of the department of health services research, management and policy. "But what



Ronald Aldrich

is that two or three times each year, this distinguished health care leader makes time available to come to Gainesville and meet with current health administration students, providing them with advice, support and mentoring as their careers are launched. We consider him a part of our faculty as well as a distinguished alumnus." ●

Audiology alumna recognized for work with cochlear implants

For Katherine Phelan, Au.D., the most rewarding experiences in her job come at the moment when a patient's cochlear implant is turned on and the patient hears sound for the first time in many years or even in his or her life.

"Everyone is excited and nervous," said Phelan, a 2002 graduate of the doctor of audiology program and one of the college's 2006 outstanding alumni of the year. "For people who have never heard sound the experience can be overwhelming. For people with progressive hearing loss, this may be the first time in several years that they have heard sounds like birds singing."

As a clinical applications specialist for implant manufacturer Cochlear Americas, Phelan is in a unique position to witness many of these life-changing events as she trains audiologists and works with patients at 70 clinical sites in Alabama, Florida and Georgia.

A cochlear implant is a small electronic device that can help provide a sense of sound to a person who is profoundly deaf or severely hard of hearing. The implant is surgically placed under the skin behind the ear and works by converting sound waves

into useful electronic impulses that are then sent to the brain. UF clinicians took part in a multi-center clinical trial to test cochlear implants when they were introduced in the mid-1980s. Today, nearly 100,000 people worldwide have received cochlear implants.

In addition to the training she provides audiologists, Phelan is called upon to handle the most challenging patient cases, such as facial nerve stimulation following the implantation or counseling patients when their implant is not performing the way they expected.

A majority of implant recipients fall into one of two categories, Phelan said. They include people with progressive hearing loss age 60 or older, and patients with congenital hearing impairment who are under the age of 7. But more awareness and education on the



Dr. Katherine Phelan

benefits of cochlear implants could increase the number of recipients in all age ranges, she said.

"Cochlear implants can bring people back to the relationships they had before hearing loss," Phelan said, adding that progressive hearing loss can lead to depression and decreased participation in social activities.

And cochlear implant technology is only getting better, she said.

"Because patients' speech understanding is so much better with the newer technology, cochlear implant manufacturers are now looking at improving the quality of other types of sounds, like music," Phelan said. "Some people with cochlear implants have stopped listening to music because they didn't like the way it sounded. Implants produce a mechanical sound that doesn't produce the same richness or fullness and patients may not be able to hear all the instruments."

Implant researchers are also working on improving patients' ability to hear a sound and determine its location, Phelan said.

"All of the implant manufacturers are working on research like this," she said. "We want the best technology for the best quality of life of our patients." ●

Meet the alumni

Have you checked out PPHP's new Web feature, rotating spotlights on our graduates? Visit www.pphp.ufl.edu/alumni/meetthealumni.htm regularly for new alumni spotlights.

Julia Ackerman, master's in public health '06, was recently featured in the Maternal Child Health Section of the American Public Health Association for her research in pre-pregnancy BMI and folic acid related birth defects. Julia has worked at the Maternal Child Health and Education Research and Data Center for the last five years and has recently accepted a position at WellFlorida as the Healthy Start program director. Julia writes that she is happy to be a Florida Gator!

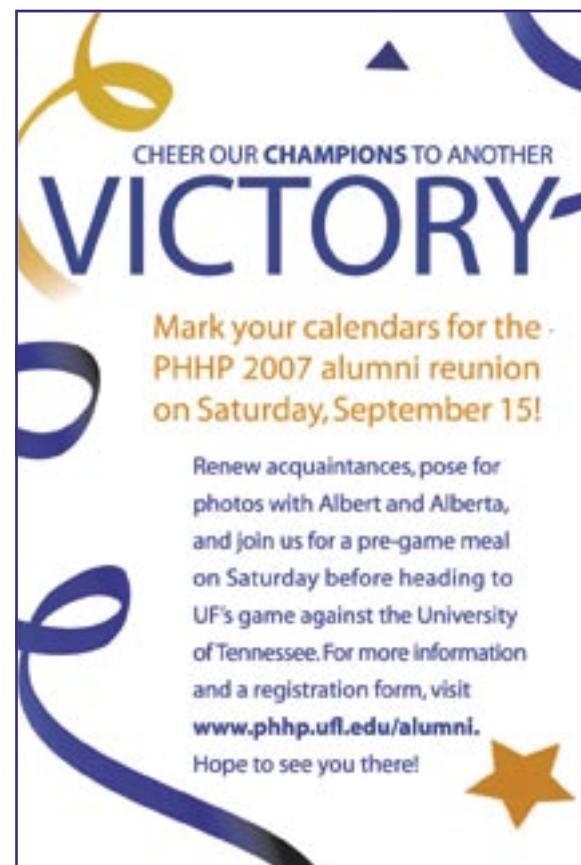
Dara Bernard, master's in rehabilitation counseling '00, and **Steven Mounts**, master's in business administration/master's in health administration '99/'00, are recipients of UF's 2007 Outstanding Young Alumni Award. They were honored at a recognition breakfast last month and were invited to sit in the President's Box at the annual Orange and Blue football game. This award was established by the UF Alumni Association to recognize Gators who have distinguished themselves

in business, community or service and have received a UF degree within the past 10 years.

Lt. Colonel Thomas Bundt, master's in health administration/master's in business administration '00, and doctorate in health services research '02, is currently in Iraq working for the Department of Defense and the Department of State writing health policy for the Iraqi government. He works out of the Health Attaché Office as the chief of health policy and strategy and as the deputy health attaché to the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. "This appointment is heavily consultant-based and positioned in a way to enable the Iraqis to sustain their current operations, and provide collaborative efforts from the U.S. government to assist Iraq's Ministry of Health in the provision of full spectrum health care operations throughout their 18 provinces," Tom said.

Renee Fleming Mills, master's in rehabilitation counseling '74, celebrated 19 years of marriage to Albert Mills III. She recently received her 15-year service award from the state of Virginia. Renee has been the human resources director for the Virginia Department of Social Services for the past two years. The department provides human resources services for approximately 1,600 state employees and 8,000 local employees.

Joe Neihardt, master's in business administration/master's in health administration '70, has fulfilled the requirements for status as Life Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives. Joe served many years in hospital administration, and was very active in the Georgia Hospital Association during his career. He



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VICTORY

Mark your calendars for the
**PHHP 2007 alumni reunion
on Saturday, September 15!**

Renew acquaintances, pose for photos with Albert and Alberta, and join us for a pre-game meal on Saturday before heading to UF's game against the University of Tennessee. For more information and a registration form, visit www.pphp.ufl.edu/alumni. Hope to see you there!

served as a UF M.B.A. program alumni interviewer in the 1990s. Joe and his wife Beverly have retired in Clearwater, Florida. Their oldest daughter Rhonda and her husband Steve are both Gators.

Melanie Quitos, master's in occupational therapy '03, is now officially Mrs. Melanie Quitos Howell. She was married on November 4, 2006.

Stephanie Warrington, master's in health administration '94, is president of Synogen, a private business incubator in Gainesville. Synogen invests in and partners with early-stage medical technology companies to assist them with management, business plan development, strategic planning, marketing and regulatory and intellectual property issues.

Roy Vinson, bachelor's in medical technology '73, joined Health Management Associates in February 2007 as CEO of Dallas Regional Medical Center in Mesquite, Texas. ●



WHAT'S NEW

Share your news with classmates!

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

NAME (INCLUDING MAIDEN)

MAJOR/YEAR

PHONE

HOME ADDRESS (CITY, STATE, ZIP)

E-MAIL ADDRESS

CURRENT POSITION

NEWS TO SHARE

Mail to PPHP News, Dean's Office, P.O. Box 100185, Gainesville, FL 32610; fax 352.273.6199; e-mail jpease@pphp.ufl.edu or post your news online at www.pphp.ufl.edu/alumni



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