

PHHP Outstanding Alumni 2008

Toni Couse Physical Therapy '71



Couse has worked in a variety of settings during her 37-year physical therapy career, including home health, general hospitals and exceptional child education,

prior to establishing her own practice with a partner in 1988. Physical Therapy Dynamic Inc. initially served Clewiston, Fla., before expanding to the neighboring community of Labell. Couse is also chair of the Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center at Palm Beach Community College, which honored her as “A Woman of Accomplishment” in health care in 2002.

MY FAVORITE UF MEMORY: Fall Saturdays at football games on campus. I have had season tickets since 1974.

BEST LESSON LEARNED AT UF: Be open when confronted with a desire to change majors/study. I stumbled into the career of physical therapy by chance and it was a good fit.

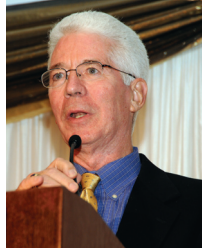
FACULTY MEMBER WHO INFLUENCED ME THE MOST: Norma Fisher — a great sense of humor and an enthusiastic Gator fan.

ADVICE FOR CURRENT STUDENTS: Be prepared and willing to give yourself to a cause greater than yourself. Have an attitude of service in all you do.

PEOPLE WOULD BE SURPRISED TO KNOW: I thoroughly enjoy my poodle, which I call my “empty nest” dog. Never had time for a pet when working full time and raising children.

IN THE FUTURE I HOPE TO: Retire in a few years and serve as a volunteer in the community and/or Christian organizations. To give back what I have been blessed to receive.

Robert “Hap” Davidge Health Administration '67



Davidge was appointed president/CEO of Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center in Baton Rouge, La. in 1979. Our Lady of the Lake grew to become the largest hospital in the state with

more than 800 acute beds; 4,200 employees; two subsidiary hospitals; a network of rural hospitals; and its own college with more than 2,000 students. Davidge retired in April 2008. He received the Louisiana Hospital Association’s Lifetime Honorary Membership award.

MY FAVORITE UF MEMORY: There are many but the first to come to mind is watching Steve Spurrier kick the game winning field goal against Auburn in the Swamp.

FACULTY MEMBER WHO INFLUENCED ME THE MOST: I had a number of wonderful professors, but to choose one I’d have to go with our Program Director, Dr. John Champion. He had a tough job with a struggling new, unfunded program, but he hung in there and made it happen. He was no pushover but a truly good person and had a big heart. His research course was challenging yet exceedingly useful over the years.

ADVICE FOR CURRENT STUDENTS: You are the beneficiaries of a legacy at UF. It is a GREAT university. Enjoy it, exploit it and when you are finished, go out, do good things and give back to it.

PEOPLE WOULD BE SURPRISED TO KNOW: I was a New Year’s Baby born one minute after midnight. The nurses named me “Happy.” As you can see, it stuck.

IN THE FUTURE I HOPE TO: My wife and I are fortunate, we have our health and have been able to give back. We are doing that and expect to continue.

Lois Gold Occupational Therapy '81



Gold began her career as the director and founder of the occupational therapy department at Miami Children’s Hospital. She went on to establish a multidis-

ciplinary private practice with two other therapists that continues to be successful 20 years later. Gold has also served on the Interdisciplinary Council on Developmental and Learning Disorders’ advisory board and as a program faculty member. Through this affiliation, she has become a developmental specialist and a specialist in infant mental health.

MY FAVORITE UF MEMORY: Being a part of “The Back Table” in OT school.

BEST LESSON LEARNED AT UF: If you don’t like statistics, don’t let that stop you from doing research.

FACULTY MEMBER WHO INFLUENCED ME THE MOST: Kay Walker, Ph.D., influenced me by her passion for neuroscience and pediatrics.

ADVICE FOR CURRENT STUDENTS: Find your passion and follow through on your curiosity.

PEOPLE WOULD BE SURPRISED TO KNOW: I started the OT department at Miami Children’s Hospital at the young age of 22 years old.

IN THE FUTURE I HOPE TO: Write a pediatric textbook about the understanding of motor science and social/emotional development.