



April 4, 2011

Department of Communications & Sciences Disorders Chair Receives Distinguished Achievement Award from the American Academy of Audiology

Theresa (Terry) Hnath Chisolm, Chair of the Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders in the University of South Florida's College of Behavioral & Community Sciences, is a recipient of the 2011 Distinguished Achievement Award from the American Academy of Audiology. The award will be presented at the Academy's Annual Convention, AudiologyNOW, April 6-9, 2011 in Chicago, IL.

Chisolm learned of the award when she received a phone call from Dr. Brenda Ryalls, Editor in Chief of the American Academy of Audiology for Ear & Hearing. Chisolm states, "I thought she was calling to ask me to do some type of service for the journal, instead she was calling to inform me that I was to receive the award. I was totally surprised, as I did not know I had been nominated." Chisolm goes on to say that "tears came to my eyes as I knew that my colleagues in the field had nominated me. These were not colleagues from USF, but those I'd interacted with on the national stage for many years."



The Academy states that Chisolm's career "exemplifies the intent of this prestigious American Academy of Audiology Distinguished Achievement Award." During the course of her MA work at Montclair State College and PhD work at the Graduate School of the City University of New York, she was already distinguishing herself amongst her teachers and peers. As one faculty recommendation noted, "...she exemplifies the ideal student: one who surpasses the master." Since the completion of her graduate schooling, Chisolm has held noteworthy positions at every level—staff audiologist, lecturer, assistant/associate/full professor, departmental chair, and most recently special assistant to the dean in the College of Behavioral and Community Sciences at the University of South Florida. In every role, she has distinguished herself as exemplary and influential.

Chisolm has contributed over 50 peer reviewed articles and chapters throughout her 30 year career, mostly in the area of adult rehabilitation. In fact, her name is practically synonymous with the topic area of the impact of hearing loss on quality of life. Her article, "A systematic review of the health-related quality of life and hearing aids" has become required reading in most audiology programs throughout the country. The quality of her research has been acknowledged by her peers throughout her career through multiple awards and grants.

Dr. Chisolm has also served her profession more than most over her career. She has worked on various committees for the Academy, ASHA, Academy of Rehabilitative Audiology, and the Florida Speech and Hearing Association. She was instrumental in developing a first-class AuD program at the University of South Florida, where she recently established one of the few AuD/PhD combined programs of excellence in the country. In all, her dedication and enthusiasm for the profession, as exemplified by her many accomplishments, makes her the ideal recipient for this year's Distinguished Achievement Award.

The American Academy of Audiology is the world's largest professional organization of, by, and for audiologists. The active membership of more than 10,000 is dedicated to providing quality hearing care services through professional development, education, research, and increased public awareness of hearing and balance disorders. The Academy promotes quality hearing and balance care by advancing the profession of audiology through leadership, advocacy, education, public awareness, and support of research.

Recipients of this award include Academy-member audiologists who are or have been exceptional educators in the classroom or clinic, have been innovative in program development, pioneering in areas of clinical service delivery, teaching, or research, or any combination of these areas. The contributions made by the recipients of the Distinguished Achievement Award must have an impact on the profession of Audiology as a whole and not just at a state or local level.