

USF Department of  
Communication Sciences  
and Disorders (CSD)  
Oral History Project  
CSD 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – 1967 to 2017

Narrator: Rebekah Carlson  
Current Position: Retired  
Date of Interview: 10/11/17

Interviewer: Stephanie de Silva  
Location of Interview: e-mail

### TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

What years were you a part of CSD?

*In 1967 Ms. Carlson was working in the Hillsborough County School System as a bachelor's level speech therapist, and she enrolled in the first class taught at USF in CSD. She received her M. S. in 1970. She remained on the clinical faculty until her retirement in 1991. Ms. Carlson also supervised part time from 1995 to 2000.*

What was your role (if student, what was your major?)?

*Ms. Carlson's primary role was in clinical supervision at USF. She served as coordinator of clinical services and training in speech pathology for a number of years. Her supervision in the clinic focused on diagnostics, fluency and voice disorders. She coordinated internships in the public schools, and she taught Intro courses and Speech and Language Disorders in the Classroom to special education majors.*

Why did you choose USF CSD?

*Ms. Carlson states that as a young working wife and mother in Hillsborough County, USF was the logical choice for pursuing her Master's Degree.*

What did the facilities at and surrounding area look like during your time in USF?

*Her first supervisory duties were in a converted apartment building on Fletcher Avenue known as "Mildew Manor". She explains that she did indeed observe through holes cut in the plywood doors. In 1975, Ms. Carlson moved to the main campus into a facility that was considered state-of-the-art at the time. They were involved in the design of the clinic, which included a core room that connected to six therapy rooms with one-way mirrors and speakers with headphones. The outer periphery rooms had closed circuit TV systems that allowed supervisors to observe from their offices.*

What was the atmosphere like?

*Ms. Carlson describes that the students developed a closeness to their supervisors in general, but there were high expectations for them clinically. The students were required to complete practicum in the clinic in Language, Articulation, Voice, Fluency and Diagnostics in order to be eligible for ASHA certification. They submitted lesson plans in duplicate for the supervisors to write comments and record the amount of supervised time*

*in each session. An externship in the community was also required. These records were meticulously recorded.*

Who were the major community partners?

*N/A*

Who else was part of the department? How many students and programs?

*Nancy Serrano was office manager in the beginning and was succeeded by Peggy Ott. Connie Kuffel (now deceased) was my counterpart in Audiology. Clinically, Kelmie Hollahan, Lee Kasan and Jane Scheuerle joined the department from on-campus student services. Stu Ritterman, Tony Zenner, Dale Grundhov, Dave Shepherd, Jerry Crittenden and Arthur Guilford are just a few of the academic faculty who come to mind for Ms. Carlson.*

Who was Chair?

*Ms. Carlson recalls that the first chair of the department was Dr. Clarence Webb, a young charismatic visionary. Unfortunately, he was electrocuted in an accident at his pool in the early '70's. He was succeeded by Dr. Stewart Kinde, who remained as chair for a number of years.*

How has CSD changed over the years?

*N/A*

What are your favorite memories of your time at USF?

*Ms. Carlson's favorite memories are the camaraderie with the students and the pride clinical instructors felt with their accomplishments.*

Last words that you would like to leave behind

*She feels that it was a good place to spend a career.*