Wroe named nation's outstanding clinician

"Martha's devotion to patients and to clinical expertise is obvious. Her kind, warm and caring approach to patients is inspiring. Her positive, hopeful attitude has always been infectious and her hallmark--the delightful giggle--absolutely contagious." Thelma Holmes, associate professor in the Department of Physical Therapy.

Those are a few of the many glowing words that poured in from colleagues, patients and physicians who nominated Martha Wroe for the Henry O. and Florence P. Kendall Award, given annually by the American Physical Therapy Association to the nation's outstanding physical therapist clinician.

It was Wroe's actions over 30 years as a physical therapist and educator, however, that convinced the selection committee to present the award to Wroe, professor in the Department of Physical Therapy in the University of Florida's College of Health Related Professions.

Wroe was nominated by the Florida chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) and was presented a plaque at the APTA national conference in June. A $500 honorarium was given to the charity of her choice.

The award, named for two Maryland physical therapist clinicians, recognizes "outstanding achievement in clinical practice and dedicated service to the profession."

A native of Toccoa, Ga., Wroe began her career as a rural school teacher in Kentucky. After working as a physical therapist in the U.S. Army, the St. Louis Veterans Administration Hospital and the Crippled Children's School in Spokane, Wash., she became chief physical therapist at the V.A. Hospital in Wichita, Kan. She held other supervisory positions at the University of Illinois and Kansas City Rehabilitation Institute.

Wroe came to UF's College of Health Related Professions in 1959 as chief physical therapist and instructor. During that year, she also became the first physical therapist at Shands Hospital, where she developed and directed its physical therapy department for 11 years.

She was named associate professor in the Department of Physical Therapy in 1970 and professor in 1980. She holds joint appointments in the Department of Neurology in the College of Medicine and the Department of Special

Grant strengthens Physician Assistant Program

Florida's only training program for physician assistants, offered by the University of Florida's College of Health Related Professions, has received a three-year grant of $373,716 to strengthen its curriculum and adapt its development to the health care needs of Florida.

The funding, which began July 1, comes from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

"We are increasing our training efforts in several areas, including geriatrics to reflect Florida's large elderly population, and in disease prevention and health promotion to make good use of physician assistants' (PA's) frontline position in the health system," said Barry Greene, author of the grant and chairman of the Department of Health Services Administration in which the program is located.

"We also are concentrating on reemphasizing the role PA's can play in bringing health care to medically underserved areas in Florida," said Greene.

Wayne Bottom, the newly appointed director of the PA Program, is evaluating the curriculum and developing the coursework and clinical rotations proposed in the grant.

He is being assisted by another (See page 6)
Dear Alumni and Friends of the College:

Within the past few months you were asked to verify your mailing address as well as indicate whether you wished to remain on our mailing list. The response to these requests was most gratifying and I thank you for assisting us in this important task. You are very important to our College and it is essential that we do not lose contact with you.

Unfortunately, there are some alumni who, at present, must be classified as "address unknown." We have included a list of these individuals on the last page of this newsletter, and your assistance in helping us locate your fellow alumni will be appreciated. If you know the whereabouts of anyone included on this list, please let us know so we can establish contact with them.

* * *

In previous messages I indicated the need for your support if we are to maintain quality academic programs. This need continues, and to help mobilize our forces we are making a concerted effort to organize the alumni into an effective proactive group.

To assist in this endeavor, Mr. Michael Poston, director of development of the Health Center, is recruiting an individual who will develop an annual fundraising campaign for our College. I solicit your support and encourage you to respond to the best of your ability.

* * *

If you are a Florida resident, I am sure you have been reading about Amendment One, which will be placed on the ballot in November for consideration by the electorate. I encourage you to become familiar with this amendment and determine the impact, both good and bad, it will have on the many public services currently funded through the state government's budget.

It is essential that the citizens of this state be properly informed before they vote either "Yes" or "No" on this important issue.

As a practicing health professional you are in a position to assume a leadership role in your community and influence others on the significance of this and other important issues facing society. I challenge you to become an involved, concerned citizen.

* * *

Best wishes for a healthy, happy and successful 1984.

Richard Gutekunst, Ph.D.
Dean

Randall receives national award

Malcom Randall, director of the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Gainesville, and professor of health services administration in the College of Health Related Professions, is one of 38 to receive the nation's highest civil service honor from President Reagan. Randall is the only nominee from the Veterans Administration and the only winner from Florida.

The annual Presidential Rank Award is given for "sustained extraordinary accomplishments in management of the programs of the federal government." Selections are made by the President, based on recommendations by an independent panel, from 6,800 senior government executives who are eligible for the prize. The award is accompanied by a $20,000 cash bonus.

The Congressional Record of the U.S. Senate also printed a special notice, contributed by a U.S. Congresswoman Paula Hawkins, about Randall's award.

He has been active in the Veterans Administration since leaving the Navy in 1946 and has been director of the Gainesville VA hospital since it opened in 1967.

As chairman of the field advisory council to the VA's chief medical director, Randall helps formulate policy for the operation of the nation's veterans hospitals.

Wroe (cont. from page 1)

Education in the College of Education.

In recognition of her professional contributions, she received the APTA Lucy Blair Service Award in 1975 and was nominated for the organization's highest award, the Mary McMillan Lectureship.

Her excellence in teaching was spotlighted by the students in 1979 when she was named "Teacher of the Year" in the College of Health Related Professions. She was nominated again for this award in 1983.

She teaches therapeutic exercise, human growth and development, and evaluation techniques to juniors and seniors in physical therapy, and coordinates courses in clinical neurology and medical and surgical disorders. She also evaluates and treats children in the cerebral palsy clinic and infectious disease clinic and has a small caseload of patients with neurological and orthopedic disorders.

"Martha Wroe was among the first physical therapist educators to integrate the newer approaches to therapeutic exercise instead of carrying the banner for one and only one approach," said Norma Fisher, associate professor in the Department of Physical Therapy.

"She has collaborated with physicians in research with patients with Parkinson's disease, as well as in developing physical therapy programs for patients who have had surgical approaches to bone tumor removals," Fisher said.

Wroe has given nearly 100 presentations and published several articles in national journals. She has held more than 20 offices on the national level and almost 15 on the state level. This includes service as a member of the board of directors for APTA, president of the Florida chapter of APTA, and chairman of the APTA Editorial Board, Reference Committee and Nominating Committee.

Wroe earned a B.S. degree in physical education from Western State College in Bowling Green, Ky. (1942), a certificate in physical therapy from the University of Wisconsin in Madison (1944) and a M.A. in Physical Therapy from Stanford in Palo Alto, Calif. (1952).