

**Ms. Claudette Finley**  
**Associate Professor Emerita, Physical Therapy**

In 1958, Barbara White, Fred Rutan and Martha Wroe unpacked boxes of equipment to set up the PT Clinic and faculty offices.

I joined the Physical Therapy faculty in our college in 1969. There were approximately 20 undergraduate students in each class working on a baccalaureate degree. We had three faculty offices and six faculty members. The chairman, Barbara White, had a private office, three of us shared one office, and two others shared an office. What this meant was if a student was being interviewed or counseled, it was not uncommon for another faculty member to chime in with a question or some advice.

So what did I see that first year on the physical therapy faculty?



- 1- A faculty and a chairman who were so supportive in helping a new faculty member learn about the world of academics. Their attitude was so positive. You felt that the people in the department were friends and liked and respected each other.
- 2- Where else could a new faculty member step into a position where five out of six faculty had been on the Board of Directors of the American Physical Therapy Association or President of the Florida Physical Therapy Association. I was the one loner who needed to try to imitate their example. They took me to national, state and district meetings. They impressed on me as well as the students our responsibility to guide the development of the physical therapy profession in the future.
- 3- Cohesiveness of the faculty. Lunchtime was usually in Martha Wroe and Norma Fisher's office. This is where we learned about each other as persons, we laughed with each other. Fred would always tease you, Barbara was always dignified. She knew ahead of us what she wanted her faculty to develop into. Martha Wroe has a contagious laugh and frequently would eat an orange squirting orange juice on the stack of test papers on her desk, and "Billie" (Norma) Fisher was always talking about her trips to Switzerland and possible new sites for clinical affiliations.
- 4- Around 1975 Barbara White resigned and accepted a position with the American Physical Therapy Association. I often saw her when I would go up for committee meetings in Alexandria, VA. I visited with her just a few months before she died. She was the epitome of leadership as it should be. She frequently asked "What are your goals?" "What do you want to achieve in this position?"

So this is what I saw that first year on the PT faculty and it convinced me that the University of Florida would be an excellent place to build a career in physical therapy education, and that career lasted over 30 years!