

## ACA ALUMNI IN THE WORLD / MICHAEL DELP

### *Launching mice and Gators, improving lives*

**M**ichael Delp (ACA 1980 / Oral Roberts 1984 / Georgia 1988, 1990) is a professor and chairman of the Department of Applied Physiology and Kinesiology at the University of Florida. He teaches several classes, including exercise physiology and environmental physiology, and he conducts research on cardiovascular health and bone loss (osteoporosis). He has been funded by NASA since 1995 to study the effects of microgravity on the control of blood pressure, since many astronauts returning from space have difficulty maintaining adequate blood pressure even after staying in space for as little as two weeks. Michael has flown groups of laboratory mice and rats on sev-



eral Space Shuttle missions, including last April's STS-131 mission on Discovery. Michael has received research grants from the National Institutes of Health and the American Heart Association to study the effects of aging on the cardiovascular and skeletal systems, and how exercise can help maintain the health of these bodily

systems during old age. He and his wife Judy serve as directors for their church's outreach ministry to the Saint Francis House homeless shelter in Gainesville. They have three children, Lauren (11), Grant (9) and Hannah (6).



**“W**hen I attended ACA it was a much smaller school than it is today. Facing the prospects of attending college, I worried whether my education at ACA had adequately prepared me to succeed at a university. I soon discovered that my concerns were unfounded. Not only was my general education and science background adequate, I found that my high school training was superior in many respects

to that of my fellow students. But most important, at ACA I had learned to depend on God for strength, inspiration and guidance. My senior year playing soccer at ACA under Coach Scott Brinkerhoff, we started the season with a scriptural theme from Hebrews 12, “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the

race marked out for us, looking unto Jesus.” I have adopted that as the scriptural theme for my life. As a professor at a secular university, I am surrounded by students who are seeking direction and meaning for their lives. The calling God has placed on my life is to be a Christian witness to these students. I am grateful to ACA for the strong Christian foundation they helped build in my life.”