

## **2009 Willard R. Sparks Eminent Faculty Award**

Dr. Robyn M. Cox, Professor of Audiology, was awarded the \$20,000 Willard R. Sparks Eminent Faculty Award during the University's 22nd Annual Faculty Convocation on April 29, 2009. Cox, a distinguished teacher whose research seeks to improve the quality of life for older adults with hearing impairment, was recognized for her contributions to the mission of the University.

Cox is Director of the Hearing Aid Research Laboratory in the University's School of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology. Her research focuses on improving methods for fitting hearing aids on seniors (by making the process more precise and scientifically based) and measuring hearing aid performance and hearing aid benefits.

The Sparks Eminent Faculty Award recognizes exceptional and sustained contributions to scholarly-creative achievement, teaching and service, and for bringing recognition to the University. A recipient must have been employed at the University for at least five years to be considered for the award.

Cox is an accomplished instructor, adviser and a prolific researcher, making significant practical contributions to her field and increasing the understanding of human behavior related to hearing. Her laboratory has produced numerous tools that are used internationally in both clinical and research settings, including the Loudness Contour Test, the Connected Speech Test, and the Satisfaction with Amplification in Daily Living Scale. Cox has been invited to present her work in many countries, including Spain, Great Britain, Australia, Canada, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, Belgium and Austria. Her extensive publications have appeared in top peer-reviewed journals, including the *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, *Ear and Hearing* and the *Journal of Speech and Hearing Research*.

She has received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences at Indiana University, the American Academy of Audiology's James Jerger Career Award for Research in Audiology, and is a two-time recipient of the University of Memphis' Distinguished Research Award. She has been with the U of M for 33 years. She is a Fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, an honor afforded to only about one percent of the organization's 130,000 members.