

# Look Who's TALKING

2000

Alumni Association  
Newsletter  
Department of  
Speech-Language  
Pathology  
University of Toronto

## ■ A Great Year in Review

**My first year as president** for the Department of Speech-Language Pathology Alumni Association coincided with Y2K... fortunately both went off without a hitch!

Of the many things I learned this past year, my favorite was the fact that Speech-Language Pathologists know how to cater a party! Our Welcome Students Event was held at the Madison Pub; both the venue and promise of free appetizers attracted many students, faculty, and alumni. Appetizers were also in abundance at this year's Graduation Reception, where we honored new graduates and their families. George Shields from the Barbershoppers attended this event to present an award for academic excellence. He also brought along a number of Christmas c.d.'s, as the quartet was unable to perform. We're hoping for a live performance next year!

The school year concluded with the Info-Social; an event planned to answer students' questions about the job market, interviews, and resumes. An informative "mock-interview" was staged with the help of a fabulous year II student to demonstrate the tricks of the trade (by the way Deryk, you got the job!). In true alumni-style, we also provided an abundance of food to counteract the depleting budgets that usually occur at this time of year.

Other achievements in 1999/2000 include obtaining external sponsorship from Meloche-Monnex for our J.F. Walker

lecture. The extra funds have enabled us to book David Luterman to do a one-day workshop on counseling. Watch for details early September.

Finally, you may have noticed that our newsletter is slightly shorter this year. The money we saved by shortening the newsletter has been donated to the Margaret Stoicheff Bursary, which we award annually to the student demonstrating greatest financial need. Together with a generous donation from the Department, these funds will be matched by U of T, allowing us to increase the amount of the bursary to approximately \$1000/year (from \$400/year). As you can imagine, this increase is desperately needed, given the rising costs of both tuition and rent in Toronto.

I hope you enjoy the new version of our newsletter and please feel free to contact us with any questions or suggestions you may have. More information regarding the mandate of the University of Toronto, Department of Speech-Language Pathology Alumni Association can be found at [www.slp.utoronto.ca](http://www.slp.utoronto.ca), or by contacting the department at 416-978-6882. We'd love to hear from you. Oh, and if you're looking for something to do once a month on Monday nights, I know of an alumni meeting where the food is definitely Y2K okay!

Best regards,

**Jenny Barker, 9T7**  
President, Alumni Executive Committee



ABOVE: Alumni Executive Members (left to right): Susan Tingley 9T8, Jenny Barker 9T7, Dr. Luigi Girolametto, Lisa McQueen 9T9, Megan Wiigs 9T9

BELOW:  
The Mock Interview with interviewer, Jenny Barker and interviewee, Deryk Beal.



# Message From Paula Square, Chair

Dear Alumni,

Greetings from your Alma Mater. The Department is now completing its 44th year and our 42nd class will be convocating in November, 2000. This year there will be 19 full-time M.H.Sc., 1 part-time M.H.Sc., and 1 Ph.D. graduate added to our already 626 alumni. Speech-language pathology is definitely a growing concern!

The Department has focused on curriculum renewal of the M.H.Sc. program during the past two academic years. Under the able leadership of Dr. Carla Johnson, a new M.H.Sc. curriculum will be launched in the Fall, 2000. The curriculum will be a modular one in which students will engage in units of full-time coursework interspersed with four full-time clinical placements in the areas of study that they have just completed. We are excited about this newly organized cohesive plan for delivering graduate professional education at the cutting-edge.

This spring the department hosted the inaugural "Donalda McGeachy Memorial

Lectureship". Dr. Audrey Holland was the first honoured visitor sponsored by the benevolence of Donald McGeachy, one of the founders of speech-language pathology in Toronto and Canada.

The Department is continuing its search for a new professor in the area of voice. In addition, the Dean of Medicine has announced the launching of the search for a new chair of the department. I complete my second term of chairmanship in June, 2001, and I am ineligible to stand for a third term in accordance with the University policies.

This is an exciting time for the department as we engage in the process of finding a new chair who will continue our vision of becoming an international leader among university programs in our discipline.

In September, our new Dean of Medicine, Dr. David Naylor, took up his post. Dean Naylor has reorganized the structure of the Faculty of Medicine into four sectors: Basic Sciences; Clinical Sciences;

Community Health; and Rehabilitation Sciences. The Department of Speech-Language Pathology along with the departments of Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, and the Graduate Department of Rehabilitation Sciences are working closely to build a Rehabilitation Science Sector of international importance. We have the support of our Dean to implement a plan for academic excellence in the burgeoning area of rehabilitation sciences. It is my hope that in my letter to you next year I will have some very exciting news regarding our future directions.

*On behalf of all members of the department, please accept our warmest wishes for continued professional success and personal happiness.*

Sincerely,

Paula A. Square, Ph.D.  
Professor and Chair

## Interested in Counselling

The University of Toronto,  
Speech-Language Pathology  
Alumni Association  
is thrilled to announce the  
2000 J. F. Walker Lecture  
Featuring

## David Luterman

"Counseling in  
Speech-Language Pathology"

**September 23, 2000**

Sponsored by:

The University of Toronto,  
Speech-Language Pathology  
Alumni Association

Department of  
Speech-Language Pathology,  
University of Toronto

Meloche-Monnex

## The American Women's Club of Toronto University of Toronto Scholarship

We are pleased to announce the establishment of the American Women's Club of Toronto - University of Toronto Scholarship in Speech-Language Pathology. The American Women's Club of Toronto has pledged a generous donation of \$60,000 to the Department of Speech-Language Pathology, to be matched by the University of Toronto yielding an endowment of \$120,000.

This fund will generate an annual income that will provide scholarships for one or more students in the M.H.Sc. program each year. The award will be one that endures in perpetuity. As you can imagine, the Department is delighted with this donation and we thank the American Women's Club of Toronto most sincerely for their long-standing support of our speech-language pathology professional students over the last 30 years.



The establishment of this recent award will continue to remind us of the significant support that has been so selflessly given to our students by American Women living in Toronto.

*Thank you!*

# The Good, the Bad, and the Downright Ugly

## Confessions of a New Grad!

by Lisa McQueen 9T9 & Megan Wiigs 9T9

### The Good

- You get paid!
- No more cramming for exams
- Finally being a "speech-language pathologist" – no longer a "student clinician"
- Truly beginning to develop your OWN clinical style
- Getting the chance to work as part of an interprofessional team
- YOU'RE the expert – finally YOU get to be the one with all the answers

### The Bad

- You're never paid quite enough!
- Exams may be over but you're tested daily and the answers make a difference to someone's life
- You may no longer be a "student clinician" but you miss the camaraderie that comes from being with the same group of people for two years straight
- Developing your own clinical style is tough when you realize that there is no ONE style that fits all clients
- As part of an interprofessional team, you're forced very quickly to speak up and advocate for the profession
- When YOU'RE the expert, suddenly YOU are supposed to have all the answers!

### The Downright Ugly

- Real-life OPE's: these don't look like my classmate's mouths!
- Diapers, drooling, bodily functions (need we say more?)
- Developing a hunchback from carting loads of therapy materials
- Need for "sensible shoes" results in daily fashion-faux-pas

Life as a new grad can be tough, but the everyday small successes make "The Bad" seem no so bad, and "The Good" really great. And the "Downright Ugly", well let's face it, that's still ugly.

## Dr. Bern O'Keefe The Whimsical, Reminiscent Professor

In 1971, as a 28-year old SLP who formerly had a "real job", I walked into the Old Zion Church on College Street to begin my academic career. I was taken to lunch that day by the audiology professor who remarked on my nice, new suit. "How do you know it's new", I asked him. "By the label on the left sleeve", he told me. Yes, I was very green. But now, 29 years later by the calendar, but only days later according to the clock in my mind, I am, according to the alumni newsletter committee "a seasoned veteran" worthy of retrospection.

In 1971 our program was in its 13th year. Three full-time faculty members with clinical training along with a few adjunct faculty and the clinical community seemed enough to look after the 30-odd students striving for a Diploma in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. Dysphagia? AAC? Research? Never heard of them.

Well, it's now 2000 and we have a research-trained faculty, doctoral students, million-dollar laboratories, and seats at the highest level of the Faculty of Medicine and the University. But are we really any better than we were in the early days? Well...absolutely "yes", in almost every way. Our students aren't any better -- they have always been the best! But our faculty is bigger, better and more productive. Our professional students now learn about issues we'd never even dreamed of and, because of that, are better than ever at working with those who need their help. And now, through research and the preparation of new researchers, we are contributing to the knowledge base of our discipline.

### Any regrets?

Only one. I won't be around for another 30 years to help the department continue to explore uncharted territory.

## Voice from yesteryear... CLASS of 7T5

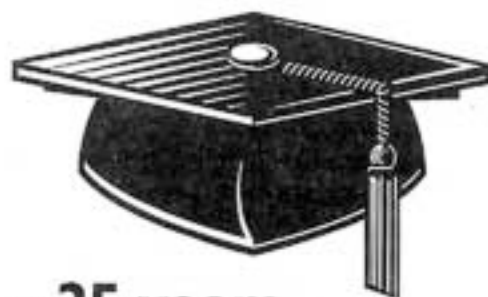
September, 1973...It was so long ago that a decent house in Toronto could be had for about \$40 000.

Sixteen hopefuls gathered in the Old Church on Elizabeth Street, in the shadow of Women's College Hospital, close by the nourishing establishments of Maloney's and the Dog House. We came from the east, the centre, and the west. We were looking for...lots of things. We found the gloriously shabby Old Church wherein a whistle echoed rather nicely off the stained glass windows from a different time. We found Jean Walker, Marg Stoicheff, Christina Rickards, Sandy Henderson and Bernie O'Keefe, inhabiting offices from hell and determinedly dragging us through a schedule from hell. We still don't forget our many other teachers, lecturers, clinical supervisors and first aid instructors, do we Barb? In this unlikely place we became engorged with a jumble of information that gradually reshaped itself into the foundation of our work today.

We sixteen strangers did our damndest to frustrate and impress our mentors,

worked hard, really, really hard, cried and laughed together, supported and challenged each other, partied quite a lot, and, in a feat seldom seen in the long and torturous history of the institute, graduated, all sixteen of us, tout les deux, the whole works. Nobody left burning at the side of the road, nobody trampled in the two-year long melee, sixteen smiling faces on that grad picture. Best of all, we did it together and we found friendship that is still ours today.

Jacques Soucie, 7T5



For **25 years** as  
Speech Language Pathologists...

# Congratulations



# Medical Chart "Notes"

**September, FIRST year**

**Cognition:** keen, top of the class, ready to learn about every nerve in the human body, completes all reading assignments (including optional material), resents photocopy fees

**Motor Skill:** physically fit, exercise regime followed regularly

**Social Interaction:** sober, eager to meet other people, loves everyone in the class, sees group work as a great idea

**Speech and Language:** effective communicator, MLU – 15.0

**Toxicology Report:** Caffeine level 0.00 units – Student reports that he prefers to stay alert by eating a healthy diet and getting the proper amount of sleep

**Diagnosis:** classic over-achiever

**Treatment:** provide counseling regarding the degenerative nature of this condition

## A twist on Evaluating the Speech-Language Pathology Student

**May, SECOND year**

**Cognition:** inconsistent identification of left vs. right, resents photocopy fees

**Motor Skill:** Unable to climb to the 3rd floor classroom of Tanz (without elevator), unable to coordinate simultaneous walking and talking

**Social Interaction:** socially inept, socially withdrawn, often found rocking in the corner, sabotages group projects, only studies independently

**Speech and Language:** tangential conversational style, MLU – 2.0, perseverates on the phrase 'me want job'

**Toxicology Report:** Caffeine level 0.20 units – Student reports that he is a Tim Horton's share holder

**Diagnosis:** TBI

**Treatment Plan:** electro-shock therapy, query AAC

by  
Year I and Year II students

**May, FIRST year**

**Cognition:** has given up competing with 19 other over achievers, seems unaware of existence of textbooks, resents photocopy fees

**Motor Skill:** writer's cramp, weak eyes from staring at the computer screen, sole form of exercise involves the walk to Tim Horton's on break

**Social Interaction:** ADHD, difficulty maintaining meaningful personal relationships – losing friends fast, only half the class is still speaking to each other, student reports that "group work is fun, but who has the time?"

**Speech and Language:** disfluent, apraxic, word-finding difficulties, MLU – 6.5

**Toxicology Report:** Caffeine level 0.08 units – Student reports that he is on first name basis with Tim Horton's staff

**Diagnosis:** possible frontal lobe damage from repeated head banging against desk

**Treatment:** advise student to take 1 month off and enroll in relaxation training

## Alumni Executive Committee

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| President                                  | Jenny Barker 9T7  |
| Treasurer                                  | Susan Tingley 9T8   |
| Secretary                                  | Carolyn Dunn 9T7  |
| Faculty Liaison                            | Dr. Luigi Girolametto   |
| Faculty of Medicine Council Representative | Gwen Merrick 9T8  |
| Year 1 Representative                      | Stacey Sandusky   |
| Year 2 Representative                      | Tracy Hsu   |
| Newsletter Committee                       | Christiane Kyte 9T5<br>Lisa McQueen, 9T9<br>Susan Tingley 9T8<br>Megan Wiigs, 9T9 |
| Members at Large                           | Marla Roth 9T5<br>Tara Whalen, 9TB  |



ABOVE:  
The "whimsical professor", Dr. Bern O'Keefe, reminiscing in his office at the University of Toronto.

LEFT:  
Dr. Paul Square with Deborah Huntley, Administrative Manager (right) and Camille Boothe, Administrative Assistant for Student Affairs (left).