

# Look Who's TALKING

2004 Speech-Language Pathology  
Alumni Association Newsletter University of Toronto

**WANTED: ONE ENERGETIC, VERY ORGANISED INDIVIDUAL TO FIND MEANINGFUL PLACEMENTS FOR 80 DRIVEN, SOMEWHAT DEMANDING S-LP STUDENTS (AND GIVE LECTURES TOO!)** By Lisa McQueen, 9T9

**W**e waited with bated breath to see who would accept this impressive but daunting position. Well, I'd like to introduce you to the Department's new coordinator of clinical education – Lynn Ellwood. Happily, she is completely sane (for the time being) and thrilled with the challenges of her new position.

When asked what prompted her to apply for this position, Lynn enthusiastically responded, "It was a calling. I couldn't resist it." She has supervised students in settings spanning the rehabilitation continuum from acute care through to the community. Her work as a case manager for the CCAC and private practice further prepared her for the challenges of this new position.

Speaking of challenges, the most imminent is the growing S-LP class size. There will eventually be 40 students in each class, and this will mean devising creative models for clinical education. Lynn gave me a taste of what she and Susan Wagner have planned. One idea is a 2:1 model (two students for one CE). This model has the

advantage that students support each other in the learning process. Another model would be pairing a part-time S-LP with a full time, advanced student. Here, the student would work with other team members or do prep work on the CE's days off. Still another exciting opportunity is to pair a senior and junior student. The senior student is able to practise providing feedback in a meaningful context. Lynn's enthusiasm was so contagious, I was ready to sign up for two students next term!

I used my best Barbara Walters techniques in an attempt to delve below the surface, but Lynn wasn't dishing. She did however breakdown momentarily to divulge a passion.... for amateur competitive sailing!

Welcome to the Department of Speech-Language Pathology Lynn! We are happy that the wind has pushed you in our direction, and hope that once you learn the ropes, your new position will bring you nothing but smooth sailing!



## ALUMNI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

<b>Deryk Beal,</b> (president, newsletter committee)	0T0
<b>Beth McMillen,</b> (treasurer, newsletter committee)	0T1
<b>Lindsay White,</b> (Year One representative, newsletter committee)	0T5
<b>Beth Anne Paul,</b> (Year Two representative, newsletter committee)	0T4
<b>Dr. Alice Brophy</b> (faculty liaison)	
<b>Ian Roth,</b> (newsletter editor)	0T0
<b>Jennifer Barker,</b> (newsletter committee)	9T7
<b>Lisa McQueen,</b> (newsletter committee)	9T9
<b>Susan Tingley,</b> (newsletter committee)	9T8
<b>Gwen Merrick,</b> (newsletter committee)	9T8
<b>Carolyn Stuart,</b>	9T7

# MARS AND FIRST YEAR SPEECH: Two new worlds explored this year

By Lindsay White, OT5

I can't believe it's already March! This program is flying by and before we know it we'll be joining all of you out in the real world...

It's been a wild ride since September when many of us packed our bags and moved to Toronto in hopes of becoming S-LPs. Although most of us come from Ottawa or Southern Ontario, we do have a couple imports from as far as Manitoba and the



Maritimes. And this year we have been graced with the presence of one male among 27 highly energetic females.

The first unit (September through December) went by in a flash but left many of us wondering how we were ever going to get through two years. Our Year Two "buddies" have assured us that the first unit is the worst and things get better from here. We've placed our full confidence in them and have already found Unit 2 to be a cakewalk in comparison. The five courses that make up Unit 1 kept us busy and more than a little tired. Countless sleepless nights were our initiation into the program. Thank God for Tim Horton's and Second Cup's Toonie Tuesdays (lattés for two dollars)! The new Rehab building is wonderful and we love taking full advantage of the 10<sup>th</sup> floor lounge with its big couches – perfect for a between-class nap!

Our time has been filled with assignments, midterms, exams, and *more* assignments, but we've still found a few spare moments to have a good time and get to know each other. There have been some parties, numerous outings to local drinking holes, and of course a couple potlucks (which I understand are an S-LP tradition). Our outings have caused quite a stir and even resulted in two different TV appearances (one on CityPulse and another on MuchMore Music)! I'd like to say that we are trying to earn more recognition for our future profession but the truth is that we're just a bunch of rowdies at heart.

We are now entering into our first placement and are both nervous and excited. It will feel great to get out of the classroom and actually try applying these heaps of knowledge we've acquired in the last six months. One step closer to the real world!

## OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD

In an effort to recognize University of Toronto alumni who have made outstanding contributions to the field of Speech-Language Pathology, the Alumni Association will select one recipient/year who excels in at least *two* of the following areas of achievement:

**EDUCATION:** Exceptional contribution to research, teaching, and/or student training

**CLINICAL SERVICES:** Viewed by colleagues as a mentor or resource due to professional/clinical expertise  
Implementation or involvement in innovative programs for the benefit of clients

**PROMOTION OF THE PROFESSION:** Volunteer involvement with the college and/or professional associations  
Professional representation on committees and/or health-related boards  
Involvement in speech-language pathology program development (e.g., in hospital, school board, preschool centre etc.)  
Promotion of speech-language pathology to health professionals, community groups, clients, students etc.

Nominations should include a brief letter outlining evidence of excellence in two of the above areas of achievement. Letters may be supported by the nominee's CV. Nominations should be received by the alumni executive faculty representative (Dr. Alice Eriks-Brophy) no later than the second Friday in September.

# Growth Spurt

By Timothy  
Poon, OT4

in second year

While cleaning up my workspace one evening, I came across last year's Alumni Association Newsletter. It contained a year-old article written by my classmate Rachelle Charland in which she discussed the nature and goings-on of our class.

Reading the article, I began to reflect on the many things that have happened to us over the past 12 months. The word 'growth' came to my mind several times as I read. As a class, we have grown in our academic and clinical knowledge. We have also grown professionally, gaining a deeper appreciation of the issues the speech-language pathology community faces today. Many people in the class have demonstrated leadership qualities over the course of the year by advocating not only on behalf of their clients at placement sites but on behalf of their profession as well. We had a remarkable turnout, for example, at the

at Faculty of Medicine Open House, where no less than nine of us turned up to extol the virtues of speech-language pathology to high school students and undergraduates alike. Tricia Atherton and Mumtaz Ahmad, our resident CASLPA student representatives, helped to organize a day-long workshop on counselling, a skill whose importance many of us came to appreciate after working with patients in our clinical placements. Jessica

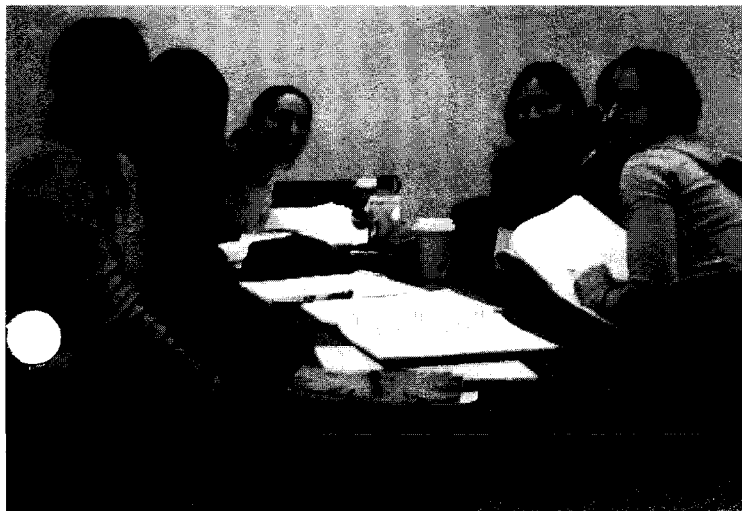


Altoft took on the onerous task of organizing a job fair for the class. Janice W. Bennett took the initiative to get one of our professors nominated for a teaching award. The list goes on and on.

There was another type of growth that took place in our class, one that was less tangible, yet no less real. This past year, several individuals in our group suffered great losses in their lives. At one point, it seemed like only a few weeks would go by before another classmate experienced a life-changing event. What was amazing me during this time was the class's ability to rally around the hurting individuals in the midst of hectic school schedules to exhibit genuine concern in very concrete ways.

I firmly believe that the hardships experienced by some, and the subsequent rallying by all, helped to forge a deeper dynamic within our class.

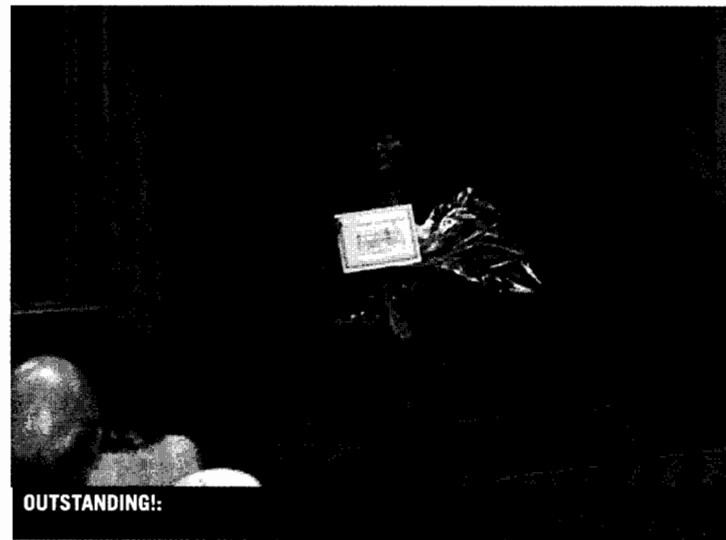
As much as we look forward to graduating and beginning life as new clinicians, the camaraderie and support within the class surely will be missed. No doubt we'll be holding onto each other's phone numbers and email addresses for those panicked "What do I do!?" moments in the first years of practice.



# Yes, we get letters...

I would like to thank the University of Toronto, Department of Speech-Language Pathology Alumni Association for presenting me with the Outstanding Alumni award on November 18, 2003. As a graduate of the Class of 1975, I look back with appreciation and fond memories on the excellent academic and professional education I received, and particularly on the relationships with the professors and my fellow students, of whom many are life-long friends. After more than 25 years, I continue to enjoy the profession of speech-language pathology, the challenges and the

opportunities for ongoing learning and service development in schools where I have spent most of my career. A highlight of my current position as the coordinator of speech-language pathology, northeast and southeast, in the Toronto District School Board, has been the expansion of an early oral language intervention program begun in the former Scarborough Board into the Kindergarten Early Language Intervention (KELI)



Program at ten host schools. Beyond the school board, I have been professionally and personally enriched by my involvement in OSLA's School Services Committee over several years and recently, by becoming an elected member of CASLPO's Executive Council. I encourage all speech-language pathologists to step up and participate for the benefit of your clients, the public, the profession and yourselves!

JOANNE SHIMOTAKAHARA, 7T5

## Researcher rhapsodizes on reading readiness

By Beth McMillen, OT1

**T**he J.F. Walker Lecture at the Department of Speech-Language Pathology is offered annually in honour of Jean F. Walker, Professor Emerita, who was the first full-time faculty member at the Department and instrumental in establishing the M.H.Sc. program in 1978.

On Oct. 27th, 2003, Dr. Betty Ann Levy, professor and chair of Psychology at McMaster University in Hamilton, was invit-

ed to the University of Toronto to address the Speech-Language Pathology community. Dr. Levy discussed a brief history of the print system and how early experiences set up mental representations needed to develop later reading skills. Dr. Levy reviewed work showing that even very poor readers benefit from training on orthographic and phonological units. Some of Dr. Levy's research has focused on children with a single core deficit

in phonological awareness and children with coexisting deficits in phonological awareness and rapid automatized naming skills.

This lecture was an excellent opportunity to understand how psychologists view reading and language and how we can all learn from each other. For further information about Dr. Levy's work see:

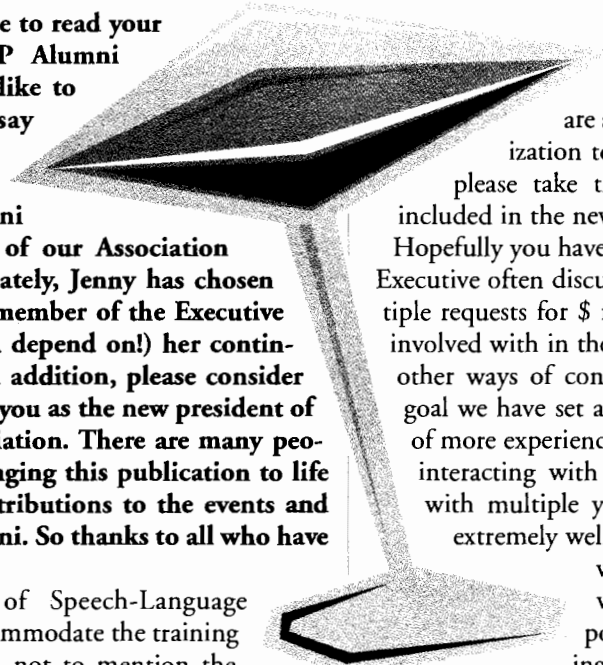
[www.science.mcmaster.ca/Psychology/bal.htm](http://www.science.mcmaster.ca/Psychology/bal.htm)

# IT'S AN ONGOING PARTY AND YOU'RE ALL INVITED

By Deryk Beal, OT0

**T**hank you for taking the time to read your copy of the U of T S-LP Alumni Association Newsletter! I'd like to take this opportunity to say "thank you" to Jenny Barker for her excellent work and dedication serving our Alumni and students as the president of our Association over the last four years. Fortunately, Jenny has chosen to continue to contribute as a member of the Executive at large and we appreciate (and depend on!) her continued commitment and input. In addition, please consider this my introduction to each of you as the new president of the U of T S-LP Alumni Association. There are many people who deserve thanks for bringing this publication to life as well as for their tireless contributions to the events and awards that we support as Alumni. So thanks to all who have contributed in the past year!

Now, as the Department of Speech-Language Pathology at U of T grows to accommodate the training of up to 40 S-LPs in each class, not to mention the growing M.Sc. and Ph.D. programs, so does the expense of meeting our proposed mandate to help the students in those programs. I am sure you can remember an event or award that



the Alumni Association supported that helped you through your time as a student in the Department. If you are able to contribute financially to our organization to support student life in the Department, please take the time to complete the donation slip included in the newsletter.

Hopefully you haven't stopped reading at this point! We as an Executive often discuss how Alumni are exhausted by the multiple requests for \$ from the organizations that we have been involved with in the past. However, we as Alumni have many other ways of contributing besides opening our wallets. A goal we have set as an Executive is to increase participation of more experienced graduates in the Alumni Executive and interacting with current students. The input of Alumni with multiple years of experience to students would be extremely well received. We are a warm, welcoming and wonderful small group of people and we would love to have you join our monthly potluck themed (and very informal!) meetings hosted at a member's home. Please consider this an open invitation to all U of T S-LP graduates to join the Alumni Executive. If you are interested, please call me at **416.813.6554**.

## Not Just Good - Good For You, Too!: LUIGI GIROLAMETTO AWARDED THE CENTRE FOR HEALTH PROMOTION'S HEALTHY U OF T AWARD

By Steve Wilcox, OT1

**T**he 2003 recipient of this coveted award is distinguished S-LP Faculty Member, Luigi Girolametto. Each year, the award is presented to those who "create social and environmental conditions that promote the health and well-being of others."

Luigi was nominated by this year's S-LP's, in part due to his uncanny ability to "do the right thing" during emotionally-charged situations, and his genuine concern and compassion for students and colleagues alike throughout the year.

Leading by example, Luigi has achieved that fine balance between research and

teaching. His accomplishments include: a commitment to an "open-door policy" to provide assistance whenever needed, and encouraging 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Year students to participate in the "buddy system." Luigi is infamous for establishing the S-LP "Life Saver Award" - complete with candy in true Luigi style - that recognizes students who do something unasked for and beneficial for the class. Ultimately, his contributions result in a supportive learning environment that fosters intellectual, professional and personal growth. Congratulations Luigi on a well-deserved award.



# Our Department keeps getting stronger!

**By Luc De Nil, Chair, Department of Speech-Language Pathology**

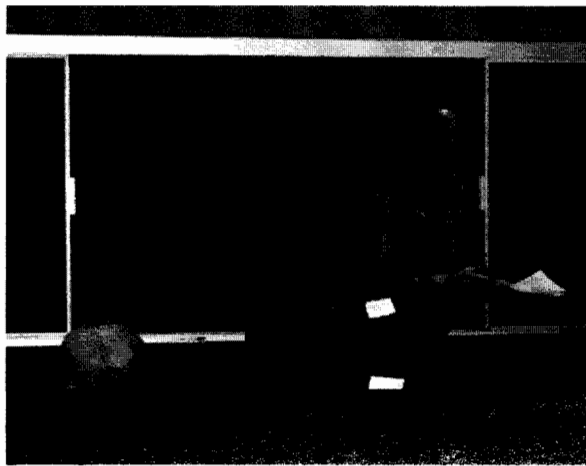
**A** few years back, our Department agreed to double the professional student enrolment in an effort to help alleviate the shortage of practising clinicians in Ontario and across Canada. Since then, we have slowly been increasing our number of admitted students. This coming year, we will be admitting 36 new S-LP students. This is an exciting time, but also one that creates the necessary headaches. Classroom space, teaching resources, and providing the necessary clinical placements, to name just a few, all pose their own challenges. Luckily, we have a strong and committed team willing to work together to confront these challenges head on!

And this team is growing: Over the last few years, a number of outstanding new Faculty members (Tim Bressmann, Alice Eriks-Brophy, Lynn Ellwood) have joined our ranks, and we are in the process of attracting one more this year. Throughout April, we interviewed a number of excellent candidates for a new Faculty position in the area of neurogenic disorders, swallowing and/or AAC. Four candidates were short-listed from a list of 23 applicants to give a public lecture as part of the hiring process.

Lots of other exciting things are happening. Carla Johnson has been awarded the CASLPA Eve Kassirer Award for Outstanding Professional Achievement this year. Carla was nominated for the award not only for her outstanding achievements in the renewal of our professional academic program, but also for her tremendous and numerous other contributions to our profession in areas such as her research and service. The award will be officially handed to her at the awards ceremony during the CASLPA Conference in Ottawa this May. I hope you can be there to celebrate with us. Pascal van Lieshout, whom most of you know as our speech scientist, was granted tenure at the University and

has been named a Canada Research Chair in recognition of his outstanding research. This prestigious award will allow him to have more time and resources available to pursue his research while still maintaining involvement in teaching our professional and doctoral students. Arpita Bose, now Dr. Bose, is our latest doctoral student who has successfully defended her Ph.D. thesis. She will be embarking on post-doctoral training at the University of Windsor in the very near future. Two new students will be starting in our doctoral program this fall, but we have room for more. On April 28<sup>th</sup>, our Department organized an information session on our doctoral program for all of our Alumni and other interested students.

The university has asked us to prepare a strategic plan outlining our academic priorities and strategies for the next six years. This is an opportunity for our Department to reflect on what we have been able to accomplish in the past few years and where we want to go now. A kick-off brainstorming retreat was organized early in February with active involvement from current students, Alumni, and clinical educators. While there are many things we still want to do, it is clear that we have accomplished a lot already in recent years. Just to name a few examples: Our extensive curriculum review for the professional program, continued expansion of our clinical placement opportunities, the initiation of our doctoral programs, and our move to a new and permanent building. Many of these and other past accomplishments would not have been possible without the generous involvement of many of you, for which we extend our most sincere thanks! We hope that we will be able to continue counting on your involvement in the years to come, whether it is as clinical educators, guest lecturers, committee members, consultants



on various academic issues, research collaborators, or active Alumni. Together we can make sure that our Department continues to graduate the professionals our clients and future students deserve!

**The University of Toronto respects your privacy. We do not rent, trade or sell our mailing lists. If you do not wish to receive future issues of the Speech-Language Pathology Alumni Newsletter, please contact us at \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_"**