



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

# *Communicating Excellence*



*50th Anniversary Celebration*

Celebrating 50 Years of Educating Leaders  
in Speech-Language Pathology

1958-2008

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M.D., MEDICAL DIRECTOR  
1958-1970



**William M. Franks**  
M.D., MEDICAL DIRECTOR  
1970-1973



**Jean F. (Ward) Walker**  
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**Paula A. Square**  
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# 50th Anniversary Celebration

## A Short History

IN 2008, THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO'S DEPARTMENT OF Speech-Language Pathology celebrates its first 50 years. Evolving from a small, postgraduate diploma program with minimal resources, today the Department of Speech-Language Pathology offers Master of Health Science, Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees within the Faculty of Medicine and the School of Graduate Studies.

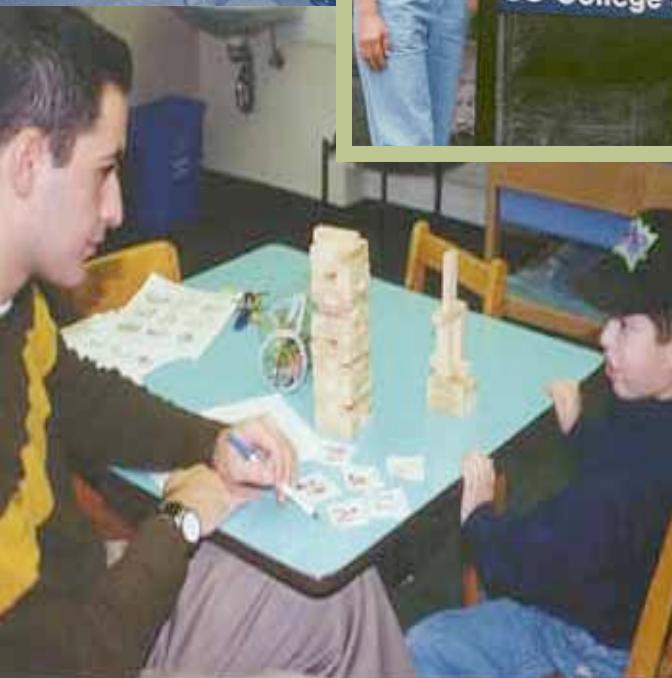
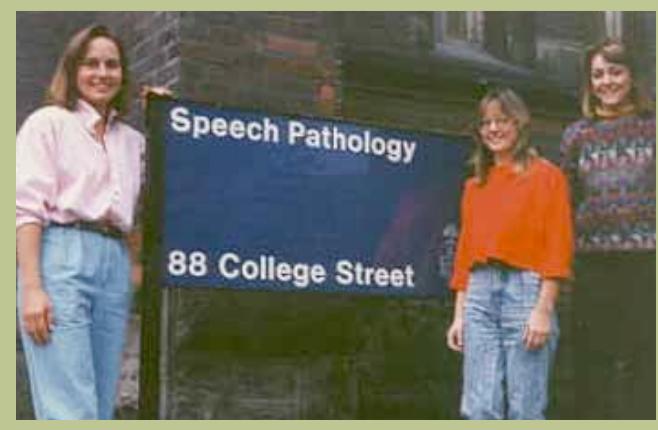
The program's history has been defined by continual innovation, strong leadership and numerous challenges. Its success has been guided by dedicated faculty, staff, clinical educators, and students, who believed that speech-language pathology has a fundamental role to play in meeting the communication needs of Canadians.

STATUTE NO 2539 –  
*Respecting a Diploma in  
Speech Pathology and  
Audiology BY THE SENATE OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF  
TORONTO BE IT ENACTED:  
THAT A Diploma in Speech  
Pathology and Audiology and a  
Course of Instruction leading  
thereto be, and the same are,  
hereby established in the  
Faculty of Medicine.*  
– DECEMBER 13, 1957

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*Pioneers who provided academic and clinical teaching in the early years of the program: (l-r) Anthony and Elizabeth Bowie, Ernest Douglass, Donalda McGeachy (and nephew), Margaret Hamlen, Ruth Lewis, and Keith Neely.*





## Innovation ... From the beginning

SERVICES FOR THOSE WITH COMMUNICATION DISORDERS WERE VERY LIMITED AND URGENTLY NEEDED IN THE EARLY 1950s. A small contingent of local speech pathologists urged the University to consider establishing a course of study. The Dean of the Faculty of Medicine initially resisted but then bowed to the pressure and established a committee to consider the possibility. As a result of the committee's deliberations, a postgraduate Diploma in Speech Pathology and Audiology was launched in 1958. It was the first such program offered in the English language in Canada.

The first instructors were clinicians from teaching hospitals and specialized centres. Although only a few clinical services and practitioners existed in Toronto at the time, they all worked enthusiastically to provide teaching and supervised clinical practice. Faculty from other departments taught basic and clinical sciences as well as subjects in related disciplines, for example, linguistics and psychology. These inter-disciplinary associations have been maintained through the years and are considered an important strength of the program.

*Ernest "Van" Douglass, who taught the course on stuttering, fascinated us with his mind-reading ability, learned during a former career on stage. He used his performing talents in much of his teaching, making for some dramatic moments!*

FRANCES (GRADER) EZERZER,  
CLASS OF 6T2

From the beginning the program made landmark contributions to the community. In the '60s, diagnostic clinics for children with communication disorders were held in public health units around the province. These led to the provision of two intensive summer therapy programs for children from underserved areas. Later, outreach to the school-aged population established a link with Boards of Education that eventually led to the incorporation of speech pathologists into the educational system.

In the early days all contributors felt they were creating something new and vital. Close bonds formed among instructors and students in Toronto's small but vibrant speech pathology community. "The first students," according to Jean F. (Ward) Walker, who in 1959 was a clinician at the Toronto Psychiatric Hospital, "were very keen, very hard-working. All the hospital-based clinicians and teaching faculty at the university were determined to give them the best education and experience possible."

## *Leadership ... Every step of the way*

INITIALLY, THE PROGRAM WAS ADMINISTERED BY A MEDICAL DIRECTOR, DR. C. M. GODFREY.

4 Professor Jean (Ward) Walker was the first full-time faculty member, appointed in 1962. She provided leadership through critical initiatives in the early years of Speech Pathology. Dr. William M. Franks, who succeeded Dr. Godfrey as Medical Director in 1970, worked tirelessly to improve the status of Speech Pathology both within the University and the professional community. He was instrumental in increasing full-time faculty positions in 1971 (Professor Bernard M. O'Keefe) and 1972 (Professors Sandra M. Henderson, Christine M. Rickards, and Margaret L. Stoicheff).

By 1973, Speech Pathology had become a Division within the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, with Professor Walker as its Director. Strong leadership, increased faculty, and the establishment of an independent Division were all factors that strengthened the program and opened the door to new achievements, particularly the upgrading of the program to the master's level. This was a formidable task, finally accomplished after eight years of planning and intense negotiation by Professor Walker and her colleagues. In the face of opposition from certain sectors of the University, the program came into being because of the steadfast commitment of Professor Walker and the full-time faculty, and the support of associates both within and outside the University. In 1978, the School of Graduate Studies formally recognized speech pathology as a distinct academic discipline through the establishment of the master's program in a Graduate Department of Speech Pathology. Students would now graduate with a Master of Health Science degree (M.H.Sc.).

The program faced numerous challenges in the 1980s under the leadership of Dr. Margaret Stoicheff. Dr. Stoicheff fought to maintain and strengthen the M.H.Sc. program by addressing unrest among clinical educators, concerns of DSPA alumni, needs of faculty for research time, and needs of students for current educational resources. In 1986 the program faced the threat of closure due to poor physical space and lack of resources. It was only through the strong leadership of Professor Stoicheff and her dedicated supporters that the program survived.

## *50th Anniversary Celebration*

In 1989, as Dr. Paula Square became Department Chair, once again the program was threatened with closure because of physical space that was unsuited to the goals and requirements of a master's program. Dr. Square demanded that the university take notice, and successfully fought for new space and faculty.

A number of milestones in the evolution of the academic program followed in rapid succession under Dr. Square's leadership. Speech Pathology achieved departmental status within the Faculty of Medicine in 1992. A research degree program, the M.Sc., was inaugurated in 1995 and, a year later, a doctoral studies program. Very quickly, research degree education at the Department of Speech-Language Pathology at the University of Toronto gained a well-earned reputation for excellence. In the final years of her term, Dr. Square initiated a major curriculum revision for the M.H.Sc. program and planned for increases in space, faculty, students, and resources that would accompany the department's next move.

As Dr. Luc De Nil succeeded Dr. Square in 2001, he led the program forward through the implementation of the M.H.Sc. curriculum revision, the move to 500 University Avenue, and, soon after, a dramatic increase in student enrollment. These changes attracted positive attention for the department. According to a recent external review, "The University of Toronto's Master of Health Science degree in Speech-Language Pathology is one of the most innovative models of clinical education we have seen."



# Timeline



6

1955

The Dean of the Faculty of Medicine establishes a committee to investigate the feasibility of initiating a program in Speech Pathology and Audiology at the University of Toronto.

1957

The University Senate approves the establishment of a two-year postgraduate diploma course in Speech Pathology and Audiology.

1958

On September 24, the course is inaugurated within the Faculty of Medicine, with seven students enrolled.

1959

The Faculty of Medicine creates a new Division of Rehabilitation Medicine, which absorbs the Speech Pathology and Audiology diploma course.

1960

The first graduates are awarded a Diploma in Speech Pathology and Audiology (DSPA): Barbara E. Brown, Terese (Tess) H. (Lecky) Burrows, Eleanor Catto, Ruth (Thomas) Glennie and Joe Klein.

1962

First full-time faculty member is appointed.

1972

"Audiology" is removed from the title of the program and the diploma. Students will now graduate with a Diploma in Speech Pathology (DSP).

Faculty submit a proposal to the School of Graduate Studies to establish a two-year graduate program leading to a master's degree in speech pathology.

1973

Speech Pathology becomes a Division of its own within the newly created Department of Rehabilitation Medicine. Professor Jean F. (Ward) Walker, a speech-language pathologist, is appointed its Director.

1975

The proposal for a master's degree program is approved by the Governing Council of the University of Toronto.

1978

The Graduate Department of Speech Pathology is established within the School of Graduate Studies. The inaugural master's degree program begins, with 20 students.

1979

The two-year post-graduate Diploma in Speech Pathology is phased out, with 203 students having completed the course of study.

# 50th Anniversary Celebration



1980

The first 16 students graduate from the master's program with a Master of Health Science degree (M.H.Sc.).

1984

Recognizing the dedication of unpaid clinical educators, appointments to the University for clinical educators (status only) are instituted.

An official statement on the academic status of the postgraduate diploma is provided to diploma graduates to recognize their degree as comparable to master's degrees from other North American universities.

1985

The program's first computer facilities for teaching and research are installed.

1992

The Division of Speech Pathology gains departmental status and becomes the Department of Speech Pathology.

1994

The Department is re-named the Department of Speech-Language Pathology (Faculty of Medicine) and the Graduate Department of Speech-Language Pathology (School of Graduate Studies).

1995

A research degree program is inaugurated, leading to a Master of Science degree (M.Sc.).

1996

A program of doctoral studies is established, leading to a Ph.D.

1998

A review by the Ontario Council of Graduate Studies gives the highest possible rating to all three departmental programs – M.H.Sc., M.Sc. and Ph.D.

2000

The department awards its first Ph.D. degree to Rupal Patel and launches a new M.H.Sc. curriculum.



2005

The department attains its target enrolment of 40 students in each year of the M.H.Sc. program.

2007

All three departmental programs again receive the highest possible quality ratings in a review by the Ontario Council of Graduate Studies

2008

The department celebrates its 50th Anniversary.

*We were taught by individuals who possess a wealth of knowledge and expertise, and a passion for what they do. I thank all of my professors for their dedication to their students and to our profession.*

LISA BITONTI-GAGLIARDI,  
CLASS OF OT2

## Challenges ... Never few and far between

FROM THE PROGRAM'S INCEPTION TO THE PRESENT DAY, COUNTLESS CHALLENGES HAVE BEEN MET. From upgrading, reviewing and expanding the academic program, to attracting first-rate faculty, to maintaining excellence in clinical education, the program has kept pace with rapid changes in the discipline over 50 years.

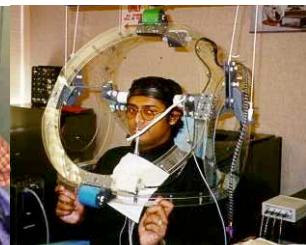
8

Over the years, funding has perhaps been the greatest challenge. The pressure to find adequate funding to meet the program's goals in both professional and research streams has placed heavy demands on both administrative and academic staff.

Another challenge for the Department, and for speech-language pathology in general, involved making the transition from its clinical beginnings to a respected scientific discipline. Through the years, research activities increased in importance. At first the program suffered from a lack of available faculty time and suitable laboratory space, and a shortage of basic instrumentation. Nevertheless, students were inspired by the spirit of inquiry they found in their teachers. Donalda McGeachy and Ernest Douglass, for example, were actively engaged in research as early as the 1950s. Some research funding was obtained in the '70s, but it was not until the master's degree program was established in 1978 that faculty members were able to significantly expand their research productivity. The program's research and scholarly activities have increased dramatically since then to incorporate many aspects of speech-language pathology, both in traditional areas (e.g., voice, stuttering, child language) and more recent additions (e.g., swallowing, augmentative/alternative communication, telehealth, and interprofessional education).

*I think of the  
Old Church with  
its creaky,  
echoing main  
hall, the nooks  
and crannies  
where profs had  
their offices....*

MARGIT  
(TINTSE)  
PUKONEN,  
CLASS OF 8T1



## *50th Anniversary Celebration*

Finding an appropriate physical location for the program was a persistent challenge. In 1962, the “Little Red Schoolhouse” – the Engineering Building – became the program’s first home. Built in the 1880s, it was among the oldest buildings on campus. In 1966 the program moved to the Old Zion Church at 88 College Street, a space totally unsuited to an educational program. Vivid memories persist of the time spent in the Old Church, where the program was forced to remain until 1993.

The next move, to the Tanz Neuroscience Building (1993 – 2001), was greeted with optimism. The department now had larger classrooms, space for research laboratories, clinical and observation rooms, and student resource areas. The university agreed to upgrade the facilities in response to pressure, which allowed the program to open up research stream programs. It was not long, however, before another move was planned. In 2002 the program relocated to 500 University Avenue, with future expansion a possibility if required to meet the program’s complex and growing needs.

## *Dedication ... To our past and to the future*

THROUGH THE YEARS, THANKS TO THE DEDICATION OF FACULTY, STAFF, CLINICAL EDUCATORS, STUDENTS and external supporters, speech-language pathology has strengthened its professional and academic contributions both within and outside the University.

It is with great pleasure that the Department of Speech-Language Pathology celebrates its 50th anniversary, by taking a look back while at the same time maintaining a clear focus on the future.

*Speech  
Pathology is a  
success story.*

DEAN J. E. F.  
HASTINGS,  
1983



## *50th Anniversary Celebration*

### *The Community: An Invaluable Support*

OUR DEEPEST APPRECIATION GOES TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS, WHOSE SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY HAVE GREATLY ENRICHED AND STRENGTHENED THE PROGRAM OVER THE YEARS:



#### ■ The American Women's Club of Toronto

In 1960 the American Women's Club established the first scholarship fund for students of the program. A substantial increase to the fund from the estate of a pioneer club member followed, and in the year 2000 the Club made a \$60,000 endowment. Matching funds from the University have ensured that the "Anna Davenport Scholarship Fund" will provide scholarship monies in perpetuity. As of 2008, the American Women's Club has supported 93 students.



#### ■ Jean E. Pierce

Jean E. Pierce established the Ross Pierce Speech Pathology Trust Fund in 1972 in memory of her late husband. Interest from the fund subsequently supported the Ross Pierce Memorial Scholarship, offered annually to a student in the program.



#### ■ The Speech Foundation of Ontario

The department made a major contribution to the development of the Foundation, in collaboration with Jean E. Pierce and other community members, and supported the establishment of the Foundation's first treatment facility. In turn, Foundation staff have contributed regularly to academic and clinical teaching, and departmental faculty have engaged in collaborative research with the Foundation since the 1980s. In 1991, the Foundation and the Barbershop Harmony Society jointly established a Trust Fund in appreciation of Professor Jean F. Walker on her retirement. The Fund is used "for academic enrichment of the graduate program and development of academic staff." The Speech Foundation has also provided financial aid for students and supported other departmental initiatives over the years.



*Community*

## George Shields and the Harmonize for Speech Fund

The year 1977 marked the beginning of a relationship with the incomparable George Shields, Chairman of the Harmonize for Speech Fund of the Ontario District Association of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Through George's leadership and steadfast commitment to people with communication disorders, the Harmonize for Speech Fund has supported individual students and the department's academic, research, and clinical teaching programs. Annually, the Harmonize for Speech Fund sponsors: (a) two academic excellence and two entrance scholarships for M.H.Sc. students; (b) bursary awards for students in financial need; (c) a textbook for each incoming student; and (d) a reception for the graduating class (co-sponsor). Recently, the Harmonize for Speech Fund provided a major donation of \$100,000 for the departmental teaching clinic, now appropriately named the "Harmonize for Speech Fund Clinic." Since 1977, the Harmonize for Speech Fund has contributed almost half a million dollars to the department. "We sing that they shall speak" is the Barbershopper's motto. And they sing their hearts out. We are all greatly indebted to George Shields and his colleagues.

## Donalda McGeachy Memorial Fund

Donalda J. McGeachy was a pioneer of speech pathology in Canada, who made a significant contribution to the program in its early years. She was a strong advocate for the profession and a vital force in the founding of the Ontario and the Canadian Speech and Hearing Associations. Donalda died in 1990. In 1994, her friend Dr. Dorothy Ley donated monies from Donalda's estate and her own estate to the department in memory of Donalda. These monies now support the Donalda Jean McGeachy Memorial Scholarships and the Donalda Jean McGeachy Memorial Lecture.

## Chris Gandy International Outreach Award

Chris Gandy, an early graduate of the program, recently established this award to enable students in speech-language pathology to undertake a final internship placement in a developing country. The intent of the award is to raise awareness and promote outreach to nations in need.

## Academic Excellence Awards

In the early 2000s, several supporters initiated yearly awards for students who excelled in specific aspects of the new M.H.Sc. curriculum. Catriona Steele, a graduate of both the M.H.Sc. and Ph.D. programs, endowed the Paula Square Award of Excellence, given to the student with the best performance in the final academic unit of the program. Colleagues from the University Health Network and the Speech Foundation of Ontario also provided awards to the top ranked students in the areas of neurogenic/structurally related disorders and developmental disorders, respectively.

# *50th Anniversary Celebration*

## *Alumni Association*

The Speech-Language Pathology Alumni Association (originally called the Speech Pathology and Audiology Alumni Association) was founded in 1971 by a small group of diploma graduates with the support and guidance of Prof. Jean (Ward) Walker. For almost four decades, the Association has been a vital participant in the development of the program. In the early 1970s, members of the Alumni gave significant support to the establishment of a master's degree program.

The Alumni Association has also made invaluable financial contributions to the program for continuing professional education, the establishment of awards and scholarships, the purchase of equipment and clinical materials, and the funding of student research projects. Of particular note are events and awards honouring faculty members of the program – the annual J.F. Walker Lecture (est. 1983), the S.M. Henderson Award for Clinical Excellence (est. 1983), the Margaret Stoicheff Alumni Award (est. 1989), and the Paula Square Travel Award (est. 2003). The Alumni of the Year Award (est. 2003) honours graduates of the program who have made an exceptional contribution to the discipline.

The Alumni Association has also enhanced the quality of student life through social activities such as an annual reception for the graduating class (co-sponsored with the Barbershop Harmony Society), an orientation buddy breakfast for first-year students, student picnics, and an information social on the job search process for graduating students.

As a member of the University of Toronto Alumni Association, the Speech-Language Pathology Alumni has become an esteemed partner in Alumni affairs, with representation on the College of Electors for election of the University chancellor, involvement in fundraising for the Varsity Fund, and participation in public relations events, such as the University of Toronto Day and Medical Open House.

The Alumni Newsletter, published since 1980, has strengthened the Alumni network and is a powerful medium for sharing information with Alumni members – as has been so well demonstrated during the preparations for this 50th anniversary celebration. The Department of Speech-Language Pathology celebrates the achievements of the Alumni Association, with gratitude for its steadfast support through the years.

**OUTSTANDING ALUMNA  
OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS**

**2003**



**Joanne Shimotakahara (7T5)**

For advancing speech-language services in Ontario schools and establishing the Kindergarten Early Language Intervention program

**2004**



**Fern Sussman (7T3)**

For innovation in provision of speech-language services to children with autism and their families

**2005**



**Marlene Stein (6T7)**

For spearheading public policy initiatives in Ontario, particularly the Preschool Speech and Language Initiative and the Infant Hearing Program

**2006**



**Mary Soucie (7T0)**

For outstanding contributions in clinical service, mentorship, education, and promotion of the profession

**2007**



**Penny Parnes (7T2)**

For advances in augmentative and alternative communication and advocacy on behalf of people with disabilities

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Great appreciation is owed to the core faculty, speech pathologists and audiologists based in teaching hospitals, schools, and specialized centres, and cross-appointed and contributing faculty from other university departments, who have participated in the program from its early years to the present day.

The clinical educators in hospital, school, academic and specialized settings have always been our partners in the preparation of highly competent clinicians. Without them, the diploma and master's programs could not have achieved their goals. The program is indebted to all the clinical educators who have selflessly filled this crucial educational role.

The department is also greatly indebted to the loyalty and commitment of the administrative and technical staff who have provided the essential infrastructure for all facets of our activities. We thank them for this invaluable support.

Lastly, we express our appreciation to those Deans and Associate Deans from the Faculty of Medicine and the School of Graduate Studies who have provided crucial support and guidance over the years.

**THE HISTORY COMMITTEE  
DEPARTMENT OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
MAY 2008**



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

## *Department of Speech-Language Pathology*

We recognize the vital contribution of support and encouragement from the following sponsors of our 50th Anniversary Celebration:

### **GOLD SPONSORS**

University of Toronto Alumni Association

Harmonize for Speech Fund

J.F. Walker Speech Foundation of Ontario Program Fund

### **SILVER SPONSOR**

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### **BRONZE SPONSORS**

The Speech and Stuttering Institute  
(formerly the Speech Foundation of Ontario)

KAY Pentax Canada

The Hanen Centre

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We also thank the American Women's Club of Toronto for its financial support toward the costs of producing this publication.