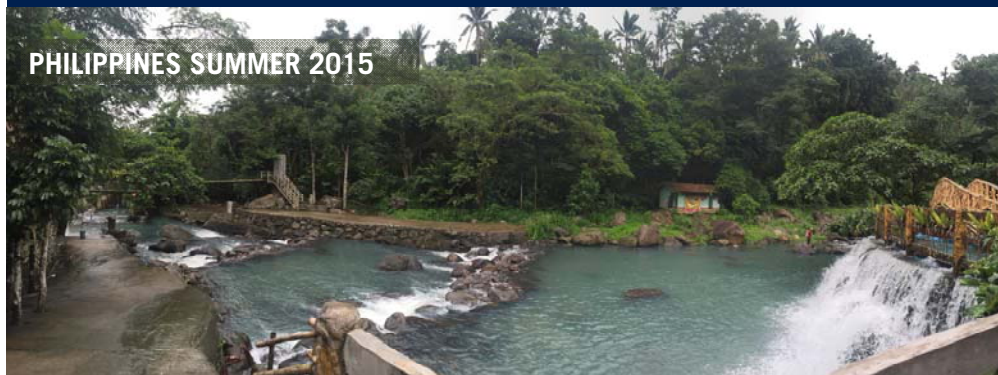




GLOBAL IMPACT - CLINICAL PLACEMENTS ABROAD

PHILIPPINES SUMMER 2015



This summer, I was given the opportunity to go to Los Baños Philippines to complete my clinical practicum at Autism Society Philippines – Laguna Chapter. In this placement, I worked with a community-based speech pathologist from Metro Manila and my role largely consisted of providing assessment, treatment, parent training, and programming for families in the Los Baños area. In 4 weeks, I was able to visit families’ homes, schools, and prepare sustainable programming with limited materials. I also stayed with a wonderful host family who welcomed me as a student and gave me the best recommendations of what Los Baños has to offer. It was a challenging

and rewarding experience and I was happy to see different populations aside from ASD. I worked with children with Down Syndrome, cerebral palsy, cognitive communication disorders, and other developmental/genetic disorders. I learned about establishing low-tech AAC and the role of the families in facilitating a rich language environment. Most of all, I gained valuable insight into Filipino culture and how families view communication disorders and disability.

One thing that stuck with me is the resilience of families and the importance of creating a supportive parent community. It struck me

IN THIS ISSUE

- GLOBAL IMPACT
- AWARDS AND HONOURS
- IN OTHER NEWS
- RESEARCH CORNER
- A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

that parents are determined and passionate to provide therapy not only to their own children but also to children of other families. With the right tools and strategies in place, we have an important and humbling role of empowering parents and caregivers to be active and confident providers of speech and language intervention. My experience enabled me to see the importance of sustainable programming and treatment and I will remember these insights as I move forward in my clinical practice.

Jestine Abella, Year 2 MHS Sc Student

TRINIDAD SUMMER 2015

During the months of March and April, the three of us (Year 2 MHS Sc students, Charla-Maye, Kristen and Melissa) travelled to Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. Our 8-week placement took place at Immortelle Children's Centre, which is a school for children and individuals with developmental disorders. We were very appreciative of the opportunity to provide speech and language services to the Immortelle students and to hold a parent information session in collaboration with local S-LP students. In our time off we made sure to explore some of the beautiful sites of the country, and we went on an excursion to see the largest species of turtles in the world! Our time in Trinidad was spent immersed in a lively and exciting culture and it is an experience we will never forget.



Kristen Bailey



S-LP students pictured with, with Jacqui Leotaud, (centre left) Principal at Immortelle

AWARDS AND HONOURS



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION CELEBRATION 2015

On November 10th of this year the department hosted the annual awards celebration at the MacLeod Auditorium, MSB. Past ceremonies were held in the morning but this year we opted to try a late afternoon event. Guests were greeted with a wine, fruit and cheese buffet. The awards ceremony celebrates, students, Alumni and Donors. At the midpoint of the awards ceremony, keeping up a time honoured tradition the year 1 students surprised the audience with an amusing video presentation. This year it was a video parody of the Pharrell Williams "Happy Song" with a speech theme. Though it was a chilly, rainy, fall afternoon, a good time was had by all!

2015 S-LP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD WINNER

Kim Bradley is a graduate of Victoria College (8T0) and the Graduate Department of Speech Pathology (8T5). She completed her PhD studies at the Institute of Neurology, University College, University of London in 1997. Kim has taught at the University of Toronto for over 15 years. She has also taught internationally at the University of London and the University of Dhaka in Bangladesh. The first fifteen years of her clinical practice clinical practice were dedicated to neurogenic communication disorders with a focus on progressive diseases. During this time, she worked both in Canada (TRI Dunn Avenue) and the UK. The second fifteen years of Kim's career have focused on acquired brain injury with a particular emphasis on the paediatric population (Holland Bloorview Kids Rehab and private practice). She has done innovative work in Leading Practice, Interprofessional Practice and Outcome Measurement – all topics that support data driven, client-focused, clinical practice excellence. While maintaining a full clinical workload, Kim set herself a personal goal of publishing at least one peer-reviewed knowledge translation activity a year. With the exception of one single year, she has consistently met and in many years exceeded this goal. Kim is very involved with the International Centre for Disability and Rehabilitation at the University of Toronto, chairing the Communication Disorders Working Group and more recently sitting on the Executive

Committee. Kim and over a dozen colleagues in the Toronto Speech-Language Pathology community are currently working on a charity-funded project on education of speech-language pathologists in low to middle income countries.





AWARD WINNING!

Graduate students and research assistants at the Speech Production Lab directed by Dr. Yana Yunusova have been recognized for their academic excellence and participation in innovative research. Sanjana Shellikeri was awarded the 2015-2016 Ontario Graduate Scholarship for academic excellence. Vishwathsen Karthikeyan (B.Sc. Honors, Health Sciences) received the Brain Sciences Summer Studentship Award to pursue research at the Bulbar Function Lab at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. Kristen Bailey, a graduate student in the Clinical Master's program was awarded a CIHR Health Professional Student Research Award. Recently, at the 11th Annual Toronto Rehab Research Day, Elaine Kearney (PhD candidate) was awarded the 2015 Team Excellence Award for Communication Team and research assistant Renuka Giles (B.Sc., Cognitive Sciences) was awarded 'Best Poster' in the undergraduate category.

Madhura Kulkarni, Research Coordinator, Speech Production Lab



INSPIRATIONAL ALUMNI

Dr. Catriona Steele is a Senior Scientist at the Toronto Rehabilitation Institute and is the Director of the Swallowing Rehabilitation Research Laboratory at the Toronto Rehabilitation Institute – University Health Network. Her research focuses on understanding the pathophysiology of dysphagia (swallowing impairment), and exploring treatments that are effective in restoring functional swallowing.

Dr. Steele completed her doctoral training in the Department of S-LP at U of T in 2003. She was appointed Assistant Professor (status) to the department in 2005, promoted to Associate Professor (status) in 2007 and to promoted full professor (status) in 2013. That same year she also received the CASLPA (now SAC) Mentorship Award. This summer (June 4th 2015) she received the UHN Celebrating Education Excellence Award for Contribution to Student and Professional Education (in the Leader category), recognizing her contributions to students, staff and patient/family education at TRI.

Congratulations Dr. Steele

IN OTHER NEWS

On May 26, 2015 University of Toronto Faculty and Staff gathered for a ceremony at the “Great Hall” at Hart House in recognition of those who have served 25, 35 and 40 years. Two members of our Department received an award this year.



Antonietta Morra, Departmental Secretary (left) began in the Department of Speech - Language Pathology in 1990 and so this year marked her 25th year with the Department and the University. She was presented with the 25 year, Long Service award signed by the Chancellor, the Honourable Micheal H. Wilson, the Chair of the Governing Council, Judy Goldring, and President, Meric S. Gertler.

Former Chair, Dr. Luc De Nil, Vice Dean Students, School of Graduate Studies, Professor, Dept of Speech-Language Pathology (right) was also recognized for 25 years of service.

Congratulations to you both!



S-LP CHAIR FEATURED IN TORONTO STAR

Dr. Pascal van Lieshout was featured in the Toronto star section “Doctors Notes” November 23rd 2015. The article was co - written by Dr. Aravind Namasivayam, researcher in the ODL lab and adjunct lecturer (status) here in the department. The article titled “How to determine if your child has a speech disorder” can be found here: http://www.thestar.com/life/health_wellness/2015/11/23/how-to-determine-if-your-child-has-a-speech-disorder.html



Voice and Resonance Lab

Tim Bressmann, PhD, Faculty (Tenured)

We are interested in speech disorders related to craniofacial syndromes (e.g., cleft palate) and head & neck cancer. Some of our current research focuses on the assessment of tongue movement with ultrasound and the acoustic analysis of oral-nasal balance in speech.

[\[find out more\]](#)



Speech Fluency Lab

Luc De Nil, PhD, Faculty (Tenured)

We are exploring brain processes that lead to the development of stuttering in children and adults. By looking at functions and anatomy using state-of-the-art brain imaging, we can understand what factors cause stuttering and, importantly, what we can do better in treatment. In a recent study (Beal, et al. 2013 published in Cortex) we found that there are significant differences in brain anatomy between children who do and do not stutter.



Childhood Hearing Loss Lab

Alice Eriks-Brophy, PhD, Faculty (Tenured)

We are currently investigating the role of culture in parent-child communicative interactions for children with hearing loss using the LENA system. We are also examining cultural bias in assessment, intervention, and language outcomes for Canadian Aboriginal children. [\[find out more...\]](#)



Child Language Lab

Luigi Girolametto, PhD, Faculty (Tenured)

With his research colleagues in Rome, Mantova, and Parma, Luigi is investigating the efficacy of a shared book reading intervention for toddlers with vocabulary delays. The 6-week intervention teaches parents to use focused stimulation as the main teaching strategy. Luigi and his colleagues are measuring the impact of the intervention on vocabulary, pragmatics, and phonology. The intervention manual is being published in Italian for use by professionals in Italy who treat language disorders in toddlers. [\[find out more...\]](#)



Language and Cognitive Development Lab

Elina Mainella Arnold, PhD, Faculty (Tenure Track)

We are investigating nonverbal cognitive mechanisms involved in language development. We are looking at the links between memory, attention, motor coordination and reasoning in children with typical and impaired language development.



Swallowing Lab

Rosemary Martino, PhD, Faculty (Tenured)

We study the pathophysiology of the swallow at the bedside and with instrumentation in patients with head and neck cancer, stroke or Parkinson's disease. Our research develops point of care tools to identify swallowing problems (dysphagia) and its medical consequences, such as aspiration pneumonia, malnutrition and psychological issues. Our tools target earlier and more accurate identification enabling earlier dysphagia interventions. Our overarching goal is to conduct research that will assist clinicians in providing the best possible care to their patients and that will ultimately help reduce the burden of dysphagia for patients, their caregivers and the community.

[\[find out more...\]](#)



Language Sciences Lab

Elizabeth Rochon, PhD, Faculty (Tenured)

Our current research is focused on understanding language and communication difficulties in individuals with neurological disorders. With several multidisciplinary research groups, we are characterizing neuroplastic changes after language therapy in stroke patients, determining the optimal dose of anomia therapy in aphasia, investigating whether electrical stimulation is a beneficial adjuvant to aphasia therapy, characterizing the nature and course of language impairments in primary progressive aphasia (PPA), and developing clinical interventions and guidelines for clinicians who work with dementia patients.



Oral Dynamics Lab

Pascal van Lieshout, PhD, Faculty (Tenured)

We are conducting research on oral motor control processes in speech production using state-of-the art technology. Our aim is to provide a better understanding of underlying physiological and physical control mechanisms based on dynamical system theory principles in healthy and speech-disordered populations across the lifespan.

[\[find out more...\]](#)



Speech Production Lab

Yana Yunosova, PhD, Faculty (Tenured)

We are conducting an NIH-funded study to diagnose changes in bulbar form of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Funded by Parkinson Society of Canada and the Canadian Partnership for Stroke Rehabilitation, we are also developing interactive computer games for treating speech problems in those with Parkinson disease and apraxia of speech due to stroke. [\[find out more...\]](#)



Bloorview Research Institute

Deryk Beal, PhD, Assistant Professor (status-appointed),

Our research focuses on improving outcomes and quality of life for children with acquired and developmental neuro communication disorders. We are interested in the neurobiology of communication and its disorders for the express purpose of innovating and evaluating neurorehabilitation treatments for children with communication disorders. We are also interested in the advancement of neuroimaging techniques for the study of the neural network supporting speech and oral motor control.

FEATURED STATUS ONLY, ADJUNCT AND CROSS APPOINTED

Communication Aging and Neuropsychology laboratory (CANlab) at the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC), Herzliya, Israel,

Boaz Ben-David, PhD, Assistant Professor (status-appointed)

We are testing the premise that reductions in the quality of the sensory input in older age will result in less efficient cognitive functioning, specifically when communicating in adverse environments, using various tools such as eye tracking. We are also investigating the complex interplay that governs the perception of emotions in spoken language.

Swallowing Rehabilitation Research Lab

Catriona Steele, PhD, Professor (status-appointed)

We are investigating the pathophysiology of swallowing impairment and determine effective treatments to restore swallowing function. We are examining the mechanisms by which texture-modified foods and thickened liquids may lead to improved swallowing function in people with dysphagia. [\[find out more...\]](#)



WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR RESEARCH INITIATIVES?

NEW Poster Wall

Next time you are at 500 University, stop by the 10th floor, take a left at the elevator and you will find the latest lab research posters on display.

Monthly Lunchtime Research Colloquia

Can't make it down to 500 University? Our Monthly Research Colloquia are webcast. Lunch and Learn about current research going on in our labs. The talks are advertised on our website at <http://www.slp.utoronto.ca/research-news/slprcsched2015-2016/>

If you wish to receive instructions on how to join via the web, contact slp.clinicalaffairs@utoronto.ca to be added to the research colloquia list-serve.



We hope you have enjoyed Volume 13 of the Intercom Newsletter. This edition has showcased examples of the innovative research of our faculty, the creativity and dedication of our students, the contributions of our alumni, and the impact of our valued benefactors.

Being in the role as chair I feel privileged working with an outstanding group of people in our Department, the Rehabilitation Sector, the Faculty of Medicine and the University of Toronto as a whole. As we near the end of 2015, I wanted to highlight a few important changes and some points of interest. As I mentioned last year, the research stream programs (MSc and PhD) have been transferred to the Rehabilitation Sciences Institute (RSI) under the leadership of its new Director, Dr. Angela Colantonio. This transfer went smoothly and I am confident that our students will become active and valuable members of RSI in no time. The past year was again a year of great achievements by our faculty and students, as outlined in this newsletter. Some of our top graduating students were featured on the Faculty of Medicine website (<http://medicine.utoronto.ca/news/spotlight-graduates-rehabilitation-sciences>) and our faculty were yet again very successful in publishing their research in various international peer-reviewed journals on a wide variety of topics. We are part of a rehabilitation sciences sector that is among the very best in the world and our faculty are leaders in many scholarly activities related to critical practice areas and interprofessional education. As research in S-LP is an integral part of our profession, we hope that over the next few years the collaboration with RSI will encourage more SLP graduates to enroll in our PhD program at RSI so we can continue to grow the knowledge base and critical evidence for clinical practice in our field.

This year we have partnered with Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation hospital in hiring a clinician scientist in the area of pediatric language/speech disorders. The new hire, Dr. Deryk Beal, will be known to many of you as he has his roots in our department being a former graduate from our MHSc and PhD programs. Deryk comes to us from Alberta, where he was the former executive Director of ISTAR (Institute for Stuttering Treatment and Research) and an assistant professor at the University of Alberta. Deryk will set up his lab at the Holland Bloorview Research Institute but will also have an office in our department and I am sure he welcomes you to get in touch with him if you like to know more about his research. We hope that with Deryk's presence at one of the most renowned children's rehabilitation hospitals worldwide, we can further expand the important research and educational links between academia and clinical care.

There are also some other important changes in our personnel. This past summer Alice Eriks-Brophy joined Luigi Girolametto in phased retirement. She will continue to be involved with our department for the next three years, but on a half-time basis.

It is with mixed emotions that I inform you that our colleague Elina Mainela-Arnold has accepted a wonderful opportunity for a position as professor in Logopedics at the University of Turku, Finland. Elina joined our ranks in 2011 as an Assistant Professor and recently obtained a prestigious SSHRC award for her research on Statistical learning ability as an indicator of

individual differences in dual language development. We are sad to see her go but wish Elina all the best and thank her for the many contributions to our department over the past years.



Unfortunately, Elina is not the only person leaving our department. We are also saying goodbye to Mabel Lau, who will go on a well deserved retirement as of January 2016. Mabel has worked at the University since 1993 and with our Department since 2005 in the role of Student Affairs Assistant. Mabel has been instrumental to our admissions and awards processes and a welcoming voice to applicants and students of our programs. She will be dearly missed and we wish her well.

Once the new year is upon us the department will be hosting a two-day accreditation visit in April. Two reviewers selected by the Council for Accreditation of Canadian University Programs in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CACUP- ASLP) will come to evaluate our program to determine if we meet the minimum national standards for education in Communication Sciences and Disorders. Some of you may be invited to participate in this process as we want to make sure the reviewers get a complete and comprehensive picture of our programs and the relevant stakeholder's perspectives. I am confident we will do well in this review based on the quality of our programs, faculty and students.

At the end of this year, I want to take the opportunity to express my gratitude to our donors for their continuous efforts to support the department and our students. Without their contributions and passion for our discipline and for those who benefit from our research and clinical practice, we would not be in the strong position we find ourselves at this time. Speech-Language Pathology may be a relatively young and small field of study and practice, but our impact on the quality of life for those affected by speech, language, hearing and swallowing disorders is significant. We hope to have more opportunities in the new year to bring this important message to the public, funding agencies and governments.

Additionally, I want to thank our Alumni Association, who, regularly organize several events in support of our students, including a very successful Graduation Reception at Hart House. As in previous years, students, family and guests were treated to an engaging performance of the Barbershop Quartet, led by our good friend and loyal supporter, Mr. George Shields.

Finally, a big thank you to all of you for your support, your efforts and your successes in keeping our department on track to fulfil our mission. Without you we wouldn't be able to deliver the best education and training for our students and produce innovative and ground-breaking research. Together we ensure success in achieving our goals!

As always, I encourage you to let me know how we are doing and how you wish to be involved in our departmental activities. I like to end sending you my best wishes for a successful, healthy and happy New Year!

Dr. Pascal van Lieshout