

# Look who's *Talking*

2019 Speech-Language Pathology  
University of Toronto Alumni Association Newsletter

## The Department Turned 60!

By Hillary Ganek, 1T7



In 2018, the Department of Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) celebrated its 60th birthday with a series of educational events on and off campus.

The culmination of our special year was an exciting educational event on June 1st, which celebrated the real impact of the U of T SLPs on children and adults living with communication and swallowing disorders. Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Trevor Young, and the Ontario Deputy Minister of Health, Bob Bell, delivered congratulatory speeches. Toronto leaders in SLP – Rosemary Martino, Aura Kagan, Jana Leggett, and Elaine Weitzman – presented their research, impacting the lives of children and adults in Ontario and beyond. In the afternoon, Sean Peacocke led a panel discussion on the future of building stronger collaborations between researchers and clinicians.

In attendance on the big day were members of the University of Toronto Speech-Language Pathology class of 1968. Arlene Lapowich and Caroline Bailey were interested in attending the U of T 50th reunion ceremony last spring and called classmate Renee Tarantino to start planning. That's when Ms. Tarantino first contacted the SLP Alumni Association about the anniversary celebration. In speaking with her, I asked about her varied professional career in acute care

and community hospitals working with children and adults. I contacted her again recently to learn more about the class of 68's time in the department.

At that time, the department offered a Diploma of Speech Pathology and Audiology. Competition for entry into the post-graduate course was fierce. A dozen high caliber students entered the program in 1966. They came from across Canada with degrees in arts and sciences. Years later, after a campaign supported by students and alumni, the program finally became an MHS. Ms. Tarantino describes her peers as a “super class of high achievers, dedicated professionals who are earnest, sincere, hardworking, creative, and innovative.” Even though the classmates aren't all regularly in touch with one another, when they have a reunion, it's as if time has never passed.

Students in the class of 1968 received lectures and observed therapy in the “old” Church building. They attended clinical placements and observed at local hospitals. Ms. Tarantino recalls that she and her classmate, Bina Maser, were fortunate to spend a two-week locum at the Kingdon-Ward School of Speech Pathology in London, UK, which had been arranged by the director of the program. In addition to the course work, clinical placements, and written final exams, the students sat for oral exams given by a panel in their final year. Ms. Tarantino remembers them being both stressful and exciting.

The lecturers in the department were also a highlight of the pro-

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gram. A class favourite was when Professor Jean Walker, director of the program, would lecture. Ms. Tarantino describes her as, “the epitome of graciousness. Someone who was able to speak so well to students and whose lectures were always deemed ‘the best’. We really loved her. She was really very very special.” When students were scolded for wearing brightly colored textured tights and newly fashionable minidresses to their clinical placements in 1968, they were reminded during one lecture that they were to be professional and needed to conduct themselves and dress accordingly. In 1971, Professor Walker approached Ms. Tarantino and asked if she would lead the organization of an SLP alumni as the program had been effectively running for some time. Ms. Tarantino accepted the challenge and, along with classmates Jean Passi, Fern Gitter, and Carolyn Bailey, established the SLP and Audiology Alumni Association that continues to support students and alumni today. The active Alumni Association also enhanced the recognition and respect of the department at the university level.

During the 60th anniversary festivities, the U of T SLP Alumni Association presented the class of 1968 with a small gift to celebrate their milestone reunion. Ms. Tarantino recalls, on behalf of those who attended, the unexpected ‘shout out’ made the day an even more special occasion. She and her classmates found the presentations to be both interesting and well-presented – as is typical of SLPs.

To mark the occasion, the class of 1968 chose to make a donation in the name of their classmate Bina Maser, who had passed away a few years ago. Ms. Maser worked as a pediatric speech-language pathologist in private practice and in the school board. She was a kind and gentle soul with a wry sense of humor and a little twinkle in her eye. She is dearly missed by her classmates. The U of T SLP Alumni Association chose to match their donation to the Jean F. Walker Scholarship in honour of the 50th reunion of the Class of 1968 and in memory of Bina Maser.

It was a pleasure to meet the Class of 1968 and we look forward to celebrating many more anniversaries with them in the future!

## Distinguished Service Award

# Dr. JB Orange

Each year, the Alumni Association sends out a call for nominations for our Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes Alumni of the department who have made outstanding contributions to the fields of communication disorders and swallowing in at least two of the following areas: academic achievement, clinical services, and promotion of the profession.

**DR. JB ORANGE IS THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENT.** Dr. Orange is a Professor in the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Western University in London, where he has twice served as Department Director. He is also an Associate Scientist with Lawson Health Research Institute and the Scientific Director of the Canadian Centre for Activity and Aging at Western. Dr. Orange graduated from the MHS program in speech-language pathology at the University of Toronto 1982.

We are pleased to share an excerpt of Dr. Orange's acceptance speech:



Our Department of Speech-Language Pathology at the U of T is well-known for its excellent academic education, solid clinical training, and superior research productivity and wide-ranging impact. I am proud to be a graduate of the U of T, SLP 1982. Our Department's family of graduates, faculty and students over the more than sixty years of its rich history have achieved greatness, setting the highest of standards by which others in our field measure themselves. It is these exceptional standards by which I grounded my academic and professional clinical work, seeking to live up to and to embody them daily in my research, teaching and clinical efforts.

I regard my time at the U of T in our SLP program as transformational. Where else could I participate in courses taught by psychiatrists and interact with people at the former Clarke Institute who were living with mental health illnesses such as schizophrenia, obsessive compulsive disorder and personality disorders. Where else could I assess and treat persons with the rare Fredrich's ataxia at the Toronto Western Hospital, provide the then innovative Precision Fluency Shaping Program to persons

who stuttered or to be guided by scholarly, dedicated and inspirational professors such as Paula Square, Ian Taylor, Bern O'Keefe, and the late Margaret Stoicheff. Their SLP DNA and that of the other outstanding faculty in our Department were inherently coded for empirically based, evidence-informed practice before the term was even coined! High standards indeed from such a dedicated clutch of leading-edge mentors. Quite a task before me to live up to and to emulate such admirable qualities.

The coat of arms of the University of Toronto representing the heraldic achievements of the University bears an oak tree sitting atop the Royal Crown, two open books and a beaver, with its associated moto of *velut arbor aevo*, Latin for “may it grow as a tree through the ages”. The tree, a symbol of and grounded in the earth, replenishing our atmosphere, housing us, giving us protection while growing in new ways, is the metaphor by which I would describe my alumni efforts on behalf of our Department of SLP. I sought to offer and to model the highest of professional efforts by which others could learn, who could grow, replenish and carve new and creative paths in their professional careers; who could help cleanse the communication problems of those whom we serve.

In closing, I thank the members of the Selection Committee for their support. Please know that I will continue to wax positively as a proud alumnus of the U of the T Department of SLP and will live a life embodied by the tree symbol of the U of T.

### Know someone deserving of a Distinguished Service Award?

Consider nominating your peers! For more information about this award

please visit: <http://www.slp.utoronto.ca/alumni/alumni-association/>

## Year One Report

### Getting to know the class of 2020

By Clarice MacGillivray and Madison Erb, 2T0



#### HELLO FROM THE CLASS OF 2020!

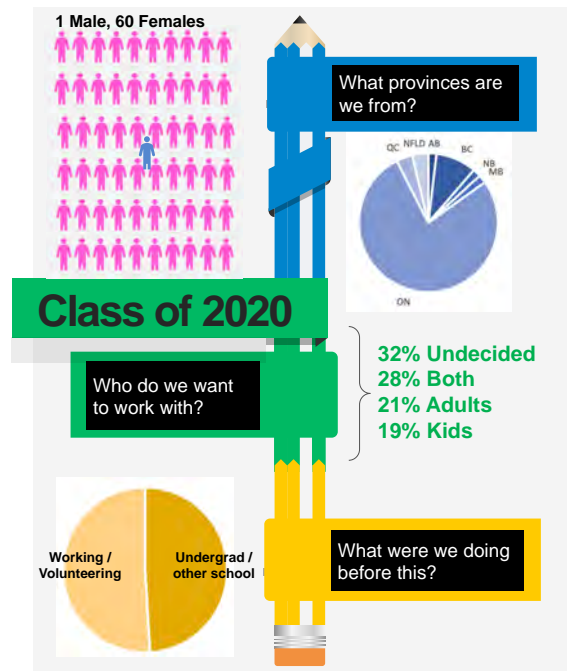
We look forward to joining the SLP profession and meeting some of you in the future, but for now we would like to take this time to introduce ourselves. We included a fun infographic to tell you a bit about who we are. We are a diverse class of 61, with 23 different languages spoken, over 70% of us doing some form of extracurricular, and all of us enjoying making many memories together! One of our favourite memories to date was filming a video in October to be shown at the Awards and Recognition Celebration. It was a great opportunity to put our creative minds together and work as a team to create something that we are confident we will all remember for years to

come! The whole class had a hand in it, from singing to filming, acting to editing, and we are all so proud of it. This team-building experience allowed us all to really get to know each other and collaborate as a team while working towards a common end goal. If this doesn't mirror the career of an SLP, we don't know what does!

The endless study nights that we sung about in the fall have been so worth it as we continue to develop our knowledge. While we begin our transition into placement very shortly, we look forward to seeing each other grow within this wonderful profession

and supporting each other along the way! And, as our video says, we know we'll give placement nothing but heart!

We hope you enjoy it as much as we do! Go take a look: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=hnqDHHgLPHU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hnqDHHgLPHU)



## Year Two Report

### SLP class of 2019

By Meghan Doherty & Mary Wang, 1T9

With graduation fast approaching, members of the class of 2019 have had an eventful few months filled with memorable moments both in and out of class. Here are some highlights of our year so far.

**Potlucks galore:** It is hard to keep track of just how many potlucks we have held, but this tradition has carried over from when we were in Year 1. No matter the occasion, there is always an opportunity to have a potluck and marvel at the culinary talent among us. We are proud to continue to host tupperware potlucks, where everyone brings a container to reduce waste and also to enjoy our classmates' special treats at home.

**Halloween fundraiser:** As part of the 'Tat or Treat' fundraiser, Hear2Speak raised over \$500 towards teaching and training SLP students in Ethiopia by supporting accommodations and providing various speech assessments. Anna Huynh and Umna Islam, members of our class, were part of the organizing committee who sold tattoos and the most realistic halloween Wug cookies.



**Food drive:** Together with the Year 1s, we participated in a rehab-wide food drive during Thanksgiving in support of the Mississauga Food Bank. The SLPs also took home the prize for most donations per student. The grand total (of all the departments combined) was 422 food items and \$871. Great work U of T Rehab!

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**FEES lab:** As part of our course on Dysphagia, we had the opportunity to try out our scope skills using FEES and some very life-like human mannequins. Thanks to Dr. Rosemary Martino, Louise Pothier - Toronto Western Hospital SLP, and several volunteers who made the experience possible.

**Palliative care workshop:** During a Unit 7 teaching clinic, SLPs Jennifer Wong and Laura Conway came to speak with our class on the role of SLPs in working with patients receiving palliative care. They sparked extremely thoughtful and engaging discussions amongst the class, and provided us with lots of insight into all that SLPs can contribute in the palliative care setting.

The past few months seem to have flown by, and before we know it, we will be starting our final placements and becoming full-fledged SLPs. But for now, our class will be enjoying the time we have together (and definitely planning some more potlucks). Looking back on our time at U of T SLP, we would like to say 'thank you' to everyone in the department for being so welcoming and supportive. We look forward to joining the Alumni family!



Like us on Facebook! The Alumni Association is on Facebook! Find and join us by searching for the "U of T SLP Alumni" group, and clicking "Join". It's that easy to stay in touch!

## Sharing our passion

# SLPitches Choir

By: Suzette Newton-Janse van Rensburg, 1T9

The SLPitches choir was born in May 2018 to prepare for the department's 60th Anniversary celebrations. Originally composed of 15 students from the SLP Class of 2019, we performed "You Will Be Found" from the incredible musical *Dear Evan Hansen*.

What was initially supposed to be a one-time performance group evolved into weekly choir rehearsals and a performance-ready 30-person choir! Made up of 1st and 2nd year SLP students, the choir meets once a week for a lunch time practice session led by either 2nd year Choir Director, Suzette Newton-Janse van Rensburg or 1st year Co-Choir Directors, Emily Villanueva and Hosnia Souley Dosso.

In September, the choir performed at "Singing for Support: A Concert Highlighting Communication and Mental Health" organized by Suzette (Class of 2019). The concert raised over \$2000 for The George Hull Centre for Children and Families, an organization that supports children and adolescents that are affected by mental health. The SLPitches were the hit of the evening, performing selections from *Sound of Music* and *Dear Evan Hansen*, with 15 different students performing as soloists, and 21 choir members in total.

In November, the choir performed at the SLP Awards Ceremony, bringing the house down with a mash-up of "Rumour Has It/Someone Like You" by Adele.

The SLPitches welcome all levels of singer, regardless of training and background! Some of our singers have performed professionally and have advanced degrees in music, others used to sing as kids, some are self-proclaimed shower singers, and some just love to sing. Choir practice is a wonderful time to join together, give our minds a break, and sing some beautiful music before continuing with classes in the afternoon.

## Spring Reunion 2019

### SLP Alumni Mixer



#### Join us for a Speech-Language Pathology alumni reception!

Mingle with fellow U of T SLP alumni while enjoying drinks and hors d'oeuvres. Afterwards, attend a free lecture entitled: "Childhood bilingualism from the perspectives of research and clinical practice" from Monika Molnar, Assistant Professor in the Department of Speech-Language Pathology at the University of Toronto.

The lecture is being put on by the Department of SLP at U of T. If interested, please get in touch by sending an email to [slp.alumni@utoronto.ca](mailto:slp.alumni@utoronto.ca).

**Date:** Thursday, May 30, 2019

**Time:** 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

**Location:** 10th floor, Rehabilitation Sciences Building

500 University Avenue,  
Toronto, ON M5G 1V7

**Cost:** FREE

**Register:** <https://springreunion.utoronto.ca/>

#### ALUMNI EXECUTIVE 2018–19

Hillary Ganek, 1T7 President	Robin Eles, 1T3
Faiza Ali, 1T7 Newsletter Editor	Halee Donenfeld, 1T3
Stefanie Haws, 1T0 Treasurer	Francesca Granata, 1T8
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Carla Montgomery, 1T0	Sana Smaoui, 1T7
Talia Wolkin, 1T3	Vanessa Panes, 1T8
Jessica Davenport, 1T1	Mary Wang, 1T9
Andrea Guran, 1T6	Meghan Doherty, 1T9
Pauly Brar, 1T5	Ashley Sirko, 1T6
	Carly Yermus, 1T5
	Clarice MacGillivray, T20
	Madison Erb, T20

Newsletter layout by Steven Janovsky

## Travelling Abroad

# Chennai, India

By: Emma Hanes, T20 and Maturikka Senthivel, T20



**OUR PLACEMENT AT SRI RAMACHANDRA INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (SRIHER) was a cultural and clinical exchange we will not soon forget. SRIHER's lush, quiet campus is situated in the city of Chennai; just beyond its walls teems the energetic capital of Tamil Nadu province, home to over seven million Indians.**

Our time was split between the SLP clinic and the public hospital—both of which were attached to the medical school campus where we stayed—and outreach visits to cleft lip and palate camps and schools for multiple disabilities. Our Indian colleagues were all brilliant and motivated clinicians and future SLPs who shared their space and knowledge generously. We delighted in discussing parallels and differences between Canadian and Indian models of practice and learned about the many ambitious research endeavours at SRIHER. The faculty's planning enabled us to observe a significant range of patients from articulation to voice, cleft palate to fluency, laryngectomy to post-stroke aphasia. There are, truly, too many highlights to name, but the chance to grow our clinical knowledge in a multidimensional culture such as Chennai's was an enriching experience every day.

We were very fortunate to have had the opportunity to visit rural outreach camps located in Tiruvannamalai and Cuddalore in India. The initiative was in part founded by one of our Clinical Educators, Suraj

Subramaniyan, 13 years prior. These camps are primarily targeted towards children with cleft lip and/or palate. Once a month, university staff and fourth-year student-interns would visit one of these two rural areas and provide assessment, ongoing evaluation, and intervention to children aged 3-21. Besides these services, children received weekly therapy through teletherapy, delivered by trained community workers. During one of the camps we observed, the hospital staff conducted an informal group discussion to reflect on the services they have been receiving, concerns or changes



they wanted to see, and how the visiting clinicians could better help them in reaching their goals. It was truly a magical moment to witness how much trust these families bestowed upon their clinicians and just how much they respected their opinions. The camps were made possible through the Canadian charity, "Transforming Faces" which provides cleft lip and palate surgery and comprehensive care to children and adults in developing countries. We had the unique opportunity of meeting with members of the charity once we returned to Toronto in order to debrief them on our trip and learn more about their mission statement and objectives. The entire experience was a life-changing, unforgettable one.

We would also like to mention two Year 2 students (Dain and Katie) who had the opportunity to complete their clinical placement in Kenya. Here's a link to the video they created of their experience: <https://youtu.be/zzbitce1PUM>



Speech-Language Pathology  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

**Yes!** I would like to support the Speech-Language Pathology Alumni Association at the University of Toronto.

The Speech-Language Pathology Alumni Association is constantly striving to improve student life at the Graduate Department of Speech-Language Pathology, University of Toronto. Your financial assistance is invaluable in helping us reach our goals.

**If you wish to participate in improving the student experience you can do so by contacting:**

Donations Management  
J. Robert S. Prichard Alumni House

21 King's College Circle  
Toronto, ON M5S 3J3

**1-800-463-6048 1-416-978-0811**

or visit

<http://donate.utoronto.ca/slp>

## Retirement Announcement

# Dr. Alice Eriks-Brophy

By: Meghan Doherty, 1T9

Dr. Alice Eriks-Brophy joined U of T's SLP department in 2002. Now, over 16 years later, the department has said goodbye to Alice as she embarks on her retirement. We sat down with Alice in June 2018 to talk about her time in the Speech-Language Pathology Department and her plans for her exciting next chapter.

Alice served as the faculty liaison for the Alumni Association for twelve years. She enjoyed having the opportunity to collaborate with past students and to learn about current experiences and challenges in the clinical world. Alice is particularly proud of working with the Alumni Association to reinstate the presentation of the J.F. Walker lecture as a biennial event. She shared, "It has had a very effective place in the curriculum and has been very fun to work on."

During the interview, Alice's dedication and passion for her work and for the advancement of research shone through. Alice shared that she appreciates the mentorship, guidance, and support she received from the department, the university as a whole, and her colleagues in speech pathology and aural rehabilitation both nationally and internationally. Alice's research interests lie in the influence of culture and society on communication impairment and SLP practice. She is proud of her contributions to the field of aural rehabilitation, particularly in advancing the quality of evidence available for auditory verbal therapy. The research conducted in her lab using the LENA to demonstrate objective cultural differences in language socialization practices for children with and without hearing loss, was innovative and original.



She is also pleased to have been involved in research related to improving access to SLP services and culturally-adapted practices for Indigenous and northern communities. She shared, "I think it's really important that there be attention devoted to this in our field, specifically with respect to our Indigenous populations. There is a lot of assistance we can provide but we have to be mindful about how we do it and make sure we respond to the needs of the individual communities, all of which are very different. That's something I have always been interested in. I started out in 1979 as a classroom teacher in the arctic and I've kept my interest in that area throughout my career."



Since her retirement, Alice has enjoyed being at her cottage in Prince Edward Island, spending time with her family and especially her two granddaughters, travelling with her husband, and dedicating time to her hobbies that include hand weaving, natural dyeing, and eco-printing. She also participated in the faculty of Medicine's TAAAC initiative in Addis Ababa for one month, teaching third and fourth year undergraduate SLP students in Ethiopia about child language development and disorders, as well as about SLP assessment and intervention. She is proud of having worked with the students to develop and field test a preliminary tool in Amharic to screen school-aged children's speech and language abilities.

In a final message to students current and past, Alice said, "At the SLP 60th anniversary celebration, Pascal told the audience that the department is moving forward with many new and exciting initiatives and it would be wonderful to have involvement from alumni. You've chosen an amazing field with a great deal of potential and lots of interesting developments. There are many ways to contribute, not only to the department but to the field as a whole.

### The Alumni Association is going green!

If you would prefer to receive your annual newsletter electronically, send an email with the subject 'SLP alum e-newsletter' to [address.update@utoronto.ca](mailto:address.update@utoronto.ca). Help us make a difference!



## SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

PROUDLY PRESENTS

# THE J.F. WALKER LECTURE

sponsored by the Donalda Jean McGeachy Memorial Lecture Series

## Screen Time with Kids and Telerehab with Adults: Navigating the Benefits and Challenges

**FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2019**

**8:00am - 1:00pm**

Bahen Centre for Information Technology,  
at University of Toronto, St. George Campus

This conference will examine two ways that technology impacts speech-language pathologists and the clients they support. Screen time with children and telerehab with adults pose benefits and challenges that speech-language pathologists need to understand. Our expert speakers will explore the role of these technologies in clinical practice, what the research says, and future directions.

— FEATURING —

**Jackie Van Lankveld** M.Sc. SLP, CCC-SLP,  
Clinical Manager, Niagara Children's Centre

Jackie Van Lankveld was part of the Canadian Paediatric Society Digital Health Task Force entrusted with developing recommendations for young children about the appropriate use of screen time. Jackie will be presenting on screen time trends, risks, and recommendations.

**Carol Toenjes** BScN, RN,  
Program Coordinator for Telehealth, University Health Network

Carol Toenjes, is a nurse by background, is a coordinator for telepractice at the University Health Network. Her presentation will provide an overview of telehealth practice within a large teaching hospital. She will also speak about factors to consider when setting up your own telepractice, and resources and supports available to healthcare professionals.

**Marla Fogelman** MHSc., SLP(C) Reg. CASLPO,  
Toronto Rehabilitation Institute, University Health Network

Marla Fogelman uses telepractice with outpatients who have difficulty accessing SLP services in hospital. She has been involved in developing criteria for telepractice for stroke rehab. She is also a Lecturer in the Department of SLP at U of T. Her presentation will look at telerehab for individual therapy in a busy outpatient clinic.

**Sucheta Heble** M.S., CCC-SLP, Reg. CASLPO,  
Toronto Rehabilitation Institute, University Health Network

Sucheta Heble facilitated mindfulness sessions as part of a randomized controlled trial study and a pilot study looking at the effects of mindfulness-based cognitive therapy for outpatients with acquired brain injury. She is a lecturer in the Department of SLP at U of T. Her presentation will discuss her experience using telepractice to deliver mindfulness group intervention sessions to patients with acquired brain injury.

### Learning objectives

Attendees will be able to:

- Identify risks of screen time for children ages 0-5 years.
- Explain the Canadian Pediatric Society recommendations for screen time.
- Identify things to consider when getting started with telepractice.
- Identify benefits and challenges for using telepractice in individual and group therapy.

### Details

Price: **Regular \$120**

Early bird: **Regular \$95**  
(deadline April 30th)

Includes breakfast and a coffee break

### Questions? Contact us:

[slp.alumni@utoronto.ca](mailto:slp.alumni@utoronto.ca)

Register at: [MY.ALUMNI.UTORONTO.CA/JFWALKER2019](http://MY.ALUMNI.UTORONTO.CA/JFWALKER2019)