Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Alumni Association
Note from the Editor...

I hope everyone enjoyed their summer. Wishing all the returning second year students and all the new first years a great school year!

Cheers,
Ashley

Update us
Update your address:  
PT/OT Alumni Association
University of Toronto
160/500 University Avenue
Toronto, ON M5G 1V7  
Email: address.update@utoronto.ca
Tel: 416-978-1820
Fax: 416-946-8643

UPDATE welcomes submissions from alumni. We want to hear about your accomplishments! Submissions can be emailed to ptot.update@utoronto.ca

Please note submissions are subject to gentle editing.
Hello all

Well we are off and running on a new year of Alumni Activities and again a lot of planning is underway.

As part of our commitment to keep costs in check we are providing this issue electronically. Thanks as always to our Editor Ashley Graham who continues to do a terrific job. All copies of previous Updates either electronic or hard copy are available on our website.

Spring Reunion activities this year were a bit quieter than in the past so we have decided to shake-up the mix a bit and take on a new focus in an attempt to entice a greater attendance. Spring Reunion is a great way to stay in touch with your fellow classmates and colleagues over the years and not just for folks who are long term graduates. We hope to capture more recent grads with a refreshed agenda. Stay tuned!

This year we honoured two new inductees for the OT and PT Alumni Achievement Awards. Congratulations go to Dr. Beverlea Tallant for Occupational Therapy and Dr. Karen Yoshida for Physical Therapy. More information on these two worthy recipients is contained later in this issue. As always we encourage you to consider individuals to nominate for this prestigious award. Thanks as always to Biraj Khosla who chairs this Achievement Award Committee.

There are a couple of announcements later in this issue that I wish to personally congratulate Karen Goldenberg on receiving the Order of Canada “for her role in advancing research and practice in occupational therapy and her leadership of social service organizations”. Well done Karen we are very proud of you.

I attended the retirement reception for Pat McKee in June 2014. Congratulations to Pat on a wonderful career. Her reception was well attended by faculty, staff, students and colleagues with many tributes to her accomplishments and musical talents.

We are also pleased to welcome Professor Darlene Reid as the new Chair of the Department of Physical Therapy effective January 1, 2015. We look forward to working with her. In the interim Dr. Catherine Berg will continue as Chair.

All the best, Gaye

The Departments of Physical Therapy (PT) and of Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy (OSOT) at the University of Toronto are full Departments within the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto.

We are pleased to be able to share the news of the appointment of Professor Trevor Young, Chair of U of T’s Department of Psychiatry, as the Dean of Medicine for a five year term, effective January 1, 2015. Dr Young has an outstanding record in clinical practice, research and administration. It is going to continue to be exciting times for all Departments within the Faculty of Medicine.

Catherine Whiteside who has held the position of Dean since 2006 has been a wonderful and supportive colleague and we thank her and wish her the very best.
This Spring has been eventful for the Department of Physical Therapy!

I’m pleased to announce that Dr. Stephanie Nixon has successfully been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. Dr. Nixon serves as the Director of the International Centre for Disability and Rehabilitation (ICDR) and is Associate Editor of Physiotherapy Canada. This year the Canadian Physiotherapy Association recognized Dr. Nixon’s impressive contributions to the field by honouring her with their 2014 Global Health Award.

In the New Year, the Department will be welcoming a new Chair, Dr. Darlene Reid. Dr. Reid is currently a Professor at the University of British Columbia where her research as a clinical scientist has focused on improving care for patients with acute and chronic respiratory conditions. Her accomplishments include recognition awards for leadership from the National Lung Association, a Killam Research Fellowship, a Physiotherapy Association of British Columbia Research Award, and a Silver Quill Award for Outstanding Knowledge Translation Article in Physiotherapy Canada. Dr. Reid is looking forward to enhancing the international profile of the MScPT program, to further developing the Department’s continuing education program, and to advancing a cohesive strategy for research excellence.

The success of the Ontario Internationally Educated Physical Therapy Bridging Program has resulted in our funding for this program being renewed for another three-year term. This will enable us to run the program through to March 2017. We have had 646 internationally educated physical therapists (IEPTs) access our programs. The IEPTs moving through our Comprehensive Program have been challenging the Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators licensure exams; to date our MCQ success rate is 73% and we are currently awaiting results for the 22 IEPTs who participated in the June 2014 PCE National exam. IEPTs that have completed our Program are exceeding the national average for success in the exams which currently sits at 50%.

The Department offers a full time 10-month Comprehensive Program for those IEPTs who require an overall refresher on their knowledge, skills and clinical integration. We have also developed and piloted a hybrid on-line and in class refresher course in cardiorespiratory practice that was extremely well received by those in the pilot project. Now we’ve turned our attention to developing refresher courses in neuromusculoskeletal rehabilitation and neurological rehabilitation that will both be piloted in this autumn. To quote one of our IEPTs enrolled in our Bridging Program: “I think the OIEPB is truly a life-changing experience. It really places the learners within the Canadian context of physiotherapy.”

Online learning tools are only one aspect of our efforts to use technology to enrich our educational environment. The Department of Physical Therapy and other Rehabilitation Sciences Sector departments are working together to upgrade our classrooms and the PT labs in order to improve the student learning experience. We are excited that as a part of this, we are setting up a system that will facilitate communications with other sites; for example, student will be able to see and interact with hospital professionals across the globe.
What an exciting time for the Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy! As I write I’m thinking of our three classes of students: Our graduating class, who have successfully completed their coursework and final placements and are now preparing to write the national certification exam; Our second year students who are enjoying the last few days of their only month of reprieve from the intensive two-year MScOT program; and our very impressive incoming class of students, who begin their careers in occupational therapy in just a few days. We are tremendously proud of our students’ accomplishments within the program, and their important contributions as alumni and practising occupational therapists.

The Department is thrilled and proud to be the recipient of a $1.5 million gift from March of Dimes Canada to establish the March of Dimes Canada Early Career Professorship in Acquired Brain Injuries. This professorship will support an emerging faculty member in the development of scientific evidence to improve the quality of life and productivity of individuals with acquired brain injuries and their families. Our new partnership with March of Dimes Canada will also provide tremendous opportunities for our students and for collaborations with our partners across the Rehabilitation Sector.

I am also delighted to announce that Dr. Bonnie Kirsh has been selected as the 2015 Muriel Driver Lecturer, the highest honour to be awarded by the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists. Bonnie has been a national and international leader in occupational therapy in mental health, addressing homelessness, stigma and employment issues faced by individuals with mental illnesses. We look forward to Bonnie’s Muriel Driver Lecture at the CAOT Conference next May in Winnipeg.

Speaking of Winnipeg, we were delighted to host Dr. Archie Cooper as our 2014 Thelma Cardwell Lecturer in June at our Student Research Day.

Many other faculty members have received honours this season. In recognition of her exceptional research on family caregivers, Dr. Jill Cameron was elected to the Board of Directors of the Ontario Stroke Network. Following his outstanding term as president of RESNA, Dr. Alex Mihailidis elected as (the youngest ever) Fellow of the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America. Dr. Michelle Keightley, Director of the Concussion Research Center at the Bloorview Research Institute, was awarded the Holland Family Chair in Acquired Brain Injury, and Dr. Sally Lindsay, also at Bloorview, received an Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation Early Research Award, for her innovative studies in youth transitions.

Many local Alumni enjoyed the celebration of Pat McKee’s retirement in June. Pat’s bio-occupational approach and lively teaching methods in musculoskeletal health, biomechanics and orthotics were always so popular. Alim Lalani, our MScOT Program Manager, was awarded the 2014 Faculty of Medicine Staff IMPACT Award for Quality Improvement for his ingenuity, diligence and efficiency in enhancing the MScOT student experience. Finally I’d like to thank Alex for his terrific leadership as Acting Chair while I was on a six month admin leave. I’m very excited to be back, engaged with students, faculty and staff, and in the coming months, working with our clinical community to build infrastructure for clinical research in occupational therapy. Stay tuned! (And please see our website for more stories and photos! www.ot.utronto.ca )
Thank You!

The Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy wish to thank all of our Alumni who contribute to the Department through their donations. Alumni donations support students in their academic program through scholarships, bursaries and travel allowances.

The Department would like to thank Alumna Mrs. Grace Bohannon of Topeka Kansas for her generous donation which established the Grace Bohannon Scholarship, which will be awarded to occupational therapists who are conducting research on mental health or psychiatry in our doctoral program.

We would like to thank everyone on this list who has made a pledge to OT, PT, or the Rehab Sciences Sector between January 1st and December 31st, 2013!

If you’d like to make a gift, please visit the Rehabilitation Sciences Sector’s online giving page (donate.utoronto.ca) to make a donation to either Physical Therapy or Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy. Funds raised are used to support students through bursaries and scholarships and also to fund travel to national and international conferences and clinical placements.

To learn more about different giving options, or if you are interested in making a gift of securities or a planned gift, please contact the Heather Yearwood, Senior Development Officer at (416) 978–5564 or heather.yearwood@utoronto.ca.

Recognition in our Community

Our own Judy Friedland, past Chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy, has been featured in the Faculty of Medicine’s “Living History” series.

Click here to check out her story.

One of our outstanding Alumna, Karen Goldenberg, was named a Member of the Order of Canada earlier this year. Always an “OT First”, Karen’s was honoured “for her role in advancing research and practice in occupational therapy, and for her leadership of social service organizations.” Among her leadership roles, Karen co–founded Community Occupational Therapy Associates and the Canadian Occupational Therapy Foundation. Karen will be speaking to the OT graduating class at their Convocation Awards Ceremony on the topic of Leadership on November 19th. For more information on the Order of Canada click here. For more information on Karen Goldenberg click here.
Students have been busy pursuing academic requirements while enjoying the summer months. First year students have successfully completed the first portion of Unit 5 – Neurological Physical Therapy Practice, and are now excited to have three weeks of vacation, with many students taking the opportunity to travel, spend time with friends and family, and relax.

Second year students have completed all their in-class requirements and have recently began their final selective placements at various clinical sites. MScPT Research Day was a huge success, where the students were able to present their research projects with peers, faculty, alumni, and clinicians. Second year students also celebrated their success at a beautiful Grad Formal at Hart House, themed “Bright Future”. Graduating students, and guests, as well as faculty enjoyed the evening. It consisted of a delicious meal, awards, special presentations, and ended with some fun on the dance floor. Ian Barrett was named valedictorian for the class of 2014. Graduation is quickly approaching and many students are currently on the job search.

Rehab students have also been keeping active this summer participating in Ultimate Frisbee and Softball intramurals that UofT offers in the summer months. Both frisbee teams made it to the semi-finals and lost in close, hard-fought games. Playoffs for softball will begin in August. Students also organized 2 games of soccer baseball with the class, which brought back grade-school nostalgia. In addition, students have been playing weekly sessions of both pickup volleyball and pickup basketball, and even students who don’t usually play those sports have been having fun and showing improvement over the course of the summer. Finally, a group of PT students put together a Dragonboat team, which competed at the Toronto International Dragon Boat Festival in June on the Toronto Island. With only six practices under their belts they were still very competitive, finishing third in the university final.

Student council has been busy organizing an Orientation Month for the incoming students who will begin classes on Tuesday September 2nd. We are excited to welcome a new, eager group of students to our home at 500 University. Many activities have been planned such as a dinner night, comedy night, Blue Jays game, Toronto Island Day alongside OT and SLP colleagues, and a semi formal event. These activities will help orient new students to Toronto and provide opportunities for interactions with each other outside of the classroom, as well as with other rehab colleagues and second year students.
Another incredible and memorable year for the OT program! This year three OT dragon boat teams worked extremely hard in preparation for the annual dragon boat festival held at Toronto Centre Island. As a result, the Dragoniometers landed third place in their division, while the Range of M’Ocean became the premier mixed final champions! To complete our final semester with a BANG – the OT program put on their dancing shoes and looked their absolute best in celebration of our annual semi-formal!

In addition to the numerous fundraisers the OTs were involved in during the fall term, student council continues to hold bake sales, mugs and OT clothing sales and cook book initiatives to raise money for Camp Winston. Together, the OT student body was able to raise more than $1000 to support the camp’s developing OT department. We also participated in clothing drive for the Rotary Club of Toronto Transition Centre at St. Mikes Hospital!

On an academic note, the second years did an incredible job at this year’s CAOT conference in New Brunswick and at the Thelma Cardwell day as they showcased their hard work and dedication to their research projects. As the OT2s complete their final clinical placement, we wish them the best of luck on their future endeavors. On the other hand, the OT1s are inspired by the work ethics of the OT2s as well as the wonderful guest panel that spoke to their class in the final days of the term! The OT1s are looking forward to their second and final year filled with more fieldwork placements and new learning experiences!
Spring Reunion 2014

2015 PT and OT Spring Reunion
Classes ending in 5 or 10
May 30th, Stay tuned for details!

Go to http://springreunion.utoronto.ca for more details and to register for the events!
Email: morgan.tilley@utoronto.ca or ptotalumni.facmed@utoronto.ca
Phone: (416) 978-1820

Would you like to reconnect with classmates or would like a class list to help with reunion planning?
Contact Morgan Tilley, Alumni Relations Coordinator at (416) 978-3588 or morgan.tilley@utoronto.ca
The Alumni Achievement Awards continue to applaud Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy graduates who have made an exceptional contribution as a member of each of our professions. The award acknowledges a diversity of achievements in Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy in Scholarly Activity within the clinical, community, or academic environments; Therapeutic Practice; Education at any level; Administration and Political Advocacy.

Please continue to support the Alumni Achievement Awards by making a nomination! For information on how to make a nomination please see the form on the last page.

Karen Yoshida, Biraj Khosla, and Beverlea Tallant, 2014 Recipients at Spring Reunion

Dr. Karen Yoshida did her BSc. in Physical Therapy in 1982 and in 1991/1999 received her PhD in Community Health (Sociology of Health / Disability) from the University of Toronto. She is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy and a full member of the Graduate Department of Rehabilitation Sciences and the Dala Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto.

Karen is a Disability Studies scholar. She has researched and published widely in the field of Disability Studies. An early innovator and contributor to community research partnerships Karen continues to explore and report on the lived experience of disability. Her research approach is community-based, participatory, and she is sensitive to using qualitative methods that promote the views and perspectives of people with disabilities.

Karen uses an equitable partnership model based on disability rights principles with the diverse disability communities she engages with in her
teaching and research over the past more than 25 years.

Most recently, Karen’s community-based research centers on access to health services for women with disabilities, issues of embodiment, activist oral life histories and women’s history and arts–based research and dissemination. Karen’s work on health services for women with disabilities has led to a number of invited grant reviews and she is currently collaborating with colleagues in New Zealand on a breast screening study among women with physical disabilities.

Karen was a Fellow in Columbia University’s, Summer Institute on Oral History in 2008. The Topic of the Institute was – Narrating the Body: Oral History, Narrative and Embodied Performance. This research institute has led to a number of funded research projects. One from the Social Science and Humanities Research Council in which she examined the personal and collective activist oral histories of Canadians who contracted polio pre –1955.

Karen along with Audrey King created a travelling exhibition as part of the Out From Under: Disability, History and Things to Remember, School of Disability Studies, Ryerson University. The exhibit has appeared at the Abilities Arts Festival 2007, Royal Ontario Museum 2008 and the Paralympics 2010. A revised and smaller exhibit will be on permanent display at the Canadian Museum of Human Rights in Winnipeg, which will open on Sept 20, 2014.

Karen continues to strive to do creative community research projects and disseminate the work in novel and engaging ways to the academic and community circles she works in.

2014 Alumni Achievement Awards (Beverlea Tallant, OT)

Presented by Biraj Khosla at Spring Reunion

Dr. Beverlea Tallant graduated from the University of Toronto in 1961 with a Diploma in Physical and Occupational Therapy. Followed by a BSc. in OT. Beverlea’s received both her Master’s degree and PhD in Psychology at Concordia University. Subsequently she worked as an OT in Saskatoon, London, England, and Montreal. She taught at McGill from from 1969 to 2009 excepting for two years from 1997 to 1999 when she was appointed Director and Associate Professor at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield Connecticut where she developed an entry level PBL–based master’s program in occupational therapy, the first in the state.
Psychosocial occupational therapy (OT) has been Beverlea’s lifelong passion. When she started teaching at McGill the mental health component of the OT curriculum consisted of a psychiatric conditions course taught by a psychiatrist and one 26-hour course called OT in Psychiatry. Beverlea turned this 26 hour lecture course into four, 3-credit psychosocial OT courses and introduced psychosocial labs so students could experience and practice assessment and treatment techniques used in mental health settings. Beverlea also taught physical therapy students on psychiatric conditions and psychological responses to physical disabilities.

As a scholar and researcher Beverlea has published a number of articles in peer reviewed journals, book chapters and conference abstracts. Beverlea has served as journal and grant reviewer for the Canadian Journal of OT, the Canadian OT Foundation, the Journal of OT in Mental Health and the Occupational Therapy International Journal.

As a political advocate for occupational therapy Beverlea has led countless professional forums. Early in her career, when Medicare was being introduced in Quebec in 1960 Beverlea learnt that OT was not to be recognized as an independent profession. And would receive referrals from Physiotherapists who in turn would receive their referrals from Psychiatrists. Beverlea led the charge along with her OT colleagues and advocated before the Castonguay Commission in the parliament building. She obtained the support of the Quebec Association of psychiatrists which ultimately led OT to be recognized as a distinct profession which could receive referrals from anyone. This continues to be the case today.

Since retiring in 2009, she remains actively involved in reviewing articles for OT journals, teaching the new post-graduate OT program in Cairo, Egypt. Beverlea continues to supervise her masters’ and doctoral student(s) as well as writing publications.
First time in 40 years!

The O.T. Class of 74 class celebrated at the Miller Tavern in Toronto

Back Row: Bonnie Druxerman, Anne Remmel, Chris Conlon, Lynn Parisien, Sally Grieve
Front Row: Corinne Eckhardt, Vicki Ulibarri, Jenny Schnoll, Louise Monfette

We were missing Janet Harrison, but 9 out of 10 was a great success, after much detective work!

To advertise for your own class reunion please submit your request to ptot.update@utoronto.ca or place a notice on the Alumni’s Facebook page.

PT/OT Alumni Association Committee Update: Communications Committee

Communication is an all-encompassing term for the sharing of information and ideas. The role of this committee is to develop and enhance the lines of communication with all of our Alumni. As an Association we do have so very much to share.

We work in partnership with the editor of Update, the Alumni magazine, to ensure the exciting news from the Departments is disseminated to you and that you are aware of all the upcoming alumni events.

The Communications Committee is currently working to update our website and to implement a strategy for electronic communications with all the alumni to keep you informed and up-to-date. We really want you to continue to feel a part of the university from which you graduated.

We would love to hear your ideas and any news which you wish to share.
Dear Alumni:

The Alumni Achievement Award was established in 1995, and awarded first at the AGM in June 1996. The Award acknowledges graduates who have made an exceptional contribution as a member of the Physical Therapy or Occupational Therapy professions. Alumni or members of the public may nominate a University of Toronto graduate in Physical Therapy or Occupational Therapy for this award. The year 2015 will mark the 20th anniversary of the Achievement Award.

Beginning in 1996 an award has been given to one alumnus/a from Physical Therapy and one alumnus/a from Occupational Therapy each year. The areas of achievement for consideration for this Award are based on achievements in any three of the following categories:

- Scholarly Activity in clinical, community, or academic environment
- Therapeutic Practice
- Education (of PT/OT students, (at university or college level) health professionals, general public
- Administration
- Political activity and advocacy for the profession of PT/OT.

The Achievement Award Committee will contact all nominators to acknowledge receipt of nominations. The Selection Committee may contact nominees to obtain additional information related to their nomination. Please include phone and/or email contact information of the nominee in your nomination. A CV and/or comprehensive information providing specifics of the nominee’s achievements is REQUIRED to give the Achievement Award Committee a more complete idea of the nominee.

If you require assistance in completing a nomination, or have additional questions please contact us and we will be pleased to assist you.

All information provided will be used exclusively for Award determination purposes.

AWARD NOMINATION FORM

NOMINEE
Name________________________
Address:______________________________________
Telephone:(H)_________________
(W)________________________
E-mail: ______________________
Year of Graduation_______________
PT_________   OT_____________

The Nominator should describe the outstanding contributions in each category checked, in a covering letter. The more comprehensive the information the better.

NOMINATOR
Name________________________
Address:______________________________________
Telephone:(H)_________________
(W)________________________
E-mail: ______________________

☐ Scholarly Activity
☐ Therapeutic Practice
☐ Education
☐ Administration
☐ Political Activity/Advocacy

To contact us or forward nominations:

Alumni Achievement Award
PT & OT Alumni Association
University of Toronto
500 University Avenue, Room 160
Toronto, ON, M5G 1V7

Phone: 416-978-1820
ptotalumni.facmed@utoronto.ca
www.rehab.utoronto.ca