

# What's up, Alumni!

First Edition • April 2008



## Hello fellow Shallaway-NSYC Alumni!

It is my pleasure to present to you our very first Newsletter: What's up, Alumni! I want to start by commenting on our Alumni Reunion that took place last June celebrating the organization's 15th anniversary. What an enormous success! Thanks so much to everyone who attended. It was wonderful to see so many old friends and make new ones who have shared similarly wonderful experiences as members of NSYC and/or Shallaway! During the Roundtable discussion we met with Alumni to talk about the direction and mandate of the Alumni Association. We, your executive, took these ideas and ran!

Now we find ourselves wanting to do so much more. We have many things happening and it's just our first year! We are proud to have our own identity as Alumni of the organization which has given so much to us! It's now time for us to give back and there are many ways to do this. Keep reading to find out how.

We have such a wonderful executive on deck and we are here to serve you as former members of the Shallaway-NSYC organization! Please let us know your thoughts. Maybe you would like to do something to contribute? Maybe you have a new idea that you want us to incorporate? Perhaps you want to connect with an old chorister friend? Please let us know! Your executive is listed on page 2 of this newsletter.

We have the potential to become a powerhouse for each other so let's join together and let our presence be strong; as we are the new formal branch of the Shallaway Organization!

Carolynn M. Spurvey  
Shallaway-NSYC Alumni Association President

## Our Mission Statement

To join together as an independent branch of the Shallaway-NSYC Organization benefiting alumni, current choristers and the organization as a whole through;

- **Education:** Providing information to Shallaway choristers about our academic pathways, our career choices and our life experiences.
- **Communication:** Enabling alumni to connect with each other throughout our city, province, country and world.
- **Support:** To maintain a support network for current choristers; musically, culturally, socially and financially.

## A Note from Susan Knight

Your new alumni association is well established and developing under the fine leadership you chose at last June's reunion. It was such a joy to see you and be amongst you as you met up with each other. Creating this organization was a critical facet of your reunion. You are such a power for each other – of spirit, mind and action.

Your association is well supported within Shallaway. A permanent position has been added to our Board for your Alumni President, thus energizing alumni affairs at the center of Shallaway's operations. Our office staff is also facilitating your organization. Nicole Dawe is our direct staff link to the alumni, and provides great support to Carolynn's team.

There is lots of excitement in our current season. Our spring concert is being hosted by three alumni – Carolynn Spurvey, Dana Parsons and Keith Pike. We are welcoming the Bonavista youth who hosted our Jubilate tour last spring. **We hope to see you at the concert and the reception following!** Our Childrens' Chorus tour is to Harbour Grace and Jubilate heads to Harbour Breton. Camerata is off to Europe with a Songbridge (China, Hungary, Denmark, and Canada) and opera in Copenhagen plus an opera tour in Ireland. We are hosting the annual dinner and celebration for our grads at the Melvin home on May 31. And then, of course, our fabled auditions and re-auditions begin.

Do keep in touch, so we may know how you are and what is happening in your lives. We do know that your lives and work are enhancing our society, but would also love to hear from you. I am ever thankful for the privilege of having shared substantial time in your lives, and celebrate all you do and are.

## Second Annual "Lavrock" Bonfire

**Come one, come all to the 2nd annual Alumni bonfire!!**

Get your marshmallows ready! On **Friday, August 22nd** we will be having another blazing bonfire at Middle Cove beach (we're giving you lots of notice so you can save the date!).

Make some new memories with some old friends, and have a relaxing night by the fire. We will meet up around 7 pm, so bring your guitars and be prepared to sing!

## Meeting Schedule

If you would like to attend a meeting please come along. Meetings take place at the Shallaway Office (6 Logy Bay Road), begin at 4:30 and usually last for about one hour. Our final meetings of the year are May 4 and June 1.

## Your Alumni Executive

**President** – Carolynn Spurvey

**Vice-President** – Michelle Davis

**Fundraising and Administration** – Nicole Dawe

**Secretary** – Susan English

**Treasurer** – Kristen Williams

**Communications** – Jennifer Babstock and Nicole Dawe

**Education** – Erika Lilly and Justin Mahon

**Shallaway Board of Directors Representatives:**

Carolynn Spurvey, Michelle Davis and Ray Gosine

## Featured Alumni

This month we are featuring three very special alumni.

**Keith Pike** – Choral Scholar 2003-2004

**Gillian Langor** – Graduate 2003

**Erin Aylward** – Graduate 2006

To find out what these alumni are up to please see **Where are they now?** attached to this newsletter.

## Sobeys' and Belbin's Dollars are Back!

Do you miss those wonderful days of grocery coupons at your house? Would you like to get a tax receipt for groceries you would be buying anyways?

As a fundraising initiative the alumni are beginning to sell Sobeys' and Belbin's dollars. If you would be interested in this program, please contact Nicole Dawe ASAP at [nicoledawe@gmail.com](mailto:nicoledawe@gmail.com).



## Upcoming Concerts

### Shallaway Spring Concert, April 26th

Join Shallaway in their annual Spring Concert, April 26th, at 7:30 pm at the Arts and Culture Centre. This year the concert will once again be hosted by Shallaway-NSYC Alumni! Tickets are now available through the Arts and Culture Centre Box Office: adults \$20 & \$15 students/seniors. **Following the concert, Alumni who are in attendance are invited to a special reception at the Shallaway office, 6 Logy Bay Road. Please RSVP to [info@shallaway.ca](mailto:info@shallaway.ca) as soon as possible.**

At the dress rehearsal for this concert we will also be presenting new choristers with their fish pins. We always love to have alumni come back to hand on this important symbol of Shallaway to another generation. Please come to the Arts and Culture Centre at 6:30 pm on Friday, April 25th, if you are interested.

### Rajaton Concert – Tuesday, May 13th

Festival 500 is hosting Rajaton in Concert on Tuesday evening, May 13th, at 8 pm at Gower Street United Church. Ticket vouchers are now on sale at the Festival office - 68 Queen's Road or by telephone at 738-6013 - and selling fast!! Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$29 for students and seniors. Rajaton ([www.rajaton.org](http://www.rajaton.org)) will once again amaze audiences with their combination of technical excellence, entertainment value, artistic depth – and pure passion for music.

## Visit the Alumni on the Web

We are in the process of developing our own alumni website. Please check back frequently to see the updates. In the mean time, do you have any ideas or are you savvy with a computer? Please contact a member of the executive to get involved.

**[www.shallaway.ca/alumni](http://www.shallaway.ca/alumni)**

We also have an alumni facebook group. If you are a member of facebook find the Shallaway/NSYC Alumni in the group section of facebook. If you aren't a member, why not think about signing up. It's a great way to stay in touch with all of the wonderful alumni!

## Next Newsletter

We are interested in hearing from you. Have you, or another Alumna you know, received a special award, gotten married, had a baby, or done anything you would like other Alumni to know about. We would love to hear about what you are up to. Please contact a member of the executive with your news!

We would also like to use the newsletter as a means for alumni to advertise to other alumni. Do you have an upcoming performance or a business that you think others might want to know about? Please contact Nicole ([nicoledawe@gmail.com](mailto:nicoledawe@gmail.com)) with any of this information.



## Get involved with today's chorister!

The Shallaway Alumni Association has decided to form an exciting new program: the Education, Leadership and Mentorship Programme (shorter, cooler and less long new name pending). The goal is to use the wide experiences and knowledge of our alumni to contribute to the current knowledge pool and available resources for both other alumni and, especially, for current choristers. We are interested in forming an alumni database so that choristers can find alumni who may be in career fields or have done programs that they are interested in. In the future we hope to broaden this even further. If you are interested, please read the attached article on the education program or contact Erica Lilly at [shallawayeducation@live.ca](mailto:shallawayeducation@live.ca).

## Connect with Alumni in your area!

Do you live in a big city and want to connect with some people from home who can share your special memories of the choir? One thing we have learned throughout this whole Alumni formation process is that there are several Alumni all over the country and across the globe! We are looking for interested Alumni who want to start their very own Shallaway-NSYC Chapter. If you are interested in reconnecting, please contact an executive member.

## Summer Employment Opportunity

Are you a student looking for summer employment? What better place to work than the Shallaway office!!! We are looking for a few good students to help us out this summer in the office. If you are interested, please read the attached Service Canada Job Notification or contact [info@shallaway.ca](mailto:info@shallaway.ca).

# Where Are They Now?



## Keith Pike, Choral Scholar 2003-2004

Keith is a recent graduate of Sheridan College's Musical Theatre Performance Program. He has also studied private tap with STEPS Dance School in Manhattan, New York. Keith has served as vocal coach in such productions as *Les Feux Follets* - Charlottetown Festival, *West Side Story* - Theatre Sheridan and *Where the Boys Are* - Buddies in Bad Times Theatre. Some favorite shows include *As You Like It*, *West Side Story* and *No, No, Nanette*. After spending two summers with the Stephenville Theatre Festival, he returns this summer to star in *'I Love you, You're Perfect, Now Change.'*

In the fall of 2007, Keith began a new chapter in his life as Artistic Director of Theatre St. John's - a company that is dedicated to the production of professional theatre in St. John's. This past October the company produced a gala concert that included performances by Cheryl Hickman, Julia Halfyard and Keely Hutton. In March of 2008, Theatre St. John's produced the off-Broadway hit musical *'Songs For a New World'* at the LSPU Hall, that featured Petrina Bromley.

Theatre St. John's is also committed to the young talent of this province. During its last production, the actors and artistic team presented a free masterclass for the students of Gonzaga High School. With every show that the company produces, students from around the city will be given the opportunity to be a part of these exciting workshops and masterclasses. With his experience as choral scholar with Shallaway, Keith has gained the knowledge and skills to successfully facilitate this important branch of Theatre St. John's' mandate.



## Gillian Langor, Graduate 2003

Over the past few years, I've been lucky to have great opportunities to work, learn and travel at Memorial University. I'm in my final year of mechanical engineering, and am currently working at a product design firm in Boston. If you're reading this, and you have been a part of the choir family in any capacity, you will understand the love of community and culture that transcends the music we make. It is this element of the choir that I think about when I play "Full Circle" and what helped motivate me to become involved in student activities at MUN.

Instead of rambling about boring details of my life, I'll tell you a bit about my recent experiences with *Engineers Without Borders*, EWB [insert shameless plug here...]. Joining this group has been, without a doubt, the most significant decision I've made at university. This national network of students

and professionals (not limited to engineers) aims to promote human development through access to technology. Through this group, I've become inspired to learn about international development in a thoughtful way. I have had the opportunity to explore different issues with my peers across the country through workshops, outreach events and casual conversation. I'm constantly humbled by what I learn from others in this organization, and have realized that I will be a part of this movement long after I graduate. Perhaps the thing I'm most thankful for was being chosen as MUN's Junior Fellow. This afforded me a very unique opportunity to go overseas and live/work in Ghana, West Africa, for four months as part of EWB's Junior Fellowship Program. I joined a partnership between EWB and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture in Ghana. I spent the majority of my placement in Tongo, in the Upper East Region, working within the public sector focusing on the Shea Nut and Shea Butter processing done by women in the area. Outside of work, I was fortunate to be taken in by a vibrant woman named Florence. She gave me the inside cultural scoop to ease my integration, was patient in my attempts to speak the local language, and taught me how to make a fine meal of TZ, (very tasty meal, especially when served with peanut soup).

Though the details of my life in Ghana will fade with time, I will never forget the people I met nor the experiences I had. Four months is short, but it was definitely enough to change my perspective.



*Erin Aylward, Graduate 2006*

Erin graduated from choir in 2006, and has found a few interesting ways to fill her Tuesday evenings and other extra time since! Erin is about halfway through a Political Science and Spanish double major at Memorial. Erin's first (and second, and third) opportunity to travel to a Spanish-speaking country was with Shallaway, and her love of Spanish has definitely been fed during her time with the choir. Since then, Erin has tried to see the world on her own: this summer, she volunteered at an orphanage in Ecuador, and did some backpacking through Peru. This January, she was lucky enough to be chosen to represent Oxfam Canada at a Youth Camp held in Nicaragua, with 130 participants from across Central America. What this summer holds is still a complete mystery — the Middle East? Central America? Halifax? Unfortunately, decisiveness is not a skill that Erin has been able to develop since her time with the choir!

In addition to traveling, Erin has remained very active with her community in St. John's. She is currently one of MUN Oxfam's main organizers, helping organize various fundraising and advocacy events for Oxfam Canada on campus. She has also almost finished a one and a half year volunteer position with the Millennium Scholarship Foundation, as a Newfoundland and Labrador Chapter of Millennium Laureates Co-coordinator. Her busy schedule has meant that she hasn't been able to join another choir, but she carries with her all of the folk songs, stories, traditions, and Newfoundland pride that she gathered as a member of NSYC/Shallaway.