

Student Reflections

"One thing that did surprise me was how much each person could understand other people even without many words or coherent sentences. I was also amazed at how different people came up with different strategies to get around their aphasia. Through these observations, I realized that our daily conversations are so much more than just words or sentences (the semantics and syntax). The facial expressions, hand gestures, tones, etc., all of which are an integral part of communication, and that can be achieved not only through verbal communications, but also through other means as the participants have demonstrated.

Throughout the semester, I bonded with many members at SCALE. I loved their personalities and energy, especially knowing that they have experienced tremendous changes due to their strokes. It warms my heart to see that many of them are very brave, as they took the initiative to change their life in this positive trajectory, and I know I have a lot to learn from them."

.....

"Prior to volunteering with this class, I expected there to be a huge comprehension barrier between me and the students in the class I would be working with. In school, I had never learned about the potential recovery outcomes for patients suffering with aphasia, and I naively had never considered the varying severity of aphasia across different people. I had only ever seen videos and learned of severe cases, so I was quite shocked upon meeting them.

Seeing the potential and strength in the members to overcome their difficulties with aphasia has been the most profound part of volunteering with SCALE. It's inspiring to see how the community at SCALE provides them with a safe and empowering space to grow and improve, but also motivate each other to pursue their individual goals."

.....

"Having been mostly raised by my grandparents, because both of my parents worked, I was used to being surrounded by my grandparents and their friends who were at least ten times my age at the time. So, when I joined SCALE this term and met its members who were from different age groups than myself, it gave me nostalgia and the warm feelings I have when I recall my childhood.

Furthermore, it was a wake-up call and a perspective change. In college, it's so easy to forget that we are still young and inexperienced in life. To hear the members' life stories as we continue each session, was a priceless experience to learn and think about life from a different understanding of the world. Such human interactions and intimate connections between the members of SCALE were what I loved the most."