Gene Cooper Receives 2001 Malcolm Fraser Award

by Walter Manning, Ph.D.

"For the enthusiasm he gave to his students for decades, For the inspiration and hope that he imparted to his many clients, For the humanistic approach so evident in his many publications, For the passion as he helped others to expand and enhance their lives, For the vision and persistence as he led us to accomplishments we very likely would not have achieved without him, For his creative and pioneering contributions to so many professional associations, And for his ability to make our professional world a much better place."

Eugene B. Cooper, Ph.D. and Walter Manning, Ph.D.

These remarks preceded the awarding of the 2001 Malcolm Fraser Award to Gene Cooper during the opening session of the Annual Division 4 Leadership Conference held in Toronto, May 17-19, 2001.

For four decades Gene Cooper has had a profound influence on the field of speech-language pathology and on fluency and fluency disorders in particular. Gene has long been an effective force in our field because of his work within ASHA and a professional and variety of other support associations.

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Ann Landers Highlights Stuttering

Ann Landers' May 9th column featured the Stuttering Foundation as a source for information and help for stuttering for people of all ages.

The column appeared in celebration of National Stuttering Awareness Week and applauded SFA 2001 Spokesperson Nicolas Brendan, who stars as Xander in Buffy The Vampire Slayer, as well as Foundation efforts to provide free materials through more than 5,500 public libraries.

Landers is the most widely syndicated columnist in the world. Her column appears in more than 1,200 newspapers worldwide with an estimated 90,000,000 readers.

Landers' column on stuttering resulted in over 1,000 hits a day to the Foundation Web site, www.stutteringhelp.org, for more than two weeks after it was published. It also brought in a veritable landslide of calls to the toll-free hotline on stuttering.
Specialists in Stuttering: Workshop Celebrates 15th Year

The Memphis-based Stuttering Foundation and Northwestern University hosted their annual instructional workshop for speech-language pathologists specializing in stuttering from July 9 through July 20, 2001. Each year, 20 speech pathologists from around the world with a special interest in stuttering are accepted to participate in the workshop. Under the leadership of Dr. Hugo Gregory together with Diane Hill, Jane Campbell and Carolyn Gregory, the workshop is organized to focus on therapeutic skills and techniques for intervention with children and adults.

This year’s workshop participants come from the United States, Canada, England, Brazil, France, Switzerland, Spain, Bulgaria, Lithuania, and Finland.

“We’re gaining new perspectives and are excited to return home with them,” added Dobrinka Georgieva of Bulgaria and Helena Heimo of Finland. Echoed Linda Doss of Oklahoma, “I can’t wait to use the wealth of knowledge back home.”

Several emphasized, “The workshop is a real turning point in our careers and the information, invaluable.” Other comments included, “It was phenomenal,” “I learned a lot, met a lot of great people, and refreshed my enthusiasm for working in stuttering,” and “this was the best professional experience I have ever had!”

Mary Ann Moore of Houston noted, “This was one of the most amazing opportunities I have ever had to share and learn.”

Rachel Williams of Baltimore

Fraser and Elaine Christie of England

Virginie Huguenin of Switzerland with diploma

“I’m also very much looking forward to using my new skills and sharing knowledge with my colleagues,” enthusiastically noted Barbara Burnet of British Columbia.

This unique workshop has gained international recognition for its excellence in the post-graduate study of stuttering.

Front row: Diane Hill, Carolyn Gregory, Hugo Gregory, Jane Fraser, Joe Fulcher, Jane Campbell. 

NPR The Parent’s Journal with Bobbi Conner Focuses on Stuttering

The Parent’s Journal’s Bobbi Conner emphasized the importance of early intervention for stuttering during a 22-minute interview with Stuttering Foundation President Jane Fraser.

The segment aired on National Public Radio (NPR) stations across the country.

Topics of interest to parents—when to be concerned about a child who is stuttering, how to choose a therapist, how to get accurate information about stuttering, how to deal with teasing—these are a few of the points discussed in depth.

Check www.stutteringhelp.org for a link to NPR for schedules in your area.

New Publications in Development

The Stuttering Foundation receives many requests for help and information which deal with unique aspects of stuttering. As a result, three new brochures are currently being developed by leading authorities in the field.

The first will feature information on bilingual children who stutter. Rosalee Shenker of the Centre for Fluency in Montreal, Canada, is completing this brochure as we go to press.

...how to design therapy for bilingual children...

The Foundation receives a high number of requests about how best to design therapy for children who stutter and speak more than one language. Also, many parents and teachers express concern about which language is best to use when talking with these children in order not to put more communicative

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Stuttering Foundation Announces 2001 Journalism Awards
Media Awards Celebrate 10th Year

The Stuttering Foundation has announced its 2001 Awards for Excellence in news reporting. Each winning entry has successfully enhanced public understanding of this complex speech disorder.

"Journalists have given unprecedented attention to the causes and treatment of stuttering over the past year," said Jane Fraser, president of the 54-year-old nonprofit foundation. "The entries from print, radio, and electronic media have shown an increased sensitivity to a speech disorder that affects millions of people.

Seven distinguished journalists are honored this year for their outstanding contributions. They are:

Rachel Sobel, Associate Editor, U.S. News & World Report. In her cover story titled Anatomy of a Stutter, Sobel sheds light on new findings from brain studies and genetics on the causes of stuttering. Illustrations, such as the brain PET scans, gave readers special insights into the challenges that scientists face to solve the mystery of stuttering.

An accompanying first-person account by author Edward Hoagland lets readers better understand life with a stutter.

David Brummer, Staff Writer, The Pantagraph (Bloomington, Ill.). In a three-part series, Brummer recounted in poignant detail how Illinois State University professor Lloyd Hultt overcame stuttering over his lifetime. Each story recounted a phase of life—childhood, teenage years and adulthood—and the particular challenges he faced as a stutterer during each of those times. The judges noted that this was some of the best writing they have seen since the Stuttering Foundation started its journalism awards 10 years ago.

Michael Rosenwald, Business Reporter, The Boston Globe. In an excellent column, Rosenwald discusses the difficulties those who stutter may face in the workplace and the importance of being open about the disorder. His article was also featured by The Miami Herald and several other newspapers.

Sam Boykin, News Editor, Creative Loafing (Charlotte, N.C.). Boykin's first-person account, backed with anecdotes from others who stutter, drew readers into the story without heavy scientific jargon. The article provided plenty of good advice and insight for people who stutter and those who are close to them.

Marge Ebets and Peg Gisler, Syndicated Columnists. Eberts' and Gisler's Dear Teacher column gives teachers ways they can help the child who stutters in the classroom as well as resource information and timely tips.

Evelyn Petersen, Syndicated Columnist. Petersen, an early childhood and parenting educator, has reached a broad new audience through her excellent columns covering a broad array of parenting issues. She gives parents good advice on stuttering as well as sources of help.


Each of the Stuttering Foundation's winners received a cash award of $250. The Stuttering Foundation is a nonprofit organization based in Memphis, Tenn., that has worked toward the prevention and improved treatment of stuttering since 1947. For more information, call the toll-free 1-800-992-9392 or contact the Foundation's Web site at www.stutteringhelp.org.

Reuters, UPI, and Dan Rather Focus on Research Highlighted in May Newsletter

The exciting new research by Anne Founds featured in the spring issue of this newsletter caused a flurry of media coverage in July when it appeared in the current issue of the journal Neurology.

It may be the only time this newsletter will be ahead of the mainstream press for a breaking story on research.

The following excerpts are from a wire story sent out on July 24th by Will Dunham of Reuters News Service, entitled "U.S. Study Finds Brain Irregularities in Stutterers."

"People who stutter have anatomical anomalies in the areas of the brain responsible for language and speech, researchers said on Tuesday in providing evidence of a physiological basis for stuttering rather than an emotional one.

Scientists used magnetic resonance imaging to perform measurements on the brains of 16 adult stutterers and 16 people who did not stutter. Among the stutterers, they found that the brain's right and left temporal lobes were larger and that irregularities in the shape of the brain were more prevalent.

The study represents the first evidence that anatomical abnormalities within the regions of the brain that control speech and language increase a person's chances of developing stuttering, the researchers said. However, the irregularities were not uniform among the stutterers.

"In stuttering, now we have some evidence that within speech-language areas that atypical anatomy may be a risk factor," Dr. Anne Founds, a neurologist at Tulane University in New Orleans who led the study, said in an interview.

The study appears in the journal Neurology.

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2001 Schools Conference A Success

The beautiful Sheraton City Centre in downtown Salt Lake City, Utah, was the setting for the annual Stuttering Foundation conference for school clinicians, Stuttering Therapy: Practical Ideas for the School Clinician.

Co-sponsored by the Stuttering Foundation of America and the University of Utah, the conference was judged to be a resounding success. Ninety people attended, representing 11 states and a variety of employment settings including schools, university clinics, and private practice.

Participants heard presentations from Peter Ramig, Charles Healey, Bill Murphy, Kristin Chmela, Ann McKeel, and Barbara Moore-Brown on topics such as practical strategies for therapy, functional methods for measuring progress, interviewing families/children about stuttering, and dealing effectively with emotions and attitudes.

New this year, a panel presentation on working with teachers gave participants strategies for inservice, incorporating teachers into the therapy process, and writing meaningful goals and objectives for the classroom setting.

In addition, sessions for small group guided practice were led by June Campbell, Tom Gurrier, Ann McKeel, Barbara Moore-Brown, and Susan Dietrich, Susan Hamilton, and Jennifer Watson. In the guided practice session, participants practiced many of the speech modification skills discussed in the general sessions.

Presenters profiled children who stutter through the use of video segments and examples of child responses, enhancing the explanation of concepts being discussed. The audience responded enthusiastically to these strategies as they promoted greater understanding of the content being discussed. It was reinforcing for many clinicians to have the opportunity to see techniques and ideas being demonstrated as well as ask questions of leading experts in stuttering.

Evaluation comments indicated that the unique combination of presentations balanced with small group guided practice make this conference one of the premier continuing education opportunities available to school-based speech pathologists. The evaluations included comments such as, "This conference was a huge energizer for me—probably the best I've ever been to," and, "This conference was one of the most informational and inspirational ones I've been to. The hands on discussion groups were wonderful and were so helpful in being able to share and learn from others. This conference has changed my perspective of my own abilities to help children and adults who stutter."

Next year's two-day conference for those working in school settings will be held in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and will be co-sponsored by Texas Christian University.

Today Show
Continued from page 1

It displayed tips for parents and listeners as well as the SFA toll-free number on camera and on its Web site and also urged viewers to watch the Today Show that would air two days later.

Boston Chronicle Targets Stuttering

On August 6, Boston Channel 5's popular prime time show, Chronicle, which airs weekdays at 7:30 p.m., focused on stuttering and preschool children. In a five and a half minute segment, Foundation President Fraser was interviewed extensively about the kinds of help available for preschoolers and stuttering in general.

Footage from the new SFA videotape, Stuttering and the Preschool Child: Help for Families, was featured throughout the segment. Speech-language pathologists, Peter Ramig, Ph.D. and Kristin Chmela, M.A., interacted with young children in actual therapy.

"Without a doubt, this continues to be our best year ever in terms of overall outreach," Fraser said. "The television shows have complemented the fabulous print and radio features that have appeared this year."
Malcolm Fraser Award
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His leadership ability has resulted in creation and development of organizations that have had a major impact on our professional training and delivery of services to both children and adults who stutter.

Gene’s scholarly and organizational accomplishments are striking. Gene, along with his wife Crystal, has produced more than 175 publications including a variety of innovative assessment and treatment protocols. Perhaps the most impressive aspect of Gene is his vision.

Few people see through the same lens as Gene. Many of his beliefs were, at the outset, outside currently accepted ways of thinking. Nevertheless, many of his views have turned out to be accurate and subsequently taken up by others.

Some examples of his vision are reflected in his thoughts about the importance of the clinical relationship, the concept of “control” rather than only fluency as a worthy goal of treatment, the application of direct intervention for young children well before this was popular, the consideration of stuttering as a multi-dimensional problem including affective and cognitive variables, the clinical reality of chronic stuttering, the assessment of the metalinguistic aspects of therapeutic change, and the problems related to an over-reliance on the frequency of stuttering (“the frequency fallacy”) in the determination of treatment outcome.

Gene served as the coordinator for the Division 4 Steering Committee during the time that the Division was developing the requirements for specialty recognition (1994-1998). Anyone who served with him on that committee knows that, without Gene’s leadership, knowledge, insight, and persistence, the establishment of a Specialty Board on Fluency Disorders may well have remained a dream.

The Malcolm Fraser Award is intended to honor those who have had a lengthy and deep impact on our field. There are few people who are more qualified to receive such an honor. The professional world of fluency disorders and the clients we serve are much better off because of Gene’s contributions.

Reuters, UPI, Dan Rather Focus on Research
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Fraser said research like the work done by Foundas could help lead to new treatments for stuttering.

Foundas noted that some past research has found an emotional component, but questioned whether this was a cause or a result of the stuttering.

The study looked at the brains of 16 adults with persistent developmental stuttering—stuttering that began in childhood and persisted into adulthood.

In addition to trying to determine a correlation between the shape and size of brain features and stuttering, the study sought to determine whether gender and writing hand preference influenced the disorder. Among the 16 stutterers in the study, there were 12 right-handers (nine men and three women), and four left-handed men, which approximates the distribution of those reported in population studies of stutterers.

The researchers found gender and writing hand appeared to have some relationship to brain anatomy.

This news release reached readers around the world including a 20 minute interview on Radio New Zealand with SFA’s Fraser. The early morning news show, Journo, with host Kim Hill was broadcast live across New Zealand and led to numerous e-mails from listeners.

For those readers who missed Dr. Foundas’ article in the Spring Stuttering Foundation newsletter, it can now be found under “What’s New” at www.stutteringhelp.org.
The Stuttering Foundation two-day conference for speech-language pathologists working with the school child who stutters will be held in June, 2002, in Dallas. For more information and an application form, contact the Stuttering Foundation at 1-800-992-9392.

The Stuttering Foundation Eastern Workshop, “Diagnosis and Treatment of Children Who Stutter: Practical Strategies,” directed by Dr. Susan Dietrich and Dr. Sheryl Gottwald will be held at Boston University, June, 2002. Call 800-992-9392 for an application.


The Stuttering Foundation Western Workshop, “Diagnosis and Treatment of Children Who Stutter: Practical Strategies” directed by Susan Hamilton, M.A. and Marilyn Langevyn, M.A. with David Prinz, Ph.D., will be held at the University of Washington, Seattle, June, 2002. Call 800-992-9392.

The 4th annual Stuttering Online Conference opens October 1st and closes October 22nd. International Stuttering Awareness Day. Conference presentations by consumers and professionals from more than a dozen countries are posted for reading on the web site: www.stutteringhomepage.com. Presentations are designed for a general audience and invite feedback and discussion.

From Joe Donahue at turltewlach@aol.com: “I have created a LISTSERV for students specializing in stuttering. The purpose of this list is to serve as an open forum for doctoral students. Membership is limited to doctoral students only. To subscribe, send the following message to listserv@listserv.temple.edu: subscribe stutterdoc firstlastname” or contact Joe Donahue at turltewlach@aol.com.

For those interested in joining Toastmasters International as a way to improve fluency, communication or public speaking skills, their address is: Toastmasters International, Inc., Attention: Membership Department, P.O. Box 9052, Mission Viejo, CA 92690, Telephone: (714) 838-8255; Fax: (714) 838-1207.

For those wanting to obtain a copy of Self-Therapy for the Stutterer in French, write to Dr. Shokichi Nakajima, 2-2-1-1 Ogawa Mochida-shi, Tokyo 134, Japan, telephone number 0242 (96) 5902.

For those looking to obtain a copy of Self-Therapy for the Stutterer in Japanese, write to Dr. Shokichi Nakajima, 2-2-1-1 Ogawa Mochida-shi, Tokyo 134, Japan, telephone number 0242 (96) 5902.


Sharing the Journey: Lessons from My Students and Clients with Tangled Tongues by Lon Emerick, Ph.D., available from North Country Publishing, 355 Heidtman Road, Sandia, MI 48553 for $13.95 plus $2.00 postage and handling. 906-942-7879.

Living With Stuttering by Kenneth St. Louis, Ph.D., Available from Populare Publishing Company, P.O. Box 4382, Morgantown, W.V. 26504, 204-599-3830.

Jason’s Secret by Ellen Marie Silverman, Ph.D. Published by 1st Books Library. www.1stbooks.com.


Stuttering Intervention: A Collaborative Journey to Fluency Freedom by David Alan Shapiro, published by Pro-Ed, Austin, Texas.


The Bob Love Story: If It’s Gonna Be, It’s Up to Me, by Bob Love with Mcl Watkins, available through bookstores or call NTC Contemporary Publishing Group, 1-800-323-4900.


Nature and Treatment of Stuttering: New Directions by Richard F. Carlee, Ph.D. and Gerald M. Siegel, Ph.D., published by Allyson and Bacon, Needham Heights, MA.


Stuttering and Science by William H. Perkins, Ph.D. and published by Singular Publisher Group, Inc., in San Diego, California.

Elements of Stuttering by Courtney Stromia, Ph.D. Available from Atmore Publishing Company, P.O. Box 543, Oslogo, MI. 49077. Please send $19.50 plus $3.00 handling charge.

Stuttering: A Search for A Cause and a Cure by Oliver Bloodstein, Ph.D., It is published by Allyson & Bacon, Needham, MA.


The Telecommunication Relay Service Handbook by Franklin H. Silverman, Ph.D. Aegis Publishing Group, Ltd., Newport, RI.

Unforgettable Characters I Have Known by Bill Lynne, Published by BookPartners in Wilsenore, OR, 503-682-9832 or 800-895-7123.

Speek Mandarin Not Dialect by SLP Elizabeth Haynes. Available through Thistledown Press Ltd., Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, 306-244-7122 or www.thistledown.ca.


New Publications
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pressure on the child as they learn new fluency skills.

This informative brochure will include information for parents, teachers, and professionals and will answer many of these common questions.

Another brochure will focus on neurogenic stuttering, or stuttering that is seen after an individual has been head-injured, had a stroke, or other neurological damage.

Written for the public and professionals by Drs. Larry Molt of Auburn University and J. Scott Yaruss of University of Pittsburgh, the brochure will contain information about both the characteristics of the problem and treatment strategies.

Stuttering after head injury or stroke differs in many ways from stuttering that develops in early childhood and, as a result, requires different management strategies. This new brochure will highlight these differences and provide helpful suggestions for management.

Dr. Nancy Hall of the University of Minnesota is developing the third brochure on the topic of assessing and treating children who stutter who have additional communication problems.

Because stuttering treatment is designed to teach new fluency skills through changes in language structure and how children are using their speech system, it is sometimes difficult to know what to do when the child has difficulty formulating thoughts or producing certain sounds.

Written for professionals, this brochure will provide tips for assessment and treatment of children who stutter who have additional challenges with language or articulation.