By Dennis Drayna, Ph.D.

Recent research in Cameroon, West Africa, has uncovered the existence of an entire group of previously unknown families in which stuttering occurs as a simple inherited trait. Through the cooperation of the Speak Clear Association of Cameroon (SCAC) and the Stuttering Home Page maintained at Mankato State University, researchers had previously identified a single Cameroonian family of 100 individuals, 45 of whom stutter.

This unusual family motivated more field studies in Cameroon. These studies have now shown that as remarkable as this family is, they’re not unique. Researchers have now identified 4 additional large families, ranging in size from 25 to 80 individuals, and in all of these families, almost half of the individuals stutter. All the families found so far come from a single region in Cameroon’s Northwest Province, suggesting there might be some common inherited factor at work in

Continued on page 6

Continued on page 4

By Nan Bernstein Ratner

As recognition of his contributions to the field of stuttering, Ehud Yairi, Ph.D., was named the recipient of the Malcolm Fraser Award for Excellence during the Leadership Conference of the Special Interest Division 4 (Fluency) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association in Boston on Aug. 4.

The selection committee included Vianne Bjornberg, Susan Hamilton, Brett Kluetz, Barry Guitar, and Dick Curlee.

Since his graduation from the University of Iowa in 1970, Dr. Yairi has conducted research that has literally transformed our understanding of childhood stuttering.

One of the first investigators to target close examination of the beginning stages of stuttering, Ehud was able to demonstrate through programmatic investigation, over the span of more than a decade, specific features that distinguish preschool stuttering from normal developmental disfluency. He was also one of the first

Continued on page 6

Continued on page 4

Poignant Speech Highlights Conference

Editor’s Note: Following is the speech given by Alan Rabinowitz on June 17 at SFA’s two-day conference in Minneapolis. A DVD of this extraordinary speech is now available from SFA.

Nearly 20 years ago, I stood before the Prime Minister of Belize and convinced him to set up the world’s first and only jaguar preserve. Ten years ago I sat with tribal headmen asking their help in setting up one of the world’s largest Himalayan parks to preserve species of animals that few people have ever seen or heard of. A little more than a year ago, in March 2004, I sat with the military dictators of Myanmar and signed into law the world’s largest tiger reserve, 8,500 square miles, an area almost the size of the state of Vermont. Four weeks ago I was meeting with the

Conservationist Alan Rabinowitz, Ph.D., enjoys speaking with children during his exploration around the world. Recently, Rabinowitz established the Hukawng Valley Tiger Reserve in northern Myanmar. The reserve is the size of the state of Vermont.
School-based clinicians at the Stuttering Foundation’s annual two-day conference, Stuttering Therapy: Practical Ideas for the School Clinician, were moved and motivated by professionals in the field and by conservationist Alan Rabinowitz, Ph.D., who spoke about his own struggles growing up with stuttering (please see the full text of his speech, starting on the front page).

The conference, which was held June 17 and 18 in Minneapolis-St. Paul, brought together more than 100 people from schools, university clinics and private practices.

Comments gathered at the end of the conference had attendees giving top marks.

“This has been the best conference I’ve ever been to,” wrote one participant. “The knowledge gained is tremendous. It was just what I was looking for.”

Another stated: “An exceptional conference. “One of the best I’ve ever attended in 19 years as an SLP!”

One speech-language pathologist put it very simply, “Great conference. Well organized!”

Many agreed they now have new ideas to incorporate into the many activities they are already doing.

Presenters Lisa Scott, Ph.D.; E. Charles Healey, Ph.D.; Peter Ramig, Ph.D.; Bill Murphy, M.A.; Kristin Chmela, M.A.; and Patricia Zebrowski, Ph.D., offered practical strategies for therapy, counseling parents, working with adolescents, measuring progress, and dealing effectively with emotions and attitudes.

Some of the topics covered were including teachers in the therapy process, leading in-services, and writing meaningful goals and objectives for the classroom setting.

Small groups were led by Minnesotans Katie Dauer, M.A., and Judith Kuster, M.A., along with Susan Cochrane, M.A.; Joseph Donaher, M.A.; Elise Kaufman, M.S.; and Ann McKeehan, M.S.

The next two-day conference will be in June of 2006. For more information, please contact the SFA at (800) 992-9392 or e-mail info@stutteringhelp.org.

“It’s not often that you go to a conference where all the presenters are exceptionally terrific. This was such a conference.”
Excellent Reporting Recognized

For the 14th year, the Stuttering Foundation recognizes the importance of the media in raising awareness about stuttering and what can be done to help.

The 2005 Media Awards for Excellence go to 10 journalists who successfully enhanced public understanding of this complex speech disorder during the year.

“Print and television journalists have done an outstanding job of focusing on the causes and treatment of stuttering over the past year,” said Jane Fraser, president of the 58-year-old nonprofit foundation. “All entries showed increased sensitivity to a speech disorder that affects millions of people.”

Kim Brown and Leigh Woosley of the Tulsa World (Tulsa, Okla.) earn first place in the large newspapers category for their stories explaining the complexities of stuttering in clear and concise ways. They also provided readers with the tools parents need to help children who stutter.

Nancy Deville of the Tennessean (Nashville, Tenn.) receives second place in the large newspapers category. Deville wrote a poignant story about children who attended a fluency camp to help them manage their stuttering and gain critical self-esteem.

Rose Mary Weitz of the Flint Journal (Flint, Mich.) takes first place in the small newspapers category. Weitz used multiple points of view to present the many phases of stuttering in useful and hopeful ways.

Another Michigan journalist, Tamara Lubic of the Grand Rapids Press is honored for her work. Lubic is the second place winner in the small newspapers category for providing readers with useful information about the different ways people tackle stuttering.

Third place goes to Sharon Emery of the Muskegon Chronicle (Muskegon, Mich.) for a column full of emotion. Emery told a first-hand account of how she became a warrior in her fight to control her stutter.

In the magazines category, Elaine Abrams of Family Doctor (Colorado Springs, Colo.) is the winner. Her excellent article zeroed in on what parents can do to help their children if they think they stutter.

Jennifer Mesich of Chicago Parent (Oak Park, Ill.) is honored with second place for explaining some of the most critical ways people can overcome stuttering in young children.

The television award goes to Angela Angelici, executive producer at WHBQ Channel 13 in Memphis, Tenn.

This segment featured anchor Ron Meroney and Jane Fraser giving tips on back-to-school help for children who stutter. Viewers were given many options to help the child who stutters from Web sites to the availability of materials at local libraries.

Jennifer Reingold of Fast Company (New York, N.Y.) receives a special award for chronicling the achievements of Michael Sheehan, who is a top public-relations executive who not only overcame stuttering to become one of the best-known communications experts but also dealt effectively with the effects of a major stroke later in life.

Lifetime of Achievements

A Special Lifetime Achievement Media Award goes to public relations executive Michael Sheehan, who dealt effectively with his stuttering and became one of the best-known communications experts in the country.

His story was chronicled by Jennifer Reingold in Fast Company magazine.

Growing up in New York City, Sheehan struggled with stuttering from an early age, but that didn’t stop him from joining the high school debate team and being involved in theater.

His passion for words now makes him one of the most sought after public relations consultants in the nation’s capital. He is hired by everyone from politicians and large corporations to unions — all relying on him to help them get their message across.

Not much stands in the way of Sheehan, who later in life, had a devastating stroke.

Just as he worked to deal with his stuttering, he had the courage to beat this new challenge and win.

Here are several tips he provided to Fast Company to become a good communicator:

❖ Know what you want to do before you translate that into a clear message.
❖ Keep your message to just a few key points.
❖ Make the first impression count.
❖ Be animated when making a point.
❖ Find creative ways to present the information and answer questions.
❖ When doing public speaking, talk in short sound bites.
❖ Ask yourself if you can make the audience say “Ooh, that’s interesting.”
❖ Always tell the truth.
Yairi’s Comments Upon Receiving the Malcolm Fraser Award

I extend my thanks to Nan Ratner who nominated me for the Malcolm Fraser Award, to the committee for selecting me to receive it, and to The Stuttering Foundation of America and its President, Jane Fraser, for initiating and sponsoring the award. I greatly cherish my peers’ recognition.

Now is a timely opportunity for me to pay tribute to the late Malcolm Fraser who, back in 1947, initiated what was first known as The Speech Foundation of America. Motivated by his own stuttering, Mr. Fraser’s idea was to bring together the best expert clinicians and use their collective knowledge and experience of the clinical management of stuttering to generate useful, practical information for dissemination to the public — people who stutter of all ages and their families, as well as to practicing clinicians.

Although some have questioned the merit of both past and current clinical methods in stuttering, we must also keep in mind differences in the social responsibilities of researchers and clinicians. Whereas researchers are obligated to defer final conclusions until sufficient evidence is in, clinicians have different social responsibility: they must respond to the immediate needs and demands of those who suffer.

They have the responsibility to wisely apply the best knowledge available at the time. They cannot send home people who stutter, or their parents, and ask them to return in 10 years when better knowledge is acquired.

It is perhaps in this respect that the Stuttering Foundation of America has had a tremendous impact in forming essential bridges between consumers and service providers, and in educating the public at large. It is true that research flourishes in a free environment, but I do believe that paying closer attention to the consumers of our science — those who stutter and those who treat them, will substantially enhance our research and increase its public support.

So, while a number of us have engaged in research, the Stuttering Foundation of America has expanded its activities many fold since its origins nearly 58 years ago. These include various workshops for clinicians, updated printed and audio-visual materials, an excellent clinician’s data bank, a nation-wide toll-free help line, support of research, and more. It has achieved a prestigious status worldwide, and received the Distinguished Service Award from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

During the past 23 years, these multiple developments have been shaped by the leadership, enthusiasm, and devotion of Jane Fraser, daughter of Malcolm Fraser. I would like to emphasize this fact because, inasmuch as it is a great honor for me to receive the Fraser Award, success and progress in scientific and health fields is made possible by the contributions of many people having diverse interests and talents. So, I take this opportunity to also applaud Jane and salute you.

Yairi

Continued from front page

researchers to undertake systematic analysis of parent-child interaction profiles in families with stuttering children.

Ehud’s work was made possible, in large part, through an astounding record of federal research funding, which exceeds $7 million dollars during the past twenty years. Few researchers can boast of such a high degree of support, which is in itself large testimony to the quality of his research and the importance of each set of findings his work has generated over the years. A prolific author, he has authored or co-authored 6 chapters, almost 70 research articles in our most prestigious peer-reviewed journals, and, most recently, a superb book on the nature of early stuttering.

Ehud’s contributions will continue to grow over the years, even after he retires, because of the lasting legacy he also gives us in the form of his many talented students.

Other groups have already taken notice of Professor Yairi’s significant and lasting contributions to the field of speech-language pathology, and to stuttering in particular. He has received the Honors of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, a tribute accorded to only slightly over 100 people since its inception. He was the very first recipient of the International Fluency Association’s Researcher Award of Distinction. It should come as no surprise that he has also received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Iowa, no mean feat given the other major figures that program has produced over the years.

Thus, it is only fitting and appropriate that Ehud Yairi be honored with the Malcolm Fraser Award. Few men alive today have done so much to further the understanding of how stuttering evolves over the lifespan. He has pioneered a multi-factorial approach to the investigation of stuttering, one that I feel is most likely to eventually untangle its mysteries. Like the Award’s namesake, he is one of a very special kind and most deserving of the award that carries Malcolm Fraser’s name.
Clinical trials to begin for new drug

Editor’s Note: The Stuttering Foundation is including the following information because we believe it may be helpful for many readers.

A clinical research study called EXPRESS will evaluate the safety and effectiveness of pagoclone, an investigational medication to treat symptoms of Persistent Developmental Stuttering (PDS). This diagnosis applies to adults who started stuttering before age 8 and who have not outgrown their stuttering.

A clinical trial for this investigational medication was conducted previously for a different condition. It included a small number of adults with PDS.

These participants noted a reduction in their stuttering while receiving pagoclone; and when they stopped taking the study medication, their stuttering returned to pre-study levels. The study will continue with necessary testing to determine whether pagoclone is effective among a larger group of people who stutter.

Participants who successfully complete the screening procedures will be asked to take the investigational medication or a placebo for 8 weeks. At the end of the 8 weeks, they may choose to participate in an extension of the study in which all subjects will receive the investigational medication for approximately one year.

All study subjects will be monitored by a medical research team. Although no promises can be made that participants will benefit from the study treatment, participants will receive, at no charge, the following:

- Physical exams
- Clinical laboratory testing
- Stuttering assessments
- Study treatment

You may be eligible to participate in this study if you:
1. Are between the ages of 18 and 65;
2. Developed stuttering before the age of 8;
3. Meet all other eligibility criteria.

If you are interested and want more information, please contact Susie Hall at 1-800-967-7700 or e-mail shall@stutteringhelp.org.

On the Gender Factor in Stuttering

Gender is one of the strongest predisposing factors for stuttering in that the disorder affects many more males than females. In older children and adults the male-to-female ratio is large, about 4 to 1 or greater (Craig, et al., 2002). Except for the higher incidence, until recently no major gender differences, either in speech or other characteristics associated with the disorder have been demonstrated. Interestingly, however, in preschool children close to stuttering onset, several studies have shown considerably smaller gender ratios, only 2:1 (Yairi & Ambrose, 2005), and 1:1.6 (Kloth, et al. 1995; Mansson, 2000).

Although in the past it was suspected that the age-related substantial decrease in the proportion of females who stutter may be due to processes of natural recovery, data obtained at the University of Illinois’ Stuttering Research Program on early childhood stuttering have provided strong evidence to this effect.

On the basis of systematic follow-ups of many children over several years, our direct observations established that, indeed, boys have greater risk for developing chronic stuttering. Conversely, girls who begin stuttering have a greater chance than boys to experience natural recovery (without treatment). Specifically, among children who recovered there were 2.3 boys to each girl; in children who became chronic stutterers there were 3.75 boys to each girl. The clinical implications for early risk assessment are obvious.

We have long suspected that underlying the gender ratio in stuttering are genetic factors (likely affecting brain structures associated with speech-language processes). For example, in families of children who stutter, more fathers stutter than mothers and more brothers stutter than sisters. Most recently, Cox et al. (2005) carried this a step further reporting gender differences in chromosomal signals for stuttering. An extremely interesting intersection of findings is seen here: (a) gender in stuttering is genetically influenced; (b) gender is a factor in natural recovery and chronic stuttering; (c) natural recovery and chronic stuttering are genetically influenced (our study by Ambrose, Cox, & Yairi, 1997).

Hence, the disparity in sub-populations is likely to provide a window to the understanding of stuttering, its cause, and amelioration. All in all, the gender factor in stuttering is viewed as a priority research target.

References


Tommie Robinson, Ph.D., director of the Scottish Rite Center in Washington, D.C., and Carol Ecke, M.A., in the SFA booth at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Schools Conference in Indianapolis in July. The SFA booth was “swamped” during the event, Ecke said. “The new DVD for kids was a real show stopper.”
Rabinowitz  Continued from front

President’s of Costa Rica and Panama, trying to convince these heads of state to be the first signatories to a ground breaking concept that would create a continuous natural corridor for jaguars from Mexico to Argentina.

For the last 25 years of my life, I have lived and explored some of the most remote places on earth. I have rappelled deep into caves chasing bats, I have captured and tracked bears, jaguars, leopards, tigers, and rhinos. I have discovered the second smallest, most primitive deer in the world in northern Burma, and then found its closest relative in the cloud forests of the Annamite Mountains between Laos and Vietnam. I have studied chameleons, tigers, tigers, and isolate myself as the wild world and the

I tell people now that stuttering has been a gift. And I believe that. But make no mistake about my words. It was a gift realized only after years of tremendous pain and suffering that I believe no young person should have to go through. I stuttered for as long as I can remember and as a child my blocks were more severe that my body would twist and spasm when I tried to speak. Often, I would make myself physically sick so that I wouldn’t have to talk to or be around people. When I was in grade school in the NY public school system, I was called out of class each day to be placed in what the other kids called the retarded class. I once stabbed a pencil through my hand and had to be taken to the hospital so that I wouldn’t have to read in front of the class.

The most memorable event in my childhood occurred when I was 15 and I wasn’t able to say my last name to request my mother’s groceries that she’d left for me to pick up at the supermarket. The cashier apologized to the people waiting behind me, explaining I was clearly mentally disturbed. So I exaggerated my spasms, imitating the way I thought a disturbed person might act, giving in to the fears and misconceptions of the people around me. I thought it would be easier. But when I walked out of that store, I knew that I had just cheated myself out of everything that I was and wanted to be. And I swore that I would never deny myself again. My life’s goal shifted from wanting to be like presidents and dictators – that’s easy stuff! The challenge for me has been living with the little stuttering, insecure boy inside, the boy who’d come home from school every day and yearn for the darkness and safety of his closet.

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SFA joins Harry Potter on shelves

Harry Potter isn’t the only must-read book at libraries these days.

The demand from public libraries for materials on stuttering has SFA publications flying off the shelves at our shipping center in Memphis, Tenn.

Currently, SFA publications are in 6,288 libraries nationwide.

“The response has been tremendous,” said Pat Hamm, office manager for the foundation. “We are shipping 40 to 50 orders a day just to libraries.”

Hamm said that libraries are very appreciative of the materials.

Those at the Guntersville, Ala., Public Library wrote: “Thank you and your associates for making materials available to the public on a subject that does not get much attention. You’ve hit several bases: teens, children, teachers, and kids to kids. Thanks for donating materials to our library—we are grateful and happy to serve all walks of life.”

“The Goodall (Neb.). City Library is located in rural, western Nebraska where resources are minimal for our local residents. The closest Wal-Mart is 50 miles away, so you can see that our resources are limited,” writes the library’s director. “Your generosity of resource materials for our public library is very valuable. Our library, as most libraries, must make very tough decisions on its collection acquisitions. Thank you for providing a very necessary collection of needed resources for our patrons, our educators, and our community.”

The Southern Lehigh Public Library in Center Valley, Pa., said the book’s “make a wonderful, and needed, addition to our non-fiction collection.”
Junior Spokesperson Lights the Way

We’ve been keeping up with our energetic and dedicated friend from Kansas, Eva Woolwine.

As reported in our Summer 2005 Newsletter, she was off to the Miss Kansas pageant (June 5 – 12) to compete with stuttering awareness and education as her platform. As a person who stutters herself since early childhood, Eva is passionate about clearing up misconceptions regarding stuttering.

While Eva didn’t win Miss Kansas, she came away a winner nonetheless. As the youngest contestant, she won Newcomer of the Year and Most Inspirational Contestant.

Additionally, her platform was rated among the top five! “This exposure has been such a wonderful opportunity to continue my mission to educate the general public about stuttering,” Eva stressed. “People who stutter are as intelligent and well adjusted as non-stutterers. We are every bit as capable of contributing and succeeding.”

Her enthusiasm earned her a guest spot at The National Association of Young People Who Stutter Friends Convention in Cleveland (July 28-30).

Lee Caggiano, director, said of this year’s program, “We were delighted to have Eva join us at this year’s convention. She served as a wonderful role model for many of the young people attending Friends. Eva showed us all that stuttering does not have to prevent us from reaching our goals and fulfilling our dreams. We were happy to welcome Eva and look forward to having her join us again next year.”

Eva values opportunities such as speaking before the Friends convention in Cleveland, the NSA convention in Chicago, and being highlighted in the Stuttering Foundation’s newsletters. They allow her to encourage young people like herself. “It’s important not to lose sight of the possibilities for improvement, success, and fulfillment. It takes work, but there is hope and help every day!” she declares.

In fact, the Stuttering Foundation has had numerous requests from youngsters, teens, and their friends and families this summer to receive copies of the Summer Newsletter. “Eva’s success makes her a great role model for us all,” said Jane Fraser, president of SFA.

This fall, Eva intends to study Psychology at a local community college. She will be competing in Miss Kansas USA in November. She will also be working toward her dream, being the first Miss America who stutters, by competing in Miss Kansas preliminaries.

If Eva seems amiable and gracious about not winning Miss Kansas, responding with “I’ll try again next year!” It’s because that is the philosophy she applies to life in general. And that is what she would like to share with all of us: All efforts are victories. Keep trying and you will succeed!

Nicholas Brendon stars in new sitcom

The star of the popular TV series Buff, the Vampire Slayer has landed a new role in the upcoming sitcom Kitchen Confidential. The show will air this fall on the Fox network.

Brendon is also finishing up filming Alien Fire, a TV movie for the Sci-Fi network.

While he stays very busy acting, Brendon says he’s never too busy to talk about stuttering. He has served as an honorary chairperson for the SFA since 2001.

Get a Free Magnet with Sharing the Journey

Sharing the Journey ... Lessons From My Students and Clients with Tangled Tongues by Dr. Lon Emerick is available through a special offer by the SFA and North Country Publishing. Buy the book at the regular price of $14.95 and receive a free refrigerator magnet with talking tips for parents of children who stutter. The book’s journey is highlighted by 10 maxims for good living, gleaned from students, clients, from experiences in a long career in the academic world, and from a life-long immersion in nature. Call 800-992-9392 for details.

Council for Exceptional Children

Groups Feature Straight Talk for Teachers

Two major organizations featured Stuttering: Straight Talk for Teachers, which is now available on DVD.

The Council for Exceptional Children and The Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development sent e-mail alerts informing their members about the SFA production that addresses stuttering in the classroom setting.

NSSLHA Chapter Gifts

Make a Difference

Thank you to the National Student Speech, Language, and Hearing Association chapters at the University of Cincinnati and at the University of Nebraska. These gifts will help provide new DVDs for classroom teachers and kids.

Surviving Adversity

Two of the SFA’s spokesmen are subjects in a book by Gord Carley. Former Chicago Bulls great Bob Love and actor Nicholas Brendon talk about how they overcame their struggles with stuttering in Surviving Adversity. The book, which is available from SFA, includes 30 other profiles of individuals who have overcome adversity. Fifty percent of the sales price goes to the Foundation!
Dear SFA: Reader Response

Letter to Kenyon Martin
Dear Kenyon Martin:
My name is Brian. I am seven years old. I do Karate and I stutter. I wear a Speech Easy and I go to speech therapy. I know that you stutter too. Now I know that I am not the only person who stutters. I would like a picture of you playing basketball. I like the newsletter because it shows me that I am not the only person who stutters.
Brian, 7
New York City

Web site very informative
Dear SFA:
I just wanted to write to say a big THANK YOU for the wonderfully helpful and informative Web site. I was given your site address by a speech therapist. I am the mother of an almost four-year-old boy who has had bouts of stuttering since around age 3. I am currently gathering information on stuttering by speaking to therapists and plan to look for your materials at my local library in order to choose the best treatment for my son if it is deemed necessary.
Thanks again,
Z. M.
Dallas, Texas

Online page great for kids
Hello:
My name is Sarah and I am 14. I thought your Web site was really helpful because I always knew I stuttered but I had no idea so did many others. I read a lot of your stuff and realized that my parents and friends are always telling me to slow down when I talk, think about what I need to say and all that other stuff you had on FAQs for parents. I really think your Web site is good.
Sincerely,
Sarah
E-mail
Editor's note: The SFA Web site (www.stutteringhelp.org) has been redesigned and has a new section called “Just for Kids.”

Stuttering getting better
Dear SFA:
My talking is not that good. I do not like my stuttering. It’s not cool at all. Some other kids stutter, too. I know how they feel. It is hard to get rid of it. My mom is trying to help me. It is getting better and better every day. My mom signed me up for speech and I don’t stutter as much any more.
Emmanuel, 8
Grand Rapids, Mich.

Help in other languages
Dear SFA:
It is our honor to present the Korean edition of Stuttering and Your Child: Questions and Answers. With your generosity regarding printing this book, we will do our best so more people can benefit from reading this book. Dr. Moon-Ja Shin is also very pleased about making a connection with your foundation and so are we. We appreciate your help and concern, and hope we can work together again in the near future.
With best wishes for your foundation’s prosperity,
Tracy Kim
Seoul, South Korea

Tips for school
Dear SFA:
I don’t know when I started stuttering. I think it was in about first or second grade. Usually, when I’m having fun, I forget all about stuttering. My family doesn’t mind my stuttering. Sometimes when you’re angry at yourself you stutter even more. When this happens, you just tell yourself it’s not your fault that you’re stuttering. This cools you down some and then you’re not that angry any more. People who stutter have more best friends because they think you are kind of special because they don’t stutter. Usually, I like to talk in front of the class, unless I’m really nervous. But I go ahead and do it anyway. In class, there isn’t a problem with the way other people treat me. They just wait patiently for me to finish if I’m stuttering, and this is helpful. You kind of want your teacher to ignore your stuttering and just listen to your answer ... but you also don’t want to be ignored. I think people in my class would be interested in finding out more about stuttering.
Amanda, 11
Anchorage, Alaska

Nicholas Brendon fan
Dear SFA:
My name is Mark. I started stuttering when I was 5-years-old and now I am 9 years old. I really don’t mind stuttering. When I most stutter is when I’m in front of a group of people, like a class or an audience. I really wish I would stop stuttering, because I want to be like other people. I have been going to speech since first grade. I like it because sometimes we get to play games. Things I do when I stutter are use continuous voicing, pull-outs, and eye contact. I think it is cool that Nicholas Brendon stutters.
Mark, 9
Minneapolis, Minn.

Big idea, small reminders
Dear SFA:
I love the CEU courses that you designed.
Effective Counseling in Stuttering Therapy is such a great book!
I have been giving therapy to quite a lot of elementary children with fluency issues.
A graduate course that I took was wonderful; however, your course on counseling is really meeting my needs as a therapist. The chapter by Dean Williams is especially meaningful to me.
I wanted to mention a tip that may help other therapists. I give middle school kids a pocket-size card with reminders on them to help them over summer break. I put the card into a plastic business card holder so they can carry it in a wallet.
I list the words “turtle,” “s-t-r-e-t-c-h,” “breathe across words,” “open mouth,” “relax any tightness,” “light contacts,” and “smile!” I always tell them “what you say is more important than how you say it.”
Thanks so much,
Donna Paustian
E-mail
The Stuttering Foundation two-day conference for speech-language pathologists working with school-age children who stutter, Practical Ideas for the School Clinician, will be held in June, 2006. For dates, place, and an application form, call the Stuttering Foundation at 1-800-992-9392 or check www.stutteringhelp.org.

The Stuttering Foundation’s five-day workshop, Diagnosis and Treatment of Children who Stutter: Practical Strategies, will be held in June 2006. Dates and places to be announced. Call 800-992-9392 for the latest information.

The Stuttering Foundation two-week Workshop for Specialists will be held at the University of Iowa, Iowa City, during June 2007, directed by Patricia Zebrowski, Ph.D. and Toni Cilek, M.A. This unique workshop brings together speech-language pathologists from all over the world.

Participate in a free online conference from Oct. 1-22. Fifteen hours of continuing education or 1 college credit is available for a fee. Log onto www.stutteringhomepage.com for more information.

For those wanting to purchase a poster entitled The Bill of Rights and Responsibilities of PWS, contact Michael Sugarman at MSugarman1@aol.com. It represents the combined effort of the IFA and ISA.

LISTSERV is available for doctoral students specializing in stuttering. The intent 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, firstame, lastname” or contact Joe Donaher at turtlecraw@aol.com.

For those interested in joining Toastmasters International as a way to improve fluency, communication or public speaking skills, their International as a way to improve fluency, their meetings are held in more than 5000 clubs in 77 countries worldwide. Membership is open to men and women ages 18 and older who want to improve their speaking skills. For more information about Toastmasters, please visit www.toastmasters.org.

For those wanting to purchase a copy of Self-Therapy for the Stutterer in Japanese, write to Dr. Shokichi Nakajima, 2-21-1 Ogawa Machida-shi, Tokyo 194, Japan, telephone/fax: 0427 (96) 5092.

Self-Therapy for the Stutterer is available in French. Write to the Association des Begues du Canada, 2596 A rue Chapelau, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, H2K 3H6; 1-877-353-1042. Please enclose $20.00 Canadian to cover printing, postage, and handling costs.

For those wanting to obtain a copy of Stuttering and Your Child: Questions and Answers in Hindi, write to: Dr. Sajiv Adlaka, Adlaka Speech and Hearing Clinic, A67 Dayanand Colony, Lajpat Nagar - 4, New Delhi-110024, India, or e-mail: adlakhas@hotmail.com.

Books on Stuttering or Related Topics Available from Bookstores:

- Experiencias para compartir entre padres e hijos by Karina Consuelo Rios, Maria Marta Gebbara and Mariela Ginshon. Order from equipon, pgye@yahoo.com.
- Forty Years After Therapy: One Man’s Story by George Helhiesen, M.A. Available from ApoloPress, Inc., 1-800-683-9713 or www.apollopress.com.
- Programmed Stuttering Therapy for Children and Adults by Bruce Ryan, Ph.D. Available through publisher Charles C. Thomas or online at www.amazon.com.
- Living With Stuttering by Kenneth St. Louis, Ph.D. Available from Populare Publishing Company, P.O. Box 4382, Morgantown, W.V 26504, 304-599-3830.
- Stuttering Intervention: A Collaborative Journey to Fluency Freedom by David Allen 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 Mel 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 Allyn and Bacon, Needham Heights, MA.


Elements of Stuttering by Courtney Stromsta, Ph.D. Available from Stuttering Foundation, 800-992-9392.

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

Drayna Continued from front page

these families.

“These families provide hope that we’ll be able to identify the gene that appears to be at work to cause stuttering in these families” said Dr. Dennis Drayna, who works at the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, in Bethesda, Maryland:“Even though most stuttering doesn’t seem to occur in such large family groups, finding the cause of stuttering in these families may provide important clues to the identity of other causes of this puzzling disorder”, he said.

This work is supported by the National Institutes of Health.

For Combined Federal Campaign donors, please note that our code number for the 2005–2006 CFC campaign is CFC #2539.

We are proud that over 95 cents of every dollar goes directly into helping those who stutter.

The Stuttering Foundation of America is a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is classified as a private operating foundation as defined in section 4942(j)(3). Charitable contributions and bequests to the Foundation are tax-deductible, subject to limitations under the Code.