



# 3 Fly Windy City



Mark Baer holds his autographed poster of Chicago Bulls legend Bob Love.

The T-shirts were a best seller. Jane is pictured selling one right off her back.



Getting the booth ready for nearly 15,000 customers.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association had record attendance at its November convention in Chicago, and the Stuttering Foundation was there to spread the word about stuttering to the nearly 15,000 attendees.

The Foundation sold books, DVDs, and brochures below cost and gave away nearly \$11,000 in free materials to speech-language pathologists to use with their clients.

Thousands of copies of the new DVD, *7 Tips for Talking with the Child Who Stutters*, were given out free during the three-day conference.

A top seller this year was the T-shirt that says, "Stuttering is OK because what I say is worth repeating."

"We ran out the first day and had to have more T-shirts shipped in," said Celia Gruss, who helped organize the booth.

Gruss, along with other boothers, sold the shirts they were wearing right off their backs.

More copies of *The School-Age Child Who Stutters: Working Effectively with Attitudes and Emotions* had to be restocked as well.

The Windy City certainly lived up to its name. But that didn't stop numerous volunteers from helping in the booth.

A big thank you to our volunteers: Tony Buhr, Vivian Sisskin, Joe Donaher, Vika Tumanova, Patrice Carothers, Rita Thurman, Sheryl Gottwald, Kia Johnson, Lisa Scott, Kristin Chmela, Elaine Kelman, Sharon Millard, Diane and Raphael Constantino, Lynne Shields, Kathy Scaler-Scott, Ellen Kelly, Hatun Zengin, Steffi Schopick, Zoi Gkalitsiou, Sarah Vogel, DaHye Choi, Robin Jones, Megann McGill, Kim Krieger, Thom Lightfoot, Judy Kuster, Sue Woods, Glenn Weybright, Geoff Coalson, Susan Cochrane, Celia Gruss, Jane Fraser, and Scot Squires.





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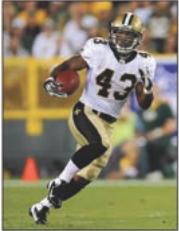
For decades the Stuttering Foundation has been fortunate to enjoy a warm relationship with publications across the United States and beyond who have faithfully donated advertising space at no charge to this nonprofit organization.

these generous supporters for all they have done over the years and continue to do – and it seems to mean as much to them as their efforts mean to us,” said Jane Fraser, president of the Foundation.



“Because of the magazines’ loyalty and commitment, we reach people from every corner of the earth. Readers request information for all ages to help themselves or a loved one,” said Joan Warner, outreach coordinator at the Foundation.

## Stuttering Didn't Keep Spoles Out of the Game



Stuttering never benched NFL superstar Darren Spoles. Don't let it sideline you either.

To find out how you can get in the game, call or visit us:

800-992-9392  
StutteringHelp.org  
turtamodes.org

**THE STUTTERING FOUNDATION**  
A Nonprofit Organization Since 1947—Helping Those Who Struggle

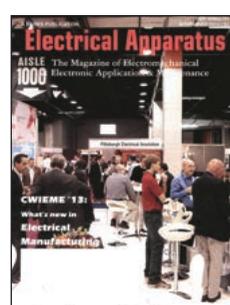
Here are a few quotes from people requesting information: “I saw your ad and I would like information for myself and for my 17-year-old grandson. As I’ve gotten older, my stuttering doesn’t affect me so much, but my grandson is really struggling, especially in school.”



Another person writes, “I had no idea such a Foundation existed! I have a 6-year-old great-grandson who stutters pretty severely and came home crying today because he was teased in school.”

A person overseas writes, “I am from Ghaziabd, India, and I saw an ad and I would like some information for myself as I stutter.”

As the Stuttering Foundation forges ahead in its seventh decade of service, we appreciate our caring supporters in the publishing industry. Thank You!



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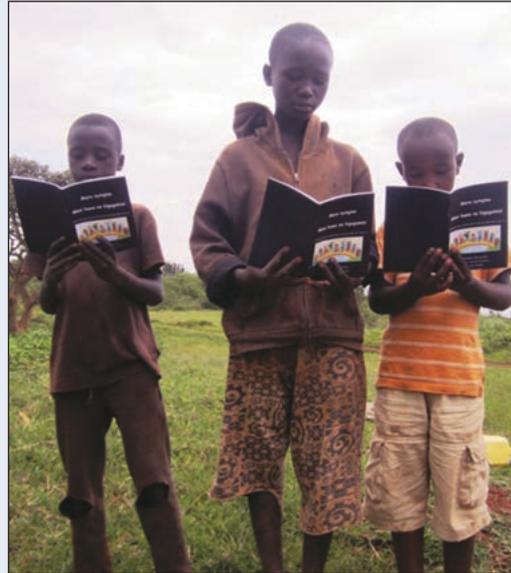


*Sometimes I Just Stutter* is now available in Swahili thanks to Dieudonne Nsabimana of Kigali, Rwanda.

The Swahili language is the most widely spoken African language. It is spoken in 11 African countries by more than 120 million people.

So far Dieudonne has printed and distributed 270 books free of charge. His goal is to raise \$5,825 to print another 4,000 books.

If you would like to contact Dieudonne or make a donation to print these books, e-mail [info@stutteringhelp.org](mailto:info@stutteringhelp.org) or [rwandastuttering@yahoo.com](mailto:rwandastuttering@yahoo.com).



*Gonçalo Leal speaks during a conference held in Portugal at the Universidade Católica Portuguesa on Stuttering and the Brain, with more than 200 people in attendance. On the screen is the Stuttering Foundation's website, [www.StutteringHelp.org](http://www.StutteringHelp.org).*



*In the Winter 2013 newsletter we published 25 Things I Wish I had Known About Stuttering When I Was 20. The article by Laurent Lagarde of France was so popular that we made it into a poster. Here you see Laurent holding one of the posters.*



*Dressed in Stuttering Foundation T-shirts, these SFA workshopers from Thailand gather in Bangkok to share ideas with other speech-language pathologists. Among the 13 therapists, three are Stuttering Foundation workshopers!*





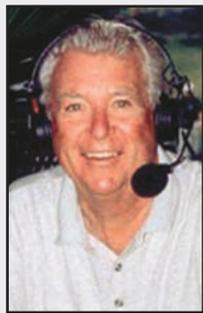
1931-2013



By Ed Sherman

Golf lost a legend. The Stuttering Foundation lost a hero.

When Ken Venturi was growing up, the idea that he could spend 35 years as a TV golf analyst was unthinkable. He suffered from a severe stutter.



Ken Venturi was a commentator for CBS Sports for more than 35 years.

"I couldn't be with my friends and do things the other kids did," Venturi said in a 2011 interview. I was too embarrassed. I didn't even date. How can you get a date with a girl if you can't even ask her out?"

His mother was told he never would overcome the affliction. Venturi, though, eventually did.

"It took me a while before I became comfortable around people," he said. "I still stutter, but I can control it and it doesn't embarrass me anymore. I don't mind talking about it, and I am working with youngsters who stutter, which has been a rewarding experience. I appreciate the opportunity to work with them and try to advise and encourage kids with speech problems."

Indeed, Venturi became the first celebrity spokesman for The Stuttering Foundation. President Jane Fraser paid tribute to Venturi on the site:

"The stuttering community lost a real champion in Ken Venturi.

"Nearly 30 years ago, Ken became our first 'Famous Person Who Stutters' – an ever-growing list of more than 100 well-known people who provide hope and courage to the 68 million people who stutter worldwide. He was one of the first to offer his help to the stuttering



Stuttering Foundation President Jane Fraser (center) with Ken and Kathleen Venturi at a fundraiser for the Foundation.

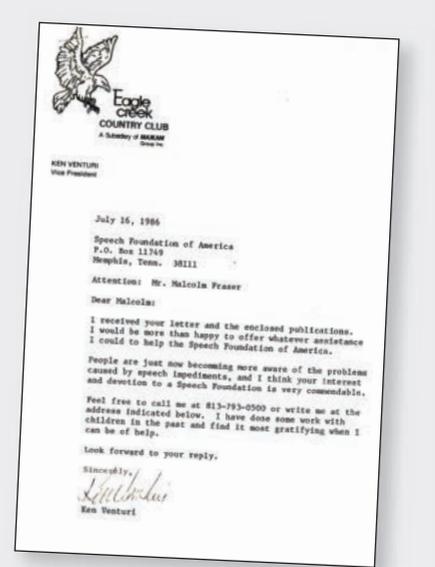
community and remained faithful to the cause for decades.

"Ken faced no bigger obstacle than stuttering. Ken Venturi is a hero to those who stutter, going out of his way to share his personal experience when consulted by a colleague, friend, or child who stutters.

"Ken was the first national spokesman for the Stuttering Foundation nearly three decades ago. As was his way, he offered to fill that role for us because his concern for those who stutter was unparalleled. In a letter dated July 1986, Ken wrote my father, our founder Malcolm Fraser, saying he wished to do whatever he could to help those who stutter."

Venturi led a life that had an impact way beyond golf. Just imagine all the people he inspired to overcome their stuttering problems.

Ken Venturi, a professional golfer, broadcaster, and the first spokesman for the Foundation, passed away in May.



In his letter to the Stuttering Foundation, Ken Venturi writes, "I would be more than happy to offer whatever assistance I could..."



In 2004, Ken Venturi was a special guest for a golf tournament that benefited the Stuttering Foundation, as seen in this newsletter article.



Ken Venturi on an early poster for National Stuttering Awareness Week. The professional golfer was the Foundation's first famous spokesperson.

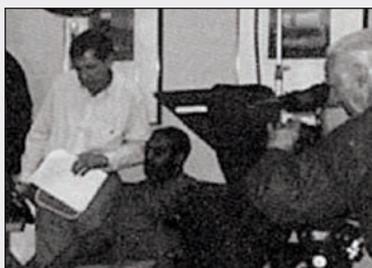
Ken Venturi is featured on the Foundation's Famous People poster and brochure.



## Buddy Morgan: Perfectionist & Gentleman

Winfred A. “Buddy” Morgan passed away in June. Buddy, as most people called him, directed and produced many of the Stuttering Foundation’s videos.

“He was very exacting in making sure each shoot was the best that it could be. We would rehearse and then do takes. We each hoped we would come up with a good shot within the first one or two takes. Sometimes it took multiple takes,” said Carroll Guitar, who along with her husband, Barry, worked with Buddy on numerous occasions. “If Buddy wasn’t happy, he’d just say ‘let’s do it again.’ We were all waiting for the magic words to come — which they inevitably did — when he would say after a take — and with a pause — ‘I’ll buy that!’”



Buddy Morgan (standing at left) produces a video for the Stuttering Foundation.

Jane Fraser remembers those long hours getting the videos just perfect.

“So many wonderful memories come to mind when thinking back on the many hours we spent with Buddy filming and in the edit suite,” Fraser said. “He helped so many people who stutter — both children and adults — with the marvelous work he did for the Stuttering Foundation.”

Carroll reminisces, “The funniest thing that ever happened was at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis when we were filming one of the videos. We had all the usual characters there plus the film crew. We worked in a conference room, and the table was strewn with papers. Each of us had a copy of the script, which we were editing as we went along. Buddy had his own copy which was the master.

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Following Buddy Morgan’s retirement, a tribute to his career ran in the Fall 2004 newsletter. At the time, Buddy said, “What was really nice about working with SFA was that there was always a script. Details were taken care of. It was fun because people were so nice and willing to try something new... I’ve learned a lot about stuttering over the years. I stuttered myself as a real young child.”

## Laura Jo McKamey: A Dedicated SLP

Laura Jo McKamey passed away in May. She was killed in a car accident when a semi-truck struck her from behind during a “white out” in Montana. She was a graduate of the Stuttering Foundation’s Eastern and Western workshops.

“Here in Montana we are driving hazardous roads in the winter because of snow and ice,” said her friend and fellow workshop graduate Carol Ecke. “Laura Jo and so many rural traveling therapists put their lives in the hands of fate and God on a daily basis. She was a friend and will be missed by all who knew her.



“Laura Jo and I were traveling friends to conventions and SFA events. I will miss her forever,” Carol said. “After our 40-year friendship, I often think, ‘What would Laura Jo say?’”

Laura Jo was involved in Special Olympics, Destination Imagination, Fine Arts Parents, and all other programs her children were involved in. She loved to sew and quilt and watch basketball games while reading the complete works of Shakespeare. She will always be remembered as a multitasking magician accomplishing things in a day that did not seem possible.



Laura Jo McKamey was a graduate of the Stuttering Foundation’s 2000 Western Workshop (above) and the 2008 Eastern Workshop (below). Above, she is the third from the left in the back row. Below, she is the second from the left.



**Buddy, My Buddy, Your Buddies Will Miss You**

*Personal remembrances on the retirement of Buddy Morgan from MFL, Media and as videographer for SFA.*

*Carroll Guitar, SFA video coordinator:*  
Buddy was not only delighted to work with while we were shooting in various locations but also did an outstanding job in coaching the professors and directing them in sometimes seemingly endless takes to get it just right!

*In the studio, Buddy worked tirelessly to knit together video images, audio tracks, graphics, and music for a seamless production. He had humor, Southern charm and a real interest in helping those who stutter.*

*Buddy Morgan:*  
I’ve been in Memphis since 1959, and worked all over the world filming for the National Citizens Council, learning my trade. It was fun back then to be with MFL for the past 25 years, and converted them to video, too.

*What was really nice about working with SFA was that there was always a script; detail was taken care of. It was always fun because the people were so nice and willing to try something new. I guess I’ve worked with every one of the professors. I shot them all at one time or another. All the people SFA selected to be in the videos were truly professionals.*

*I’ve learned a lot about stuttering over the years. I stuttered myself as a real young child.*

*Jane Fraser:*  
I first met Buddy back in the late 1980s, or so when we first began to work on reproducing some old films from the ‘70s, the Van Ripper series, the old Hal Starbuck tapes and the early Prevention of Stuttering series.

*Thanks to encouragement—and prodding—by Charles Van Ripper, we began to turn our attention to producing a new generation of videotapes, the first of which was directed by Ed Contino, then at Syracuse University.*

*Buddy and the Motion Picture Lab team came into the picture in “flashing” the footage of professors, children, and the narration together into a seamless product. And that of course was only the beginning.*

*Now some 27 years later, there is not a one in which Buddy Morgan didn’t play an important role.*






StutteringHelp.org has had more than **50,000,000** hits!

On Facebook, we now have more than 13,000 followers.

Nearly 7,000 people have viewed *7 Tips for Talking with the Child Who Stutters* in the last month alone on YouTube, and



the free e-book, *The Child Who Stutters: To the Pediatrician*, has been downloaded from our website thousands of times.

The Foundation also posts re-

sources on Pinterest and Twitter. In addition, visit our blog, Spanish site, web store, and online continuing education website for speech therapists.

For links to all of our websites and social media boards, visit [www.StutteringHelp.org](http://www.StutteringHelp.org).



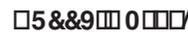


*The Manuel Garcia Prize* is presented to the authors of the article published in *Folia Phoniatica et Logopaedica* (the scientific journal of the International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatics) that was judged to have made the most significant contribution in the last three years. The recent winners were Shelly Jo Kraft and Ehud

Yairi for their article “Genetic Bases of Stuttering: State of the Art, 2011.” It was written upon an invitation extended to Professor Yairi. The award was presented at the Association’s Congress in Torino, Italy, August, 2013.



Ehud Yairi



*Continued from page 7*

The hotel staff had assured us that we could leave the papers on the table overnight. They would only come into the room to remove dirty dishes, etc. Imagine our horror when we walked in the room the next day, and it was clean as a whistle — not a piece of paper in sight. We immediately informed the hotel staff, and the next thing we knew a guy came in bearing a huge trash bag. It was all our stuff which we had to sort through to find Buddy’s master copy. Find it we did, but it was covered with coffee and food stains. However, Buddy hung on to that script for the remainder of the filming session, filthy though it was.”

Lisa A. Scott, who is featured in some of the videos, said, “I remember how kind he was, how professional, and how much he seemed to enjoy his work. It was always a pleasure to spend time with him and get his advice on how to produce a high-quality product. Buddy’s work has helped thousands of children who stutter and their families — it’s amazing to think of how many lives he touched!”

Although a perfectionist, Buddy was very charming.

“Coming from the North, I was always struck by his Southern ‘gentlemanliness,’” Carroll said. “It was always ‘Yes, ma’am’ and ‘yes, sir.’ He was unfailingly polite, always interested in our projects and incredibly loyal to the Stuttering Foundation.”

## Updated Research Data on Preschool Children

The Stuttering Foundation has kept accurate data on the calls it has received to date from concerned parents or family members of **15,486** preschool children who are reported to be stuttering.

The number of enquiries rises sharply at 3 years of age and then lessens for children aged 4 and then further reduces for children aged 5 years.

Across all ages, we receive more enquiries from parents of boys than we do of girls, reflecting what we know — that more boys stutter than girls (Bloodstein, 1995; Yairi, 2005).

When we look at the proportion of those children who are male and female, it is interesting to see that the ratio of females:males differs across the ages, with proportionally fewer calls from parents of 5-year old girls compared to 2 year olds.

Research has found that girls are more likely to recover from stuttering than boys (Yairi, 2005). Our data lends further support to this. Ongoing research with preschool children may shed more light on neurological development during these crucial preschool years.

Age	Gender	Count	Age Ratio
2-year-olds	F	1098	39.90%
	M	<u>1654</u>	60.10%
		<b>2752</b>	
3-year-olds	F	1863	33.26%
	M	<u>3739</u>	66.74%
		<b>5602</b>	
4-year-olds	F	1089	26.02%
	M	<u>3096</u>	73.98%
		<b>4185</b>	
5-year-olds	F	761	25.82%
	M	<u>2186</u>	74.18%
		<b>2947</b>	

## 03 06 01 05 &

By Paul Paquin

When I was about five years old, I started to stutter badly. It would take me about five minutes to read a sentence. Going to school made me more afraid to speak. High school was a little better because I had teachers who understood me. After I graduated from high school, I went to Harvard Ellis Technical School and graduated with a 95 in carpentry and cabinet making.



After five years in the trade, I was offered a teaching position in cabinetmaking, but I refused because of my speech. I went to work in a furniture factory and after 11 years, I became assistant foreman in the specialty department. When the company went bankrupt, I started working for myself, making custom furniture, repairing and refinishing antiques, and installing ceramic tile and hardwood floors. I am now retired.

When I started going to the fluency group at the University of Connecticut with Susan Munroe in 1990, I learned a lot of new ways to improve my speech: doing cancellations, talking more slowly, easy onsets, and avoiding word substitutions. After attending for several years, I feel more confident about myself. I had trouble on the telephone all of my life. Now I can have a conversation with a lot of people, and ordering food in a restaurant is now easy. The University has been a wonderful experience for me. I feel I am about 80% fluent today.

Thank you for taking the time to talk to me and for sending me Malcolm Fraser's book, *Self Therapy for the Stutterer*. It has also been useful to me in continuing to improve my fluency. I'm 71, which proves that it is never too late to work on your speech. I keep a positive attitude about life!

## / & 0 0 1 1 WORD 0 0 5 1 WORDS!

Several years ago, the Stuttering Foundation published two essays from aspiring young writers. Recently, we caught up with them to see what they are up to. Myles, then a 16-year-old junior in high school, wrote *A Word About Stuttering*, published in our Winter 2010 Newsletter and Rachel, then a 17-year-old senior in high school, wrote *Through the Written Word* for the Fall 2010 Newsletter. Here is where they are four years later:

**From Myles:** "Hi! It's so great to hear from you--thanks so much for getting in touch! I'm thrilled to hear that people appreciated my essay. I remember having a lot of fun writing it and being really happy that you decided to publish it.



Right now, I am a junior at Kenyon College, where I am pursuing an English major with a concentration in creative writing. I am currently taking a fiction seminar, and am an associate for the Kenyon Review, a nationally known literary magazine. I will be studying at Oxford in the spring, and I hope to complete a creative thesis next year as a senior. I'm also involved in the jazz band here, and spend a lot of time playing video games with friends and going to the gym! Stuttering remains a big part of my life, and can still frustrate me at times, but it has become much more manageable, and I'm less self-conscious about it than I used to be.

Speaking of which, I recently met with Kristin M (my speech therapist who helped coordinate my writing the article for you) and spoke with Mike Turner, who is currently at work on a very

cool documentary about stuttering--he even interviewed me for it! (Mike Turner's feature length documentary "The Way We Talk" is coming Summer 2014.) I think he's working on a very cool project that would be worth checking in on!"

Thanks again for staying in touch and for your kind words. Sincerely, Myles

*Editor's Note: Myles also tells us that he continues to encourage other kids who stutter to keep up a good attitude and never let go of their dreams – that stuttering isn't who you are, it's just a part of how you are made up. Find your passion and follow it! Good advice that we endorse!*

**From Rachel:** Hey there! I am simply *elated* to hear from you! Thank you so much for contacting me! It's amazing to know that, three years later, my essay can still bring comfort to teens and young adults just like me.



I'm still in love with writing — in fact, I'll graduate from Western Kentucky University with a degree in English this upcoming May! I've learned and experienced a lot in college. I've even been fortunate enough to publish two short stories in a small literary journal.

Two years ago I began writing a blog about stuttering, and some incredible things happened as a result: first, I was featured in my college newspaper, and the article helped stutterers from my campus who were experiencing similar struggles. Second, I was asked to be a guest on a New York podcast called "Women Who Stutter." Since I rarely come across female stutterers, this podcast became an

*Continued on page 12*

 continued from front page about onset and recovery rates to inform practitioners....” Actually, there have been no fewer than 12 studies on onset of stuttering that included thousands of children and their parents. Most unsettling is Reilly et al.’s failure to mention the largest series of investigations, collectively known as The Iowa Studies, directed by the late Professor Wendell Johnson, the world renowned pioneer in this area. His name does not even appear in the article. Incidentally, he investigated a good number of the variables used by the Reilly team. Similarly, there have been numerous reports on recovery that have provided abundant information (see reviews by Wingate, 1976; Yairi & Ambrose, 2005; 2012). The unmentioned important references aside, one wonders what specific missing information was, and is being, sought by this team.

Reilly et al. state that their study “has clarified 3 important unknowns about the population epidemiology of early childhood stuttering.” Actually, none of these findings is an “unknown,” and stating that they have been “clarified” is an unbecoming and hasty proclamation. In general, the authors make statements like this that border on the sensational rather than the factual or scientific.

**First finding.** The authors declare that their incidence of stuttering (11.5%) is higher than figures published in the past, supposedly because they identified many early cases missed by other studies that did not assess children until they were 3 years of age or older. NOT SO. The literature clearly reveals that even higher incidences, such as 15% and 17%, were reported by Glasner and Rosenthal (1957) and Mansson (2005) respectively. The two references deserve credit. Also, other investigators included data for children under age 3 (e.g., Andrews & Harris, 1964; Craig, et al, 2002). Although 21st century studies have tended to yield higher figures than the commonly accepted 5% (see the Yairi & Ambrose, 2012 review), and I have defended higher figures, claiming that the incidence of stuttering has been “clarified” is premature. The missing credits aside, considerably more data

on large samples of wider age range in various global locations are required for this to be accomplished.

**Second Finding.** The authors report that their children who stuttered displayed better language skills than nonstuttering counterparts. This too is not new. Already in 2001, Hage, in Germany, reported that preschool age children who stuttered demonstrated language skills at, or above, age expectations. In an even earlier American study, Watkins and Yairi (1999) concluded that “*Persistent and recovered stutterers displayed expressive language abilities near or above developmental expectations...Children who entered the study at the youngest age level consistently demonstrated expressive*



*language abilities well above normative expectations...* (p. 1125). These missing citations of similar data by other researchers aside, the Australian finding certainly falls short of “clarifying” language as a factor in stuttering onset. To begin with, group means obscure those children whose scores are really high and those whose scores are low. The questions remain- who are these children and in what ways, if at all, do their high or low language skills affect their stuttering, at present, and over time? Are we dealing with subgroups? Interestingly, Nicoline Ambrose and her team are producing data showing that, language-wise, those who persist trail those who recover. Another serious possibility (or likelihood) is that language skills are (a) an irrelevant parameter that (b) has been investigated with weak instruments. Indeed, McPherson and Smith (2013) have just shown that what might matter more is the level of *language complexity*. In an investigation of the motor speech production abilities of

preschoolers who stutter, they found that abnormal patterns of motor activation were more likely when linguistic complexity increased. In short, it is imprudent of our Australian colleagues to suggest that the unknown role of language in early stuttering has been clarified.

**Third Finding.** The authors reported that the brief, parent-report instrument they used to obtain a general indication of mental health, temperament, and psychosocial health showed no or little evidence of harm to the children in these domains. On this basis they offered the baffling conclusion that there is an **absence** of harm in any of the above areas and, the even more baffling interpretation, that “presence of stuttering improves those outcomes.” In other words, they say that during its first year, stuttering does a lot of good for the children! This is pretty amazing to me. Years prior to this study, other investigators, again not mentioned in the article, wrote that temperament differences “...were not reflected in the reports of children’s behavior as a group” (Yairi & Ambrose, 2005, p. 263). Importantly, we certainly did not entertain the conclusion that such characteristics are absent in those who stutter. Investigators and clinicians must be cognizant of the very significant limits of the instruments employed by Reilly et al. and their power to assess little children’s thoughts, feelings, reactions, etc., not to mention their insensitivity to the limitations of group means, especially in a heterogeneous population like those who stutter. Additionally, one must remember that the data represent parents’ opinions, not direct evaluation of children’s responses. Those who bothered to check Johnson et al. 1959 data, noted the opposite finding - that “...On 35 of the 36 items... the control group children were rated more favorably by their mothers or fathers, or both, than were the experimental group children by their parents (p. 57).” Also, subsequent researchers (e.g., Anderson et al., 2003) found indications of negative emotion and emotional reactivity. Inasmuch as contradictory findings have been reported, it is too early to suggest that emotional/social aspects of young children who stutter have

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## Singing a 'Safe Haven' for Marc Anthony

Marc Anthony was destined to be a singer in more ways than one. First, born in New York City in 1968 as Marco Antonio Muniz to Puerto Rican parents, his parents named him after the famous Mexican singer of the same name. With that name he had a lot to live up to, and when he embarked on his own singing career, he changed his name to Marc Anthony to avoid confusion with his namesake, the famous Mexican singer.

Second, the young East Harlem resident struggled with stuttering in his early years and found singing as a way to break free of his stuttering bonds.

A June 8, 2011, *Zap2it* article by Jacqueline Culter summed up his childhood in El Barrio, as East Harlem is known. The article opens with, "For a kid from the projects of El Barrio who was in bilingual classes and who stuttered, Marc Anthony has done alright." The article quotes the singer as saying, "I used to stutter. And when I sang, I didn't stutter, and singing became my safe haven. Someone asked me, 'When did you decide to become a singer?' I didn't formally decide. It was just something I was born to do. It was where I lived."

In the Spanish-language magazine *Nexos*, a profile on Marc Anthony, "Q' Viva Marc Anthony" by Rosanna Ubannell, begins with "When a human being decides to break free from his chains, the world understands that nothing is impossible." This is the case of Marc

Anthony: as a child the only way he had to avoid stuttering was to sing. Similarly, the Chilean newspaper *Mega* published an article on July 23, 2013, entitled "Marc Anthony confessed that he began to sing to overcome his stuttering" about statements the singer gave at a press conference in conjunction with his popular record *Marc Anthony 3.0*. The article states that Marc Anthony is extremely thankful that music taught him how to express himself; he found, thanks to singing he not only discovered his talent to sing, but also a way to control his stuttering.

In the wake of the success of *The King's Speech*, an article on the *Univision* website titled "10 Stutterers Who Became Famous" listed Marc Anthony as the number one "person of interest" in this category.

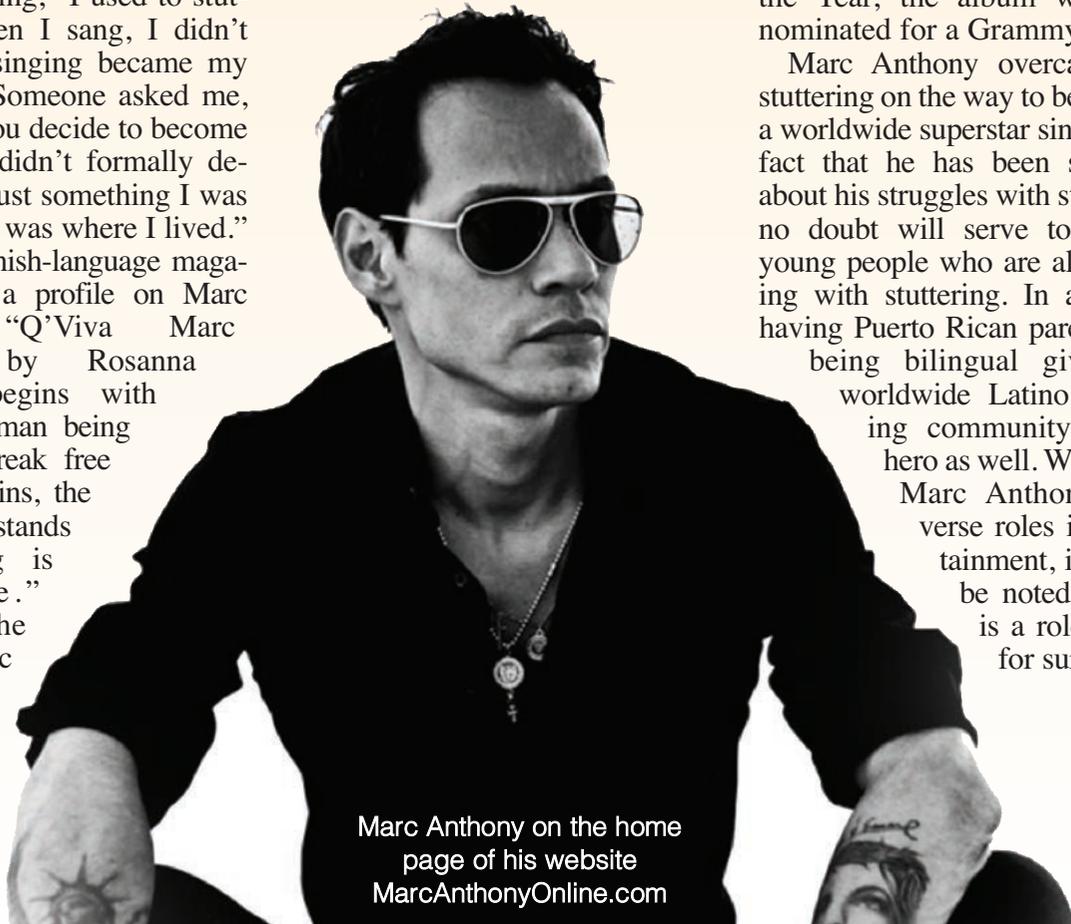
Marc Anthony's musical accomplishments and his high-profile marriage to and divorce

from Jennifer Lopez have of course pushed his battles with stuttering into the background.

In addition to being a singer, he is also a singer/songwriter, an actor, record producer, and television producer. The singer has won two Grammys in addition to three Latino Grammys, and countless achievement awards in the Latino community. His Latin salsa song list has resulted in the sale of 13 million albums worldwide.

Before breaking out on his own, Anthony found success as a songwriter and backing vocalist for numerous Latin groups such as *Menudo* and the *Latin Rascals*. Initially reluctant to record salsa, he changed his mind and released his debut Spanish-language album, *Otra Nota*, which earned him recognition and high marks from the Latin audience. His second Latin album, *Toda a Su Tiempo*, landed the emerging star a *Billboard* award for Hot Tropical Artist of the Year; the album was also nominated for a Grammy.

Marc Anthony overcame his stuttering on the way to becoming a worldwide superstar singer. The fact that he has been so open about his struggles with stuttering no doubt will serve to inspire young people who are also dealing with stuttering. In addition, having Puerto Rican parents and being bilingual gives the worldwide Latino stuttering community a true hero as well. With all of Marc Anthony's diverse roles in entertainment, it should be noted that he is a role model for sure.



Marc Anthony on the home page of his website [MarcAnthonyOnline.com](http://MarcAnthonyOnline.com)

 Continued from page 10

been clarified. Parents and clinicians should watch for overt manifestations or hints of such reactions.

The Australian team also reported that stuttering tended to occur more often in homes where mothers had higher education than mothers of control children. Readers would have benefited had the authors compared their findings to those of Boyle, et al. (2011) who, in a very large survey sponsored by the USA Center for Disease Control, found just the opposite.

People have reacted particularly strongly to the authors' recommendations that "Current best practice recommends waiting for 12 months before commencing treatment, unless the child is distressed, there is parental concern, or the child becomes reluctant to communicate. It may be that for many children, treatment could be deferred even longer." This is not a logical conclusion. Inasmuch as the authors are tuned only to their own data showing only 6% natural recovery after one year, a logical recommendation would have been for immediate clinical intervention for all children soon after onset, an observation wisely made by Donaher and Kelly (2013). Thus, the study does not present a *scientific* justification for a one-year waiting prescription. Oh, yes, perhaps they rely, without saying so, on Yairi and Ambrose (2005) who opined that waiting 6-12 months or so after onset is an option. But, we investigated and found high recovery over *several years* and also reported the significant progress of children during the first year to justify our conclusion. Furthermore, we also advocated a selective approach, offering a variety of data-based predicting factors for risk of persistent stuttering that call for

early intervention. For example, a child who is a boy, has a family history of persistent stuttering, and shows no improvement over several months, presents with a high risk for persistence. In this case then, there is appropriate justification for immediate initiation of therapy. It is puzzling and problematic that Reilly et al. seem to overlook their own data as well as other relevant developments in the field. Their progress report seems to be premature.

Finally, there is indeed one very unique outcome reported by Reilly, Onslow, Packman, et al. They found that family history of stuttering is NOT a predicting factor for stuttering onset (8.3% of stuttering children had familial history vs. 5.5% in controls). In this respect their results contradict some 30+ studies that have found strong family connections to stuttering onset. This suggests that either their sample was rather atypical or, more likely, the method of securing this information was insufficient. Approximating my 75th, and with a bit of a smile, I entertain a third possibility - that down under also genetics swirls in the opposite direction.

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enormous comfort for me.

Currently, I'm writing a memoir about stuttering, but more specifically, the culture and misconceptions surrounding it. For me, writing has continued to be an outlet in understanding — and even embracing — my stutter. Silence is such a huge temptation for stutterers to fall into, but I've learned the more I speak and write about my stutter, the more confident I become...and the happier I feel. In fact, that's my advice to all stutterers: be honest, and talk about it. You have no idea how therapeutic it can be, and how significant it is in making you a successful, confident adult (who just happens to stutter!).

Here are the links to the campus newspaper article and the podcast: <http://tinyurl.com/kmrlnqp> (article) and <http://tinyurl.com/lppq7uu> (podcast).

You have *no* idea how much hearing from you made my day! Thank you so much for thinking of me and tell everyone out there to keep up the good work and a good attitude! Best, Rachel.



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.

 Continued from front page

"One doctor commented that she had been working with a mother who had been in denial for several years regarding the benefits of seeking professional help for her 9-year-old son. This changed after the doctor forwarded her the *7 Tips* DVD," said June Campbell, who ran the booth for the Stuttering Foundation. "Several other physicians commented on how the Stuttering Foundation literature

supported them in how to best handle periods of disfluency or stuttering problems with their own children as well as their patients."

A pediatric resident commented that doctors don't receive enough education in medical school on stuttering.

"An AAP-employed physician even asked how the AAP can more effectively support the Foundation's work," Campbell said.

The *7 Tips* video is available on-

line at [www.StutteringHelp.org](http://www.StutteringHelp.org).

"We have made the leading voices on preschool stuttering available for free to parents to answer their tough questions about stuttering, offer practical strategies, and build confidence," said Jane Fraser, president of the Stuttering Foundation. "It is our hope that parents who seek advice about stuttering from their trusted pediatrician will find the help they need."

# Dear SFA: Reader Response



Send letters to SFA, P.O. Box 11749, Memphis, TN 38111-0749 or e-mail [info@StutteringHelp.org](mailto:info@StutteringHelp.org).

9 005 0007 0

My name is Gilberto and I am 9 years old. I live in Oxnard, California. I am in fourth grade. Stuttering is a hard thing to do. In speech class we learned about the speech machine. Some people are hard to talk to, but even when I stutter, other people still listen to me. Sometimes I do things so I won't have trouble talking. I change my words or thoughts or sometimes I just don't talk. I wish I could talk like the other kids. My stuttering makes me feel different and stressed. I am going to keep going to speech so I can learn more ways to make talking easier for me.

Gilberto, 9  
Oxnard, CA

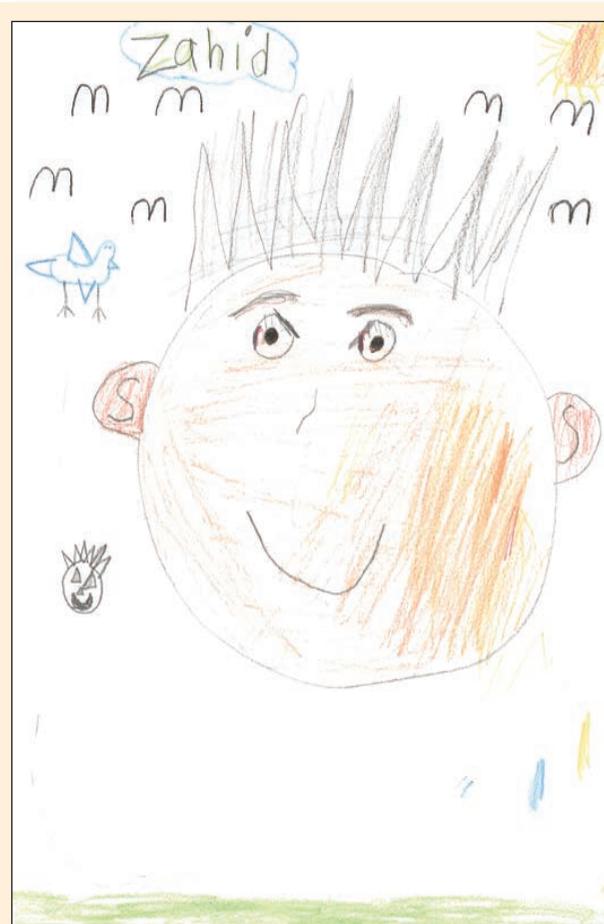
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I am Daniel, and I am 11 years old. I have been stuttering since I was 4 or 3. I started going to speech therapy when I was 7 but there it didn't go very well, so when I was 9 we changed to another place and in that place my stuttering got better but not so much. Now I hardly ever stutter, but sometimes I stutter a lot.

My parents try to help when I stutter but my dad always looks a bit nervous when I get stuck and makes me nervous too and my stuttering gets worse. That's all - I hope it's enough.

Daniel, 11  
Madrid, Spain

*Editors Note: In our book Sometimes I Just Stutter, parents are told, "...remember you are not*



*My name is Zahid. I am 9. I am in fourth grade and I live in Oxnard, California. I am good at playing soccer and video games. I don't like bullies that tease me about my stuttering. It is hard for me to talk to some people. I stutter on every word and I stutter everywhere when I talk, but I still like to talk. My stuttering makes me feel shy, depressed, and mixed-up. I wish I could talk like most of the other kids. This is my life of stuttering. My stuttering teacher taught me about the speech machine, myths and facts about stuttering, and belly breathing. My speech group did a presentation about stuttering. I want to keep going to speech so that I can improve my speech.*

*Zahid, 9, Oxnard, CA*

*the cause of your child's stuttering, but you are the nearest and best supporters on his road to talking more easily." While your parental concerns for your child are real, it is important for you as*

*well as for your child not to go on worrying. As Daniel tells us, "nervousness" is a bit "contagious."*

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My name is Jesus. I am 8 years old. I live in Oxnard, California. I'm the best video game player in the world! I am a good soccer player. I also like math. It is my favorite thing to do. I like my printing. Something I don't like about myself is stuttering too much. I really get annoyed with my stuttering. Sometimes when I read in front of the class people don't listen. When I talk I sometimes feel worried that I'm never going to stop stuttering. Something I like about school is that I have learned about the speech machine and the recipe for successful speech. I'm really disappointed in my stuttering. I sometimes get stuck on words and sounds. I want to keep going to speech and keep getting better at talking.

Jesus, 8  
Oxnard, CA

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My name is Riley-Anne. I am nine years old. I started going to speech when I was 5 or 6 years old. I work on my Rs, easy beginnings and stuttering. I really think I grew to like speech. It makes me feel unique. Sometimes kids tease me about it. I really do NOT care. Sometimes I get nervous.

My speech teacher has done so much for me. My mom is really helpful too. I love going away from class to work on speaking.

*Continued on page 14*

Continued from page 13

My entire life I have been dreaming of being a published author. I love speaking too! The work with Mrs. H really gives me confidence.

Riley-Anne, 9  
Illinois

11 3 3 7

I have something that I would like to say to you. I would like to say that when people tease you, you could say, "Come back when you can stutter better than me." I'll bet they'll stop teasing you right away.

Mateo, 10  
Lockeford, CA

5 5 7 7

Speech therapy changed my life forever! Imagine that you did a project that you worked so hard on for days. It was perfect, and you practiced and practiced your presentation for a long time. Then, when you presented it to the class, you stuttered on almost every word you tried to speak. This is what happened to me. Speech therapy is life changing to me because I speak more fluently, I have tools to help me overcome stuttering, and I have more confidence.

Before speech therapy, I often struggled to speak. In fourth grade, I did a paper called "Christmas Around the World" and gave a speech in front of the class. During the speech, I kept stuttering and got mad at myself. I felt flustered, stressed, and nervous. Stuttering made me feel lonely and different from everyone else.

While in the 5th grade, I took two speech therapy classes a week for the entire school year. I purposely changed schools in 5th grade just to have speech therapy. My speech therapist at Pinellas Preparatory Academy



My name is Gael and I am 9 years old. I am in third grade. I live in Oxnard, California. I am good at a game called Call of Duty Black OPS 2. I am good at soccer. Sometimes it is hard for me to talk to other people. That is why I go to speech class. I don't like stuttering. I wish I talked like other people. My speech teacher helps me to stop stuttering. I want to learn more about how to make talking easier. I hope to stop stuttering.  
Gael, 9, Oxnard, CA

helped me to better articulate my words and to speak more fluently. My teacher, Mrs. C, used the tools my therapist taught me during regular class time with everyone. My parents also helped me with the worksheets that my therapist gave me. Reading aloud was also helpful. With the help of many people in my life, I was able to improve the fluency in my speech.

I now have tools to help me overcome my stuttering. My speech therapist gave me tools and exercises to do in my free time. The tools were called easy onset and decreased rate of speech. She gave me worksheets with words that started with R's, other consonant blends, and tongue twisters. She also gave me vocal exercises that were to

say words that started with certain consonants and tongue twisters.

Different teachers have given class assignments that require writing an essay or story and then reading it in front of the class. I can do this now and not worry as much because I know I can succeed if I use the tools learned. Now that I don't stutter as much, I tried out for a part in last year's school drama production and got a part that had lines. I didn't stutter and really enjoyed the experience. Because of that great experience, I have decided to try out again this year.

Speech therapy changed my life because I speak more fluently, I have tools to help overcome stuttering, and I have more confidence to speak in front of an audience or anyone else for that matter. I feel fortunate to not always stutter. Now, I don't feel different from everyone else. I'm ecstatic that I don't have to repeat everything twice or even more times anymore. The tools that I

have learned from speech therapy make me feel like I can accomplish anything.

Ben, 12  
Palm Harbor, FL

*Editor's Note: At press time, we heard this update from Ben's mom – "I thought I would share some exciting news about Ben that we just received. His school is doing Beauty and the Beast this year and Ben tried out for Le Fou, Gaston's little sidekick. Ben got the part! He is super excited and will have more speaking lines than last year and he will be singing. The drama instructor said he 'rocked his audition.' This is huge for Ben and hopefully encouraging for others!!"*



My name is Rodolfo. My age is 10. I live in Oxnard, California. Sometimes I get nervous about my speech. I get stuck on the "M" sound. When my teacher tells me to read out loud in the classroom, I get nervous and repeat my words. Some people make fun of me when I stutter. People bully me. I learned a lot about stuttering. I learned myths and facts. I have learned about the speech machine and belly breathing. I want to learn everything I can about stuttering.  
Rodolfo, 10, Oxnard, CA

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My name is Cooper, and I am 9 years old. I started stuttering before preschool. The first time I went to therapy I was very nervous of what it would be like. People have teased me off and on. I just say, "I bet you have something wrong with you too" and they just walk away. I discovered that all therapy was, was somebody who really want-

ed to help you. Then I started going to therapy at school. It turned out being really helpful. A few people in my school stutter. We have a strategy that helps me very well – it is sliding. Sliding is when you loosen up your jaw and slick through the word you are stuck on. The other kids in my school have the same strategy but different ways of using it. My teacher has a signal for me to slide when I am stuck.

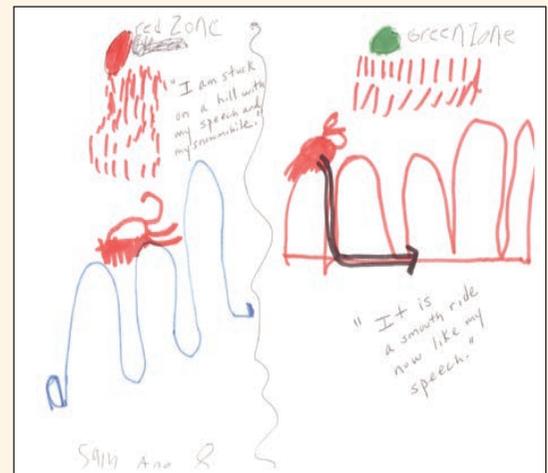
Sometimes in something like sports you would have to talk, or you might have to talk in front of a bunch of people. Don't be scared; just use whatever strategy you are best at. You will probably have trouble with it, but it's okay. When you are having trouble with your strategy, you can always use some other one that you get help from.  
Cooper, 9

Continued on page 16



Hi, my name is Joshua. I'm in 4th grade, and I'm 9 years old. I am a video gamer, and I sometimes go outside and exercise. A speech tool I use is to slide on words, or think before talking. If someone teases me about stuttering I would stop, walk, and talk. It is OK to stutter – there is no law against it.  
Joshua, 9, Waite Park, MN

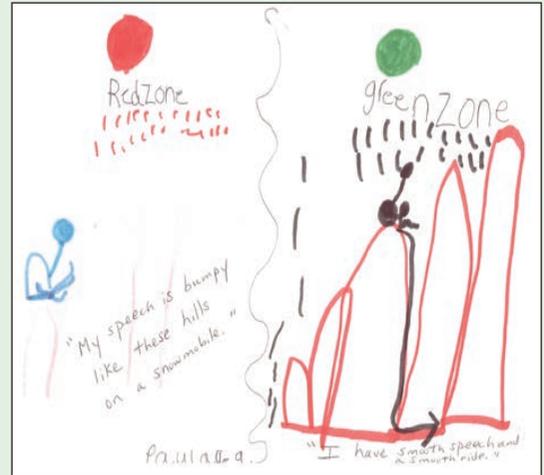
I used to stutter a lot. I am in second grade, and I am 9. I like to go snowmobiling and ice fishing. A speech tool I use is to try to pull out of it, and slide on words. If someone teases me about stuttering, I would stop, walk, and talk.  
Sam, 9, Waite Park, MN





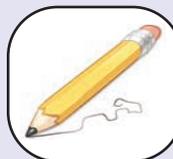
*My name is Brandon. I'm in 3rd grade. I started stuttering in 1st grade. I am 9 years old. I like to play video games and watch TV. A speech tool I use when I talk is to slide on words and take my time. If someone teased me about stuttering, I would stop, walk, and talk. Keep talking!  
Brandon, 9, Waite Park, MN*

*Hi! My name is Paul. I stutter a lot. I am 9 years old, and I'm in 4th grade. I like to go snowmobiling and ice fishing. A speech tool I use is I try to pull out of it and have an easy start.  
Paul, 9, Waite Park, MN*



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**John posts about stuttering:** This is the hardest thing I had to overcome. It affected me in the lower grades (1st-3rd grades) and speech therapy all through school, including high school. I hated reading in front of class. Being left handed also was a nightmare in 1st grade as my teacher tried to break me of it.



**Tiffany writes about letters from children who stutter:** What amazing children!

**Siobhan comments about our web page with drawings and letters from kids:** I just clicked on the link and read them. It bought tears to my eyes. These kids are so much braver than I ever was. Only at 32 I'm accepting it. These kids are inspirational. Good luck and remember you have a voice.



*Editor: The letters and drawings from kids can be found at [www.StutteringHelp.org/drawings-and-letters-kids](http://www.StutteringHelp.org/drawings-and-letters-kids)*

**Theresa on therapy for stuttering:** Speech therapy helped me when I was in school. *Wish I could find a speech therapist now that I'm an adult.*



**There were several comments about conservationist Alan Rabinowitz:** Inspirational!

- Just Awesome. Huge respect to Dr. Rabinowitz.
- A great man and a big inspiration.
- My hero!
- Wonderful! Keep up the great work!
- Thank you for all you have done and do and will do.
- You are a hero for the animals. We love you!
- Rabinowitz is a great Man.
- A great man, yes indeed!
- Keep up the great work. It is making a difference!



**Troy comments about a news story featuring a Ph.D. student who is focusing on stuttering:**

I think this is awesome. I've been a stutterer my entire life ... Now I too am studying to become a SLP when I retire from the Army.





*Editor's Note: Susannah Parkin, a former intern at the Stuttering Foundation, received the James Soper Merrill Prize. Here is the speech she gave when she graduated from Hamilton College in the spring.*

**T**hank you. I am truly honored to be standing up here speaking today. So many of my classmates deserve great recognition for their accomplishments. I take pride in saying that I belong to the Hamilton College Class of 2013. And I know that I speak for everyone seated in front of me when I say that we could not have made it here without a great deal of help. Thank you to our professors, the administration, as well as the staff of Hamilton College. And of course, thank you to our family and friends. All of our accomplishments are a testament to the support and encouragement that you have provided.

It is an honor to have been chosen for this prize, but it does come with a small catch. The recipient speaks at commencement – which I think would make most people scared, even if they did not speak with a stutter.

But fear can be helpful. There are many things in life that we should be afraid of: tigers, poisonous frogs, falling off of a cliff. For these situations, fear means survival. However, for other situations, fear just means that we are facing something new, something intimidating. For example, we might be afraid of going to college for the first time, taking a higher-level course, or studying abroad for

a semester. For these situations, fear simply means that we are facing a new challenge.

My first message is something that we have all heard before, but it is a message that deserves to be repeated on this special day. It is important to do things in spite of our fear. We know this to be true because this idea – doing something in spite of being afraid – has characterized our experience at Hamilton. Hamilton has presented us with challenges. For many of



*Susannah at the podium!*

us, it was our first time living away from home. We had to make new friends, choose a major, and meet exceedingly high academic demands. These challenges were scary. No one sitting here today can truthfully say that they experienced no fear during their time here. But this fear is not important. What is important is that we did leave home; we made new friends; we chose a major; and we met the demands. Today is proof that we succeeded in spite of our fear.

My second message is a slight revision of the first. I believe that we should do things in spite of our fear, but I also believe that sometimes we have to go even further. We have to do things because we are afraid. We have to see a situa-

tion, recognize our fear, and do it because it scares us. We have to see fear as an opportunity for growth. We have to seek out challenges. Facing our fear with a sense of purpose makes us stronger because it puts us in control of the fear. When I was choosing my classes for last fall, I came upon a public speaking course. As I read the course description, my palms began to sweat. It seemed like my worst nightmare – a course dedicated to developing,

delivering, and critiquing speeches. But I also knew that it was a quintessential Hamilton course and used to be required for graduation. Hamilton prides itself on its students' abilities to communicate their ideas successfully. I was afraid of the course, but the fear meant that it was important for me to take the course. It was something new, something intimidat-

ing. It was also an opportunity for growth. And today, speaking at commencement, I am thankful that I made that decision.

It is okay that we are afraid, but we cannot let the fear stop us. We need to let the fear fuel us – and do things because we are afraid of them.



*Susannah Parkin, Renee Shepherd, and Jane Fraser at the East Coast office in 2011.*

*Happy New Year!*

www.StutteringHelp.org • 800-992-9392 • www.tartamudez.org

**Using Cognitive Approaches with People Who Stutter**

Stuttering Foundation's Five-Day Eastern Workshop is June 16-20, 2014, at Boston University. Workshop leaders are Elaine Kelman, MSc, Cert CT, Cert MRC-SLT; and Alison Nicholas, MSc, BA (Hons), Reg MRC-SLT. Conference coordinator is Diane Parris, M.S., CCC-SLP, BRS-FD.

Deadline to apply is March 17, 2014. Call 800-992-9392 or visit [www.StutteringHelp.org](http://www.StutteringHelp.org) and click on "speech-language pathologists."

**Treating Children and Adolescents Who Stutter**

Stuttering Foundation's Five-Day Mid-Atlantic Workshop is July 7-11, 2014, in Philadelphia. Workshop leaders are Joseph Donaher, Ph.D., Lisa A. Scott, Ph.D., and Vivian Sisskin, M.S.

Deadline to apply is March 17, 2014. Call 800-992-9392 or visit [www.StutteringHelp.org](http://www.StutteringHelp.org) and click on "speech-language pathologists."

**Practical Strategies for Working with School-aged Children Who Stutter**

Stuttering Foundation's Two-Day Conference will be May 16 and 17, 2014, in Montclair, N.J.

Workshop leaders include Lisa A. Scott, Ph.D., Joe Donaher, Ph.D., Patricia Zebrowski, Ph.D., Lee Caggiano, M.A., Kia Johnson, Ph.D., Laura Johnson, M.S., Elise Kaufman, M.S., Diane Polledri, M.A., Jim Tsiamtsiouris, Ph.D., and Frances Cook, M.Sc.

Deadline to apply is March 17, 2014. Call 800-992-9392 or visit [www.StutteringHelp.org](http://www.StutteringHelp.org) and click on "speech-language pathologists."

**The 10th Oxford Dysfluency Conference (ODC)** will be held July 17-20, 2014, at St. Catherine's College, Oxford.

In 2014, the goal of the Oxford Dysfluency Conference is to lead a challenging international debate about the latest research in disorders of fluency and its clinical applications. CEUs are provided by the Stuttering Foundation. For more information, [www.dysfluencyconference.com](http://www.dysfluencyconference.com).

**National Stuttering Association Convention** is July 2-6, 2014, in Washington, DC. For more information, visit [www.westutter.org](http://www.westutter.org).

**Friends Who Stutter Convention** is July 17-19, 2014, in Chicago. For additional information, visit [www.friendswhostutter.org](http://www.friendswhostutter.org).



**Toastmasters International** as a way to improve fluency, communication or public speaking skills: **Toastmasters International, Inc.**, P.O. Box 9052, Mission Viejo, CA 92690, (714) 858-8255, [www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org).



**Our list of books on stuttering** is continuously being updated with the latest publications. It can be found online at [StutteringHelp.org/books-stuttering](http://StutteringHelp.org/books-stuttering).



**Story ideas?** Our readers have the best ideas for newsletter articles. Email your ideas and pictures to [info@stutteringhelp.org](mailto:info@stutteringhelp.org).



Volume 22, Issue 1  
 The Stuttering Foundation was founded in 1947 by Malcolm Fraser, 1903-1994

Scot Squires . . . . . Editor/Designer  
 Special thanks to Joan Warner, Patty Reed, Lisa Hinton, Ron Shafer, Lori Marler, Ashley Lofquist, and Terri Jones.