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A Non-Profit Organization Since 1947... Helping Those Who Stutter

Volume III, Number 1

Unassisted Recovery from Stuttering: A Search Begins

Research has documented a considerable number of persons who report they have recovered from stuttering without the assistance of formal therapy.



Dr. Patrick Finn

These unassisted recoveries have been reported to occur throughout childhood, adolescence, and even adulthood. Conventional wisdom has generally held that these individuals have recovered spontaneously; that is, as the result of some unqualified life development or maturation process.

Recent research, however, has challenged this view and suggested that at least some of these individuals may have recovered due to the active, yet informal endeavors of either their parents during childhood years or their own self-help efforts during adulthood.

If this is the case, then these individuals could be an incredibly rich source of information. Their accounts of recovery from stuttering could potentially inform us about possible therapeutic techniques, the process of recovery, and – most importantly – provide a portrait of what recovery from stuttering looks, sounds, and feels like. In turn, this information might help those individuals who continue to have a chronic stuttering problem.

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SFA Dedicates This Issue to Bette K. Williams

Our Vice President for Professional Affairs, Dr. Dean E. Williams, and his wife Bette were involved in a terrible automobile accident on December 21, 1993, as they headed from Iowa City to visit family in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Bette died in the accident, and Dean has been in very critical condition.

Dean has worked with the Stuttering Foundation for over 30 years and helped to write and edit many SFA publications. Since his retirement from the University of Iowa, he has been the Vice President for Professional Affairs of SFA. In that position, Dean represented SFA at conventions of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Association of Family Physicians, and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Last year, Dr. Williams received the highest award, the Honors of the Association, from the

American-Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

At all of these conventions, and indeed throughout all his efforts for the Foundation, he was always accompanied and helped by Bette, who was a very close friend of all associated with SFA. At Bette's funeral service, she was recognized as an exemplary person and an inspiration to all who knew her. In his eulogy, her grandson Dean Williams remarked that, although the door of her life had closed, her light would shine through and around for all who knew and loved her.

As we go to press, Dean is doing much better and has been moved from Loyola Hospital near Chicago back to Iowa City. Cards and letters may be mailed to the family home at 553 Linder Road, Iowa City, Iowa 52240.

A memorial fund has been established in honor and in memory of our longtime friend, Bette K. Williams.



This picture was taken of Bette K. Williams and Dean E. Williams at the SFA booth at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association convention in November, 1993, just weeks before their tragic accident. Bette always had a smile and a kind word for one and all.

Public Service Announcement for Television Makes Impact Nationally

The Stuttering Foundation's public-service announcement for television features vintage footage of Winston Churchill and Marilyn Monroe. It was aired by an ever-growing number of stations and networks across the country in 1993, thereby increasing the public's awareness of stuttering.

In 1994, new versions of the PSA featuring Chicago Bulls legend Bob Love and U.S. Open champion Ken Venturi will be sent to networks and affiliates to celebrate National Stuttering Awareness Week, May 9-15, 1994.



CBS Keeps SFA in Rotation

Support from CBS, Inc. has been outstanding all during 1993. We have heard from hundreds of CBS viewers in the following cities in response to the regular airing of our PSA:

KTBC Channel 7, Austin, TX
 WHDH Channel 7, Boston, MA
 KBTX Channel 3, Bryan, TX
 WDEF Channel 12, Chattanooga, TN
 WBBM Channel 2, Chicago, IL
 WCPO Channel 9, Cincinnati, OH
 KZTV Channel 10, Corpus Christi, TX
 WJBK Channel 2, Detroit, MI
 WTVY Channel 4, Dothan, AL
 WBTV Channel 13, Florence, SC
 KGBT Channel 4, Harlingen, TX
 KLAS Channel 8, Las Vegas, NE
 WKYT Channel 27, Lexington, KY
 KTHV Channel 11, Little Rock, AR
 WMAZ Channel 13, Macon, GA
 WREC Channel 3, Memphis, TN
 WCIX Channel 6, Miami, FL
 KNOE Channel 8, Monroe, LA
 WAKA Channel 8, Montgomery, LA
 WCPX Channel 6, Orlando, FL
 KTSP Channel 10, Phoenix, AZ
 KOIN Channel 6, Portland, OR
 WTVR Channel 6, Richmond, VA

KXTV Channel 10, Sacramento, CA
 KPIX Channel 5, San Francisco, CA
 KSTF Channel 10, Scottsbluff, NE
 KIRO Channel 7, Seattle, WA
 KELO Channel 11, Sioux Falls, SD
 WCTV Channel 6, Tallahassee, FL
 WSAW Channel 7 in Wausau, WI
 KAUZ Channel 6, Wichita Falls, TX
 WJKA Channel 26, Wilmington, NC

Fox Broadcasting Company Supports SFA

Our PSA is also in the national rotation of PSA's at Fox Broadcasting Company. Calls from Fox viewers in the following cities are coming in daily:

WXMI Channel 17, Grand Rapids, MI
 WOIO Channel 19, Cleveland, OH
 KRIV Channel 26, Houston, TX
 WUHF Channel 31, Rochester, NY
 WFLD Channel 32, Chicago, IL
 WDAU Channel 34, in Ozark, AL
 WTTG Channel 5, in Washington, D.C.
 WSMH Channel 66, in Flint, MI



ABC Television Network and ABC Stations

In New York, WABC Channel 7 ran our 30-second PSA several times a week during the first six months of 1993. This invaluable support throughout all of 1993 has enabled us to reach tens of thousands of viewers in the New York area. We are grateful for the strong support of the ABC Television Network.

In Detroit, WXYZ Channel 7 aired SFA's PSA in the spring, at National Stuttering Awareness Week and during the back-to-school days this fall. The response from viewers was outstanding.

In Seattle, KOMO Channel 4 began airing our PSA last year and continued

to help us during the National Stuttering Awareness Week campaign.

In Philadelphia, WPVI Channel 6 has kept us in their rotation all year long.

In Los Angeles, KABC Channel 7 has had us in their rotation several



times a month all year, resulting in hundreds of calls from their viewers at each airing.

In Cleveland, WEWS Channel 5 has been airing our PSA all year long and especially during back-to-school days and National Stuttering Awareness Week.

Another ABC station which aired our public-service announcement numerous times during 1993 was KTRK Channel 13 in Houston.

A new addition to those stations airing our PSA is WMBB Channel 13 in Panama City, Florida. This has resulted in many calls not only from the panhandle of Florida but also southern Alabama.

NBC Network and Affiliates

We were included in the national rotation of public-service announcements at NBC this year. Each airing, often during prime time, resulted in many hundreds of calls from NBC viewers all over the country. The calls went on for many months following the airing. As we mentioned in a previous newsletter, over 11,000 calls came in from NBC viewers in June, 1993.

The following NBC stations have been generous in airing our PSA on stuttering this year: KOB Channel 4 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, WMCT Channel 5 in Memphis, and WJHG Channel 7 in Panama City, Florida.

The support of these stations and networks throughout 1993 have enabled us to reach hundreds of thousands of viewers whose lives have been affected by stuttering. Their public-service programs are to be applauded.

Second Annual Awards Competition For Reporting Excellence

The Stuttering Foundation of America announced today that it will recognize journalists for the second consecutive year for excellence in reporting that furthers the understanding of this complex disorder.

"We are happy to take this important step to further public awareness of stuttering," said Jane Fraser, president of the 47-year-old non-profit organization. "Media coverage has grown substantially in volume and sensitivity in recent years. We want to continue recognizing outstanding reporters."

The second annual Stuttering Foundation of America Awards will be given to journalists in two categories: print and electronic media. They will recognize news stories over the last year that:

- Advanced the public's understanding of stuttering;
- Introduced information on stuttering to a significant new audience.

Print and electronic journalists are invited to submit copies or videocassettes of their news items to the Stuttering Foundation of America, P.O. Box 11749, Memphis, TN 38111-0749. All entries must have been published or aired between January 1, 1993 and March 15, 1994.

In addition to a public announcement on the SFA Award recipients, each honoree will receive a cash award of \$250.00 from the Foundation.

"Many people who stutter have made important contributions to society," noted Fraser. "Unfortunately, they often have to confront difficulties in the classroom or workplace that result from misinformation. Outstanding journalists have begun to educate the public about stuttering, and we will consistently acknowledge and honor their efforts."

"Stuttering Therapy: Practical Ideas for School Clinicians" Conference Planned for Summer 1994

A two-day conference to focus on the work of school clinicians with children who stutter is planned for the summer of 1994.

It will be held at the University of Colorado in Boulder on June 3rd and 4th, 1994. This beautiful location should be convenient for school clinicians living in the surrounding states of California, South Dakota, Wyoming, Kansas, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Nebraska and Oklahoma.

The format of the conference calls for presentations followed by extensive discussion in small discussion groups. Featured speakers are Edward G.

Couture, Ph.D., of Syracuse University and Barry Guitar, Ph.D., of the University of Vermont.

The program and application form for this conference have been printed and are available to anyone writing the Stuttering Foundation of America at P.O. Box 11749, Memphis, TN 38111-0749, or calling toll-free 1-800-992-9392.

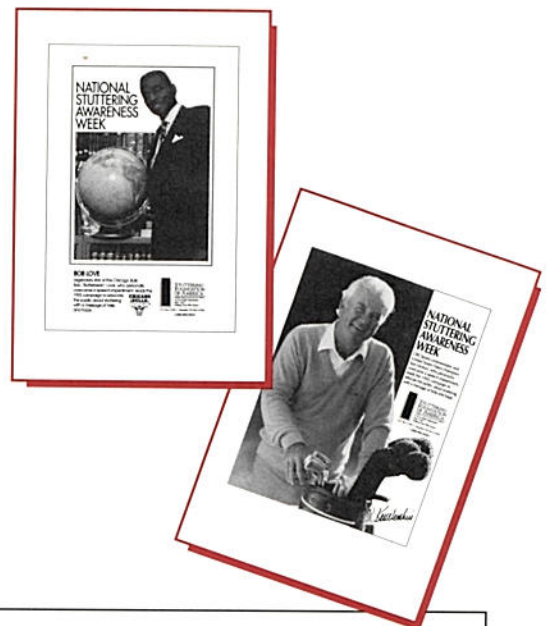


Stuttering Awareness Week Posters and Brochure Available

National Stuttering Awareness Week is May 9-15, 1994! Order your color posters now. They feature U.S. Open champion golfer Ken Venturi and legendary Chicago Bulls star Bob Love. The posters are a colorful addition to your office, classroom or home.

National Stuttering Awareness Week brochures featuring ten famous men and women who stutter are also available.

For more information on the two posters and the brochure, call toll-free 1-800-992-9392.



For more information on any SFA educational materials and conferences, call toll-free 1-800-992-9392.

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Unassisted Recovery

With the assistance of the Stuttering Foundation, we are beginning a search for these individuals who used to stutter but have recovered without formal assistance. If you believe you are an unassisted recovered stutterer or you know someone who resembles this kind of individual, we would like to hear from you.

We are very interested in hearing your story, asking questions about your recovery, and most importantly, obtaining a short audiotaped recording of your current speech. We believe that the information you can share with us and the characteristics of your current speech will provide invaluable information that may help us better understand and develop therapy procedures for people who continue to stutter.

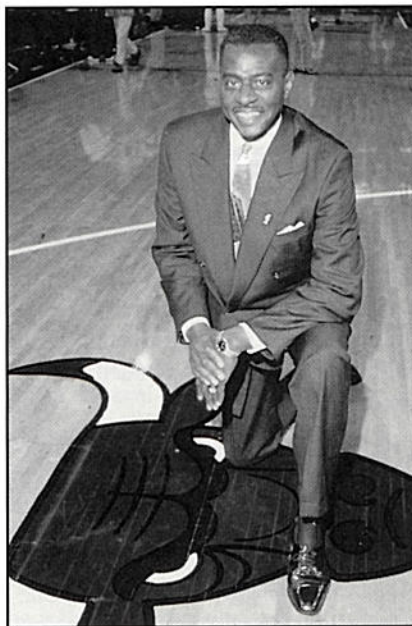
If you are interested and willing to speak with us and will allow a recording to be made of your speech, we hope you will provide your permission to the Stuttering Foundation of America, P.O. Box 11749, Memphis, TN 38111-0749, to release your name, address and phone number to us so that we may contact you to learn about you, your past stuttering problem, your unassisted recovery from stuttering, and the status of your speech today.

Patrick Finn, Ph.D.
University of New Mexico,
Albuquerque

Gifts in memory and in honor of Bette K. Williams will be listed in the Spring 1994 SFA Newsletter.

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.



In a ceremony held on January 14, 1994, Chicago Bulls legendary star Bob Love was honored when his jersey, the number 10, was retired. He is one of only two Chicago Bulls players to have his jersey retired. The other, Jerry Sloan, was also on hand for the January 14, 1994, ceremony honoring Bob. The spokesperson for SFA last year, Bob was featured on the Today Show and 20/20 for his courage in working to overcome stuttering.

1993 Gifts Were Made In Honor of:

American Institute for the
Management of Stuttering
(AIMS)
Florence Filley
Parents of
Dr. and Mrs. Richard A. Forcucci
Annie Glenn
Hugo H. Gregory, Ph.D.
Albert Murphy, Ph.D.
Mark Speed
Stuttering Foundation of America
Charles Van Riper, Ph. D.

1993 Gifts Made in Memory of:

Frank Kornegay John O'Brian
Dr. Ed Mysak Janet Schwartz

NEWSBRIEFS

■ SFA will co-sponsor a conference, "Stuttering Therapy: Practical Ideas for School Clinicians," with the University of Colorado on June 3rd and 4th, 1994. The conference will be held at the Clarion Harvest House Hotel in Boulder, Colorado. For more information, contact the Stuttering Foundation of America at 1-800-992-9392, or Dr. Peter Ramig at 303-492-3049.

■ The ninth annual "Stuttering Therapy: Workshop for Specialists" co-sponsored by the Stuttering Foundation and Northwestern University will be held at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, from July 10 through July 22nd, 1994.

For more information about this exciting workshop, contact the Stuttering Foundation at 1-800-992-9392, or Dr. Hugo Gregory, Stuttering Programs, Northwestern University, 2299 Campus Drive North, Evanston, IL 60208.

Fellowships for this unique workshop which brings together speech-language pathologists from all over the world are available from the Stuttering Foundation of America.

■ Krister Larsson of the Swedish Stammerers' Association announces the 4th World Congress of People Who Stutter in Linköping, Sweden, July 26 to July 29, 1995. For more information, write to him c/o Norrsvangen 1a, Itr, S-582 47 Linköping, Sweden.



**STUTTERING
FOUNDATION
OF AMERICA**

FORMERLY SPEECH FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

*A Non-Profit Organization
Since 1947—
Helping Those Who Stutter*

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