

Conference Planning 101

Exciting stuff going on in Cleveland this year

****ALL NEW ****

NSA Conference Career Day:

The NSA conference is going to work! Join us at the NSA conference in Cleveland for a day of networking, career advice, resume assistance, and job searching tips! Friday, July 9, will be the day for you to get help with your career, whether you are a teen looking at careers or college majors, a college student looking for an internship or resume advice, a “dislocated worker” looking for a new job, someone looking for a career change, or if you just want to brush up on your networking and interviewing skills. We will have workshops and networking sessions designed to help you boost your career or find your dream job! The NSA conference has always been a place to find friends and stuttering support – now it’s also the place to find experts in dozens of fields as well as people who can help you network and explore your career path, all of whom have been in your shoes before.

If you are interested in helping with “Career Day” – from offering advice as a “seasoned professional” in your field

to critiquing resumes to coordinating a career-related workshop – please e-mail the NSA office at info@WeStutter.org.

Continuing Education Seminar: Being held Thursday, 1 p.m. – 5 p.m., topic is “Real-life Clinical Tips from Real-life Clinicians.” Presenters: Nina Reeves, Charlie Osborne, and Craig Coleman. (0.4 CEUs being offered)

Family/Youth Program: NSA Families will Rock Cleveland! The nsa conference is 3½ days packed with activities that will enrich the entire family. From Wednesday afternoon’s Meet ‘n’ Greet to the banquet on Saturday night, kids, teens, and parents will be taken care of. Family Programs staff will be sure families are comfortable with the conference schedule and have a chance to relax and engage all at once. Workshops, outings, and presentations of all sorts will help families get to know each other and learn that they are not alone with their questions and challenges.

****ALL NEW ****

Twenty-Somethings – Making its debut in Cleveland, the NSA is proud to announce our newest program, Twenty-Somethings. This new program is designed specifically for 20-29 year olds. We understand that Twenty-Somethings sometimes feel too old for the teen scene and too

continued on page 8

Going the Distance

What’s the purpose of competing in one of the world’s most challenging races consisting of swimming 2.4 miles, biking 112 miles and running a complete marathon of 26.2 miles all within 17 hours in hot, humid conditions?

Simple. It’s about creating and subsequently conquering a challenge that some think might never be humanly possible. It’s a journey that tests the very boundaries of perseverance, fear, courage and resilience – not to mention physical endurance.

Competing in the Ironman, a race that has become the measurement by which all other races are compared, draws a close parallel to the internal battles stutterers face everyday.

A lifetime stutterer, Charlie Kirk has experienced the devastating emotional effects associated with not being able to speak what, when, and how he wants to speak. Low self-esteem, lack of acceptance, hopelessness, embarrassment, anger and failure are all emotions Charlie has overcome in his personal and business life.

“Competing in the Ironman triathlon isn’t about recognition, fame, or glory. It’s about overcoming seemingly impossible obstacles,” says Charlie.

“I believe there are no boundaries to what we can achieve no matter how devastating our speech impediment. It takes courage to act on opportunities, emotional fortitude to persevere through difficult situations, and most important an unwavering belief in ourselves.”

This summer, Charlie will put himself through this excruciating test of human limits for the benefit of the NSA and people who stutter across the United States.

continued on page 6



WHAT'S INSIDE

Chairman Insight	2	Stuttering Research	5
Executive Insight	2	Thank You, Volunteers	6
Members Speak Up	3	Bring or Send Your Auction Items	6
NSA Launches Business Network	3	Chapter News	7
Odds & Ends	4		

CHAIRMAN INSIGHT

FROM ERNIE CANADEO



Where were you when you heard the news?

For people who stutter and the people who love them, the news that researchers have discovered three genes for stuttering ranks as one of life's most important, and emotional, moments.

This groundbreaking study proves conclusively that there is a genetic disposition to stuttering. Stuttering is not behavioral or caused by emotional factors. For people who stutter, it is evidence of what we've always known but could not prove. And now parents can feel relieved that they are not responsible for their children's stuttering. Exhale, slowly. It's not your fault.

What does this mean for people who stutter? It is important to realize that this is not a cure, but it will pave the way for further research and give a clearer direction so that a "cure" may one day be found. It also gives further

evidence that early intervention and good speech therapy are critical in a child's early years before the brain becomes "hard wired."

The NSA is proud to have supported and been involved in the study, and thrilled that several of our members were participants. Dennis Drayna, Ph.D., a researcher at the National Institute of Deafness and Other Communication Disorders and one of our presenters at last year's NSA Research Symposium, led the team that made the discovery.

Dr. Drayna will be discussing his research and answering your questions at this year's NSA Annual Conference and Research Symposium; he will be joined by other important speakers who will be commenting on what this study means for people who stutter as well as other important news.

This year's conference may be the most important conference the NSA has ever held. We have just witnessed

a breakthrough in stuttering research, and there is no better place to hear directly from Dr. Drayna and others about what it means to you. It is a once in a lifetime event.

Please call the NSA office if you are in need of financial assistance, as we are making every attempt to give as much support to the NSA stuttering community as possible. If you have attended our conferences in the past, you know they are life changing, so make sure you don't miss this one. If you have not been to an NSA conference, this is the one to attend. Please make your reservations soon as hotel rooms are limited.

This is a very exciting time. I look forward to seeing you and sharing our excitement in Cleveland.

All the best,
Ernie Canadeo
NSA Chairman

EXECUTIVE INSIGHT

Board of Directors Meeting Highlights

The NSA board of directors got a preview of this year's conference site at its winter board meeting Feb. 19-20 in Cleveland. Here are some highlights of the meeting:

The NSA is in sound financial shape despite the recession but needs continued support from members. We have seen a slight shift from the Change for the Better monthly pledge program to annual dues payments as members tighten their belts. Our biggest revenue sources continue to be donations by major contributors and the proceeds of the annual conference.

We now have 28 active Family Programs chapters for children, parents, and teens. This year's conference will have a new program for 20-somethings to aid the transition from teen to adult activities.

The NSA has 74 adult chapters, including five new chapters. Since last summer, chapters have attracted 181 new attendees. This year's conference will include more career-oriented activities. In addition, a new Yahoo group for business networking among NSA members was launched recently.

The research symposium at last year's conference is now an annual event and will be featured in Cleveland. The NSA research committee, which screens proposals to use NSA members as research subjects, approved eight projects last year and rejected two others. Continuing education workshops for speech-language pathologists are scheduled in Tampa and Scottsdale as well as at the conference in Cleveland.

NSA volunteers are working on a wide variety of projects, including



contacting school speech therapists and promoting the NSA on the Internet.

The NSA web site, upgraded last year, receives frequent updates and lots of positive feedback. Sarah D'Agostino, part-time staff member for Family Programs, also handles much of the web site work. Volunteers have been instrumental in adding video clips to the site and establishing a NSA presence on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. Our Facebook page now has more than 1,300 "fans," many of whom are new to the NSA.

Registration is now open for this year's conference and hotel room reservations are ahead of schedule. We need more items for the NSA fundraising auction because we will have

continued on page 8

Members Speak Up

NSA Member Highlights



Josh Denault, age 35

FROM BERKELEY, CALIF.

The past year has been quite busy for Josh Denault, co-leader of the East Bay Area, Calif.

chapter of the NSA.

During the last half of 2009, the chapter held three outreach efforts, including a bilingual event targeting non-English speaking people who stutter and an open house for Bay Area teens interested in launching an NSA chapter just for them.

“I’ve helped take the lead on that one,” says Josh. “What it’s going to be is more of a activity/outing group as opposed to a regular meeting group. We did a pizza night a couple months ago, and our next event will be a lunch and photography day in San Francisco coming up at Fisherman’s Wharf.”

Another big event Josh helped put together for his chapter last October was an International Stuttering Awareness Day workshop. The event included presentations given by NSA members, including Michael Sugarman, co-founder of the National Stuttering Project (which is now the NSA!).

Josh, who heads the chapter with co-leader Nina Ghiselli, is already working on his to-do list for 2010. His chapter is planning to hold a workshop for both adults and teens sometime the year.

In addition, Josh has been building up his chapter’s Web site, adding photos from recent events as well as links to Voices Across Borders, a Web site sponsored by the East Bay chapter that brings together young adults who stutter from all over the world. Right now, VAB is just a group on Facebook with 130+ members.

Check out his work at bayareansa.com.

Questions:

- **What was your first NSA conference?** Long Beach 2006
- **Will we see you at this year’s conference in Cleveland?** Hopefully
- **Do you belong to an NSA chapter? If so, which one?** East Bay, California
- **Who inspires you the most?** Fellow NSA members
- **Farthest place you’ve traveled to?** Spain

- **Hobbies?** Photography, mountain biking, hiking
- **What is your favorite movie?** Caddyshack
- **What do you do for a living?** Biotech – Research and Development
- **How old were you when you started stuttering?** 6-7 years old
- **Do you go to speech therapy?** No, not currently
- **What would you like people who don’t stutter to understand about stuttering?** PWS actually have a lot to say, they just say it in their own way.

Gloria Klumb

FROM: MADISON, WIS.

On February 26, Gloria Klumb, leader of the Madison, Wisconsin chapter was presented with an award from the Wisconsin Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Professional Association (WISHA) for outstanding service to people who stutter in the state of Wisconsin.

The award was given in recognition of Gloria’s work with the NSA, which she has been a member of since 2001. Since joining the NSA, Gloria has not only held a conference workshop on the importance of stepping out of your comfort zone as a person who stutters (which she plans to hold again this summer in Cleveland), but also has helped to raise money for the NSA by asking the Green Bay Packers and Milwaukee Brewers to donate tickets and balls for NSA raffles. She has also crocheted items for NSA raffles, and is currently working on a blanket she hopes to have ready in time for Cleveland.

If it hadn’t been for two NSA friends,

Bernie W. and Bob Lee, who talked Gloria into attending her first NSA conference several years ago – and eventually move from Sheboygan Falls to Madison in order to be closer to an NSA chapter, Gloria says she may not have embarked on a journey that led to this recognition from WISHA.

“Before I heard about the NSA I believed that it was not okay to stutter and that it was almost like a crime,” says Gloria. “The people of the NSA have taught me a lot, and if it weren’t for the support and the people of the NSA in pushing, I would not be where I am now.”

Questions:

- **What was your first NSA conference?** Boston
- **Will we see you at this year’s conference in Cleveland?** YES!!!
- **Do you belong to an NSA chapter? If so, which one?** Madison, Wis. chapter leader
- **Who inspires you the most?** Bernie W, Bob Lee, Alex
- **Farthest place you’ve traveled to?** California
- **Hobbies?** Crochet, hand sewing blankets
- **What is your favorite movie?** Sound of Music and Harry Potter
- **What do you do for a living?** Retail
- **How old were you when you started stuttering?** Forever – not sure of the age
- **Do you go to speech therapy?** Not anymore
- **What would you like people who don’t stutter to understand about stuttering?** I would like people to know that people who stutter are not learning disabled. That we can do things others do. It isn’t how we say something but what we have to say that counts. Also, stuttering is not who you are but just something you do.

NSA Launches Business Network

People who stutter face special challenges in the workplace. To help members advance their careers and gain employment, the NSA has started a new online discussion group.

NSA-Business is a Yahoo e-mail group in which members can discuss workplace issues such as job interviews and share experiences and exchange business and employment leads. You can join the group online at finance.groups.yahoo.com/group/NSA-Business. NSA-Business is open to current, paid NSA members only.

At the 2010 NSA conference in Cleveland this July, you’ll find more programs to help NSA members succeed in their careers.

ODDS&ENDS

FROM DAVID BLAZINA



Road to Success

The National Stuttering Association congratulates **Phillip Moody** on his acceptance into the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design. Phillip, along with his mother, **Susan**, were first-time attendees at the NSA conference in Scottsdale, AZ. Phillip will major in photography.

Al Utronki

The NSA was saddened to learn that long time NSA member **Al Utronki** recently passed away. Many may remember Al from past NSA conferences, particularly the 1991 conference in Dallas where he played his guitar and sang a song at the closing ceremony. The NSA sends its condolences to his family and friends. He will be missed.

New Book

Matthew A. Provenzano has written a book called *Living with the Demon* (A Journey into the World of a Stutterer). Matt and his wife, **Michelle**, live in Tampa and have two children, **Joey** and **Sophia**. The following is an excerpt from his book:

"The overall purpose of my story is fivefold: to help children who stutter realize that it is important to always be themselves and that they will be able to be successful in life with their difference if they do not outgrow it early as most children do. The second reason is to let teenagers and adults who stutter know that they are not alone and that there is support for them close to home and in their community in the form of self-help groups. The third reason is to help educate future speech clinicians as to how to work with a person that stutters and to give them some insight as to what it is like to stutter. Having some knowledge as to what it is like to stutter, the future speech clinician will be more able to adapt their therapy style for each individual who walks through their door; however, it is important to keep in mind that they will never completely know what it is like to stutter. The fourth reason is to

help educate the public, i.e., parents of a child who stutters, by providing them with tips and appropriate measures to take when interacting with their child. The last reason is a selfish reason for me. The simple desire to share my story and to not hide from it any longer is incentive enough. Perhaps if I can get all my feelings, frustrations, emotions, experiences, and thoughts expressed onto these pages that I have had pent up within me for the thirty-four years of my life, I may be able to conquer yet another hurdle, which will enable me to get closer to my lifelong goal – to beat the demon I live with every second of my life."

AIS Annual Benefit Gala

June 7, 2010 – Tribeca Rooftop, New York City

For the fourth straight year, the American Institute for Stuttering is celebrating people who stutter – both clients and those who have worked through their stuttering to reach their dreams.

On June 7, at the Tribeca Rooftop in New York City, they are honoring **Michael Sheehan**, president of Sheehan Associates, Inc. Michael is a leading communications trainer and strategist, having worked with an impressive roster of leaders in business, charity, and government. From CEOs to U.S. Presidents, Michael has helped them share their visions at the podium. Michael is also a person who stutters and a member of the NSA Board of Directors. The AIS is privileged to honor him with the *Freeing Voices, Changing Lives Award*.

To find out more about the 4th Annual Benefit Gala, please call the AIS Benefit Office at (212) 725-7139.

CEU Seminar being held April 30th, in Tampa, FL.

"I don't work with preschoolers" is a comment heard many times when we talk about stuttering therapy for the young child. Truth is, however, that no matter what population we work with now, it may not be the population we work with in the future. No matter what, sometime, somewhere a client, relative or friend is going to expect us



to be a resource for a young child who is beginning to show signs of stuttering. Thus the NSA is presenting a CEU seminar entitled "Preschool Stuttering Therapy: Yes, We Do Need To Know!"

Youth Day – Tampa, FL

Join us May 1, 2010, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for this interactive workshop which includes video clips and participant role-plays of concepts presented. Guest speakers and facilitators include **Delroy McPherson, Brad Madsen, Nina Reeves, M.S., CCC-SLP, Tammy Flores**, NSA executive director, NSSLHA-USF, the USF Chapter of the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association, and **Nathan Maxfield, Ph.D., CCC-SLP**.

These events are being hosted by the University of South Florida NSSLHA Chapter and the Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders in Tampa, FL.

Our Time's 8th Annual Benefit Gala, April 19

Every year, Our Time hosts a benefit gala that honors a famous person who stutters. This year, at The Skirball Center for the Performing Arts and the Rosenthal Pavilion at NYU, Our Time is fortunate enough to honor musical icon **Carly Simon**. Our Time's benefit gala consists of a performance by celebrities from the film, theater, television, and music industries alongside Our Time company members. The performance is followed by an elegant dinner overlooking New York City where celebrities and guests alike



Your Links to the Latest in Stuttering Research

The NSA is excited to announce that in response to our members' request for more information regarding research about stuttering, we have expanded our annual conference to include an annual NSA Research Symposium at no additional cost to our members. The focus of this session will be to pass along scientific information on the treatment of stuttering directly to our membership, not from the Internet or other less reliable sources. This year's NSA Research Symposium will focus on functional treatment outcomes, neurophysiology and imaging, and behavioral treatments for children. You will also have the chance to hear from some of the nation's leading experts and become informed about the latest developments in stuttering research.

behavioral and brain imaging techniques to study brain mechanisms underlying speech fluency in developmental stuttering and acquired adult-onset stuttering. He has published over 70 research papers and book chapters on developmental and acquired stuttering and has presented more than 150 papers at national and international scientific and self-help group meetings.



Gerald A. Maguire, MD,

is an associate professor of Clinical Psychiatry, the Kirkup Chair in Stuttering Treatment and the Senior Associate Dean for Educational

Affairs at the University of California, Irvine (UC Irvine) School of Medicine. He serves as the director of the Kirkup Center for the Medical Treatment of Stuttering at UC Irvine – at present, the only facility in the world devoted wholly to this specialized area of medicine.



J. Scott Yaruss, Ph.D.,

CCC-SLP, a board-recognized specialist and mentor in fluency disorders, is an associate professor of Communication Science and Disorders and direc-

tor of the Speech-Language Pathology Master's Degree Program at the University of Pittsburgh and associate director of the Department of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. In addition to conducting research on the development of stuttering in young children, Dr. Yaruss has extensive experience working with children and adults who stutter in a wide variety of clinical settings. He has worked in private practice, at speech-language clinics and hospitals, and as a consultant to school districts. His primary goal is to help clinicians become more comfortable with their ability to help children and adults who stutter learn to speak more easily and communicate more effectively.

Marilyn Langevin is the director of research at the Institute for Stuttering Treatment and Research (ISTAR), Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine and an assistant professor in the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology at the University

continued on page 8

dine in style while bidding on exciting and unique auction items.

For tickets call 212-414-9696, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. ET or visit online at ourtimetheatre.org/index.html for more information.



Prize Winner

Congratulations to **Mikaela May**, who is in the 10th grade at Crowley High School, for winning Reserve Division

Champion in Botany at the San Antonio Livestock Show's Agricultural Science Fair. She won a \$10,000 college scholarship for her project! She was required to give an eight-minute speech and answer the questions of four judges as they interviewed her about her project. She is dyslexic and has a stutter. This was a great challenge for her, but she overcame her speech issues and delivered a great performance.

Friends Workshop

May 22, 2010 from 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. The workshop format includes presentations, discussion groups, and panel presentations. Offerings for children will include enjoyable workshops on stuttering facilitated by speech-language pathologists. **Joseph Donaher, Ph.D., CCC-SLP**, is the guest speaker.

For more information: contact Sarah Vogel at 856-435-6028 or vogels@email.chop.edu.



Dr. Dennis Drayna,

section chief at the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, National Institutes of Health in

Bethesda, Maryland, will be speaking about the recent discovery of genetic causes of stuttering. In a landmark discovery reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine* this year, Dr. Drayna's research team described the discovery of inherited mutations that cause stuttering. The genes that carry these mutations indicate that these cases of stuttering are the result of an inherited metabolic disorder. This workshop will describe, in non-scientific terms, what this means for our understanding of stuttering and for people who stutter. People will have the opportunity to participate in research studies aimed at learning more.



Professor Luc De Nil

joined the University of Toronto in 1990. He currently is chair of the Department of Speech-Language Pathology in the Faculty of Medicine.

After working as a clinical psychologist for 4 years in Belgium, he completed a Ph.D. degree in Communication Disorders and Sciences at Southern Illinois University in the U.S., followed by 2 years of post-doctoral training at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. His research focuses on using



GOING THE DISTANCE *continued*

Although Charlie has a severe stutter, those who know him well don't recognize it as severe. He states his preparation for presentations or speeches is all well planned out and practiced. His blocking methods in conversations consist of substituting words and phrases and even creating almost unnoticeable movements of his body to force a word or phrase out. He says at times it can be a major challenge but he loves to coach and inspire others to succeed so his focus is always on the message, not on a perfect delivery.

"I'm no Shakespeare, but I'll get to the end of my sentence or speech without being totally exhausted while hopefully getting my message across," Charlie says, laughing.

Now, in addition to training 20-25 hours a week at the wee hours of the morning for the race of his life, Charlie will be helping the National Stuttering Association in raising funds for the NSA scholarship fund.

"I'll complete the Ironman capitalizing on the lessons that stuttering has incidentally bestowed upon me throughout my life," Charlie says. "I'll swim 2.4 miles knowing what I believe I can do — I will. I'll bike 112 miles knowing resilience and patience is a key confidence booster in achieving my goal. I'll finish the 26.2 mile marathon knowing that the pain and emotions I've experienced all day are infinitely small compared to those emotions experienced throughout the lives of a person who stutters. I'll cross the line thinking of them the most." ■

To learn more about Charlie's efforts and support the National Stuttering Association check out WeStutter.org.

Thank You, Volunteers

A HUGE thank you to the following volunteers who have assisted us recently with various projects: writing for newsletters and Web site, redesigning and proofreading NSA brochures, keeping up with NSA's Facebook and Twitter accounts, and audio-video projects.

Angela and Patrick Flynn put so much time and energy into re-vamping all our brochures. If you haven't checked them out be sure you do. They are the proud parents of Sean, who stutters. Thank you for the amount of time you put in to revamping our brochures to make them look so fabulous.

Mandy Sims was born and raised in the Washington, DC area where she resides with her boyfriend Jean, who stutters, and their two dogs, Emmett and Graham. She works as an executive assistant for The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law and in her free time enjoys knitting, cooking, sweep roving, traveling to Ireland, and the local DC music scene, including Jean's band.

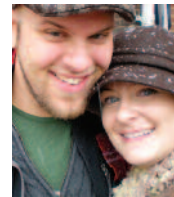
Justin Matley is a partner/CCO of Anonymous Guy Productions, managing director at Rain Music Group,

and most often, an audio engineer at Sound Lounge, New York's top commercial post-production studio where he has worked extensively in commercials, films, and music. He is a lifelong stutterer and proud to be a supporter of the NSA.

Elizabeth Reynaldos graduated from Fordham University in 2008 with a degree in Spanish and Communications. She has been working on speech-language pathology prerequisite courses since and will begin graduate school in the fall. When she "grows up," she wants to work with children as a speech-language pathologist. For over 4 years, she has been teaching literacy skills to children with developmental disabilities/speech and language disorders (including one 4-year-old boy who stutters). She is also involved in researching the efficacy of an English Language Arts curriculum in NYC schools. In her free time, she plays ultimate Frisbee and attends kickboxing classes.



Angela & Patrick



Jean & Mandy



Justin



Elizabeth

Bring or Send Your Auction Items!

You asked and we listened – donate an item for the live or silent auction this year. You heard us right! We are bringing back the silent auction. If you would like to donate to either of the auctions please send Tammy Flores, NSA executive director, a description of the item you are donating (tflores@WeStutter.org).

Items that have been donated in the past include iPods, software, gift certificates, jewelry, artwork, and autographed sports items. Instead of having a separate basket raffle this year we will be incorporating the chapter baskets into the silent auction.

Remember, the value of the item you donate may be tax-deductible. Thanks in advance for your gift and your support. See you in July!

CHAPTERNEWS

FROM BONNIE WEISS

Brooklyn, New York

Chuck Goldman reports that even with the remnants of the recent snowstorm very much a factor in traveling, six people who stutter and the two co-leaders met on February 11. One group member suggested that the motivation to attend this meeting was considerable and that those in attendance were indeed looking forward to getting and/or offering support! Much discussion centered around the breaking scientific research by Dr. Drayna involving the genetic studies identifying special genes in the etiology of stuttering. Members agreed that the publicity involving the nature of stuttering is very positive and that many misconceptions about stuttering may be further eliminated, leading to reduction of guilt often experienced by parents with young children who stutter.

Madison, Wisconsin

During the fall semester, the Madison chapter spoke to students at the University of Wisconsin and the University of Whitewater. Bob, Gloria, Matt, and Phillip spoke to the students. Each person discussed the impact of stuttering on his or her life, especially therapy experiences. Following a short presentation by each person the NSA members answered students' questions. After the class ended students told the presenters that they learned about stuttering. The students wished they had more time to talk to the guests. They said, "We learn so much more by talking to you than we learn by reading a textbook."

Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota

Linder Hinderscheit of the Twin Cities NSA chapter writes that members met on February 11 at the Bethlehem Baptist Church in downtown Minneapolis. The roads were not icy (for a change), it wasn't snowing, and the temperatures were not in the freezing range – so they had a really good turnout. There were 17 people in attendance. One new attendee had never met any adults who stutter. Another new attendee had never met another woman

who stutters. They both seemed very pleased that they had come to the meeting. Since the meeting was just before Valentine's Day, the topic for discussion was "relationships" and how stuttering affects relationships with other people (including significant others, friends, family members, etc.). Some things discussed were starting new relationships, talking about your stutter with family and friends, when someone you love says something about your stutter, missed opportunities because of your stutter, relationships with other people who stutter, and people you care about who just don't understand stuttering. They also discussed the breaking news on the research into the genetic causes of stuttering.

Orlando, Florida

The Orlando chapter met in February. They had seven members representing the Tampa chapter and two members from the Jacksonville chapter. They had a great time including food and drink for their post-holiday party. Mike Bauer, the Orlando co-chapter leader, has been trying to get all the chapters in Florida together and is even planning a big get-together sometime next fall. The Orlando chapter has been advertising the monthly chapter meetings in the local Orlando newspaper and on campus at the University of Central Florida where the meetings are held.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The Philadelphia chapter is celebrating a "Quarter Century in the Quaker City," writes Chapter Leader Lou Madonna. At the meeting on February 4, members gathered to observe the 25th anniversary of service and support to the stuttering population in the Philadelphia region. Their discussion included some retrospection as well as some serious looking forward. Lou announced that he will be retiring as chapter leader after serving nine years. The chapter is at a crossroads, and they discussed what lies ahead for the members of the chapter and others in the Philadelphia area who stutter. Congratulations to all who

have helped the chapter over the years. Lou sent this statement: "25 Years of PHLuency... Getting the word out about stuttering and encouraging, enabling and empowering a full range of verbal expression and more confident living in people with fluency disorders in the greater Philadelphia region."

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Ten members of the Pittsburgh chapter of the NSA spoke to 65 graduate speech-language pathology students from Duquesne University and the University of Pittsburgh in January. Members were invited to talk about their stuttering experiences to help the aspiring speech pathologists understand the complexities of the problem and the pathways through life that people who stutter take. Chapter Leader Darren Wilson was joined by Bill Kulina, Cathy Wilson, L.B. Randall, Jonelle Watson, Konstatin Goldberg, Chuck Saller, Ellen Moreland, and Heng Li. Students learned about members' experiences with their stuttering in childhood, in school, when dating, and in speech therapy. Each student left with a much broader picture of stuttering and new ideas about the lives and needs of people who stutter.

Seattle-Eastside, Washington

Ruth Norwood, co-chapter leader of the Eastside group, writes that on January 21 the Eastside chapter kicked off 2010 by meeting at a local pizzeria. They also celebrated the second anniversary of the chapter. There were 12 folks in attendance. They all enjoyed the pizza and the company. After completing dinner, everyone present was given a blank sheet of paper entitled "Stuttering Goals for 2010" with envelopes. Everyone took some time to write down their goals for the next five months and addressed the envelopes to their homes. The plan is to mail out the envelopes in April and talk about their goals in May at their Better Hearing and Speech Month meeting. They also discussed members' suggestions for meetings in 2010. This was a great first meeting of 2010!

EXECUTIVE INSIGHT *continued*

fewer trips to auction off this year. Scholarships again will be available for people who cannot otherwise afford to attend.

Vivian Sisskin, who was a presenter at last year's research symposium, has joined the board. She is on the faculty at the University of Maryland and has a private practice in the Washington, D.C. area. Vivian is a Board Recognized Specialist in Fluency Disorders, has held leadership positions in ASHA, and is an active presenter and author in fluency disorders.

Three directors are leaving the board: Debbie Nicolai, family programs; Lee Reeves, chairman emeritus; and Brad Madsen, adult programs. The board's nominating committee is reviewing new candidates for board positions.

Unlike many nonprofit organizations, the NSA has a working board that handles much of the association's work. Directors receive no compensation and travel to most meetings at their own expense. Current directors are: Ernie Canadeo (chairman), Bill Smith, Marc Rosenbaum, Barry Liben, John Tetnowski, Vivian Sisskin, Marybeth Allen, Stephanie Nicolai (teen representative), Cathy Olish, Tracey Wallace and Jim McClure.



CONFERENCE *continued*

young for the adults. There is now a special agenda for you!

This program will offer workshops that deal with those issues that plague most Twenty-Somethings: long-term relationships, job interviews, career choices, advertising your stuttering, and many others. We have planned workshops, social times, and other age specific activities. The Twenty-Somethings program will offer activities where you can be with people in your age group as well. You will be encouraged to attend specific activities where you can learn from older people and others where you can mentor the younger people who stutter.

Be there! You will be glad that you came. Come hang out with people your age and who understand where you are in life. Check out all the info at WeStutter.org

Here's your chance to support the National Stuttering Association. You can show your support by becoming a corporate sponsor and buying an ad in our conference program (remember: this donation is tax-deductible). Contact Tammy at tflores@westutter.org for more information. ■

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STUTTERING RESEARCH *continued*

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