Warm greetings to all!

Our newsletter editor, Charley Adams, says it best on page 7. “The ICA is growing up.” The evidence of this throughout this newsletter is overwhelming. The organization has new officers and bylaws. We are hearing more from children with cluttering. Our members are educating more and more professionals, students, and the public about cluttering in countries throughout the world. The long awaited textbook about cluttering is out, and an updated software program for cluttering assessment forthcoming.

In addition to these signs of growth, as this newsletter is put to press, many ICA members are returning from the International Stuttering Association’s 9th Congress for People Who Stutter held in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Thanks to the efforts and coordination of the ICA’s Chair of International Representatives, Isabella Reichel, and the ISA program organizers, a cluttering seminar was featured on the program. This seminar featured 21 presenters! The seminar highlights the growth cluttering has made by being recognized as important to all conferences on fluency disorders, whether these conferences represent a research, consumer, and/or therapist perspective. We are so happy to be included and thank those who have recognized the importance of educating others about cluttering.

I will close now by saying thanks for the great work and enthusiasm, and we look forward to hearing from you all about future works. Enjoy your reading!

Kathy
International Highlight: Norway

The 2nd Nordic conference for stuttering and cluttering was successfully arranged in Bergen, May 2-4, 2011. The conference is a result of an initiative taken by 3 SLPs, Gro Hartveit (Norway), Margareta Lundskog (Sweden), and Tine Egebjerg (Denmark), and a psychologist, Per Fabæch-Knudsen (Denmark). It was a great experience meeting Nordic colleagues from Iceland, the Faroe Islands, Denmark, Sweden and Norway, all of us with a particular interest in the fields of cluttering and stuttering. Cluttering was a popular topic for everyone with the presenters Cecilia Lundström (Cluttering – what do we know?) from Sweden, Ragnhild R. Heitmann (Cluttering treatment in general) and Hilda Sønsterud (Awareness, emotions and research) from Norway. Per Alm (Sweden) had two sessions on cluttering and stuttering from a neurological perspective. This group will keep up the good work of continuing this important conference. The next conference will be held in Sweden in May 2014.

Over three years have passed since the word “cluttering” was included in the bylaws of the Stuttering Association in Norway. It takes time to increase the level of awareness within the whole stuttering community, but it is improving. Board members are now conscious about cluttering as a fluency and communication disorder, and they include cluttering as well as stuttering in their documents and leaflets. At this year's annual meeting (April 2011) it was nice to experience a member who spontaneously and openly told us about her combined disorder of stuttering and cluttering.

Annually a "Day for Special Needs Education” is arranged in collaboration between the University of Oslo and the Norwegian Support System for Special Education, which Bredtvet Resource Centre is a part of. Invited guests and contributors participate together with all the students in special needs education (approx. 200 people). One of the focal themes this year was cluttering. Helene Kvenseth and Hilda Sønsterud gave a collaborative and personal presentation about cluttering. They spoke about what cluttering is, and how it can be controlled. Immediately after this presentation a woman came up to them, telling them about her son who had similar symptoms as the ones that had been described. She also said that this was the first time she had ever heard about cluttering. With tears in her eyes, she continued: “You were actually talking about my son.”

Hilda Sønsterud, SLP, Bredtvet Resource Centre, Oslo
Dr. Myers has recently completed a Fulbright Specialist Award at Hong Kong University. Hong Kong University is ranked among the top 25 universities in the world. However, the faculty in the Division of Speech and Hearing Science felt that fluency is not as well represented in its curriculum and invited Flo to give workshops to staff/faculty, students and area speech-language pathologists. As part of the Fulbright Specialist Award, she also co-mentored a thesis on fluency awareness among the Chinese in Hong Kong and Mainland China, and reviewed the curriculum to offer suggestions to enhance knowledge and skills in the areas of stuttering and cluttering.
Yvonne van Zaalen, PhD, Holland, recently facilitated a whole day workshop on cluttering in Birmingham, UK for the West Midlands Fluency SIG. Throughout the day she presented us with information on recent and current research and evidence-based therapeutic interventions and she was very well received indeed.

Comments from those attending include:

“Thank you so much again for organising such an inspiring workshop on cluttering. It was absolutely brilliant. Yvonne is an excellent presenter and I learnt such a lot which will help transform and improve my practice.” – Specialist Speech and Language Therapist (SLT), North West England, UK

“It was so practical, challenging and thought provoking that I am sorry not more SLTs were able to attend...I will certainly tell my colleagues all about it...” – Specialist SLT, West Midlands, UK

“The best SIG I’ve ever been to!” – SLT, West Midlands

We would like to thank Yvonne for sharing her time and knowledge with us and the International Cluttering Association for continuing to promote understanding and awareness worldwide.

Gillian Gaskell
Secretary
West Midlands Fluency SIG

Vivienne Ray
Chair
West Midlands Fluency SIG
The idea of capturing cluttering severity clinically or in research has evolved since 2005 when Klaas Bakker posted the Cluttering Assessment Program (CLASP II) on line at the ISAD conference, and presented a poster on it later that year at ASHA. The concept of cluttering severity has evolved since that early attempt. Back then, one measure, the percentage of talking time cluttered, was central focus of the assessment approach while 8 optional rating scales covered qualitative communication dimensions typically thought to be compromised in people who clutter.

The original philosophy changed when Flo Myers and Klaas Bakker began cooperating on a further elaboration of the cluttering severity concept (ASHA, 2008). The percentage of a speech sample cluttered, previously the focal point, would now be considered one of nine measures that help describe cluttering severity of people who cluttering. The 8 additional measures were improved versions of the previous optional rating scales in the CLASP. All nine measures are now obligatory and contribute to a composite severity score expressed as a percentage. Conducting the % sample duration cluttered measure is much easier to administer as it is based on digitally recorded audio, which could have been collected elsewhere, but may also have been recorded on the computer. The integration of the audio and scoring software is much more convenient than trying to synchronize scoring while playing audio or video on a separate device.

Release of the new cluttering assessment system is planned for the first week in October this Fall, and will be a free download from the International Cluttering Association website. The program will be accompanied by a manual and will include a training system based on carefully selected samples of cluttered speech. A Spanish version of the software and manual will be available as well. Unfortunately we are not able to add prerecorded training materials with this version.

Please see the last page of this newsletter for a screenshot of the CLASP.
**Countries Represented in the ICA**

ICA International Representatives

* A complete listing of representatives can be found on our website

Argentina: Beatriz Bian de Touzet
Jordan: Maisa Haj-Tas

Australia: Susan Block
Kenya: Emma Shah

Bulgaria: Miglena Simonska
Lithuania: Vilma Makauskiene

Belgium: John Van Borsel
Macedonia: Nermin Telovska

Canada: Carla Di Domenicantonio
Netherlands: Manon Abbink-Spruit

China: Steve An Xue
Nigeria: Grace A.A. Ademola-Sokola

Cyprus: Maria Paphiti
Norway: Helene Kvenseth

Denmark: Gudrun Østergaard
Poland: Zbigniew Tarkowski

Faroe Is.: Olavur Hojgaard
Russia: Yulia Filatova

France: Véronique Aumont Boucand
Scotland: Robin Lickley

Germany: Ulrike Sick
South Africa: Dina Lilian

Hungary: Judit Bona
Sudan: Sami Awad Yasin

Iceland: Johanna Einarsdottir
Sweden: Cecilia Lundstrom

India: Maya Sanghi
Tanzania: John Bosco Kambanga

Indonesia: Muhammad Ishom
Thailand: Sumalee Dechongkit

Iran: Mehdi Bakhtiar
Uganda: Nanjaya Nathan Ceasar

Ireland: Margaret Leahy
United Kingdom: David Ward

Israel: Ruth Ezrati-Vinacour
USA: Isabella Reichel

Japan: Shoko Miyamoto
Dear friends,

The ICA is growing up. We are pleased to announce that earlier this year, we have finalized and approved by unanimous vote the bylaws of the International Cluttering Association! A huge debt of gratitude to Dr. Kenneth St. Louis for his significant role in composing and editing the bylaws, as well as directing the voting and approval process. We will soon establish an LLC (Limited Liability Corporation), so that we can establish non-profit status and begin to generate revenue.

Soon after the bylaws were approved, you were asked to cast your ballot for officers from the slate of nominees, and the results are in. Here are your ICA officers for this year:

Chair: Kathy Scaler Scott
1st Chair Elect: Yvonne van Zaalen
2nd Chair Elect: Charley Adams
Treasurer: Hilda Sønsterud
Secretary: Emily Garnett
It’s hot off the press, and everyone in the ICA needs a copy: Cluttering: A Handbook of Research, Intervention, and Education, co-edited by David Ward, and ICA chair, Kathleen Scaler Scott. Contributors include several ICA members. The book is available from www.amazon.com, and here is their product description:

Very few people are aware of the significant negative impact that cluttering -- a communication disorder that affects a person's ability to speak in a clear, concise and fluent manner -- can have on one's life educationally, socially and vocationally. Although different from stuttering, it is often related to this more well-known disorder. This book treats cluttering as a serious communication disorder in its own right, providing an in-depth examination of the critical factors surrounding its assessment, treatment and research.

Using evidence-based data as well as information regarding the assessment and treatment of cluttering within the field of speech-language pathology, the volume includes the latest research findings and work from leading cluttering experts, worldwide. Current viewpoints regarding cluttering, along with substantiated evidence are provided. Research findings are presented regarding the nature and neurology of cluttering. A range of assessment and treatment methodologies are described in the context of disorders that may co-occur with cluttering, such as autism spectrum disorders, learning disabilities, Down syndrome and stuttering. Future directions with regards to the definition, teaching and researching of cluttering are also addressed.

Clinicians, faculty members, researchers, students in the field of speech pathology, and those who clutter, alike, will find this book an essential and unique source of information on cluttering.
In the last issue, we showed you a cluttering brochure, created by Mackenzie, at the suggestion of her SLP, Nina Reeves. Now, Mackenzie has drawn a picture to illustrate her cluttering. The picture is below, and here is her description:

“The hourglass (girl on left) represents the thinking/loading symbol we usually see on a computer screen as it processes. The ‘Out of Order sign’ (girl on right) represents the difficulty I have with some words when I try to say them while speaking at a faster pace. The ‘but not limited to’ part is so true because cluttering has many effects on speech and I could not draw them all.”

*Keep up the great work, Mackenzie!*
This is a screenshot of the Cluttering Severity Instrument (CSI) being developed by Klaas Bakker and Florence Myers. See the full story on page 5.

Please let us know the good works you and others are doing in your country—email reports to: Charley Adams, ICA Newsletter Editor at charley@sc.edu