Dear friends,
I have been very busy helping to spread the word about cluttering. In addition to a recent talk in New York (see page 3), I gave 2 lectures at CPLOL (European version of IALP, similar to ASHA) related to cluttering, I was one of 8 invited speakers in Rome June at the Italian Fluency Association meeting, and again I spoke about cluttering. At the time this newsletter is being posted on the web, I am attending the International Fluency Association World Congress in Tours, France. Cluttering is featured prominently this time, and the ICA is well-represented here. Also, we are hoping to meet and determine when and where to hold the next international conference on cluttering, perhaps in 2014. In late August, I will join a European intensive program for SLP graduate students in Graz, Switzerland, where I will give a talk and a workshop on, you guessed it, CLUTTERING. I have other similar events in the fall. I’m very excited to be leading the ICA at this time, as we continue to spread the word about cluttering around the world.

Best Wishes,
Yvonne

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In early 2008, I sent invitations to Russian and foreign scientists in the field of fluency disorders to participate in the development of a monograph with theoretical concepts devoted to stuttering and other fluency disorders. Earlier this year, the Russian-English book entitled "Theoretical Issues of Fluency Disorders" was published (cover below). The book includes chapters by such Russian scientists as Professors Lidia I. Belyakova, Viktor A. Kalyagin, Mikhail I. Lokhov, and Yuriy A. Fesenko. Other chapters are written by well-known scientists from the United States, Sweden, and Australia, including professors Per A. Alm, Edward G. Conture, Tedra A. Walden, Prof. Ann Packman, and Mark Onslow. In addition to editing this book, I wrote the chapter entitled "Stuttering and Cluttering as Similar Phenomena in Rhythmic Processing Disorganization Providing Speech Production".

Last year, I published an article entitled “Professional awareness of speech rhythm disorders by Russian and foreign specialists” in the journal ‘Special Education’. This article examines the problem of different approaches to understanding the term "speech rhythm", its components and disorders in speech and language pathology with an emphasis on stuttering and cluttering by specialists from the Russian Federation, the United States, Europe, Asia, and Australia.

I continue to teach SLT students with the special course "Cluttering", and I am planning to participate in the upcoming 7th World Congress of Fluency Disorders where together with L.I. Belyakova, I will deliver an oral presentation entitled "Central stuttering and cluttering mechanisms: Multiparadigm analysis".

Yulia Filatova, Associate Professor
Logopaedics Department, Faculty of Special Education
Moscow State Pedagogical University, Russia
It's a great honor to be part of the first team of teachers in a new program at San Sebastian University in Santiago, Chile. Graduates of this program receive a diploma, which reflects additional knowledge and expertise in fluency disorders. The course follows an approach that I have been developing over 25 years of research and treatment of individuals with fluency disorders.

This approach, which I call “Neofonoaudiología”, follows a new globalization paradigm, a post-rational view which changes how we understand the human experience. This is an effort to improve speech therapy by means of an innovative view of human complexity, in both normal and pathological dimensions.

Highlights include:

• A post-rational view of stuttering.
• Neurophysiological and emotional value systems in processing fluency.
• Experience with facilitating resource flow.
• Accessing and subconscious awareness levels in the circuit flow pattern generators.
• Concepts and experiences of communication and conversational skills.

Dear friends, I am proud to represent Chile in the International Cluttering Association. Feel free to email me if you have any questions about this program, or visit our website:

http://gaptartamudez.com/?p=320#more-320

Adolfo Barrales, Speech Language Pathologist and Psychotherapist
Director of Chilean Stuttering Association
Grupo de Amigos de Personas con Tartamudez Chile
External Professor and Relator for the Faculty of Sciences, Universidad de Chile
Representative of Chile to the International Cluttering Association

Adolpho_barrales@hotmail.com
I gave a short presentation (1h15m) at the OSLA (Ontario Speech & Language Association) Fluency Day on April 27th. The presentation, which focussed on assessment and treatment, was in follow-up to an even shorter presentation (an overview) I gave two years earlier at the first OSLA Fluency Day. That presentation sparked interest in some SLPs who requested to learn more about cluttering at the next Fluency Day.

*Carla Di Domenicantonio, ICA Canadian representative*

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**Cluttering Workshop at UCF**

*Florence Myers* was invited to give an all-day workshop on cluttering at the Brutten Fluency Symposium at the University of Central Florida February 24th. While at Orlando, she met with Anne Marie Simon to discuss an invited article on the clinical management of cluttering to appear in *L'orthophonista* later this year. At the 2011 American Speech Language Hearing Association convention, Flo was awarded the ASHA Fellowship and afterwards hosted a party for all ICA members at the convention.

*Flo and Anne Marie with her two grandsons visiting DisneyWorld from France*
Manon Abbink, an ICA representative from Germany and the Netherlands, is presenting seminars and workshops for speech therapists in Germany. She has recently begun teaching stuttering and cluttering courses to speech therapy students at Fontys University in the Netherlands.

Congratulations to Mei-tal Halevy Rosenblatt, an ICA representative from Israel, upon her successful completion of a Master’s thesis on cluttering! We are looking forward to learn about the findings of Mai-tal’s study. Hopefully, more students will include cluttering in topics for their Master’s theses.

An ICA seminar, entitled “International Cluttering Association Forum: Outcomes of 5 years of successful collaboration ,” is scheduled to be presented at the 7th World Congress on Fluency Disorders at Tours, France, July 5, 2012. Representatives from 16 countries in 5 continents will share their research and clinical experiences in the area of cluttering.

Yvonne Van Zaalen, the Chair of the International Cluttering Association, together with Isabella Reichel, presented a one-day seminar in New York, entitled Cluttering Understood, sponsored by the Department of Speech and Language Pathology of Touro College. The attendees showed a strong interest in the presentation, and enthusiastically requested a follow-up seminar.
Ron Casterlow is an adult second degree student who graduated in May 2012 with a degree in Speech Language Pathology. He will be employed with Guilford County School in Greensboro, NC in the fall. For his master’s project, he completed a content analysis of books and articles from 2000-2011 on the current consensus of cluttering characteristics, etiology, treatments and assessments. For purposes of establishing a cutoff for sampling sizes for each category, only percentages of occurrence of related words, phrases, and sentences that were 50% or above were used to determine results and implications for this study.

An analysis of the resulting data indicates that, while there is not absolute agreement on all characteristics of cluttering, there is some agreement on certain characteristics of cluttering that can be implied as mandatory and facultative based on the percentage of occurrence of those terms among the articles and books analyzed. Examples of mandatory characteristics (those that met the 50% or more occurrence criteria among the books and articles analyzed) include: tachylalia/tachyphemia (fast/rapid/irregular speech rate), poor imprecise articulation, high degree of word and phrase repetitions and revisions (non-stuttering like dysfluencies), poor speech intelligibility, and poor planning of sentences/poor language formulation and expressive language skills. A significant implication based on this study suggests that, although there were many linguistic characteristics assigned to cluttering, there was very little content agreement within or between books and articles on possible treatments based on underlying linguistic deficits. Content on treatments in books and articles that had the highest percentage of occurrence focused only on the outward motor manifestations of the disorder (e.g. fast rate of speech, inappropriate pausing, rhythm, etc). It would be beneficial for future research studies to examine how linguistic therapy techniques (such as those mentioned with low % occurrence in the books and articles examined, for example: working on word finding/vocabulary enrichment and increasing awareness of the structure and form in language) will benefit people who clutter.
**Deso Weiss Award Presentation**

The Deso Weiss Awards Committee of the International Cluttering Association is pleased to announce that the Stuttering Foundation of America (SFA) is once again sponsoring the Award. The Committee is now seeking nominations for the Deso Weiss Award to be conferred at the 7th World Congress on Fluency Disorders, which is to take place July 2—5, 2012 in Tours, France. This award is to be presented to an individual in recognition of outstanding contributions and excellence in the field of cluttering.

Everyone give a warm welcome to our new representative from Saudi Arabia:

Heidi A. Alaskary, Ph.D./CCC-SLP  
Deputy Executive Director of Research  
Prince Salman Center for Disability Research  
Email: Heidi@pscdr.org.sa

Omar Alsharif, ICA Representative from Bahrain, is now Senior Speech-Language Pathologist at Bahrain Defense Force Royal Medical Services.
Drs. Florence Myers and Klaas Bakker, since uploading the *Cluttering Severity Instrument* (CSI) on the ICA website last fall, have come to realize the important role played by listeners’ perceptual responses in judging the severity level of a cluttering problem. It would seem that previously too much emphasis was given to potential physical characteristics such as speech rate (in SPM) and disfluency (determined in numbers and types), especially when these dimensions are examined singularly without consideration of the interaction effect of two or more dimensions. This more quantitative approach in research (e.g., Bakker, Myers, Raphael & St. Louis, 2011; Myers, Bakker, St Louis & Raphael, 2012) had led to an initially surprising lack of differences between PWC and PWNC.

There is no question that any unique speech differences characteristic for PWC in the end are present in the acoustic signal, as this is the only means for listeners to be aware of them. What is critical is not so much the quantitative aspects of the measures, as qualitative differences between them. In relationship to these qualitative differences, it is also important how such speech differences affect the listener’s perceptions. The data recently shared seem to support this new approach as well as the design of the *Cluttering Severity Instrument*, which is almost entirely based on perceptual judgments gathered using a computer program that can be freely downloaded on the ICA website. Efforts are underway to research qualitative differences between PWC and typical speakers, and the perceptual effects of these differences on cluttering severity.

Klaas Bakker, Florence Myers
ICA COUNTRIES AND REPRESENTATIVES

Argentina: Beatriz Bian de Touzet  Japan: Shoko Miyamoto
Australia: Susan Block  Jordan: Maisa Haj-Tas
Bahrain: Omar Yaseen Alsharif  Kenya: Emma Shah
Belgium: John Van Borsel  Lithuania: Vilma Makauskiene
Bulgaria: Miglena Simonska  Macedonia: Nermin Telovska
Canada: Carla Di Domenicantonio  Netherlands: Manon Abbink-Spruit
Chile: Adolfo Andrés Barrales Díaz  Netherl. Antilles: Davisha Arti Alwani
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 Dehghan  Uganda: Nanjaya Nathan Ceasar
Ireland: Margaret Leahy  United Kingdom: David Ward
Israel: Ruth Ezrati-Vinacour  USA: Isabella Reichel

See website for a complete list of representatives
The ICA at ASHA

As we have most years at the annual conference of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, on November 11, 2011, the ICA once again gathered to discuss growing the organization to meet the needs of its members. This was also an opportunity for us to recognize one of our own, as Florence Myers received ASHA’s prestigious ‘Honors of the Association’ award. The ICA marked this event by holding an informal reception in conjunction with the meeting, with some wonderful wine and delicacies.

The meeting began at 5:30, and with an attendance of 24. Here are some of the highlights:

Discussion of use of social media, possibly an ICA Facebook page. Isabella noted that there is an active discussion group on stuttering and cluttering on LinkedIn.

Chair Kathy Scaler Scott noted that we have a new member, a mother whose child clutters, and pointed out that we absolutely need more consumer involvement in the ICA.

It was suggested that the ICA script and shoot a YouTube video on cluttering, which could mention the ICA website. If completed in English, others may translate it for us and make similar videos in other languages, which could become an ICA YouTube Channel.

There was discussion of establishing a Limited Liability Company, which will be the next step in legitimizing the organization. We can then collect dues. There was discussion of what members receive for their dues as well. See the next page in the newsletter for an update on this...

Yvonne mentioned that there would be some discussion at IFA about the next ‘face to face’ conference on cluttering.

The need for a universal diagnostic tool for cluttering was discussed, and a task force was formed to identify the most sensitive and specific items from the Predictive Cluttering Inventory (PCI), so that we can begin to gather some data. This should lead to better information on the prevalence of cluttering.
ICA Incorporation!

As discussed at the ICA meeting in San Diego, we have moved forward to incorporate. This was a very complex process:

1) Fill out the form (Emily)
2) Mail it in with a check (Charley)
3) Wait...

Now, finally, we EXIST! It says so, right here on our ‘Certificate of Existence’
Three students and I recently completed a study at SUNY Fredonia examining the identification of cluttering and stuttering among university students. In this study, we examined undergraduate students’ abilities to identify persons they know who clutter and/or stutter, including themselves. One group of participants received written descriptions of stuttering and cluttering, while the other group received the same descriptions and also viewed a brief segment of an instructional DVD with audio and video examples of cluttered speech. Participants then completed a brief survey assessing the number of people they were able to identify as PWS, PWC, or PWSAC. We are currently analyzing the data, and we hope that the findings will lead to further inquiry in this area, as well as exposure for persons with communicative disorders. In addition, the results of this study will have implications for undergraduate student training, as participants were educated on the characteristics of persons with fluency disorders.

Paul Blanchet, PhD, CCC-SLP

Paul is leaving SUNY Fredonia to take a new position at Baylor University, beginning in August, where he intends to continue his research in fluency disorders.

The ICA wishes to congratulate Ellen Bennett Lanouette, PhD, CCC-SLP, BRS-FD, who retired on May 31, 2012 after a distinguished 33-year career in the public schools, university, rehab and private practice. Ellen is looking forward to spending more time with her grandchildren, travelling and relaxing. “I have enjoyed my job and the people I have encountered. I have been blessed by all the people I have served. But it is time to move onto other things.” Great job, Ellen!
The International Stuttering Awareness Day (ISAD) online conference is hosted by Judith Kuster, emeritus professor, Minnesota State University, Mankato. The conference represents a world-wide endeavor by persons who stutter, their friends and families, students, and professionals (educators, researchers, and clinicians) interested in stuttering.

The conference is FREELY AVAILABLE and linked to the Stuttering Home Page website (http://www.stutteringhomepage.com) starting October 1. The conference consists of a variety of papers written by professionals as well as people who stutter. Papers are written in a reader-friendly style with threaded discussions attached for interaction between the presenters and participants for three weeks. All papers remain available online after the conference concludes on October 22 and past online conferences are freely available on the Conference Archives (http://www.mnsu.edu/comdis/kuster/isadarchive/onlineconference.html).

The upcoming and five most recent conferences are also available for Continuing Education CEUs (1.5/15 hours) or credit (either graduate or undergraduate) through Minnesota State State University, Mankato. Undergraduates can include the conference under banded tuition. Instructions on how to register and requirements for CEU or credit are online: http://www.mnsu.edu/comdis/kuster/isadarchive/requirements.html
A new resource for working with clients with cluttering is coming your way! Dr. Kathleen Scaler Scott, former Coordinator of ICA, and Dr. David Ward, Chair of ICA’s Research/Academic Committee, are currently in the final editing stages of publishing *Managing Cluttering: A comprehensive guidebook of activities*. The resource guide was developed to assist speech-language therapists/pathologists in evaluating and treating children and adults with cluttering. The manual is scheduled to be available from Pro-Ed, Inc. in November 2012.
The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) will meet in Atlanta, Georgia USA from November 14th to the 17th, 2012. This year we have requested meeting space on Thursday the 15th of November for the meeting. Looking at the ASHA schedule which is available at this time, we have requested 4:45 to 6:45 PM. This seems to fit nicely between general sessions and twilight sessions. As soon as we have a location confirmation, we will send this out to the membership, and post it on the ICA website. Since everyone has many things going on at the convention, please feel free to stop in and leave the meeting at times that work into your schedule. We would love to see you even if it’s not for the entire meeting!

In April 2012, our very own Dr. Kenneth O. St. Louis was awarded the West Virginia University 2012 Ethel and Gerry Heebink Award for Distinguished State Service. This award comes from a memorial fund created by their son David to reward exemplary service to the State of West Virginia by faculty and staff of the university. It recognizes a faculty or staff member who has provided distinguished service to West Virginia over an extended period of time. Faculty and staff must be nominated and endorsed by three to six individuals. This is an outstanding award to receive and we are very proud of Ken and his service to West Virginia and our field. The WVU News Press Release can be accessed at http://wvutoday.wvu.edu/n/2012/04/17/at-wvu-one-man-fights-for-words-hope and provides a wonderful background on Ken and how he became interested in the field. Congratulations, Ken!