

# Stuttering Center News

## *NEW Stuttering Contest: Fluency Fantasies Across America!*

April 2005  
Volume 3, Issue 2

Editors & Co-Directors  
of the Stuttering Center  
of Western PA:

Craig E. Coleman, M.A.  
J. Scott Yaruss, Ph.D.

### Inside this Issue

- 1 Stuttering Contest
- 2 SLP Corner: Teasing/Bullying Activity
- 2 Recommended Resource: Teasing and Bullying
- 2 Message from the Stuttering Center of Western PA
- 3 PSHA Conference Review
- 3 Upcoming Events
- 3 New Publications from Stuttering Center Staff
- 4 Stuttering Contest
- 4 SLP Profile: Miss Michigan, Kelli Talicska

The *Stuttering Center of Western PA*, in conjunction with **Ms. Kelli Talicska** (Miss Michigan 2004-2005), will be holding a stuttering contest for children between the ages of 7 to 18.

*Fluency Fantasies Across America* will give children who stutter the chance to share their experiences with stuttering and their ideas about what can be done in the future to help those who stutter.

A typical entry may consist of one to two paragraphs on previous experiences stuttering and one to two paragraphs on ideas for the future. Stories about past experiences could include a time when the child experienced teasing because of his stuttering, participated in a difficult speaking situation for the first time despite stuttering, or taught others about stuttering. Ideas for the future can include a description of how the child thinks his stuttering will change in the future. Children can also discuss changes they expect in stuttering treatment or research or in the public reactions to stuttering. These are just some examples!

Entries may be conventional essays, stories, or creative expressions such as poems, scripts, etc. Remember, every child's entry should have two parts: past experiences and ideas for the future.

The contest will run from May 1, 2005 through October 31, 2005. One winner will be selected from each state (all 50). In addition, one international winner (1) will be selected for readers from other countries. (If participants from 50 states are not involved, other winners will be selected to "represent" those states.)

Judges will score each submission on content (20 points for stuttering story

and 20 points for ideas on what can be done in the future to help people who stutter). Winners will receive a "State Title," a letter from Ms. Talicska and the staff at the Stuttering Center, and recognition in future newsletters.

Winners will be announced in the December 2005 *Stuttering Center News*. Entries can be sent by mail, fax, or email to:

Craig Coleman, MA CCC-SLP  
Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh East  
Corporate One Office Park  
4055 Monroeville Blvd.  
Monroeville, PA 15146  
Fax: 412-666-3846  
Email: [craig.coleman@chp.edu](mailto:craig.coleman@chp.edu)

Official entry forms will be this month's edition of *Kids Speak*. Written authorization from parents will need to be provided from winners if they wish to participate in any media relations appearances, or if they wish to have their names printed in the newsletters.

We hope that this contest will provide an opportunity for parents and clinicians to discuss stuttering with their children while giving children the chance to express their views about stuttering!

Further details about the contest, including directions for children participating, can be found in this month's edition of the *Kids Speak* newsletter! Good luck!

**Get your free subscription to the *Stuttering Center News* and *Kids Speak*!**

Join our free email distribution list! Receive helpful insights, tips, and activities. To join us, send your email address to [craig.coleman@chp.edu](mailto:craig.coleman@chp.edu) You will receive an email response confirming your **free subscription**.



## SLP Corner: Teasing and Bullying

Stacie L. Graham, B.A.  
Graduate Student Clinician



It has been reported that between 49% and 58% of elementary school students are bullied at some point. For children who stutter, the incidence increases to 81% (Murphy & Quesal, 2002). Due to this high percentage of children who stutter who experience bullying, it is highly likely that clinicians will need to address this topic when working with school-age children who stutter.

Clinicians will need to be creative when planning treatment activities to address bullying. Oftentimes, this may not be a topic that children will feel comfortable expressing their feelings about.

Therefore, having the child *act out* different situations may be more beneficial. Role-playing is one useful option for achieving this goal.

In treatment with a ten-year-old boy, I employed a role-playing activity in order to address some bullying issues that the child was having at school. First, I asked him to think about all the possible reactions he could have to someone that is teasing him. Each time he came up with a reaction, I wrote it down until a complete list was formed. Then, we went through the reactions and thought about the positives and negatives associated with each possibility.

Some of the possibilities the child suggested were appropriate, while others were not. For example, one reaction was for the child to punch the bully. In evaluating this possibility, we considered the consequences. The potential positive outcome might be that the child would feel better at that moment; however, the negative was that that they would get in trouble. Clearly, the negative outcomes outweighed the positive, so the child was able to work through his thinking about this possibility and decide not to do it.

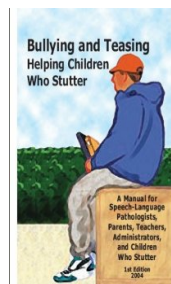
Once all of the possible reactions are reviewed, the clinician and child can identify the “best” responses and then choose which ones the child wants to try. To help the child learn how to use the reactions, the child and clinician can then act them out together. For instance, one reaction a child can have is to start telling whoever is bullying them some facts about stuttering. This reaction can be positive because sometimes a bully will tease due to lack of knowledge. In the role-playing activity, the clinician can be the bully and the child can practice what they want to say, or vice versa. This was done in my treatment, and the child went away feeling more comfortable about how to handle himself when the bully was picking on him.

A clinician should always talk to a child’s parents and teachers when bullying is occurring so that others can be involved if circumstances get out of control and the child’s physical well-being is in jeopardy.

Murphy, W., and Quesal, R. (2002). Strategies for Addressing Bullying with the School-Age Child Who Stutters. *Seminars in Speech and Language* 23(3), 205-211.

### ***Recommended Resource for Bullying and Teasing***

New from the National Stuttering Association is a comprehensive booklet designed to minimize bullying and hurtful teasing for children who stutter. Written by Bill Murphy, Bob



Quesal, Nina Reardon, and J. Scott Yaruss, the manual includes separate sections for parents, teachers, school administrators, SLPs, and, of course, children who stutter. For more info, see the NSA’s website [www.WeStutter.org](http://www.WeStutter.org) or email [jsyaruss@csd.pitt.edu](mailto:jsyaruss@csd.pitt.edu).

### ***Message From the Stuttering Center***

**Craig Coleman**



**J. Scott Yaruss**



Please let us know if you have any comments or suggestions.  
We now have nearly 700 people receiving the newsletter.  
We look forward to more joining soon!

## PSHA Conference Review

The 2005 annual **Pennsylvania Speech and Hearing Association Convention** was held in Pittsburgh, PA from March 31, 2005 through April 2, 2005. Staff from the Stuttering Center of Western PA presented a total of FIVE seminars at the convention.

In the first seminar, *Childhood Stuttering and Teachers: From the Clinic to the Classroom*, Craig Coleman and Kristine Campbell provided an overview of how to incorporate classroom teachers into the treatment process for school-age children who stutter. Handouts designed specifically for classroom teachers are available on our website. ([www.stutteringcenter.org](http://www.stutteringcenter.org))

Over 250 clinicians heard Craig Coleman, Rebecca Roccon, and Amy Zerhusen (Children's Hospital of Cincinnati) discuss treatment goals and activities for school-age children who stutter. This seminar, *Treating School-age Children who Stutter: Objectives and Activities*, covered treatment goals that can be written for children who stutter and provided specific activities to target these treatment goals.

The third seminar, *Insurance Advocacy and Stuttering*, described strategies for obtaining insurance coverage for stuttering. This was given by the National Stuttering Association (NSA's) Insurance Advocacy Committee, chaired by the Stuttering Center's Craig Coleman.

Wrapping up the first day of the conference, Craig Coleman, Debra Butkiewicz, Scott Yaruss, and Rebecca Roccon presented a *Research and Training Update in Fluency Disorders*. This seminar focused on treatment protocols for preschool children who stutter and the *Assessment of the Child's Experience of Stuttering* (ACES).

Finally, on day two of the conference, Scott Yaruss provided a full day workshop on *Counseling Parents of Children with Communication Disorders*.

Handouts from all presentations are available at [www.stutteringcenter.org](http://www.stutteringcenter.org)!

## Stuttering Updates

- You already know that *May is Better Hearing and Speech Month*. Did you also know that the second week of May is *National Stuttering Awareness Week*?!? Through these events, we can help others learn about the impact communication disorders can have on people's lives. NSAW gives clinicians an excellent opportunity to hand out materials to educate the public about stuttering! You can get more information about Better Hearing and Speech Month and National Stuttering Awareness Week from ASHA ([www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org)), the National Stuttering Association ([www.WeStutter.org](http://www.WeStutter.org)) and the Stuttering Foundation of America ([www.stutteringhelp.org](http://www.stutteringhelp.org))!
- The National Stuttering Association Conference will be held July 13-17 in Chicago, IL. The conference will include workshops for children and adults who stutter, as well as parents of children who stutter. In addition, continuing education workshops will be held for speech-language pathologists. Visit [www.WeStutter.org](http://www.WeStutter.org) for conference information and registration details!
- FRIENDS, The National Association of Young People who Stutter, will hold their annual conference in Cleveland, OH from July 28-30. Get conference and registration info at [www.friendswhostutter.org](http://www.friendswhostutter.org).
- ASHA's Special Interest Division 4 (Fluency and Fluency Disorders) will hold their annual Leadership Conference in Boston, MA from August 4-6. This year's conference will focus on evidence-based practice and specialty recognition process. Visit [www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org) for more information about attending the conference.

## Upcoming Events

Stuttering Center staff will present several workshops in the coming months. For more information, check out our website at [www.StutteringCenter.org](http://www.StutteringCenter.org)

### Workshops Include:

- *Practical Treatment Strategies for Children Who Stutter* (Yaruss)
    - Albuquerque, NM (5/4)
    - Englewood, CO (5/5)
    - Portland, OR (5/12)
    - Seattle, WA (5/13)
    - Pleasanton, CA (6/21)
    - Sacramento, CA (6/22)
  - *Evaluation and Treatment of Children who Stutter: Objectives and Activities for Success* (Coleman)
    - [www.speechpathology.com](http://www.speechpathology.com)
- Online Continuing Education seminar
- Stuttering Center Staff will also be providing workshops at the **Oxford Disfluency Conference** (Oxford, UK) and the **National Stuttering Association Conference** in Chicago this July! See [www.WeStutter.org](http://www.WeStutter.org) for more information about how you and your clients can attend the NSA conference!

**You can view handouts from previous presentations by J. Scott Yaruss and Craig Coleman at:**

[www.stutteringcenter.org/Handouts](http://www.stutteringcenter.org/Handouts)

**\*If you would like information on scheduling an in-service presentation with either J. Scott Yaruss or Craig Coleman, please let us know!**

[www.stutteringcenter.org](http://www.stutteringcenter.org)

## SLP Profile

# Kelli Talicska

By Craig Coleman, MA CCC-SLP

We are very excited to be teaming with **Kelli Talicska** for our first ever *Fluency Fantasies Across America* contest. Kelli is a graduate of Western Michigan University, where she earned an M.A. in speech language pathology. She is also the reigning 2004-2005 Miss Michigan!

During her time as Miss Michigan, Kelli has worked tirelessly to lobby for the profession of speech language pathology and for those we serve. Kelli and I have been planning this contest for some time and we hope that our readers and children who stutter are as excited about participating in it as we have been in planning it.

I asked Kelli the following questions about her work as Miss Michigan:

Q: Why did you choose to pursue a career in speech-language pathology?

A: I wanted a career that involved the study of science, mathematics, and the voice, and at the same time, allowed me to teach and counsel people of all ages. I love learning and I love people...speech-language pathology was the perfect fit for me!

Q: You have been very active in lobbying for the profession in your role as Miss Michigan. What has been your biggest accomplishment thus far?

A: I testified before the House Health Policy Committee of Michigan on behalf of HB5308. The bill passed committee, but we're still working on licensing SLPs here in Michigan.

Q: What changes do you see happening in our field in the next 10 years?

A: With world patterns of globalization and migration rapidly changing the demographics of America, therapists must be ethical and learned in multicultural issues that affect all areas of identification and service provision for speech, language and literacy.

Q: Have your experiences as Miss Michigan changed your career goals in speech-language pathology?

A: Absolutely! Not only do I want to continue refining my skills as a therapist, I want to continue my work in changing and advancing legislation, recruiting young therapists and increasing their scholarships, researching and promoting the positive effects of collaboration, and expanding public knowledge of SLP and Audiology services so that our clients receive nothing but the best!

fs

### *New Stuttering Film*

A new film, directed and produced by Dr. Phillip Schneider of Queens Collage, is now available from the National Stuttering Association ([www.WeStutter.org](http://www.WeStutter.org)). The film, *Transcending Stuttering: The Inside Story*, provides a detailed journey of seven people who stutter. The film provides a glimpse of both the negative consequences of stuttering and positive life choices that can help lead to a successful journey as a person who stutters. The film is a great resource for people who stutter and those looking to learn more about stuttering!

## Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh

### Department of Audiology and Communication Disorders

3705 Fifth Ave.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Phone: (412) 692-5575  
Fax: (412) 692-5563

**The Stuttering Center offers evaluation and treatment for children who stutter through Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh in Oakland and at our satellite offices in Bethel Park, Monroeville, and Wexford. Visit the Children's Hospital website at [www.chp.edu](http://www.chp.edu) for directions.**

#### Find us on the Web!

[www.stutteringcenter.org](http://www.stutteringcenter.org)

Craig Coleman, MA, CCC-SLP  
[craig.coleman@chp.edu](mailto:craig.coleman@chp.edu)

J. Scott Yaruss, PhD, CCC-SLP  
[jsyaruss@csd.pitt.edu](mailto:jsyaruss@csd.pitt.edu)



Kelli Talicska, Miss Michigan