Speaking out about stuttering
Rodney Gabel breaks new ground in research, services to people who stutter

As if making a simple phone call or asking for directions isn’t difficult enough for someone who stutters, even worse can be the knowledge that people assume you must be nervous or not very bright.

Dr. Rodney Gabel, communication disorders, knows this firsthand. As a child, he began to stutter severely and, despite the best efforts of his teachers and parents, he was unable to overcome it. It was not until he came to BGSU as an undergraduate and received therapy that he learned to communicate fluently.

Today, Gabel is heading five innovative research projects aimed at understanding the life experience of people who stutter, as well as perceptions of others surrounding stuttering. The goal is to learn how to combat public misconceptions and provide effective aid to people who stutter. He is also reaching out to people who stutter through a number of specialized, intensive clinics at the University—the only such programs in the region. (See related story.)

“We hope to serve and be better advocates for adults and kids,” said Gabel, who also serves as a consultant to school districts and founded the Bowling Green chapter of the National Stuttering Association, which Derek Daniels, one of his doctoral students, co-directs.

Helping with the research and the clinics are a number of students, including several master’s- and doctoral-level students and one undergraduate. For them, the work has provided valuable knowledge and experience not typically gained in academic settings, where the topic of stuttering is often given short shrift, according to Gabel, a board-recognized specialist in fluency disorders.

Many speech-language pathologists report being uncomfortable or ill prepared to work with people who stutter, he said. This may be due to a continuing reduction in preparation of speech-language pathologists in the area of stuttering, which then leads to schoolchildren who stutter having difficulty getting the treatment they need as even fewer therapists specialize in treating the problem.

“Our master’s students will come out with 40-60 hours of clinical experience,” Gabel said. “Hopefully, that will have a positive impact across the state as they become practicing clinicians.” Some will also have a deeper insight gained through the research projects, he added.

Gathering firsthand information

Affecting three and a half million people in the United States, or about 1 percent of the population, stuttering is a chronic problem that often lasts into adulthood, Gabel explained. It affects four to five times more boys than girls.

The implications of stuttering on emotional health and career choice are among the subjects of the studies Gabel and his students are conducting. They are examining the topic from the outside in, asking people who don’t stutter about their opinions on, for example, what careers someone who stutters might follow; and from the inside out, asking people who stutter to describe their experiences with their families, school and work. They will also be asked what therapy they have had and what they have done to overcome their problem, which could help guide future speech pathologists.

Gabel and his students have access to a wealth of information from the participants in the communication disorders department’s stuttering clinics. “What a rich resource of data we have to look into!” he said, noting that, while stuttering has been examined extensively from
a clinical perspective, the actual experience of people who stutter has not been researched. "For years, we didn't explore what people who stutter tell us about what it's like to stutter."

Daniels, the doctoral student, has been studying the school experiences of people who stutter. "The project originated from my own experiences growing up as a person who stutters in school," he said. "Society is very sensitized to certain disabilities and less sensitized to others, like stuttering. I hope to use the voices of people who stutter to educate the larger population about the experiences in school of people who stutter."

Gabel said these experiences often include teasing, bullying and not being called on in class. People who stutter are frequently seen as shy or nervous, and are treated as such, he said.

For his study, Daniels is using several methods to gather information, including conducting 10-15 in-depth, one-on-one interviews with adults who stutter about their school experiences, plus holding several focus groups of five to six people each. He will analyze the participants' stories for themes and develop a descriptive survey to distribute to the larger population. "I hope to expand this study someday to include parents, schoolteachers and administrators," he said.

How the world views those who stutter

The second area of research concerns how people who stutter are perceived.

Adam Schlagheck, a senior from Genoa majoring in communication disorders, has spent the summer compiling and analyzing the results of a survey on stereotypes about people who stutter. Following an initial pilot study of about 20 participants last semester, the current study asks participants open-ended questions about characteristics they feel are common to people who stutter, whether they think people who stutter would have difficulties related to employment and what careers they think would be suited or not for people who stutter. They were also asked to provide the rationale for their opinions.

Like many of the people in the survey, Schlagheck said, "I didn't know anything about stuttering and I was nervous about talking to people who stutter. But I am so comfortable talking to Dr. Gabel that I could ask him for advice about how to approach it. That has allowed me to become perfectly comfortable with them as well."

Initial results from the survey show many misconceptions, he said. People reported beliefs ranging from stuttering being completely "fixable with therapy," to being a sign of low intelligence, Schlagheck said.

"A widely held misconception is that people who stutter have an anxiety disorder," Gabel said. "They don't, but their stuttering can lead to a lot of other problems."

The survey also revealed that participants who reported knowing someone who stutters tended to be "far more empathetic," Schlagheck said. "And their opinion about what jobs are suitable was much less limited; they tended to be advocates for people who stutter."

Teachers can play an important role in guiding students toward college or career choices, he said, so their perceptions of those who stutter may have a great impact. It is the researchers' hope that the information gathered through the study of people who stutter and their educational experiences can be used to effect change in teachers' attitudes.

Therapy and support for people who stutter

At the University of Pennsylvania, where he earned his Ph.D. in 1999, Dr. Rodney Gabel, communication disorders, worked in an intensive clinic for people who stutter. Impressed with the positive results for its clients, he developed a similar clinic at BGSU in 2002, just one year after joining the faculty.
Held six days a week for three weeks in the summer, the Intensive Stuttering Clinic for Adolescents and Adults provides intensive, individual and group therapy. "The therapy is very effective and is conducted in a very traditional, specific manner," Gabel said. "But it's tailored to the individual. Not everyone stutters the same way, so there is not one way to treat it. For some people, we help them learn to alter their speech, which might mean making them 'stutter better.' For others, the therapy may lead to improved fluency or an absence of stuttering. We take a broad, complex, eclectic approach to treating stuttering."

In addition to the usual clinical exercises, "our clients discuss their experiences with stuttering," Gabel said. They also practice real-life situations such as ordering a pizza or making phone calls to get information, using the skills they have learned to improve their fluency.

But "the clinic is not the end. It's just the beginning of our involvement with our clients," some of whom come from long distances to BGSU, Gabel said. "We keep in touch with them through e-mails and follow-up programs. We may put them in contact with clinicians closer to home and hold weekend intensive clinics."

In order to continually refine and improve the department's clinical services, Gabel and his students are engaged in outcome research to determine not only what the clinicians think but also what the clients think about the therapy. "We also want to track how they develop after the therapy," Gabel said. "We know that some are stutter-free and some are still stuttering to a degree."

Derek Daniels and fellow doctoral student Stephanie Hughes are analyzing data from two years of the clinic to look at its effectiveness.

So far, the results have been encouraging, and the department has been "tremendously supportive," Gabel said. He has previously received financial support from Psi Iota Xi, a national philanthropic sorority specializing in speech and hearing, and the Fort Meigs Sertoma Club. He has applied for another, larger grant from Psi Iota Xi to expand the department's research and therapy initiatives and bring them under one umbrella. Plans are under way for evening clinics for adults, weekend clinics and after-school clinics for children who stutter.

"I want to take this really good thing we're doing and provide it to even more people," he said.

President assigns added responsibilities, new titles to three

Three University employees will assume additional responsibilities, President Ribeau has announced.

The president made the changes in response to challenges posed by the 2007-08 biennial budget, which he said calls for "administrative effectiveness, transparency and statewide emphasis on economic development."

Dr. James Smith, dean of BGSU Firelands, will add economic and regional development to his area of responsibility. Smith's new title is Vice President for Economic Development and Regional Growth, Dean of BGSU Firelands. In this capacity, he will work with the Regional Growth Partnership in Toledo, the Wood County Economic Development office, and regional chambers of commerce, businesses and colleges on specific development projects.

Sandra MacNevin, assistant vice president for executive communication and director of the Engagement Initiative, will add statewide policy development and budget strategy to her duties. Her new title will be Associate Vice President for Executive Communication, Executive Assistant to the President for Policy Development, and Director of Engagement.

Dr. Paul Schauer, accounting, will serve on a part-time basis as Ethics Officer. He will report directly to the president and oversee all aspects of ethics and compliance programs.
"A few years ago, the Commission on Higher Education and the Economy called on our public universities to expand our mission as we respond to societal needs. Economic development, greater accountability and engagement initiatives are some of the ways this will be accomplished. I am deeply appreciative of our colleagues' willingness to lead in these critical areas," Ribeau said.

The campus will be receiving more information from the president about important developments and issues in a sequence of emails over the coming weeks.

**Journalism major among broadcasters' inaugural 10 scholars**

Nicole Humphrey, a junior from Warren, is one of 10 students chosen as the first National Association of Broadcasters Education Foundation (NABEF) Scholars.

A journalism major in the broadcast sequence, Humphrey will receive $10,000 per year for the next two years through the new program, which targets outstanding communications students from diverse backgrounds to help them complete their undergraduate degrees and begin careers in broadcasting.

Communications schools at 10 universities were selected to award the scholarships on the basis of "quality of the school's communications program, emphasis on serving women and people of color and on regional distribution," according to the foundation.

In addition to BGSU, chosen universities were Brigham Young, Murray State and Pennsylvania State, along with the universities of Alaska-Anchorage, Arkansas, Florida, Nevada-Reno, Southern California and Texas-Austin.

Each communications school picked a broadcast major—a woman or person of color—to receive the scholarship, based upon demonstrated ability and promise as well as financial need.

As part of the scholarship, each student must perform an internship at a licensed radio or television station. Humphrey, who will be an intern this fall at WTVG-TV in Toledo, interned this summer at WJAR-TV in Cranston, R.I. "I want to go to New York next summer," she said, adding she would like to work at NBC's "Today Show."

Also a former intern at WYTV-33 in Youngstown, Humphrey is a production assistant and editor for WBGU-PBS and a producer and anchor of BG24 News on campus.

"We have high expectations for her," said Dr. Terry Rentner, chair of the journalism department.

**Digital textbook option expands; other cost-saving possibilities explored**

The number of titles and courses in which they've available are up and the prices are down for digital textbooks at BGSU.

In addition, a campus committee is exploring other cost-saving alternatives for students in regard to course materials. Among the possibilities are textbook rentals and iChapters, which students may purchase one at a time.

A year ago, the University Bookstore was among 10 nationwide to offer downloadable digital
Texts to students in a pilot program created by MBS Textbook Exchange in partnership with a group of major textbook publishers.

In the fall 2005 Universal Digital Textbook program, 19 different titles were offered in 20 BGSU courses, affording students a chance to save up to one-third of the new book price.

As the 2006-07 academic year begins, the numbers have risen to 47 titles in 53 courses, in business, education, philosophy, biology, geology and journalism, among other areas. And the savings is now up to 40 percent, meaning a $100 book in print can be had for $60 in digital form.

"We're not looking to replace print books," but "it doesn't hurt to have another option," said Holly Amos, course materials assistant at the University Bookstore.

Stored in a laptop rather than a book bag, digital texts are easier on the back as well as the wallet. They're available to students as cards, similar to electronic gift cards and phone service cards. Students present a card to a bookstore cashier, who activates it by swiping it at the register. The textbook can then be downloaded and accessed via software that allows document searching and printing, highlighting, note-taking and other features.

Amos and bookstore Director Jeff Nelson are members of the Textbook Subcommittee of Faculty Senate's Committee for Professional Affairs. Dr. Christine Myers, a visiting assistant professor of history, is chairing the group, which began meeting last spring semester and this fall plans to survey students about their ideas for textbook alternatives.

Myers said many campuses in the University of Wisconsin system—including the Whitewater and Platteville campuses, where she has taught previously—have a form of textbook rental program, primarily for students in survey classes whose subject matter isn't in their major. The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point has had such a program since its inception in 1894, she noted.

Some universities have what they call textbook libraries, which loan out texts for a semester and collect fees for books that are returned late, she added.

Myers said the iChapter alternative may be desirable not only in terms of saving students money, but also from the perspective of faculty members who don't always want to use an entire textbook.

Another possibility, she said, might be custom-made, password-accessible online texts now available from various publishers.

The six-member subcommittee chaired by Myers also includes Dr. David Albrecht, accounting and management information systems; Sara Bushong, University Libraries, and Dr. Philip Weinsier, applied sciences, BGSU Firelands. Myers invited anyone interested in joining the panel to contact her at 2-8643 or cdmyers@bgsu.edu.

BGSU theatre and film to open curtain on 86th season

Subscriptions and single tickets will be available beginning Sept. 11 for the University Department of Theatre and Film season.

BGSU's 86th theatre season opens Sept. 28-Oct. 1 with "Land of Little Horses," an early work by award-winning playwright Rebecca Gilman, in the Eva Marie Saint Theatre in University Hall.

Subsequent fall-semester productions will include the annual Newcomers Showcase, "All the World's a Stage," Oct. 26-29; BGSU Opera Theater's "La Canterina" and "Dido and Aeneas," Nov. 3 and 5, and "A Christmas Carol," Nov. 29-Dec. 3.
The theatre and film department's collaborations with campus arts partners will commence Sept. 12 with the debut of the Fall Film Directors Series, co-sponsored by the Gish Film Theater Endowment.

The series will feature films by independent moviemaker Jim Jarmusch on four consecutive Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Gish Theater in Hanna Hall. "Stranger Than Paradise" will be screened Sept. 12, followed by "Mystery Train" on Sept. 19, "Dead Man" on Sept. 26 and "Broken Flowers" on Oct. 3. Admission is free.

The Gish Theater will also host a stop on the Ann Arbor Film Festival Tour, Oct. 13 at 7 p.m. The tour will present independent, experimental and alternative entries from the 44th annual film festival.

Starring BGSU freshmen and transfer students, the Newcomers Showcase, "All the World's a Stage," will be held in Bryan Recital Hall of the Moore Musical Arts Center. The evening of one-act plays, scenes, songs and dances about actors, acting and life in the theater is a co-production of the theatre and film department and the College of Musical Arts.

Those partners are also collaborating with the School of Art and the School of Human Movement, Sport and Leisure Studies on the BGSU Opera Theater's November double bill, set for Kobacker Hall in the Moore Musical Arts Center. Haydn's "La Canterina," written in 1767 and sung in Italian, is a comic opera, while Henry Purcell's "Dido and Aeneas," written in 1689 and sung in English, is the tragic tale of the queen of Carthage.

The fall semester will conclude with a musical adaptation of Dickens' classic "A Christmas Carol" by Dr. F. Scott Regan, a theatre and film faculty member and director of the local Horizon Youth Theatre, which is co-producing the play. Performances will be in the Eva Marie Saint Theatre.

University Hall's other theatrical venue, the Joe E. Brown Theatre, will host a variety of student productions known as the Elsewhere Theatre throughout fall semester. For more information about those or other productions, visit www.bgsu.edu/departments/theatrefilm or call the department at 2-2222.

Theatre season subscriptions are, for adults, $30 per semester and $60 for the full year, and for children (under 12), $15 and $30, respectively. Single tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for children. To order tickets, call the theatre box office at 2-2719 starting Sept. 11.

The spring theatre and film season will be detailed in a future Monitor.

IN BRIEF

First Arts and Sciences Forum to be musical interlude

The College of Arts and Sciences gets its annual forum season off to a musical start with "An American in Salzburg," a performance and discussion by the Ase Duo, on Sept. 5.

Pianist Stan Ford and violinist Ashley Home will perform works by Mozart in commemoration of his 250th birthday, along with pieces by Brahms, Debussy, Saraste and Coleridge-Taylor Perkins. Ford, BGSU's associate at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, will also speak briefly about his teaching experiences there. The event will be held in 202B Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

The noon soup and salad lunch is $6.55. Reservations are due today (Aug. 28) and may be emailed to mjhitt@bgsu.edu or phoned in to 2-2340. For those not having lunch, the 12:30 p.m. performance is free.

The College of Musical Arts will host a free concert by the Ase Duo at 8 p.m. Sept. 6 in Bryan Recital Hall.
‘Friends’ seeking nominees for author, artist recognition

Chairs and directors of academic departments, schools and programs are asked to nominate individuals for recognition at the annual Authors and Artists Reception, sponsored by the Friends of University Libraries.

For more than 20 years, BGSU faculty and staff have been recognized for their scholarly works and achievements. This year’s reception will be held on Nov. 15.

The deadline for nominations is Sept. 20. For detailed criteria and submission information, visit http://www.bgsu.edu/colleges/library/admin/friends/criteria.html.

Note time change for ‘Clash in Cleveland’

The time for Saturday’s (Sept. 2) “Clash in Cleveland” between the BGSU Falcons and the University of Wisconsin Badgers has been moved to 7 p.m. due to the game’s being televised.

The original time for the game at Cleveland Browns Stadium was 1 p.m.

Tickets are still available and may be purchased at the ticket office in Memorial Hall, online at http://www.bgsufalcons.com or by calling 2-0000. The University is also hosting a number of game-related activities, which may be viewed at http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/alumni/programs/page20090.html.

Get your Ferrari Award nominations in

The deadline to submit nominations for the administrative staff Ferrari Award is 5 p.m. Friday (Sept. 1). The award recognizes outstanding staff members who have contributed to the University through innovation and initiative, exemplary performance and their relationship with the campus community.

Nomination is by letter of recommendation, and up to five supporting letters may be included. Materials should be sent to Nora Cassidy, chair of the Awards and Special Recognitions Committee of the Administrative Staff Council, at 141 Overman Hall.

The award will be presented at the ASC Fall Reception on Oct. 3. The annual event, open to all administrative staff members, will be held from 2-4 p.m. in 202B Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

CALENDAR

Monday, Aug. 28

Auditions for “A Christmas Carol,” 6:30 p.m., fourth floor, University Hall. To sign up for an audition time, visit the call board across from the theatre and film department office in South Hall. Callbacks are Tuesday, Aug. 29, at 6:30 p.m. Those auditioning should prepare a song; no accompanist will be provided. Production dates will be Nov. 29-Dec. 3.

Tuesday, Aug. 29

Volleyball vs. Cleveland State, 7 p.m., Anderson Arena.

Wednesday, Aug. 30

Brown Bag Luncheon, In-Gathering and Welcome-Back Session, noon-1 p.m., Women’s Center, 107 Hanna Hall.

Faculty Artist Series, Charles Saenz, trumpet, and Laura Melton, piano, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.
Thursday, Aug. 31
Creative Writing Program Readings, 7:30 p.m., Prout Chapel.

Friday, Sept. 1
Women’s Soccer vs. Xavier, 5 p.m., Cochrane Field.
Cross Country vs. Toledo, 5 p.m., Forrest Creason Golf Course.

Saturday, Sept. 2
Football, “Clash in Cleveland,” Falcons vs. Wisconsin, 7 p.m., Cleveland Browns Stadium.

Sunday, Sept. 3
Women’s Soccer vs. Western Illinois, noon, Cochrane Field.

Monday, Sept. 4
Labor Day, no classes and offices closed.

Art Exhibits, “Something Blue” and “Summer Art Expo,” Bowen-Thompson Student Union Galleries. Gallery hours are 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Sundays.

Art Exhibits, “Jake in Transition from Female to Male,” photographs by Clarissa Sligh of a person in the midst of a sex change, juxtaposed with an account of the pre-Civil War escape of disguised slaves from a Virginia plantation, Willard Wankelman Gallery, Fine Arts Center. A traveling exhibition courtesy of the Visual Studios Workshop. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-4 p.m. Sundays.

Aug. 29-Oct. 6
Art Exhibition, “Color: Ten African-American Artists,” personal expressions of race and identity from artists working in craft media including clay, glass, metal, wood and fiber. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-4 p.m. Sundays.

JOB POSTINGS

FACULTY
Political Science, Assistant Professor. Call Albert Dzur, 2-7270.

Contact the Office of Human Resources at 419-372-8421 for information regarding classified and administrative positions. Position vacancy announcements may be viewed by visiting the HR Web site at http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/.

Employees wishing to apply for these positions must sign a “Request for Transfer” form and attach an updated resume or data sheet. This information must be turned in to Human Resources by the job deadline.

CLASSIFIED
On-campus classified:
http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/BGSU_only/page11151.html

Off-campus classified:
http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/cl_staff/page11145.html

ADMINISTRATIVE
http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/adm_staff/page11137.html
OBITUARY

Tory Caeti, 40, died Aug. 19 in Kenya. He had been a member of the criminal justice faculty in 1996-97.

Joanne Amos, 55, died Aug. 18 in Wood County. She had been a member of the University's custodial staff for 38 years.