



THE DAVID A. & KAY SLATTERY SHAPIRO
Scholarship for Specialists
in Fluency Disorders



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Fluency disorders occur in all languages and countries and take many forms, such as stuttering, cluttering, and neurogenic- or psychogenic-acquired forms of speech disfluency. As a person who stuttered without control for nearly 20 years, Dr. David Shapiro swore an oath that if he could find a way to talk, then he would do all he could to help others. He did find a way and has worked as a Speech-Language Pathologist and Professor for four decades, serving people of all ages with fluency disorders, their families, students, and allied professionals around the world.

The David A. and Kay Slattery Shapiro Scholarship for Specialists in Fluency Disorders was created in 2014 by Dr. David Shapiro and his wife, Kay. Dr. Shapiro, Western Carolina University's Robert Lee Madison Distinguished Professor, deeply values his relationship with WCU and wishes to demonstrate his gratitude by "passing along the gift" to perpetuate opportunities for those who are equally passionate about the importance of communication.

Shapiro said, "It is the birthright of every person to be able to use speech and language freely and to enjoy communication freedom. It is hard to imagine what it means to be unable to talk to another person on the planet."

Successes abound. A man who never ordered a meal at a restaurant for his wife during their 40-year marriage now does so and communicates independently. A young woman who looked away and spoke little so that her boyfriend would not see her stutter now looks him in the eye and says, "He's going to hear what I have to say whether he wants to or not." A child who stuttered severely and was bullied now speaks without hesitation and is an advocate for others.

Such experiences are achieved by Specialists in Fluency Disorders. Despite the prevalence of fluency disorders, specialists are few. Such specialists empower those who then "pay it forward," bringing success

and independence to others. This is the human story in which diverse people learn and grow together to realize positive human potential.

The purpose of this Scholarship is to support students pursuing a graduate degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders at Western Carolina University. Specifically, those students must have an interest to specialize in assessment and treatment of fluency disorders and demonstrate a significant personal and professional commitment, an unwavering positive attitude, and a prototypical desire to "give back" and to make a meaningful and lasting difference in the lives of others and in the world.

This Scholarship represents a culmination of Dr. Shapiro's commitment to serve others. Dr. Shapiro is a Fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Board Certified Fluency Specialist, and author of over 300 professional publications and presentations in seven languages. His book, *Stuttering Intervention: A Collaborative Journey to Fluency Freedom* (2nd ed., 2011), incorporates international perspectives in its examination of assessment and treatment of people of all ages who stutter. Dr. Shapiro's impact extends to six continents, where he has taught workshops, provided clinical service, and conducted research.

In 2016, Dr. Shapiro was honored by the University of North Carolina Board of Governors with the Oliver Max Gardner Award, the highest honor the Board presents to faculty of the 17-campus system. This award recognizes faculty who have "made the greatest contribution to the welfare of the human race."

To learn more about Dr. Shapiro, this scholarship, or WCU's Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, visit commdis.wcu.edu.