



Tomorrow starts here.



The development of the acclaimed SpeechEasy in-the-ear fluency device by Dr. Joseph Kalinowski, Dr. Andrew Stuart and Dr. Michael Rastatter of ECU's Department of Communications Sciences and Disorders in the School of Allied Health Sciences opened the world of speech communication for stutterers everywhere. The device is based on a natural phenomenon called the "choral effect," which occurs when people who stutter speak or sing in unison with others and their stutter is dramatically reduced or even eliminated.

STIFLING STUTTERING:

DR. JOSEPH KALINOWSKI
DR. ANDREW STUART
DR. MICHAEL RASTATTER

Office of Technology Transfer
www.ecu.edu/ott

When someone wears a SpeechEasy device and speaks, their words are digitally replayed in their ear with a very slight delay and frequency modification. As a result, the brain perceives that it is speaking in unison with another person. This perception of "speaking in unison" creates the "choral effect", thus becoming a stuttering treatment that can reduce or even eliminate stuttering. SpeechEasy fits in the ear like a hearing aid, and once the individualized settings are determined, usually within 20 to 90 minutes, the fluency effects are often instantaneous. About 80% of those who use the device for the first time end their stuttering immediately. The revolutionary device is marketed by Janus Development Group with nearly a hundred distributors in the U.S. and more in other countries. Kalinowski, Stuart and Rastatter continue to research and work on stuttering and other communicative disorders. Rastatter was the 2004 recipient of "East Carolina University Lifetime Achievement Award for Research."

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