

R. Orin Cornett Memorial Scholarship Fund

Dr. R. Orin Cornett invented Cued Speech in 1966 as a way to make spoken language clear to deaf children through vision alone and combat the low literacy rate that pervades deaf education.

Thousands of deaf and hard of hearing students benefit by using Cued Speech and receive a clear, unambiguous representation of spoken language. These students are capable and eager to further their education after graduating high school.

The National Cued Speech Association established the R. Orin Cornett Scholarship Fund in 1997 to aid qualified deaf or hard of hearing students to continue their education past high school. Recipients of this award must have used Cued Speech *as their primary mode of communication during language learning years* **OR** *for five or more years during their education*. Candidates may be entering or attending vocational schools, undergraduate schools or graduate schools. There are two scholarships available under the R. Orin Cornett Scholarship Fund.

R. Orin Cornett Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)

Named in memory of the inventor of Cued Speech, Dr. R. Orin Cornett, who dedicated his life to increasing language, communication and literacy among deaf/hard of hearing children.

Awarded to Esther Rimer

Esther Rimer is a student at Wellesley College just outside Boston, MA. She is a native of upstate South Carolina and became profoundly deaf at the age of 2 due to spinal meningitis. After her mother heard about Cued Speech when Esther was 3-4 years old from an SLP in Greenville, SC, Esther picked it up and mainstreamed through public school from Kindergarten on. She will graduate in spring '07 with a BA in Liberal Arts and major in anthropology, after which she hopes to get involved in some aspect of archaeology! This year Esther has been working as a teaching intern with the Deaf Children's Literacy Project" to the end, please!



Carol Schuler Memorial Scholarship (\$500)

Carol Schuler was a speech pathologist and a teacher of the deaf who embraced Cued Speech for its English access. She coached and supported families who chose to cue to their children. Carol's legacy will continue with this scholarship.

Awarded to Patrick Gildea

Born profoundly deaf in Virginia Beach on November 30, 1987, Patrick was diagnosed at 20 months old. He was immediately aided and placed in an early intervention program at an Easter Seals program where he began learning sign language. His parents decided to switch his mode of communication to Cued Speech at approximately 2 years old once they learned about the benefits of the acquisition of language using Cued Speech. The family moved to Fairfax County when Patrick was four to enroll him in the Canterbury Woods Elementary School, known for its active Cued Speech community. Patrick remained in Fairfax County through high school, graduating with eight Advanced Placement courses. He received a cochlear implant at age 11. Patrick won a number of academic awards and is a member of the National Honor Society. He is the recipient of many senior honors including Outstanding Achievement and Leadership Award, Science Department Award, and Assistant Principal's Recognition Award. Patrick is also the recipient of The Harry F. Byrd Leadership Scholarship, Jefferson Scholar Finalist Scholarship, and an A. G. Bell / Bennion Family Scholarship. Patrick will be attending the University of Virginia in August to pursue a major in the sciences.

