



---

**Contact:**

Amy Ruberl, Executive Director  
National Cued Speech Association  
800.459.3529 v/tty  
info@cuedspeech.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***NCSA Awards 2007 Cornett Memorial Scholarship and  
Carol Shuler Memorial Scholarship***

**July 31, 2007 – Bethesda, MD** — The National Cued Speech Association (NCSA) is pleased to announce that *John Veazey* (Louisiana) and *Elizabeth Tolleson* (Hawai'i) are this year's recipients of the R. Orin Cornett Memorial Scholarship and the Carol Shuler Memorial Scholarship. The R. Orin Cornett Scholarship Fund, which supports qualified individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing in their post-secondary endeavors, makes these scholarships possible.

The scholarship fund honors Dr. Cornett's dedication to improving access to communication, language and literacy for children who are deaf and hard of hearing. Dr. Cornett developed Cued Speech in 1966, during his first year as Vice President of Long-Range Planning at Gallaudet University. His goal was to develop a way for deaf children to access clearly and visually the properties of spoken language. Research has shown that individuals who cue typically reach their maximum literacy potential and often perform at or above grade level in language testing. Most cuers pursue post-secondary education and the NCSA supports them in achieving their goals.

*Recipients of the awards must have used Cued Speech as their primary mode of communication during their crucial language learning years or for five or more years of their education. They must be entering or attending an undergraduate, graduate, or vocational institute for the upcoming school year. Scholarships are not based on academic achievement, need or degree of hearing loss. Scholarship recipients qualify by writing an essay that reflects the mission, vision and goals of the NCSA, which include championing effective communication, language development and literacy through the use of Cued Speech.*

**R. Orin Cornett Memorial Scholarship (\$1000)**

*This scholarship honors Dr. Cornett's memory and lifelong dedication to Cued Speech, as well as his personal interest in the academic successes of cuers around the nation.*



## **Awarded to John Veazey**

John Gideon Veazey was born in Brunswick, GA, in 1988 and his first home was on St. Simons Island. His hearing loss is associated with congenital Cytomegalovirus infection. His parents knew congenital CMV infection could cause hearing impairment and learned such was the case when John was six months old. In short order, they began using Signing Exact English (SEE) and John used this method of communication until he switched to Cued Speech at age three upon moving to Prairieville, LA. Since then, John attended his neighborhood schools from first grade through twelfth, utilizing the services of a cued language transliterator with the exception of his senior year.



Since John began using Cued Speech, he has achieved a high degree of academic success, much of which is due to learning how to read at a young age. Remarkably, he was reading at an adult level in third grade and he attributes his success to the way in which Cued Speech allows use of the association between the sounds of the English language and the written word.

Most recently, he attended Dutchtown High School and achieved a number of academic honors in his career there. He was a member of the National Honor Society and won several scholarships, including the Tuition Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) Honors Award, the LSU Centennial Award, the LSU Chancellor's Student Aide Award, and a scholarship awarded for placing first in the 2004 Gallaudet University National Essay Contest.

John plans to attend Louisiana State University and major in History. Afterwards, he plans to attend law school at the well-regarded Paul M. Herbert Law Center at Louisiana State University. He hopes to practice in the area of Constitutional law and eventually become a judge.

Of Cued Speech, John says:

“

Because Cued Speech has allowed me to learn to communicate effectively, I maintain good relationships with my teachers and others in the educational system and I am my own advocate when it comes to decisions regarding various educational issues. Without Cued Speech, it is certain that my life would not be the same and it is also my sincere belief that my quality of life would not approach the level that it is currently.

In the context of academics, Cued Speech was a great factor in my success because it fostered my reading skills, which are essential, as well as my communication skills, so that I was able to promote myself before others and gain assistance directly if needed.



## **Carol Shuler Memorial Scholarship (\$500)**

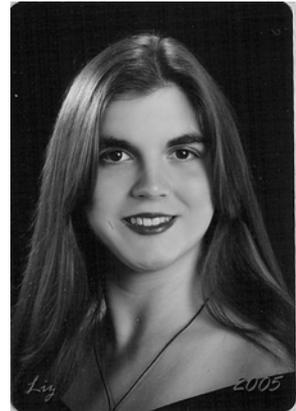
*Carol Shuler was a devoted teacher, speech pathologist, and advocate of Cued Speech from California. In 2005, she provided a generous bequest to the National Cued Speech Association. The NCSA Board of Directors voted to use funds from her bequest to create this scholarship in her honor. Recipients of this award must reside in one of the western United States.*

### **Awarded to Elizabeth Tolleson**

Elizabeth Tolleson was born in 1986 and from birth had various medical conditions that resulted in her losing hearing at eight or nine months old. She met Joan Rupert of West Coast Cued Speech at age three. Joan Rupert trained her in Cued Speech and auditory speech.

Elizabeth was mainstreamed into a hearing school at five years old and has been mainstreamed since then. She now attends Kapiolani Community College in Honolulu, Hawai'i. Her goal is to learn web design and become a comic book illustrator.

Of Cued Speech, Elizabeth says,



As a deaf person who uses Cued Speech, I have had to rely on reading to get my information and my entertainment. As any deaf person knows, it is hard to live in a hearing world where everything is governed by sound: phones, conversations, education, and friendships. Reading gave me a step up, made me equal among the hearing.

I learn not from listening to lectures or from hands-on experiments, nor do I really learn all that well from being told something. I learn best from reading, a skill that would not be possible without Cued Speech.... being able to read has done a lot more for me than anything else, and it wouldn't be possible without Cued Speech.

Without Cued Speech, I would not be able to know that my aunt has an obsession with key lime pie, or that my little cousin likes to pretend we are characters from "Thomas the Train" TV Show. I can sit in the back of the van and talk religion, politics, and gossip with friends of the family and mock my cousins when they tease me, instead of smiling and nodding because I don't know I'm supposed to say something. With Cued Speech, I feel more included in that which, out of all relationships, out of all groups of people, is the most important of all: the family.

###

*The National Cued Speech Association champions effective communication, language development and literacy through the use of Cued Speech. The NCSA launched the Deaf Children's Literacy Project in 1997.*

*For more information contact [info@cuedspeech.org](mailto:info@cuedspeech.org) or visit [www.cuedspeech.org](http://www.cuedspeech.org).*

### **National Cued Speech Association**

Information Services ♦ 5619 McLean Drive ♦ Bethesda, MD 20814-1021  
800-459-3529 (v/tty) ♦ [www.cuedspeech.org](http://www.cuedspeech.org) ♦ E-mail: [info@cuedspeech.org](mailto:info@cuedspeech.org)