

NEWS

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EVERY GOOD WISH FOR 2006 TO ALL OUR READERS

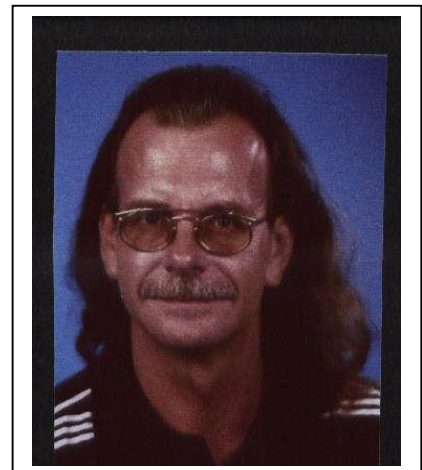
MICHAEL KALMAR NEW PRESIDENT OF EDA

At an EDA Board Meeting last weekend in Germany, **Alan Sayles** resigned as President of EDA due to the pressure of his new job as an Inspector of Schools for the Irish Government; his resignation was not altogether unexpected. **See article page 8.**

Michael became a member of **Österreichischer Bundesverband Legasthenie** in 1991 and one of its Board Members in 1992. He was elected to the Board of EDA in 1999 and as 2nd Vice-President in 2003.

He graduated in 1977 as a Language, Speech and Voice Teacher Therapist and is a member of the Vienna Language Therapy School. He is married with one dyslexic son who is now doing well at the University of Vienna.

In 2004 Michael was awarded the Honour Degree *Schulrat (SR)* by the President of Austria.



Michael will bring to the EDA great experience and expertise in the dyslexia field and has been an influential figure in Austria and Cyprus and has been an integral part of the organisation of many EDA Conferences. We wish him every success as President of EDA.

The Board is now constituted as follows:

1 st Vice-President:	Dr Marta Bogdanowicz	(Poland)
2 nd Vice-President:	Karin Brünger	(Germany)
Treasurer:	Steve Alexander	(United Kingdom)
Secretary:	Maria Potamitis	(Cyprus)
Administrators:	Dr Marija Kavklar	(Slovenia)
	Carina Carlsson	(Sweden)

Jennifer and Robin Salter
Joint Editors

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BUNDESVERBAND LEGASTHENE und DYSKALKULIE e.V.

15th CONGRESS Humboldt University, Berlin

22nd – 25th September 2005

Bundesverband Legasthenie e.V. organised this very successful Congress attended by over 1,300 delegates where they heard 120 speakers on the subject of ***Dyslexia and Discalculia***

In addition, there were 50 Symposia from invited speakers to give the latest scientific findings from leading international researchers. 30 Workshops provided extra information and encouraged delegates to develop their practical skills to help dyslexic children and adults.

The Congress opened with a film illustrating the many problems experienced by young dyslexic people. The film made it clear that the way pupils dealt with their problems depended upon the help they received. The film will be available shortly as a DVD.

The careful studies and special engagement of two young talented researchers were honoured with two awards at a special event organised by **BVL**. Music provided by young artists gave a celebratory atmosphere to the event. **[see below]**

Prof. Stern of the Max-Plank-Institute of Berlin gave a lecture on 'Know-How as a key to Knowledge' in which she made it clear that politicians have to change their views on education in order to increase the awareness of dyslexia and understanding of the knowledge that can help dyslexics improve their competence. She posed several questions, eg: How does the brain process the writing and reading of words? Which regions are active when adding or subtracting numbers? Can the growing understanding of the brain-functions help to develop new and better methods of therapy? Do scientific findings have any importance for daily education in schools? Does our school system pose special obstacles for dyslexic children?

In general, the Congress was able to demonstrate that scientific findings emphasise the importance that the educational system has in providing special education for dyslexics and thereby can open up equal opportunities. A dialogue with representatives from the Office of Educational Affairs provided a platform for discussion of existing and new regulations. It became apparent to the delegates just how important it is to balance potential disadvantages.

The general feeling from the lectures and discussions at the Conference was that so long as dyslexic students have different chances in the different counties (Bundesländer), German dyslexic students will always perform badly relative to dyslexic students in many other European countries, where one system prevails and the needs of dyslexic students are understood and provided for.



Delegates sightseeing in Berlin
and at the Congress

In Germany, many people in the educational establishment still believe 'dyslexia' and 'dyscalculia' are the invention of rich parents. At the International Symposium on the Sunday morning, there was plenty of evidence that these dysfunctions have a genetic origin and that reading and writing difficulties are not just a German problem nor was it a matter of poor teaching. The real problem for the dyslexic student was in the processing of information, visually and auditorially.

The problems do not go away on leaving school. Students will face obstacles in trying to reach their potential in their professional careers.

BVL will continue to work in making everyone aware of the problems facing dyslexic people and in providing diagnosis and appropriate help in their support of the special educational needs throughout Germany.

A free abstract and bibliography are available on the BVL website homepage at www.bvl-legasthenie.de

For more information write to BVL's email: info@bvl-legasthenie.de

BVL's Scientific Awards At the 15th Congress in Berlin

The Science Award (Dyslexia) was awarded to **Dr Claudia Stock** for her work on Fundamental Competence of Reading and Writing and Testing of Phonological Awareness of Schoolchildren between their first and fourth school year.

The Science Award (Dyscalculia) was awarded to **Dr Kristin Krajewski** for her work on Prognostication of Children's dyslexic disposition in Primary School and Studying Children from Kindergarten to the fourth Grade.

EDA's Conference in Cyprus

The CD-ROM of the Conference in Limassol last July is available and is being promoted in German-speaking countries as well. It is considered an excellent piece of evidence of the work of the dyslexic community in Europe. Copies may be obtained from the EDA Secretary; email your request to: dyslexiacy@cytanet.com.cy



Alan Sayles (Ireland), (on the right) *President of EDA*, talking with delegates at the Conference



JOINT SYMPOSIUM IN GRAZ

held under the auspices of
Dr Heinz Fischer
President of Austria
27 – 29 October 2005

Dyslexia – Parents and Teachers Working Together

The symposium took place in the Bildungszentrum Raiffeisenhof in Graz, Austria in conjunction with the following organisations under the co-ordination of Pädagogische Akademie des Bundes in der Steiermark (Teacher Training College):

Karl-Franzens-University of Graz – Dept. of Linguistics
Styrian Dyslexia Association
Institutions participating in the EU-project DYPATEC

The honorary presidium of the symposium consisted of well-known personalities, including:

Elisabeth Gehrler, Minister for Education, Science and Culture
Maria Rauch-Kallat, Minister for Health and Women Affairs
Em.Univ.Prof. Dr Robert Riedl, Konrad-Lorenz Institute for Evolution and Cognition Research
Waltraud Klasnic, Lady Governor of Styria
Mag.Kristina Edlinger-Ploder, Top provincial official
Mag.Siegfried Nagl, Mayor of Graz
Dr Horst Lattinger, President of the provincial school inspectors
Mag.Dr Herbert Harb, Head of the Teacher Training College (co-ordinators)

In addition to the 100 delegates from Austria and Germany and 30 delegates from other countries, there were Austrian students from the Teacher Training College and University of Graz with a number of low-income parents attending free of cost.

Mag.Hermine Posch, co-ordinator of the event and of the project DYPATEC, gave the welcoming speech to the guests and delegates who included parents, teachers, psychologists, speech-therapists, therapists, doctors and international participants from Australia, Canada and Pakistan.

Univ.Prof.Dr Hanspeter Gadler responsible for the grant by the EU's Grundtig 3 project welcomed delegates from the European countries. **Prof. Dr Marta Bogdanowicz**, Vice- President of the European Dyslexia Association and **Raymond Claes**, representing the EU, gave their formal appreciation for all the efforts that such an event demanded.

Everyone was treated to the delightful singing of the children's choir from the Primary School of the Teacher Training College.



Photos from the Congress in Graz

A Keynote Speaker, **Dr Gavin Reid** a senior lecturer at the University of Edinburgh and consultant to the Red Rose School in St Anne's on Sea, United Kingdom, gave an impressive lecture on the role of parents in dealing with the problems of their

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dyslexic children. He said parents have the potential to influence the education of their children by lobbying for proper legislation. He emphasised the the importance of
(continued from previous page)

support and motivation in building self-confidence as a crucial factor in their development.

He was followed by **Mr Fabian Raphael Joas** from Germany. He shared his experiences as a pupil and student struggling with dyslexia who finally managed to

overcome his problems, and he also provide a number of useful tips for parents.

Prof.Dr Marta Bogdanowicz from the University of Gdansk in Poland and President of the Polish Dyslexia Association and Vice-President of the European Dyslexia Association (EDA), devoted her speech to the 'Rights of dyslexic children in Europe'. She compared the legislation and school practice of different European countries, following a survey conducted by the EDA. She concluded that it is especially important to raise awareness of dyslexia among teachers and parents, as they are the two groups responsible for the application of the rights of guaranteed law.

At the end of the first day, the Governor of Styria invited all delegates to a grand reception in the Burg. The occasion afforded an opportunity to discuss the issues addressed and to get to know each other.

On the second day, practical issues concerning dyslexia provided the theme. There were 18 workshops available in German and English organised into four separate sessions to everyone to take part and learn from the experiences of a large European group of workshop leaders. These included dyslexic children and parents. After the workshops, the delegates had the opportunity of to share opinions, concerns or to look for solutions with related groups. These were organised by DYPATEC into 2 English-speaking groups (Czech Republic and United Kingdom and 1 German-speaking group (Germany and Austria). A fourth group consisted of parents of dyslexic children.

The evening programme of the second day included an invitation by the Mayor for a tour of the centre of Graz and to learn something of its history.

The third day began with a spectacular concert from members of the Johan-Joseph-Fux Academy of Music in Styria. This was followed by a raffle which included a prize for every ticket! The main prize was a painting by an Austrian artist. More time was then given to talk with workshop leaders and to exchange addresses and other information.

At the end there was a plenary session introduced by one representative of each participating country of the DYPATEC project followed by an open discussion on general issues concerning dyslexia with future perspectives. Two interpreters managed to keep up with everything during the session, to everyone's satisfaction.

Dr Hermine Posch gave the closing speech and asked for delegates' feed-back on the symposium.

For photographs of delegates at the Congress, please contact Michael Kalmar at:
Michael.kalmar@aon.at



NORDIC DYSLEXIA MEETING

Stockholm on 30 October 2005

The Nordic group of dyslexia associations held a joint meeting on Stockholm on 30 October at which matters of mutual interest concerning dyslexia were discussed. The main decisions made were:

1. to start preparing a **Nordic Reading Bus** with the Lukibuss project in Finland as a prototype. For more information see: www.lukibussi.net
2. to hold a **Nordic Family Camp** at Bornholm on the first weekend in September 2007.

Delegates at the Nordic Meeting



Standing:

Laila Egholm *Felagid Fyri lesi och skriviveik, Färöarna, the Faeroe*
Ove Knutsen, *Dysleksiforbundet, Norge*
Finn Dybvik, *President, Dysleksiforbundet, Norge*
Tom West, *Ordblinde/Dysleksiforeningen, Danmark*
Carina Carlsson, *FMLS, Sweden and EDA*
Anna Karin Kjeld, *Felagid Fyri lesi och Skriviveik, Färöarna, the Faeroe*
In Front:
Siiri Suonuuti-Lintumaki, *Board Member Finder, Finland*
Airi Valkama,, *President, Finder, Finland*

DYSTRAIN

DYSTRAIN is a project organised by Dr Ian Smythe with Romania and Hungary with the British Dyslexia Association. It has been re-launched in a new format. It can be viewed at: www.welshdyslexia.info/dystrain (password 1 2 3 4). Feedback is wanted by Dr Smythe from both dyslexic and non-dyslexic students.

The Course has been accredited at Level 2 with Open College Network Wales (OCN). Dr Smythe is now working on a Level 3 Course which will be open to those students who successfully complete Level 2.

ALAN SAYLES

Past President of EDA

The resignation of Alan Sayles as the President of EDA brings to an end the chapter of Past Presidents who helped to create the EDA 19 years ago in 1987: **Marcel Seynave, Robin Salter, Gyda Skat Nielsen and Alan Sayles.**

Alan's clear and concise explanation of complex issues was a valuable contribution to the understanding of dyslexia in his many lectures at conferences both in Europe and America. The EDA and its Board also benefited from his common sense and sound advice, always given with humour and understanding. Alan and Michael Kalmar were instrumental in making enormous changes for dyslexics in Cyprus.

Perhaps Alan's greatest achievement has been in raising awareness of dyslexia in Ireland through his voluntary work with the **Dyslexia Association of Ireland** (formerly ACLD) providing Summer Schools for dyslexics and the training of teachers. He helped to bring about changes in Government policy to bring dyslexia from virtual non-recognition to being an integral part of Irish education. No small achievement.

Alan's wife, Patricia, was also part of the social side of conferences and both will be remembered with affection by their many friends in the EDA. We wish Alan well in his new responsibilities and look forward to continuing our friendship in the years to come.

International Conferences & Symposia

Country	Organisation & subject	Venue and date
		<u>2006</u>
BELGIUM	Mind Mapping	
	Europe's Children – Our Concern	18 January
	Scotland House	Brussels
	6, Rond Point Schumann	19.00 – 21.15
	<u>Tel:</u> 00 33 (0) 537 4836	
	<u>Contact:</u> ecoc@ecoc.be	
QUEBEC	31st Annual Congress	
	<i>My Success, More than Ever Everyone's Concern!</i>	23 – 25 March
	Learning Disabilities Association	
	<u>Venue:</u>	Quebec
	Hotel Fairmont Le Reine Elizabeth	Canada
	<u>Tel:</u> 00 1 514 847 1324	
	<u>Contact:</u> congres@aqeta.qc.ca	
	www.aqeta.qc.ca	
	<i>In French and English</i>	

BOOK LIST - additions

The full Book List is available on our website. The Editors will be pleased for any suggestions or recommendations for inclusion in our Book List (**in any language**) which they have read and which are recognised as being of value to parents, teachers and other professionals concerned with dyslexia in their countries.

D = in Deutch E = in English F = in French

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Publisher</u>	<u>ISBN</u>
E PEACE WEAVERS *	Julia Jarman	Scholastic Children's Books	
E BIG RED BATH **	Julia Jarman	"	
<i>Both are children's books</i>			
<i>* short-listed for the Sheffield Children's Book Award</i>			
<i>** winner of the Stockport School's Book Award</i>			
E MUSIC & DYSLEXIA	British Dyslexia Association		1 86156 205 5
E INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC for DYSLEXICS	Sheila Oglethorpe		1 86156 291 8

New ISBNs

On **1st January 2007** far-reaching changes to 'ISBN' numbers are taking place. From this date, books will be identified by the new **13 digit** number not the 10 digit number as at present.

The UK ISBN Agency will give new 13 digit ISBNs to publishers from **1st August 2005** to enable them to get their computer systems ready for publications in 2007. There is no need for publishers to contact the Agency unless they wish the Agency to convert their existing 10 digit ISBNs to 13 digit ISBNs.

For books published between **1st August 2005** and **31st December 2006**, the present 10 digit ISBN will be shown but may have alongside it the new 13 digit ISBN but only on the title-verso page.

For more information see the ISBN Agency website at: www.isbn-international.org

NEWS

British Dyslexia Association

*(The Joint Editors acknowledge that the following information comes from the BDA's **Newsletter** for November 2005)*

In The Times Educational Supplement on 2 September 2005 an article was published by Prof. Julian Elliott entitled 'Dyslexia Myths and the Feel-bad Factor'. The article
(continued on next page)

claimed that dyslexia was a myth and, naturally, caused a storm of protest. The article had claimed that dyslexia was nothing more than an emotional construct without scientific basis, implying dyslexia did not really exist! A television programme on channel 4 was also shown entitled 'The Dyslexia Myth' which was primarily about reading and totally ignored all the other well documented symptoms of dyslexia.

The Chief Executive of the BDA, **Susan Tresman**, responded with a vigorous rejection of the article and the BDA has received massive support from academics, its membership and the public.

The BDA's **Dyslexia Week** was held 9 – 13 November.

DITT held its Annual Open Forum on 10 October at the European Parliament in Brussels entitled 'Dyslexia in Europe – Towards a Positive Response'. The Forum raised several key points concerning attitudes towards education and highlighted the need for national governments and the EU to address a number of issues, for example:

What does 'school failure' mean across Europe and beyond?

Are schools failing to develop the abilities and skills of every pupil to a level sufficient to integrate into society?

Do parents of children with learning difficulties have no alternative but to pay for the education to which their children are entitled?

What happens if parents cannot afford private education?

Why is illiteracy and dyslexia in prisons not being addressed?

The keynote speakers emphasised the importance of early diagnosis of dyslexia and the effectiveness of remedial intervention.

For more details of the speakers' papers, see:

www.pits-online.nl/en/HEMSTIMeng.html

www.cnefei.fr/Default4.htm

www.ditt-online.org/Newsletter.htm

NEW ASSOCIATION

Dyslexia Association - Bulgaria

This new dyslexia association has been formed in Bulgaria as a non-profit organisation with the aims of informing people all over Bulgaria about all the aspects of dyslexia to provide support for dyslexic people and their families, and to create an atmosphere of tolerance and equal chances for dyslexics to show their full potential.

It is planned to provide qualified testing and help for children and adults with dyslexia and to educate teachers at all levels to work with dyslexic people.

For more information, contact: **Daniela Boneva**, Secretary tel: **+35982 223376**.

OBITUARY

It is with great sadness that we report the death of **Mme Hermine Biemel**, the mother of Dr Anne-Marie Montarnal, who was the **Secretary of APEDA FRANCE** from its inception in 1982 until her death on 25 October. Our sympathies are with **Anne-Marie** at this sad time for her and her family.

Mme Biemel untiringly answered the telephone and dealt with the mail. With enormous amounts of patience she was always ready and willing to listen, encourage and give advice to those who called. She was particularly proud of the list of members that she compiled over the years, but had great difficulty in coming to terms with the fact that her work had become obsolete with the arrival of computers! Her commitment to people with dyslexia became her whole life until the day she entered hospital in October. She died peacefully in her 96th year.

Dr Anne-Marie Montarnal is the **Chairperson of APEDA FRANCE** and was the first Secretary and an original Board Member of the EDA. Her fellow Board Members will remember her mother, **Mme Biemel**, with great fondness. She retained her youthfulness into her nineties and EDA Board Members will remember her striding along the road at Delphi near Athens on a visit to the temple, not looking her age. Whenever we held meetings at **Anne-Marie's** house, her Mother was always there to give a hand and was an integral part of the organisation of APEDA's conferences in Paris.

APEDA France. Following the death of Mme Biemel, the Secretariat of APEDA France has been moved to: **6 allée Antoine Lemaistre, 78460 Chevreuse, Paris**
Tel: 00 33 (0)6 61 00 61 66.

This is the last page of eda NEWS for January 2006