



AERizona View

MARCH 2006

ASSOCIATION FOR EDUCATION & REHABILITATION OF THE BLIND & VISUALLY IMPAIRED—ARIZONA CHAPTER

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President's Message

Are you feeling social? Are you thinking about your students' socialization challenges and successes? Have you thought about the importance of social skills in the area of career networking? What about your clients who have recently lost vision and are feeling isolated?

If you've had any of these thoughts, then this spring's AZ-AER Workshop and meeting is for YOU! Your workshop planners have been



busily contacting well-known speakers like Sharon Sacks and Karen Wolffe to participate in this one-day workshop centering on the topic of social skills.

We'll meet on the Tucson campus of the Arizona Schools for the Blind campus on Friday, April 28th to discuss a variety of topics related to social skills and visual impairment. Tentative plans are in the works to provide tours of the ASDB campus the afternoon or evening before the workshop.

In addition to the workshop, the board is busily planning for the potential transition period between a fall two-day conference to one in the spring. We'd love to hear from you about this possibility! In addition, we'll talk more about it at the spring meeting on April 28th.

Dorinda

LOOKING AHEAD!

JOSEPHINE L.
TAYLOR
LEADERSHIP
INSTITUTE
Atlanta, GA
March 3-5, 2006
www.afb.org/JLTLI

CTEVH
Anaheim, CA
March 10-12, 2006
<http://www.ctevh.org/>
gl

AZ AER SPRING 1-
DAY CONFERENCE
ASB ~ Tucson
April 28, 2006
<http://www.ed.arizona.edu/azaer/>

AER
INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE
Snowbird, UT
July 13-19, 2006
www.aerbvi.org

ICEVE WORLD
CONFERENCE
(International Council
for Education of
People with Visual
Impairment)
July 16-21, 2006
Kuala Lumpur,
Malaysia
<http://www.mab.org.my/events/worldconference.html>

IMC 12
Hong Kong
Nov 27-Dec 1, 2006
<http://www.hksb.org.hk/>

NAVAJO PREPARATION PROJECT: My Journey to Ganado

*Kartar Kaur Khalsa COMS, CLVT ~ Washington Elementary School District
Irene Topor Ph.D., TVI, CLVT ~ University of AZ (contributions & editing)*

Dr. Jane Erin was concerned about the dire need for teachers of students with visual impairments on the Navajo reservation. Two eye conditions are prevalent among individuals of Native American ethnicity in this region: retinitis pigmentosa and ocular albinism. To address this need, Dr. Erin, Dr. Irene Topor and Dr. Penny Rosenblum wrote a grant and set aside preparation time and funding for 10 teachers of indigenous backgrounds. In January 2005, the University of Arizona Vision Specialization Program received federal funding to prepare teachers at the University of Arizona and on the Navajo reservation. The program is called the Navajo Preparation Project. Ten students were identified, interviewed, and accepted. Nine of the ten students are Native American (eight Navajo and one Hopi), and one student has been a long-time resident of Northern Arizona working with Native American students. The students have completed the first course, Introduction to Visual Impairment & Deaf-Blindness, in pursuit of Master's Degrees or certifications in Visual Impairment. They are currently taking Low Vision Assessment and Instruction with Dr. Irene Topor.

Having never traveled to the Four Corners region of Arizona, I remarked to Irene that I would love to accompany her north to Ganado on one of her teaching weekends. I offered to pay my own way or schlep gear to earn my passage, but Irene said, "Forget that! You can help me teach!" Thus began a most memorable journey...

I met Irene in Globe, on Friday, January 6th, at the junction of Highway 60 and Highway 77; we headed north for our destination of Ganado on the Navajo Reservation. As we ascended and descended the narrow, winding curves of the Salt River Canyon, the air grew cool, crisp and clear. "No Service" became the message on my cell phone, and there was nothing but to marvel at the high canyon walls and breath-taking, expansive vistas. We arrived in Ganado shortly after nightfall at the cozy home of our hosts, Jeanna and Jim Dowse. Jeanna is a native of Ganado. She is a TVI/O&M Specialist, and Jim is an athletic coach at Ganado High School. They reside in faculty housing within walking distance of the school. Jeanna contracts her services to the Bureau of Indian Affairs and other public school districts and agencies. She is one of the few TVIs in the area, also served by vision education professionals from the ASDB North Central Regional Cooperative. Jeanna speaks often and fondly of her friend and colleague, Mary Jo Martinez, who has taught O&M in nearby Chinle for over 20 years.

I was impressed and moved by the pace and quality of life in Ganado! The nearest motel and grocery store are some 30 miles away, and the nearest movie theater is 60 miles. My cell phone didn't reach to Ganado, but satellite TV and a DSL connection bring entertainment, news and rapid

JVIB ONLINE!

The "Journal of Visual Impairment & Blindness" celebrates 100 years of publication! AER subscribers will now receive the on-line journal only with their AER membership. Subscribers will receive email notification when the journal is available live online. You may continue receiving a printed subscription for an additional \$25.00.

To access JVIB as an ePublication, log in at www.afb.org with the User Name and Password found on your AER membership card.

communication. Ganado is situated approximately mid-way between Flagstaff and Albuquerque; these locations offer the nearest shopping malls. In my short stay, my impression was that life in Ganado is greatly about family and community. Neighbors dropped by with food, to discuss the outcome of high school sporting events, and to trouble-shoot computer problems. Jeanna's sister and brother-in-law are planning to build a hotel in Ganado; I hope to be among the first guests!

We rose bright and early Saturday morning to clear skies and 14 degrees! The class convenes in the Ganado High School science lab. The students were glad to see Irene and brought enthusiasm for the coming day of instruction. The agenda included review of Functional Vision Assessment and lots of hands-on with optical devices. Irene introduced me, and I felt welcome and comfortable in my element of mentoring new vision education professionals into our field. Irene reviewed FVA with an APH video entitled "Functional Vision: A Bridge to Learning and Living". The 26 minute video features vision rehabilitation and education professionals working with actual students and clients. I revived my Advanced Low Vision final project, "Optics for Teachers", to discuss the optical principles of near and distance magnification devices. We were visited by Janet Dylla and her husband, Tom, of Desert Low Vision Services for a first-hand look at MyReader and other optical devices, gadgets and accommodations. Irene closed the day with an instructional DVD from the "Selecting Literacy Achievement and Teacher Effectiveness for Students Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired (SLATE) Program". The group responded with a myriad of emotions when handed their final exams, assigned as a small group project that serves as a learning experience as well as a test of knowledge.

What does the future hold for Arizona and the Navajo Preparation Project? Spanning across five years, the Navajo Preparation Project will lead to state certification in the area of visual impairment. The students are looking forward to course work in Methods and Materials, beginning and advanced Braille, and O&M for the Classroom Teacher. The project will include a summer camp for students with visual impairment in 2007 or 2008, through which students will earn internship credit and plan recreation and leisure, sports, and arts and crafts activities. Stay tuned for how you can help to support this project! Then after all is said and done, ten badly needed vision education professionals will join our ranks, thanks to the efforts of Irene, Jane, Penny and Ian!



HEARTFELT
THANKS!!!

*Kevin O'Connor,
AZ AER Fall
Conference
Keynote
Speaker, was
moved by the
letters from our
student
scholarship
recipients.
When asked to
submit travel
costs, he
responded that
he wished the
\$350.00 to go
into the 2006
scholarship
fund. His
request was our
command, and
thus it has been
done! Those
who were
present will
understand the
joke!*

*Thank you,
Kevin! Your
kindness will
forever be
appreciated by
AZ AER!
God Bless!*

*With smiles,
Venetia Hayden
AZ AER VP*

ARIZONA AER OFFICERS: Our Duly Elected

PRESIDENT Dorinda Rife, a native Californian, loves sunshine and beaches. She is a COMS/CLVT with 23 years in education/special education. Dorinda is Principal of the Arizona State School for the Blind on the Tucson Campus. In her "spare time," she loves to read, garden, walk and play the hammered dulcimer.

VICE PRESIDENT Venetia Hayden, TVI/COMS, became inspired to become an O&M Specialist when an O&M Specialist gave her visually impaired daughter a bubble mower, and she saw her run freely for the first time! Venetia serves as a Region 5 Representative for NAPVI and holds a BS in nursing from the Catholic University of America. She obtained her Master's Degree from the University of Massachusetts/Boston in orientation & mobility and her certification from the University of Arizona. She is employed at ASDB as a TVI/COMS. Her hobbies include women's ice hockey ("Go, Tucson Chili Peppers!"), sewing and needlework. She is proud to say that she LOVES her job!

PAST PRESIDENT Jacki Daniels serves as Coordinator of Itinerant Services with the Foundation for Blind Children in Phoenix. She has worked in the vision field since 1985 in several special education settings, including the residential school, the resource room, and as an itinerant TVI. She has been AER Chapter President in New Mexico and Arizona, Vice President in Arizona and assisted with membership in Utah. She lives with her husband in Glendale, has two children ages 23 and 21, and a husky named Mishka.

TREASURER Karen (Hudak) Aron moved from Pennsylvania to Arizona in 1996 to study special education at ASU. In 2000, she enrolled in the UofA TVI program. Karen spent three years with the ASDB Southeast Regional Cooperative in Sierra Vista. She is currently teaching in the Chandler School District. As AZ AER Treasurer, Karen handles bank accounts, accounts payable and receivable, conference registrations, and purchase orders. Contact her via e-mail if you have AER related financial questions!

SECRETARY Mark Brady left the frigid cold of The Windy City in 1993 to pursue his graduate degree in the Vision Teacher Preparation Program at the University of Arizona. Since earning his degree in 1995, he has worked as a high school classroom teacher for the ASDB Tucson Campus, an itinerant TVI for ASDB Southeast Regional Cooperative, and currently an itinerant TVI for Tucson Unified School District. In his spare time, he loves reading mystery thrillers and fantasy, watching movies, singing in and out of the shower, writing poetry, fiction, and songs, and curling up in a comfy Starbuck's chair with a Chai Tea and a good book. He is in his eleventh year teaching wonderful kids! Mark is currently working on his National Board Teaching Certification, so wish him luck!

From the Editor: Look for bios of our 6 directors in AERizona View May 2006!

CONSUMER
GRANTS!!

Come one,
come all!

NEXT

DEADLINE:
MARCH 31st!

AZ AER

Members!

Submit requests
for consumer
grants on behalf
of your students
and clients.

Applications at
<http://www.ed.arizona.edu/azaer/>

Consumer grants are limited to \$50.00 per grant, but higher amounts can be considered on an individual basis.

Consumer grants can be used for things such as student fees for field trips, camps or classes.

Deadlines to apply: June 30th, September 30th, and December 30th.
APPLY NOW!

MOST SINCERELY, KINUBI FRANCIS...
Warm Greetings from Uganda

Jay Taska TVI, COMS ~ Scottsdale Unified School District



Dear Jay,

Warm greetings from Uganda and Salaama School for the Blind! I have written to thank you for the two consignments of Braille books, large print books for the low vision children, white canes, other equipment that will also be helpful in our teaching these children. Convey my thanks to all who contributed them. I thank you very much for that love that has never reduced since we last met in Atlanta in 1998. Such love for us in Africa and wishing to promote and uplift our standards through provision of such equipment cannot be let go without a lot of thanks. The children have left for their Christmas holidays. I am sure when they come back they will be happy to receive all this support. I wish you good health, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Most sincerely, *Kinubi Francis*

From the Editor: *AZ AER member Jay Taska first met Kinubi Francis at the 9th International Mobility Conference in Atlanta in July 1998. They have maintained a friendship and correspondence for these many years. Jay supports this friendship and the needs of children with blindness and visual impairment in Uganda by "rescuing" used Braille/large type books and old canes that would otherwise be discarded. Many of you have contributed to this worthy effort! He then organizes opportunities for joint service projects among his VI students and high school service organizations in preparing these donated materials and equipment for shipment overseas. Stop and think before you throw away books and materials! These may be of use to those who have so very little! Contact Jay at jtaska@sprynet.com to donate materials or equipment or otherwise contribute to this worthy cause!*

BIOPTIC DRIVING IN ARIZONA: IT'S THE LAW!

Dr. Lynne Noon ~ ViewFinder Low Vision Resource Center

The Bioptic Driving Law went into effect in January 2006! The law states that a person must pass the vision requirements set by ADOT with no more than a 4X telescope. 20/40 vision through the telescope may get the person an unrestricted driver's license, while 20/60 may get the person a restricted driver's license. I say "may" because it is up to the doctor's discretion as to the type of license. For instance, a person may have 20/40 vision with the telescope but have decreased contrast sensitivity, and the doctor may only grant a restricted drivers. The person must have full visual field, and we will document this with a formal visual field test.

Unfortunately, the new Bioptic Law does not require the person to receive any type of training with the telescope. I am currently setting up a training

NEMETH
BRAILLE
TUTORIAL

Gaylen
Kapperman and
Jodi Sticken
announce the
Nemeth Code
Tutorial for the
Braille Lite. The
software is an
interactive
program for use
by blind
individuals to
learn to read
and write
Nemeth Code.
The program
operates only
on Braille Lites.
It can be
downloaded at
no charge from
Freedom
Scientific at
[http://www.freedom
scientific.com/fs_download
notenemeth.as
p](http://www.freedomscientific.com/fs_download/notenemeth.asp). It is also
available by
contacting
Gaylen
Kapperman
[gkapperman@ni
u.edu](mailto:gkapperman@niu.edu) or Jodi
Sticken
[jsticken@niu.ed
u](mailto:jsticken@niu.edu). Include your
full name and
mailing address.

program based on studies and information from other states. ViewFinder will fit the telescope and train the client to use the telescope. We are working in conjunction with Jenny Nordine, OT from Driving to Independence, who will train the client as a driver. After training with Jenny, the client must pass a driver's test with an ADOT driver. We hope to have our bioptic training manual completed by the end of the month. Happy New Year! www.viewfinderlowvision.com

University of Arizona: The Latest News

Dr. Jane Erin ~ University of Arizona

The spring semester is well underway at UofA! Irene Topor is spending many weekends on the Navajo/Hopi reservations in northeastern Arizona working with Jeanna Mora Dowse to deliver the course Low Vision and Visual Functioning to the 10 students enrolled in the Navajo Preparation Program. She's also teaching this course in Phoenix this semester. The students were recently welcomed by ophthalmologist Dr. Brandon Cassidy and his staff, who gave their time on a Saturday afternoon to share their knowledge.

Penny Rosenblum is teaching Nemeth code and Methods in Visual Impairment on campus this semester. She is also working with the American Printing House for the Blind to develop a film about older adults who became non-drivers due to a visual impairment. Penny has enjoyed meeting older adults across the country, including a woman who travels from her Maine home on Swann's Island to Bass Harbor by ferry. At 81, she has no problem hitchhiking from her home to the ferry terminal! The video should be out this fall, and Penny is already planning a screening party here in Tucson.

Ian Stewart continues to work with his group of 8 orientation and mobility students, who are completing internships at a variety of sites in Tucson, with one student completing his program in Oregon. Dr. Stewart is also teaching Orientation and Mobility for teachers on Saturdays this semester, to allow access to students who must travel from a distance.

Jane Erin is co-teaching a doctoral seminar in sensory impairments, and 7 of the 11 students are advanced students in visual impairments. Because of the National Center on Leadership in Visual Impairment (NCLVI) federal grant that was awarded to Pennsylvania College of Optometry to support new doctoral students, we have added three doctoral students to our program this year. Beth Harris (Georgia), Eric Sticken (North Carolina), and Holly Lawson (Arizona) have begun their doctoral programs under NCLVI, joining continuing doctoral students Dave Petrovay (California), Kathy Zwald (Georgia), Lisa Serino (Tucson), and Cheryl Hannan (Tucson).

Congratulations to Dr. Keri Lohmeier, principal of the Governor Morehead School in North Carolina, formerly of ASDB. In December, Dr. Lohmeier completed her dissertation, a case study of how the expanded core

BRaille
ENTHUSIASTS
DICTIONARY

The Braille
Enthusiast's
Dictionary,
Braille Edition,
is available
from the
National Braille
Association, 3
Townline Circle,
Rochester, NY
14623, phone
585-427-8260.
The cost to
individuals who
pay with their
own funds is
\$424. For all
others, the cost
is \$1,045. The
ten volumes are
bound. Shipping
is via Free
Matter for the
Blind.

The print edition
of The Braille
Enthusiast's
Dictionary is
available from
SCALARS
Publishing,
phone 901-737-
0001.

curriculum has been integrated into the program at the Governor Morehead School.

Although summer seems far in the future, we are starting to plan for courses. Costs are at the current university tuition rates: 2 unit courses are \$523, and 3 credit courses are \$776 for Arizona residents. Dr. Irene Topor will offer Advanced Low Vision on three weekends in May: 5/12-13, 5/19-20, and 5/26-27 in Tucson and Chandler. Contact Dr. Topor at ilt@u.arizona.edu for more information.

This summer we will be offering several certification courses along with the one-week technology course at ASDB. Summer housing will be available for \$50 a week at ASDB. Visit our website at <http://www.ed.arizona.edu/vi/events.htm> or email Jane Erin at jerin@u.arizona.edu for more information on these courses. Our continuing appreciation to all who have helped support our students in their efforts to become future professionals in visual impairment!

June 5 - June 23 (first three weeks of Summer Session I)
SERP 421/521 Introduction to Visual Impairment and Deafblindness
(mornings, Monday-Friday), Dr. L. Penny Rosenblum

SERP 422/522 Orientation and Mobility for Teachers (afternoons,
Monday-Friday), Dr. Ian Stewart

July 10 - 14 SERP 519b Assistive Technology in Visual Impairment, Ms.
Cheryl Hannan

Set Your Sites

- <http://www.eyeglossary.net/> Online glossary of ophthalmology terms
- <http://www.onhconsulting.com/> ONH Consulting: Resources and information for families of children with Optic Nerve Hypoplasia
- <http://www.babyscapes.com/ourvideos.html> BABYSCAPES Video series for enhancing sensory stimulation in children with low vision or no vision
- <http://www.traveleyes.co.uk/> Travel company that provides holidays for both VI and sighted travelers
- <http://www.senderogroup.com/shopwatch.htm> Description of and source for Tissot Silen-T Watch, a tactile watch that has a vibrating feature that can be felt when you touch the outside of the crystal.
- www.leapfrogstore.com Fly PenTop Computer ~ A big, fat pen that uses an optical scanner and special paper to read aloud what the user writes
- <http://www.jotadot.com/> Braille notetakers by Quantum Technology
- <http://www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov/> Kid-friendly stop bullying website
- www.e-advisor.us Click on "Learning Through Media" at this site for vision simulations of many eye conditions
- <http://home.comcast.net/~dsauerburger/> Personal website of Dona Sauerburger COMS ~ Contains "History of O&M, O&M Skills checklist, hard-to-find newsletter articles

GUIDELINES
FOR USE OF AZ
AER LISTSERV

The AZ AER Listserv is a means of disseminating chapter information! To join, contact Penny Rosenblum at rosenblu@u.arizona.edu.

Here are guidelines for listserv use:

The listserv address is azaer@listserv.arizona.edu.

When you post to this address, the message goes to everyone on our listserv. Posts should be professionally relevant.

Remember that listserv exchanges go to every member of the listserv!

If you have questions, contact Penny at rosenblu@u.arizona.edu.

☆☆☆ **Kudos & Congratulations!** ☆☆☆

Congratulations to Dr. L. Penny Rosenblum, recipient of the Margaret Bluhm Arizona Worker of the Year Award 2005! Penny is pictured with University of Arizona colleagues Pam de Steiguer, Irene Topor and Jane Erin.



Kudos to Rachel Jones and Irene Topor! Rachel completed the PF Chang Rock & Roll Half Marathon in 2 hours and 2 minutes! This is Rachel's first half marathon! She ran with running partner, Irene, who has more than 30 marathons to her credit! Irene and Rachel are pictured sporting medals and smiles!



NEWS FOR
WALMART
SHOPPERS!

Beginning December 1, 2005, Walmart has installed at least three point of sale units with tactile keypads in every store in the country (over 10,000 units)! The new units allow blind shoppers to enter their PIN numbers confidentially. More units will be installed over the next three and a half years. Walmart is training staff about the location of the new machines and their importance to blind shoppers.

AZ AER Classified Ads

HELP WANTED

ACBVI: The Arizona Center for the Blind & Visually Impaired is seeking a Rehabilitation Teacher/CVRT. Duties include assessment, planning, development and implementation of skills in a center-based environment necessary to enable blind and visually impaired individuals to function independently in everyday life activities. The position requires ACVREP certification. Bilingual abilities are a plus. For additional information, contact Frank Vance, Director of Rehabilitation Services at (602) 273-7411 X109 or fvance@acbvi.org. Submit résumés to Jim LaMay, Executive Director, ACBVI, 3100 E. Roosevelt ~ Phoenix, AZ 85008 or jlamay@acbvi.org.



ACBVI: The Arizona Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired is also seeking a full-time Orientation and Mobility Specialist. Individual must be a graduate of an Orientation and Mobility program and carry or be eligible for ACVREP certification.

MPS: Mesa Public Schools has an opening for a full-time Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialist. Typical duties include assessment, consultation, instruction in independent travel, preparation of lesson plans, and documenting student progress serving VI students preschool- 12th grade. Minimum qualification includes a Master's degree in O&M, must be eligible for Arizona teacher certification. Preference may be given to a candidate with dual certifications (CVRT, TVI, CRC, etc). Contact Alberta Longacre at 480-472-0727.

SAAVI: The Southern Arizona Association for the Visually Impaired is recruiting for an Assistive Technology Specialist to work directly with blind and visually impaired consumers providing individual and group assistive technology training. Go to www.saavi.us for complete job summary and qualifications. Submit résumé to Director Michael Gordon at mgordon@saavi.us.

HELP AVAILABLE

ERRAND GENIE SERVICE: Short on time? Perhaps you are a non-driver? Errand Genie at your service! Noel & Arline Stephens, retired O&M Specialists and lifetime AER members, have started a business! Noel and Arline are available to perform such tasks as errands to places such as a postal service, the grocery, bank, dry cleaners, pharmacy, library or video store; pickup & delivery of takeout food, purchase of movie and theater tickets, personal shopping/returns, gift purchase with delivery available, house monitoring, and other services upon request. Noel & Arline pledge reliable, quality service while maintaining privacy. They are licensed, bonded, and insured. Contact **Errand Genie** at 480-907-7844 or errandgenie@cox.net. Good luck, Noel & Arline!

Many thanks!
[AERizona View](#)
appreciates Jay
Taska, Jane Erin,
Irene Topor, Penny
Rosenblum, Lynne
Noon and Venetia
Hayden for
contributing to
make our
newsletter an
ongoing success!

Kartar Kaur Khalsa
Editor
AERizona View
KartarK@cox.net

TO DO:

☞ *Register for
the AZ AER
Spring 1-Day
Conference!!!*

☞ *Spread the
word! AZ AER
Student Merit
Scholarships!
APPLY NOW!*

PURVIS PONDER ~ MARCH 27, 1940 – OCTOBER 22, 2005

A beloved legend in the field of Orientation & Mobility, our friend, professor and colleague, Purvis Ponder, left this life on October 22, 2005. He is fondly remembered by his students as having made an impact beyond just teaching us mobility. He touched our lives, inspired us and made us laugh through it all.

We love you, Ponder.

Kartar Kaur Khalsa
Ponder Protégé
FSU Class of '73



Kartar Kaur Khalsa
AERizona View
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Phoenix, AZ 85006