



AERizona View

SEPTEMBER 2004

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

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President's Message

Hello Everyone!

Hey! This is my last letter as President! That is a reminder for all of you to think about running for an Arizona AER Officer or Board position! This newsletter contains Arizona AER Annual Conference information for our October 21-22, 2004 conference in Prescott. This is our last year (for now) up in Prescott; next year we will be in the Phoenix area experiencing our first co-conference with the Vision Rehabilitation and Technology Expo (VRATE). We hope to have the location and date ready for you at this October's meeting.

Here is a preview of the wonderful speakers planned for this year: Dr. Jane Erin, Dona Sauerberger, Dr. Lori Grover, Dr. Lynne Noon, Tom Perski, Lynne Sadler, Jay Taska, Kartar Kaur Khalsa, Lynne Jaffee, Patty Arnold, Leeanne Pulvermacher, Monica Hockersmith and Jim Sullivan.

Now the topics cover technology for teachers and adults, O&M methods, testing and instructional tools, internet access, social skills and teenagers, medical topics, poster sessions, special exhibitor time, and professional materials. You can't miss this and we all want to see your smiling faces!

Thank you sincerely for all your support, well-wishes and kind words during the past two years. We have amazingly talented and fun members, keep up the good work and your participation in Arizona Chapter of AER.

Greatest Thanks,
Jacki



What's that sound? That's the sound of the tall pines of Prescott. They are whispering your invitation to a top-notch, inspiring, relaxing, uplifting two days in October. Join Arizona AER on October 21-22, 2004 for an unforgettable conference! It's all good!

WHAT'S IN YOUR
FUTURE?

GUIDING EYES
F/T BLIND O&M
SEMINAR

Yorktown Hts, NY
Sept 17-19, 2004
Oct 1-3, 2004
www.guidingeyes.org

DISCOVERY LOW
VISION
CONFERENCE

Chicago, IL
Oct 14-16, 2004
www.deicke.org

AZ AER
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

Prescott Resort
Oct 21-22, 2004
www.ed.arizona.edu/ulazaer/

SOMA +
Concurrent
Bioptic Driving
Seminar

Auburn, AL
Nov 3-5, 2004

CTEVH ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

San Francisco
March 4-6, 2005
www.ctevh.org

CEC ANNUAL
CONVENTION

Baltimore, MD
April 6-9, 2005
www.cec.sped.org

Read on...

Division 8 Gets It Done In Orlando!

Vicki Numkena TVI—ASDB

Division 8 (Infants, Toddlers, and Preschoolers) gathered several times during the AER International Conference in Orlando in July. Members got together early in the conference for a no-host gathering and were joined by non-Division 8 members, adding interesting and welcome ideas. One of the topics that came up was the scheduling of sessions at the conference. Your Division 8 Board Members will be communicating your concerns to conference planners and hope to have a bigger voice in scheduling sessions and meetings for the 2006 conference. During the no-host gathering and at the Division 8 Business Meeting, there was a consensus among members that we would like to hold a Division 8 Day in conjunction with the next international conference. Division days are usually held the day before the international conference begins. The Division 8 Board is very excited about providing members with a full day of interesting sessions covering topics specific to infants, toddlers and preschoolers with visual impairments. Arizona AER member Venetia Hayden has graciously accepted the challenge of coordinating this event! If you would like to share ideas or if you are interested in presenting, contact Venetia at venetiahayden@hotmail.com or call 520-770-3002.

The Division 8 Business Meeting was held at Cite in Orlando. We were treated to a PowerPoint presentation introducing us to their program along with a wonderful dinner. The election results were reported; Tom Miller is the new Chair Elect. Arizona AER member Vicki Numkena was re-elected to her third term as Secretary/Treasurer. Susie Abu-Jabar is the Chair, and Linda Lyle is Past Chair. The Pauline M. Moore Award was presented to Mary Zabelski and Debra Gleason. Many issues were discussed, including our newsletter, natural environments, and the reauthorization of IDEA. Division 8 will be communicating to the National AER Board that they need to make infants, toddlers, preschoolers and their families a higher priority.

Many committees were set up, and if you are a Division 8 member and would like to help, please contact Vicki Numkena at VLNumkena@aol.com. The committees that were developed include BY-Laws, Newsletter, Membership, Awards, Scholarship, Advocacy and Nominations. Division 8 will be putting out a newsletter this fall with in depth coverage of all of the conference happenings including the business meeting.

From the Editor: Thank you, Vicki, for your outstanding report on the activities of Division 8! My challenge to the membership of AZ AER: Are you active in a division? Write and tell us about it! The various divisions of AER lobby on issues vital to their disciplines, publish wonderful and informative newsletters and offer wide and excellent opportunities for professional development. Spend the extra \$10.00 and enrich your AER Membership experience! KK

AZ AER SPRING
1-DAY
CONFERENCE
April 29, 2005
Mesa Public Schools

CANADIAN
VISION
TEACHERS
CONFERENCE
Halifax, NS
May 12-15, 2005
www.apsea.ca

AER BIENNIAL
CONFERENCE
Salt Lake City, UT
July 2006

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AZ AER
OFFICERS &
Board of
Directors:

President
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Vice President
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Penny Rosenblum

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Kerry Duncan
Kartar Khalsa
Elaine Baldrige
Fernando Terazon

Region 1
Representative
Sandra Stirnweis

University of Arizona:

Looking to 2004-05 and Beyond!

Dr. Penny Rosenblum—University of Arizona

The fall semester has started at UofA and is keeping the four faculty members very busy. We're happy to say "four", as our O&M program has reopened with funding from the Arizona Department of Education; thus Dr. Ian Stewart is back on faculty full-time. Dr. Stewart and his six students are already walking the streets in the heat of the late summer. The O&M program has three years of funding for full-time on-campus students. Those interested in the 2005-2006 academic year should contact Dr. Stewart at istewart@u.arizona.edu or through our program administrative assistant at 520-626-3580.

On the TVI front, Dr. Erin is back from a year of sabbatical, not that she was ever gone! She is teaching the Braille 1 course on campus and an Early Intervention O&M course with Sandra Stirnweis at FBC through funding from the Early Intervention Training Center for Infants and Toddlers with Visual Impairments.

Dr. Rosenblum has the Phoenix group of over twenty students hitting the braille writers this year as she teaches Braille 1 and Braille 2, using a combination of weekend meetings at FBC and the internet. Though the students think they'll never "get it," in the end they will all learn to read and write Braille, both with the literary and Nemeth codes. The braille courses are the last two in the 3-year series funded by the Arizona Department of Education. Many students in this group are already employed as TVIs around the state.

Dr. Topor is teaching the Low Vision class on-campus and coordinating all student internship activities. She is assisting Dr. MacFarland with the severe disabilities grant. All of us are anxiously waiting word to learn if we received a federal grant to expand our TVI and O&M programs. When we hear, we'll be sure to let you know via the AZ AER listserv. We look forward to seeing you in Prescott next month! *Jane, Irene, Penny & Ian*

Wonderful Resource for Low Vision Professionals

Dr. Irene Topor—University of Arizona

Region IV Education Service Center in Houston, TX has published 2004 publications, a CD and book entitled "Program in Low Vision Therapy". Many professionals contributed to the book/CD, including Karen Crone, Randall Jose, Ana Perez, Anna Bradfield, Erika A. Andersen and Jennifer Bell. The book/CD is not designed as stand-alone products to pass the Academy for Certification of Vision and Rehabilitation and Education Professionals' test in Low Vision Therapy. Rather they complement the Study Guide for the Low Vision Therapist (LVT) examination. The goal of

ROUTE SCOUT, an on-board passenger information system, will debut on Phoenix Valley Metro's entire fleet of 748 buses by year's end. Route Scout is part of a \$22 million communications and management system, which tracks every bus on the road and lets passengers know where they are and what's coming up. The system helps Valley Metro comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act. Bus riders with visual impairment can rely on a computerized voice to assist in boarding the correct bus and keeping track of location. As well as providing buses with voice and text messages on a screen at the front of the bus, Route Scout will also have schedule information at kiosks at all 22 RAPID bus stops.

these products is to develop professional skills necessary to be an effective member of the low vision interdisciplinary team. The book contains eleven informational chapters including implications of eye pathology, interpretation of clinical reports, pre-clinical functional assessment, optics and the visual system, functional optics for low vision devices, human development, interventions for distance and near visual efficiency instruction, psycho-social aspects, driving and management of field loss. The CD includes some short videos of what eye pathology looks like, e.g., nystagmus. The book is \$45.00, and the CD is \$100.00. Both can be purchased for \$130.00 plus 10% shipping costs. These products are available from the Region IV ESC Special Education Services, 7145 West Tidwell, Houston, TX 77092-2096, FAX: 713-744-6811. Call Karen Crone at 713-744-6324 for further questions about the book/CD and ordering.

Professional Development:

Opportunities Abound!

NAU Select with Jean Murphy

This is notification of a 3-credit course entitled "Working with Preschoolers with Blindness and Visual Impairment in a Center-Based Setting" being offered this fall, beginning the weekend of September 24-25, through SELECT at NAU. It is a course that is part of the VIISA (Vision Impaired In-Service in America) national training program. I am the lead instructor, but there are 12 instructors from around Arizona who will be participating and sharing their expertise. The course is designed for those people who are providing service to young children with visual impairments, but who have little or no training in this area. The course is comprised of three on-site weekend classes and seven home study assignments to be submitted during the 12-week course. Classes will convene at East Valley Foundation for Blind Children in Chandler. The course offers free tuition if you do not take it for college credit. The textbook and home study manual will cost approximately \$150.00. The course syllabus and registration information can be obtained by contacting me at JAmurphy@aol.com or jmurphy@the-fbc.org or (480) 458-0900.

O&M for Infants & Preschoolers with Dr. Jane Erin & Sandra Stirnweis

Jane Erin and Sandra Stirnweis will be offering the last course in the sequence provided through the Early Intervention Project from North Carolina. This course, Orientation and Mobility with Infants and Preschoolers, is a three-credit course that will be offered on four weekends at the Foundation for Blind Children in Phoenix. There are 15 fellowships available that will cover tuition for the first 15 people who have professional roles that relate to the course content. The course will meet on the following weekends on Fridays from 5:00-9:00 PM and Saturdays from 8:00-3:30: September 10-11, October 8-9, October 29-30, and November 19-20. Please contact Dr. Jane Erin at jerin@u.arizona.edu if you are interested in participating in the course and would like to apply for one of the tuition fellowships.

AN EYE ON LIFE

Photojournalist Geoff Bugbee has created an amazing series on blindness in Asia, where most vision loss is due to poverty and lack of access to medical care. The photo essay primarily describes the treatment of cataracts by use of mobile clinical teams to remote regions of India, Nepal and Tibet. To view these amazing images, go to <http://www.geoffbugbee.com/>. (Contributed by Jay Taska)

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FIFTY of the sessions from the December O&M Division Conference in New Orleans are now up on the AER website! Go to <http://www.aerbvi.org/> and select the "Members Only" section. AER members can listen to sessions at no cost!

CVI Webcast Series with Dr. Lea Hyvärinen

Dr. Lea Hyvärinen will discuss how she has evaluated young children with CVI and come to understand their vision and use of vision, and present the interventions she has used to help these children learn to use vision for communication, orientation and movement, daily living skills and sustained near vision tasks (e.g., reading). Throughout this six-part series on the Internet, Dr. Hyvärinen will use lecture, PowerPoint visuals, and videoclips of children with CVI. The six one-hour long lectures will include the following topics: General Features and Symptoms of CVI; Pathways; Visual Acuity and Contrast Sensitivity; Visual Field and Spatial Awareness; Vision for Communication; and a Question/Answer session. Lectures will be presented as webcast lectures via the Internet beginning October 8, 2004 and running through November 19, 2004. Each lecture will remain posted on the website for viewing or repeated viewings at any time convenient to the participant for up to two months. For information on the Fall 2004 CVI Webcast Series or registration procedures, go to <http://www.ksar.usu.edu/leacvi>.

Lighthouse International

Lighthouse International offers a series of 1 CE Hour online courses addressing a variety of low vision rehabilitation topics. Included are courses on Stand Magnifiers, Understanding Loupes, Hand Magnifier Fundamentals, Working with Low Vision Spectacles, and Functional Vision & Visual Impairment. Contact Cydney Strand at 212-821-9478 or cstrand@lighthouse.org. All course offerings are approved by ACVREP for Continuing Education hours.

AZ AER Classified Ads

SAAVI: The SOUTHERN ARIZONA ASSOCIATION FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED (SAAVI) in Tucson is actively recruiting for a Technology Director. Go to www.saavi.us or contact Executive Director Maureen Shea at 520-795-1331 for job summary and qualifications.

FBC: THE FOUNDATION FOR BLIND

CHILDREN in Phoenix has openings for a Preschool Teacher, a Preschool Teaching Assistant, a Teacher of the Visually Impaired, a Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialist, a Braille Transcriber and a Pediatric Physical Therapist. Go to www.the-fbc.org and select "Join Our Team" for job descriptions and qualifications and to download an application.



The Rehabilitation Research & Training Center (RRTC) on Blindness & Low Vision at Mississippi State University (MSU) announces a new publication:

"Overcoming Barriers to Employment Among Persons with Visual Disabilities: Perspectives of Rehabilitation Providers".

The publication identifies strategies and accommodations to assist persons who are blind or visually impaired in overcoming employment barriers. Copies can be purchased for \$20 each by contacting publications manager Kelly Schaefer at schaefer@ra.msstate.edu.

Arizonans Pursue Excellence!

Dr. Levinson, We Presume! Our treasured friend and talented colleague, Tami Sue Levinson, officially completed her Doctorate in Special Education on August 11, 2004! How does Tami characterize her doctoral study experience? The hardest and most rewarding thing I've ever done, a marathon academic event—direct quote! Tami's doctoral dissertation is entitled "Use of the Social Skills Rating System As Applied to Students with Visual Impairment". With a Ph. D. under her belt, Tami plans to pursue a university position preparing Teachers of Students with Visual Impairment, but first she will dedicate undivided time and attention to one Quinn Levinson, born to Tami and Joel on August 5, 2004. Congratulations, Tami, on your many and valued accomplishments!

Triple Threat! Mimi Marsh of SAAVI and Sharon Ferrari of the Tucson VA both received recognition from the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP) during the National AER conference in Orlando. Mimi and Sharon both are part of a distinguished group of 11 individuals nationwide who have attained Rehabilitation Teaching, Low Vision and Orientation & Mobility certification. Dr. Penny Rosenblum accepted certificates on their behalf. Congratulations, Mimi and Sharon, on your dedication to professionalism and your outstanding achievement!

Rising Star! Vasant Garcia RTC, of Rehabilitation Instructional Services for the State of Arizona, was nominated by her colleague, Patty Arnold, for the Division XI Rising Star Award. Vasant received this prestigious Rehabilitation Teaching Division award and was honored by the International Division XI Board at the National AER Conference in Orlando. Patty described Vasant as having made contributions in the areas of leadership, professional presentations, and service to AZ AER. Vasant, you are an inspiration!

Bank of America: More Talking ATMs!

As of July 31, 2004, Bank of America has installed 3,595 Talking ATMs in 35 states and Washington DC. Fleet Bank, which has recently merged with Bank of America, has 1,836 Talking ATMs in eight northeastern states. This means that the combined bank has over 5,000 Talking ATMs in virtually every state of the country! For locations, call the Fleet or Bank of America toll-free number in your state or check the Bank's Talking ATM locators on the web at <http://bankofamerica.via.infonow.net/locator/atmbranch/jsp/index.jsp>. Follow the link to the Fleet locator.

The American Printing House for the Blind (APH) has a new electronic publication! It's called the APH NEWS! APH NEWS replaces The Slate. Through APH NEWS, you can learn the latest information on APH products and services.

To subscribe:

- Email aphinfo-request@iglou.com
- Leave the subject line blank
- Type the word "subscribe" (without quotation marks) in the body of the message and send.

☞ Set Your Sites *Compliments of Monica Hockersmith TVI*

The Neuro Science Center for Kids is sponsored by Washington State University. There are links to pages on vision and visual processes. Follow these links:

Vision: <http://faculty.washington.edu/chudler/chvision.html>

Eye: <http://faculty.washington.edu/chudler/bigeye.html>

Retina: <http://faculty.washington.edu/chudler/retina.html>

Central Visual Pathways: <http://faculty.washington.edu/chudler/vispath.html>

If you are looking for information on Cortical Visual Impairment, Head Injury or a wide range of visual disturbances related to brain injury, try using "visual pathways" in your keyword search. Using this strategy, I stumbled upon websites with macromedia shows:

Interactive photo illustration that labels parts of the brain:

<http://www.getbodysmart.com/ap/nervoussystem/sensory/vision/pathways/pathways1.htm>

Macromedia Show on photo receptors & visual fields; select Animation:

<http://www.sumanasinc.com/webcontent/anisamples/neurobiology/visualpathways.html>

The Primary Visual Cortex; scientific article on vision:

<http://www.webvision.med.utah.edu/VisualCortex.html>

Structure of the eye and physical development:

http://sky.bsd.uchicago.edu/lcy_ref/synap/vision.html

Anatomy & Physiology of the eye and visual pathways:

http://medstat.med.utah.edu/calendar/block4/ppt_VisualPath2001/

☞ Set Your Sites *Compliments of Dr. Tami Levinson*

FREE Low Vision – The Reference www.VisionConnection.org

This is a FREE bibliographic database on low vision. If you use Endnote, you may download the entire database in this format. To find Low Vision – The Reference go to the homepage; Register, it's free; Click on the "Research" link; Scroll down and click on the " Vision Science" link; Scroll down and click on the "Book, Periodicals and Databases" link; Click on the "Low Vision: The Reference" link; This takes you to the search page where you can perform bibliographic searches. Happy searching! *Source: AER Report, Fall 2003.

FREE Parent/Family Resources www.ade.az.gov/ess/pinspals

This site takes you to the Parent Information Network (PIN) where you can download a complete list of FREE resources for families. Scroll down to "Resources" and click on the "Clearinghouse Order Form" Link. There are over 200 FREE publications. Major topics include: Academic Achievement, Behavioral Resources, Disability Related Info Sheets & Resources, General Resources, Early Childhood Resources, IEP Resources, Parent Related Resources, Relationship Building Resources, Self Advocacy Resources, SPED Resources, Spanish Resources, Transition to Adulthood Resources. You can also identify who your PIN specialist is for your county and pass this information onto your families.

*Source: PIN Network News, September, 2003.

FROM YOUR
EDITOR:

*Thanks to Vicki,
Monica, Jane,
Penny, Irene,
Tami, Jay and
Patty for your
contributions to
this edition of
AERizona View!
Deadline for the
Winter Edition is
Dec 30, 2004!*

BECOME A
CONTRIBUTOR!

*Kartar Kaur Khalsa
Editor
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TO DO:

- ☞ *Register for
Conference!*
- ☞ *Make hotel
reservation!*
- ☞ *Nominate for
Bluhm Worker
of the Year
Award!*
- ☞ *Consider
running for AZ
AER Board!*

In a completely rational society, the best of us would be teachers, and the rest of us would have to settle for something else.

Lee Iacocca



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