



AERizona View

SEPTEMBER 2006

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

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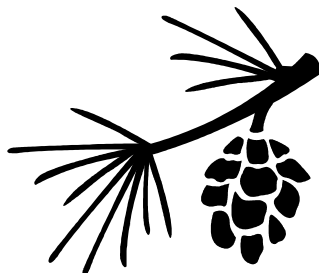
President's Message

The 2006 International AER Conference was held high in the stunning mountains of Snowbird, Utah! The keynote speaker, Dr. Geoffrey Tabin, shared his experiences climbing the Seven Summits, including Mount Everest. There, Dr. Tabin co-founded the Himalayan Cataract Project, which strives to eradicate preventable and curable blindness in the Himalaya through high-quality ophthalmic care, education and establishment of a sustainable eye care infrastructure (www.cureblindness.org). Dr. Tabin has used his passion for climbing as a vehicle for improving the lives of those around him.

Your **AZ AER** board is working hard to plan an impressive two-day conference in another mountainous region: the White Mountains of Northern Arizona. The **Hon-Dah Resort in Pinetop** is sure to provide a unique, restful and inspiring setting for members and friends. The theme for this year's conference, **Technology Applications in Literacy and Activities of Daily Living**, was chosen for its universal appeal to service providers of diverse populations. We have two AFB presenters joining us, Ike Presley and Brad Hodges. The dates are November 2-3, 2006. I hope you will join us!

This newsletter includes important information: guidelines for the **Margaret Bluhm Award**, conference information, news from various regions, and information about a potential bylaw revision the AZ AER Board is proposing. See you in the pines!

Dorinda



AZ AER Conference registration
begins at 8:00 AM on Thursday!

Make room reservations at the
Hon-Dah Resort with Craig (928)
369-7597 or Kathleen (928)
369-7620 or toll-free (800) 929-
8744 by October 18th!

Conference ends Noon on Friday!

CALENDAR

ENVISION 06

Kansas City, MO
Sept 21-24, 2006
www.envisionconference.org

AZ AER FALL CONFERENCE

Hon-Dah Resort
Pinetop, AZ
Nov 2-3, 2006
<http://www.ed.arizona.edu/azaer/>

VRATE 2006

Glendale Civic
Plaza
Nov 17, 2006
www.vrate.org

IMC 12

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

CTEVH

Santa Clara, CA
March 2-4, 2007
www.ctevh.org

VISION 2008

9TH Int'l
Conference on
Low Vision
July 7-10, 2008
Montreal, Canada
www.vision2008.ca

AZ AER CHAPTER PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGES

Robert J. Schulenburg, Ed.S.
Director-At-Large, AZ AER

Issues regarding the operation of the chapter, our annual meetings and realigned calendars require your consideration in the form of a chapter-wide vote. This vote will take place at the Annual Meeting in November in Pine Top. The items are presented below for your consideration.

Issue: AZ AER has received a request from the national office to elect our officers earlier in the year so information about our chapter leadership may be shared more accurately with the national and international levels of AER. This will benefit the chapter leadership by allowing new leaders to go to trainings and workshops at the beginning of their term, rather than near the end of their first year in office.

The board proposes an extension of the current Board's term of office to allow for installation of officers in the spring, in keeping with National's request. Election of next year's officers will still occur at the Fall 2006 conference in Pine Top.

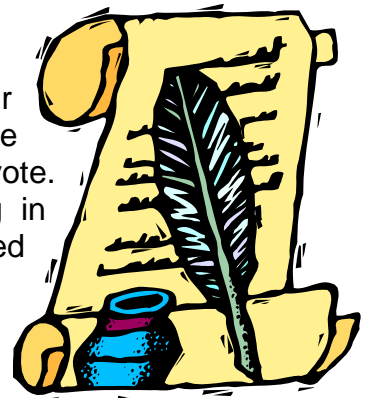
In addition, a change in the wording of the Bylaws must be made to indicate that we have two annual meetings. Under the current wording of the Bylaws, AZ AER can only elect officers at the 2 day conference. The change will allow for future elections to be held during the Spring conference. To do all this will require changes to the Chapter Bylaws, approved by a vote of the membership.

To be approved by the Membership of AZ AER (Vote to occur at annual meeting in Pinetop, AZ, November 2 & 3, 2006):

Membership will allow the amendment of the Bylaws relating to term of office (Article 5, Duties of Officers and Immediate Past President) to extend current term to the spring conference 2007 AZ AER; and

Membership will allow the amendment of the Bylaws (Article IX, Section 4) to reflect new election years as odd years for President and Vice President and even years for Secretary and Treasurer; and

Membership will allow the amendment of the Bylaws (Article VIII, Section 1) to read: "There shall be at least two annual meetings of the membership consisting of at least one business session each. One annual meeting will consist of at least two business sessions." Article VIII, Section 2 is to be deleted Article VIII, Section 3 is to be renamed Section 2.



DEAF-BLIND
PROFESSIONAL
SUPPORT GROUP

Everyone is invited to the Deaf-Blind Professional Support Group! It is designed to better educate on the needs of dual loss and ideas that will support the child and the teacher! Pat Franklin-Jung is the facilitator. To receive an email reminder please contact mbreen@the-fbc.org. Meetings are on the fourth Monday of the month and rotating between the Foundation for Blind Children and the Desert Valley Cooperative. First meeting is September 22, 2006, at FBC at 3:00. We will be sharing needs and hearing from a representative of the Foundation for the Deaf and Blind about their support of the work of teachers and groups. Itinerant teachers please join us!

*Submitted by
Deb Herrmann*

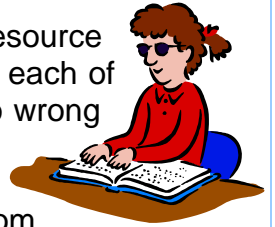
*Desert Valley
Regional
Cooperative*

AIRC REPORT: PART 2

WHAT GOES WRONG IN TIMELY TEXTBOOK PROVISION?

Inge Durre, Director ARIZONA INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCE CENTER of FBC

When ordering textbooks from the Arizona Instructional Resource Center, please remember to submit a clean print copy with each of your book requests. Keep in mind all the things that can go wrong as we source for the availability of a title in a specialized format to determine if an existing special format can be used for a student, or if we will have to produce the book from scratch at the AIRC.



- Addison Wesley and Scott Foresman are together! There's a book where they did the activity book, and Prentice Hall did the textbook.
- Glencoe bought a Merrill Algebra book as it fit their series.
- Harcourt Brace Jovanovich became just HB, then H only.
- There are teacher's and student's editions; each may have a different ISBN or unique book number. That may be interchangeable in the Braille edition.
- There are soft cover numbers and hard cover numbers.
- There are 10-digit ISBNs and now 13-digit ISBNs.
- There are NC, TX, FL, WV, CA and other state editions. Each has a different ISBN number, although the contents may be identical or only differ slightly. Often the only difference is a short extra section usually found in the front of the book that makes it a special state edition. We call this classroom compatible.
- What may seem like individual sheets may actually have an ISBN number. It may have a bound version with a different ISBN but otherwise identical content.
- There may be multiple copyrights of the same title that may be classroom compatible.
- The same title is often used by different publishers.
- The same title in a newer copyright may have different content from the previous edition.
- What might be seen as a title is for a series with 3-4 different texts.
- There are courses 1 through 4, introductory course and complete course.
- The actual title of a book may be printed only on the back outside cover or on the spine.
- Sometimes the grade level is part of the title.

This is what quickly came to mind as I put this together. By being proactive through completing order forms and submitting the original print copy, you will be helping your student get the books s/he needs in a timely manner. Thus, you will actively contribute to the improvement of the National Agenda Goal 7, which is to get the books in the hands of our students at the same time as their sighted peers. Order early and submit only complete orders with clean print copies. Best to all for the 2006-07 school year!

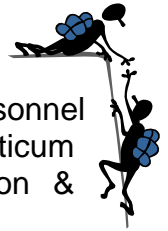
HUGE
UNDERTAKING
AT DVR!

The Vision Resource Department of the Desert Valley Regional Cooperative has just completed the first expanded vision screening for all 280 students at the Phoenix Day School for the Deaf. With the added importance of vision to the education and development of deaf students, this was considered to be a vital activity. With 5 dedicated DVR vision staff members and the PDSN nursing staff, the 280 students were screened for distance and near visual acuity, eye muscle balance, color vision and peripheral vision. ALL accomplished in 3 ½ days!

*Submitted by
Susan Parr
ASDB*

WHEN PENNY CALLS: STEP UP AND MENTOR!

Kartar Kaur Khalsa, COMS, CLVT ~ Washington Elementary School District



It could be Penny, Jane, Irene or Ian, our colleagues in personnel preparation at the University of Arizona. “Can you take a Practicum Student?” “We have a student who needs some Observation & Participation hours.” “Would you be willing to supervise an Intern?”

Have you heard these words? If you have, consider yourself flattered. You are credentialed, knowledgeable, experienced and respected if you on the receiving end of a request to mentor. You have maintained current, up-to-date technical knowledge and skills, no matter how long you have been teaching.

Do you typically respond in the affirmative? If you do, it is because you know the benefits and rewards of mentoring a vision education or rehabilitation professional. When you say **YES!**, you are committing to nurture and grow a person! As a mentor, you become a teacher, an overseer, an advisor and a coach.

If you decide to answer the call to mentor, consider the following:

- You will be required to provide experiences and opportunities that promote intentional learning for your protégé.
- Your protégé will learn through both failure and success. Thoughtful analysis of how things go wrong is a powerful tool for getting it right the next time!
- As a mentor, you have a story to tell. Your history, insight and anecdotes are invaluable tools with which to school a “newbie”!
- As professionals, we develop and mature over time. Learning is continuous and life-long. I am happy to report that I matured, learned and gained new skills along with my protégé! I guess you could say she taught me a thing or two!

I have confidence in my own abilities, but being a mentor for the first time last spring inspired me to step up my game! I felt myself to be in a position to guide another individual’s personal and professional development, and I took it as a serious undertaking. After three decades and counting, I admit to a small amount of complacency. However, with a young person looking to me as a role model, I applied myself to keeping a tight schedule, thorough lesson preparation and efficient monitoring of student progress. By doing so, I gained a fresh outlook on what had become stale and routine. What goes around comes around as a mentor. I started with a young professional with wonderful knowledge and an eagerness to dive in head first! At the end of four months, I had a treasured friend and colleague for life.

ONLINE BRAILLE
TEXTBOOK
TRANSCRIBER
CERTIFICATE
PROGRAM AT
NORTHWEST
VISTA COLLEGE

Northwest Vista College in San Antonio, Texas, is the first college in the nation to offer an online program to train people to become a Braille Textbook Transcriber.

Transcribers meet a critical and growing need. Beginning on August 28, 2006, Northwest Vista College in San Antonio, Texas, will offer the three semester college coursework online.

Braille Textbook Transcribers offer students with visual impairments access to an education equal to that of their sighted peers by providing the books and materials they need in a timely manner. For more information and a curriculum brochure, visit <http://www.accd.edu/nvc/areas/braille> or AFB's Web page at www.afb.org/education.asp.

FALL AT UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA: We're in full swing!

Dr. Penny Rosenblum ~ UofA Associate Professor



It's September at the University of Arizona, which means that Wildcat Football Season is underway, and the semester is in full swing! With two state grants and one federal grant, we have a full compliment of TVI and O&M students, both on-campus and in our Phoenix TVI program, Northern Arizona TVI program and O&M Summer program. At last count, we had 100 students actively working towards a master's degree, educational specialist certificate or doctoral degree.

Jane, Irene, Penny and Pam de Steiguer (our administrative assistant who is much more than an administrative assistant) presented at the AER International conference in Snowbird, Utah. Our session, "The Experiences of Parents of Visually Impaired Children Who Become Professionals", shared the results of a study we conducted over the last year. Thanks to the professionals in our state who were study participants. We all enjoyed Snowbird and look forward to seeing you in Pinetop in November for AZ AER Fall Conference.

It's never too early to let you know what courses we have coming up in the future. During Spring 2007, on-campus students can take Methods for TVIs (offered on 5 Saturdays with Dr. Topor), Braille 2 (Wednesday nights with Dr. Rosenblum), and O&M for Teachers (Monday nights with Dr. Erin). The Northern Arizona group will be continuing the Braille 1 course, which Dr. Erin is teaching over 2 semesters. The Phoenix group will have the O&M for Teachers course coordinated by Dr. Erin. During June 2007, we will be offering Methods for TVIs and Low Vision on campus in Tucson. Dr. Erin will be offering a one-week assistive technology course. It's still early; we may be adding some other courses to the mix, so be sure to check our program web site at <http://www.ed.arizona.edu/vi/> for more information.

The Orientation and Mobility program is currently accepting applications for the summer O&M program. This program is designed for those who wish to add O&M certification to the TVI certification that they previously earned. For more information, go to www.ed.arizona.edu/vi and click on the Orientation and Mobility link.

We have students throughout the state doing internships and observations. The time so many of you give to our students is greatly appreciated. By giving back to your profession through mentorship you help build the future for individuals with visual impairment. Thank you for your continued support and efforts.

AER INTEREST
GROUPS: ANTE
UP & JOIN A
DIVISION!

*Are you a member
of an AER Division?
If not, why not?*

*AER has 17
divisions. To read
the entire list, go to
www.aerbvi.org.
Several divisions
have websites, and
all have contact
addresses for the
division chair.*

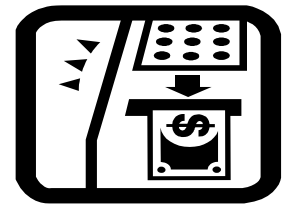
*So why spend the
money? In a
nutshell, it's about
camaraderie,
advocacy, and
professional
development! Some
divisions publish
quarterly
newsletters
chockfull of
information and
ideas. Several
sponsor national
and online
conferences and
division days. All
support legislative
advocacy that
makes a difference
in quality and
delivery of services
to our clients and
students.*

*When you renew,
turn the form over
and join a division!
You can also join at
www.aerbvi.org!*

*KK
(AZ AER Membership Chair)*

HOW DO YOU FIND A TALKING ATM?

*Michael G. May ~ CEO Sendero Group
(Re-printed with Mike's permission from a post to the
OandM Listserv – Thanks, Mike!)*



When an organization steps up to the plate to provide accessibility, it is important to acknowledge the effort. Hats off to Bank of America for the following:

One of the most empowering and useful accessibility breakthroughs in recent years has been the talking ATM. Accessing an ATM independently was nearly impossible prior to this technology. I don't know how many times over the years I had to solicit complete strangers on the street to read the ATM screen to me. I have consequently been ever thankful for the talking ATM.

Once we had talking ATMs, the next challenge was locating one. Sure, it wasn't a problem in your home town, but what about in unknown towns, airports and the like? Up steps accessible GPS to work hand in hand with accessible ATMS!

The first challenge was to acquire a database of talking ATMs. Like transit companies, banks have GPS coordinates for each of their ATMs. Getting a hold of that database was pretty easy with Union Bank and Wachovia bank. Those files have been in our User POI file for quite some time along with some locations from Washington Mutual Bank courtesy of users in Los Angeles and Sacramento. Extracting this data from the Bank of America, which has by far the greatest number of talking ATMs, almost took an Act of Congress! Again, thanks to one of our users who happens to be a lawyer, the database magically appeared this week with almost 11,000 talking ATM locations around the U.S. We are just in the final stages of putting those up on <http://www.senderogroup.com/download.htm> for use by any Sendero GPS user.

A special thanks to Bank of America for contributing their database. FYI, they have nearly 18,000 ATMs, and they expect 80% of them to be accessible by next year.

Here is an example of what the user would hear or read on a Braille display:

ANCHORAGE 5TH AVE MALL, 1 ATM, 320 W 5TH AVE, ANCHORAGE, AK, 99501> followed by the distance and heading to that point. This is very exciting because it is the richness of the data in all categories that really adds power to our GPS units. Beyond the 12 million commercial points Sendero provides, it is important to add other data content like transit stops and talking ATMs. Here you have it with one more major step in the direction of accessibility!

LETTER FROM
TOM PERSKI!

To all my Arizona Friends and Colleagues! I am writing to let you know that I will be leaving AZ in June. I have recently taken a position with Vision Care Ophthalmic Technologies, Inc. of Saratoga, California. See www.visioncareinc.net.

No, I am not moving to CA! Diane and I just bought a new condo in downtown Chicago and are looking forward to a new life in the big city! (maybe not in January!)

Southwest Low Vision is under new ownership, Dwayne and Vicky Correa - you can reach them at 520-297-0027 or www.southwestlowvision.com. To keep up with all the new Enhanced Vision products see www.enhancedvision.com.

My new email address is tom@visioncareinc.net. Call me at 520-444-7558.

Warmest personal regards,

Tom Perski

AZ AER CLASSIFIED ADS

DESERT VALLEY REGIONAL COOPERATIVE has a job opening for a Teacher of Students with Visual Impairment or a dually certified TVI/COMS. It's a 186 day position providing itinerant services to member districts in and around Phoenix Metro area. For more information or to apply, contact Susan Parr at 602-544-1670 X 238 or SParr@asdb.state.az.us.



REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION has positions open for Itinerant Rehabilitation Teachers and Orientation & Mobility Specialists working with blind and visually impaired adults. Requirements are: Master's Degree in each field or related, ACVREP Certification or certification eligibility. If you are interested in working in beautiful, sunny (!) Arizona, please contact: Joan Ellis at 602-266-9286 x7303 or email jellis@azdes.gov.

Set Your Sites

- <http://www.artificialeye.net/Instruct.htm> Instruction for care of prosthetic eyes
- <http://www.artificialeye.net> Information about history, fitting, motility of prosthetic eyes
- www.infantsee.org InfantSEE* public health program supporting eye and vision care for infants
- <http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~edin/listserv/subscription.cfm> Subscription page for Early Intervention Listserv
- www.lowvisionproject.org CMS Medicare Low Vision Demonstration Project
- www.orientationandmobility.org New O&M website with resources, links, O&M blog
- <http://www.cnib.ca/accessibility/clearprint/CNIB%20Clear%20Print%20Guide.pdf> Clear Print Guide that identifies 10 variables that affect print clarity
- <http://www.kuusisto.typepad.com/> Writer Steve Kuusisto's new blog "Planet of the Blind"
- http://www.bibliovault.org/BV_accessibility.epi BiblioVault providing access to books for students who have disabilities
- www.mountbattenbrailier.com Site devoted entirely to Mounbatten Brailier
- <http://www.setbc.org/res/mbpro/default.html> Tutorial and lesson plans for the Mountbatten
- <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers> Office of Special Education & Rehabilitative Services ~ Has link for "IDEA 2004 Resources" and "Tool Kit on Teaching and Assessing Students with Disabilities"

THANKS,
FOLKS!

AERizona View appreciates Inge Durre, Penny Rosenblum, Susan Parr, Rob Schulenberg, Deb Herrmann, Frank Vance and Michael May for their contributions to the success of our chapter newsletter! Let us hear from you!

Kartar Kaur Khalsa
Editor
AERizona View
KartarK@cox.net

TO DO:

☛ Register for the Fall Conference! It's November 2-3, 2006! Do it now!

☛ Make hotel reservations at the Hon-Dah Resort by October 18th!

☛ Nominate or support a nomination of a deserving colleague for the Margaret Bluhm AZ AER Worker of the Year Award by October 1st! Form inside!

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Dr. Edwin Druding on August 8, 2006. Edwin was a clinical psychologist who was active in the Arizona Chapter and national level of the American Council of the Blind. He regularly published articles with the Council of Citizens with Low Vision International. Edwin is remembered for how he enthusiastically prepared for ACB conferences and the way he encouraged others as they adapted to disability, often with great humor. Dr. Druding is survived by his wife of 25 years, Ruth, and four adult children. Ruth indicated that her husband's sole purpose in life was to help others.



“The true essence of humankind is kindness. There are other qualities which come from education or knowledge, but it is essential, if one wishes to be a genuine human being and impart satisfying meaning to one’s existence, to have a good heart.” *The 14th Dalai Lama*

Kartar Kaur Khalsa
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Phoenix, AZ 85006