



Arizona VIEW

SEPTEMBER 2010

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

MARK THOSE CALENDARS!

ANNOUNCING 2010's AZ-AER Fall Conference!

When: Thursday and
Friday, November 4th
and 5th

Where: The
Esplendor Resort
1069 Camino
Caralampi
Rio Rico, AZ 85648

To make reservations
call 1-800-288-4746
and make sure to
mention ask for the
AZAER discounted
rates prior to October
13th; \$95 for single or
double occupancy

**Theme: "Back to the
Future"- including
workshops on what
is working now and
suggestions on how
to move forward in
the future.**

Guest Speaker: Dan
Oates- Educational
Outreach Specialist,
West Virginia School
for the Blind
Coordinator, Space
Camp for Interested
Visually Impaired
Students

Below is the link to
the registration:
<http://www.jotform.com/form/2292604308>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From Rajiv K. Panikkar

Dear Arizona-AER Members and Friends,

I hope this letter finds you all well and busy with the start of the 2010-2011 School Year. As you are aware, Holly Lawson has taken a position as Assistant Professor and Coordinator for the Virginia Consortium for Teacher Preparation in Vision Impairment at George Mason University in Virginia. We will miss her dearly, and it certainly is a huge loss for Arizona, but an extremely huge gain for our colleagues in Virginia. We wish her, Jorge and Kamilo all our best in a new chapter in their lives!

Holly's departure left us without a President for our chapter. As Vice President I stepped into the position of President, leaving the position of Vice President open. We had 2 strong candidates express interest in the position. **Kerry Duncan** has been appointed to the position of Vice President until the term ends July 2011. We also had an open Director-at-Large position that was not filled. **Matt Hogel** has graciously offered to fill that position until the term ends July 2011. At our Spring workshop **DeEtte Snyder** was elected to the position of Secretary, **Beverly Benjamin** was elected to position of Treasurer and **Suzi Gunn** to position of Director-at-Large. Congratulations to our new Board Members. I am fortunate to have the opportunity to work with an outstanding and extremely supportive Board to steer me in the right direction in this new endeavor.

To recap our Spring Conference, on April 9th, held at one of the buildings offered by the City of Tucson. It was a huge success. AZ-AER thanks our speakers **Anindya "Bapin" Bhattacharayya, Dr. Lynne Noone, Megan Mogan, Holly Lawson, Dr. Patrick Tsai, Manny Aregullin, and Ed Gervasoni**. Thank you City of Tucson for providing us with a centrally located facility.

The following grants were awarded this past year:
Lisa Cundiff (Consumer Grant), Miguel Gamez (Professional Mini Grant), Rajiv K. Panikkar (Professional Mini Grant), Holly Lawson (Professional Mini Grant), and DeEtte Snyder (Professional Mini Grant). Miguel, DeEtte and Rajiv will be presenting at the Fall Conference on information they gathered from the workshops and conferences they attended. We look forward to Holly's and Lisa's article submissions and/or presentations at our future conferences.

The board has been busy planning our Fall "**Back to the Future**" Conference on November 4th and 5th at the Esplendor Resort in Rio Rico. The deadline for the Call for Papers is August 27th. We look forward to you sharing your experiences and skills with all of our members.

In closing, I would like to add that I'm extremely proud to be a member of AZ AER and to have the opportunity to work with so many outstanding and dedicated professionals.

Respectfully, *Rajiv K. Panikkar*

**PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW AND RETURNING AZ-AER
BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2010-2011!**

PRESIDENT RAJIV K. PANIKKAR was born and raised in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Rajiv has been working with students with visual impairments and additional disabilities since 1987. He started at the Perkins School for the Blind as a houseparent (residential manager) and teacher aide. He received his Master's degree at the University of Northern Colorado. He has had numerous experiences in residential schools, public schools and at the University of Colorado as an Assistive Technology Specialist. He is certified as a CLVT, COMS and TVI. He is currently serving as a CLVT with the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind. He has been an AER member since 1990. In his spare time he enjoys time with his wonderful wife-Kirstin; two sons- Jaron and Devin; and dog- Copper. He also enjoys golf, tennis and tending to his vegetable and herb garden.

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VICE-PRESIDENT KERRY DUNCAN kndunc@gmail.com;
kerry.duncan@prescottschools.com

PAST-PRESIDENT VENETIA HAYDEN has her certification as a TVI and COMS. She has been in the field of teaching those with visual impairment for seven years, having been a critical care and emergency nurse in her first career. She has worked primarily with young children through the Arizona Early Intervention Program and at the Visually Impaired Preschool Center at ASDB (Tucson). She is the parent of a visually impaired teenager and a board member of the National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments (NAPVI) as the region 5 representative.

CONTACT INFO: 6525 N. Longfellow Drive, Tucson, AZ, 85718
(h) (520) 498-1753, (c) (520) 405-2543,
(email) venetiahayden@hotmail.com

TREASURER BEVERLY BENJAMIN bbenjamin@azdes.gov

SECRETARY DEETTE SNYDER is a certified teacher of the visually impaired for Infant Family Services at the Foundation for Blind Children and acts as the department's service coordinator for ASDB. She is primarily responsible for new referrals, evaluations for eligibility for the AZ Early Intervention Program (AzEIP), as well as coordinating all vision services provided in the department. She was previously a preschool teacher at FBC for 10 years. She received her certification and Master's degree in the field from Portland State University in 1996 as well as her undergraduate degree in psychology specializing in child development from PSU in 1992. On the personal front she enjoys quilting, traveling with her husband, and playing with her 4-legged children.

CONTACT INFO: 1297 E. Alameda Circle, Tempe, AZ 85282
(h) 480-775-3830 (c) 602-332-5083
dsnyder@seeitourway.org

BOARD MEMBER KAREN ARON is currently a part-time TVI in the Chandler USD. She graduated from the U of A VI master's program in 2001. Karen worked with the SER Coop in Sierra Vista for three years. There she met her wonderful husband and relocated to Phoenix in 2004. She has been a TVI in Chandler for the past 6 years and an active member on the AER board since 2003. Karen's full-time job is raising her two boys (ages 2 and 3).

CONTACT INFO: itinerantvi@yahoo.com

BOARD MEMBER SUZANNE CANOLE was born and raised in a small town on the northern Oregon coast. Through the end of her eighth grade year, she was a student at the Oregon State School for the Blind in Salem, Oregon. After high school graduation with her non-disabled peers, she attended the University of Oregon where she majored in French and Secondary education. It was not until she moved to Yuma, Arizona with her military husband and 3 sons that she began her career as a Teacher of the Visually

**CTEBVI Annual
Conference**

CTEVH is now
CTEBVI, the
California
Transcribers and
Educators for the
Blind and Visually
Impaired, Inc.

Annual CTEBVI
Conference
March 10 - 13, 2011
Marriott Oakland
City Center
1001 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94607

Register here:
www.ctevh.org

VRATE 2010

GCBVI-AT
Committee Workshop
October 29, 2010
Glendale Civic Center

Lecture:
Recommended Best
Practice Protocols
and Procedures for
Conducting
Comprehensive
Assistive Technology
Assessments

From:
The AT Sub-
committee of the
Governor's Council
on Blindness & Visual
Impairment

3 hours of ACVREP
credit available

Impaired. During that time, she has worked with students of all grade levels and disability types. She loves empowering students by teaching them assistive technologies that will increase their level of independence and participation in their community.

CONTACT INFO: suzanne_canole@yahoo.com

BOARD MEMBER SUZI GUNN graduated from the University of Arizona with an M.A. in Special Education, December 22, 2009 and is dually certified as a Teacher of the Visually Impaired and an Orientation & Mobility Specialist. She completed her internships working at the Veterans Administration, Southeastern Regional Cooperative, Foundation for Blind Children, and also Camp Abilities. She has lived in Tucson for 16 years and is the parent of an adult daughter who is multiply disabled and visually impaired. Suzi is currently working for the Southeastern Regional Cooperative as an itinerant teacher and mobility specialist. Her caseload includes students ages 3-22 in the public schools in Pima County. Her special interests currently are learning about communication systems, working with persons with multiple disabilities and applied technology.

CONTACT INFO: suzigunn@earthlink.net

BOARD MEMBER CAROLYN CHENAULT carolynchenault@msn.com

BOARD MEMBER DEB DUBY has been a teacher for over 28 years (18 years working with VI and multiply impaired students ranging in age from 3-22). The first ten years she worked as a self-contained teacher in a classroom with students with various disabilities. I received my Master's Degree from the U of A in Visual Impairment and started working for ASDB (Southeast Regional Cooperative) while living in Safford. For the last 5 years I have worked in the Phoenix area and work for the Desert Valley Cooperative.

CONTACT INFO: (e-mail) Deb.Duby@asdb.az.gov

BOARD MEMBER MATT HOGEL graduated from the University of Arizona in December 2006 with his EdS from Dr. Erin's VI program. He has 1 years experience as a RT at the VA and 6 years experience at the Arizona School for the Blind which includes residential, academic TVI, living skills TVI and transition TVI. Matt's BA is in Spanish and has given him many opportunities to work on special projects for the visually impaired in Mexico, Peru and Puerto Rico. He currently provides O&M services for SAAVI in their recently opened Yuma office.

CONTACT INFO: (e-mail) mhogel@gmail.com

News from the University of Arizona

The new semester has begun, and our on-campus program and satellite courses in Phoenix and Las Vegas are underway. Dr. Topor continues to coordinate the Phoenix – based program for TVIs, from which 17 new teachers will have graduated by next summer. Dr. Rosenblum coordinates a new program in Las Vegas, funded through our federal grant, which includes 10 individuals who are working toward TVI certification. Dr. Zwald continues to coordinate six orientation and mobility students who are completing their programs in Phoenix as well as three finishing students and five new students in Tucson. All three of these busy ladies teach courses on campus as well as coordinating outreach programs, and somehow they manage to juggle very busy work schedules in different locales.

This year Dr. Erin will be on sabbatical leave and will not be teaching classes, although she will continue to administer the program and work with grants as needed. During her sabbatical, she will be spending some time as Executive in Residence at the American Printing House for the Blind, where she will help to analyze the scores of braille readers on the new *Woodcock Johnson Tests of Reading Achievement III—Braille Adaptation* and will assist Dr. Cheryl Hannan with a national study of the use of the Wilson reading program with blind students. In addition, she will begin a new book about images of disability in American literature. Although she will continue to be available by email at jerin@u.arizona.edu, people who are interested in applying to the University programs should contact Dr. Penny Rosenblum for TVI at rosenblu@u.arizona.edu or Dr. Kathy Zwald for O&M at kzwald@u.arizona.edu.

Do you have an amusing story or anecdote? Is your team or agency doing something exciting for individuals with visual impairment? Don't be shy! Send them to Matt Hogel for this newsletter and let AZ-AER know what you are up to!

mhogel@gmail.com

The higher costs of higher education: Like most citizens of Arizona, we at the University of Arizona are experiencing a financial roller coaster ride. Tuition costs have quadrupled in the last 15 years. It now costs \$1950 for an in-state student to take a three-credit course, and out-of-state students pay more than \$4000 for a three-credit course. This means that our grant funds cover fewer students each year. On campus, we have about 12 students this year. Five of these students are earning credentials in both Teaching Visually Impaired students and Orientation and Mobility; three are working on Orientation and Mobility only, and four are finishing degrees as TVIs. This is the smallest group we have had in quite a while because of decreases in state and federal funds.

Future state grants: For the last 10 years, the Arizona Department of Education has funded Phoenix-based programs in both TVI and Orientation and Mobility. In the past, the state paid tuition directly to the University. Beginning this spring, the process will change. Future students in the outreach programs must already be employed by a school district, and that district must be willing to receive and distribute stipends from the state to the student.

Distance education Orientation and Mobility program: Recruiting is underway for an online Orientation and Mobility Program, to begin in the Spring of 2011. Arizona Department of Education will fund a new part-time program in Orientation and Mobility, which will be primarily online so we can better serve working professionals and those in rural communities. Participants will attend class one weekend each semester (probably in Phoenix); with an intensive summer blindfold experience required during the first summer of the program.

To qualify for the new orientation and mobility program, you must

- Already be certified as a TVI
- Be employed by a school district or state agency that will receive funds from the state for your program and agree to employ you as an Orientation and Mobility specialist after your program is completed.

If you are interested in the program, please contact Dr. Kathy Zwald at kzwald@u.arizona.edu and let her know of your interest.

We are continuing to write grants to support our students and to meet the needs of individuals with visual impairment throughout the state. Thanks to the many professionals who have served as cooperating teachers, speakers, instructors, and cheerleaders for our program and students. Please let us know of job openings and needs for new professionals so that we can continue to work with you to provide excellent services in Arizona.

Jane N. Erin
Irene Topor
L. Penny Rosenblum
Kathy Zwald
Pamela de Steiguer

Short Term Programming Offered at ASDB

The Arizona School for the Blind, Tucson Campus, is opening up opportunities to share the specialized knowledge and skills of our site-based staff with students with visual impairment and blindness being served in their local schools. We know that there are many visually impaired and blind students who are successfully accessing the general education curriculum in their local school districts. These academic students must meet curricular demands on a daily basis. This leaves a limited amount of time for the student to access and acquire disability specific skills needed to compete as an academic student on an equal level as their non-sighted peers.

Some students who are blind or visually impaired reach a point in their school careers

"You Don't
Need Water
To Go Surfing"
WEBSITES OF
INTEREST...

NOAH Now! is a new electronic newsletter to help NOAH stay in touch with the albinism community between issues of their **quarterly full color member magazine, *Albinism InSight***.

Enjoy this full color, informative e-newsletter by visiting their website at <http://www.albinism.org/publications/2009/pdf/NOAHNowApril09.pdf>.

Remember, only NOAH members receive the full color magazine *Albinism InSight*. Join NOAH or renew your dues today by visiting <http://store.albinism.org>. NOAH membership is key to ensuring that you receive *Albinism InSight*, member only mailings, member discounts, and more!

when curricular demands become too great to keep pace with their peers who are sighted. Gaps in learning develop as the student attempts to master all of the expanded core curriculum specific skills in addition to the standard academic curriculum.

Most students who are blind or visually impaired must work much harder than their peers who are sighted to keep pace with the rate of instruction provided in the regular classroom. Typically they spend twice the amount of time on completion of homework and assignments.

Expanded core curriculum skills are those skill sets needed to do well in the school environment including maneuvering the physical environment and accessing academic materials. Due to the daily academic demands, professionals working with visually impaired students may not have the intensive learning time needed for focused, specialized learning.

The lack of vision creates challenges to learning such as:

- The need for specialized skills and equipment for learning through alternative sensory modalities;
- The need for direct instruction of skills which other students learn incidentally through observation and modeling; and
- The need for individualized instruction when group instruction may not be meaningful or informative.

During the 2010-2011 School Year, the Tucson Campus will offer short-term programming to MS and HS students with visual impairments in the greater Tucson area. There will be four two-week windows offered, one each quarter, starting October 18th, 2010. It is our hope that we will open programming to students across the state during the 2011-2012 school year.

Students who are working on or close to grade level are eligible to participate in the ASB Short-Term Programs. These programs are intended for Middle School through High School Students. Parents and Teachers who have an interest in a student participating in one of ASB's Short-Term Programs should begin the process at the local school district or with the student's TVI. The Special Education Representative for the school district must make referrals to the program. If using a Braille note taker, students will be required to bring their note taker with them. School districts will be responsible for transportation.

The short-term programs will offer detailed, specific curriculum at an accelerated pace, designed to provide the student with specific skills with only a brief time away from their school program. The initial program offering for all courses will be one to two weeks. The programs are intended to address only very specific learning needs to support and enhance inclusion in the public school program.

Participation in the short-term programs is not a change of placement. Students should not be counted as absent from their local schools. Homework and assignments can and will be incorporated into instruction. This will make learning meaningful and application to future school projects and homework more likely. Teachers in the short-term programs will work closely with the student's TVI to make sure academic work is covered.

Prior to entrance in to this short-term program, input will be sought from parents/guardians and teachers, utilizing various sources including formal and informal assessment and questionnaires. This will allow the course offerings to be individualized to the specific needs of the student.

Program Offerings for Academic Students

Orientation and Mobility in an Urban Setting

This course will cover all aspects of travel in an urban setting including, but not limited to: Bus travel; downtown crossings at complex intersections; university campus; use of GPS; telescopic aids.

**Looking for a Job?
Here are some
helpful websites-
GOOD LUCK!!!**

-AER Job Listing at,
aerbvi.org and click
"view job listings"

-Special Education
Exchange Job Listing
at,
spedex.com and click
on the "job exchange"
menu and then "view
jobs"

-Northeast Regional
Center for Vision
Education at,
Nercve.org

Access to Academic Skills – Adaptive Technology

Technology tools and skills: computer concepts and terminology; braille note takers; scan/read software; screen readers; work processing; editing; printing; embossing; file management; accessing the Internet; voice access programs.

Access to Academic Skills – Literacy

Reading with adaptive tools and skills (braille and its value; screen readers; downloading eBooks; scan/read software). Writing with adaptive tools and skills (no tech and low tech writing adaptations including slate/stylus; writing utensils and surfaces; Windows keyboard commands for mouse-free computer access; braille note takers; abacus; creating print documents from braille work.

Access to Academic Skills – Braille

Braille: literary braille; Nemeth, computer braille; slate and stylus; braille note takers; refreshable braille with a computer.

Please email Samuel Ace, Principal, ASDB Tucson Campus, for further information.

samuel.ace@asdb.az.gov

or call Jesse Cabrera: 520-770-3468

WHAT DID YOU DO LAST SUMMER?

Each summer the Southern Arizona Association for the Visually Impaired (SAAVI) hosts a six week Ready Set Go summer camp for blind and visually impaired teens that live throughout Arizona. The camp is designed to provide a wide range of services which include but are not limited to:

- Confidence building adjustment to blindness training through both group and individualized counseling sessions.
- Daily Living Skills - Each student works with a rehabilitation instructor to learn basic living skills to promote independence in their home environment. Skills may include learning how to use an iron, kitchen safety or even sewing a button on a shirt.
- Access technology training using various adaptive computer programs to include speech output, text enlargement and enlarged screens.
- Orientation and Mobility training developed for each student encouraging independent travel with confidence.
- Each student makes a choice of attending an Introduction to College class through Pima Community College or a work placement experience where they learn employment skills first hand.

During the camp, the students are provided with a fully equipped studio apartment with on site life coaches 24 hours a day. The students participate in a variety of social/recreational activities ranging from learning the blind adaptive sport of beep baseball to rock climbing; participating in a desert cook off to attending audio described movies at a local cinema. Through the training and skills learned through the Ready Set Go Summer Camp, the students leave with the skills to succeed as leaders in the blind community and in society as a whole.

Sneak Peek at Our Fall Conference

Though summer is still here, before you know it we'll have temperatures in the 50s in the northern part of the state, and in the 70s in the southern part of the state. When that happens, it's time for AZAER's Fall Conference. This year we'll be in Rio Rico...a town we haven't been to in 10 years! The Program Committee, chaired by Penny Rosenblum, is still

Get your students started with advocacy and developing leadership skills!!!

National Federation of the Blind offers leadership workshops, opportunities in travel and scholarships and they even offer 1 free cane per student.

Check out the NFB national website at, www.nfb.org

finalizing the program. But, we want to entice you to save **November 4th and 5th**, so here's a sneak peek at some of the sessions we'll be having:

Our keynote will be given by Dan Oates and is titled, "A Practical Approach to Low Vision". Dan will be sharing information about the Children's Vision Rehabilitation Program (CVRP), which is a mobile low vision clinic that has served more than 900 children and young adults since it began in 1996. Now, if Dan's name sounds familiar to you, it might be because he is the "space camp guy." Dan will do a concurrent session titled "Keeping the Dream in Sight" where he'll give us a glimpse into the Space Camp for Interested Visually Impaired Individuals. Before his session is over you'll be wanting to head to space camp in Huntsville, Alabama. Dan's hope is to get children and adults in Arizona to participate in this outstanding program.

We have many other sessions on a wide range of topics including some specific for O&M folks such as group orientation and mobility, providing orientation and mobility to Spanish speaking clients, and use of the NFB cane. We have topics related to low vision including working with people with monocular vision, and promoting literacy for those with low vision. We'll have some international flavor too, where we'll learn first-hand about services in South Korea and Ghana. There will be technology related sessions including one on the BrailleNote Apex and e-books. There will be sessions for TVIs on the Woodcock Johnson, the expanded core curriculum and the adolescent brain.

So as you can see there is going to be something for everyone during our general and concurrent sessions. In addition, Thursday, we'll have our Margaret Bluhm Worker of the Year presentation at lunch, and following our busy day of sessions, there will be a Happy Hour. Friday, we'll kick off the morning with breakfast where you'll have the chance to meet with others who want to discuss topics such as orientation and mobility, low vision, and adult services. And of course, there will be door prizes! Hope to see you all in Rio Rico November 4th and 5th!

AZ AER LICENSE PLATE FRAME ORDER INSTRUCTIONS

Prices include Shipping and Handling

"Driver Reads Braille" License Plate Frames. Plastic license plate frames in choice of black or blue. (\$8.00 each)



(Picture above is an Arizona license plate with the AZ AER license plate frame that says "Driver Reads Braille")

**Make checks payable to AZ AER and send your order to:
DEB DUBY
8335 PERSHING AVENUE
PEORIA, AZ 85381**

