

Editor:

Tanni L. Anthony, Ph.D.  
State Consultant  
on Visual Impairment

Colorado Department of Education,  
201 East Colfax Avenue,  
Denver, CO 80203

(303) 866-6681 (voice);

(303) 866-6811 (fax)

E-mail: anthony\_t@cde.state.co.us

**WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE!**

**A Newsletter for Parents and Service Providers  
of Colorado Children Who Are Blind/Visually Impaired**

**May—June 2006**

## Heading into the Summer

By Tanni Anthony

Another school year is almost behind us and once again, it is a time of both reflection and celebration. Colorado continues to be a state of many resources. I recently counted 15 self standing “entities” in Colorado that provide specific services to children and youth who are visually impaired, their parents, and their service providers. That is a lot to celebrate!

We also have ongoing areas of need with recruitment to our field and state being on the top of the list to ensure that all VI-related positions are filled with dedicated, competent personnel. Right now, we have more positions than potential candidates. Parents and professionals, we need to recruit together to fill these gaps. The ever changing area of technology has provided a challenge to keep our TVIs current on new tools for their students. We have a small (but worthy) reservoir of tech consultation funds for next year (read the Vision Coalition minutes). Finally, we have a need for more parent networking and support activities. Maybe 2006-07 will be the school year of a resurrected statewide parent support group (calling all interested parents!).

Thank you for all you do to make Colorado a better place for learners with visual impairments. Best wishes for a great summer. I hope many folks will take advantage of the great summer programs offered on the campus of the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind in Colorado Springs and/or with the Colorado Center for the Blind in Denver. Summer offers an invaluable time for kids to just be kids and have a chance to hang out with their peers who are blind/visually impaired (and, of course, learn some cool new stuff). So until next fall ... celebrate, recruit, think “parent group,” and enjoy all the wonders of summer in beautiful Colorado!

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# IMPORTANT!

## We have JOB OPENINGS!!

Please be proactive with anticipated vacancies for the next school year. It is never too early to advertise an expected opening. Please keep in touch with Tanni about your job openings. Please be in touch with your Special Education Director about anticipated openings too.

### Jobs for School Year 2006-07

#### Northern Region:

- ✓ **Teacher of Children with Visual Impairments / O&M Instructor** (.5 FTE). Contact Nita White at Centennial BOCES 970-352-7404 or [nwhite@cboeces.org](mailto:nwhite@cbooces.org)

#### Western Region:

- ✓ **Teacher of Children with Visual Impairments / O&M Instructor** (2 FTE). Please contact Jackie Howard at (970) 254-5421 or [jhoward@mesa.k12.co.us](mailto:jhoward@mesa.k12.co.us) of the Mesa 51 in Grand Junction.

#### Metro Region:

- ✓ **Teacher of Children with Visual Impairments / O&M Instructor** for School Year 06-07 (.3 FTE). Contact Julia Agazio in HR in Adams 14 in north Denver area at 303-853-3202.
- ✓ **Teacher of Children with Visual Impairments / O&M Instructor** for School Year 06-07 (.5 FTE). Contact Ann Gillmeister in Adams 12 (north of Denver) at [ann.gillmeister@adams12.org](mailto:ann.gillmeister@adams12.org)
- ✓ **Teacher of Children with Visual Impairments / O&M Instructor** for School Year 06-07 (2FTE). Contact <http://jeffcoweb.jeffco.k12.co.us/> to complete an application.

#### Southern Region

- ✓ **TVI with focus on vocational education / daily living skills (1 FTE)** at the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind (School for the Blind) located in Colorado Springs. Contact Chelle Lutz at CSDB at (719) 578-2114 or [clutz@csdb.org](mailto:clutz@csdb.org)
- ✓ There is a possibility of two new FTE positions in the Colorado Springs area—please be in touch with Tanni to learn more about these possible vacancies.

### And now for some good news in the area of recruitment!

- ✓ Colorado welcomes **Stephanie Isbel**, a TVI who has just accepted a position in Cheyenne Mountain School District. Stephanie will come to Colorado in June! She will join Ann Johnson, the district's new brailist. Good things are happening in Cheyenne Mountain!
- ✓ **Mike Plansker** has accepted a position in Adams 12 for the next school year!! Mike is almost finished with the UNC VI program!
- ✓ **Jan Ferguson** has accepted the position in Adams 50 for the school year!



# Low Vision Clinic News



<u>Region</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Site Coordinator</u>
Western	September 23-24, 2006	Sarah Sonnier
Southern	October 26-28, 2006	Linda Campbell
Metro	January 25-27, 2007	Amber Rundle
Northern	February 23-24, 2007	Rita Albright and Vicki Pearson

## Northern Region Low Vision Evaluation Clinic Report

By Donice Fennimore

During the Northern District Low Vision Clinic, held February 24 and 25, 2006 in Fort Collins several visitors came to observe. We had two local optometrists, a CU student and several Enight board members visit during the clinic. I think it is great how other agencies are taking notice of our clinic, we must be doing something right!!!



We had nine students come for evaluations and seven TVIs attending: Paula Conroy, Vicki Pearson, Chuck Farnsworth, Carol Love, Sally Eldridge, Elaine Karns, and Rita Albright. This clinic also had a nice range of initial evaluations and follow-up evaluations. It's exciting that the clinic has been around long enough to see some of students now reaching driving age. Thanks to Rita Albright and Vicki Pearson for organizing the clinic so well!

### LVE Clinic Evaluations

If you have not returned your evaluation of one of the four regional Low Vision Evaluations for this school year, please do so soon. This information is in the process of being tallied so it can be shared with the LVE team during our meeting on May 18th.

**Take a Bow!** Thanks to everyone who helped to make it a great year for our regional low vision evaluation clinics! A very special thank you to our outstanding LVE Team: Dr. Tom Theune, Jim Olson, and Donice Fennimore!!

## **Congratulations to the 2006 See the Future Scholarship Recipients**

*A total of \$36,000 will be distributed among the following:*

### **Jennifer Bond ~ Colorado Springs**

Will Attend: UC-Colorado Springs - Stated Major: Secondary Education

### **Terry Garrett ~ Ft. Lupton**

Will Attend: UC-Colorado Springs - Stated Major: Aerospace Engineering

### **Anna Reid ~ Boulder**

Will Attend: Amherst College (Massachusetts) - Stated Major: Education

### **Iris Pang ~ Aurora**

Will Attend: Colorado Christian University - Stated Major: Music/Psychology

### **Danny Christopher ~ Loveland**

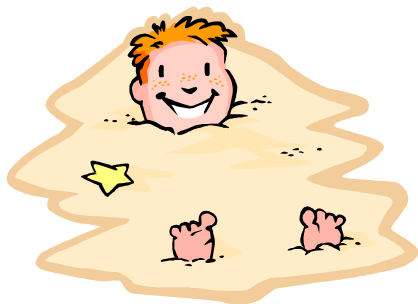
Will Attend: Colorado State University— Stated Major: Business

### **Tzu-Ling (Celine) Huang ~ Boulder**

Will Attend: UC-Boulder— Stated Major: Masters in Electrical Engineering

### **Agnes Gerris ~ Greeley**

Will Attend: UNC— Stated Major: PhD in Human Rehabilitation



## **FUN AT SUMMER CAMP**

All blind/visually impaired youth and adults in Colorado, ages 8 and above, are invited this summer to the Colorado Lions Camp, west of Colorado Springs. The weeks of July 31-Aug 4 and Aug 6-11 are for blind/visually impaired campers. The residential camp provides a variety of outdoor, recreational, and educational experiences. Campers gain independence, build self-confidence, learn new skills, and have fun. Campers are grouped by age with a ratio of 3-4 campers per staff member. A week long camp session costs \$450 per camper. Some camper-ships are available for campers in financial need.

For more information or to request an application, please visit the Lions Camp website at [www.lionscampco.org](http://www.lionscampco.org), call 719-687-7435, or email [lionscampco@aol.com](mailto:lionscampco@aol.com).



## USABA TO HOST 2006 NATIONAL SPORTS FESTIVAL

### Colorado Becomes First State Games to Fully Integrate Blind Athletes in Schedule

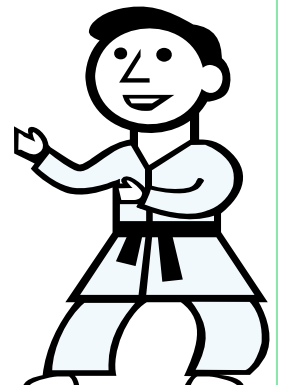
(Colorado Springs, CO)— The United States Association of Blind Athletes (USABA) is pleased to play host to the 2006 National Sports Festival and Championships in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The Sports Festival will be held August 1-3, 2006 at the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind with the 2006 Rocky Mountain State Games following the Sports Festival on August 4-6. The Rocky Mountain State Games becomes the first State Games in the nation to fully integrate a schedule of competitions for USABA athletes.

The 2006 Rocky Mountain State Games includes sports venues in Colorado Springs including the U.S. Air Force Academy, the U.S. Olympic Complex, The Colorado College, Fort Carson and Opening Ceremonies at the World Arena.

USABA athletes 8 years-old through masters will have the opportunity to learn and refine their skills in various sports clinics taught by USABA national coaches. Following the Sports Festival, athletes will also have the opportunity to compete in the Rocky Mountain State Games which offer 29 different sports with over 6,000 participants competing from across the state of Colorado. USABA athletes will compete against sighted competitors in the Rocky Mountain State Games in the junior, open and masters divisions in judo, powerlifting, swimming, track & field, a 5K run/walk and wrestling. USABA athletes will also compete against their visually impaired peers in the Rocky Mountain State Games in their respective age categories in the junior, open and masters divisions in the above listed sports to determine the USABA National Champion.

Forms for the National Sports Festival can be accessed online at [www.usaba.org](http://www.usaba.org) and the Rocky Mountain State Games registration forms can be accessed at [www.thesportscorp.org](http://www.thesportscorp.org). Forms for both events must be completed and returned to USABA by June 30, 2006. Cost is \$120 for all five nights or \$20 per night which covers room and board at the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind, clinics and competition fees, ground transportation, national coaches cost, medals and a t-shirt.

For more information or questions contact Angie Murphy at (719) 630-0422 or [media@usaba.org](mailto:media@usaba.org) or Mike Moran at (719) 634-7333, Ext.1011







# DOTS OF INTEREST



## BRAILLE UPDATE

### ▲ **Assessment Field Test Opportunity Extended: We Need Your Help!**

APH is working in collaboration with the Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS) and the American Foundation for the Blind to develop the first CASAS examination to be translated into braille format. A few months ago, APH requested your assistance with field testing the braille version of the reading items; and many were responsive to the initial request.

The field-test time frame has been extended through 2006, and the age/grade requirements have also been extended and additional programs are needed in this national field-test of braille reading items. The 25 multiple-choice items reflect realistic daily life and work-related experiences relevant to individuals who are visually impaired.

Youth age 14 through adults who are blind or visually impaired are needed from secondary education, state schools for the blind, secondary diploma, adult education and community-based programs. Students functioning at CASAS skill levels A through D (third to ninth grade equivalent in reading) are invited to participate in the field-test.

CASAS provides participating schools and agencies with braille editions of the field-test booklets, braille answer documents and special marking stickers, test

administration instructions in print or electronic format, and a pre-paid UPS label to return all field-test materials to CASAS. For more information or to sign up, email your contact information to Dr. Virginia (Ginny) Posey at [gposey@gasas.org](mailto:gposey@gasas.org) or [power@casas.org](mailto:power@casas.org)

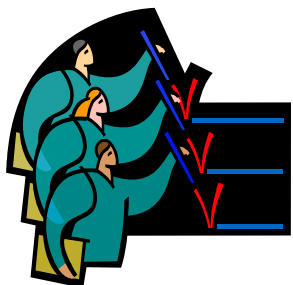
### ▲ **BIOGRAPHY OF LOUIS BRAILLE**

The National Braille Press has released the newest biography in its series, "Louis Braille: A Touch of Genius." It includes 31 never-before-translated letters about the life of Louis Braille. To help launch the new biography, NBP has created print/braille bookmarks that can be distributed to students, clients, or friends. To order biographies or bookmark bundles, contact NBP at 88 St. Stephen Street, Boston, MA 02115-4302; call 1-800-548-7323; or email [orders@nbp.org](mailto:orders@nbp.org)





- ✓ **Briefs from AFB:** AFB has launched an on-line museum to celebrate the legacy of Anne Sullivan Macy, a pioneer in educating the visually impaired. The museum's online gallery is available at [www.afb.org/annesullivan-see](http://www.afb.org/annesullivan-see). The gallery shows Anne through her own words, as well as through the eyes of others.. The pages feature photographs, letters, comic strips, sound recording and other artifacts relating to Anne's life and work.
- ✓ **Websites on CVI:** Here are two websites with helpful information on Cortical (or Cerebral) Visual Impairment (CVI)
  - E-Advisor: [www.e-advisor.us/CVIresource](http://www.e-advisor.us/CVIresource)
  - American Printing House for the Blind: [www/aph.org/cvi](http://www/aph.org/cvi)
- ✓ **No Child Left Behind Report:** On March 28th, 2006 the Center on Education Policy (CEP) released its fourth annual report on the implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act. From the Capital to the Classroom: Year 4 of the No Child Left Behind Act, is a comprehensive analysis of how the law is being implemented by the federal government, states, and school districts. Based on survey information from 50 states and 299 school districts, as well as 38 case studies of school districts, the report provides the most up-to-date information about the law's implementation and shares the opportunities and challenges that it has presented for states and districts. Information is posted on the Center's web site at [www.cep-dc.org/nclb/Year4/Press/](http://www.cep-dc.org/nclb/Year4/Press/)
- ✓ **National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities:** NICHCY has announced the launching of their new Research Center, designed to connect people with the research evidence on a wide range of educational practices for children with disabilities. The Research Center is located at: <http://research.nichcy.org> People are encouraged try out the brand-new Research-to-Practice database, where studies are placed in context and practical examples of the research in action are given. Sign up for eNews at: [www.nichcy.org/SurveyIntro1.html](http://www.nichcy.org/SurveyIntro1.html)
- ✓ **New APH website:** The American Printing House for the Blind (APH) has announced a new parent/teacher resource for children with sensory impairments. The PE web site is a resource that lists adapted physical education programs, adapted athletic/sport organizations, equipment resources, sport camps, articles and books, events, and much more. APH encourages participation from the field. As you browse through the web site and know of an organization, event, or item that you would like to have listed, please click on the address provided ([www.aph.org/pe/contact.html](http://www.aph.org/pe/contact.html)).



✓ **Students Needed to Field Test Audio-Based English Language**

**Proficiency Assessment:** CTB/McGraw-Hill is a leading publisher of K-12 English language proficiency assessments and adult education solutions. In an industry-leading move to broaden the scope of English language assessments available to blind and visually impaired students, CTB/McGraw-Hill will field-test audio-based items for a new shelf product. In order to do this, CTB needs your help locating students in grades 2-12. Two groups of blind and visually impaired students are needed for the study: (1) those who are English language learners and (2) students already proficient in English. For more information or to express interest in this study, please contact: Kenneth Boyte, CTB/McGraw-Hill, Monterey, CA, (831) 393-6909.

[Kenneth\\_Boyte@ctb.com](mailto:Kenneth_Boyte@ctb.com)

- ✓ **FOCUS Family:** The Focus Family extends around the world. They have support groups in the UK, Australia, Canada and the US.. They offer a Newsletter and Email support group. There are currently 400+ parents, grandparents, adults and professionals who offer their support. For more information , please visit [www.focusfamilies.org](http://www.focusfamilies.org)
- ✓ **Online Education Opportunities** through The National Center on Low-Incidence Disabilities ([www.nclid.unco.edu](http://www.nclid.unco.edu)):

- ▲ **COURSE: The Cutting Edge: Teaching Online - Summer, 2006 :** Staff at the National Center on Low-Incidence Disabilities (NCLID) has an award-winning history of delivering quality instruction online. To explore what the possibilities are for online teaching, join us under the Plane tree at the online Phaedrus Academy. To enroll for the Summer 12-week course that begins May 15<sup>th</sup>, please contact Dr. Nathan Lowell at [nathan.lowell@unco.edu](mailto:nathan.lowell@unco.edu), 1-800-395-2693, or come to our website at <http://nclid.unco.edu/edse/Phaedrus/announce.html>.
- ▲ **COURSE: Deaf Education Strategies for General Educators - Summer, 2006** "Deaf Education Strategies for General Educators" is a 1-credit, online, self-paced course that will start May 15, 2006. Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity for anyone working with students who are deaf or hard of hearing who may not have formal training in deaf education. For more information, contact Dr. Ann Sebald at NCLID at [ann.sebald@unco.edu](mailto:ann.sebald@unco.edu), 1-800-395-2693, or come to our website at <http://nclid.unco.edu/newnclid/index.php?itemid=109>.

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*The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding this policy. Please contact either:*

*Patrick Chapman  
Colorado Department of Education  
1560 Broadway, Suite 1450  
Denver, CO 80202  
Phone: 303-866-6780  
E-mail: [chapman\\_p@cde.state.co.us](mailto:chapman_p@cde.state.co.us)*

*Wendi Kispert  
Colorado Department of Education  
201 East Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203  
Phone: 303-866-6815  
E-mail: [Kispert\\_w@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Kispert_w@cde.state.co.us)*





# Calendar of Events

2006 2006 2006 2006 2006 2006 2006 2006 2006 2006 2006

- May 17**                      **Southern TVI Meeting - CSDB**  
Contact: Chloann Woolley - ccwool5@yahoo.com
- May 23**                      **CAER Board Meeting - 4:30 at Samantha Hoffman's house**  
Contact: Elaine Karns - (970) 225-6720 or 231-1854
- May 30**                      **CSDB Board of Trustees' Meeting—CSDB**  
Contact: Sue Pfaffenhauser—spfaffenha@csdb.org or www.csdb.org
- May 30-June 2**              **CSDB Summer Enrichment - Elementary 2-6**  
**Colorado Adventure - CSDB**  
Contact: Donna Keale - (719) 578-2252 or dkeale@csdb.org
- June 1-4**                      **2006 FOCUS Families ONH/SOD Conference — Baltimore, MD**  
Contact: www.focusfamilies.org/focus/general\_info.asp
- June 2-4**                      **Family Learning Retreat - CSDB**  
Contact: Diane Covington—dcovington@csdb.org
- June 4-9**                      **CSDB Summer Enrichment -Middle/High 8-10**  
**Independent Living - CSDB**  
Contact: Donna Keale - (719) 578-2252 or dkeale@csdb.org
- June 8-9**                      **Collaborative Assistive Tech Conference - Denver**  
Contact: www.uchsc.edu/atp
- June 10 -August 5**              **Earn and Learn High School Program - Denver**  
Contact: Colorado Center for the Blind - (303) 778-1130
- June 10 - August 5**              **Summer for Success College Program - Denver**  
Contact: Colorado Center for the Blind - (303) 778-1130
- June 11-13**                      **Sports Education Camp for Juniors - CSDB**  
Contact: Donna Keale - (719) 578-2252 or dkeale@csdb.org

- June 11-16**                      **Sports Education Camp (ages 10-16) - CSDB**  
Contact: Donna Keale - (719) 578-2252 or dkeale@csdb.org
- June 11-16**                      **Sports Education Camp for Seniors—CSDB**  
Contact: Donna Keale - (719) 578-2252 or dkeale@csdb.org
- June 17-23**                      **American Association of the Deaf-Blind —Baltimore, MD**  
Contact: www.aadb.org
- June 18-23**                      **CSDB Summer Enrichment - 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, & 9<sup>th</sup>, Computer Technology, O&M, and Compensatory Skills - CSDB**  
Contact: Donna Keale - (719) 578-2252 or dkeale@csdb.org
- June 18-30**                      **CSDB Summer Enrichment - 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Independent Living - CSDB**  
Contact: Donna Keale - (719) 578-2252 or dkeale@csdb.org
- June 25-30**                      **CSDB Summer Enrichment - Elementary 2-6  
 Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Adventures - CSDB**  
Contact: Donna Keale - (719) 578-2252 or dkeale@csdb.org
- June 27**                              **CSDB Board of Trustees' Meeting—CSDB**  
Contact: Sue Pfaffenhauser—spfaffenha@csdb.org or www.csdb.org
- July 11-14**                      **International O&M Conference - Hong Kong**  
Contact: www.hksb.org.hk
- July 12-August 5**                      **Independent Middle School Program - Denver, CO**  
Contact: Colorado Center for the Blind - (303) 778-1130
- July 13-19**                      **National AER Conference - Salt Lake City, UT**  
Contact: bsherr@aerbvi.org
- July 16-21**                      **ICEVI - Kaula Lumpru**  
Contact: www.icevi.org
- July 31-August 4  
 August 6-11**                      **Colorado Lion's Camp - Colorado Springs, CO**  
Contact: www.lionscampco.org
- August 7-9**                      **2006 Summer Institute on Deafblindness—Breckenridge**  
Contact: Tanni Anthony—anthony\_t@cde.state.co.us
- Fall 2006**                      **2006 State Autism Conference - Denver, CO**  
Contact: TBA

## More Calendar of Events

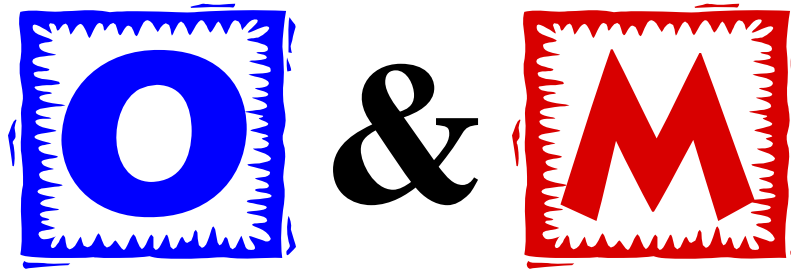
- September 19**      **Metro TVI Meeting**—Aurora from 2:00—4:00  
Contact: Nancy Cozart—(303) 347-4126 or ncozart@lps.k12.co.us
- September 23-24**      **Western Region LVE Clinic** - Grand Junction  
Contact: Sarah Sonnier - ssonnier@mesa.k12.co.us
- September 23-28**      **Space Camp for V.I. Students** - Huntsville, AL  
Contact: Dan Oates (304) 822-4883 or scivis@atlanticbb.net
- October 6-8**      **State Conference on Visual Impairment** - Denver, CO  
Contact: Tanni Anthony - anthony\_t@cde.state.co.us
- October 26-28**      **Southern Region LVE Clinic** - Colorado Springs  
Contact: Linda Campbell - campblm@d11.org
- November 16**      **Metro TVI Meeting**—Littleton from 2:00-4:00  
Contact: Nancy Cozart—(303) 347-4126 or ncozart@lps.k12.co.us

2007    2007    2007    2007    2007    2007    2007    2007    2007    2007    2007

- January 25-27**      **Metro Low Vision Evaluation Clinic** - Aurora  
Contact: Amber Rundle - [amberr@ctech.aps.k12.co.us](mailto:amberr@ctech.aps.k12.co.us)
- February 13**      **Metro TVI Meeting** - Cherry Creek from 2-4:00  
Contact: Nancy Cozart—(303) 347-4126 or ncozart@lps.k12.co.us
- February 23-24**      **Northern Low Vision Evaluation Clinic** - Fort Collins,  
Contact: Rita Albright - rita.albright@bvsd.k12.co.us  
Vicki Pearson - vpearson1@yahoo.com
- September 25-30**      **Deafblind 14th International World Conference** - Perth, Australia  
Contact: <http://www.dblink.org/>

Be watching for the dates of the Low Vision Device Training, the VIISA Preschool Course, and the O&M Workshop for school year 2006-07!





## O&M Conference

The annual O&M Conference, which this year focused on "A Wee Bit O'Mobility," was held on the CSDB campus on April 6-9, 2006. It was well attended and had many presentation highlights. Thursday night involved a combination of talk by and with Dr. Tom Theune on low vision issues and a great discussion on caseload analysis specific to O&M. A small group of people will work over the summer to define a separate caseload formula for O&M needs. This group will use the Michigan Severity Rating Scale model, which was constructed by many of their O&M Specialists, as a model to build something specific for Colorado.



Friday was a day for learning, moving, and building. The New Mexico team of Mark Carter, CeCe Quintana, and Valerie Tiensveld shared blueprints for adapted canes, active learning equipment (from the work of Dr. Lilli Nielsen), and games for young children. Photographer Ruth Chizum captured a few photos of the group's work! (see photos to Barbara Adams, Pat Lewis, and Trina Boyd working away!)



Saturday featured Millie Smith on the topic of Sensory Learning. She overviewed the research that helped designed the theory and activities for children functioning at a sensorimotor level. This work has been published in an American Printing House manual and kit.

Thanks to presenters Dr. Tom Theune, Mark Carter, CeCe Quintana, Valerie Tiensveld, and Millie Smith. Thanks also to the organizing committee: Tanni Anthony, Ruth Chizum, Barb Galgano, Karen Jamison, Ann Marie Jansen, Elaine Karns, Pat Lewis, Trina Boyd Pratt, Amber Rundle, and Linda Witte. Special thanks to Lou Tutt and CSDB for the opportunity to host the training on the CSDB campus. And thanks to all the great folks who took the time to attend and contribute!



# Come join us for our Summer Programs!

**COLORADO CENTER FOR THE BLIND**  
2233 W. Shepperd Ave.  
Littleton, CO 80120  
303-778-1130 or 1-800-401-4632 fax 303-778-1598

**2006 Program Dates:**

**3.5 week Initiation to Independence Middle School Program: July 12 - August 5**

**8 week Earn and Learn High School Program: June 10 - August 5**

**8 week Summer for Success College Program: June 10 - August 5**

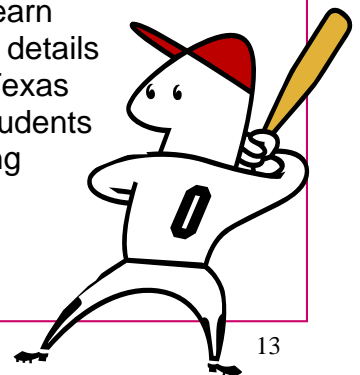
**Contact: Eric Woods, Youth Services Coordinator, 303-778-1130 ext. 230 or 1-800-401-4632 or email at [ewoods@cocenter.org](mailto:ewoods@cocenter.org)**

The Colorado Center for the Blind is getting ready for its 2006 Summer Programs. As always, we have many exciting, informative, and fun activities planned for the kids which will make this a great summer of learning, growing and new friends and acquaintances.

The programs offered by the CCB include core class instruction, assisted independent apartment living, and challenge recreation activities such as rock climbing and white water rafting. The classes offered include Braille, travel, daily living skills, and adaptive technology. All these classes will be taught by competent blind instructors who are trained and adept at teaching at all levels and can accommodate any special needs that kids may require. Student to teacher ratio is generally 3 to 1.

The students will live with competent blind role models in two bedroom, two bath apartments located near the Center and will work on all aspects of managing an apartment with their live-in counselor's assistance. There are usually 2-3 students per apartment and they will work together on such things as cleaning, cooking, food storage, grocery store shopping using customer clerks, budgeting money, sharing chores, etc. All students will use public transportation for any errands they need to run and this will be done under the supervision of their counselors. They will also use public transportation every day to travel to and from the center and their apartments. Bus passes are provided by the Center for the duration of the program.

One of the high points of the summer is traveling to the National Federation of the Blind Annual Convention. This is the largest gathering of blind people in the world and kids get the chance to meet many successful blind adults and other kids from all around the country, learn about the newest technology and adaptive devices and experience some of the details of staying in a world class hotel. This year's convention will be held in Dallas, Texas during the week of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. We will travel by plane to Dallas giving the students a good experience in independently traveling through unfamiliar airports, packing and checking luggage, etc. They will attend a formal banquet at the end of the convention and appropriate dress clothing is the norm at this event.





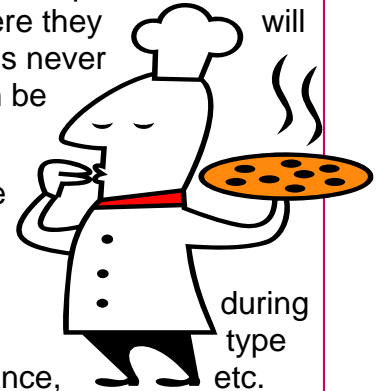


Activities such as white water rafting, rock climbing and other events such as Major League Baseball games or trips to amusement parks are also an integral part of our Summer Programs. We have worked for years with the National Sports Center for the Disabled and the Colorado River Guides for climbing and rafting and the staff at these facilities are familiar and well trained in working with our blind youth. The kids always have a great time tackling these things that are generally perceived as inaccessible to blind kids. We will also have the kids meet with a representative from the United States Association of Blind Athletes to discuss adaptive games for the blind and ways they can better participate in general physical education classes in public high schools.

There are three different programs in which blind kids can participate. These are the Initiation to Independence Middle School Program, the Earn and Learn High School Program, and the Summer for Success College Program. Each of these programs has their own distinct and special areas of focus.

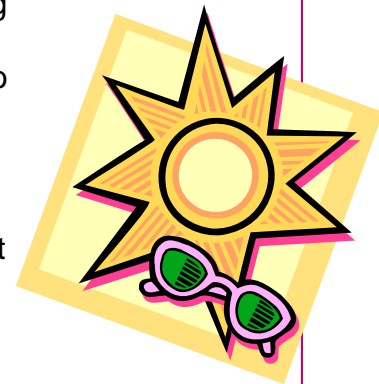
The Initiation to Independence Middle School Program is for kids aged 12-14. This program runs for three and a half weeks and the participants will work on all the above-mentioned aspects of the program in an age appropriate manner. They will also go on job shadows where they will have an opportunity to observe other blind kids and adults doing their jobs. It is never too early to start thinking about work and to have the expectation that they can be fully active, productive members of society.

The Earn and Learn High School Program is for blind kids aged 14-18 who are currently attending high school and looking for some practical job experience. This is an 8 week program and the participants will be involved in all above-mentioned aspects of the program as well as working 12 to 15 hours a week the final four weeks of the program. The jobs they do are normal, after school jobs such as kitchen and restaurant work, basic clerical work, day care assistance, and they will be paid minimum wage for their work. It is very exciting on payday when they receive their checks. They are encouraged to save some of their money but, of course, they love to spend some of it on pizza and CDs.



The Summer for Success College Prep Program is for kids who have graduated high school and are preparing to go on to post-secondary education. All participants will be involved in the above-mentioned aspects of the program as well as having discussions on using readers and Disabled Students Services, applying for scholarships, and meeting and talking with blind adults who have gone through the college experience. Last year we had a blind math professor meet with the students for a week to go over mathematics for blind people and demonstrate and instruct on new software that makes math more accessible to them.

We are very excited about the upcoming programs at the Colorado Center for the Blind and hope you will consider the opportunity to take advantage of all that these challenging and unique programs have to offer. If you have any questions concerning our programs, please contact Eric Woods. Thanks for your interest in the Colorado Center for the Blind Summer Programs.



Eric Woods, Youth Services Coordinator  
Orientation and Mobility Instructor  
Colorado Center for the Blind  
303-778-1130 ext. 230 or 1-800-401-4632 or email at [ewoods@cocenter.org](mailto:ewoods@cocenter.org)



## More Summer Programs

### COLORADO CENTER FOR THE BLIND

2233 W. Sheppard Ave., Littleton, CO 80120  
303-778-1130 or 1-800-401-4632; fax 303-778-1598

#### 2006 Elementary Program Dates:

Monday through Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup> to June 23<sup>rd</sup>

Times: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

For ages 6-10

Contact: Eric Woods, Youth Services Coordinator, 303-778-1130 ext. 230 or 1-800-401-4632 or email at [ewoods@cocenter.org](mailto:ewoods@cocenter.org)

## CONFIDENCE CAMP FOR KIDS

The Colorado Center for the Blind is sponsoring an interactive, two week program for blind and visually impaired children aged six through ten. The highly qualified staff will work with students on a variety of age appropriate areas such as cane skills, daily living skills, Braille and beginning technology.

Trina Boyd-Pratt, a teacher of the visually impaired, and Ann Cunningham, a tactual artist, will be facilitating the program. Several competent and energetic blind role models will be paired up with the students as we believe that positive blind role modeling teaches success.

Not only will the students work on building their skills, but even more importantly they will gain confidence in themselves by participating in a wide range of activities. Some of these activities will include touring the Littleton Historical Museum, exploring the lazy river at the recreation center, picnicking in the park and looking at beautiful sculptures.

Cost of this program is covered by the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado.

For further information please call:

Eric Woods, Youth Services Coordinator

Orientation and Mobility Instructor, Colorado Center for the Blind

303-778-1130 ext. 230 or 1-800-401-4632 or email at [ewoods@cocenter.org](mailto:ewoods@cocenter.org)



# Resources and Materials

**Vibrating Watch**—Swiss watchmaker Tissot has created a watch that enables visually impaired people to tell time through vibrations. By briefly pressing the watch's crown and then running the finger clockwise around the glass, the wearer can "feel" the time through the constant vibration on the hour and intermittent vibrations for the minutes corresponding to one of the 12 raised indices on the bezel. To learn more, call 201-271-4642 or email bob.friedland@swatchgroup.com

**Set of CDs from Dr. Hyvärinen's Webcast of CVI**—A set of 7 CDs that contain the lecture series on Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI) given by Dr. Lea Hyvärinen, a pediatric ophthalmologist from Helsinki, Finland is available for purchase. This series was originally presented over the Internet using PowerPoint lectures with video clips followed by threaded discussion in the Spring and Fall of 2004. Each CD contains lecture, PowerPoint, transcript, and summary of the discussion associated with that lecture. Several articles on CVI, a bibliography, and four Case Studies of children with CVI are also included. The series is available for \$125 from HOPE, Inc. The phone and fax is 435-245-2888 and the website is [www.hopepub.com](http://www.hopepub.com). The series can also be purchased from Vision Associates. If you would like to check out this item from the CO Services for Children with Combined Vision & Hearing Loss Project, you can do so by contacting Gina Quintana at [Quintana\\_q@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Quintana_q@cde.state.co.us).

**AFB Press is pleased to announce the publication of:** (a) *Tactile Learning Strategies:*

*Interacting with Children Who Have Visual Impairments and Multiple Disabilities* by Deborah Chen and June E. Downing. This new video illustrates strategies to help children who are visually impaired and have multiple disabilities learn through touch. (b) *Teaching Social Skills to Students with Visual Impairments: From Theory to Practice*, edited by Sharon Z. Sacks and Karen Wolffe. This new book explores what theory can tell us about how children who are visually impaired become socially skilled individuals. Order your copies today at [www.afb.org/store](http://www.afb.org/store) or call 1-800-232-3044.

**Autism Publication**—NEA has just released a new publication on autism, *The Puzzle of Autism*. To assist educators in their daily work with children who have autism, NEA has produced a new resource in collaboration with the Autism Society of America, the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and the National Association of School Psychologists. The 38-page guide explains common autistic characteristics and suggests effective classroom strategies for improving communication, sensory, social, and behavioral skills. To receive a complimentary copy, email [gapsinfo@nea.org](mailto:gapsinfo@nea.org) or go to the NEA website at [www.nea.org/specialed](http://www.nea.org/specialed) to download a copy.

**Special Issue of Disability Would Available**—The World Institute on Disability has recently released a special issue of its publication, "Disability World." The issue takes a closer look at policies and projects that provide assistance to disabled people through social and economic programs around the world. Read an online copy of this issue at

www.disabilityworld.org. For more information, contact Kathy Martinez at Kathy@wid.org or call 510-251-4326.

**Manual:** The CHARGE Syndrome Foundation has a new manual; "CHARGE Syndrome, which is a management manual for parents. It is available as a free resource on line through the foundation website. The manual is broken it down into over 30 chapters that can be downloaded separately, or it can be downloaded with the entire 269 pages as one file. The manual can be viewed by following the links from our home page at [www.chargesyndrome.org](http://www.chargesyndrome.org)

**ViSioN Program:** Vision Skills in the Natural Environment is an intervention guide for use with children ages birth through three years who are visually impaired. The manual has information specific to sensory, literacy and readiness, visual motor, and independence. There is information about routines in the natural environment and lessons for parents, and a transition checklist for children entering preschool. The manual is available for \$70 and has 300 pages of information plus a CD for reproducible pages. It was compiled by Barbara Petersen and Judi Nielsen with contributions by the Early Intervention Vision Consultants of Utah For ordering Information contact: 801-629-4743 or email: judin@usdb.org



**CVI PERSPECTIVES VIDEO** ~ This video developed by APH explores cortical visual impairment (CVI) from three perspectives: medical, educational, and personal. Neonatologist Dr. Alan Lantzy presents a medical perspective on the causes of CVI. APH CVI Project Leader Dr. Christine Roman presents an educational perspective focusing on characteristics and recommended approaches. In the final segment, seven families talk about their personal experiences from the difficulty of the diagnosis to finding help and hope.

**BRILLE TRANSCRIBER'S KIT: COUNTRIES AND CONTINENTS** ~ This kit is a collection of embossed and printed outlines of maps commonly found in history, geography, and social studies textbooks developed by APH. The embossed sheets may be used as templates when you create tactile maps. Add to these sheets with spur wheel lines, craft ink, glued-on textures, etc. Add Braille labels as needed. The printed maps may be used as masters for "swell paper" tactile graphics. Photocopy the images onto your capsule paper, add labels, lines and symbols as needed, and produce the raised image by running the graphic through the heating machine.

**APH WEBCAST OPPORTUNITIES** ~ A Webcast is a multimedia presentation that uses the Internet to broadcast live or delayed audio and video transmissions, much like traditional television and radio broadcasts. The Summer Book Port™ Webcast Series will begin July 12th (previously scheduled to begin July 5th). These webcast presentations will take place once a week during the months of July and August. Each webcast will cover a different Book Port-related topic, and will run from 30 to 45 minutes, depending on the number of questions each topic generates. For more information about this series go to [www.aph.org/advisory/webcast.html](http://www.aph.org/advisory/webcast.html).

## Vision Coalition Meeting

May 4, 2006

**Persons Present:** Tanni Anthony (CDE State Consultant on Visual Impairment), Nancy Cozart (TVI representative from the metro region), Sally Eldridge (TVI representative from the northern region), Ann Hicks (Director of the CIMC), Carol Hilty, Superintendent of CSDB, Kevin O'Brien (TVI representative from the western region), Lou Tutt (Principal of the School for the Blind), and Randy Witte (TVI representative from CSDB)

**Persons Absent:** Kay Ferrell (National Center on Low Incidence Disabilities), Samantha Hoffman (CAER representative), Judy Mumford (Southern Region)

### **Acronym Glossary:**

CAER – CO Chapter of the Association of the Education & Rehabilitation of the Blind Visually Impaired

CDE – Colorado Department of Education

CIMC – Colorado Instructional Materials Center

CSDB – Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind

NCLID – National Center on Low Incidence Disabilities

TVI – teacher certified in the area of visual impairment

UNC – University of Northern Colorado

VC – Vision Coalition

### PROGRAM UPDATES

#### Metro Region (Nancy Cozart)

Metro area TVIs had our final meeting of the school year on April 18<sup>th</sup> in Littleton. We had a very productive meeting! We determined that I would continue in the joint role of metro TVI representative on Vision Coalition as well as coordinator for the metro meetings next year. It was also decided that meeting 4 times a year and rotating districts to host would continue. We looked at calendars and set up dates and locations for the first 3 meetings. They are:

1. Tuesday September 19, 2006 from 2:00-4:00 in Aurora
2. Thursday November 16, 2006 from 2:00-4:00 in Littleton
3. Tuesday February 13, 2007 from 2:00-4:00 in Cherry Creek
4. To Be Announced (depending on OMSOC Conference and other factors)

The contact person for the metro meetings is Nancy Cozart — <ncozart@lps.k12.co.us>.

Our hope is that the topic for the first meeting would be about the use of para-professionals in the classroom. Paula Conroy had this as a session at the conference in December. We will try to schedule her to present and lead an open discussion on this important subject.

Some feedback was gathered on the Q & As that was listed in the *WHOT* newsletter regarding CSDB. The main response was that the answers were quite general. The hope on specific questions was to share more details to stimulate



further dialogue. When the topic of CSDB came up, a couple other points were made. First, the concern of having the summer programs start so early came up again. Some schools are not out of school yet. Comments were made that if the summer programs are so valuable, families may consider taking them out of school early for the summer. The other point was how much teachers appreciated receiving the paperwork on the summer programs earlier this year! Thank you.

*Added Discussion Notes: We thanked Lou, Carol, Randy, and Ann (and others at CSDB) for their work on the Q&A article presented in the last newsletter. CSDB will continue to use the WHOT newsletter as a continued communication tool. It was also suggested that staff from CSDB work to visit each regional TVI meeting in the next school year to continue this important dialogue!*

The rest of our meeting was devoted to the topic of students with significant support needs. Susan Otey did a wonderful power point presentation! Much of her focus was on assessment and how to integrate these students effectively into various educational settings. It is always good to discuss with other colleagues how to improve our skills. We thank you, Susan, and wish you the very best in your new professional endeavors!

### **North Region (Sally Eldridge)**

We have our final regional meeting of the school year on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Jim Olson and Donna Keale from CSDB will be present to discuss summer enrichment opportunities, Sports Camp, statewide and regional resources.

Our region is still raving about Jim Olson, Donice Fennimore, and Dr. Theune and how wonderful they made our Northern Region Low Vision Clinic. They were extremely efficient and the Ensign Center in Fort Collins was a terrific location for the clinic. We also appreciate the time and effort that Rita Albright and Vicky Pearson put into organizing the event. The date for the next clinic is February 23-24, 2007.

A topic of discussion amongst some members of our region is the salary for brailist in the various regions around the state. Some districts are looking at hiring braillists and are interested in knowing what entry-level braillists are being offered around the state.

*Added Discussion Notes: Many districts have a differentiated pay scale for their braillists. The salary is higher than a paraeducator pay scale. Some have a scale in between a paraeducator and a tutor interpreter; some have the equivalent. Some districts have established criteria for brailist level salary based on Library of Congress certification and/or CDE braille competency certification. There is no state mandate for a brailist to have any kind of special certification. It was suggested that we add a Brailist Fact Sheet / Q and A / other type of information about braillists on the CDE webpage on blindness/visual impairment. Tanni will get the ball rolling with some first-level information and send it out for comment/additions. This information will be posted in the section on "Careers in Visual Impairment."*

Our regional list serve is off and running and going extremely well. We appreciate Kay Ferrell's time in putting this together. We are hoping that other people around the state will be interested in joining the list serve. We are aspiring to have better communication with one another and learn from one another's experiences, particularly with technology-it is moving so fast! If you are interested in joining the list serve, please contact Sally Eldridge at [<eldridge\\_sara@stvrain.k12.co.us>](mailto:eldridge_sara@stvrain.k12.co.us).

### **Southern Region (Ann Hicks for Judy Mumford)**

*The following are notes from the most recent southern meeting:* The summer enrichment programs housed at CSDB is in need of certified teachers of the visually impaired not from CSDB. Contact Donna Keale, if you are free to help.

CIMC: Kim is in a new position on the CSDB campus and Donice is doing Kim's job for now. They currently have a temp helping. Ann apologized if you have received books that haven't had the boxes labeled to their content. She said that they should be labeled (box one of 3, etc.) from now on. Please be sure to pick a summer contact person for your district and give that information to Ann. CIMC may need to be able to get a hold of someone if there is a problem with orders during the summer.

Christina Hagan is organizing a class with the International Association of Infant Massage to train people to be Certified Infant Massage Instructors. Christina handed out flyers. They need families with babies for a free massage and they are looking for people that would like to be trained in the techniques. Contact Christina for more information

Jim shared applications to attend the Lens Crafters "Give the gift of sight" program. There will be a van(eye clinic) on Thursday May 4th and Friday May 5th at the Hillside Community Center (corner of institute and fountain) to give eye exams and glasses if needed to children five or older that do not have insurance for eye care (the kids need to be able to respond to the eye doctor). You can contact Connie Schumacher at work: 548-8650 or home: 473-9278 to see if there are any openings.

We decided to pass around the S.L.A.T.E. Project materials between districts. The CSDB Library now has several copies that should be available to check out soon. Our set from CDE is in District 20 this month. We will pass it along to another district next month.

Congratulations to Jim Olson for receiving the Gary Schmidt award. Congratulations to Jennifer Bond (served by Julie) for receiving the See the Future Fund. Thank you to Ann Hicks, Tim Richards, and CSDB for hosting the Outreach Transition Day on April 22.

Randy shared a Flow Chart of the procedure of No Child Left Behind very over-whelming at a glance. Ann Johnson was introduced to the group. She is the para-educator soon to be certified Braille Transcriber in Cheyenne Mountain-District 12. The southern region is in the process of determining whether it will meet on a monthly or quarterly basis.

*Added Discussion Notes: We talked about how to best link vendors to the field.. A vendor may be in touch with CSDB or CDE about how to communicate with TVIs and O&MSs about their products. As possible, this information is shared with regional folks. It was suggested to continue to pursue vendor opportunities at the state conference. As calls come into CDE, Tanni will try to connect the TVI meeting coordinators with the information in case they want to follow up with a vendor as a topic for a regional meeting.*

### **Western Region (Kevin O'Brien)**

*Region-wide:* This past weekend several west slope students, their parents and TVIs attended a wonderful workshop hosted by the Adult Role Model Team in Grand Junction. A very special "Thanks" go out to Roger Harwell, Jen Ambruster and Doug Miles of the ARMT for coming to Grand Junction and making this highly informative event happen. The day involved lively discussions between the Adult Role Model team and the students on various aspects of transition from high school to higher education and careers as well as independent living as an adult.

In other regional news, Barbara Adams will take the VC reins from Kevin O'Brien during the coming school year and we are all excited about that. Unfortunately, we were not able to plan a west slope regional meeting this spring.

*Delta—Montrose:* (from Kevin O'Brien): It's business-as-usual in the Delta and Montrose school districts with student numbers remaining remarkably consistent. Beth Myers, my vision para in Delta, is steadfastly progressing through the LOC Braille lessons and is on-target to take the Braille competency examination in the near future. She is doing a GREAT JOB and I am really proud of her! Onto CSAPs: While I did not administer any standard Braille CSAPs this year, I did give several CSAP-As and was *completely astounded* at the amount of time this process required. While many of the items on the 5th grade CSAP-A were easily adaptable with objects, it was a tad challenging to adapt questions such as, "*Men discovering the west*" in object form. I'm glad I have a sense of humor.!

*Mountain BOCES* (from Barbara Adams): Julie King and Robin Bremner are continuing their on-line endeavors with UNC, they are both working hard and keeping busy. Barbara is meeting with them periodically and not driving quite as much around the central mountains as she used to before they came on board-they both work very well with their students. We continue to meet up with JC Greeley when she zooms across the state and try to make contact with her and the babies she visits here.

*Mesa:* (from Sarah Sonnier): The tactual graphics on CSAPs were much, much better this year.

The questions on CSAPs remain as ridiculous as ever...some of this stuff is really advanced knowledge of a concept and although some levels were fine, others seem to draw on more of the difficult questions. I think some of the questions on the science 10th grade were a joke. They were very specific to a certain concept that a teacher may or may not have stressed and required kids to regurgitate terms that they may have learned a year earlier. I don't think that several of the items that required specific information/memorization of terms showed overall science knowledge as well. In fact, one of the items on this test was missing the key to the drawing for all students (except the braille copy) which made the item unanswerable.

Due to the number of braille readers and reconfiguration of high schools onto a block system, we hope to have 4 teachers on board next year and have already had a couple of folks call to inquire about the job.

I still think that APH should be pressured to include CD players as a quota item. There are several companies that make handi-cassette players and they offer that item as a quota item. Supposedly this is part of the reason that they don't offer quota CD's is that there are several companies out there.

*Southwest BOCES* (from LeiLani Scott): Everything down this direction is going quite nicely. I have the perfect caseload. It will be even more perfect when I can actually teach without going to school, that will be a first! I graduate on May 5, have taken the PLACE, passed both sets of comps and plan to take the ACVREP this summer. I still look forward every morning to going to work and feel quite blessed to have such a fabulous job! There is nothing else to report really, it is pretty uneventful in this neck of the woods!

### **CAER (Samantha Hoffman)**

The CAER annual meeting and banquet occurred on Friday April 7<sup>th</sup> at the Craftwood Inn in Colorado Springs. The event was well attended. Elaine Karns gave her farewell speech as president as a new board was nominated. The membership vote for the new board was unanimous. CAER would like to thank our outgoing board members, Randy Witte and Glenda Nash-Buscarello, for their service, hard work, and commitment to professionalism of our field. The new officers and board members are as follows: Julie Wetzstein- President; Elaine Karns- Past President; Samantha Hoffman- Vice President; Barb Galgano-Secretary; Ann Hicks-Treasurer; Trina Boyd-Pratt- Board Member; Melissa Shular-Board Member; Tim Richards- Board Member; Louise Gettman- Board Member; and Janet Anderson- Board Member

The annual meeting content also included a presentation of the chapter's projected budget by the treasurer, Ann Hicks. Ann lead the discussion to collect feedback from the chapter's members in regards to how money is being spent to best meet their needs. It is the intent of the board to continue to support members in professional endeavors, such as certification, conference attendance, and conference presentation. The question of whether to extend that support beyond members to parents, students, or para-educators had occurred within board discussion and was shared with the membership to obtain feedback. It was the recommendation from the floor that funds be extended beyond professionals, but that guidelines/criteria, and an application process be developed. Any member wishing to contribute ideas or suggestions regarding the distribution of funds is encouraged to contact a board member to provide input.

Awards were also announced during the banquet. Marilyn Tiernan was present to receive the Connections Award. Marilyn is a guidance counselor at the public school in Colorado Springs at which students from CSDB attend. She has gone above and beyond to get to know and provide assistance to each of these students in addition to her already extremely large caseload. The other annual awards were announced, however, they will be presented at a later date when the winners can be present. The recipient of the President's Award is Brenda Sheppard, and the recipient of the Gary Schmidt Award is Jim Olson. Congratulations to all the very deserving winners.

In other news, CAER is proud to announce a new website; <http://co.aerbvi.org> . Amber Rundle has done a terrific job setting this site up. We welcome input from all members regarding content and/or items that may be beneficial to post on the website.

Finally, our current president and vice president, Elaine and Julie, represented our AER chapter at the annual AERlift conference held in Utah on April 21-24, 2006. We look forward to hearing about their experience and sharing what is new on a national level for our profession. We encourage all members to consider attending the AER International Conference, "Climbing the HI-AER Together". The conference is July 14-19, 2006 in Snowbird, Utah. On-line Registration can be completed at <http://www.yesevents.com/aer> Support will be available for Colorado attendees. Please contact Ann Hicks or any board member if interested in support from CAER.

CAER has put aside \$1,500 for AER members who are planning on attending the Salt Lake City, UT International AER Conference this summer. Persons interested in a stipend, should contact Ann Hicks at [ahicks@csdb.org](mailto:ahicks@csdb.org) Also, be watching for more information from CAER.

### **UNC (Paula Conroy)**

The first year of implementation of the new grant and the new vision curriculum is winding down. Twenty-six students were supported in year one. Colorado residents and students from the western states get priority for grant funding over non-residents. Please refer those interested in becoming TVIs to Paula Conroy for more information at [paula.conroy@unco.edu](mailto:paula.conroy@unco.edu) The new curriculum has been implemented. Changes based on first year feedback will be made in the upcoming year. Thanks to those who gave and continue to give input. The visual impairment program will begin to use the i-Webfolio system in the fall as a part of the program and has a new assessment system in place to evaluate the outcomes of the program.

Paula and seven O&M students to the Seeing Eye and Helen Keller National Center for trainings in March. They were graciously hosted by staff in both agencies and had a wonderful St. Patrick's Day celebration in New York. This trip added another dimension to O&M instruction and definitely gave the teachers in training a lot to think about.

### **Colorado School for the Blind (Randy Witte and Lou Tutt)**

There is so much happening!

*Activities:* (a) The Braille Challenge will be sending out announcements to the 60 top finalists soon. There were many CO students did very well – there is a lot to celebrate about braille skills in CO! (b) The CSDB Parent Goalball Team won the first and third of the three games. Parent members: Mrs. Levy, Mrs. Smith, Ms. Gunning, Mr. Bristol, Coach: Lou Tutt. Staff members: Ms. Webb, Ms. Ortega-Sedlar, Mr. Dowd, Mr. Kastl, and Mr. Scofield, Coach: Ms. Hilty. (c) Dr. Matt Maurer, Professor at Butler University, Indianapolis, IN., was on campus early April to conduct research on teaching. He is the brother of NFB's President, Dr. Marc Maurer. (d) CSDB is participating in two national studies related to Braille, one with CTB/McGraw Hill, and one with a group called CASAS. We will share any results from the studies with our Colorado colleagues. (e) The Strategic Planning process moves forward. All of the groups have presented to the CSDB Board, and B.J. Porter returned to facilitate discussion of the groups' work. It is anticipated the Strategic Plan will be approved at the June Board meeting. The areas currently taking primary focus are employment skills, transition, and early childhood.

*Staff news:* (a) Two paraeducators from the School for the Blind are finalized for the Governors' Star Award: Rae Cunningham and James Bristol! Congratulations on this important honor! (b) Karla Bryant, Donna Keale, Jim Olson, and Lou Tutt presented a paper at the Annual CEC Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah early April. Dr. Kay Ferrell presented a showcase session and another paper at the same conference.

*Student News:* (a) Terry Garrett, a senior in the School for the Blind, received an \$8,000 scholarship over four years from the See the Future Fund. Terry will be attending UCCS next year and living on campus. This senior was recently named to the 25 students honored as "The Best and the Brightest" by the Colorado Springs Gazette. (b) Seven School for the Blind students will graduate May 25, 2006, six of whom will be returning to the Blind Transition Program next school year. (c) Five blind students and five Deaf students will visit the Cadets at the Air Force Academy on May 5th

for a very special tour. Twenty-five AFA Cadets were at CSDB late March. (d) A local Sertoma club has invited our students to a day of trout fishing at a private lake, so on May 15<sup>th</sup> we will send 25 students and staff for an outdoor education experience. (e) Students from the School for the Blind have become involved in Diversity and Multi-cultural activities. Three students attended and participated in the annual Cherry Creek Diversity Conference in February, and they really got a great deal out of the sessions and keynote presentations. In Colorado Springs, the El Pomar Foundation has teamed with the Pikes Peak Urban League and others to work with local school districts in developing the Multi-Cultural Youth Leadership Initiative. This initiative involves high school students in developing leadership skills and involvement in their local communities. Four CSDB students participated in a January workshop which was followed by a survey of 2500 local high school students. The number 1 concern among the responders was favoritism in the classroom. CSDB will continue to participate in both of these activities. (f) A student from the School for the Blind recently had the experience of taking the ACT via audio cassette! This is a student who is learning braille and so could not take the test in braille format. Some parts were highly problematic, especially the questions that did not come with corresponding tactile graphics.

*Additional Discussion Notes: There are similar implications for our purely auditory learners taking the CSAP. Tanni asked Randy and Kevin to send a note regarding the concerns and probable negative implications for these learners with school placements, university entrance, etc. so that this information can be shared with the CDE Assessment Unit.*

### **CDE – Tanni Anthony**

*CSAP and CSAPA Review Forms:* Once again, many Colorado TVIs came through with response data to the braille and large print CSAP tests and the CSAPA tests. Tanni has compiled the information per grade level, per content area, and per specific item. This information will be shared with the CDE Assessment Unit, the CSAP test publishers, the CSAP braille vendor, and the CDE staff who work specifically on the CSAPA tests. Tanni had asked that TVIs send in a form on the CSAP and/or CSAPA, even if there were no noted concerns. Thanks to the following TVIs who submitted data: Linda Campbell, Ginny Coursey, Sheryl Herlevich, Barb Galgano, Kathy Gallina, Karen Jamison, Elaine Karns, Dian Megarry, Jan Megarry, Phyllis Penniston, Vicki Pearson, Susan Otey, Phyllis Penniston, Sarah Sonnier, Anita Wherry, and Chloann Woolley.

*Recruitment and Retention:* Positions are currently open in the following districts: 2 FTE in Mesa Valley School District (Grand Junction), 1 FTE in Adams 50; 1 anticipated FTE in El Paso 11, .3 FTE in Adams 14; 1 FTE (specific to a TVI position) at CSDB, and contract work in Centennial BOCES. TVIs are encouraged to keep in touch with Tanni about the status of TVI and O&M openings. Word on the street is that there will possibly be one more open position in the southern region and two more new positions in the Denver area. Everyone is encouraged to RECRUIT!!!

*Fall VI Conference:* The dates, the site, and one of the primary speakers are set. The conference has been scheduled for October 5-7, 2006. Thursday night will be dedicated to a State of the State address. The Friday session is yet to be scheduled, but will have a focus on technology and in-state talent. Anna Swenson will join us for a full day of training on Saturday. Anna will discuss braille and literacy strategies for all learners with visual impairments. CAER will assist with the costs of the conference.

*Technology Consultation for Next Year:* Monies have been approved in the CDE VI-Related Budget for school year 2006-07 to contract with Bonnie Snyder to provide technology consultation to southern, metro, northern, and western regions of the state. Next year will be a trial year and it will be important to develop a model that allows equal access across the regions. Coordinators of the regional TVI/O&M meetings are encouraged to meet with their regional constituents to develop a TA plan for their region

*O&M Conference:* The conference was a success and there are specific notes about the events in this *WHOT* newsletter. A request has been made for the planning committee for next year to work with regional reps to schedule the 2007 training around everyone's spring breaks. There are districts whose spring breaks are scheduled all the way through the second week in April .



*O&M Caseload Formula:* Colorado has a guidelines document for caseload (workload) analysis for teachers of students with visual impairments. The guidelines are posted on the CDE webpage specific to blindness and low vision. The guidelines current hold a piece specific to the O&M needs of students. At the April O&M Conference, the attending O&M Specialists had a chance to review the Michigan Severity Rating Scale for O&M Services. This tool is still in draft form, but offers a caseload analysis just for orientation and mobility. The consensus of the group was to adopt a separate caseload formula tool so we will have one for TVI and one for O&M caseload. A small group of O&M Specialists will meet at CDE over the summer to review the Michigan tool and adapt it to Colorado needs.

**CIMC (Ann Hicks) (Update and Discussion Items)**

The CIMC has recommended that Linda Campbell as a Teacher Scholar for the next annual APH meeting, If selected, she would be funded to attend this meeting!

Thus far, 452 book orders have been received by the CIMC for this next school year. It is estimated that this is about 25% of the orders that will ultimately need to be processed for books for the 2006-07 school year.

Statistics on Orders for the 2006-07 School Year

Instructional aids orders	53
(nontexts such as braillewriters)	
Book orders	399
Total Orders Thus Far for Next Year:	<b>452</b>

Of the orders thus far for the 2006-07 school year, the following data show their status:

Books Shipped Complete:	162	41% of what has been ordered to date
Books Shipped Partial:	2	1 %
Books Waiting on Returns:	27	7 %
Books Been Purchased – waiting		
On delivery:	118	26 %
Books being Sourced	76	19 %
Books being brailled or put into large print	14	6 %

99 ink prints arrived with orders

When submitting an order, some TVIs will source the book and note where the book may be available. However, LOUIE does not list if the book has been requested by other agencies, so the availability and the location of the book may not be accurate. For example, there may be 65 requests for a given book, and your request might be the 66<sup>th</sup> request—there will be up to a month needed to publish the book, and the CIMC will need two days to prepare the order for shipping.

The book requestor will get an e-mail response confirming that the order has been received; if you do not receive this confirmation, please confirm with CIMC.

The policy documents have been modified to include an April 15 date for orders not needing ink prints. Ann will make a few more modifications to the policy letter to TVIs and it will be sent out to all TVIs via email. TVIs are encouraged to use the document in their conversations with Special Education Directors, Curriculum Directors, principals, and other key school individuals who might benefit from such document and a personal explanation.

The TVI representatives shared feedback from their regions regarding their recent experiences with the CIMC with ordering books / VI registration forms:

- ▲ It is IMPOSSIBLE to order all books before April 15 (a lot of books for the next school year are not determined by this date)
- ▲ Would like more of a timely response to orders.
- ▲ Would like to be kept updated on order status.
- ▲ Have experienced delays in returned phone calls (though some reported timely returned calls)
- ▲ Items on occasion have been mailed to the wrong person
- ▲ Order forms need to be updated (different form needed for each student)
- ▲ Materials sent should be marked for the ordering teacher
- ▲ It would be nice to look at census form on line (to assure students are signed up)
- ▲ Some APH products don't work (particular to some low tech devices) – who to communicate to?
- ▲ Challenges with trying to change the address despite repeated requests
- ▲ Need communication about when it is APH's task to send something and it is out of the CIMC's hands (so the TVI understands that the CIMC's role with this order is complete)
- ▲ If it is an APH responsibility, can CIMC help connect with an APH contact?
- ▲ Can a team of TVI be involved with restructuring the CIMC?
- ▲ Inconsistency with personal replies of book orders.
- ▲ Would like the order confirmed by specific title of the book.
- ▲ Monthly inventory is not shared (*answer: this is only sent to the district contact person*).
- ▲ There have been many moments of great assistance with braille needed textbooks
- ▲ The CIMC's involvement with the Braille Challenge has been very positive

Ann will address many of these issues in a Q and A document to be included in the fall newsletter. There will also be a CIMC orientation session at the fall conference for all TVIs. She will work with CSDB technology staff to build a better response system for communicating order confirmations etc. with the field. The intention is to find more time efficient and higher content methods of communication.

There is ongoing work with district personnel to increase their awareness of the timelines needed to order / receive and order/ produce / receive braille and large print books.

When asked about her preference for advisory input, Ann asked that the Vision Coalition remain the vehicle of communication and input. When the membership were asked if they felt they could adequately serve the needs of an advisory committee, all present indicated they felt the VC was an appropriate vehicle for this purpose.

### **RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION**

We have lots of job openings! One vacancy has already been filled. Mike Plansker has accepted a position in Adams 12. Jan Ferguson has accepted the position in Adams 50. We also have one retirement this year, Sara Berge from CSDB will be retiring. Dave Pietrowitzc will be vacating the Adams 50 position to move to Washington. Jeffco has two vacancies and two expected NEW FTE positions coming down the pike. Please keep in touch with Tanni about job openings in your administrative unit.

Paula is working to revise the flyer about the UNC Program on Visual Disabilities. Once it is completed, she will forward an electronic copy to the VC membership to share with others. Everyone is encouraged to “home grow” hard working, dedicated people in their communities. Recruitment is also on the CAER radar. CO will take recruitment packets to the AER Conference in Salt Lake City this summer.

### BUDGET

The VI related budget for next school year has been submitted and approved. All budgets within the CDE Exceptional Student Services Unit experienced a 5-10 percent decrease. Approved VI- related budgets for next school year include: Adult Role Model Team; Braille CSAP Review; Braille Test/Module Mentors and Braille Test Proofreader; Braille Transcribers; CIMC (plus CO administrative units will pay a \$200 per VI student fee); Family Learning Seminar (Blind Strand); Low Vision Evaluation Clinics; Low Vision Training Specific to Device Use; Mentor TVI Project ; State VI Conference (CAER will also contribute funds to this training event); State O&M Conference (CAER will also contribute funds to this training event); Technology Consultation; VIISA Preschool Course for the Front Range area; Vision Coalition; and the *What’s Happening Out There* newsletter

### MEMBERSHIP

We say goodbye and THANK YOU to Kevin O’Brien years representing the Western Region, Randy Witte for representing the School for the Blind, and Sally Eldridge for representing the northern region on the Vision Coalition. We welcome Barbara Adams from Mountain BOCES who will join us as the Western Region representative, Karla Bryant as our new School for the Blind representative, and Carol Love who will represent the northern region in our next school year. Cathy Smyth will join us as an infant/toddler – preschool representative. Cathy will represent Anchor Center staff and the CSDB Infant/Toddler – Preschool Program. Nancy Cozart will continue to represent the metro region. The representatives for CAER and the southern region are still being finalized. Other returning members include Lou Tutt (School for the Blind), Ann Hicks (CIMC), Paula Conroy (UNC), Kay Ferrell (NCLID), and Tanni Anthony (CDE).

**Next Meeting: Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007**

#### Assignments

WHO	WHAT	WHEN
All	Electronically submit program updates to Tanni	September 18, 2006
Tanni	Will draft some baseline information about the role of braillists for the CDE webpage. Will email to the TVIs/braillists in the fall for their input.	September 1, 2006
Randy, Kevin	Send Tanni a letter or a copy of a letter with concerns about auditory learners and CSAPs / ACTs. This information will be shared with the CDE Assessment Unit.	End of the school year or early summer
Ann	Develop a Q and A on the CIMC to be published in the WHOT newsletter and posted on the CIMC webpage.	September 2006
Ann, Tanni	Ann will make a few changes to the CIMC policy documents, Tanni will re-send the documents to TVIs and Directors of Special Education.	Mid May 2006
Teacher reps	Encourage regional TVIs to read the identified issues concerning the CIMC listed in these minutes AND if there are any additional items they would like to go into a Q and A document, please send this information directly to Ann Hicks.	End of the school year or early summer
Paula	Paula will share the UNC flyer about the VI Program with the VC when it is finished. All VC members are encouraged to use the flyer for recruitment efforts and share copies with their regional colleagues.	September 2006

# Invitation to All Teachers

We would like to invite you to participate in the review of new CSAP items developed in what is called the "Content Review" on June 22 and 23 to be held in the metro-Denver area.

We are in the phase of developing new items for refreshment and ongoing development of the CSAP tests and this is an important time when Colorado educators are involved in the quality review of newly developed items for the approval, re-writing or non-approval for use on future CSAP tests. We look for representation of knowledgeable teacher-leaders and administration from around the state—rural, urban, front range, western slope, southwest, San Luis Valley, eastern plains and all other possibilities. Please let me know of your availability for participation on June 22 and 23. We recognize this to be an important part of the ongoing quality development of the CSAP.

Because you will be reviewing actual test items which may be used on future CSAP tests, you will be asked to sign an agreement of confidentiality to protect the security of the test itself. We will ask also for a bio or resume upon your registration for this event. Certificates of participation will be available for hours of recertification. This is a rare opportunity for application of any coursework re: assessment and the "drilling down" into measurement objectives relative to Standards Based Education.

The following information will be necessary for submitting an application to participate in this event:

- \* Name:
- \* Position:
- \* Type of disability/expertise (visually impaired or other):
- \* School:
- \* District:
- \* Preferred mailing address:
- \* Work Phone:
- \* Home Phone:
- \* Emergency Phone (cell):
- \* Preferred email address:
- \* Colorado Representation: rural or urban? Front range, western slope, San Luis Valley, eastern plains, other?
- \* Representation of the following: ELL/ESL, students with disabilities, visually impaired, ethnic considerations, other?
- \* Content Expertise: math, science, reading or writing?
- \* Grade level(s) expertise: 3, 4, 5,6, 7,8 9, 10 or HS?
- \* What CSAP activities have you participated in before? When?
- \* Education/Experience that qualifies you to participate in this important work:
- \* Attach an electronic resume/vita with you application.



Contact Maria Bagby at 303-866-6634; bagby\_m@cde.state.co.us for more information or to submit your application.



# Retirement for Sara Berge of CSDB

*(Editor's Note: I asked Sara to write something about her work as a TVI. Thanks, Sara, and we wish you the very best in your next life chapter.)*

Sara Berge

I arrived on the CSDB campus under rather unusual circumstances in April of 1968. Several weeks earlier I had stopped in to see what all these beautiful buildings were about and what happened here. What a surprise when Dr. Turechek, the Superintendent, called

me soon after. It seems the Girl's P.E. teacher had eloped over the weekend and he needed someone to finish out the school year. Thus, began my varied career.

In 1976 I took a maternity leave that lasted 14 years. During that time I did some work with CDE as a parent consultant, was an Information Specialist for PEAK Parent Center, and coordinated Respite Care Referral Services in El Paso County. I returned to CSDB in 1989 and have worked with both Deaf and Visually Impaired students in a variety of classroom and community settings and with ages from pre-school to transition. I have my Master's in Vision from UNC and for the past 12 years have been the Daily Living Skills teacher for the Blind.

I reflect on the fact that I have always been a strong proponent of Inclusive Education for all students. Yet, I work in what most people consider a *most restrictive* setting. But remember, what we do here is prepare students for the *least restrictive* environment of all—the world!

Choosing to retire is probably one of the scariest decisions I have made. I have had the good fortune to wake up each day looking forward to coming to work. My co-workers are the best "family" one could ever hope for. Watching youngsters grow, learn, mature and sometimes even return to become a co-worker, has been a rewarding career. I don't intend to disappear into thin air and hope to be an outside the classroom resource for families and organizations who may need the experience I can provide. I don't know what that picture looks like yet but a piece of my heart will always be here at CSDB.



# The Official NIMAC Web Site



A new web site has been established for the National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC)! The center has its own distinct mission and, therefore, will maintain this separate and distinct web address although linkable from the APH site. Please bookmark the NIMAC web site and check it for the latest news on progress toward establishing the NIMAC. The site already features a list of frequently asked questions about the NIMAC, and more information will be added as it is available. Visit the NIMAC site at: [www.nimac.us](http://www.nimac.us)



TRANSITION INFORMATION  
ABOUT MOVING ON!

## Jewish Guild Offers Scholarships

The Jewish Guild for the Blind has created an annual scholarship program for college-bound high-school students who are legally blind. Applications will be accepted from students at the start of their senior year (deadline September 11, 2006), with recipients selected and scholarships awarded later in that academic year. The Guild Scholar Program will award 12 to 15 scholarships of up to \$15,000 each. The next round of scholarships will be awarded for the academic year that starts in September 2007. The Guild Scholar application is an online process. To obtain an application, visit [www.jgb.org/candidate\\_app.asp](http://www.jgb.org/candidate_app.asp), or call 1-800-284-4422.