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WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE!

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

May 2008

Graduation—Moving Along with Life

By Tanni Anthony



As the school year comes to a close, a number of our students will be graduating and moving out into the next step of life after public school. We send our congratulations and best wishes for this important next life adventure, be it college, a job, or another step towards independence.

Life, when you think about it, is a series of graduations. From diapers to pull ups, from crawling to walking, from preschool to kindergarten, from holding mom's hand to holding a boyfriend's or girlfriend's hand, from household chores to that first paying job ... these are all graduations of one sort. For many of our students, graduation experiences may include that first use of a communication board to tell another person an important message or mastering a new movement skill. All next steps are graduations to be celebrated!

No matter who we are, we all have moments of graduation from one skill to the next, from one setting to the next, and one life experience to the next. So as we end the school year, my congratulations to all of our students and thanks to the parents and professionals who provide the teamwork support.

Thanks to everyone for another great school year. Enjoy the summer months and all the life experiences that will further fuel a child's learning, literacy, and independence. I hope there are A LOT of books involved in your summer activities. See you in the fall—until then, take good care.

Table of Contents

Page	Page	Page
1 Graduation	10 Resources and Materials	20 Calendar of Events
2 Bits from Bonnie	12 Transition	22 Bresnahan-Halstead Summer Institute
3 CO Commission for the Blind Board Appointees	13 CAER	23 US Association of Blind Athletes
4 Multi-Media Low Vision Portfolios	14 NFB Junior Science Academy	24 Bookshare
6 Camp Vision and AER O&M conf.	15 CSDB Summer Enrichment	26 Check It Out
7 Special JVIB Theme Issue: Literacy	16 DOTS of Interest	28 Vision Coalition
8 Letting Go	17 Exceptional Children Education Act Rules	40 Retirements
9 National Paraprofessional Training	19 Jobs	42 Colorado Connections



Bits From Bonnie

By Bonnie Snyder

BonnieLS21@Gmail.Com

Wow, another school year has quickly gone by! I am so glad to have worked with so many of you during this year. I don't know what next year will bring for technology support, but I'd like to see about setting up some mini classes around the state, via satellite downlink and/or via instant messaging with microphone and webcam. I would recommend this approach due to time constraints for TVIs and due to the ever rising cost of gas which makes traveling more and more difficult.

Don't forget to look at freeware and shareware to use for yourselves and for your students. If there is an application you think you need, do a Google search for it and I bet you can find several that will meet your requirements.

Finally, just recently I stumbled across a screen magnification program called Magic Lens Max. Do a Google on the name, go to the website and download a 30 day trial of the program. If you decide to purchase it, the cost is only \$39.95. Very affordable!

Have a great summer everyone! I look forward to the 3rd week in June when I will be holding a class on technology for the people with visual impairment. I look forward to next school year and whatever that brings.

Editor's Note: Thanks to Bonnie for her work on the very important topic of technology specific to learners who are blind/visually impaired. Thanks also to all of the people who took time to work with Bonnie on their technology issues over the course of this past school year. We do have funds to continue with this project for school year 2008-09.

THE COLORADO COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND

BOARD APPOINTEES

By Michelle Chacon

Colorado is on the move to continue paving the way for the individuals who are blind and visually impaired. In 2007, a bill was passed to create the Commission. The applications, interviews and appointments to the Board have been completed. The only information we have at this time is the following appointments. As of January 7th, all appointments had been made, except for the young adult who is at least 18 years of age and who is also blind or visually impaired. The new appointees are:

Dr. Nalin J. Mehta, Golden

Representative: ophthalmologist, low-vision optometrist, or other qualified low-vision specialist

Dr. Kara S. Hanson, Aurora

Representative. professional who works directly with seniors who are blind or visually impaired, such as a gerontologist, geriatric specialist, occupational therapist, or an otherwise-qualified professional who specializes in aging and who works with individuals who are blind or visually impaired

Kevan Worley, Colorado Springs

Representative: individual who is a licensed blind manager involved in the federal Randolph-Sheppard program

Evelyn Tileston, Craig

Representative: individual who is a licensed blind manager involved in the federal Randolph-Sheppard program

Sammie McKay, Buena Vista

Representative: an individual who is blind or visually impaired and who uses a service dog

Julia M. Zanon, Denver

Representative: vocational rehabilitation counselor who works with individuals who are blind or visually impaired

Julie M. Hunter, Denver

Representative: parent of a child who is blind or visually impaired

Peter O. Goshia, Longmont

Representative: senior who is blind or visually impaired

Michelle L. Chacon, Arvada

Representative: individual who is blind or visually impaired and who is living independently

Mark N. Wedgle, Westminster

Representative: individual who is blind or visually impaired and who is also deaf

Barbara Hopke Boyer, Arvada

Representative: organization for individuals who are blind or visually impaired, and who represents a national organization that is part of an advocacy group for individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

Scott C. LaBarre, Denver

Representative: organization for individuals who are blind or visually impaired, and who represents a national organization that is part of an advocacy group for individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

David E. Bolin, Broomfield

Representative: an organization for individuals who are blind or visually impaired, and to represent veterans who are blind and visually impaired.

Karen Beye's designee to the board is Kenneth Schmidt, who has been the administrator of field services for the Department of Human Services since 1985.

Multi-Media Low Vision Portfolios

By Jim Olson

Once a student has participated in a low vision evaluation, students, parents and TVIs are encouraged to work in conjunction with a certified low vision therapist to develop a multi-media presentation, such as a PowerPoint file, which includes digital photos that illustrate the information described in the final low vision evaluation report. Once edited, the PowerPoint slides can be printed on photo paper, inserted into non-glare sheet protectors, and placed in a 1” three-ring binder. A print copy of the student’s low vision evaluation and a zipper pouch which holds a flash drive or CD of the PowerPoint presentation is then inserted into the back of the ring binder. This becomes the student’s individualized low vision portfolio. Students have also made short videos of themselves describing the same information contained in their portfolios by recording themselves with a mini-DVD recorder or a “Flip Video” camera. Flip video clips can easily be emailed as attachments to classroom teachers and mini-DVDs can be inserted into the pouch in the portfolio. A second, more cost effective, approach is to insert individual 4” x 6” inch photographs used in the PowerPoint presentation into the pages of a \$1.00 “brag book” available at retail stores. Have students hand print on index cards, or use a computer word processing program, to produce the writing to insert next to the photographs. Online photo processing websites sell 4” x 6” photos for as little as 9 cents a print.

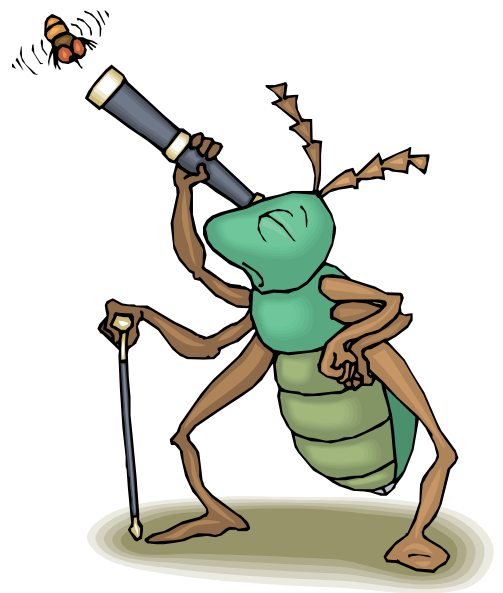
- Students are then able to self-advocate for their needs as learners with low vision by sharing their portfolios with each of their classroom teachers on a quarterly basis.
- Students are encouraged to participate in the opening of their IEP meetings by sharing their low vision portfolios and self-made videos.

General Outline of Low Vision Portfolios

- * **Name, Age, Grade**, personal comment around interests, hobbies, aspirations
- * **Visual diagnosis**
 - ☆ Functional implications (i.e.: night blindness)
- * **Date of Low Vision Evaluation, name of low vision specialist** (eye doctor)
 - ☆ Reference if a copy is included at the back of the portfolio, in student’s school file, or included in IEP
- * **Distance Acuties** (with or without spectacle correction)
 - ☆ Right Eye
 - ☆ Left Eye
 - ☆ Both eyes together
- * **Near Acuties** (with or without spectacle correction)
 - ☆ Right Eye
 - ☆ Left Eye
 - ☆ Both eyes together
- * **Field Restrictions**
 - ☆ Right eye / Left eye / Both eyes
- * **Prescribed low vision devices**
 - ☆ Non-optical
 - ☆ Optical
 - ☆ **Spectacles**
 - ⊛ prescription spectacles
 - ⊛ reading Rx



- ☆ **Non-illuminated**
 - ⊛ stand
 - ⊛ pocket
- ☆ **Illuminated**
 - ⊛ stand
 - ⊛ pocket
- ☆ **Electronic magnification**
 - ⊛ video magnifiers
 - ⊛ portable electronic magnifiers
- * **Near Reading**
 - ☆ low vision devices for reading isolated numbers, letters, words
 - ☆ low vision devices for reading continuous text
- * **Writing**
 - ☆ type of writing utensil
 - ☆ type of paper
 - ☆ size of letters produced in print / cursive
 - ☆ working distance
- * **Lighting**
- * **Computer**
 - ☆ preferred font size(s)
 - ☆ preferred font(s)
 - ☆ viewing distance from screen
- * **Technology**
 - ☆ screen enlargement program
- * **Distance Viewing**
- * **Glare Control**
 - ☆ style of sunshade
 - ☆ preferred tint
 - ☆ polycarbonate lens recommendation?



Supplemental materials:

- * Copy of low vision evaluation report
- * CD of photographs
- * CD of low vision PowerPoint
- * Mini-DVD of student explaining their low vision, or CD copy of student produced Flip Video presentation. Flip Videos can also be emailed as attachments by students.
- * IEP goals/objectives

If I can be of any assistance to you, please feel free to contact me:

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**July 21 - 25, 2008 9:00 am – 3:00 pm For Ages 5 – 12
Divine Redeemer School**

- Learn about disabilities, culture, and sport from Olympians, Paralympians, and blind athletes who will be competing at the 2008 State Games of the West;
- Understand how everyone is blessed with unique traits, gifts, and talents;
- Participate in educational fun-filled activities to include language, dance, art, and music alongside children from all over the world;
- Enjoy a Chinese Festival and “Going for the Gold” celebration for Olympic and Paralympic athletes who will be representing the United States of America at this summer’s Games in Beijing, China;
- Leave with a more positive vision about the physically disabled.
- For more information, please contact Kim King at kim@thekinglink.com or (719) 352-9486 <www.CampVisionForKids.org>.

AER O&M Division Conference

Chicago—July 22-27, 2008

The best of both worlds—a huge O&M conference Within an AER conference!

- ☆ At least a dozen sessions—all O&M
- ☆ A choice of more than **seventy** presentations, all O&M

Come join us for a first-ever O&M Conference within a Conference in downtown Chicago

Learn new ideas, share with your colleagues brainstorm, try out new things,
meet old friends and make new ones!

Start planning your trip to Chicago in July, 2008 now! Hotel rooms are going fast.

Want to find out more? Visit: <www.aerbvi.org> or phone 877-492-2708 or contact Kathy Yale, Chair of the Conference Committee: <kayyale@comcast.net> 850-877-0204.

Special JVIB Theme Issue: Literacy

The Journal of Visual Impairment & Blindness (JVIB) invites submissions for a special theme issue, Literacy, Topics include, but are not limited to, the following:

- * Reflections on the 200th anniversary of the birth of Louis Braille
- * Reading instructions, including instruction in braille, large print, and standard print with optical devices
- * Dual-media instruction and dual-media learners
- * Legislation that impacts literacy instruction and services, including No Child Left Behind and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- * Results of research related to literacy for students with visual impairment leading to evidence-based practice
- * Adoption, use, and discussion of the Unified English Braille Code
- * Emergent literacy skills and functional literacy skills
- * The relationship between literacy and technology and assistive technology

Deadline for submissions: **January 31, 2009**

Projected publication date: **October 2009**

Guidelines for contributors are generally printed in each issue of JVIB, and are also available from AFB Press, American Foundation for the Blind: website <www.afb.org/jvib_guidelines.asp>; phone: 212-502-7651; email <afbpress@afb.net>.

Email submissions should be sent to: <jvib@jhmi.edu>.

Postal mail submissions should be sent to:

Duane R. Geruschat, Ph.D.
Editor in Chief, JVIB
Lions Vision Center
550 North Broadway, 6th Floor
Baltimore, MD 21205



Questions should be sent to the editor in chief at the following email address:
<jvib@lions.med.jhu.edu>.



No pessimist ever discovered the
secret of the stars,
or sailed to an uncharted land,
or opened a new doorway for the
human spirit.

Helen Keller

“Letting Go”

by Kristen Lavergne and Jordan Walters

While riding the Light Rail on a recent orientation and mobility lesson in Denver with Jordan Walters, we reminisced about the experiences we have shared over the past 7 years as teacher and student. She recalled the time she got frustrated with herself when trying to locate an ice cream shop in downtown Colorado Springs. I recalled the determination on her face and the look of confidence when she found her destination. She remembered taking three advanced placement exams last spring and sitting in the small testing room from the beginning of the school day until after the final bell rang. I remembered the concentration and perseverance Jordan displayed for three consecutive days. Jordan Walters leaves a life-long positive impression upon me.



We discussed her acceptance to the Seeing Eye for a dog guide this summer and how her level of independence will dramatically increase. It is evident she looks forward to the freedom and possibilities that a dog guide will give her during college and beyond. When asked what careers might interest her, Jordan mentions a few, and talks about an interest in designing adaptive technology. She quickly describes three ways she could redesign the Amigo, her small magnification device to better fit the needs of herself and others. Jordan finds solutions to problems, a life-long skill that will benefit her in college. She also demonstrates such creativity and innovation-great characteristics, which will enhance college classroom discussions and her peers. Jordan Walters is full of original ideas and her inquisitive mind inspires me to be creative and to think outside the box.

I asked Jordan what has the biggest impact on her educational experience these past 7 years, in order that I might learn from her to become a better teacher and help guide my future students. Here is her response: “Until high school I relied solely on the CCTV. As a freshman I received an Olympia from District 20. This allowed me to stay in class and do my work. My junior year I went to Dr. Theune’s office to purchase a magnifier and I was shown the Amigo. I liked it because it had all the features of a CCTV minus the writing capability. I now use a laptop with Zoom Text as well the Amigo to access materials in class. The Amigo is the most portable of the devices I’ve used. It isn’t perfect because it cannot be used for writing but it’s useful for accessing material even outside of the classroom. For example, it can be used for reading labels in a grocery store, menus in a restaurant, or for pleasure reading on an airplane. Overall, this adapted technology has been the most beneficial service I’ve received throughout my education.”

When someone mentions the name Jordan Walters, attributes flood my mind such as original, inquisitive, unique, creative, inspiring, and competitive. Jordan is all of these and more, not because she has overcome much adversity in her life, but because she is Jordan Walters, the person. I like to think of Jordan as a “silent” leader, one who is not outspoken, but leads by example. As an educator, I strive to be a positive influence in the lives of my students. With Jordan, I feel she has been a teacher to me as well. As I ponder the positive impression and influence she has left on my life and how grateful I am to have her as my student, the thought of letting go of Jordan gives me a lump in my throat as tears well up in my eyes.

Consortium for National Paraprofessional Training in Deafblindness

Article taken from The SKI-HI Institute; April 2008 edition, p. 2



This Project addressed the national need for competency-based pre-service training for paraprofessionals in deafblindness by developing online coursework in deafblindness. The courses are designed to prepare paraprofessionals to work as interveners with children and youth who are deafblind. The field testing of coursework was done at two community colleges in Utah, Massachusetts, and at one two-year, and at one two-year program of study in Arkansas. The field testing was completed in December of 2007, and the evaluation data is currently being

compiled. The introduction to Deafblindness coursework won the Blackboard Greenhouse Exemplary Course Award, which recognizes it as one of the top 10 online courses in the country in 2007.

The deafblind training program has now been institutionalized at Utah State University. The coursework can be taken for undergraduate or graduate credit. Upon completion of the coursework students will receive a certification of completion from USU. Utah State University is also offering an Associate's Degrees in Deafblindness.

The following options are available to interested students:

Option 1: Students can take the training program in deafblindness which consists of two 4-semester credit hour classes to be offered in the fall and spring. From 1 to 6 credits hours of work experience are also available to those who qualify. Tuition is \$188/credit hour with no out-of-state fees. Upon successful completion of the coursework, students will be awarded a certificate of completion from USU. The courses can also be taken for graduate credit at a cost of \$240/credit hour.










Option 2: Students can take the two course training program on a no-credit basis for \$110/credit hour with no out-of-state fees. Upon successful completion of the coursework, students will receive a certificate of completion from USU.

Option 3: Students can take the coursework as part of an Associate's Degree program in General Studies with a Focus in Deafblindness. This online program includes 30 semester hours of general education classes and 30 hours of coursework that includes the deafblind classes and other related topics. Tuition is \$188/credit hour with no out-of-state fees.

For additional information contact: Linda Alsop, SKI-HI Institute, Utah State University, Phone: 435-797-5598, email: >Linda.alsop@usu.edu.

The project is funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE)

Resources and Materials

-  **Assistive Technology EZ AT: Assistive Technology Activities for Children Ages 3-8 with Disabilities**: is a compilation of activities submitted by parents and professionals across the nation. Many of the ideas are simple and inexpensive to use at home and school. All activities use best practices for children that use technology to promote learning and inclusion. This publication is available for \$10. For more information, call 952-838-9000 or visit www.pacer.org.
-  **Bana Release**: The Braille Authority of North America (BANA) has released its new publication, BANA Braille Codes Update 2007. This update compiles Braille code changes approved by BANA over the past few years. The free publication is available for download from the BANA website at www.brailleauthority.org. Print or Braille versions will be available free of charge upon request. For more information contact, Judith Dixon, BANA chairperson at 202-707-0722. Her email address is jdix@loc.gov.
-  **General Ophthalmology**: The 17th edition of General Ophthalmology is now available. It provides a practical, clinically focused introduction to ophthalmology. This book is available for \$69.95. For more information, contact McGraw-Hill Medical, McGraw-Hill Professional, Two Penn Plaza, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10121, 1-877-833-5524 or www.mcgraw-hillmedical.com.
-  **New Technology Guide**: The American Foundation for the Blind has released the 2008 AccessWorld Guide to Assistive Technology Products. The 2008 edition includes detailed profiles of over 280 products for people who are blind or visually impaired. It is available in print and on disk with online access for \$34.95. The online only edition is \$19.00. For more information, contact the American Foundation for the Blind, 11 Penn Plaza, Suite 300, New York, NY 10001; phone: 1-800-232-5463; website: www.afb.org/store.
-  **Parent Website: Specific to Microphthalmia and Anophthalmia**: For more information visit <http://maparentsupport.com>.
-  **Website Specific to Albinism**: NOAH's website has an online community with message boards for parents of children with albinism. They have a great support system, especially for newly diagnosed children. The website is <http://www.albinism.org>.
-  **Motor Development Booklet**: "The Impact of Vision Loss on Motor Development" available from the Texas School for the Blind for \$5. The book is about 25 pages long and talks about overall impact on muscle development with a more specific discussion of each major muscle group. For more details, go to <http://www.tsbvi.edu/publications/md.htm>.
-  **Reports specific to Optic Nerve Hypoplasia and Septo Optic Dysplasia** can be found at: <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/repri nt/121/3/e653> and www.focusfamilies.org/focus/docs/CONFERENCE.PDF.
-  **New Course Offered by Hadley**: Business Communications Hadley's new course, "Business Communications," teaches students how to develop effective speaking, listening and nonverbal techniques useful in a business setting. Open to students in the Adult Continuing Education and High School programs, this six-lesson course is available in large print, braille, cassette and online. For enrollment information, visit www.hadley.edu, or call Student Services at 800-526-9909.


Resources and Materials

Examination of Special Education

Deconstructing Special Educational and Constructing Inclusion, by Gary Thomas and Andrew Loxley, is a multidisciplinary critique of special education that explores the role and significance of inclusive pedagogy in the new struggle for an inclusive society. In the forthcoming second edition, the authors examine the intellectual foundations of special education and discover it was forged by a variety of theoretical models. Published by Open University Press the 176-page book is available for a cost of \$45.95. For more information, contact: Open University Press, McGraw Hill Education, Customer Services, Shoppenhangers Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 2QL, United Kingdom; email: <emea_orders@mcgraw-hill.com>

The Oregon Project for Preschool Children who are Blind or Visually Impaired

New Sixth Edition! An Assessment and Curriculum designed for children birth to six who are blind or visually impaired. Used by parents, teachers, vision specialists and counselors. *A Skills Inventory* of more the 800 developmental skills. A manual that includes teaching activities, a reference section, checklists, blank forms, and specialized evaluation tools for unique areas of development for blind or visually impaired children. For more information or to order please call 541-245-5195. <<http://soesd.k12.or.us>>

 **2008 AccessWorld Guide to Assistive Technology Products** The AccessWorld Guide to Assistive Technology Products includes detailed profiles of over 280 products for people who are blind or visually impaired, including more than 30 new products. Includes: Hundreds of products, with a full description of product features, Easy-to-use charts that compare products, A comprehensive guide on how to buy an accessible cell phone, A new section on

accessible cell phones and related software, A new section on Global Positioning Systems (GPS), A list of evaluations published in AccessWorld, AFB's technology magazine, A resource section with manufacturer name and contact information. New online access! With your print or CD purchase, you'll receive access to the new online edition at no additional cost. Enjoy live links to manufacturers' web sites, in-depth product evaluations in AccessWorld, as well as powerful search capabilities. Available formats: Online-only \$19.00 Order at <www.afb.org/store> Print with online access ASCII on CD-ROM or ASCII on floppy disk with online access \$34.95.

NEW! Free Downloadable APH Product Manuals

The American Printing House for the Blind is pleased to offer a new service: selected APH products now have manuals available for immediate, free-of-charge download. Examples of downloadable manuals include *Crafty Graphics*, *Let's See*, and *Basic Tactile Anatomy Atlas*. A new *APH Products Catalog* will be available in May. Look for the yellow & black book icon to find the manuals available for download. APH will add new manuals to the download page on an ongoing basis. We will announce additions in the News. You are free to print or emboss these manuals as needed. APH will continue to package hard copies of these manuals with their products. APH will also continue to sell hard copy manuals as replacement items. If, however, the manual is posted as a free download, APH will not carry inventory on the shelf for immediate delivery. If you order one of these manuals separately, delivery time will be 4-6 weeks for large print and 8-10 weeks for braille orders. For more information go to <www.aph.org>.

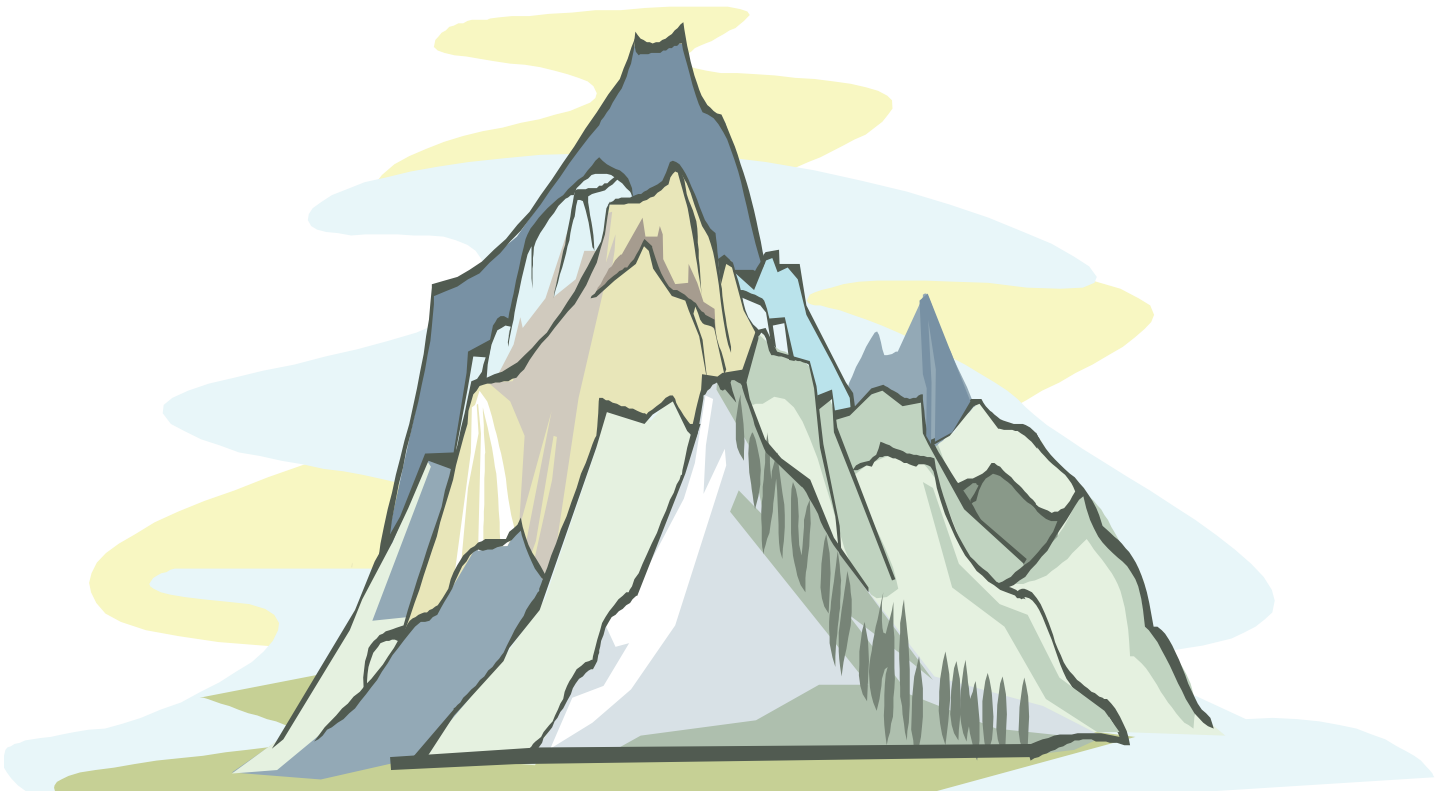




TRANSITION INFORMATION ABOUT MOVING ON!

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR OUR GRADUATES!!

- ☆ **Friends-In-Art Scholarship Announcement** High school seniors and college students are invited to apply for the Friends-In-Art scholarship for the 2008-2009 school year. This \$1,500 scholarship is offered annually for achievement, talent, and excellence in the arts. The scholarship is for students who are planning to major, or are currently majoring, in the field(s) of music, art, drama, or creative writing, and are blind or visually impaired and live in North America. Obtain an application form by writing to Harvey Miller, 196 E. French Broad St., Brevard, N.C. 28712-3410. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope when requesting the application. You also may request an electronic application by sending an e-mail to [<hhmiller@citcom.net>](mailto:hhmiller@citcom.net). Applications and supporting information must be in the hands of the scholarship committee **by the end of May 2008.**





The Colorado Chapter of the Association of the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired

CAER Update

By Samantha Hoffman

The CAER board is very excited to announce that Mini-Grant Awards have been selected for the spring. This time the recipients are all students. Two students from Denver Public Schools and one from Adams 12 will be receiving financial assistance for various expanded core curriculum needs, such as technology and recreation. We would like to remind all members that Mini-Grants will be reviewed once in the spring and once in the fall. Please visit the CAER website for more information: <http://co.aerbvi.org/>

CAER co-sponsored the Annual O&M conference on April 24-26. On Friday evening, April 25, we held our annual banquet and meeting. We are very excited to have elected three new board members:

- * Nancy Cozart, TVI, O&M- Littleton Public Schools
- * Deb Carlisle, TVI, O&M- Denver Public Schools
- * Kathy Hegemann, Residential Coordinator- CSDB

The board selected slate of officers and continuing board members for the 2008-2009 school year include:

- * Past President- Julie Wetzstein
- * President- Samantha Hoffman
- * President Elect- Mike Plansker
- * Treasurer- Trina Boyd-Pratt
- * Secretary- Sally Eldridge
- * Board Member- Julie Adams
- * Board Member- Barb Galgano
- * Board Member- Paula Conroy

We would like to thank Elaine Karns, Janet Anderson, and Louise Gettman, who are completing their terms on the board. We appreciate their time, hard work and overall dedication and support to professionals who provide education and rehabilitation services to people with visual impairments. They are terrific!

Retiring CAER members were recognized as part of the banquet festivities. We would like to wish Ruth Chizum, Randy Witte, Linda Witte, and Ann Hicks best wishes on their retirement.

The highlight of the banquet was the presentation of awards. CAER gives awards annually and this year the list of recipients was outstanding. We are pleased to announce the following award winners:

- * **Gary Schmidt Award- Ruth Chizum**
- * **The President's Award- Loel Decker**
- * **Lifetime Achievement Award- Ann Hicks**
- * **Connections Award- Three very deserving winners!**

- ☆ **The Insights Skills Center- Denny Bettenhausen**-for there support of the Northern Low Vision Clinic, as well as helping teachers and students obtain the equipment needed for success.
- ☆ **Dr. Robert King**-for his innovation in starting a clinic at the Anchor Center
- ☆ **June Englehorn**- for her years of devotion to Braille and mentoring braillists all over the state.

National Federation of the Blind Junior Science Academy

July 23-27, 2008
Baltimore, MD

For the first time, the National Center for Blind Youth in Science (NCBYS) will be offering a Junior Science Academy (JSA) targeting children in grades three through six. This year, with hands-on experiences, tactile materials, and innovative non-visual teaching methods, the Academy will open its doors to the youngest group of scientific explorers in NCBYS history.

Students: The four-day session will expose blind children to the excitement of science in real-life applications. Students will discover that science can be fun through hands-on instruction, field trips, and interactive activities as they learn about how different aspects of the environment work together to create the world around them.

The JSA will be rooted in the high expectations of the NFB philosophy and will expose participants to a variety of positive experiences. Under the guidance of accomplished blind educators and mentors, students will learn how alternative techniques help make science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) subjects accessible and more engaging. In addition, follow-up activities will ensure that children and their families stay connected to a variety of resources provided by the National Federation of the Blind, including accessing tools for learning STEM curriculum, acquiring better blindness skills, and interacting with positive blind role models.

Parents: Unique seminars and hands-on workshops will take place in conjunction with the children's activities. These sessions will be designed to help parents better meet the academic and social needs of their child. Sessions will include such topics as Braille literacy, orientation and mobility, advocacy, and empowerment. Parents will also be introduced to a variety of beneficial resources available to them and their families.

Cost: All aspects of the program, including transportation, room, and board for one parent/guardian and one child will be provided by the NFB at no cost to participants.

For more information please go to:

<http://www.blindscience.org/ncbys/Junior_Science_Academy.asp?SnID=1446606145>



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Parents: If you are moving out of state or your child is graduating, please be in touch so we can remove your name from our newsletter mailing list. Also, please be in touch with your address changes if you move to a new Colorado location.

TVIs and O&MSs: If you have any changes in program contact information over the school year, please help us out and send Tanni these changes.

Thanks to everyone for helping to keep our mailing list up to date!

**Just send your changes to anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or to
Tanni Anthony, CDE, 201 East Colfax, Denver, CO 80203.**



Summer Enrichment 2008

For Students Who Are Blind Or Visually Impaired

Date:

June 1—June 6

Program:

Colorado Adventures (grades 2-6)

Explore the beginnings of Colorado: visit a mine, study the early settlers, explore the Front Range, hike and swim.

June 8—June 13

June 8-10

June 8-13

SPORTS EDUCATION CAMP (ages 10-16)

Junior Camp—ages 10-12

Senior Camp—ages 13-16

June 15—June 20

1 Week Independent Living Camp (grades 7-10)

Orientation and Mobility to include night and some bus travel, socializing, recreation and leisure activities. This introductory course to independence covers the Expanded Core Curriculum found in the National Agenda.

June 15—June 27

2 Week Independent Living Camp (grades 10-12)

Students help create this advanced independence course, including cooking, laundry and personal relationship skills as well as orientation/mobility, recreation/leisure skills and more! The course has a transition focus, involving a visit to a college disability office, and activities with USABA, the Role Model Team, and The Seeing Eye, Inc. guide dog program.

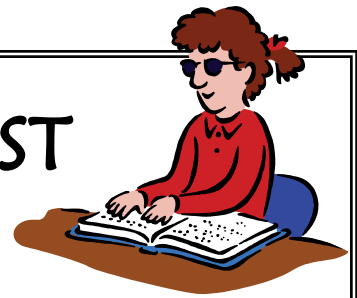
June 22—June 27

Park and Wildlife Study (grades 2-6)

Learn about the natural habitats of animals living within the Pikes Peak region. Coordinated with the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, students can touch skins and skulls, feed live animals and learn more about the zoo.

Enrollment is limited. Call or email Donna for applications: dkeale@csdb.org or 719-578-2251.
Cost: \$50.00 per student registering before May 2, 2008. \$60.00 per student after May 2, 2008.
Cost includes all food and activities.

DOTS OF INTEREST



- * **APH Webcasts Available** The American Printing House for the Blind (APH) reports that the four step-by-step tutorials for the Braille Plus Mobile Manager are available on their web cast archives page at www.aph.org/webcast. Each brief tutorial is presented in an audio-visual format. For convenience, each presentation has a PowerPoint only link, an MP3 only link, and a Word document with the transcript for the PowerPoint. APH plans to release several step-by-step tutorials every month and host live discussion web casts where you can address your questions or comments on previously released tutorials. To take part in the live discussion and/or if you wish to be notified throughout the month when a tutorial is out, please send an e-mail to: mdelgado@aph.org.
- * **Braille Bug Webpage:** TVIs and parents - be sure to check out the American Foundation for the Blind webpage on the Braille Bug for information about braille, Louis Braille, and other good information. The webpage is: <http://www.afb.org/braillebug/>.
- * **Resources for Teachers of Braille:** AFB's National Literacy Center is proud to support [brlhelp-afb](mailto:brlhelp-afb@igc.topica.com), an e-mail discussion group to promote discussion and share ideas about braille instruction. This mailing list is open to all people who wish to ask specific questions about braille instruction or the students to whom they teach braille; to respond to requests for information; to share successful strategies that have worked in teaching braille; and to discuss resources and materials that are available. We welcome input from special education and rehabilitation teachers of braille, preschool and general education teachers of children who are blind or visually impaired, parents and other family members of blind individuals, and anyone else who is interested in promoting excellence in braille instruction. To subscribe to the list, send an e-mail message with this in the "To" line: brlhelp-afb-subscribe@igc.topica.com. There is no need to add a subject or to put a message in the body of your e-mail. You will receive a message asking you to confirm that you wish to be added. Once you respond to the confirmation request, you will get a message that you have been added to the list, and giving you instructions on how to send messages, etc.

- * **DOTS FOR TOTS** is a series of multisensory storybooks designed specifically for visually impaired preschoolers as part of both our Special Collection and Partners in Literacy. *Programs*. Each kit combines print and basic braille so parents can help their blind children begin their journey into reading. Two new **DOTS kits** will be offered each catalog season. When you are enrolled in the Special Col-

lection Programs you have the option of selecting one **DOTS kit** instead of the three braille-only book selections. If you are a Partner in Literacy subscriber, one **DOTS FOR TOTS** kit is the equivalent of three braille-only book orders. *Each DOTS kit includes:* a popular picture book with uncontracted braille overlays (*grade 1*), a descriptive audiotape of the story, and hard-plastic toys that represent characters or objects in the story. Any visually impaired child who is living in the United States or Canada and is between the ages of 3 and 18 is eligible for the Braille Special Collection Program. **Please note:** The Special Collection Program is designed for individual children and can only be sent to a child's HOME or RESIDENTIAL school address. Schools and libraries may participate through our Partners in Literacy Program. To sign up for the **Braille Special Collection**, send us e-mail at: ums@brailleinstitute.org Include the full name of the child and/or student, the child's age, home address, telephone number, and e-mail if one is available. You can also call us directly at: (323) 906-3104

Or, call toll free at: 1-800-BRAILLE (272-4553)

Phone hours: Monday - Friday, 9 am - 5 pm (PST)

Dear Parents and Colleagues,

The Exceptional Children Education Act (ECEA) Rules were officially amended on December 2007. The full body of the ECEA Rules can be found at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/download/pdf/ECEARules_Effective12-30-07.pdf>.

One amendment specifically affects Colorado children who are blind/visually impaired. Two primary changes were made to section 4.03 (6) (b) (see the posted rule section following this commentary). First, Literacy Media Plans are required for all Colorado children and youth, ages three to 21 years, who are blind/visually impaired. This is not a new requirement, but the name of the plan has been changed from Literacy Modality Plan to Learning Media Plan. The plan should be based on comprehensive assessment of a student's learning and literacy modes. The full Individual Education Program team should contribute to the assessment of a student's learning and literacy needs. Parent input is essential. A TVI will be the lead person in coordinating the assessment and plan. If braille is not the selected literacy mode, there must be documentation as to why another modality was selected. This requirement is aligned with the federal law, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (2004).

The second change to section 4.03 (6) (b) is the requirement for all of Colorado teachers certified in visual impairment to demonstrate braille competency according to established CDE guidelines. This is not a totally new requirement as braille competency has been required since 1994 for those teachers providing braille instruction to students. The revised regulation now includes all TVIs regardless if braille instruction is occurring within a district. All TVIs working with Colorado public school children must demonstrate braille competency within their first year of employment. More information about braille competency requirements will be posted in the fall newsletter and can be found on the CDE webpage on blindness/low vision <<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/SD-BLV.asp>>.

If there are questions about ECEA requirements, please be in touch with Tanni at (303) 866-6681 or <anthony_t@cde.state.co.us>.



Rules for the Exceptional Children's Education Act (1 CCR 301-8) Effective December 30, 2007

- 4.03 (6) (b) The written IEP for each child with a vision disability shall include a Learning Media Plan as developed by the IEP team based on comprehensive assessment of the student's learning and literacy modalities by a licensed teacher endorsed in the area of visual impairment. Braille shall be the literacy medium selected unless the IEP team determines, based on the comprehensive literacy learning media assessment, that instruction in Braille is not appropriate. The plan shall include the following:
- 4.03 (6) (b) (i) a statement of how the selected learning and literacy mode or modes will be Implemented as the student's primary or secondary mode for achieving literacy and why such mode or modes have been selected.
- 4.03 (6) (b) (ii) a statement of how the student's instruction in the selected learning and literacy mode or modes will be integrated into educational activities.
- 4.03 (6) (b) (iii) the date on which the student's instruction in the selected mode or modes shall commence, the amount of instructional time to be dedicated to each learning and literacy mode, and the service provider responsible for each area of instruction, and
- 4.03 (6) (b) (iv) a statement of the level of competency in each selected learning and literacy mode or modes which the student should achieve by the end of the period covered by the IEP.
- Colorado teachers licensed and endorsed in the area of Visual Impairment must have demonstrated competency in reading and writing literary Braille per the guidelines developed by the Colorado Department of Education

NIMAC News of Note!



NIMAC now has more than 5,000 NIMAS file sets available for downloading and conversion to specialized formats, including braille and large print! In operation only 16 months, NIMAC had been expected to receive only approximately 2,400 NIMAS files sets per year.

FamilyConnect: Web Site for Parents

FamilyConnect is a web site for parents of children who are blind/visually impaired that will be launched in April by the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) and the National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments (NAPVI). Please visit the FamilyConnect Administration Center at www.afb.org/familyconnectadmin

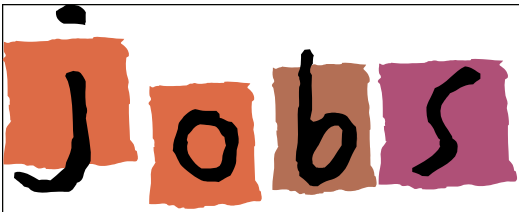
APH Accessible Tests Department Survey Continues: Types of Answer Documents Needed

The APH Accessible Tests Department continues to collect survey information on types of answer sheets needed in instructional as well as standardized test settings. Since many different formats are used, this research expressly addresses requests the department receives for accessible answer documents for students who are blind or visually impaired.

The survey, for regular education teachers, teachers of visually impaired students (TVIs), school psychologists, test administrators (TAs), and other educators and assessment professionals, is currently posted on the Accessible Tests section of the APH website. Your input is valuable and will be extremely useful in determining the most common formats needed. Individuals interested in participating are invited to complete the online questionnaire here: www.aph.org/tests/answer_survey.html.

For further information about this study or to request copies of the form in accessible media, see the Accessible Tests Department web page or contact Kerry Isham at kisham@aph.org.





IMPORTANT!

We have JOB OPENINGS!!

Please be proactive with anticipated vacancies for the next school year. Please keep in touch with Tanni about your job openings.

Jobs for School Year 2008-2009

Metro Region:

- ✓ **Teacher of Children with Visual Impairments / O&M Specialist (.5 FTE)** Contact Ann Marie Jansen in Adams 12 (northern metro area) at [<annmarie.jansen@adams12.org>](mailto:annmarie.jansen@adams12.org).

Southern Region

- ✓ **Teacher of Children with Visual Impairments / O&M Specialist (.5 to 1 FTE).** Contact Kim Lovelace at [<lovelkm@dll.org>](mailto:lovelkm@dll.org) in El Paso 11 District in Colorado Springs for more information.

Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind (CSDB)

Located in Colorado Springs Contact Chelle Lutz at CSDB at (719) 578-2114 or [<clutz@csdb.org>](mailto:clutz@csdb.org).

- ✓ **Educational Media/Library Specialist, K-12** (School for the Deaf/School for the Blind)
- ✓ **Teacher of the Visually Impaired** (part-time), Preschool/Early Education Programs
- ✓ **Teachers of the Visually Impaired** (anticipated vacancies)
 - All core content areas (English, Social Studies, Math, and Science)
 - Daily Living Skills
 - Elementary Special Needs
- ✓ **Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Specialist**
- ✓ **Teacher of the Visually Impaired Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA): Colorado Instructional Materials Center (CIMC)**





Calendar of Events

2008 2008 2008 2008 2008 2008 2008 2008 2008 2008 2008

- June 1-6** **Summer Enrichment 2008** Colorado Adventures Grade 2-6
Contact: Donna Keale—dkeale@csdb.org (719) 578-2251
- June 5-7** **Family Learning Retreat** - CSDB in Colorado Springs
Contact: Diane Covington—dcovington@csdb.org
- June 8-13** **Summer Enrichment 2008** Sports Education Camp (ages 10-16)
Contact: Donna Keale—dkeale@csdb.org (719) 578-2251
- June 12** **Southern TVI Meeting** - CIMC
Contact: Stephanie Isbell - (719) 291-3325 or Isbell@cmsd12.org
- June 15-20** **Summer Enrichment 2008** 1 Week Independent Living Camp (Grades 7-10)
Contact: Donna Keale—dkeale@csdb.org (719) 578-2251
- June 15-27** **Summer Enrichment 2008** 2 Week Independent Living Camp(Grades 10-12)
Contact: Donna Keale—dkeale@csdb.org (719) 578-2251
- June 15-20** **Summer Enrichment 2008 Park and Wildlife Study** (Grades 2-6)
Contact: Donna Keale—dkeale@csdb.org (719) 578-2251
- June 25-27** **2008 Summer Institute on Deafblindness** - Breckenridge
Contact: Tanni Anthony -(303) 866-6681
- July 7-10** **9th International Conference on Low Vision**—Montreal, Canada
Contact: www.opto.umontreal.ca/vision2008
- July 14-18** **Bresnahan-Halstead Symposia Session 1**—Beaver Creek
Contact: <http://www.unco.edu/bresnahan-halstead/index.htm>
- July 15-17** **Annual PBS Symposium**—Denver
Contact: Barb Bieber— (303) 866-6933 bieber_b@cde.state.co.us
- July 21-25** **Bresnahan-Halstead Symposia Session 2**—Beaver Creek
Contact: <http://www.unco.edu/bresnahan-halstead/index.htm>
- July 22-27** **AER International Conference**—Chicago, IL
Visit: www.aerbvi.org for more information
- September 16** **Vision Coalition**— CIMC
Contact: Tanni Anthony— anthony_l@cde.state.co.us

More Calendar of Events

2008 2008 2008 2008 2008 2008 2008 2008 2008 2008 2008

- September 24-27** **Research Summit** for National Center on Severe and Sensory Disabilities
Contact: <http://www.unco.edu/ncssd/> (be watching for more information)
- October 29-November 1** **National Braille Association Professional Development Conferences** for 2008
Visit: <http://www.nationalbraille.org/conferences/NBAFallPDC2008.html>
- October 16-18** **State Conference on Visual Impairment—Denver**
Contact: Tanni Anthony 303-866-6681
- October 16-18** **Closing the Gap, 26th Annual Conference—Minneapolis, Minnesota**
Visit: www.closingthegap.com
- November 6-9** **Colorado NFB Conference - Colorado Springs**
Contact:TBD

2009 2009 2009 2009 2009 2009 2009 2009 2009 2009 2009

- January 2-February 3** **CELApro**
- February 4-February 27** **CSAPA Grade 3 Reading, Writing, and Mathematics**
- February 4-March 27** **CSAPA 4-10**
- February 17-27** **CSAP Grade 3 Reading and Lectura**
- March 9-April 10** **CSAP Grades 3-10**
- April 22** **COACT State Test Date**
- April 23-25** **Western Region Early Intervention Conference—Colorado Springs**
Contact: Be watching for more information
- May 6** **COACT Makeup Test Date**
- Summer** **13th International Mobility Conference—Marburg, Germany**
Visit: www.imc.blista.de



Bresnahan-Halstead Summer Institute

The Bresnahan-Halstead Symposia website has information on this year's 32nd annual symposia. Please share the information with others at your district, agency, etc.

The institute will be held at The Charter in Beaver Creek (west side of Vail) and will cover the following topics:

SESSION 1 – JULY 14-18

Using Strategic Interventions to Enhance Intermediate, Middle, and High School Literacy Skills

With Susan Miller, Harvey Rude & Diane Bassett, Lori Peterson & Jennifer Urbach, Jon Paul Burden, and Luann Todd

SESSION 2 – JULY 21-25

Planning and Interventions for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders –

With Brenda Smith Myles, Robin Brewer & Tracy Mueller, and a parent panel.

For more information please go to:

<http://www.unco.edu/bresnahan-halstead/index.htm> or

<http://www.unco.edu/bresnahan-halstead/sessions2008.html>

There are a limited number of scholarships available that will cover the conference registration costs.

New Web Community Brings Together Parents of Visually Impaired Children

To help these families connect with each other and give busy parents, grandparents and other caretakers a place to find comprehensive resources and support 24 hours a day, the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) and the National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments (NAPVI) today launched FamilyConnect™, an online, multi-media community for parents and guardians of children with visual impairments.

Located at <www.familyconnect.org>, FamilyConnect gives parents access to message boards where they can talk to other parents, compelling videos featuring real-life families, parenting articles, a mom-authored blog, a glossary of more than 30 eye conditions, and links to local resources. The site also features sections dedicated to multiple disabilities, technology, education, and every age group from infants to teens. In addition to joining a community of parents, visitors to <www.familyconnect.org> can create a personal profile and receive information on news and events based on their child's age, eye condition, and location. Families can also find articles written by parents and professionals on topics such as:

- ♥ Finding the Right Eye Care Professionals for Your Child
- ♥ Developmental Milestones: What Do They Mean?
- ♥ Your Child's Individualized Educational Program
- ♥ Friendship in the Teen Years
- ♥ College Life Begins



USABA Headlines

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Betsy Heckert
April 15, 2007 media@usaba.org / 719.630.0422

United States Association of Blind Athletes to host 2008 National Sports Festival

(Colorado Springs, Colo.) — The United States Association of Blind Athletes (USABA) is pleased to announce the 2008 National Sports Festival and Championships to be held in Colorado Springs, Colo. in conjunction with the State Games of the West.

The Sports Festival, held at Colorado College July 22-25, will culminate with blind and visually impaired athletes integrating and competing in the Inaugural 2008 State Games of the West, hosted by the Colorado Springs Sports Corporation, July 25-27 and the 2008 Pike's Peak Swim League Last Chance Meet hosted by USABA and the Pike's Peak Swim League on July 26. The State Games of the West will include more than 8,000 sighted athletes competing in 31 sports. USABA athletes will compete in these Games alongside these sighted athletes. We are also pleased to announce we're finalizing details on a swimming event to be conducted at the conclusion of the sports festival.

"The USABA Sports Festival provides blind and visually impaired athletes from all over the United States a unique opportunity to train and compete alongside their peers," said USABA Executive Director Mark Lucas. "USABA coaching staff and Paralympics' athletes provide participants the opportunity to hone their own athletic skills, empowering them to take the game to a higher level in their local community-based programs."

USABA athletes ages 12 and older will have the opportunity to learn and refine their abilities in various sports clinics instructed by USABA national coaches at the Sports Festival. Participants will experience a variety of sports adapted for athletes who are blind or visually impaired including judo, powerlifting, swimming, track & field, wrestling, a 5K run/walk and goalball (a team sport designed for those who are blind and visually impaired).

We are also proud to announce the opportunity for US Military and US honorably discharged military veterans who incurred a service-connected vision loss are also eligible to compete in these events. If you are eligible, please refer to the military/veterans application below.

Applications for the Sports Festival, the State Games of the West, and the Pike's Peak Swim League Last Chance Meet are available at <www.usaba.org>.

About USABA: *Since its founding in 1976, USABA, a community-based organization of the United States Olympic Committee, has reached thousands of blind individuals. The organization has emerged as more than just a world-class trainer of blind athletes, it has become a champion of the abilities of Americans who are legally blind.*

USABA's Mission: *to enhance the lives of blind and visually impaired people by providing the opportunity for participation in sports and physical activity.*

For more information about USABA, please visit our Web site: <www.usaba.org>.

For Immediate Release

Contact: Valerie Cherneck
Don Johnston Incorporated
410-871-2670
vchernek@donjohnston.com

Contact: Ann Harrison
Benetech
415-637-5262
ann.h@benetech.org

**Bookshare.org Partners with Don Johnston
to Provide Free Text Reader for Print Disabled Students**

**Read:OutLoud® Bookshare.org Edition 'Text Reader' will Provide Technology
Access to Thousands of Online Educational Materials**

March 13, 2008 — Volo, IL and Palo Alto, CA — Bookshare.org and Don Johnston have announced a partnership to provide qualified print disabled students with a free text reader to access electronic books from the Bookshare.org library.

This technology access partnership announced at the 2008 CSUN conference in Los Angeles, CA, will serve an estimated 1-3% of the total K-12 student population, specifically those who receive special education services and qualify under the 1996 Chafee Amendment.

Beginning at the start of the 2008-09 school year, qualified students will have the opportunity to use Don Johnston's Read:OutLoud Bookshare.org Edition text reader (Windows Version) to access more than 36,000 books, magazines and newspapers in the Bookshare.org library.

The Read:OutLoud Bookshare.org Edition text reader offers embedded reading comprehension strategies and instructional supports that align with state educational standards. The text reader software includes audio feedback, electronic highlighting and note-taking features that allow students to effectively capture ideas. A Macintosh version will follow in 2009.

"Don Johnston and his products have a solid reputation in the special education community," says CSUN keynote speaker Jim Fruchterman, CEO of Benetech, the Palo Alto, California-based nonprofit organization that operates Bookshare.org. "We chose Read:OutLoud because of its strong support tools for students with reading disabilities and its ability to read DAISY files that have the richness that comes from the NIMAS publisher files. Benetech and the team at Don Johnston are working closely together to create more equality for students with learning disabilities and special needs."

The goal of this partnership is to help eliminate barriers for print disabled students and provide the tools needed to ensure access to educational texts. Bookshare.org offers digital books produced from the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS) and delivers them to students in the BRF Braille file format and the Digital Accessible Information System (DAISY) standard for Digital Talking Books. Don Johnston's Read:OutLoud

Bookshare Edition text reader gives students better access to books and effective reading instruction through a direct connection to Bookshare.org's digital texts.

"Now that students with the most significant print disabilities will have free technology access to Bookshare.org's library of texts, we want to make sure that they will also benefit from using our technology to improve their reading comprehension skills and study habits," says Ruth Ziolkowski, President of Don Johnston.

###

About Bookshare.org

Bookshare.org is an online community that allows people with print disabilities to legally download books and periodicals to be read as Braille, large print or synthetic speech. In October of 2007, Bookshare.org received a \$32 million five-year award from the U.S. Department of Education to significantly expand the availability of accessible digital books and software for reading those books. Over the next five years, Bookshare.org expects to add over 100,000 new book titles and textbooks to its collection.

About Don Johnston Incorporated

Don Johnston empowers educators with supplemental instruction and intervention solutions to help struggling learners build core literacy skills with confidence. Since 1980, the company has partnered with literacy experts, psychologists, teachers, researchers, and scientists to develop over a dozen educational technology access products. The company also publishes Start-to-Finish®, a collection of paperback, audio and computer books to engage struggling readers and ESL learners. 800-999-4660 - www.donjohnston.com

Resource Links:

Read:OutLoud Bookshare.org Edition Text Reader

http://www.donjohnston.com/products/rol_bookshare/index.html

CSUN – California State University at Northridge Annual International Technology and Persons with Disabilities Conference - <http://www.csun.edu/cod/conf/2008/>

American Foundation for the Blind - Chafee Amendment: Initiated by the late Senator John J. Chafee (R-RI), enables students with visual and print disabilities to qualify for specialized technology to access print materials.

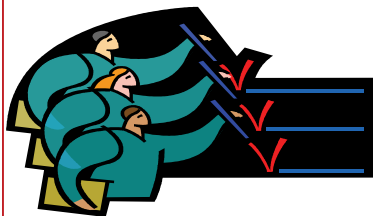
<http://www.afb.org/Section.asp?SectionID=44&TopicID=16&SubTopicID=33&DocumentID=1785>

US Copyright Law: <http://www.loc.gov/nls/reference/factsheets/copyright.html>

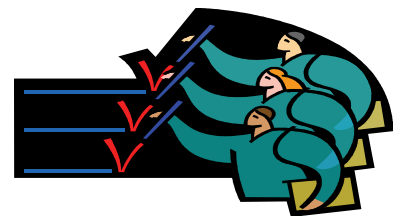
Watch NIMAS 101: What Educators Need to Know

http://www.donjohnston.com./prof_services/nimas/index.html

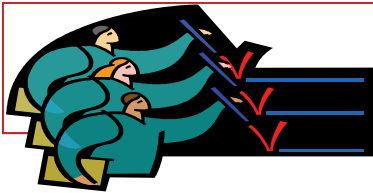




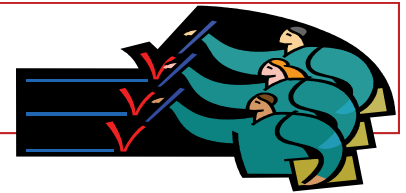
CHECK IT OUT!



- ✓ **Space Camp Dates** Space Camp for Interested Visually Impaired Students (SCIVIS) will be held September 20-26, 2008 in Huntsville, Alabama. All students who qualify for vision services are eligible to apply. Applications for selection to the West Virginia team can be found on the SCIVIS web site after February 1, 2008 at <http://www.tsbvi.edu/space/wvforms>. For more information, contact Dan Oates at the West Virginia School for the Blind 304-822-4883 or scivis@atlanticbb.net.
- ✓ **2009 Colorado State Teacher of the Year Nominations** It is time to nominate educators for the 2009 Colorado State Teacher of the Year, and CDE is encouraging fellow educators, education administrators, parents, students, and community members to put forward their best and brightest teachers. Please send your nominations or questions to Barbara Lautenbach at lautenbach_b@cde.state.co.us.
- ✓ **Wanted: CVI Field Reviewers** APH is looking for field reviewers who have an interest in examining, using and commenting on materials designed for students who have CVI. Several new products are almost ready for trial use. Professionals or parents who are in contact with children who have CVI will conduct evaluation. Each reviewer will be provided with the newly developed materials and a brief set of guidelines for use of the materials. After a period of field-testing, the reviewer will be asked to fill out a comment form and return the materials to APH. Your comments will be used to help the CVI Project Leader consider any final changes to the product. If you are interested in being a CVI product reviewer, please contact Christine Roman at: croman@cviresources.com.
- ✓ **Social Skills Webcast** Perkins School for the Blind has released the second in a series of webcasts. The topic is the Implications of Vision Loss on the Development of Social skills presented by Tom Miller. Information contained in the webcast is from *Welcoming Students with Visual Impairment to Your School: A Guide for training public school personnel and families about the needs of students with vision loss*. This webcast can be viewed on demand, at no cost. Here's the link....
https://secure2.convio.net/psb/site/SPageServer?pagename=WEBCAST_LANDING&AddInterest=1242.
- ✓ **Sports Camp Opportunities!** Check out the exciting 2008 Sports Camps listed on the APH PE Website at www.aph.org/pe/camps.html. This includes the Colorado Sports Camp information!!
- ✓ **Late Spring/Summer Field Test Sites Needed:** Do you have students ready to move from the APH Light Box to the computer? This American Printing House for the Blind field test consists of using the new Digital Light Box Artwork for simple cause & effect, matching, and choice making activities. The electronic format of the original Light Box artwork helps pave the way for a smooth transition from Light Box to computer. The easy to follow instructions are for Microsoft PowerPoint XP (Windows) and PowerPoint 2004 (Macintosh). This might be an ideal activity for those of you who work with students on assistive technology projects during summer camp/school programs. Computer touch screen and switch users are encouraged to participate. Please contact Tristan Pierce at tpierce@aph.org.



CHECK IT OUT!



- ✓ **ANNOUNCING!!! Mathematics and Students with Sensory Disabilities** is offered online by: *The National Center on Severe and Sensory Disabilities at The University of Northern Colorado.* The course Dates: **May 27, 2008 – August 3, 2008** Credits: 3 graduate credits Tuition: \$555.00 (no out of state tuition charges) Registration: Course Number: EDSE 508-950, CRN 40772. UNC students register directly through URSA. Non-UNC students call Extended Studies at 1-800-232-1749 Questions? Email: <shawn.barnard@unco.edu>.

- ✓ **Retinal Degenerative Diseases** For more information about the research advancement related to retinal degenerative diseases funded by the Foundation Fighting Blindness, please go to the links below. Visit <<http://www.blindness.org/research.asp?id=326>> or view Good Morning America's coverage at <www.blindness.org/audio/media/GoodMorningAmerica_08.wmv>.

- ✓ **Math Study** Marshall University's Patricia Myers is conducting a National Study concerning teachers' perceptions of the use and effectiveness of strategies and aids in advanced mathematics (Algebra I and higher) for students with visual impairments. If you can answer "yes" to either question below, you meet the criteria to participate. The study involves a one-time survey. If interested, please send the following information to <myers42@marshall.edu> or call 304-532-6876 and ask for Patty Myers.
 - ✓ Have you worked with students with visual impairments who have taken advanced mathematics classes (Algebra I and higher) in the past five years (2003-2008) whose primary medium is visual?

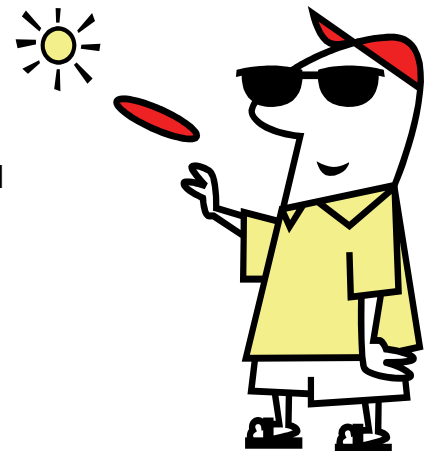
 - ✓ Have you worked with students with visual impairments who have taken advanced mathematics classes (algebra I and higher) in the past five years (2003-2008) whose primary medium is tactual?

Name: (optional - without your name, information will be mailed to the Attention of the Teacher of the Visually Impaired)

Mailing Address:

Email:

This information will only be used for the purpose of this study and kept in confidence. You will not receive any products or emails concerning products. Thank you for your prompt responses.



Vision Coalition Meeting

April 15, 2008

Persons Present: Tanni Anthony (CDE), Barbara Adams (Western region), Jim Olson (CIMC), Stephanie Isbell (Southern region), Vicki Pearson (Northern region), and Cathy Smyth (Anchor Center), Lou Tutt (CSDB), and Julia Zanon (CDVR)

Persons Absent: Paula Conroy (UNC), Kay Ferrell (NCSSD), Donna Keale (CSDB Outreach), Karla McKechnie (CSDB School for the Blind)

Acronym Glossary:

Anchor	Anchor Center for Blind Children
CAER	CO Chapter - Association of the Ed & Rehab of the Blind Visually Impaired
CDE	Colorado Department of Education
CDVR	Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
CIMC	Colorado Instructional Materials Center
CSDB	Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind
NCSSD	National Center on Severe and Sensory Disabilities
TVI	Teacher certified in the area of visual impairment
UNC	University of Northern Colorado
VC	Vision Coalition

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We send our congratulations to Karla and Scott McKechnie on the birth of their son!

Lou and Jim were recently at the International CEC Conference in Boston. Lou shared that two people from the field of educating learners who are blind/visually impaired received national honors! Donna McNear received an award as a National Leader and Sheila Amato received the Clarrisa Hug Award for teacher of the year. Jim is on the membership committee and encouraged CO TVIs to join CEC and the Division of Visual Impairment Chapter.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Western Region – Barbara Adams

From Mesa: Things in Grand Junction are calm and our caseload remains relatively stable. We are in the throws of giving CSAPs and testing will be done soon. The school year end is fast approaching and we are getting ready for Special Olympics track in which our local VI kids are allowed to participate. We also are just finishing the ski program for our VI kids ... it is wonderful to have a local ski area/program that offers a valuable opportunity for our students. We want to thank the See the Future Tools for Life Scholarship program. One of our students was recently funded for equipment at home. He received an Amigo and is loving it!

From SW BOCES: I have no program updates for Cortez. It is scary to see how smoothly this year has gone! (Maybe I shouldn't say that too loud!) I am working hard an implementing Every Move Counts, with my severe needs students and loving the results.

From Mtn BOCES: Barbara tried to get USABA over to the Western Slope for an Abilities Day this Spring, but trying to schedule a day with all the different school districts' timings of Spring Breaks, CSAP testing, Special Olympics, winter activities in Breckenridge, the O&M conference, etc., it just did not happen. We are lucky to have so much from which to choose, but we really wanted to meet up with USABA. Maybe we can get something going with the Low Vision Clinic weekend, at the end of September. And then, we thought we might be able to squeeze in our yearly regional meeting, but we had the same scheduling problems.

Julie King is sending a student down to CSDB for the Transportation Short Term placement.....that is if the weather doesn't get in the way, yet again. Donna has been told to inform NOAA weather radio every time she plans a weekend to make sure they know exactly what dates the big storms will come in!

From Delta and Montrose: We are extremely busy this time of year as the school year rapidly (too rapidly) winds down. CSAPs are finished and evaluation forms have been sent to Tanni. Students' schedules have finally been determined which has allowed us to obtain textbooks for CIMC orders. Awaiting curricular and schedule confirmations is always challenging since we want to get the orders in as soon as possible.

We were not able to arrange a spring regional meeting this year given the many conflicting schedules of west slope TVIs. However, several west slope TVIs are looking forward to the state O&M conference at Anchor Center. Hopefully, a regional meeting can be pulled together next year.

Update notes since the VC Meeting: Janet Rose was able to bring the Touch Museum to Rifle Middle School, where students and some local adults with visual impairments and a few other students were able to get a close up and tactile view of a bobcat, a skunk, a badger, and some fine-feathered friends. After Rifle, Janet was heading to Cortez.

Metro Region – Nancy Cozart

Second semester of the 2007-08 school year has been a busy one! (OK, I know, they are all busy!) January brought the Metro Low Vision Clinic and CELA testing for a few of us. February included the Braille Challenge and Snow Shoe weekend and a metro TVI meeting. March brought CSAP and CSAP-A as well as a break for many. April 11th was our final meeting for metro TVIs and the O&M conference is fast approaching.

At our meeting in February, there was some discussion on common issues among districts. One issue was accessing assessment tools such as DRAs in Braille and what can be shared among districts and what if anything can be housed at CIMC. Another topic of discussion was braille repairs, who is responsible for the costs and when is a braille not fixable. Using the ListServ for further discussions on these and other topics were encouraged. We also had some discussion on “dream technology” for our region and state. A variety of ideas were exchanged...It will be a topic to be revisited. Trina Boyd-Pratt shared that she was putting together books of a variety of tactual pictures that could be used by many. She brought the published books with CDs to our April meeting for purchase. Way to go, Trina! Samantha Hoffman and Sue Newhart-Larson shared their information from the Literacy Conference held in Florida last December including how to create a talking book on the computer. Thanks ladies!

Last week, at our final meeting of the year, we had a great visit from Megan Peot with Global Explorers' Leading the Way. She shared the wonderful leadership and service programs that are available for students entering high school through college age that include travel to various places around the world. Sharon Benn, Brailist in Littleton Schools, is interested in being an educational sponsor. A group of metro area VI and sighted students would be assembled and participate in the year long program that would culminate in a trip to a selected destination. During the meeting we also reviewed some basics that we include in our FVAs and LMAs.

Nancy Cozart and Sharon Benn will be teaching an Intro to Braille course offered over a 6 week period this summer. It will be held at a local school in the Littleton School District on Tues. & Thurs. mornings from 9:00-11:00 beginning June 3 and ending July 10. (The final details will soon be completed. More to come soon...) This course has been established for para-professionals, future braillists and parents. The hope is to determine people's interest and aptitude for Braille in order to generate skilled personnel for braillist positions in the local area in the future. It will also provide parents an opportunity to learn the basics of Braille and have a better understanding of their own child's literacy development.

Other business that was determined included a continuation of meetings at Anchor Center next year. We will have 4 meetings per year again. The first date has been selected and it will be Friday September 19 from 2:00-4:00. Initial topics will hopefully include a brief visit from Suzanne Johnson at RFBID and Teller Acuity Card Training. Nancy Cozart will continue to coordinate the meetings and be the metro area rep on Vision Coalition.

Discussion Topics

- **CIMC April 15 due date for texts and Braille repair questions:** *This is accurate per policy set from last year and sent to TVIs. Jim provided the following information. The CIMC staff has asked for this as a cut-off day to help with the production of a book. If a book has not been produced in braille, the CIMC needs the inkprint to give to the vendor to make the estimate. The CIMC will work with TVIs who are struggling to get an inkprint copy, but right now, TVIs should be advised that an inkprint may be needed and has to be sent to the CIMC before the close of the school year.*

- **When it is time to retire a braillewriter?** *Jim shared that the CIMC keeps a service history on a braillewriter. If repairs reach the cost of a new braillewriter, they can work with TVIs to determine when it may be time for the braillewriter to be retired and used for parts! Jim encouraged TVIs to complete the braillewriter survey that was just sent out to the TVIs. Please help the CIMC collect these data.*
- **Financial support for Intro to Braille course.** *The funds for mentoring new braillelists for this school year (CDE funds sent to CSDB) may be viable for this project. Jim will get back to Nancy.*
- **Parent Activities:** *The metro area keeps talking about the need for parent activities. Could this be a topic for designated time at future Vision Coalition meetings? Absolutely. Lou suggested making this a key agenda item for the September VC meeting – everyone could bring a parent to be part of the meeting.*
- **Cooperative services between Children’s Eye Physicians and TVIs** re. Jennifer Berg. *This could also be an agenda item for the next VC meeting. Nancy will work with Jennifer to see if she can come to a fall meeting.*

Northern Region – Vicki Pearson

On February 22nd and 23rd, the Northern region held its Low Vision Clinic at the Ensign Skills Center in Ft. Collins. This year we were able to fill all of the time slots. Danielle and Wendy say “thanks to everyone for another wonderful and life changing experience”.

On March 14th, Bonnie Snyder graced us with her knowledge. She showed the group how to use computer games for different ages, how to access search engines, and how to use the Worldbook on line. In addition, she gave each district a CD with information about games and internet web resources.

Wendy Stoltman was graciously volunteered to be the Vision Coalition representative for the Northern Group for the 2008-09 school year.

Discussion items stemming from the northern TVI region:

The northern region would like more information about NIMAS and Bookshare. Tanni will have an article in the May newsletter. Bookshare does not produce textbooks, they produce novels.

Another issue that has come up is the need for time and a half or double time for testing purposes. Vicki recently posted this issue on the cotvi o&m listserv. One person shared that her district has kept track of the students need for extended time during tasks that require graphics etc. This is part of progress monitoring. It is suggested that the recommendation be defensible with data and high expectations for efficiency. TVIs are encouraged to collect information on this topic from the literature, test publishing companies, etc.

Another concern is that many districts are doing district-level tests right on the computer. Some districts are more amendable to print / braille copies for the students. It is problematic in the sense that the computerized version is highly unique to its offered questions as it calibrates which question comes up next. The braille version cannot do this automatic calibration. It also does not result in an automatic computer-generated score as it has to be sent in for grading. This is an area that we should all continue to collect information on as to what variables need to be considered for a student who is blind/low vision.

Southern Region – Stephanie Isbel

The Southern Region met February 20th at CIMC. We had a great discussion surrounding CSAPA and adaptations.

Discussion: Tanni continues to encourage TVIs to send in their item analysis forms about the CSAP and CSAPA. The question came up about a joint adaptation session. This would be a work session. Tanni will follow up on this recommendation as it may complicate the chain of custody on the test.

We were very excited to have a District 20 student attend the meeting. She is interested in pursuing a career in teaching Visually Impaired students. Louise Gettman expressed the need for AER board members within our area. We are currently looking into holding the Southern Region Low Vision Clinic in January rather than October. This would allow for better overall flow of all the clinics.

Our next meeting will be held April 16th from 12:30 -3:00 at CIMC. Bonnie Snyder will be talking about technology. She is planning on sharing what she knows about graphing and new freeware/shareware. Our last meeting of the year will be held May 14th from 12:30-3:00 at CIMC. We are currently looking into having several panel discussions for next year. The topics would center around transition, low vision, and adaptation of materials.

Anchor Center for Blind Children and CSDB EI News (Cathy Smyth)

Spring is here! Again, we are thrilled to have the Vision Coalition join us here in our new building! Welcome! The building is proving to be a valuable asset to the community, as we had hoped. The Current VIISA training is being held here, and the upcoming State O&M conference will be here as well. Continue to contact us if you need a special venue for meetings, etc., we will do our best to accommodate you. We anticipate that the Community Room will be busy as the warmer weather draws all out into the beautiful gardens!

Speaking of the gardens, we are almost as anxious to start using the greenhouse and the “sunflower pots” as the children are! We are hoping to implement a horticultural therapy program in designing gardening tasks for the Preschoolers. We are thrilled to have the opportunity to incorporate growing things into our thematic literacy activities.

Another meeting to discuss the Federal initiative, Results Matter, was held here at Anchor Center on Feb. 13th. CSDB early intervention teacher Louise Gettmen joined us and it is exciting that we are able to work on these projects together. This was a productive meeting, and we set some goals that will make this mandatory Federal Testing more valuable for our VI students. It was decided that the cognitive section of the AEPS evaluation (Assessment, Education and Programming System) is the area we should concentrate on at this time, and we will be experimenting with breaking down test items of concern. A data sheet with specific test items will be reviewed by the teachers for adaptability and then presented by Colleen Head to the test authors.

At Anchor Center, everyone is busy with additional projects that are certainly keeping us busy. The Redesign process continues collecting data about what we all do and how efficient we are. Outcomes are uncertain at this point but everyone is working hard!

The exciting news that everyone here at Anchor Center who applied to present at the International AER Conference this summer was accepted is starting to sink in! We will be presenting about our Gerber Grant, the building as a learning tool and Infant Mental Health. Hope to see you there!

I had the opportunity to attend a VIISA Train-the-Trainer session in March and I am anxious to have the opportunity to present. Another benefit of the training was the opportunity to meet other EI providers from around the country and learn about their programs. It seems that across the country numbers are increasing, and it is interesting to hear how other States are addressing this issue.

Discussion: Cathy is wondering about the need to further educate Part C personnel with training specific to visual impairment. The VIISA course, for example, could be supplemented with internships and mentorships so that the providers who see the infants and toddlers who are blind/visually impaired with weekly frequency have good training and support to do so. It was recommended that the VIISA coursework could be offered to Part C practitioners with expectations of follow-up, mentoring etc. It is exciting to see how Anchor Center can take a leadership role with the VIISA trainings.

Just last month Cathy had the opportunity to attend a new task force (Comprehensive Training Opportunities for Para-professionals in Early Intervention Services or CO –TOP*EIS project) started by the Department of Developmental Disabilities, looking at the use of Para-educators in Early Intervention. It is not clear to me what will develop from this task force but I am glad we will have representation.

In addition, Cathy has done two vision screening trainings for Developmental Pathways as they are struggling with overflow from their school districts’ Child Find scheduling... I would really be interested in some direction from the Vision Coalition regarding how these last few issues should be addressed.

Discussion: Tanni shared that the responsibility of Child Find is with administrative units. This includes Child Find specific to infants and toddlers. It is currently the expectation that it will be more of an exception, than the rule, that Part C entities will complete Child Find activities. CDE continues to meet with the Part C personnel on the topic of Child Find. More information will be shared following these meeting.

Discussion: Lou would like someone from Anchor Center to be on the Early Childhood Strategic Plan Work Group. He is asking on behalf of Jennie Germano, who is the Director of the CSDB Early Years Program. Cathy will check and get back to Lou.

Colorado School for the Blind – (Lou Tutt and Karla McKechnie)

The Braille Challenge was held on Friday February 1st. There were 22 contestants in the NBC and 14 students in the Rookie Contest. There were over \$500 in prizes!! Bambi Venetucci gave the opening, motivational speech, and the Bad News Bulldog Band played in the afternoon.

Staff News: Amy Gunning is student teaching this semester at the School for the Blind as part of her completion of the UNC TVI program. Lou and Karla attended the Colorado CEC breakfast at the Broadmoor on January 26th (During the Courage to Risk Conference). Jan Megarry will be working with Lucia Hasty on field testing a project for the National Science Foundation, “Weather Education for Blind Students.” CEC Boston 2008; Lou Tutt and Jim Olson attended CEC 2008 Boston (Karla was unable to attend due to last minute medical concerns). Lou is on the CEC board; Jim and Karla are both CEC-DVI board members. Jim presented “If Not The Front Row Where?”- focusing on low vision devices, uses and teaching strategies.

*AER Chicago (July 2008) Lou Tutt and Kathy Hegemann will be presenting “Transition: What it is and What it isn’t at a Residential School for the Deaf and the Blind” CSDB is interested in doing a social at the AER Conference for those attending with Colorado connections.

Student News: The annual snowshoe weekend was held February 8, 9, and 10th and was a great success!! Seven School for the Blind students and 5 staff joined other staff and students from across the state in Estes Park- YMCA of the Rockies. Two students attended the CSDB Short Term Course held on February 14th and 15th. Juniors and Seniors from both the School for the Blind and School for the Deaf attended a meeting on February 21st “What is Transition and What is it not?” There was a second Foresight Ski Trip February 24-27th; 8 students from the School for the Blind attended. The Bad News Bulldog Band performed at the Capital on Wednesday March 12th, and were featured in The Independent (a local Colorado Springs newspaper. Five students (3 CSDB; 2 Outreach) will be attending a peer mentoring ski trip- Friday, April 11 through Monday, April 14, 2008; or the Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center (BOEC) and American Council for the Blind of Colorado (ACBCO) Mentoring Ski Trip

- The 2 elementary classrooms have made a change in the groupings of each class which was effective March 3rd.
- Several new middle school students have started attending the School for the Blind.
- Current enrollment is 75 students (Preschool- Transition)
- The Southern Region TVIs had the opportunity to complete more Braille modules on February 27th.
- RTI is an ongoing discussion topic at School for the Blind staff meetings.
- Retirees: Linda Witte and Ann Hicks Upcoming Vacancies: DLS, O&M, SS/English, Elementary/Special Needs Teacher
- Fifty Air Force Academy Cadets visited CSDB on April 2nd for Deaf and Blind awareness activities.
- There will be 31 graduates from CSDB in May, six of whom are blind. Five of these students will be continuing with the CSDB Transition Program.
- Lou also shared that he is working with Bonnie Snyder about the possibility of using CSDB dorm space for a technology course that is tentatively scheduled for the middle of June.

Colorado Chapter of AER – Samantha Hoffman

The CAER board is very excited to announce that Mini-Grant Awards have been selected for the spring. This time the recipients are all students. Two students from Denver Public Schools and one from Adams 12 will be receiving financial assistance for various expanded core curriculum needs, such as technology and recreation. We would like to remind all members that Mini-Grants will be reviewed once in the spring and once in the fall. Please visit the CAER website for more information: <http://co.aerbvi.org/>

CAER is co-sponsoring the Annual O&M conference on April 24-26. So far there is a very good response. On Friday evening, April 25, we will hold our annual banquet and meeting. We will be reviewing the treasurer report, selecting new board members and announcing award recipients. Please encourage your colleagues to join us for this fun event. We are very excited to announce the board members nominees.

Nancy Cozart, TVI, O&M- Littleton Public Schools

Deb Carlisle, TVI, O&M- Denver Public Schools

Kathy Hegemann, Residential Coordinator- CSDB

The board selected slate of officers and continuing board members for the 2008-2009 school year include:

Past President- Julie Wetzstein	President- Samantha Hoffman
President Elect- Mike Plansker	Treasurer- Trina Boyd-Pratt
Secretary- Sally Eldridge	Board Member- Julie Adams
Board Member- Barb Galgano	Board Member- Paula Conroy

We would like to thank Elaine Karns, Janet Anderson, and Louise Gettman, who are completing their terms on the board. We appreciate their time, hard work and overall dedication and support to professionals who provide education and rehabilitation services to people with visual impairments. They are terrific!

Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (Julia Zanon)

Regarding transition activities, we have had a nice response from students in the Arapahoe and Douglas counties. Jackie Geib, who is a rehabilitation counselor for the blind at the Denver metro office, said that she appreciates the great working relationship she has had with Mimi Schaper and Barb Galgano at Grandview HS. Jackie said that she has attended some IEP meetings to provide information to parents, students and school staff and is expecting some referrals to come in soon. There are approximately 10 young people who are blind/vision impaired currently working with DVR right now that are either recent graduates or finishing up their HS programs in the Denver/Arapahoe/Douglas county area. Our next statewide meeting for Rehabilitation counselors for the Blind will be on Thursday, May 8 and I will find out at that time what the statewide response has been with regard to transition activities and referrals.

The Denver Metro office will be hosting a blindness/low vision Technology fair on Wednesday, May 7 at 2211 W. Evans in Denver. The fair is open to anyone and free. The time is 10:00 am to 3:00 pm so we would love to invite anyone interested in checking out the newest technology. I sent a flyer to Tanni, which was published in the March-April *WHOT* newsletter.

Discussion: Julia gave an update on the Colorado Commission for the Blind. Julia will be representing DVR. The nominees have been finalized. To date, there have not been any meetings. Michelle Chacon has written an update article of the members for the May edition of the What's Happening Out There.

University of Northern Colorado – Paula Conroy

The UNC Visual Impairment Specialist program passed the NCATE reaccreditation. This has been a lengthy and challenging year-long process. The next step is to pursue AER re-approval once that process is re-established. This should be in the next year or so.

Colorado Instructional Materials Center – Jim Olson

As of Wednesday April 9, 2008, the Colorado Instructional Materials Center (CIMC) has processed 1,131 textbook orders for use by students with visual impairments and blindness during the 2007-2008 school year. Approximately 97% of those orders have been filled. Of this number, 1095 books have been shipped completed, 20 were shipped partially complete, and 16 were recent orders (since January) that were purchased from vendors. In preparation for the 2008-2009 academic school year the CIMC has received 179 textbook orders as of April 9, 2008. Approximately 31% of those orders have been filled. Of the 179 new orders, 55 have already been shipped complete, 2 have been shipped partially complete, and 57 have needed to be purchased. 43 are in the sourcing process - most of which need accompanying ink copies to complete the bid process from a transcription company. 10 book requests already exist in our database and are

currently being used in districts. They will be shipped to the new recipient upon their return at the end of the current school year. 6 are being purchased from the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) and the CIMC is in the process of transcribing one book into Braille.

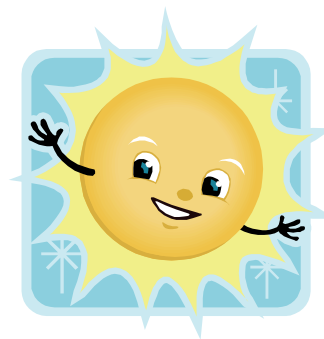
There are currently over 1,000 textbooks in the hands of students in Colorado. As of April, less than 15 textbooks have been returned to the CIMC from TVIs from first semester. This means that over twenty thousand volumes of brailled books remain in districts. One CIMC staff person, Debbie, is primarily responsible for updating the database, re-shelving and/or shipping these books to new recipients. The CIMC staff would like to strongly encourage teachers to return any books that students have finished using as quickly as possible to avoid thousands of books being returned at one time at the end of the school year. In an ongoing effort to improve efficiency, the CIMC has developed a small informational label that should be affixed to the side of boxes containing return shipments and ink copies of textbooks.

Donice has completed Phase I of the APH Federal Quota Registration process. Multiple districts had to be contacted literally hours before the database closed in Kentucky on the final day of the Phase I registration process. The CIMC would like to thank the districts that turned in their updated quota registrations in a timely fashion. Remember the new requirement to provide a student's SASID number on future VI and Quota registrations as new students enter districts.

CSDB Outreach (Donna Keale)

Summer Enrichment programs for students who are blind or visually impaired are scheduled as follows:

- June 1-6 Colorado Adventures (grades 2-6)
- June 8-13 Sports Education Camp (ages 10-16)
- June 15-20 1 Week Independent Living Camp (grades 7-10)
- June 15-27 2 Week Independent Living Camp (grades 10-12)
- June 22-27 Park and Wildlife Study (grades 2-6)



Additional details about each camp and dates are posted on the CSDB website. Cost is \$50.00 per student registering before May 2, 2008. Applications have been mailed to families that attended 2007 summer enrichment activities. Sports Education Camp is scheduled for June 8-13, 2008. The junior camp (ages 10-12) runs from June 8-10. The senior camp (ages 13-16) runs June 8-13. Sports Education Camp is a valuable resource for students and the staff that work with them. His camp was cancelled last year and is in jeopardy because we are having a hard time finding volunteers to work the camp. The camp is a three tier partnership between CSDB, USABA and ABAC. Would each region be willing to sponsor a day with staff? The program will feed and house volunteers if they are willing to stay for 2 days. This is an awesome experience for both the athletes and teachers. Think of the little train that could. In my opinion this is the most heart warming camp. And yes you will be exhausted!

The Seeing Eye, Inc. is scheduled to do a presentation at CSDB on April 30, 2008 at 6:00pm. This event is open to any teachers who would like to bring students. If you need overnight housing, please get in touch with Donna Keale ASAP. The Seeing Eye, Inc. also has a Junior Program that allows students to attend for a weekend and "try out a guide dog."

Space Camp is offered every other year. It alternates with DC Close-Up.

CDE (Tanni Anthony)

CSAP, CSAPA, and CELA Braille and Large Print Formats: Thank you to all the TVIs who took the time to send in their item analysis comments on these state tests. The comments are being tallied and will be reviewed over the summer months. Information will then be shared with CDE's Unit of Student Assessment and CTB McGraw Hill.

ECEA Rules Specific to Braille Competency: The changes to the ECEA Rules were approved and finalized on December 31, 2007. Tanni will be posting the revised rules for Learning Media Assessment in the May edition of *What's Happening Out There!*

Braille Competency Committee: The BCC will be meeting over the summer months to (a) redefining braille competency guidelines, (b) add to the existing modules, (c) update modules and Colorado Braille Mastery Test

Recruitment and Retention: Vacant positions are currently being advertised in the *What's Happening Out There* newsletter. There are positions at CSDB School for the Blind, Adams 12, Douglas Country, Cherry Creek, El Paso 11, and NW BOCES (Steamboat Springs). Jefferson County has hired a new TVI / COMS from out of state who will start in the fall! Tanni has been in touch with three out-of-state TVIs looking for Colorado employment. Administrative units with vacancies are asked to keep in touch with Tanni on their hiring needs.

Low Vision Clinics: All four clinics have been completed for this school year. CDE is collecting post-clinic evaluations. If you have not turned in your evaluation, please do so. The Low Vision Evaluation Team will be debriefing in mid-May and these data will inform any changes to the clinics for the next school year.

O&M Conference: Our O&M Conference will be held on April 24-26, 2008. Dr. Kevin Stewart from Canada will be one of our featured speakers. A special thanks to Trina Boyd for her leadership in getting the conference organized.

Fall Conference: Tanni is working with Dr. Cay Holbrook on a Literacy Course specific to students who are blind/visually impaired. CO has the opportunity to be a pilot state for a national literacy course specific for learners who are blind/visually impaired. The course will address: (a) the five components of research-based reading instruction, (b) how each of these components may be influenced by blindness / visual impairment, (c) the role of the TVI with a student's reading program within a RTI framework, (d) the Learning Media Assessment and its ties to reading instruction, (e) progress monitoring tools, (f) appropriate accommodations for literacy instruction and assessment, (g) use of technology specific to learners who are BVI, (h) the results of the longitudinal braille (ABC) study, and (i) strategies specific to students who have additional disabilities. The course will be offered for three semester hours. The first 15 clock hours will be offered at the annual State Conference on Visual Impairment with one to two additional onsite, as well as distance education supplement.

State Listserv: The listserv is up and running. There are weekly posting and it appears to be a helpful communication resource for CO TVIs!

Colorado Services for Children with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project: Tanni and Gina Quintana are currently working on the proposal for this next five-year cycle. It is exciting to see the many partnership activities in this proposal!

CSDB Joint Budget Committee Proposal:

With input from the Vision Coalition technology task force, a request for \$64,000 worth of equipment was included in the first draft of the joint budget committee proposal as well as a request for a half time staff person to establish and run a technology loan bank. CSDB Superintendent Carol Hilty and accounting personnel are currently reviewing this first draft. It is uncertain if it will receive approval. In addition to the Outreach department, 6 additional strategic plan work groups submitted requests to be included in the joint budget committee proposal.

BUDGET for 2008-09

Tanni shared that the CDE Exceptional Student Leadership Unit is in the process of determining budgets for the next school year. The three priorities of the ESLU are the State Performance Indicators, Response to Intervention, and the Continuous Improvement Monitoring Process. Once the BVI budget has been determined, it will be announced.

CIMC Discussion

Orders for Textbooks and Instructional Aids:

True life example: The CIMC received an order for several textbooks embedded within the body of an email last week. Remember, each individual book request needs to be filled out on the proper order form. The fully completed order form may then be mailed or emailed as an attachment to the CIMC.

- Textbooks orders have their own individual order form. Please fill it out completely and mail it or e-mail it as an attachment to its own unique email address: cimctexts@csdb.org
- APH Instructional Aids have a separate order form. Please fill it out completely and mail it, or email it as an attachment, to its own unique email address: cimcaids@csdb.org
- All orders need to be on an order form, do not send a word document or an email with a list of books embedded into the body of the email.
- Please verify that order forms are filled out completely. Remember to identify what day you shipped, or plan to ship, you ink print text(s).
- The CIMC has recently received many textbook orders with incorrect or missing ISBN numbers. This is essential to the acquisition process.
- Provide BOTH the 10-digit and 13-digit ISBN numbers on your order forms if possible.
- Please mark which edition of a book is being referenced
- Please do not write “ASAP” in the ‘need by’ category. Use an actual calendar date.
- Send order forms to the CIMC separately, please do not place order forms into boxes of returned shipments. It is acceptable to send multiple order forms in one email.
- Ink print copies of textbooks should be shipped separately in their own individual boxes.
- Ink print issue: If a textbook has never been transcribed by an available vendor, the CIMC needs an ink print copy of the textbook to send to the transcriber to acquire a price quote which needs to be approved to complete a purchase order, a legally binding contractual document, before the transcriber can begin work on a book. The time spent waiting for ink prints has been up to four months on some orders. The time in transit to the CIMC as well as to/from the vendor is an additional concern, especially if the first quote is too expensive and the book needs to be returned to the CIMC and forwarded on to a second vendor for an additional quote. Suggestions for procedural improvement?
- NIMAS / NIMAC: Even if a textbook is available as a file, our transcribers still require ink print copies to ensure proper formatting.
- When ordering novels please indicate if the student needs the novel in textbook format (so the brailled book matches the page numbers of the ink print copy allowing the student to follow along in class with his/her peers) or literary format (typically used to allow the student to read the novel independently). If literary format is acceptable, let the CIMC know if any ISBN of the novel is acceptable. This saves a lot of follow-up contacts between districts and the CIMC.

Perkins Braillewriters:

True life example: Recently the CIMC has discovered large stone necklaces, ponytail holders, rubber bands, paper clips, human hair, pet hair and food (part of a bagel actually) inside braillewriters that have been returned. Please remember to keep them covered when not in use.

- If you have a Perkins braillewriter that is not being used by a student, please return it to the CIMC. As of April 01, 2008, the CIMC does not currently have one single braillewriter on its shelves to ship if a new student enters a district.
- Many districts have not completed their Braille inventory. Please return completed inventories, or any new updates, to Donice at “dfennimore@csdb.org”.
- Please carefully verify the braillewriter serial numbers on your inventory. One Denver district returned their inventory in March 2008 verifying they were in possession of a braillewriter with a unique serial number. In April, a volunteer brailist in Colorado Springs returned a braillewriter with that exact same unique serial number.

- THOUSANDS of dollars worth of braillewriters are missing and have not been accounted for on district inventories to date.
- Braillewriter Repair: Donice is investigating other braillewriter repair options. The 2007-08 repair budget is currently depleted.
- At what point are APH quota dollars finite?
- When are districts charged for missing braillewriters? Braillewriter repairs?
- How can families be assisted in acquiring a braillewriter for home ownership?
- Remember to return braillewriters that have been used by graduating seniors to the CIMC at the end of the 2008 school year. If they have a CIMC braillewriter at home, both (two) braillewriters need to be returned to the CIMC.
- Development of a CIMC fact sheet delineating district responsibilities and CIMC responsibilities.

Braille Textbook Errors:

Complaints of “lousy”, “poor”, “horrible”, and “atrocious” braille have been sent in emails to the CIMC. Please provide the CIMC with suggestions to improve the process of identifying braille errors in student’s textbooks. The CIMC staff has very close working relationships with all of their vendors and contracted transcriptionists. The CIMC staff would like to have the student (and/or TVI) circle the error directly on the braille page as they come across it in their reading and accompany the braille page with a photocopy of the print page with the same reference circled. The CIMC could then work with the vendor to correct the errors. Some TVIs have expressed their concern that this is not a reasonable expectation. It is a common expectation that textbooks are proofread for errors before shipment to a student but obviously, errors can continue to occur. In order to work with vendors on correcting errors, the CIMC needs specificity. The CIMC would like input from the field on how to address braille errors in an appropriate manner. At the vision coalition meeting, one TVI shared that their district marked a ‘sampling’ of braille errors that were consistently occurring in a math book rather than proofreading an entire textbook. The book was then returned to the CIMC.

Returning Books:

True life example: In the spring of 2007, one district returned multiple braille textbooks simply by putting them randomly into shipping boxes and shipping them to 1015 East High Street. There was no identifying information included in the shipment relating the books to a student, TVI, or district.

- Please return any textbooks from first semester.
- The CIMC has developed a new informational label which districts will need to attach to the *side* of shipping boxes when books are being returned. This will allow the label to be visible when shipments are stacked vertically. On this new label, districts will be asked to provide the title and ISBN number of the texts in addition to filling in blanks for “this box contains volumes (___) through (___)” and is “box number (___) of (___) (total boxes being shipped)”.
- Please verify complete book volumes are being returned. The new label mentioned above will help with this process. *Districts will be charged the replacement fee for missing volumes.* Typically a volume runs between \$24 and \$500 per volume. Not all vendors will sell individual volumes of a textbook. The CIMC has had to re-purchase an entire book and all of its volumes in the past. The CIMC has also had to purge a book because of missing volumes that were not able to be replaced since the textbook was unusable for a future student.
- Can districts come up with their own policies to charge students for missing volumes similar to the policies that are in place for missing ink copies of textbooks for students?

- Many other states send email requests on a daily basis in search of braille textbooks. The CIMC has had many of these books in its inventory. The generally accepted procedure up to this point has been to loan the books to other states with the understanding that if a Colorado student is in need of the textbook it will be returned promptly to the CIMC. This is another example of why it is important for Colorado TVIs to place their textbook orders as quickly as possible. The CIMC staff realizes this is a difficult task and appreciates the efforts of TVIs across the state.

Large Print Orders:

- The CIMC may discontinue in-house production of large print materials.
- Districts may need to identify personnel to stand at a photocopier and enlarge materials in-house.
- Requests for large print materials will be followed up on an individual basis by CIMC staff and/or low vision evaluation clinic personnel.
- Many requests for large print materials are for students who have not received a low vision evaluation in the last 9 years. TVIs are strongly encouraged to schedule those students for low vision evaluations at upcoming regional clinics or with low vision specialists in their area.

APH orders

True life example: An order for an "Alphabet Scramble" book was placed in the name of a student who already uses a Braille+ device and a BookPort. Remember, orders for APH materials purchased with quota funds are to be used by students who generated the quota funds. If they do not meet the APH federal quota registry criteria, the instructional aids should not be purchased with quota funds. Districts are fiscally responsible for the purchase of materials to be used by non-quota students.

- As mentioned earlier, APH Instructional Aids have a specific order form, different from the order forms used for requesting textbooks. Please fill out the instructional aid order form completely and mail it, or email it as an attachment, to its own unique email address: cimcaids@csdb.org.
- Quota dollars generated vs. dollar amounts of inventory ordered and received by districts.
- Carte blanche ordering has to cease.
- Local dialogue and planning is needed at the district level keep expenditures within a reasonable margin of the quota allocations generated by each district.
- Districts may have to assume some fiscal responsibility for items ordered above and beyond their district generated allotments and for items needed by students who are not quota eligible.
- Fiscal priorities for quota allocations need to include paper, books, and braillewriters.
- A need exists to transition to an October 1 – September 31 funding/ordering cycle to parallel the federal fiscal budget cycle. New quota allocations for next year will be accessible on October 1, 2008.

CIMC Handbook:

True life example: Devices have recently been shipped to the CIMC without cables, manuals, or any documentation of whether the device was in working condition or in need of repair. Please remember to include the appropriate form, located in the CIMC handbook, with shipments to the CIMC.

- Revision process is ongoing for 2008-2009 edition which will be posted on the CSDB/CIMC website.
- Required forms for braillewriter repair and broken equipment are located in the handbook.
- Please remember to return all original parts when returning broken items for repair.

Contact Lists:

- TVI contact list currently being updated
- District contact person list currently being updated
- Vendor list currently being updated
- Library of Congress certified braille transcriber list currently being updated

- CIMC receives many inquiries for braille production from the community. The CIMC has recently begun developing a contact list of regional transcribers who may be interested in braille for members of the community. If you, or someone in your region, would like to be added to this list please call or email Burt Haas at (719) 578-2197 , bhaas@csdb.org.

Misc:

- Please do not contact vendors directly.
- Districts do not need to source books. It does not save the CIMC any time and only results in more work for district employees. Let the CIMC staff complete the book sourcing process.

Lou suggested that we have a Vision Coalition meeting at the CIMC during school year 2008-09. Everyone thought this was a great idea.

Update on Assignments from Last Meeting

Nancy Cozart, Karla McKechnie, and Ann Hicks worked on a draft document specific to braille instruction. Nancy has taken the lead role and has asked for peer review. The draft version will be sent to VC members for a first round of review.

Julia Zanon provided an update on the Colorado Commission for the Blind during this meeting. In addition, Michelle Chacon has written an article for the May 2008 WHOT edition.

Next Meeting Dates:

- September 16, 2008 at the CIMC
- November 18th, 2008 at the Anchor Center

Agenda items:

- School Year 2008-09 Budget
- Parent Activities
- Working with Eye Care Specialists
- Work session specific topics yet to be determined

WHO	WHAT	WHEN
TVI reps	Talk with a parent who could join us at the September VC meeting.	Between now and the next VC meeting.
TVIs reps	Talk with colleagues and keep an eye out for any documented procedures for determining a need for extended time.	Between now and next VC meeting
Tanni	Talk to the CDE Assessment personnel about how to best create a "work session" specific to CSAPA.	Summer months 2008
Tanni	Send out the Part C memorandum	It will be posted in the May 2008 newsletter. It is posted on the CDE w Blind/Low Vision webpage now.
TVI reps Jim Olson	Communicate that books no longer being used this school year should be sent back to the CIMC as soon as possible. Also, book orders for next year will need to be sent in with an ink print.	April-May 2008
TVI Jim Olson	Send out CIMC survey questions and get feedback.	April – May 2008.
Jim Olson and input from VC members	Work on some CIMC Fact Sheets that can be posted on the CIMC website to provide guidance on CIMC procedures. Jim	As possible, over summer 2008 (this will be an ongoing work-in-progress as new topics emerge.
Nancy	Sent the draft Braille Instruction Fact Sheet to VC members for their review	April 2008

Best Wishes

Retiring TVIs and COMSs

ANN HICKS

After receiving my BS degree in English, History and Social Studies from the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs (UCCS) in 1969, I began my career at the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind (CSDB) as an English teacher. I received my Master's Degree in Teaching the Visually Impaired in 1972 from the University of Northern Colorado (UNC). Then in 1974 I moved to New York so my husband could start a dairy farm and I taught K-4th grade in a Special Classroom in Rochester, NY for one year where the students were bused in from all over the county. After we lost our farm to a devastating fire, we returned to Colorado and I started School District 11's program for students with visual impairment and was an itinerant teacher there for the next 15 years.

I returned to CSDB as a principal in 1990 for 4 ½ years and earned my Administrative Certificate from University of Denver (DU). Then I went to Oregon and was the Director of the Oregon School for the Blind for 5 ½ years. I retired in July of 2000 and my husband and I worked for Tracks to Adventure giving RV tours to Mexico and Alaska.

We decided to settle back in Colorado the fall of 2002 and I came back to work at CSDB again. I was the Coordinator of the CIMC (Colorado Instructional Materials Center) for five and a half years and I am finishing up my career working with Transition Services and a new program for high school seniors entitled "On the Job Training".

I have been so lucky to work with so many wonderful people and students in my lifetime. I can truly say that I have never had a job that I didn't like. When I started out as a teacher in Colorado Buck Schrotberger was the State Consultant for the Visually Impaired and I learned so much from him. As I finish up my career, I have been so blessed to work with and learn from Tanni Anthony as our current State Consultant for the Visually Impaired and Lou Tutt as my direct supervisor. Thanks so much Tanni and Lou for all you do for students and staff in Colorado.



ANITA WHERRY

I received my vision certification at Peabody College in Nashville in the early 70's.



I moved to Denver in the summer of 1990 after having taught Home Economics and Activities of Daily Living at the Tennessee School for the Blind in Nashville for 20 years. My first job in Colorado was part time with Cherry Creek. In a few weeks it became full time, and I have worked at a TVI for the past 17 years in Cherry Creek. What a neat journey this has been! I accidentally got into the Special Education field, but I have never wanted to return to teaching Home Economics to regular education students. Over the years I have worked with so many wonderful students and quality staff people. Being in this field has enhanced my life in exponential ways.

I served on the CAER board for a two year term as the Public Relations Person. I recruited new members for the CAER. I have always been in the AER in TN and CO. I have attended several National Conferences in different cities.

I do enjoy travel. After retirement, I hope to do mission-type work in different places around the world. My greatest desire is to return to China to teach blind and visually impaired orphans whom I met on my trip there last year.

Editor's Note: Anita will be back in Cherry Creek on a 110 contract for next school year!

SHERYL HERLEVICH, The First 30 Years

By Pat Lewis, COMS



Sheryl was there when I first started working in Jefferson County 22 years ago—I was taking someone’s place who was on maternity leave and she had already put in a good 10 years as a TVI. I just never left and hoped always that Sheryl wouldn’t leave either. She is my friend, my mentor, my confidant, and I have no idea of where to start to describe her and the years I have known her. First and foremost she has THE quickest and truly saucy sense of humor. Sheryl, I really believe, has read almost every book ever written and can still remember the titles, authors and plots. I sit in awe of her vocabulary. And her ability to recall every phone number she has ever known astounds me! She is fueled by travel, of all sorts—walking, hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, jetting off to anywhere. Sheryl is the first to jump in the car when you say “let’s go somewhere”!!

Sheryl is one of the true teachers—we all know it is not about the money, but in Sheryl it is evident that she does it for the students, for their futures. She will tell you differently, but her students adore her and appreciate that they have had the opportunity to work with her. Sheryl plans to share her knowledge even after retirement from teaching—the world will be a better place, our little corner of it will be a little less without her. Sheryl always reminds me of the quote by Aristotle that I keep on my desk: Those who educate children well are more to be honored than even their parents, for these only give them life, those the art of living well. Sheryl is an artist.

Sheryl has been my Braille teacher since I was in kindergarten. And I am sad to hear she is retiring. I am going to miss her. She has always been there for me helping me where I needed help. I don't know how else to explain how much I am going to miss her. But I always remember her. I am going to miss her. Joe Tiner

LINDA WITTE, COMS

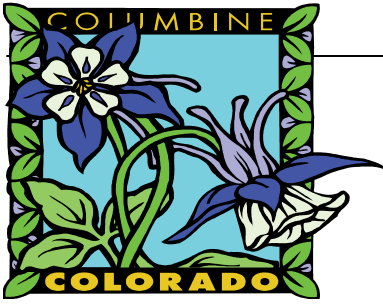
I became interested in working with students who are blind after doing some volunteer work that was required for a college class. I volunteered at the Foundation for the Junior Blind in Los Angeles. After graduating with a degree in sociology, the job prospects looked pretty bleak. My dad sent me an article about Orientation and Mobility he found in his local newspaper, so I checked it out. The rest is history!

I received an MA degree in Orientation and Mobility from California State University, Los Angeles. I am ACRVEP certified, and have been an AER member since it’s inception. I have taught O&M for 32 years; 29 years at CSDB. Before coming to CSDB, I worked for three years at the Arkansas School for the Blind. During this time, I presented at national and regional conferences in Tennessee and Texas on concept development/movement classes that we taught in Arkansas and then later in Colorado. In 1993, I authored an article published in the “Residential School” issue of the JBVI, “Precane Devices in a Residential School Setting.”

Throughout my career, I have primarily worked with students aged 3—21 years old. I have served as a supervising teacher of 12 O&M interns (11 in Colorado), plus one Orientation and Mobility Assistant. Somehow, I have managed to survive working with 6 different principals.

I am looking forward to gardening, hiking, reading, traveling, projects, and generally putzing around the yard while trying to keep our border collie from freaking out over the numerous deer roaming the hills of Manitou Springs. I plan to begin my retirement with a wine country tour of central and northern California with my family.





COLORADO CONNECTIONS

☞ Thank you so much to the following TVIs, thus far, who sent in CSAP and/or CSAPA Item Analysis Forms for this year's administration of tests. Many administrative units have been represented thanks to your efforts: **Michael Plansker** (Adams 12), **Nancy Cozart** (Littleton); **Angel Findler**, **Marsha Roberson** (Weld 6), **Janet Anderson**, **Wendy Schlageter** (Aurora), **Sue Newhart**, **Sheryl Herlevich**, **Karen Jamison**, **Samantha Hoffman**, **Julie Wetzstein** (JeffCo), **Phyllis Jordan**, **Sarah Sonnier** (Mesa), **Linda Campbell** (El Paso 11), **Wendy Stoltman** (Brighton), **Holly Guinan** (Pikes Peak BOCES), **Barb Galgano**, **Lorraine Hutcheson** (Cherry Creek), **Elaine Karns**, **Vicki Pearson** (Poudre), **Anita Wherry** (Cherry Creek), **Kathy Gallina** (San Luis Valley), **Chloann Woolley** (Woodland Park), **Julie King** (Mountain BOCES), **Kevin O'Brien** (Montrose), **Elizabeth Umphress**, **Rhynette Bergmann**, **Karla McKechnie**, **Jan Megarry** (CSDB).

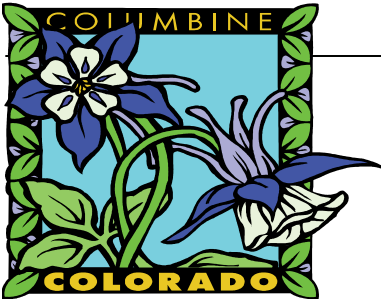
☞ CO was well represented specific to visual impairment and deafblindness at the April International CEC Conference. In attendance, were **Jim Olson**, **Lou Tutt**, **Kay Ferrell**, **Julie Durando**, and **Gina Quintana**. **Jim Olson** presented a session entitled, "If Not the Front Row, Where?"; **Julie Durando** and **Kay Ferrell** presented on "Developmental Milestones in Young Children and Infants with Deaf-Blindness."; **Kay Ferrell** presented on "Descriptive Video Guidelines for children with Visual Impairment." **Lou Tutt** is on the CEC Board of Directors! **Jim Olson** is on the Division of Visual Impairment Board and on the membership committee. **Karla McKechnie** is on the DVI Board of Directors as secretary.



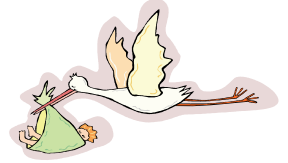
♥ A very special welcome to baby **Elana Sophia Kahn** born on March 31st to proud parents **Amber (Rundle)** and **Nate**. Elana weighed in at 7lbs, 14 oz, and was 19 & 3/4," She joins baby brother Alex. Congrats to the happy family.

☞ A very special thank you to the dedicated folks on the Vision Coalition during school year 2007-08: **Barbara Adams**, **Tanni Anthony**, **Paula Conroy**, **Nancy Cozart**, **Ann Hicks**, **Samantha Hoffman**, **Stephanie Isbell**, **Donna Keale**, **Karla McKechnie**, **Judy Mumford**, **Jim Olson**, **Vicki Pearson**, **Cathy Smyth**, **Lou Tutt**, and **Julie Zanon**.

☞ Congratulations to the SEE THE FUTURE Fund's 2008 recipients: **Grant Fluhr**, **Jordan Walters**, **Nijat Worley**, **Emily Tucker**, **Deng Lor**, **Trevor Garcia**, **Christopher Collins**, and **Amanda Grassello**.



COLORADO CONNECTIONS



- ☞ Happy baby congratulations to **Karla and Scott McKechnie** on the birth of their son **Aiden** who was born on April 12th! Welcome, **Aiden**!
- ☞ Good for **Ann Marie Jansen** and **Helle Hill** for earning braille clock hours towards their CDE Renewal Certificate of Braille Competency. Thanks to **Julie Wetzstein** for her proctoring efforts.
- ☞ A BIG thank you to **JC Greeley** for all her teamwork with the VIISA Preschool course. JC co-taught and graded for the course ... and, as always, added many special touches to the course.
- ☞ Thanks to close to 60 people who wrote letters of support for the DB grant proposal. Included in this count are TVIs **Barbara Adams, Nancy Cozart, Paula Conroy, Samantha Hoffman, Judy Mumford, Kay Ferrell, Wendy Stoltman, Barbara Adams, and Jim Olson**. THANK YOU!
- ☞ There are many people to thank for their work to organize and host the recent O&M Conference: Thanks to **Ann Marie Jansen, Mike Plansker, Deb Carlisle, Cheryl Leidich, Elaine Karns, Nancy Knight, Tanni Anthony, Barb Galgano, Mimi Schaper, Pat Lewis** and everyone at the conference who pitched in when the need came up. A big thank you to **Trina Boyd Pratt** for her work extraordinaire. Thank you to the Anchor Center for hosting the meeting and to **JC Greeley, Paula Stallman, Charlotte Morgan, Cathy Smith, Belinda, Karen (Office Manager), and Jana** for all their assistance. We love you, Anchor Center! Thank you to the presenters: **Pat Lewis, Anna Bunce, Kevin Stewart, Tanni Anthony, Michelle Chacon, John Deden, Nimer Jaber, Julie Adams, Louise Gettman, Paula Stallman, Ana Amador, Charlotte Morgan, and Bonnie Snyder**. Thanks to **Bill Muir** for all of his help with getting Kevin to and from the conference - could not have done it without you, Bill!



O&M Specialists at Work during the recent Conference:
Far Left: Jim Olson, Michelle Chacon, and Wendy Stoltman.
Far Right: Debbie Mendoza and Ann Marie Jansen



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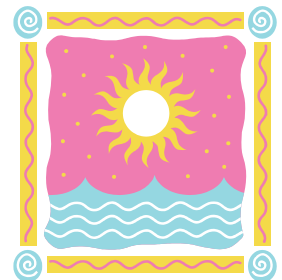
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