VISIONS in Indiana

In This Issue:

Mark Your Calendar

22-27 March 2010
California State University at Northridge (CSUN) Center on Disabilities' 25th Annual International Conference: Technology and Persons with Disabilities. San Diego, CA. Contact: Center on Disabilities, CSUN, 18111 Nordhoff Street, BH 110, Northridge, CA 91330-8340; phone: 818-677-2578; email: <conference@csun.edu>; web: <www.csun.edu/cod/conf/index.html>

21-24 April 2010
Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Annual Convention and Exposition. Nashville, TN. Contact: CEC; web: <www.cec.sped.org>

23-25 April 2010
51st Annual Conference of the California Transcribers and Educators for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CTEBVI). Los Angeles, CA. Contact: CTEBVI, Braille Institute, Los Angeles; email:<administrator@ctebvi.org>; web: <www.ctebvi.org>

24 April 2010
Early Childhood and School-Age Conference. Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Indianapolis, IN. Contact: Diane Childers, Outreach and Related Services; phone: 317-253-1481, ext. 175; email: <dchilders@isbvik12.org>.

June 2010
Research in the Rockies: An Interdisciplinary Exploration of Braille Reading and Writing. More information to come.

3-8 July 2010
National Federation of the Blind National Convention. Dallas, TX. Contact: National Federation of the Blind; phone: 410-659-9314; web site: <www.nfb.org>

9-17 July 2010
American Council of the Blind National Convention, Phoenix, AZ. Contact: American Council of the Blind; phone: 800-424-8666 or 202-467-5081; web: <www.acb.org>.

20-25 July 2010
2010 AER International Conference. Little Rock, Arkansas. Contact: Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired, 1703 North Beauregard Street, Suite 440, Alexandria, VA 22311; phone: 703-671-4500, ext. 201; web:< www.aerbvi.org> for more information.

27-30 October 2010
ATIA 2010 Chicago. For more information, contact: ATIA, 401 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL; phone: 877-687-2842 or 312-321-5172; email: info@atia.org; web: <www.atia.org>.

26-29 January 2011
ATIA 2011 Orlando. For more information, contact: ATIA, 401 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL; phone: 877-687-2842 or 312-321-5172; email: info@atia.org; web: <www.atia.org>.

IERC Updates

ANNUAL REGISTRATION

The IERC is compiling all data submitted for the Annual Student Registration of Students Who Are Legally Blind for submission to the American Printing House for the Blind by March 15, 2010. Students registered during this process will generate federal quota funds effective October 1, 2010. Thanks to everyone for submitting their data in a timely manner.

Just a reminder...Please remember to register all new students and update existing student's information as it changes on the ICAM web system to keep student information current.

BOOK ORDERS

Don't forget to begin submitting your book orders for braille and large print textbooks and specialized aids and equipment. This is the best time to order Braille textbooks as many Braille transcribers are currently looking for work and it is the easiest time to secure transcribers. Our staff will contact you if print books are needed for transcription after we review your orders from the ICAM system.

ANNUAL INVENTORY SUMMARY REPORTS

A reminder that annual Inventory Recall Forms will be sent out in the early spring to all teachers of students who are blind or have low vision, who have ordered/borrowed items from the IERC. This is a very important procedure as it allows materials and resources to be reused effectively and efficiently.

PACKING/SHIPPING SLIPS

Please remember to sign, date and return a copy of the packing list enclosed in your shipments for braille and large print textbook and specialized aids and/or equipment. It is important for us to know that you received the materials we have shipped to you for your students to insure timely access.

MIAMI BRAILLE PROJECT

The Miami Braille Project, located at the Miami Correctional Facility just north of Kokomo, began its first year of textbook transcription for the 2009-2010 school year for the IERC. Approximately 40 books have been transcribed or are in the process of transcription for our students. The project has 22 offenders in the program, 19 of whom have completed their NLS (National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped) Literary Braille Certification, the national standard for Braille transcription. Six offenders are working on completing their Nemeth or math NLS Certification. In addition, a

tactile graphics program is in full swing at the project, creating hundreds of graphics based on national best practices.

LARGE PRINT PRODUCTION MOVING TO MIAMI

The Large Print Production Facility currently located at Madison, Indiana will be closing as of April 1st. ISBVI and the IERC have been working with the Indiana Department of Corrections to relocate the production facility to the Miami Correctional Facility and incorporate the large print production into the Braille and newly designed accessible formats workflow, now called the Miami Accessible Formats Project. Mr. Robert Eutz, an IERC staff member, is coordinating the project up at Miami.

The Miami Accessible Formats Project utilizes a unique production workflow, not found anywhere else in the state. The versatility of the workflow diversifies the braille operation by consolidating it with the large print operation at their common points. The production process provides improvements in both the speed of the process, the quality and consistency of books converted, and the flexibility of the system to produce four specialized formats (digital braille, hard copy braille, hard copy large print, and accessible pdf files) instead of the traditional two (hard copy braille and hard copy large print). It also provides for a mechanism to provide a smaller size 18 point large print textbook format in addition to the larger hard copy format when possible. The process assists in removing the limitations of print technology barriers for students with visual impairments and provides access that is timely and content that is consistent with print versions of the textbook. The increase in useable, digital large print and braille options will reduce the need for hard copy large print and braille, which is more costly to produce, maintain and distribute than digital media. Based on this new production workflow, the IERC will be moving in the direction of providing large print books in accessible formats other than a printed copy and move in the direction of a greater percentage of large print books being provided digitally.

Please be reminded that in order for the IERC to acquire NIMAS files for braille and large print production, the LEA's must require publishers in their textbook contracts to send down the NIMAS files to the NIMAC. See the ICAM website for contractual language at <http://www.icam.k12.in.us/generalinfo.php>.

The IERC would like to thank the Madison Area Educational Special Services and the staff of the LPPF, Rhonda Smith and Carol Persinger, for their many years of devoted service to the production of large print educational materials for our state's students who have low vision. We appreciate their dedication to this project.

State Library Updates
By Carole Rose
Indiana State Library
Special Services Division

Digital Update

In September 2009, the Indiana Talking Book and Braille Library distributed its first allotment of digital talking book players. We continue to receive regular shipments from the distributor and are pleased to report that more than 1500 patrons have the new equipment. The response has been positive. Even persons who were reluctant to part with their cassette players are thrilled with the digital media with its outstanding sound quality and ease of operation.

We have already exhausted our original waiting list which included several students. Other students picked up their players during our 2009 Indiana Vision Expo, but there are still a number of young readers who have yet to receive their players. All active students should receive a DTB player within the next month. We are also contacting those students who have been suspended from the program for various reasons to let them know about the digital transition and to encourage them to become active readers.

The option to download books and magazines from the NLS BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download) web site is becoming increasingly popular with our readers. We are hoping that students will take advantage of the download option, either by doing it themselves or asking a family member, teacher, or friend to download books for them. Patrons may continue to borrow cartridges from us but we are just beginning to expand our collection and the BARD site already has more than twenty thousand titles. New titles are posted on the site at least two months before network libraries receive cartridge copies. Downloading provides instant access to titles and the titles need not be returned to the library. Books may be downloaded either on a thumb drive that does not contain the already installed U3 technology files, or on a blank NLS cartridge which also requires a short cable to connect the cartridge to the computer. The cartridge and cable can be purchased for $17.95 from Adaptive Technology, a products division of Perkins School for the Blind. Credit cards and purchase orders are accepted. For information or to place an order email <adaptivetechnology@perkins.org> or phone (978) 462-3817.

The BARD site is accessible only to ersons registered with the Talking Book program. NLS has yet to grant BARD access to schools and other institutions. However, teachers and media specialists may download by logging into the site using an eligible student's login ID and password. To obtain access to BARD for a student, parents or teachers can visit the site at <https://nlsbard.loc.gov> and complete a brief online application.

NLS released an important upgrade which lets the digital player recognize and play more than one book on a cartridge or thumb drive. We have the upgrade file and are installing it on each player we assign. Multiple titles can now be downloaded onto a single cartridge or drive. To enter the bookshelf mode, insert the cartridge and press the power button to turn the player on. Press and hold down the play/stop button until bookshelf is announced. The player will speak the number of titles on your cartridge or drive. Each time the fast-forward button is pressed, a book title is spoken. Press the rewind button to move backward through the list. When the desired book is selected, press the play/stop button and begin reading.

If you have questions or would like further information about the digital transition or downloading, please contact us at (317) 232-3684 or (800) 622-4970 or email: <lbph@library.in.gov>.

"EYE-DEAS"
By Ann Hughes
Early Childhood Consultant
Outreach and Related Services
Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Im-

The annual **Osborne Early Childhood Parent Training Conference** and the **School-Age Parent Training Conference** will be held concurrently on the campus of the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired on Saturday, April 24, 2010. These conferences are open to parents, adult family members/relatives, First Steps therapists/service providers, and vision teachers from around the state. The conference consists of speakers, presenters, and exhibitors. The keynote speaker for both conferences will be Larry Schaaf, Research Associate, Indiana Institute on Disability and Community, Indiana University. Larry is also a parent of a thirty-three year old son with disabilities. The Early Childhood Conference agenda will include the following topics: opportunity to network with other parents, exhibit area, assessment of young children who are blind or have low vision, and use of music to teach concepts. The School-Age Conference agenda will include the following topics: opportunity to network with other parents, exhibit area, and a question and answer session with an

optometrist. Professionals will receive documentation of their training hours and will be charged a nominal fee for lunch. The conference is free to family members. Conference flyers and registration packets will become available a month prior to the conference on ISBVI's website, <http://intra.isbrockets.org/teams/dept_outreach/2006-09_Update/index_files/Page699.htm>

Save April 24th on your calendar! Please contact Ann Hughes, Outreach Early Childhood Consultant, at (317) 253-1481, x100, e-mail: <ahughes@isbvik12.org> or Diane Childers, School-Age Consultant, (317) 253-1481, x175, e-mail: <dchilders@isbvik12.org> for further information.

Indiana Braille Challenge 2010

The 2nd Annual Indiana Braille Challenge was held Saturday, February 20th, 2010 at the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. The Braille Challenge is a unique competition that motivates blind students to practice and improve their Braille reading skills. It consisted of five categories and was comprised of a total of 22 students from 11 counties across Indiana: Apprentice (grades 1 & 2) six students, Freshman (grades 3 &4) five students, Sophomore (grades 5 & 6) three students, Junior Varsity (grades 7 – 9) seven students, Varsity (grades 10 – 12) one student. Opening and closing ceremonies were based on an Olympic theme this year. Students competed in the following tests: speed and accuracy, reading comprehension, spelling, proofreading and interpreting charts and tactile graphics.

The winner from each category was determined by the top overall score. Each student who participated received a Braille medal, a certificate and a t-shirt. The winner in each category received a gift basket donated by the NFBI (National Federation of the Blind, Indy chapter), the ACBI (American Council of the Blind, Indy chapter), the FFB (Foundation Fighting Blindness), the BCF (Blind Children's Foundation), and the ISBVI LEOS Club. A Braille book exchange was held during lunch and the families of the participants engaged in activities that simulated the challenges of the Braille students in everyday activities of cooking, recreational/leisure, adapted tabletop games, and technology.

Congratulations to the Indiana Winners: Apprentice: Alayna Hall, Freshman: Mitchell Bridwell, Sophomore: Logan Anderson, Junior Varsity: Haley Sumner, Varsity: Kevin Morales.

The National Braille Challenge will be held in Los Angeles in June, and will consist of the 12 overall top scores in each category from the United States and Canada. You can learn more about the national challenge by visiting the Braille Institute website at <www.brailleinstitute.org>.

Thanks to all the sponsors, volunteers, families, and students who participated in this fun-filled day! A special thanks to Cathy Johnson from the American Printing House for the Blind for volunteering and exhibiting for our families.

For more information, about the regional challenge, contact Toni Hughes, Director, Outreach and Related Services at <thughes@isbvik12.org> or call 317-253-1481, ext. 221.

Promoting Achievement through
Technology and Instruction for All Students

By Vicki Hershman
PATINS State Coordinator

Pearson Publishing Announces HTMLbooks with MathML for Mathematical Content

At the ATIA (Assistive Technology Industry Association) conference last week one the largest textbook publishers, Pearson, announced that they are going to produce "HTMLbooks" and that HTMLbooks would make use of MathML for mathematical content! Even better, this is not some "special ed" version of the book, but a universal design book aimed at all students. This is the news that many of us have been waiting for: accessible textbooks as a standard product from a large publisher. For those of you who aren't familiar with the benefits of using MathML for math, there is a summary on our accessibility solutions pages. Now that a major publisher has committed to making textbooks with accessible math, my guess is that we will see some more publishers make announcements. 2009 could be a watershed year for accessibility! To see a sample of the PEARSON HTMLbooks go to: <http://www.pearsonschool.com/ index.cfm?locator=PSZ4Z4&PMDBSUBCATEGORYID=&PMDBSITEID=2781& PMDBSUBSOLUTIONID=6732&PMDBSOLUTIONID=6724&PMDBSUBJECTAREAID= &PMDBCATEGORYID=806&elementType=mergedNavGroup&navGroupName=Preview%20 Products&PMDbProgramID=67381>

Math Player by Design Science

MathPlayer is a plug-in to Microsoft's Internet Explorer (IE) that renders MathML [11] visually. It also contains a number of features that make mathematical expressions accessible to people with print-disabilities. MathPlayer integrates with many screen readers including JAWS and Window-Eyes. MathPlayer also works with a number of TextHELP!'s learning disabilities products.

Design Science points out the technology issues involved in making math accessible. Design Science Blog - <http://news.dessci.com/>

Learning Points:

• Although some educators have ignored the importance of accessible math in the past, these attitudes are now changing due to the availability of new technologies
• By using universally designed math technologies like MathML to create accessible math equations, the resulting content will also provide for alternative access
 to meet a student's special access needs.
• Most math equations currently used in digital environments like the Web are simply static bitmaps (digital drawings) of equation images, and are inherently inaccessible
• Using MathML provides a number of accessibility benefits and produces math equations that can be both rendered visually on the screen and also available through alternative access means.
• Turning math expressions into audio form can be a very effective form of alternative access for people who have visual or learning disabilities. Images of equations do not by themselves supply information to support any form of audio rendering, but coherent and consistent audio rendering of math expressions is available when using MathML.
• Since there are many users who can see but who have some form of visual impairment, the need to enlarge mathematical equations on a computer screen is very common. Using MathML provides for user flexibility to change visual aspects such as the size and color of the font as well as the background of the display.
•Synchronous highlighting of math equations with audio can be beneficial for students with learning disabilities or attention deficit disorders, as well as for students with low vision. Math equations which have been encoded in MathML can permit a range of high-lighting reinforcement options.
• The ability to provide math access through refreshable braille displays and hard copy braille output is important for both blind and deaf-blind users. Math images cannot be accessed by braille, but braille access to math encoded in MathML can be provided.
• The ability to better comprehend longer or more complex mathematical equations in audio form is aided by user navigation within a math equation. This is not feasible with prerecorded audio files or text equivalents, but can be made possible when using math content encoded in MathML.

There are a growing number of assistive technology (AT) products that have math support, ranging from synthetic speech output of math equations to braille support.

Read:OutLoud Upgrade 6.0.1 Available at the ICAM
What's New in ROL Version 6.0.1?
•   Improved Snow Leopard compatibility
•   Web Site links opening in a separate browser window
•   Proxy / Firewall Server Authentication

- Easy to install
- Network ready
- NIMAS ready…No Conversion Necessary
- Functions identically on Mac and Windows and is now optimized for Windows XP, Vista, 7 and Mac OS 10.4 - 10.6 (Windows 7 and Mac OS 10.6 supported with version 6.0.1).
- Bookshare members can simply click on any of the 50,000 books on Bookshare's website and Read:OutLoud will **instantly** open the book *without unpacking*.
- Read:OutLoud 6 features the latest Acapela voices—one of the highest quality, most natural-sounding speech engine available. Read:OutLoud 6 will also play any other SAPI 5 voice you have on your system.
- Compatible with all common built-in accessible book formats : PDF, NIMAS, Daisy 3, Microsoft "Save as Daisy", Bookshare files, rich text format, text files, HTML, XML and the new Pearson HTMLbooks.
- Read:OutLoud 6 is so simple, you can train teachers in 30 minutes with the
- "Train-in-30 Tutorial"

Read:Out Loud and JAWS Users
If you are using the free ICAM Read:Outloud software with students who are blind and who are using JAWS, here's a tip to get the two programs to work together: turn off the speaking of menus and dialogue boxes within the Read:OutLoud program then utilize JAWS to read those and let Read:OutLoud read the NIMAS text. You can also contact the ICAM or your Regional PATINS Site Coordinator for a listing of all keyboard commands for ROL for both PC and Mac.

Library of Congress Service
Looking for a book but don't know the title or the author? The Library of Congress is a good place to begin your search: Lost Titles, Forgotten Rhymes: How to Find a Novel, Short Story, or Poem Without Knowing its Title or Author is a web guide to help you find that hard-to-find read: http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/lost/

Upcoming PATINS Events (Visit <http://www.patinsproject.com> for more details)
- Join us at the PATINS Project Tech Expo coming in April.
- Virtual Instruction and Assessment Environments: Addressing 21st Century Skills for Students with Disabilities - March 4, 2010 – on PATINS Project Island in Second Life; Presenter David Davis , Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resource System (FDLRS)
- Assistive Technology Roundtable Meetings are scheduled twice a week on the PATINS Project Island in Second Life – come and join us!

For Your Information

From the Braille Institute:
Looking for a way honor a very special teacher of the visually impaired? From now through April 1st we are accepting nominations for **The Braille Challenge® 2010 Award for Excellence in Braille Instruction.** All nominees are recognized nationally and the awardee and his or her guest are invited to Los Angeles to attend The Braille Challenge Finals June 26, 2010 compliments of Braille Institute. The Teacher of the Year also receives a cash award and a Freedom Scientific PacMate worth nearly $4,000. Go to <www.braillechallenge.org> and click on the Teacher of the Year link on the menu to your left. The website outlines the criteria for submission and includes a PDF of the nomination form. Past awardees include Anna Swenson of Virginia, Graham Cook of British Columbia, Sandy Serventi from Florida, Jim Nezol from Oregon and Carolyn Mason from Texas. Deadline for submission is April 1st!!

The Perkins Training and Educational Resources Program have announced their latest on-demand educational webcast on Accessible Science. This webcast is part of a series and goes along with a pilot website focused exclusively on making science accessible to students who are visually impaired. Visit <www.perkins.org/whatsnew/accessible-sciene.html>.

The American Foundation for the Blind announced the 2010 winners of the prestigious Migel Medal Award, the highest honor in the blindness field. The 2010 Professional Award recipient was Tuck Tinsley III, President of the American Printing House for the Blind. Tuck Tinsley will be honored during the 2010 APH conference, October 14-16 in Louisville, KY. The 2010 Migel Lay Award recipient is Deane B. Blazie, an electrical engineer and developer of the Braille 'n Speak. Deane Blazie was honored January 28, 2010 at the ATIA conference in Orlando, FL.

Membership to Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic (RFB&D) is now free to individuals with a documented print disability, such as a learning disability, visual disability or other physical disability. The digital audio talking books provided by RFB&D are available in downloadable formats, including DAISY (Digital Accessible Information System) and Window Media Audio. RFB&D digitally recorded materials must be played on specialized DAISY playback systems which users can acquire from RFB&D. For more information, contact: RFB&D, National Headquarters, 20 Roszel Road, Princeton, NJ 08540; email: <custserv@rfbd.org>; web site www.rfbd.org/membership-individual.htm.

The following improvements have been made to the APH Next Generation Brailler. The hi-tech plastic cell space rack was replaced with a metal one; clearance between the embossing head and the paper has been changed to help eliminate jams; the sturdiness of the left margin button has been improved to prevent it from being broken when moving the carriage to the left; the carriage release button functioning has been improved; the dot erase head works better and does not damage dots when the carriage is moved manually; the strength of the shipping carton has been improved; a Styrofoam piece was added to prevent carriage damage during shipping; the cam that activates the bell has been improved; false rings of the bell have been eliminated; and an informational DVD has been added to the package.

APH launched NIMAC 2.0 on January 6, 2010. With NIMAC 2.0, state coordinators will have new options in managing their authorized user accounts; authorized users will benefit from an improved "watchlist" for NIMAS files; and publishers will have new options for managing their files. NIMAC staff is conducting training sessions for authorized users, accessible media producers and publishers.

APH continues to add to its free-of-charge downloadable product manual list. The manuals may be printed or embossed as needed. Visit the APH website to view the list of manuals available at <www.aph.org>.

The American Printing House for the Blind (APH) has announced that their popular Tactile Graphic Image Library (TGIL) has been improved and enhanced. TGIL 2.0 site is now more accessible, creates a more intuitive navigation system, opens the possibilities to receive graphics from other sources, adds a forum for tactile graphics discussions, and includes an automated registration system. Visit the improved TGIL on the APH website at <www.aph.org/tgil/>. Feedback can be emailed to <tgfeedback@aph.org>.

Visually impaired or blind artists of all ages are invited to submit artwork for APH's 19th annual international art competition, APH InSights 2010. Artists may enter original artwork created in any medium, including (but not limited to), painting, drawing, printmaking, fiber, metal or wood. The deadline for entries for students in kindergarten through high school is April 1. Adult artists have until April 15 to send in their entries.

Complete rules and entry forms are posted on the APH website at <www.aph.org>. Contact Roberta Williams at 800-223-1839, ext. 357 or <rwilliams@aph.org> to receive a copy of the rules and application forms by email, or a hard copy in print or Braille.

The Indiana Deafblind Services Project will be conducting the deafblind count separate from the December 1 count through the Indiana Department of Education, Division of Differentiated Learners beginning this year. This is an annual census or registry of all learners ages birth through 21 years who have a combined vision and hearing loss. The staff and consultants with the Indiana Deafblind Services Project work with learners ages birth through 21, who have a combined vision and hearing loss, along with families and educators. The project provides child-focused consultations, inservice training activities, family training fund, online loan library materials, and access to online training modules for learners who are deaf-blind, free of charge that are identified on the Deafblind Registry. For more information, contact the Indiana Deafblind Services Project at 800-622-3035 or email <DB@indstate.edu> .

The Perkins Training and Educational Resources Program have announced their latest on-demand educational webcast on Accessible Science. This webcast is part of a series and goes along with a pilot website focused exclusively on making science accessible to students who are visually impaired. Visit <www.perkins.org/whatsnew/accessible-science.html>.

In celebration of The Braille Challenge's 10th Anniversary, Braille Institute is hosting its own film festival celebrating the abilities of young people who are blind or visually impaired. It's called "Cinema Without Sight". Video entries may be fully scripted, acted and edited, or simply a collection of images and scenes, but it must be based on the theme: "I Am More than What I See." The top three submissions will be premiered at the June Braille Challenge Finals, with a top prize of a $1,000 cash award. Download an application from the Braille Challenge's website at <www.braillechallenge.org>. Deadline is April 1, 2010.

Publications

New Products

Looking Good: A Curriculum on Physical Appearance and Personal Presentation for Adolescents and Young Adults with Visual Impairments by Anne L. Corn, Michael J. Bina, and Sharon Zell Sacks (2008) is a curriculum. Cost: $39.00 from Pro-Ed of Austin, Texas. This 10 unit curriculum details the potential areas of difficulty that students with visual impairments might experience related to understanding the concepts of physical appearance and personal presentation. Pre and post assessments are included.

Foundations of Low Vision: Clinical and Functional Perspectives, second edition has been newly released from AFB Press. The second edition has been updated and expanded to further present the most effective methods for assessing and supporting children and adults with low vision. Edited by Anne L. Corn and Jane N. Erin. Cost: $89.95. Visit <www.afb.org>, online bookstore.

Dolphin Systems has released Version 11.50 for its screen readers and screen magnifiers that provide support for 32-bit and 64-bit versions of Windows 7 and enhancement to the support of Microsoft Office. Visit< www.yourdolphin.com/ newsitem.asp?id=449>.

Freedom Scientific recently released a new version of its screen readers: JAWS for Windows Version 11. The new features of Version 11 include Research It, a tool designed to allow users to quickly find information on the Internet while performing other tasks; Word index, which generates words that appear in a document that can be sorted by occurrence, by concept or alphabetically; a DAISY player for Digital Talking Books; and enhancements designed specifically for Windows 7, the newest Microsoft operating system. Cost: $895 or $1,095. For more information, contact: Freedom Scientific, 11800 31st Court North, St. Petersburg, FL 33716-1805; phone: 727-803-8000 or 877-775-9474; web site: <www.freedomscientific.com>.

Freedom Scientific recently announced that it has reduced the US list price of its Focus 40 Blue Braille Display from $4,495 to $2,795, a $1,700 reduction, in a move to support Braille literacy and make the price of this braille technology more affordable. The price includes a two-year warranty. The Focus 40 Blue is a compact portable Braille display that works well with a desktop, laptop, or netbook PC. It connects via USB or Bluetooth and has a Braille keyboard. The 40 Braille cells are constructed without seams between characters, so the user experience is like reading Braille on paper. The Focus 40 Blue works with Apple computers and cell phones as well as with JAWS for Windows. For more information, please visit the Freedom Scientific website at <www.freedomscientific.com> or call 800-444-4443.

Dancing Dots has introduced its new product *The Lime Lighter Low Vision Music-Reading Device* for people with low vision. The Lime Lighter: displays magnified print music notation; magnifies music from 1.25 up to 10 times; allows the user to mark up music on the screen with a stylus and save for later; allows the user to listen to music playback in tempo; and allows the user to optionally use third-party magnification software to read text in program menus and dialogs. For more information, contact Dancing Dots at 610-783-6692 (press option 1 for Sales) or visit <www.dancingdots.com/limelighter>.

The *Surfboard Voice Activated Remote* is a universal remote that controls the volume, changes the channels or turns on the TV by responding to voice. The Surfboard help button talks the user through the automated setup for TV, cable or satellite equipment. Although it requires more programming, it can also be used with a VCR, DVD player or a TiVO box. For more information, call 888-940-0605 or visit <www.dynamic-living.com>.

Talking Crayons with Braille. This device helps children who are blind or have low vision or are color blind identify crayon colors. This is a set of six primary color crayons that when the crayon is inserted into the I-crayon head, a cartoon character will announce the name of the color, the spelling, and the pronunciation in English and Spanish. The Braille contractions of the colors will assist blind children when learning and coloring at the same time. For more information, visit <www.independentliving.com> or call 800-537-2118.

AssistiveWare's *Prolaquo2Go* is software that transforms the iPod Touch or iPhone into an augmentative communication device. The Proloquo2Go features natural sounding text-to-speech outputs (male or female), up-to-date symbols, powerful automatic conjugations, and a default vocabulary of over 7000 items. The software can be used as a text-based or symbol-based communication tool. For more information, visit <www.proloquo2go.com>.

Humanware announced the release of the firmware for Victor Reader Stream 3.1, a free upgrade featuring new shortcut keys and the ability to sort books in the talking books folder into subfolders. Visit <www.humanware.com/stream_support> for more information.

Cell Phone Updates (from Access World News March 2010)

Phones with the new Android operating system form Google are now on the market, and several accessible apps as well as a general screen reading app are being developed. On January 6, Google released its own phone, the Nexus 1, an unlocked phone that is not restricted to one particular service provider. Nuance ahs released version 4 of TALKS for Symbian phones, and Code Factory has announced version 4 of Mobile Speak for Symbian and Windows Mobile phones. Mobile Speak for Windows Mobile phones now supports touch screen phones. With the release of version 6.3.1., the KNFB Reader Mobile software is now compatible with several additional Nokia phones. It allows for use of a trial license for a 14-day free evaluation period. The Nokia phones supported are the E71, N79, N82, N85, N86, N95 8 GB North American model, and the Nokia 6220 Classic.

NEW APH PRODUCTS
 (taken from *APH News*)

Flip-Over Concepts Books: LINE PATHS. This is the first in a series of print/tactile books, designed by APH that provide interactive and independent learning for young children as they build basic concepts and develop early tactile skills. The format of Flip-Over Concept books include print and tactile panels that can be turned freely until the child finds adjacent panels that match each other, continue a line or pattern, complete a sequence, build an image, and so on. Cat.# 1-08831-00. Cost: $50.00.

Building on Patterns (BOP): Primary Braille Literacy Program, First Grade level, Unit 3 is now available. Print Kit (includes Teacher's Materials in print), Cat.# 8-78460-U3, Cost: $135.00; Braille Kit (includes Teacher's Materials in Braille), Cat.# 6-78460-U3, Cost: $135.00. Building on Patterns (BOP) is a complete primary literacy program designed to teach beginning Braille users all language arts – reading, writing, and spelling. BOP First Grade, Units 1-8, replaces patterns Reading Pre-primer, Primer and First Reader Levels. Units 4-8 will be released during the 2009-2010 school year. Recommended ages: 6 to 7 years and up.

Sound Adapted Tangle Ball Kit (3 Balls). A soft plastic ball that encourages spatial development and interaction, creative play, grasping skills for both hands; develops hand-eye coordination, sound localization skills, and fine motor skills. Cat.#: 1-0811-00, Cost: $36.00.

Textured Sorting Circles and Shapes is an assortment of magnetic shapes (circles, squares, triangles, and stars) and sorting circles. The shapes are provided in a variety of textures (smooth, rough, and bumpy), sizes (large, medium, and small), and colors (red, yellow, and blue). The accompanying sorting circles are also provided in a variety of colors and textures. All shapes and circles have a magnetic backing and can be used on a metal surface, such as APH's ALL-IN-ONE Board. Velcro pieces are provided to allow for use on a Velcro board. Recommended ages: 5 years and up. Cat.#: 1-08834-00, Cost: $130.00.

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