



VISIONS in Indiana

Fall 2015

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Mark Your Calendars



20 February 2016

Indiana Regional Braille Challenge. “Braille is Out of This World!” Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Indianapolis, IN. For more information, contact: Outreach and Related Services Department, Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 317-253-1481, ext. 189, or visit the Outreach website at www.isbvik12.org, then search on Outreach and Events.

2-6 February 2016

ATIA 2016. Caribe Royale All-Suites Resort and Convention Center, Orlando, Florida. To register, visit <http://www.atia.org/register2016>

March – May 2016

NFB STEM2U 2015-2016. The National Federation of the Blind in partnership with museums and science centers will facilitate three regional science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs, during the spring of 2016. Application deadline: January 5, 2016. No registration fee. For locations and more information, contact: Natalie Shaheen at STEM@nfb.org or visit www.blindscience.org/nfb-stem2u.

3-5 March 2016

2016 AFB Leadership Conference.
Washington, D.C. Crystal Gateway Marriott.
For more information, visit www.afb.org/afblc.

21-26 March 2016

*2016 CSUN Annual International
Technology and Persons with Disabilities
Conference.* Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel,
San Diego, CA. For more information, visit:
www.csun.edu/cod/conference/2016/sessions/
or email: conference@csun.edu or phone:
818-677-2578.

7-10 April 2016

*California Transcribers and Educators for the
Blind and Visually Impaired, Inc. (CTEBVI)
57th Annual Conference.* “Focus on the
Future: Nemeth, Testing, STEM, UEB.” LAX
Airport Marriott, Los Angeles, CA. For more
information, visit: www.ctebvi.org.

14 April, 2016

2016 PATINS Tech Expo! 502 East Event
Centre (Formerly THE FOUNTAINS), 502 E.
Carmel Drive, Carmel, IN 46032. Registration
begins in January 2016. For more information,
visit: www.patinsproject.com.

7 May 2016

Art Camp. Indiana School for the Blind and
Visually Impaired, Indianapolis, IN. 9:00 a.m.
until 12:00 p.m. For more information,
contact: Outreach and Related Services
Department, Indiana School for the Blind and
Visually Impaired, 317-253-1481, ext. 189, or
visit: www.isbvik12.org then search on
Outreach and Events.

18-22 July 2016

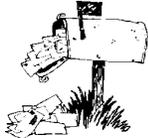
*Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) Summer Day
Camp.* Indiana School for the Blind and
Visually Impaired, Indianapolis, IN. For more
information, contact: Outreach and Related
Services Department, Indiana School for the
Blind and Visually Impaired, 317-253-1481,
ext. 189, or visit: www.isbvik12.org then
search on Outreach and Events.

October 2016

Indiana Regional Cane Quest. Indiana School
for the Blind and Visually Impaired,
Indianapolis, IN. Date TBA. For more
information, contact: Outreach and Related
Services Department, Indiana School for the
Blind and Visually Impaired, 317-253-1481,
ext. 189, or visit: www.isbvik12.org then
search on Outreach and Events.

IERC Updates

by
Leslie Durst, Director



The IERC continues working on the transition from the current EBAE to UEB per our state UEB transition plan. Our transcribers have acquired their UEB certification from Canada as they await the U.S. UEB certification test.

The PASS Project, in collaboration with the IERC and PATINS Project, conducted UEB trainings. The *UEB Ready? Training* series began in October, 2014 and ran through the Fall of 2015 with the *UEB Ready? Instructional Strategies* workshop. Visit the PASS Project website for up-to-date information regarding all professional development activities at www.indstate.edu/blumberg/pass/ then select Blind, Low Vision, Conferences.

The IERC processed numerous UEB braille orders for school year for grades K-5 for the 2015-2016 school year per the state timeline, however, requests for original transcriptions of instructional materials for grades 6 and up were also put into production.

Requests for textbooks and instructional materials, previously transcribed in EBAE will continue to be made available. The IERC will not convert existing braille files from EBAE into UEB as a policy. Transcription and conversion of instructional materials will be evaluated on the educational needs of each individual student and based on established

criteria set by the IERC. Students who have been taught EBAE will continue to receive original transcriptions produced in the EBAE. Exceptions will be made for students, just learning the UEB, who have had no previous training in the UEB. The provision of textbooks and instructional materials in UEB will be dependent on a number of factors, including the availability and capacity of certified UEB transcribers.

A subcommittee of the state UEB Implementation Committee met in June to develop a consideration factors document for use by teachers as they make the decision regarding the math code used by our braille reading students for math instruction. Nemeth Code will be the default code for mathematics, per our state plan, unless the case conference committee determines that UEB math better meets the instructional needs of the student. The Consideration Factors document is currently at the DOE for review. Once it has been approved by DOE, it will be disseminated to our teachers and built into the state IEP system for use by the case conference committee.

Other UEB News and Updates

The *UEBot (Unified English Braille Online Training)* project, presented by Northern Illinois University, is a free course that will be available for either continuing education or university credit. The course is designed to be a month-long MOOC (massive open online course) and will cover the basics of UEB in this first year, and then more advanced topics. For more information, visit: <http://uebot.niu.edu>.

Portland State University is providing UEB PREP (*Unified English Braille Through a Powerful and Responsive eLearning Platform*) is a free course that starts with UEB basics in the first year and then expands its content in subsequent years. The course will include educational crowdsourcing and use of social media to build networks of users, educators, and families. For more information, visit <http://www.uebprep.com>.

Hadley School for the Blind has developed and begun providing a *UEB Transition* course for their Adult Continuing Education/High School (ACE/HS) and their Family/Professional (FE/HSPS) students in large print and braille. There is a tuition fee for the Professional Studies for professionals and para-professionals taking the UEB transition course. For more information, visit: www.hadley.edu/UEBTransition.asp.

A braille supplement to the *Braille Too* program has been released. *UEB Too: A Supplement to the Braille Too Curriculum*, was developed to align with UEB, and is designed to be used with *Braille Too*, the program for middle grade and high school students who are learning braille. Digital files are provided in a USB flash drive and can be embossed using Duxbury Braille Translator software. For more information, visit <http://brl2.com> or send an email to info@brl2.com.

The National Braille Press has several items now available in Unified English Braille (UEB). The Braille Spelling Dictionary for Beginning Readers by Gregory Hurray contains 1,400 elementary-level words, listed alphabetically without definitions, enabling elementary school-age children to look up the

spelling of words independently. Both the contracted and uncontracted braille version of each word is given. The new edition is in print/braille, so sighted and blind children and teachers or parents can use it together. Cost: \$15. Also available in UEB are NBP's new books in their Children's Book Club. Just Enough to Know Better: A Braille Primer updated for UEB braille will be available early 2016. Just Enough to Know Better is designed to provide an introduction to braille for sighted parents. It is a self-paced workbook with exercises that will help parents to support their children who are learning braille. Cost: \$20.00. For more information about these resources, visit NBP's website at www.nbp.org or call toll-free at 800-548-7323.

The American Printing House for the Blind (APH) has completed the UEB updates for the Kindergarten and First Grade student materials of the *Building on Patterns* Series. UEB Teacher supplements for these levels are available for download from their website at <http://www.aph.org/manuals/>. They are now updating the units of the Second grade level. The *Building on Patterns (BOP)* is a complete primary literacy program designed to teach beginning braille users all language arts – reading, writing, and spelling. For more information, contact APH at 800-223-1839.

The Braille Institute along with CalState-LA received a grant to develop a mobile app for the Braille Challenge that will provide practice tests as well as games and activities that will help students build reading skills such as letter recognition, spelling, making inferences, reading speed and accuracy, and more. They are currently in the Pilot stage for the app. The National Library Service for the Blind and

Physically Handicapped (NLS) has been adding electronic titles in UEB to their collection and has posted them to BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download). Unified English Braille has been added as a subject heading to make these titles easier to find by BARD users. BARD users may view a list of all current UEB titles by accessing the “browse by subject” dropdown, navigating to Unified English Braille, and then selecting the “go” button.

(DOTS for Braille Literacy, Volume 20, Number 3)

The Braille Authority of North America (BANA) continues to post and update information and materials about UEB at www.brailleauthority.org. Check out their website!

IERC ICAM Updates

Coming up... the 2016 Registration of Students Who Are Legally Blind, APH Annual Census

The Annual Student Registration of Legally Blind Students will be conducted beginning on January 4, 2016, the first Monday in January, and will conclude February 15, 2016. The registration will be conducted online via the ICAM web interface.

Please take the time to complete the registration process on the ICAM for the students you serve who are blind or have low vision. This is important as we prepare for the upcoming online federal quota registration/census this coming January.

Registering Students and Ordering on the ICAM

Student Error Message:

- 1) If you attempt to place an order for a specific student and the system is not allowing you to do so, most likely it is the result of an edit performed by the previous district, i.e. the student information was edited to an inactive status during last year’s Annual Census. In this instance, you will need to contact our office so we can reactive the student.
- 2) If you attempt to register a student who has already been registered in the system, you will receive a “Duplicate Student Error Message”. If you receive this error message, do not attempt to reregister the student, but update or edit the student information, including current school corporation, using the Edit Student function. If you are still unable to order after completing the Edit function, contact our office.

The best course of action is to update your student information immediately as they come into your system so we can assist you with any issues prior to ordering.

Just a reminder about ordering aids and equipment items on the ICAM...If you search the ICAM for an item in the APH catalogue and your results are unsuccessful, you may place a *Special Request* for that item. To place a special request, log in to the ICAM. On the main page, select Special Request and enter data or after you have searched the ICAM with the APH catalog number, you will have the option to place a “Special Request.”

Need Assistance?

If you need technical assistance regarding student registration or special request orders, contact Martha LaBounty at the IERC or email her at mlabounty@isbvik12.org. Questions regarding all other orders placed on the ICAM, please contact Kim Burcham at the IERC at kburcham@isbvik12.org or you can send questions or requests for information to the IERC staff at IERCemail@isbvik12.org or by calling at 800-833-2198.

Book Orders

It is the goal of the IERC to provide needed educational materials to our eligible students who are blind or low vision in a timely manner. Thanks to all the DRMs and VI Consultants/Teachers who have been diligent in reviewing the status of their orders via the ICAM and responding promptly to our requests for ink copies or additional information.

Course Syllabi for Original Braille Transcriptions. Be sure to send a course syllabus to the IERC for braille orders that require original transcription. Please include the sequence in which the chapters will be taught by the classroom teacher and the dates they will be taught. This will assist the braille transcriber and the IERC staff to disseminate needed instructional content to the student on a timely basis.

Receipt of Orders

Each IERC shipment of braille, large print and aids and equipment will include a packing slip for your review and signature. It may be inside the box or in a packing slip envelope attached to the outside of the box. Please review the packing slip and compare it with the contents of your order to insure receipt and accuracy. Please sign and date one copy of the packing slip and return to the IERC via mail, email at IERCemail@isbvik12.org or fax to 317-475-9181. Thanks to all of you who have returned packing slips back to the IERC.

BLV Teacher Directory

The *2015-2016 BLV Teacher Directory* has been disseminated electronically to all teachers. Please note that this directory is for BLV teacher distribution only. If you have not received your directory via email, please contact the IERC. Thanks to all of our teachers for updating their information.



“EYE-DEAS”
by Toni Hughes
Director
Outreach and Related Services
Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired



The Indiana Braille Challenge

Mark your calendars for this year’s Braille Challenge! The *Indiana Regional Braille Challenge* will be held at the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired on Saturday, February 20, 2016. The theme for this year’s challenge is “Braille is Out of This World”. We are looking forward to an exciting day of competition and family activities that will include a visit by the PATINS robot Ophi. To get to know Ophi, visit the PATINS site at:

<https://patinsproject.eduvision.tv/default.aspx> and select the Ophi Welcome PATINS TV Episode.

The Braille Challenge, an event of the Braille Institute of America, is the only national reading and writing contest in braille for students who are blind and visually impaired. Contests include reading comprehension, braille speed and accuracy, proofreading, spelling and reading tactile charts and graphs. 60 national contestants, representing the 12 top-ranking scores from each of the 5 age groups (grades 1-12), are invited to the finals in Los Angeles, California based on regional preliminaries. More than 1000 school-age students across the country participate in the preliminary contests.

For more information on the Braille Institute’s Braille Challenge, visit:
<http://www.brailleinstitute.org/braille-challenge-homepage.html>.

To view the Indiana Regional Braille Challenge Photo Gallery for the 2015 event, visit:
<https://sites.google.com/site/isbvik12/outreach/training-resources>.

The Indiana Cane Quest

The second Annual *Indiana Regional Cane Quest*, a fun, new annual orientation and mobility contest through the Braille Institute of America, took place at the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired on Saturday, October 17, 2015. Cane Quest is open to eligible blind and visually impaired youth in grades 3-12 and is a great way for O&M Specialists and parents to motivate students to sharpen their skills. Grade categories include: Scouts (grades 3-6); Explorers (grades 7-8); and Trailblazers (grades 9-12). ISBVI piloted Cane Quest last year starting with the Scouts (grades 3-6) only and this year added the Trailblazers category. Fifteen students from around the state participated.

Cane Quest is not a race, but more of a rally. Contestants were given auditory instructions and earned points to represent their success during the event.

The top three performers were:

Scouts:

1st place-Bryn Laster
2nd place-Jacob Rawson
3rd place-Cadance May

Trailblazers:

1st place-Marie Villaneda
2nd place-MacKenzie Colglazier
3rd place-Hope Trentadue

Other Upcoming Events:

Art Camp

Saturday, May 7, 2016 - Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Indianapolis, IN. 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Come join us for a day full of unique art experiences specifically geared toward students who are blind or visually impaired. Activities scheduled may present opportunities to get messy! Please come prepared by wearing old clothes, bringing a paint smock or old shirt to cover your clothes.

Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) Summer Day Camp

July 18-22, 2016 – Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Indianapolis, IN. EYH is an adventurous day camp experience for Indiana students between the ages of 8 and 15 who are blind or visually impaired. This week long camp includes activities such as tandem bike riding, hiking, canoeing, rock wall climbing, zip lining, and an exciting overnight camping experience. Each year, the camper will experience different activities. Come join the fun. This is a day camp and there will be only one overnight. Campers will need to be picked up daily. Cost: \$75.00 registration fee.

Visit the ISBVI Outreach website for more information or to access registration forms at www.isbvik12.org then search on “Outreach and Events” or contact the Outreach Office at 317-253-1481, ext. 189.



State Library Updates

by Laura Williams

Librarian

Indiana State Library

Special Services Division



BARD Mobile App Now Available for Android and Kindle Fire Devices

The *BARD* (Braille and Audio Reading Download) Mobile application for Android devices is now available at the Google Play store. This app will allow NLS patrons to download audio books and audio magazines directly to their device and eliminate the need for a talking book player. Unfortunately, it is not possible at this time for patrons to download Braille files through the Android app. Patrons will need a BARD mobile account and a device running Android OS 4.1 or later. Applications for a BARD account can be found at <https://nlsbard.loc.gov>. The user guide for the Android app is available at <https://nlsbard.loc.gov/apidocs/android/v1.0/toc.html>, and a how-to video can be found at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w3rn1g0s-XM&list=PLpAGnumt6iV7Aap_-C8b-8pR_HCxnh_Ls.

In addition, the app is available at the Amazon Appstore for patrons who wish to install BARD Mobile on a Kindle Fire device. Only second-generation Kindle Fire devices are equipped to run the app. For patrons with iOS devices, an updated version of BARD Mobile is now available at the App Store, with new features including a built-in sleep timer.

A reminder: in order to use BARD or the BARD mobile app, a student must be a registered Talking Books and Braille patron. Applications can be found at:

<http://www.in.gov/library/tbbl.htm> or by calling 800-622-4970.

New Large Print Acquisitions

The Library purchased 100 juvenile large print titles this summer to expand the reading options for our younger patrons. Here are some highlights:

The Trumpet of the Swan by E.B. White (LP19832)

Louis is a trumpeter swan who was born without a voice. With the help of a boy who befriends him, Louis learns to read and write--and eventually to play the trumpet, which he finds to be a lovely substitute for having a voice. For grades 4-7.

Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs by Judi Barrett (LP19843)

Life is delicious in the town of Chewandswallow, where it rains soup and juice, snows mashed potatoes, and blows storms of hamburgers--until the weather takes a turn for the worse. For grades K-3.

Junie B. Jones and the Stupid Smelly Bus by Barbara Park (LP19866)

Junie B. is almost six years old and is starting kindergarten. She worries for a week about riding the yellow school bus and doesn't like her first trip on it at all. So she decides not to ride it home after school. For grades K-3.





PASS PROJECT

**Promoting Achievement for
Students with Sensory Loss**

by Marcee Wilburn
Project Coordinator

The PASS Project provides professional development that will improve instructional quality and promote academic achievement for students with sensory loss. PASS is funded by the Indiana Department of Education, Office of Special Education through the Blumberg Center at Indiana State University (ISU). The PASS Project provides professional development opportunities for teachers, educational interpreters, paraprofessionals, administrators, related services personnel, and families to improve the educational outcomes for students who are blind or have low vision, deaf or hard of hearing, or deaf-blind. The following information is specific to those who serve students who are blind or have low vision.

Professional Development Activities

The PASS Project, in collaboration with the PATINS Project and the IERC, recently conducted the training series titled, *UEB Ready?*. The *UEB Ready?* training series included multiple trainings to ensure a smooth transition from English Braille American Edition (EBAE) to Unified English Braille (UEB) in the state of Indiana.

The UEB Ready? A Supported Independent Study was a 13-week training program focused on teaching educators and paraprofessionals the UEB code. Over 100 individuals successfully completed the course. Participants made the following remarks regarding their experience.

“The instructor was GREAT! Her feedback and help was just what I needed to complete this course. I really feel like I understand braille better than ever.”

“I absolutely loved this course! It helped me learn so much. I feel fortunate to have been able to participate.”

“I really liked the program course and all the exercises that allowed for maximum learning. The instructor was kind, encouraging, and helpful. Thank you for a great experience.”

A session offered at this year’s PATINS Tech Expo, *UEB Ready? Teaching the Technology*, provided an opportunity for vendors to share information about technology that supports UEB.

Participants learned the capabilities of various devices and this session provided the opportunity for participants to ask questions. We want to take this opportunity to thank the vendors who were present at the training: American Printing House for the Blind; Duxbury; Freedom Scientific; HIMS, Inc.; and Humanware, Inc.

UEB Ready? Teaching the Software taught educators and paraprofessionals how to utilize the Duxbury Braille Translation software in order to become more efficient in their ability to transcribe and produce braille instructional materials in UEB. Participant comments regarding the training are captured below:

“Instructor was great, very patient and helpful.”

“Great presentation with good content to carry to work.”

“I have been well informed. It was a very worthwhile workshop.”

The last week of July, the project offered training titled *UEB Ready? Teaching the Nemeth Code*. Shelley Mack provided a basic and advanced training for teachers and paraprofessionals. Participants included the following remarks on the evaluations.

“Shelley was a wonderful instructor! Her knowledge of Nemeth and math made a possibly difficult topic fun and easy!”

“I learned so many helpful tips for remembering tricky rules, and I am excited about passing them along to my students! Thanks!”

“Great Training- learned soooo much!”

As part of our *UEB Ready?* series, a *parent webinar* was developed specifically addressing the questions of Indiana parents of students who utilize braille as their learning media. Visit the Blumberg Center website at <http://www.indstate.edu/blumberg/pass/>, then select Blind, Low Vision, Conferences, Workshops and Webinars to view the webinar.

UEB Ready? Instructional Strategies was conducted on Monday, September 21, 2015 and completed the UEB Ready? training series. This workshop focused on the implementation of UEB and its impact on reading and writing instruction. Participants engaged in a variety of activities aimed at supporting instruction and assisting students make the transition to UEB seamlessly.

In addition, to the *UEB Ready?* training series, the PASS Project offered other professional development opportunities this summer.

The Indiana Deaf-Blind Services Project and the PASS Project provided two workshops presented by Betsy Flener. On May 21, Dr. Flener presented *Designing Programs for Communication and Literacy for Students with Complex Needs including Cortical Visual Impairment and Deaf-Blindness* and on May 22, she discussed *iPad Accessibility, Accessories and Applications, and the Use of Tactile Overlays for Students with Visual Impairments and Multiple Disabilities*. Participants shared their views on these trainings below:

“Loved visuals and video examples!”

“Thank you so much. My daughter will love working in these apps. Loved all the new apps and the take and make! It was great!”

“I loved the resource list! And the examples of the overlays and Bluetooth switches. And that we could make overlays ourselves!!!”

On June 18 & 19, Diane Brauner and Ed Summers returned to Indiana for *iPad Accessibility Boot Camp for Teachers of the Visually Impaired – Part 2*. This two-day hands-on workshop provided an introduction to the accessibility features of iOS8 and taught participants to use the VoiceOver screen reader with gestures, a Bluetooth keyboard, and a refreshable braille display. Check out what the participants had to say about this training:

“Patience of presenters as well as their knowledge of the topic worked well.”

“Lots of great information that I did not know before. Good continuation of the material presented last year.”

“Very relevant and hands on. Love the manual and word for word examples.”

On July 9 & 10, the PASS Project provided a training opportunity titled *Pack More Power in Your Program! Implementing the ECC within a Standards-Based Curriculum*. Sandy Lewis offered an interactive presentation focusing on teaching the Expanded Core Curriculum for the teachers and paraprofessionals across the state.

“This was excellent, and I feel like I have been given a fresh outlook on my job and best practice for B/LV students.”

“Finally ... a workshop on ECC in depth (beyond an introduction) with suggestions on how to incorporate them in a student’s school schedule, at home, and in the community.”

“It is also great to be able to interact with other TVIs – to collaborate with others, to either get advice or encourage each other about being on the same track.”

The PASS Project collaborated with the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired Outreach Department to offer a professional development opportunity on November 12 & 13, 2015. The “Indiana Vision Conference” was intended for teachers of students who are blind/low vision, paraprofessionals, and parents of children who are blind/low vision, early interventionists, and administrators. The conference provided various presentations and workshops that center on current best practices used in educating students who are blind or have low vision across multiple settings.

VI Distance Education Training Program

The Educator of Exceptional Needs: Visual Impairment Licensure Program at Indiana State University certifies teachers to educate students who are blind or have low vision. Currently, 26 students are working toward certification.

Applications are now being accepted for the 2016 Cohort which will begin in January. For more information regarding the *Educator of Exceptional Needs: Visual Impairment Licensure Program* visit <http://www.indstate.edu/blumberg/pass/> then select Blind, Low Vision, Distance Education.

The PASS Project would like to congratulate those who recently completed the program – Amanda Bruce, Cara Burchett, Deborah Feagley, Patricia Foley, Melissa Hinds, Karen Jones, Melinda Koehne, Randee Owens, Melinda Powers, Melinda Walda-Ross, and Kelly Zell. Congratulations to all!

ListServ Requests

The PASS Project supports three Listservs for professionals who serve students who are blind or have low vision – The *Blind/Low Vision Discussion Listserv* for Indiana teachers and the *Training Listserv* for all professionals serving students who are blind or have low vision. In addition, the *UEB Ready? Listserv* was created to support professionals who serve students using braille as their literacy mode.

The *Blind/Low Vision Discussion Listserv* is a closed email discussion list designed for Indiana teachers of students who are blind or have low vision. This listserv provides a forum to ask questions, share resources and strategies, and discuss important issues with other educators who support students who are blind, have low vision, or who are deaf-blind.

The *Training Listserv* is a forum to share information regarding upcoming trainings specific to professionals working with students who are blind or have low vision will be disseminated via this listserv.

The *UEB Ready? Listserv* is a closed e-mail discussion list designed for transcribers, teachers, paraprofessionals, and other professionals in Indiana who work with students who utilize braille as their literacy mode. This listserv provides a forum to ask questions, share resources and strategies, and discuss important issues specific to the implementation of Unified English Braille (UEB).

If you are interested in joining these listservs, send an e-mail including the listserv of interest, your name, school district or professional organization, and e-mail address to Marcee Wilburn at Marcee.Wilburn@indstate.edu.

If you are a current subscriber and your email address has changed, please contact Marcee Wilburn to update the ListServ.





Promoting Achievement through Technology and Instruction for All Students

by Jena Fahlbush
Data and Outreach Coordinator

PATINS Tech Expo 2016

Thursday, April 14, 2016

502 East Event Centre
502 E. Carmel Drive
Carmel, IN 46032

Registration begins January 2016!

For more information, visit
<http://www.patinsproject.com>

PATINS TV

PATINS TV episodes air the first and third Tuesday of each month, August through May at 11:45 a.m – 12:00 p.m. For more information, visit www.patinsproject.com. Past episodes can be viewed at <https://patinsproject.eduvision.tv/default.aspx>.

PATINS Lending Library

Did you know that Indiana educators may borrow low vision devices from our lending library at NO cost? We now have the TOPAZ, a portable desktop video magnifier. Search our online lending library for similar devices or blind/low vision equipment or materials at:

<http://goo.gl/m6m9pq>



For Your Information

Dr. Tuck Tinsley III, president of the American Printing House for the Blind, will retire in early 2016 after 27 years of service to APH. Under his leadership, APH has become known for its national excellence in product development and innovation with the mission of serving students who are blind and visually impaired. To read more, visit: <http://www.aph.org/news/august-2015/>.

Carl R. Augusto, AFB's president and CEO, will retire in the spring of 2016 after 25 years of service to AFB. AFB has made significant strides in leveling the playing field for people with vision loss, under his leadership, especially in the areas of public policy, education, technology, aging and employment.

Accredited Schools Online has a resource guide section under a Special Interest section that addresses issues pertaining to students with visual impairments. Information includes assistive technology, colleges, scholarships and information from experts in the field of education of visual impairment and blindness. For more information, visit: www.accreditedschoolsonline.org/ and select Special Interest, Students with Visual Impairments from the Resources tab.

Apple has posted matching users guides for the iPhone, iPod touch and iPad on the web. These new iPhone and iPad user guides are available as free downloads from the iBooks Store. The manuals online are fully accessible with VoiceOver for visually impaired students who need help with iOS issues. The guides cover the basics of iOS 9 and focus on stock apps, various user interface improvements and new features such as enhanced Spotlight with Proactive search, 3D Touch on the new iPhones, the new News and iCloud Drive apps, side-by-side multitasking features on iPads and more. To access the manuals for download, go to:

<https://support.apple.com/manuals/>.

View a video on inputting Nemeth braille math code into a Braille Sense notetaker and saving as a .doc file so that when opened it will show the proper translated text. To view the YouTube demonstration, go to: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4puVNti_Q5Y. OCR is built into Google so users can translate images into text. View video www.youtube.com/watch?v=yy28PgWaxqE to learn how to process a scanned image (i.e. pdf) into text to be taken back in to Word using Google Drive and Google Docs. View ChromeVox Screen Reader for the Blind at www.youtube.com/watch?v=pVfLafNmWA0. (*Flying Blind, Tech Tidbits*)

AFB has a wealth of information and tips for parents and caregivers of children with visual impairments on their FamilyConnect's website. For more information, visit: www.familyconnect.org/parentsitetime.aspx.

The American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) has made its new accessible HTML5 embedded Video Player available as a free download. The *AFB Accessible Player* makes it easy for people with vision loss to play videos online. For more information or to download the accessible player, visit: <http://www.afb.org>.

AFB has a number of apps for iOS available free of charge. *AccessNote* is a specialized notetaker for the iPhone, iPad, and Android devices. The app allows users to combine efficient note taking with other features and functions of the iOS devices. *CareerConnect* is a career tool for professionals, job seekers, parents, and youth who are blind or visually impaired. *VisionConnect* is a new, free iOS app from the American Foundation for the Blind. The app is a searchable directory of services available in the U.S. and Canada and provides resources and tips for living independently with a visual impairment, information on products and technology, and personal stories and employment advice. *AccessWorld* provides the latest issue of AccessWorld Magazine, including the entire archive of back issues. For more information or to download the apps, visit the AFB's website at www.afb.org/apps.

Envision, an organization whose mission it is to improve the quality of life for persons who are blind or visually impaired through employment, outreach, rehabilitation, education and research, has debuted its revamped website, *EnvisionUs*. To view their new website, visit: <http://www.envisionus.com/>.

Northern Illinois University (DeKalb, Illinois) offers an on-campus graduate level program for individuals who wish to teach children who are blind or visually impaired. These teachers play a significant role in the lives of youngsters who are blind and their families. Generous student financial assistance is available. All in-state or out-of-state tuition, all fees, health insurance, and a stipend of \$5,200 per calendar year is paid by the university for qualified individuals who come to Northern Illinois University to enroll in the graduate program focusing on special education for children who are blind or visually impaired. For more information, go to www.vision.niu.edu or at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vxgVXY5jg7o>. Interested individuals can contact the project director, Gaylen Kapperman, at the following email: gkapperman@niu.edu or by phone at 815-753-8453.



Publications

New Publications from AFB Press

Reading Connections: Strategies for Teaching Students with Visual Impairments is a hands-on guide for teachers and professionals working to improve the reading skills of their students. It helps them put together the essential components of reading – phonemic awareness, phonics, reading fluency, vocabulary, and reading comprehension – by developing targeted teaching strategies for each component. Reading Connections addresses the needs of students who read print, braille, or both and is consistent with methods for teaching reading to students who have, or are at risk for, developing reading disabilities. Cost: Paperback: \$49.95; e-book (ePUB format): \$24.95; e-book (Kindle format): \$34.95.

ECC Essentials: Teaching the Expanded Core Curriculum to Students with Visual Impairments is the first comprehensive book for teachers working to meet the unique learning needs of their students with visual impairments. It focuses on the education of children and adolescents in the expanded core curriculum by providing the rationale, suggestions, and strategies necessary to implement instruction. Cost: Paperback: \$59.95; e-book (ePUB format): \$41.95; e-book (Kindle format): \$41.95.

Burns Braille Guide: A Quick Reference to Unified English Braille, Second Edition is a resource for teachers and transcribers and has been revamped as the Burns Braille Guide to usher in the new era of Unified English Braille (UEB). The revised and updated edition reflects the range of changes introduced in the transition from English Braille American Edition (EBAE) to UEB. This easy-to-use reference guide includes common braille to print and print to braille conversions, as well as punctuation, new UEB contractions, and general rules and terminology. Cost: Paperback: \$24.95; e-book (ePUB format): \$17.50; e-book (Kindle format): \$17.50.

O&M for Independent Living: Strategies for Teaching Orientation and Mobility to Older Adults is an important guide for orientation and mobility instructors, rehabilitation specialists, occupational therapists, and other professionals who work with adults who may be new to vision loss. It provides insights essential for helping these individuals remain independent and self-reliant. In addition to information on the effects of aging and considerations for assessment and instruction, chapters include strategies on adapting O&M skills for older adults, environmental modifications and appropriate equipment, exercise and its relationship to mobility, daily living skills, and effective collaboration among the professionals who serve this population. Cost: Paperback: \$39.95.

For more information about these and other publications, visit the AFB Bookstore website at: <https://www.afb.org/store/>.

AFB eLearning Center announces *iOS in the Classroom: iPad Learning Success for Students with Vision Loss (eLearning)*. This 85 minute webinar is for direct service providers who work with students who are visually impaired. It provides strategies for orienting students to the iOS operating system with the focus on iPads. Participants gain a broad understanding of how to best implement Apple's mobile screen reader into a student's educational experience for optimal classroom learning. ACVREP credit is available or participants can earn professional development credit by purchasing certificates. For more information, visit: www.afb.org/store.

The *Educator Series* is a monthly email newsletter from Perkins eLearning that offers information about upcoming professional development opportunities and resources for educators of students with visual impairment and additional disabilities. To sign up to receive the monthly newsletter visit <http://www.perkinselearning.org/user/register>. For more information about Perkins eLearning opportunities visit: <http://www.perkinselearning.org/>.

Raising a Child with Albinism: A guide to the Early Years and Raising a Child with Albinism: A Guide to the School Years are available from the National Organization for Albinism and Hypopigmentation (NOAH). Cost for "A Guide to the Early Years" is \$19.99 and the cost for "A Guide to the School Years" is \$29.99. For more information, contact: NOAH, phone: 800-473-2310; email: info@albinism.org; or visit their web site at www.albinism.org.

In September, Learning Ally, the world's largest provider of human-narrated textbooks and literature for people with vision loss and learning disabilities released The Heart of Applebutter Hill by novelist Donna W. Hill, who was diagnosed with RP in childhood. The book, which was recorded by volunteers at Learning Ally's Denver studio, is available in the new VOICEtext format; digital text is synchronized with the audio, enabling readers with dyslexia and other learning disabilities to follow the print as they listen. The Heart of Applebutter Hill, an adventure-mystery with excursions into fantasy for general audiences, has been widely recommended by educators and rehabilitation professionals as a diversity, inclusion and anti-bullying classroom resource for middle school and older readers. The Heart of Applebutter Hill features two 14-year-old friends - including Abigail, a shy songwriter who is losing her sight and uses a guide dog. They uncover a dangerous secret. Several other characters have disabilities.

Learning Ally book page for The Heart of Applebutter Hill: <http://www.learningally.org/>. Bookshare: The Heart of Applebutter Hill is also available in refreshable Braille and DAISY text at:

<http://www.bookshare.org/browse/>. Print & eBook versions are available through all major outlets. For more information, visit: <http://DonnaWHill.com>.



New Products

Freedom Scientific announced the release of version 17 of *JAWS for Windows*. Significant new features include: smart navigation, a more efficient way to interact with complex web pages and web apps; domain-specific scripting; and Liblouis Braille Translator enhancing usage with Unified English Braille. Visit <http://www.freedomscientific.com/About/News/Article/147>.

E-bot, *E-bot PRO*, and *E-bot ADV* are a line of new portable read, write and distance video magnifiers with OCR and iPad connectivity from HIMS. Features include wireless iPad and Android compatibility, close-up and distance viewing, touch-screen gesture control, USB 3.0, auto brightness, remote control and built-in OCR. Cost: \$2,695.00 - \$3,895.00. The *Smart Beetle* is a pocket-sized ultra-portable 14-cell braille display with five simultaneous Bluetooth connections available from HIMS. Users can connect to their phone, tablet, work computer, home computer as well as their USB and more without pairing or repairing to their Bluetooth devices. For more information, contact HIMS at 888-520-4467 or visit their web site at <http://hims-inc.com>.

Humanware recently announced the release of the *Prodigy Connect 12*, a highly portable digital magnifier and 12-inch tablet that features an open Android platform with access to more than a million apps and native synchronization to Google's suite of tools. The *Prodigy Connect 12 Electronic Magnifier* and the *Prodigy 12 Connect* with distance viewing, features a 12.2 full HD touchscreen with direct access to object or document being viewed, a powerful, wireless camera – up to 40x magnification in full HD with integrated capture function, Smartboard connectivity, and access to Bookshare, BARD, Pyxyma, and other content providers. Cost: \$2,295.00 to \$2,995.00. For more information, visit: <http://www.humanware.com>.

Optelec has announced the *Traveller HD*, a lightweight, portable, desktop magnifier. Features of the device include: a slide and read mechanism that allows the user to move the unit smoothly over reading materials; full high definition image quality; a 13.3 inch full color TFT widescreen display; tilted screen position for ergonomic viewing; continuous zoom from 2.4X to 30X; and adjustable document viewing modes. Cost: \$2,495.00. Visit: <https://us.optelec.com/products/>.

Visus Touch is a patented, small, transparent, adhesive backed label. The labels are tactile embossed and can be affixed to everyday objects to identify, classify, file and retrieve items. For more information, visit: <http://www.visuslabels.com> or phone: 440-835-1055.

KNFB Reader is an app in the Google Play Store that converts printed text into high quality speech. It provides accurate, fast, and efficient access to both single and multiple page documents. Your mobile phone acts as a handheld scanner while the app's optical character recognition (OCR) technology converts the text into speech. The initial download of the *KNFB Reader* is free but limited. The trial version allows processing of twenty-five documents with all features of the paid version of the app enabled. The full version is unlocked with an in-app purchase. The *KNFB Reader* is developed by the national Federation of the Blind (NFB) and Sensotec NV. Visit: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.sensotec.knfbreader>.

ACB Link is an iOS app from the American Council for the Blind that will assist ACB staff, members and friends to readily communicate news of relevance to the blind community. *ACB Link* will give access to valuable resources offered by ACB, and users will receive push notifications of news relevant to ACB's work and the blindness community at large. The app will allow each user to be easily and quickly connected with the nearest ACB state affiliate, and be informed and entertained by the wide variety of Internet radio programming offered by ACB Radio. *ACB Link* will bring blind people, their friends and families together in a new and exciting way. For more information about *ACB Link*, go to <http://link.acb.org>. To learn more about ACB Radio, visit: www.acbradio.org.

Voice Braille Reader is an iOS reading app designed to be handy and casual for those who are visually impaired and need help to translate braille into words and voice. It will read .brf and .brl files and is compatible with iOS9. For more information, visit <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/id1026634631?mt=8>.

NoteStream, the mobile learning app designed to enable users to find, enjoy and follow long-form articles and content on their mobile devices, has announced it is now compatible with Apple's VoiceOver accessibility feature. To download the *NoteStream* app, visit www.notestream.com/app.



New APH Products

The *APH Physical Education Website* has added “Possibilities: Recreational Experiences of individuals who are Deafblind.” This is a collection of stories that highlight recreational and leisure pursuits of individuals who are Deafblind. The reader will see the possibilities associated with recreation for individuals with dual sensory impairment. Each essay inspires the reader to share his or her own recreational experiences with others. Use *Possibilities* to launch class discussions on self-determination, challenge our students to share personal triumphs, or design joint English and Physical Education class assignment, or more. To read more, visit the APH Physical Education website at <http://www.aph.org/pe/>.

The *APH CVI Website* has been updated and is now available for access. This site provides research articles, books, websites, blogs, strategies and support for parents, teachers, university faculty and students regarding CVI. Visit at <http://tech.aph.org/cvi/>.

APH has completed the UEB updates for the Kindergarten and First Grade student materials of the *Building on Patterns (BOP) Series*. UEB Teacher supplements for these levels are available for download from their website at <http://www.aph.org/manuals/>. They are now updating the units of the Second Grade level.

APH has released a free version of its *Nearby Explorer GPS for Android*, versions 2.3 and above. Nearby Explorer Online includes some of the features of its \$99 counterpart but uses online maps rather than on-board ones, so it will work worldwide but requires a data connection. It included transit stop info for many cities in the United States and Canada, the ability to create favorites, and a virtual exploration mode. Download from Google Play at: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.aph.nearbyonline&hl=en>.

APH has announced that the *Visual Brailier App*, a simple braille editor, has recently been updated to support iOS9. It is a braille writer for your iPad, and displays a traditional six-dot keyboard and simulated braille on an iPad screen. The app can be used for NLS certification exercises or to practice UEB. Users can email their brf documents straight from the app and can edit and save their work, perfect for on-the-go practice for NLS certification exercises. It supports any code because it makes no assumptions about what is being written. For transcribers who are blind, Visual Brailier also works with Bluetooth refreshable braille displays with keyboards. Visual Brailier can be downloaded for free from the Apple App Store. <https://itunes.apple.com/app/math-robot/id888739587>.

The *Refreshabraille 18*, a handheld refreshable braille display and braille keyboard for desktop computers and mobile devices, has been updated. Updates include: secure or simple Bluetooth pairing, reversing the advance bars with your left hand while reading with your right hand, directional pad allowing for one hand operation and ease of use, more ergonomic ridged space bar, industry standard micro USB which is easier to plug-in and to replace if lost, and new PC software that improves the updating and use of the Refreshabraille 18 via USB. Catalog Number: 1-07445-02, Cost: \$1,695.00 plus shipping.

The *Joy Player* is a personal electronic device that allows individuals with visual and multiple impairments to access music and audio books. It is designed to be used with the personal music player routine in APH's Sensory Learning Kit (SLK). The Joy Player differs from other music playing devices on the commercial market and from the National Library Service's Digital Talking Book Player because it is designed to accommodate individuals who have limited mobility, a lack of fine motor skills, and cognitive disability in addition to a visual impairment. The Joy Player plays audio from three different types of portable electronic storage devices: SD card, USB Flash drive, and Digital Talking Book (DTB) Cartridge. The player comes with five blank DTB Cartridges. Catalog Number: 1-07089-00, Cost: \$349.00 plus shipping.

Orion TI-30XS MultiView Talking Scientific Calculator is a fully-accessible handheld scientific calculator ideal for students, middle school through college. The Orion TI-30XS is a modified TI-30XS MultiView with a small attachment that adds accessibility and additional controls. APH partnered with Orbit Research and Texas Instruments to make this powerful calculator accessible. The attachment consists of a unit on the back of the calculator with three function keys on the front of the calculator, above the display. These function keys control preferences, volume, rate, pause, silence, and the unique "Learn" mode. The comprehensive screen review function allows the user to move to previous line, next line, next work, next character, read all, and spell out the last spoken text. Catalog Number: 1-07330-00. Cost: \$399.00 plus shipping.

Feel n' Peel Stickers: Basic Math Symbols are multi-use braille/print stickers embossed on clear, durable plastic and are intended for the creation and adaptation of math related materials. Available for Nemeth Code or UEB. Nemeth, Catalog Number: 1-08892-00. Cost: \$32.00. UEB, Catalog Number: 1-08893-00. Cost: \$32.00. Recommended ages: Preschool and up.

Labeling, Marking, and Organization: A Self-Help Guide for Persons after Vision Loss. This book with accompanying recordings of the text on CDs teaches user to organize with and without labeling, and to create customized marking systems. Written by Lisa-Anne Mowerson, a renowned vision rehabilitation therapist, it contains practice activities to help user get started on labeling tasks. Large print with CDs, Catalog Number: 7-08870-00, Cost: \$69.00. Braille with CDs, Catalog Number: 5-08870-00, Cost: \$69.00. Recommended ages: 14 years and up.

(Reprinted from APH News, www.aph.org)

For more information on the products listed above or other APH Products, contact the American Printing House for the Blind, 1839 Frankfort Avenue, Louisville, KY 40206-0085; Phone: 502-895-2405; Toll-free: 800-223-1839; Fax: 502-899-2274; Email: info@aph.org; Web site: www.aph.org.

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