

JWIB & News Features

From the Field

Agency news

NATIONAL VISION REHABILITATION ORGANIZATIONS JOIN FORCES

In September 2006, the National Council of Private Agencies for the Blind and Visually Impaired (NCPABVI) announced that it had joined forces with the National Vision Rehabilitation Association (NVRA) in order to advance the independence and quality of life for people who are blind or visually impaired, including those with low vision, through vision rehabilitation services. NCPABVI networks and advocates for quality services, focusing on public policy, education, and professional growth for its members, which include low vision clinics, adult rehabilitation centers, dog guide schools, early intervention programs, advocacy and membership organizations, and private schools for the blind. NCPABVI in its new incarnation intends to form a task force to promote and monitor the Medicare Low Vision Demonstration Project—the launching of which was a goal achieved by NVRA in April 2006—and to continue to advocate for a national Medicare reimbursement policy for certified vision rehabilitation professionals. NCPABVI will also assume NVRA's former role with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as a resource for answers to questions about vision rehabilitation therapies. For more information, contact: National Council of Private Agencies for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 8760 Manchester

Road, Saint Louis, MO 63144; phone: 314-961-8235; e-mail: <rmayros@agenciesfortheblind.org>; web site: <www.agenciesfortheblind.org>

People

APPOINTMENT

Jonathan Mosen recently joined the Blind/Low Vision Group of Freedom Scientific, a manufacturer of assistive technology products, as its new vice president for Blindness Hardware Product Management. Active in the field of visual impairment and blindness since the 1980s and in the assistive technology field since 1999, Mr. Mosen has worked with the Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand, the American Council of the Blind, and HumanWare, a manufacturer of personal digital assistants for people who are blind or visually impaired. For more information, contact: Blind/Low Vision Group, Freedom Scientific, 11800 31st Court North St. Petersburg, FL 33716; phone: 800-444-4443 or 727-803-8000; web site: <www.freedomscientific.com>.

AWARD

Jim Fruchterman, chief executive officer of The Benetech Initiative, was recently awarded a 2006 MacArthur Fellowship from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation in the amount of \$500,000. Mr. Fruchterman is an electrical engineer turned social entrepreneur who adapts cutting-edge technology into affordable tools for people who are blind or visually impaired and other underserved communities. In 1989, Fruchterman founded the nonprofit company Arkenstone to develop

and manufacture a reading machine for people who are blind using optical character recognition technology. He delivered the reading tool in a dozen languages to 35,000 people in 60 countries. In 2000, Fruchterman founded another nonprofit company, The Benetech Initiative, to create innovative technology solutions that address social needs. Benetech's first project, Bookshare.org, created the world's largest accessible library of scanned books and periodicals providing people with visual or print disabilities access to a dramatically increased volume of print materials. For more information, contact: The Benetech Initiative, 480 South California Avenue, Suite 201, Palo Alto, CA 94306; phone: 650-644-3400; e-mail: <info@benetech.org>; web site: <www.benetech.org>.

DEATH

Irvin P. Schloss, an advocate for people with visual impairment, died in September 2006. Born in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1923, Mr. Schloss had an avid interest in insects as a youngster, and pursued a bachelor's degree in entomology until, at age 20, he joined the Army. He was blinded by a missile blast in January 1945, and was sent to Valley Forge General Hospital for treatment. In 1948, Mr. Schloss began work for the Blinded Veterans Association as an editor, and later became the body's executive director. In 1958, he joined the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB). Until his retirement in 1988, Mr. Schloss worked on legislation in Washington, D.C., and served as AFB's director of Governmental Relations. Mr. Schloss' lobbying had pivotal influence on such legislation as the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 1975. In 2003, Mr. Schloss was the recipient of the inaugural AFB Irvin Schloss Advocacy Award, which recognizes excellence in advocacy on behalf of people with vision loss. He will be buried October 30, 2006, in Arlington National Cemetery.

JVIB invites readers to submit information for possible publication in a future edition of *From the Field* by faxing or e-mailing Rebecca Burcher, associate editor, AFB Press, American Foundation for the Blind, 11 Penn Plaza, Suite 300, New York, NY 10001; fax: 212-502-7774; e-mail: <rebeccab@afb.net>. For more information on how to submit information to JVIB, visit <www.afb.org/jvib_guidelines.asp>.

News

Publications

RESOURCE ON DIABETIC EYE DISEASE

Diabetic Eye Disease: An Educator's Guide is a new educational resource on diabetes, the leading cause of new cases of blindness among adults aged 20 to 74. Created by the National Eye Institute, part of the U.S. National Institutes of Health, the full-color tabletop flip chart is designed to help health professionals and community-based educators teach people about diabetic eye disease and the importance of getting an annual comprehensive dilated eye exam to reduce the risk of vision loss. The Educator's Guide is available in English and Spanish, and includes a CD-ROM with self-guided modules, a PowerPoint presentation, and PDF files of the presentation. A single copy is available free of charge; additional copies cost \$3 each. For more information, contact: Information Office, National Eye Institute, 31 Center Drive, MSC 2510, Bethesda, MD 20892; phone: 301-496-5248; e-mail: <2020@nei.nih.gov>; web site: <www.nei.nih.gov/diabeteseducation>.

Web site

PROJECT MATH ACCESS

The Project Math Access web site, <www.tsbvi.edu/math/projectmathaccess>, was recently made public for all to benefit from its extensive information about math education for students who are visually impaired.

DAAS VISION SIMULATORS

A HIGH IMPACT TEACHING KIT DESIGNED FOR:
Itinerant Teachers O&M Instructors
Low Vision Specialists

An irreplaceable tool for teaching sighted people about vision disorders when used in classrooms, worksites or in the home.

Each kit comes in a professionally styled case and includes:

8 Vision Simulator Disks 2 Ground Lenses
4 Sets of Goggles 2 Blindfolds

Write or Email **DAAS Consulting** for more information:
PO Box 64164. 528 B Clarke Road PO. Coquitlam, BC. V3J 7V6. Canada

Email: daascon@istar.ca
Website: www.daasvision.com

With content developed by staff members of the Research and Development Institute of Sycamore, Illinois, and funding by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, the site is housed by the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired and is intended to bolster the efforts of teachers, parents, and administrators in providing opportunities for students who are blind or visually impaired to succeed in the study of mathematics. The fully accessible web site is organized into 12 chapters, with information ranging from how to teach basic to advanced mathematical concepts and Nemeth code to students with visual impairment; information on calculation tools and devices, collaborative and inclusive strategies, and spoken mathematics. The site also contains a listing of print math symbols translated into correct Nemeth Code, with "alt tag" descriptions. In addition, mathe-

matical symbols ranging from basic to university-level mathematics are included in the site in downloadable formats, including images designed to be embossed for tactile access. For more information, contact: Gaylen Kapperman, president, Research and Development Institute, P. O. Box 351, Sycamore, IL 60178; phone: 815-895-3078; e-mail: <gkapperman@niu.edu>.

Calendar

NOVEMBER 2006

1-5 ❖ 6th European Seminar of the Acquired Deafblindness Network, "The Art of Communication." Groningen, The Netherlands.
Contact: Linda Keressies, Visio, Waldeck-Pyrmontstraat 31, 7315 JH Apeldoorn, The

Netherlands; phone: +31-(0)55-580-06-96; e-mail: <deafblind@visio.nu>; web site: <www.deafblindinternational.org/standard/conference_netherland.html>.

5-7 ♦ 21st Annual State Conference of the New York State Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired. Albany, NY. **Contact:** MaryAnn Oyer, 5300 Powers Road, Orchard Park, NY 14127; phone: 716-648-1506; e-mail: <mmoyervi@adelphia.net>; web site: <www.nysaer.org>.

7-10 ♦ Ninth Annual Accessing Higher Ground: Assistive Technology and Accessible Media in Higher Education. Boulder, CO. **Contact:** Disability Services, University of Colorado, Willard Administrative Center 322, 107 CU-Boulder, Boulder, CO 80309; phone: 303-492-8671; e-mail: <dsinfo@spot.colorado.edu>; web site: <www.colorado.edu/ATconference>.

8-11 ♦ TASH (The Association for Persons with Severe Handicaps) Annual Conference. Baltimore, MD. **Contact:** TASH, 29 West Susquehanna Avenue, Suite 210, Baltimore, MD 21204; phone: 410-828-8274; e-mail: <dmarsh@tash.org>; web site: <www.tash.org>.

10-12 v Ontario Chapter of the Canadian Deaf-Blind and Rubella Association 2006 Parent Conference. Orillia, Ontario, Canada. **Contact:** Canadian Deafblind and Rubella Association (Ontario Chapter), 54 Brant Avenue, 3rd Floor, Brantford, Ontario, N3T 3G8, Canada; phone: 877-760-7439 or 519-759-0520; web site: <www.cdbraontario.ca/parent_conference2006.htm>.

11 ♦ Blind Babies Foundation Kaleidoscope Auction and Dinner Gala. San Francisco, CA. **Contact:** Blind Babies Foundation, 1814 Franklin Street, 11th Floor, Oakland, CA 94612; phone: 510-446-2229; e-mail: <bbfinfo@blindbabies.org>; web site: <http://blindbabies.typepad.com>.

11-14 ♦ American Academy of Ophthalmology Joint Meeting with the Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology. Las Vegas, NV. **Contact:** American Academy of Ophthalmology, P.O. Box 7424, San Francisco, CA 94120; phone: 415-561-8500; e-mail: <meetings@aaoo.org>; web site: <www.aaoo.org>.

14-16 ♦ Northeast Chapter of the Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) Annual Conference. Montreal, Quebec, Canada. **Contact:** Paulette Arsenault, conference chair, Northeast AER; e-mail: <parsenau@ssss.gouv.qc.ca>; web site: <www.neaer.umb.edu>.

16-20 ♦ 59th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America. Miami, FL. **Contact:** Gerontological Society of America, 1030 15th Street NW, Suite 250, Washington, DC 20005; phone: 202-842-1275; e-mail: <geron@geron.org>; web site: <www.geron.org>.

17-19 ♦ World Congress and Exposition on Disabilities. Philadelphia, PA. **Contact:** H. A. Bruno, 210 Route 4 East, Suite 304, Paramus, NJ 07652; phone: 201-226-1446; e-mail: <wcdinfo@wcdexpo.com>; web site: <www.wcdexpo.com>.

Families Connecting with Families



IN THE HEARTLAND OF AMERICA

July 13–15, 2007 ✪ Omaha, Nebraska



A national conference covering all aspects of raising and educating a child with a visual impairment, the 2007 FCF conference will include:

- > Interactive sessions and panel discussions to address parents' most pressing interests: braille, social skills, college preparation, getting a first job, children with low vision or additional disabilities, & much more
- > Networking with other families and professionals
- > Daycare for children
- > Activities designed especially for teens
- > Fun for the whole family: a trip to Omaha's world-class Henry Doorly Zoo and a pioneer-style Family Cookout with campfires, music, and stories of the Wild West



THE 2007 CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT:

Hilton Omaha ✪ 1001 Cass Street ✪ Omaha, Nebraska 68102



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Keep an eye on the following web sites for more information:
www.napvi.org ✪ www.afb.org ✪ www.seeingeye.org

27-December 1 ❖ 12th International Mobility Conference (IMC12). Hong Kong, China. The conference is hosted by the Hong Kong Society for the Blind. **Contact:** China Travel Conference and Event Management Company, China Travel Building, Suite 3/F, 77 Queen's Road Central, Hong Kong, China; phone: +852-2160-5099; e-mail: <imc2006@chinatravevents.com>; web site: <www.hksb.org.hk/imc>.

JANUARY 2007

24-27 ❖ Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA) 2007 Conference. Orlando, FL. **Contact:** ATIA, 401 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611; phone: 877-687-2842 or 321-673-6659; e-mail: <info@atia.org>; web site: <www.atia.org>.

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