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UAAACT News

Utah Augmentative Alternative Assistive Communication and Technology Teams

Editor: Patricia Smith

UAAACT Web Site: <http://www.coe.usu.edu/psyc/uasp/uaaact/>

Lou Dwire Honored at 2003 UAAACT Conference

Lou Dwire received the H. Kenton Reavis Distinguished Service Award in Augmentative Communication during the opening session of the 2003 UAAACT Conference.

Lou was selected for the award because of his leadership in AAC services and his direct services to enhance the communication skills of students with disabilities. Lou has been a Speech/Language Pathologist in the Salt Lake City School District for 20 years, serves as the Assistive Technology Specialist for the Salt Lake City School District, and has been a member of the UAAACT team since it was first created. Each summer Lou teaches an intensive Augmentative Communication class at the University of Utah, sharing his knowledge with a new generation of Special Educators and Speech/Language Pathologists.

He mentors many graduate students in Communication Disorders as they complete externships with him at Parkview Elementary School. He provides equipment, training, and materials for students needing assistive technology from preschool age through high school. This brings him in contact with countless teachers, parents, classroom assistants, special education service providers, and students throughout the school year. He also served last year as President of the Utah Speech and Hearing Association. His commitment to students has enriched their lives and empowered them to reach unexpected goals. Congratulations to the 2003 recipient of the H. Kenton Reavis award, Lou Dwire.

This award was established in honor of Ken's leadership and contribution to the field of augmentative communication service in the State of Utah. Ken was a pioneer in developing a statewide program for evaluating the technology needs of students who are limited in oral and written communication skills. The purpose of this award is to recognize an individual in the State of Utah whose outstanding services has resulted in enhanced communication skills of students with disabilities.

New Staff Members at CCCD

Scott Baggaley and Lynn Marcoux are new employees at The Computer Center for Citizens With Disabilities. Scott is an Educational Program Specialist, conducting consultations, providing training, and supporting UAAACT team members with equipment questions or follow-up services for students. Scott's university training is in occupational therapy studies. He is a true "techie" with great computer troubleshooting skills. He is quickly becoming an expert in AAC devices as well. Scott does many of the same things Craig does, only he does it better and faster. Scott's first day at The Computer Center was March 19th.

Scott is filling the position that came open when Mellowdee Brooks resigned to accept a position with her former employer, The Disability Action Center, in Moscow, Idaho. Mellowdee worked as an Educational Program Specialist at The Computer Center from September 2000 until the end of February 2003. Thankfully, she stayed with her job at CCCD until the UAAACT conference was over.

Lynn Marcoux is the new Office Technician (secretary) at The Computer Center. She will usually be the "voice and personality" who greets you as you call CCCD. We have had three short-term helpers in the secretary position since Robin Beck took an extended medical leave on December 9, 2002. Craig's son helped for two weeks, his wife worked for several weeks, and Elaine Clausen from the Independent Living Program substituted for three days. But much of the time, there was no one working in the secretary area. Since March 24th, Lynn has single-handedly been whipping The Computer Center into shape. She orders and labels equipment, schedules appointments, greets visitors and manages the UAAACT and the public lending library of equipment.

Robin Beck has experienced some health problems and has applied for disability benefits. Robin worked part-time at The Computer Center

from August of 1997 until June of 2002 when she began full-time employment at CCCD. During the time it takes to process Robin's disability application, Lynn will fill the CCCD secretary position and may eventually become the permanent secretary if Robin is unable to return to work. We extend our appreciation and best wishes to Mellowdee and Robin. They did a great job and have served to strengthen the UAAACT project during their years of employment at CCCD. They will both be missed. Please extend a welcome and introduce yourself to Scott and Lynn when you visit The Computer Center. And if you are the first person on your team to read this newsletter and call Lynn at 887-9380 or 888-866-5550, you can have a free software program.

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Notes from the UAAACT Conference

I have attended many conferences in my days, but this was my first to help in the planning and implementation. My part was to help as needed. The amount of work Craig, Mellowdee and the rest of the Leadership council did was impressive. Christine Warnick was responsible for the book with all the conference information. Isn't it great to have all the handouts. Now we can review all the sessions and get ideas from the ones we couldn't attend. If you couldn't attend the conference borrow a team member's copy. Tammy Miller organized the facilitators and gifts for the presenters. Jocelyn Taylor and her secretary Karen Buchanan, from USOE, did the name tags and many other things. Julie Brown and Jim Payant helped out a lot, especially with the new UAAACT Policies and Procedures Manual. Mellowdee organized the Vendors and many other things. We wish her success in Idaho. Of course there was Craig. I couldn't name all the things he did. He was everywhere and did everything. His lovely wife was also a great help in registration.

We wish to again thank the vendors for coming and being a big part of our conference:

AAC Connections
Creative Communicating
DynaVox Systems
Independent Living Centers
IntelliTools
Jason Mons
LinguaLogic
Mayer-Johnson
Prentke Romich
Technology for Education
Utah Assistive Technology Program

Also a BIG thanks to our presenters:

Penny Reed	Tammy Miller
Scott Marfilus	Helen Brymer
Mary Peterson	Rick Archer
Tobey Fields	Terry Johnson
Dan Rowles	Debby McBride
Beth Foley	Patti Lindstrom
Matt Rigby	Suzanne Anderson
RJ Cooper	Bradie Ormond
Jamee Curtice	Susan Hamblin
Jim West	Melissa Herremans
Dave Lambert	Peter Miner
Karen Sheehan	Bryan Carroll
AnnaLee Anderson	Kent Remund
Shea Stickrod	

Other Training Opportunities

AAC in the Mountains in Park City, Utah on July 17 & 18, 2003. Presenter Pati King-DeBaun, AAC Strategies for Individuals Ages 0-102! This workshop is for those who seriously want to learn about communication techniques for infants through young adults that have severe communication disabilities and/or multiple disabilities. Registration fee is \$230 if you register before June 15th. Register through The Computer Center to get this special rate.

CAMA Tour (Communication Aid Manufacturers Association)
Monday, September 29, 2003

The CAMA Tour is actually a conference on augmentative communication presented by companies that manufacture AAC devices. CAMA tours have been held in many major cities across the country, but this marks the first time the CAMA Tour has been in Salt Lake City. The conference will be held at the:

Hilton Salt Lake City Center
255 S. West Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
801-328-2000

CAMA Tour - continued

Registration fee: \$55.00 per person
Register through The Computer Center to get this special rate.

UAAACT members who want to attend this conference may be eligible to have the UAAACT project cover the cost of a substitute. Also, if you live more than 50 miles from Salt Lake City, you may want to travel to Salt Lake on Sunday and stay at the Hilton. We are negotiating with the Hilton for a special room rate of \$90/night, double occupancy.

The CAMA Tour may be a very cost effective workshop for UAAACT members who need training on AAC devices. Team leaders should consider this conference as they plan their training budget for the 2003-04 school year.

Presentations at the Salt Lake City CAMA tour will be provided by the companies listed below:

- ADAPTIVATION, INC.
- APPLIED HUMAN FACTORS, INC.
- ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY, INC.
- DYNAVOX SYSTEMS, L.L.C.
- ENKIDU RESEARCH, INC.

- INCLUSIVE TLC, INC.
- MAYER-JOHNSON, INC.
- PRENTKE ROMICH COMPANY
- WORDS+, INC.
- ZYGO INDUSTRIES, INC.

For more information on the Salt Lake City CAMA Tour see: <http://www.aacproducts.org/>

UAAACT Policy Changes

At the UAAACT Conference, we held a dinner meeting for UAAACT members. Each team member in attendance received an updated Policy and Procedure Manual. (Contact Lynn, Scott or Craig at 801-887-9380 if you did not receive a new manual.) The new manual is in a three-ring binder so it can be updated as needed. Please review the new manual. Important changes have been made. For example:

The UAAACT project now has an assistive technology competency program. New UAAACT members (and some experienced UAAACT members) who have basic assistive technology skills will be rated at Level I. UAAACT members with a high level of assistive technology skills will be at Level II. And UAAACT members with a high level of assistive technology skills along with team leadership skills will be Level III.

UAAACT teams will receive a training budget based on team members Competency Levels. The team training budget will be calculated as follows: For each Level I team member, the team will receive a \$250 training allocation, for each Level II team member, the team will receive a \$500 training allocation, for each Level III team member, the team will receive a \$750 training allocation.

Grandfather Policy – The UAAACT Leadership Council feels that years of service as well as specific assistive technology training could qualify current UAAACT members for Level I, Level II, or Level II competencies. In order for the UAAACT Leadership Council to provide team leaders with their 2003-04 school year training budget, all UAAACT members must submit (in writing) their self-evaluation of their competency level.

The self-evaluation or application for competency level determination could be as simple as filling out the "Documentation of UAAACT Competencies" form. This form is

found in the "Forms" section of the new UAAACT Policies and Procedures Manual. You may also write a **short** letter or email describing why you feel you should be rated at a certain competency level. If you need additional information, see the last page of the Appendix in the new UAAACT Policies and Procedures Manual, or call Craig Boogaard at 801-887-9533. Many UAAACT members have already submitted their self-evaluation.

All requests should be submitted in writing by May 8, 2003 to the UAAACT Leadership Council, c/o Craig Boogaard, 1595 West 500 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84104 or by email to: cboogaar@utah.gov

Another very important change will be made in the allocation of equipment funds. Instead of providing a \$1,500 equipment grant to each team, we are planning to provide team equipment funds based on the teams need for equipment. Each team will receive a basic equipment allowance of \$500. Then, based on team reports of students served and hours of service, UAAACT teams would earn budget points which indicate their need for equipment. Each student served would earn the team four budget points. Each hour of service would earn one budget point. The team budget would include the \$500 basic allowance plus a percentage of the total equipment budget, based on budget points.

This makes team reporting more important than ever before. **Team members should submit their "Team Member Report of Hours" and their "Team Member Report of Students Served" to their Team Leaders prior to June 10, 2003. Team Leaders should submit their "UAAACT Team Summary Report" to Julie Brown by June 10, 2003.** Teams that fail to report or who report after June 15th will receive only the \$500 base equipment budget.

This year team reports will be sent to Julie Brown, 908 Cherry Wood Circle, Draper UT 84020 or email to: juliebrown63@hotmail.com

The Computer Center for Citizens With Disabilities And the Alliance for Technology Access

Assistive Technology Resources

Too often people with disabilities and functional limitations are physically and socially isolated and technology enables them to lead fuller lives giving them access to information, to education, to recreational activities, to employment opportunities, to shopping, and to friends. While technology can help many overcome obstacles, only a small fraction of the estimated 53 million Americans with disabilities has bridged the digital divide.

The Computer Center for Citizens With Disabilities is proud to be a member of the Alliance for Technology Access (ATA), a nationwide network of assistive technology resource centers, individuals, community-based organizations, and vendors. Since 1987, the ATA has worked nationwide to increase the use of technology by people with disabilities and functional limitations.

At the ATA web site at www.ATAccess.org, you'll find invaluable resources to assist you as you look for accessibility solutions. These include:

- ◆ ATA's newest service, **the Hub** is an interactive information and referral service that provides quick and efficient access to information on assistive technology tools and services to consumers, families and service providers worldwide. Use it to instantaneously request current information from key developers and service providers.
- ◆ **Computer and Web Resources for People with Disabilities, A Guide to Exploring Today's Assistive Technology.** This highly acclaimed book includes detailed descriptions of software, hardware and communication aids, plus a gold mine of published and online resources.
- ◆ **Access Aware: Extending Your Reach to People with Disabilities** and its companion **Starting Points: An Introduction to Creating Access in Community-Based Organizations for People With Disabilities.** These easy-to-use manuals are designed to help any organization become more accessible and inclusive of their entire community.
- ◆ **The Family Place in Cyberspace.** This web site includes **We Can Play!**, a variety of suggestions and ideas for making play activities accessible to all (available in English and Spanish); **Access in Transition**, information and resources for students with disabilities who are facing the transition from public school to the next stage in life; and **AT in K-12**, a range of information about integrating assistive technology into schools.

Consumer direction in the design and delivery of services is a critical component of the Alliance model. This is based on the belief that people with disabilities are in charge of their own lives, set their own goals, and direct the process of their achievement.

UAAACT Calendar of Events

- **Dynavox Breakthrough Workshop** by Rick Archer.....April 18, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Dynavox accepts Registrations only by fax or mail. Call The Computer Center for a registration form or download the registration form at: www.dynavoxsys.com
- **Boardmaker for Windows Workshop** by Scott Baggaley.....April 25, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Call The Computer Center to register.
- **Documentation of UAAACT Competencies due** May 6, 2003
Mail or email your "Documentation of UAAACT Competencies" form or a short letter to CCCD.
- **How to Use Pictures to Represent Language Workshop** by Bruce Baker, May 12, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Call The Computer Center to register.
- **Making Curriculum Accessible Workshop** by Craig Boogaard.....May 15, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Call The Computer Center to register.
- **Using Dynavox to Communicate Workshop** by Rick Archer.....May 23, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Dynavox accepts Registrations only by fax or mail. Call The Computer Center for a registration form or download the registration form at: www.dynavoxsys.com
- **Dynavox Information Management Workshop** by Rick Archer.....June 20, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Dynavox accepts Registrations only by fax or mail. Call The Computer Center for a registration form or download the registration form at: www.dynavoxsys.com
- **Team Leaders - Team Report of Hours and Students Served due**.... June 10, 2003
Mail or fax your report form to The Computer Center. This report will determine your team equipment budget for the 2003-04 school year.

All workshops listed above will all be held at The Computer Center

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