



Message from the President,
Amy Lund

My IAER Colleagues,

What an honor it is to serve as our IAER President for the 2014-16 term! I am very excited and accept the challenge to keep the Illinois Chapter of AER one of the strongest in the organization. In order to do this, the Board and I know that we need all of our members and field colleagues to pitch in and give back to our profession. This can be done in a variety of ways.

- Become and Stay a member! There are many professional and financial opportunities to members-the benefits are SO worth it!
- Get involved in a committee! Support IAER by helping to select our Distinguished Award recipients, which Mini-Grants are worthwhile to be funded, or help with registration at conference.
- Present at our IAER State Conference in February! Submit a Call for Papers on a topic you feel passionate about. Has a co-worker mentioned how great you are at teaching transition skills? Present about it!
- Submit a proposal for a Mini-Grant or Workshop! Need a little extra support-financial or publicity? IAER will help make your Mini-Grant or Workshop dreams become a reality!
- Attend another organization's conference. Submit an application for a stipend. IAER supports its' members pursuing more knowledge at conferences.

IAER has a healthy and fiscally wise budget. We as a Board have felt strongly about supporting our members and their needs. Please let us know what you want/need in terms of support/trainings/programming and we will strive to provide!

If you would like to step up to the challenge and become more involved, please let me know!
alund@sps186.org

Respectfully,

Amy Lund

IAER President



IAER Treasurer's Report Cindy Miller July 1, 2014 – September 3, 2014

Bal Fwd Checking	73,497.58
Income	0.00
Beginning Balance	73,497.58

Expenses

AER Website	90.00
Bank Charge	37.24
NonProfit Status Change Of Agent	5.00
Postage and Delivery	49.00
Space Camp Registration	700.00
Stipend	600.00
TOTAL Expenses	1,481.24
Ending Balance	72,016.34

IAER Board Members

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Committee Reports

Conference Report

Welcome back from your busy summer. As you plan for the coming months, Please remember our Illinois AER conference, Save the date February 19 -20, 2015. There will be a Pre-conference daylong session on Wednesday February 18. You will want to watch for e-blasts about the conference and check out our website for updates on all the information you will need to attend. Invite a co-worker to join you this year. I believe that they will find a wealth of information , and opportunity to network with others.

I hope you have been thinking about what you want to share at our 2015 IAER conference. Now that you have a great idea to share with all of us, Click on the link for Call for Papers, complete the form and get it back to Doug Anzlovar as soon as you can. We want your participation in our February 2015 conference. This will help us make this an outstanding Conference. If you have any questions, please contact me directly Leah Gerlach, M.S. 2015 Conference Chair
Lag324@spectrios.org

Watch for further information and opportunities for you to get involved with our conference.

Awards Committee

Committee Brief:

Awards Committee: Award nominations are due December 19th to Samantha Voll at samanthavoll91@gmail.com. Nomination forms are available on the IAER website at <http://il.aerbvi.org>.

Committee Report:

Awards

Do you work with an outstanding colleague in the field of Low Vision and Blindness? A colleague who provides distinguished service in order to better the lives of others? How about a strong leader or mentor who has supported you and others to continue to grow and learn in order to better serve people who are blind and visually impaired? Do you know of a person in the field of vision rehabilitation who has gone above and beyond to impact the lives of adults with visual impairments? The Illinois Chapter of AER is made up of professionals who go above and beyond to serve people who are blind or visually impaired. Our chapter also thrives on colleagues who continuously collaborate and make each other stronger leaders, teachers, and professions.

Go right now to <http://il.aerbvi.org> to read a short description on each award and nominate an IAER member for one of the following awards:

- **Distinguished Service Award**
- **Excellence in Rehabilitation Award**
- **Excellence in Education Award**

Nominations are due by December 19th, 2014. Rewards will be presented at conference February 18th-20th.
IAER Community Partner – “Above & Beyond” Award

The community Partner Award recognizes an organization, individual, or business that has gone above and beyond to provide special opportunities for kids and adults who are blind or visually impaired. Go to the awards section of the IAER website at <http://il.aerbvi.org> to read the criteria for this award and to nominate a qualifying organization/individual/business.

Mini grants and Stipends

Currently we **have not had any applications** for Mini-Grants so please be sure to utilize this member benefit for your unique programs!

For Stipends, we have awarded \$970 out of our budget and still have \$1530 left for use toward conference expenses. Remember there is a \$200 limit per member per fiscal year.

Please log onto <http://il.aerbvi.org/modules.php?name=Content&pa=showpage&pid=7> to fill out an application form for either a stipend or mini grant.

IAER Scholarships

We are now taking 2014-2015 Scholarship applications!!! Up to \$750 can be awarded to Junior, Senior, Graduate or Post Graduate students taking classes leading to certification in the field of Education/Rehabilitation for individuals who are blind or visually Impaired. Residency in Illinois is a must. If you or someone you know is eligible the application can be found at <http://il.aerbvi.org/modules.php?name=Content&pa=showpage&pid=7>. The deadline is December 5, 2014.

The 2013-2014 deserving recipients were Chelsie Seplowin (ISU) and Jennifer Yesaitis (NIU).

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Resource Updates

Hines Update

As of February, 2014, The Hines Blind Rehabilitation Center (BRC) has appointed Denise Van Koevinger as the new Chief. Denise is a Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS) and Low Vision Therapist (CLVT). She has worked at the BRC for 25 years as a Orientation and Mobility Specialist, Polytrauma/Traumatic Brain Injury Blind Rehabilitation Outpatient Specialist (Polytrauma/TBI BROS) and Visual Skills Supervisor.

Just recently, Charles Brancheau has been selected as the new Assistant Chief. He has been part of the BRC for 16 years. He is the current Living Skills Supervisor and Certified Rehabilitation Therapist (CRVT). His former roles have included Manual Skills Supervisor and Computer access training.

We welcome them both aboard and look forward to the future of the Hines Blind Rehabilitation Center!

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News from Hadley

Seminars@Hadley Update

COMING OCTOBER 15, 2014, White Cane Safety Day:

Seminars@Hadley Presents: In Celebration of White Cane Safety Day

Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2014

Time: 10:00 AM CDT, 15:00 GMT

What is the history of the long white cane? What are the kinds of canes available and how do I know which best suits me? Can I make repairs to my cane on my own? These questions and more will be answered during this seminar presentation.

In observance of White Cane Safety Day (now, also known as Blind Americans Equality Day) join Seminars@Hadley for this "White Cane Primer" with presenters Pam Winters, Cathy Pasinski and Ginger Irwin, all Hadley instructors.

This 60-minute seminar will be moderated by Dawn Turco, Hadley senior vice president. A question and answer period will be provided.

To register for a free Seminars@Hadley, go to visit www.hadley.edu

Past Seminars: Bullying on Teen Minds

During a recent focus group meeting, blind and visually impaired teens gave bullying as their number one topic request for a Seminars@Hadley. This seminar, along with others of interest to teens, is available in the Past Seminars archive: Bullying: Why Does it Happen And What Can We Do to Minimize its Impact?

<http://hadley.edu/PastSeminars.asp>

Hearing and Vision Early Intervention Outreach

FREE PARENT CONFERENCES!!! Mark your calendars and share with families!

Hearing and Vision Early Intervention Outreach is excited to announce two free conferences for Illinois Parents of Children Who are Visually Impaired, ages birth to 22:

- ❖ March 14, 2015 Mt Vernon
- ❖ April 11, 2015 Rockford

Registration is now open.

Professionals are welcome.

For more information please go to:

<http://www.illinoisdeaf.org/Documents/Outreach/Vision%20Conference%20Flyer%202015.pdf>



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NIU Update

Northern Illinois University

NIU's Program for Visual Disabilities continues to provide undergraduate and graduate degree programs for teachers of visually impaired children, orientation and mobility and vision rehabilitation therapy. With an estimated 60 students in current programs, NIU faculty and staff have been busy working to prepare the students for a variety of careers in the vision field.

Currently, we are beginning the second year of a five-year grant for the provision of generous financial support for individuals who want to become teachers and/or orientation and mobility specialists to work with blind and visually impaired children. We would direct the reader's attention to the information about the generous financial support we currently have available. Please feel free to share that information with any individuals who might be promising candidates for a degree in our field.

In addition to the current federal grant, Stacy Kelly and Gaylen Kapperman wrote one to support the rehabilitation component of our program. We are crossing everything we can cross in the fervent hope that the grant gods will shine on us. We should be notified of the results of our efforts later in September. If we are funded, we will have generous financial aid for persons who wish to work with blinded adults either as vision rehabilitation specialists and/or orientation and mobility specialists.

Gaylen Kapperman and Jodi Sticken made a presentation on their Nemeth Code project which they are working on in collaboration with their friends from the American Printing House for the Blind. That took place at the AER conference held in San Antonio, Texas in July. Within a few months, the results of their work will be available. It is a web-based Nemeth Code tutorial which will be housed on the web site of the American Printing House for the blind. Hopefully, by the time the next newsletter appears, we'll have a URL for you to visit to take a look at our work.

Stacy Kelly and Gaylen Kapperman made a presentation at the same AER conference. This one dealt with the sex education kit which they have assembled. The contents of the kit can be used to support blind youngsters who are involved in any of the many different sex education programs used in the nation's schools. Teachers can use the kit to make the instruction in those programs much more meaningful for youngsters who cannot see pictures.

Read about some of the many programs and grants available below:

Teaching Children who are Blind or Visually Impaired and/or Providing Orientation and Mobility Services for Those Children

Generous student financial assistance is available for these Totally On-Campus programs. We will pay all in-state or out-of-state tuition, all fees, health insurance, and a stipend of \$5,200 per calendar year for qualified individuals who wish to 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 the following web site to read about all of the programs available at www.vision.niu.edu as well as more information regarding admission requirements.

Also, go to the following Youtube links <http://youtu.be/UHmpASpzCKA>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vxgVXY5jg7o>

Interested individuals can contact the project director, Gaylen Kapperman, at the following e-mail: gkapperman@niu.edu or by calling 815-753-8453

In this program, one can obtain a master's degree and certification for teaching children who are visually disabled (16 months in length). Also, one can obtain a master's degree to be trained to be an orientation and mobility instructor (16 months in length). We strongly advise completion of both components which requires 22 months. The "dual" certification increases one's opportunities for employment considerably.

The Summers-only Orientation and Mobility Component

If you are currently certified as a Teacher of Students with Visual Disabilities (TVI) or as a Vision Rehabilitation Therapist (CVRT), you may be eligible to study in a summers-only program which will allow you to obtain a master's degree and certification in Orientation & Mobility without an interruption in employment!

This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity includes full tuition, fees, and an \$800 per summer stipend. On-campus courses will take place during the summers of 2015, 2016, and 2017. A full time, 12-week internship will be completed during the summer of 2018, at any approved site in the contiguous 48 states. This package is worth \$16,000 for Illinois residents; \$25,000 for out-of-state students!

Act now if you are interested! This will not be a continual offering; this is a one-time cohort opportunity based on federal funding. Application deadline: **MARCH 15, 2015**

For the online Graduate School application, please visit the NIU Graduate School Admissions website: <http://www.niu.edu/grad/apply/>

This program is a one-time only opportunity open to certified TVIs and CVRTs. It is designed to enable professionals in the visual disabilities field to earn credentials in the area of Orientation and Mobility without an interruption in employment as teachers.

Funding is available for 6 of the cohort participants to be awarded graduate assistantships which will pay in-state or out-of-state tuition, fees, and a stipend of \$800 for each of the 4 summers of this program. The graduate assistantships will be awarded on a competitive basis (combination of undergrad GPA, GRE scores, recommendations, etc.). There will be more than 6 spots available in the cohort, but only money enough to provide support for 6 students.

Many school systems, however, have a tuition support program available for their employees, so this should help tremendously with financing for anyone who wants to participate but isn't funded by the grant. Also, most salary schedules have incremental pay increases for coursework, so this should help, also.

In order to be awarded a graduate assistantship, students must be fully admitted to The Graduate School at NIU. Admission requirements include:

- A bachelor's degree from an accredited 4-year institution with a minimum 2.8 grade point average on a 4.0 scale
- A passing score on the Graduate Record Exam General Test (verbal and quantitative); and
- 3 letters of recommendation

- In addition, admission to this particular cohort requires evidence of current certification in the visual disabilities area, either as a TVI or as a CVRT.

The application process is started with submission of the actual application and a \$40 application fee. This can be accomplished online at the following website: <http://www.grad.niu.edu/online/apply.htm> . Other supporting documents (transcripts, official GRE scores, letters of recommendation, and copies of certificates) may be submitted (to the graduate school admissions office, NOT to the vision program!) after the actual application.

Be sure to notify Gaylen Kapperman (gkapperman@niu.edu) of your intent to apply as soon as the decision is made to ensure that your name is included in the pool of candidates! 815-753-8453

Cohort participants will complete the program in August of 2018, and will be eligible for ACVREP certification as a Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS) and will be awarded the Master of Science in Education (M.S.Ed.) degree.

Many people have inquired about the certification-only vs. the master's degree; here's the deal: to be eligible for the student support, an applicant must be fully admitted to the Graduate School. The difference between the cert-only program and the degree is only one course (ETR 520); the program cannot be completed any faster by eliminating this one course!

Illinois State University Update

LVB grant

Maribeth Lartz and Olaya Landa-Vialard were awarded a Personnel Preparation Grant from the Office of Special Education Programs for \$1.2 million over 5 years. The program EL VISTA (Early Learning Visual Impairment Services, Training, and Advancement) leads to an Illinois State University Graduate Specialization Certificate: Early Intervention Vision Specialist.

Over the lifetime of the project, 40 professionals from the disciplines of Low Vision and Blindness, and Orientation and Mobility will become credentialed to provide high quality early intervention services to infants and toddlers with blindness, visual impairment, or deafblindness and their families. For more information, please contact Maribeth Lartz or Olaya Landa-Vialard.

ISU Braille Birds

The ISU Braille Birds donated a scarecrow for the Scarecrows on Parade at the Illinois State University Agricultural Center. Scarecrows on Parade is a fundraiser for the Children's Garden at the Horticulture Center. Scarecrows were auctioned off in a silent auction process and then taken home by the highest bidder. The Braille Birds maintained the theme of famous individuals with blindness/visual impairment/deafblindness for their exhibition of their original, one-of-a-kind scarecrow. Last year's entry was Louieeeeeeeee Braillecrow (Louis Braille). This year's entry was Stevieeeeeeee Wondercrow (Stevie Wonder). Having fun and maintaining a commitment to service to the community were all a part of this activity.



Photo: ISU Braille Birds pose with "Stevieeee Wondercrow (Stevie Wonder) for the Children's Garden at the Horticulture Center Scarecrow on Parade

ISU Braille Birds Apparel



Photos: Sweatshirt and t-shirt options for the ISU Braille Birds

ISU Braille Birds are selling T-Shirts and Pull-Overs. Follow this link to order items for 'ILST Braille Birds | Tees '14':
<http://www.kotisdesign.com/ILSTBrailleBirds>

Dinner in the Dark



Photo: Participants at last year's Dinner in the Dark at ISU

ISU will be having the 2nd Annual Dinner in the Dark Event in the Spring of 2015. Last year's event was a great success with 100 attendees. The money raised at this event is used to assist the Braille Birds with community service projects. Last year's funds were used to pay for a bus to transport students from the Champaign, IL area to ISU for a Chemistry Day with Dr. Cary Supalo. More information to come with the date, time and place. Watch for it!

Senior's in Action



Photo: Four ISU students in front of the "Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired" sign

Our LVB Seniors are in the throes of their Field-Based placements. Thanks to a partnership between Indiana and Illinois, four of our LVB seniors are at the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ISBVI) and three are at the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired (ISVI). The students live at the schools for their entire field-based experiences and experience what it is like to be a TVI in a residential placement for 7 weeks and an itinerant placement for 7 weeks. They are doing a great job and learning a lot about what it takes to be a great TVI.

Junior Olympics

One of our LVB seniors, Jennifer Hehner, volunteered at the Junior Olympics in Kentucky with her students from ISBVI on October 1, 2014. The event provided endless opportunities for students, teachers, and families to create new friendships and strengthen current friendships. (Social skills, recreation and leisure) Every student had a peer to socialize with. Each student received a medal for participating in their three events. The students not only cheered on their teammates...they cheered for other schools. The Lions Club prepared an entire BBQ lunch for every student, teacher, family member, and volunteer. Jr. Olympics provided a goal for all my students to reach for this quarter and Jennifer indicated that she was "...so incredibly proud to see all of their success from that day."

NFB BELL

The ISU Braille Birds will be assisting the National Federation of the Blind of Illinois Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning (BELL) Program in November. They will be working with lead teacher Amy Lund and co-teacher Samantha Voll to create all the needed braille materials for the summer braille program. Currently, the Illinois NFB BELL Program is hosted in Chicago with the hopes of adding more locations throughout the state in the future.

IAER Honors and Awards

IAER Members Honored with International Awards

by Susan M. Dalton, CVRT

At the 2014 AER International Conference in San Antonio this past summer, two of our IAER members were honored with awards from the Vision Rehabilitation Therapy Division. The Illinois Chapter takes great pride in their members and we'd like to share some information about these two individuals that you may want to get to know better!

The VRT Division's 2014 Bruce McKenzie Award for Lifetime Achievement presented to George Abbott

The Bruce McKenzie award is a biennial award established by the VRT Division to honor Bruce McKenzie for his pioneering leadership in the field of vision rehabilitation. It is the division's highest award, presented to an exemplary individual for outstanding contributions to the field of rehabilitation teaching and independent living services. This year's award was presented to **George Abbott** to recognize his exceptional accomplishments over the years that are national in scope and continue to have positive influences for both professionals and individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

How it all began...

George Abbott began his studies at Northern Illinois University where he completed his bachelor's degree in finance. While in the business school, he had a couple of occasions to interact with Dr. Gaylen Kapperman about technology. He was also a guest speaker for a few of Kapp's classes and worked with a student in the program on braille. As he learned more about adult rehabilitation, Kapp had encouraged him to enter the vision rehab program to obtain his master's.

But at this time, George was trying to find a job in the field of finance. After many rejection letters received from potential employers, he was granted an interview and even a second interview with a financial firm in Denver. (Note: This was just a couple of years after the ADA was signed into law.) George recalls, "I really thought I was going to be hired, because the tone of the interviews and subsequent phone calls were quite positive; however, I did not get the job. Someone in the human resources department eventually called to thank me for helping them better understand how the ADA might apply to them, and to explain that there were no open positions at the time." Soon after, he was offered a position in the insurance industry. George added, "I turned it down, because I had been thinking that part of the reason I did not get the position I wanted in finance was due to my inability to convince the interviewers that I was quite capable of performing

the essential duties using my technology.” Because of this, George then decided to enter the rehabilitation of blind adults program at NIU “...to learn to help others avoid what I had experienced.”

George made the request to tailor his adult rehabilitation program to include an emphasis on technology, “...so I could help others be not only good at using the technology, but also help assistive technology users gain the ability to confidently explain it to potential employers. I wanted to get into the field of visual impairment and blindness to help those with vision loss have the tools they needed to succeed in school and work.” Given Kapp’s blessing, George began his master’s program starting with summer school classes just a few weeks after earning his bachelor’s in finance. He also contemplated that in the long-term he could combine his business school education with adult rehabilitation and eventually be involved in management for an organization providing such services.

How his career has transpired...

He started his career at the Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Boise, primarily teaching keyboarding/computers and sometimes, braille and daily living skills. He was eventually promoted to supervisor of residential training for the state’s rehabilitation center.

“I then moved back to Illinois to take a job I had been wanting for some time, which was to be a computer access training specialist for the Hines Veterans Affairs, Central Blind Rehabilitation Center just west of Chicago.” A few years later, The Hadley School for the Blind was looking for someone to serve as a technology specialist in the information and technology department to support the needs of faculty and students who were visually impaired. It also included helping the curriculum department develop Hadley’s first online course in addition to teaching one of the distance education courses. George recalls, “After a wonderful interview with Dawn Turco and others, I was offered the position and I quickly accepted it. While at Hadley for almost fourteen years, I had the privilege of being the Dean of Educational Programs and Instruction, the Vice President of Development and Communications and the Vice President of Education.”

George worked for a short time for the Department of Veterans Affairs as a program and management analyst for a department conducting Section 508 accessibility compliance for eLearning courses designed for VA staff professional development. In September, 2012 he was offered the position of Director of eLearning at the American Foundation for the Blind. After AFB’s longtime Vice President, Maureen Matheson and then the renowned director of AFB press, Natalie Hilzen, both retired, in December 2013, George became director of what is now called AFB Press and Professional Development. This department is comprised of AFB Press publications, including all textbooks, the Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness and AFB’s eLearning Center for professional development.

What George envisions for the future...

George shares, “I do think it is critical that as a profession we remain united through professional associations in our efforts to continue to grow our knowledge, support one another and be the voice that ensures people who are visually impaired receive the services they need from the most qualified providers.” George adds, “Legislation, medical practices and technology are just some of the driving forces to which we must pay careful attention...” He lists several areas that need to be addressed to include: comprehensive knowledge about blindness and the visual system, the rehabilitation process, an understanding of counseling, ability to teach braille, assistive technology, and daily living skills. George concludes, “(these) are needed to truly help adults with vision loss gain or regain independence in a dignified, responsible way, so they may thrive in their homes, communities, educational institutions and employment.”

In conclusion...



Photo: George Abbott accepting his award at the AER International Conference in San Antonio,

In his acceptance speech, George said, “It was a tremendous honor, and came as a huge surprise, to have been recognized with the Bruce McKenzie Lifetime Achievement Award... I have been quite fortunate to have worked for some truly amazing organizations, as well as to have had support and mentorship from some terrific supervisors whose character and dedication served as excellent role models to try to emulate. I try to listen more than I speak, treat everyone with respect, and give my best efforts when I take on work or volunteer responsibilities.” And George definitely demonstrates this in all that he does.

The Alice Raftary Rising Star Award was initiated in 2006 to be bestowed upon an individual who demonstrates potential for exceptional leadership and is expected to provide a unique and lasting contribution to the field of Vision Rehabilitation Therapy. It is meant to recognize people new to the field who are making a significant impact right from the start -- early in their career.



Photo: Susan Dalton giving Joe Jorgenson his award at the International Conference in San Antonio, TX

The 2014 Rising Star Award was presented to **Joe Jorgenson**, a graduate of Northern Illinois University and current rehabilitation instructor at the Hines VA Blind Rehabilitation Center by VRT Division Secretary/Treasurer, Sue Dalton.

After completing his undergraduate degree, Joe was looking to find his place. He wanted a job which had an immediate impact on people's lives but just didn't know what that job was. Coincidentally, his then-roommate performed IT work for the NIU Department of Education, including the Vision Program. Dr. Kapperman had mentioned he was looking for new recruits for his program and his roommate passed the information along. After checking out what blind rehabilitation was all about, he felt that it sounded like the perfect fit. Since then he's had family members lose their vision and has found his choice of career even more profound.

Since graduating from NIU, Joe has been working in the Hines VA Blind Rehabilitation Center, initially working in the Living Skills Department, under Chuck Brancheau. Joe states, “That experience really shaped my outlook on our field. Chuck is a great example of someone who can roll up his sleeves and get the job done, all while maintaining professionalism and making sure everyone has a good time.” As he progressed in Living Skills, his work started to lean more towards adaptive technology, and he is now working under Dan Smith in the Computer Access Training department. Joe add, “Dan has a technical and administrative knowledge I've seldom witnessed before. It's been great working alongside him and the other CATS staff.”

In addition to his work at Hines, Joe has spent the last year working on his adaptive technology entity, Accessibyte. Joe explained how it all began...“While my time in this field has been brief, I found myself needing software which didn't exist the way I envisioned it. Conversations with colleagues in the school system revealed I wasn't the only one with such needs. That being the case, I got to work and started coding my own software. This field has some impressive adaptive technology tools but much of it requires a learning curve that prevents certain users from ever gaining access. My goal was to create software which included all required accessibility and presented simple solutions which a wide spectrum of users could take advantage of.”

Once people started asking to use the software that Joe made, he decided it was worth sharing with the public. As a result he put together the Accessibyte website, presented at IAER and has recently began advertising what he has to offer. He adds, “I should mention a special thanks to my good friend Tyler Lolong for helping me program in a hurry to meet the IAER presentation deadline.”

When asked about his plans for the future, Joe says, “I love working at Hines and plan to continuing growing in that environment, especially in regards to my work with various committees within the hospital. I am also eager to continue developing under the Accessibyte brand.” He has more ideas for quite a few programs, most of which center around easing the needs of TVI's and their students and hopes to soon be releasing an adaptive flash cards program along with other larger projects. In conclusion, Joe shares, “I'm excited about my own future in blind rehabilitation and am always inspired by all the great people out there doing good work.”

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