



NCAERolina News

May/June 2007

President's Message

By Gary Ray

First, let me do a quick personal update. I retired from the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped on March 1, 2007. I am loving retirement! I am extremely busy, but am only working on things I want to do.

In mid June, Linda and I will be moving to Asheville. We have sold our house here in Raleigh and bought one up in Asheville. Now all we have to do is get everyone to pass the money around like good boys and girls. Our new house is in north Asheville, off Merrimon Avenue, near the bus lines and with easy access to many stores and services.

Our grandson, Caleb Christopher, was born on Tuesday, May 15, at 11:04 PM. He was too big to be delivered naturally by his mom, weighing 8 pounds, 6 ounces and being 21 inches long so he had to be brought into this world by a knife. I am not sure how I feel about being a grandpa. I know my biggest issue is with diaper changing...yuck!

At our recent Super Conference, we were selling NC AER golf shirts. We have some of those left, so we are starting out by hawking them in this newsletter. You will find an order

form at the end of this publication to order your own shirt. If you guys don't buy these suckers up, there will be trouble. On the order form is an inventory of the colors and sizes remaining. This offer is first come, first serve. If you order a shirt that is already gone, we will call you to talk about a substitution. If we cannot work something out, we'll send your money back. Help us unload, well, er, ash, reduce our inventory of these fine shirts. Feel the material, sniff the weave, help your NC AER brothers and sisters get out of the shirt business. Be the first in your school or office to own an OFFICIAL NC AER shirt.

We did not give out a Rachel Rawls award at the recent Super Conference. It was not because the Board was bored with the process and got lazy. We only had one nomination and it was for a member of the Board. Under our current guidelines, no sitting Board member is allowed to win.

The Board worked very hard to revamp the application procedure for the Rawls Award over the last year. We had great help from Gail Waters to get the process better organized and to get the award in line with the original intent.

We were very surprised that we did not have more nominations. We are sure that

there are very good candidates out there, but we just cannot figure out why none of them got submitted. One thing we did decide was that we did not start early enough soliciting nominations, so we are starting now. The membership decided at the annual meeting to try to get more nominations for the 2008 Super Conference. If we cannot get them coming in, we will take another look at our whole NC AER Awards Program. Actually, there ain't no NC AER Awards Program, but it sounded good. We may try adding new awards and changing things around. Awards are good things and I enjoy giving them out at the Super Conference so help us out. The first thing you can do is to review the information in this newsletter about the Rawls award and begin considering nominees. We are also considering putting some money with the Rawls Award next year. The next thing you can do is to send me feedback on our NC AER Awards Program (man, it really sounds good, eh?). You can reach me at ghray@mindspring.com.

The last thing I want to preach about is leadership and participation. For many years, the work of NC AER has been done by a very few folks. Namely, it has mostly been done by the Board. What happens is that Board members eventually burn out and leave, never to be seen or heard from again. You end up with cats like me serving, and we all know that ain't good (grin).

We want to change this. We have several folks who have

moved into North Carolina after having served in AER leadership in other states. We want to use those folks, in addition to the Board, as the cadre we call on to do the work. We all have a lot to do, even those of us who are retired (nurk, nurk). But, to help out with NC AER will truly give you ownership of the chapter. I think I know who you are, so don't be surprised if you hear from Gary in the not too distant future.

Update from DPI

Tom Winton former Consultant for Visual Impairment and Assistive Technology at NCDPI for the last 8 years has been promoted to Section Chief of the Instructional Support and Related Services section. He still supervises the VI and AT programs along with several other areas of special education.

Julie Kagy, formerly employed at GMS OutReach, became the new DPI Consultant for VI/AT in March. Her contact information is:

Julie Kagy

Consultant for Visual Impairment
and Assistive Technology
Exceptional Children Division
North Carolina Department of
Public Instruction
6356 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-6356
Phone: 919/807-3988
Fax: 919/807-3243
jkagy@dpi.state.nc.us

More DPI News

DPI is again sponsoring a Summer Institute in Greensboro, NC. There are 2 offerings that

should be of special interest to the VI professionals. There is a Learning Media Assessment workshop and a NIMAs (electronic file access) workshop. The site below will give you the listing of all of the workshops, and registration information. The LMA session is #9. The NIMAs session is # 25. However, you may see other workshops that interest you also. Take a look!
www.ncpublicschools.org/ec/development/summerinstitutes/

Update from NCCU
Julie A. Bardin, Ph.D., COMS

New Graduates

On May 5th, 4 students in the Visual Impairment Training Program at North Carolina Central University graduated and others have completed the requirements for licensure only. Some of them already have jobs, but others are still looking. Please welcome to the field:

Raffaella DiGiorgio
Master of Arts in Teaching Visual Impairments

Christina Honeycutt
Master of Education in Visual Impairments
Master of Education in Orientation and Mobility

Sybil Shelley
Master of Education in Orientation and Mobility

Angel Wallace

Master of Education in Visual Impairments
Master of Education in Orientation and Mobility

Charity Stewart
Licensure in Visual Impairments

Rhonda Coley
Licensure in Visual Impairments

New Recruits

Do you know of someone wanting to enter the field or just learn a little more about VI? If so, refer them to our programs. We are always looking for new students in VI teaching and Orientation and Mobility. They can contact Julie Bardin at 919-530-5346 or jbardin@ncu.edu.

Seeking Your Feedback

If you have ever been a student of the VITP we need your help. We are asking prior students to complete a survey about the level of preparation you received in your program. This information will be used to evaluate the courses and content provided.

To complete a survey, contact Julie Bardin and request one. They are anonymous.

The 2008 Rachel Rawls Award

The Rachel Rawls award is the highest recognition given by the NC AER each year. Below is an

excerpt from the 2007 Rawls Awards packet.

The Rachel Rawls Award was established by the NC AER in 1989 to honor Dr. Rawls and to recognize achievement in the field of work with the blind and visually impaired.

The Ground Rules:

- The person making the nomination must be a member of NC AER.
- The person being nominated does not have to be an NC AER member.
- Current NC AER Board members are NOT eligible for nomination.
- The Rawls Award is granted by the Board of the NC AER.
- The NC AER Board need not give the Rawls Award every year.
- Only one Rawls Award may be given each year.
- Each nomination must be made using the form provided and must be accompanied by at least two (2) letters of support from persons who have personal knowledge of the nominee and his/her achievement. Each letter of support must contain contact information for the author.

- A person whose achievements have exceeded the expectations of their particular job description;
- A person who has been innovative in the field of education, rehabilitation or human services;
- A person who has had an impact on the field that extends beyond current or former job placement;
- A person who has positively altered attitudes toward visual impairment or the manner in which services are delivered to individuals who are visually impaired;

A person who has demonstrated extensive collaborations with other disciplines or organizations working with people who are visually impaired (including but not limited to the NCAER, Lions Clubs in North Carolina, the Division of Services for the Blind, the Governor Morehead School, the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, the NC Council of the Blind, the National Federation of the Blind of NC) in order to enhance the overall quality of life for individuals who are visually impaired.

Award criteria

- A person whose unique achievements have benefited North Carolina citizens who are visually impaired;

Your Board Members
2006-2008 NC AER Board

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS !!!

The 2008 "Superconference" will be held April 24, 25, and 26.
Location Governor Morehead School campus.

Workin' at the Car Wash

GMS students hard at work making cars sparkle! They were raising money for the upcoming They were excited, raised over \$400, and had a great time. Not a dry person remained at the end of the day!



What's Happening

June, 2007

9 175th Anniversary Celebration of Overbrook School for the Blind. Philadelphia, PA. Development Office, Overbrook School for the Blind; phone: 215-877-0313, x. 264; www.obs.org

13-17 Guiding Eyes for the Blind Orientation and Mobility Seminar. Yorktown Heights, NY. Contact Bev Klayman, phone: 800-942-0149; email bklayman@quidingeyes.org; www.quidingeyes.org

21 23 Collaborative Assistive Technology Conference of the Rockies. Denver, CO. phone: 303-315-1280; www.assistivetechologypartners.org

30—July 7 American Council of the Blind National Convention. Minneapolis, MN. Phone: 800-424-8666; www.acb.org/convention or info@acb.org

July, 2007

1—6 National Federation of the Blind National Convention. Atlanta, GA. Phone: 410-659-9314; www.nfb.org or nfb@nfb.org

2—6 2007 Lions Clubs International Annual Convention. Chicago, IL. Phone: 630-571-5466; www.lionsclubs.org

9 - 20 Foundations in the Education of Learners Who Are Deaf-Blind. Watertown, MA. Contact Marianne Riggio, Perkins School for the Blind; phone 617-972-7264; email: marianne.riggio@perkins.org; www.Perkins.org/conferences_detail.php?id=281

13—15 Families Connecting with Families Conference, Omaha. Contact napvi@perkins.org

17-21 2007 Association on Higher Education and Disability Conference. Charlotte, NC. Phone 704-947-7779; email: ahead@ahead.org; www.ahead.org

26 - 28 Teaching and Learning Together Conference: Inclusive Practices and Blended Programs. Radford, VA. phone 540-831-7118; email tlt@radford.edu; <http://tlt.education.radford.edu/index.htm>

30—8/4 National Federation of the Blind Youth Slam: A 2007 STEM Leadership Academy. Baltimore, MD. phone 410-659-9314; www.blindscience.org/ncbys/Youth_Slam.asp, or youthslam@nfb.org

August, 2007

8 - 12 Guiding Eyes for the Blind Orientation and Mobility Seminar.
Yorktown Heights, NY

9-12 Envision 2007 Conference. Kansas City, MO. phone 415-883-3301; www.envisionconference.org

September, 2007

5 - 9 Guiding Eyes for the Blind Orientation and Mobility Seminar.
Yorktown Heights, NY

7 - 8 TN Chapter AER State Conference. Pikeville, TN. Contact Karen Jeanette White, Karen.white@mnps.org

7 - 9 Abilities Exposition. Minneapolis, MN. phone 800-385-3085; email abilities@questex.com; www.abilitiesexpo.com

October, 2007

18 - 20 25th Annual Closing the Gap Conference: Computer Technology in Special Education and Rehabilitation. Minneapolis, MN. phone 507-248-3294; email info@closingthegap.com; www.closingthegap.com

November, 2007

14-16 AR Council for Exceptional Children Annual Conference. Hot Springs, AR. Contact Chris Foley; email chris.foley@rsdmail.k12.ar.us; <http://cec.k12.ar.us>

29 - December 2 Eighth Biennial Getting in Touch with Literacy Conference. St. Petersburg, FL. Contact Kay Ratzlaff, phone 813-837-7829; email kratzlaff@fimcvi.org; www.gettingintouchwithliteracy.org

December, 2007

6 - 8 Discovery 2007: The Low Vision Conference. Chicago, IL. Contact Leah Gerlach; phone 630-690-7115; email leah@deicke.org; www.deicke.org



NC AER Golf Shirt Order Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone, including Area Code _____

Price: \$25.00 Per Shirt (Includes Shipping)

To order, mark your selection on the back of this form, send a check for your order payable to NCAER to:

GMS Outreach
 Golf Shirt Order
 c/o Kathy Davis
 MSC 2303
 Raleigh, NC 27699-2303

*Allow six weeks
 for delivery*

*No credit
 card orders*

NC AER Golf Shirt Sale
Shirt Inventory/Order Blank

Note: Listed below are the shirts we have on hand as of May 2, 2007. This is a FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE sale! Get your order in as soon as possible to assure that you get your selection. If we cannot full your order, we will return your check. You may call Kathy Davis at 919-715-4257 or (1-800-LEA-EYES) to check inventory. We will make one attempt to contact you regarding a substitution (different size or color). If we are unable to contact you on our first attempt, we will return your check.

BLUE SHIRTS

___ LARGE (1 EACH)
___ MEDIUM (2 EACH)

WHITE SHIRTS

___ XL (1 EACH)
___ LARGE (3 EACH)
___ MEDIUM (3 EACH)

BLACK SHIRTS

___ MEDIUM (3 EACH)
___ LARGE (2 EACH)

RED SHIRTS

___ XL (1 EACH)
___ LARGE (1 EACH)
___ MEDIUM (1 EACH)

GREEN SHIRTS

___ XL (2 EACH)
___ LARGE (1 EACH)

AMOUNT ENCLOSED:

___ NUMBER OF SHIRTS X \$25= _____