

The Monitor

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From the Director

Another year starts fast out of the gates. It is already October and the leaves are falling. Where did September go?

WATI has a few changes to share with you. First, I would like to say good bye to three WATI consultants and introduce two new consultants. Mary Pallaske, CESA 4; Paula Lees, CESA 7; and Joanne Laurich, CESA 8, have all taken on other positions. We wish them well but will miss them greatly. Lillian Rider will take Mary's place in CESA 4 and Patti

Lindstrom Drescher will fill the CESA 7 position. This year there will be no CESA 8 WATI consultant. The decision was made to split the area into East/West sections. Marcia Obukowicz from CESA 9 will cover the Western districts and Patti Lindstrom Drescher will cover the Eastern districts.

A second change will impact all WATI lending library users. We are working on a procedure for WATI to pay the return shipping cost of borrowed items. We know that districts do

not have funds set aside for shipping library items so we have allocated some of our budget to cover those costs. Hopefully by the end of October, the procedure will be in place. I really hope this will encourage more of you to borrow from the lending library this year. The most recent catalog is on our website at www.wati.org.

This fall we are wrapping up a series of mini-grants to early childhood programs. Twelve mini-grants were

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SAVE THE DATE!!

**Assistive
Technology Across
the Lifespan
Conference**

March 6 & 7, 2008

**Holiday Inn &
Convention Center,
Stevens Point**

Milwaukee Public Schools' "Music Man"!

**By Susan Loesl,
Adaptive Art
Specialist, Milwaukee
Public Schools**

Are you looking for a DJ for your next event? Traveain Keith Finley

just may be the man for you! He has used his skills on the computer to provide music to his friends and peers for dances and other school events, as well as being

on the local radio station. Here is his story, in his own words, created on an Alphasmart™....

"Hello, my name is

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From the Director (continued)

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awarded to Child Care and Head Start programs that included children with disabilities. The focus was on picture supported environments and using Boardmaker as a teacher tool for creating those pictures. This is the second group of these *Picture This!* grants. The findings from the first twelve are on our website. The additional findings from this year will be added to the site as soon as they are in. The second group of mini-grants was awarded to 12 early childhood programs that were interested in implementing assistive technology. They received \$600 worth of AT to meet the needs of their particular

program. The findings are being collected and will also be shared on our website soon.

This year we have awarded mini-grants to five AT teams to attend the Creating Communication Environments class being taught in CESAs 1, 2, and 11. These teams focus on two students and, through the course of the year, they implement strategies they learn about in their four class sessions. Each time they return to class with a video tape of the students' progress. With the guidance of the class instructors and the input from other teams in the class, they seek to identify the augmentative communication solution to help each child become a more

meaningful communicator. This class has been offered for many years through WATI. I encourage you to look at the description on our website (under Training) and consider sending a team in the future. It's a powerful class.

I'm sure many readers of *The Monitor* can report good things happening for students using AT. I would love to hear from some of you. The more we can demonstrate the value of assistive technology the more others will be willing to consider it for their students. Send me an email and tell your story!
(elahm@cesa6.k12.wi.us)

Liz Lahm

WATI AT Trainings 2007-2008

We've listed some upcoming Assistive Technology trainings occurring in the state. For more information and complete workshop descriptions visit the WATI website at <http://www.wati.org/> then click on Training.

From CESA 3... AT Course Workshops

November 07, 2007, December 12, 2007, January 23, 2008, February 6, March 12, 2008, April 09, 2008—Different topics each

month. Email Cindy Nankee at cnankee@cesa3.k12.wi.us

From CESA 5...

What's New in A.T.?

Tuesday, November 27, 2007
CESA 5

Adapted Phonemic Assessment: Literacy Assessment and Development for Students with Complex Communication Needs

January 17, 2008, CESA 5

Scan and Read Programs: A Comparison, February 27, 2008

(Kurzweil, WYNN, Read and Write gold, and Premier Assistive Technology)

(Continued on page 3)



Trainings

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For more information email Judi Cumley at cumleyj@cesa5.k12.wi.us

From CESA 6...
AT Networking Meetings at CESA 6, 2300 State Rd 44, Oshkosh—3:30 to 5:30 pm

Dates: December 12, 2007, January 9, 2008, March 12, 2008, May 21, 2008. For more information email Karen Stindt at kstindt@cesa6.k12.wi.us

Boardmaker® November 1, 2007 & April 3, 2008. For more

information email Karen Stindt, at kstindt@cesa6.k12.wi.us

Assessing Students' Need for Assistive Technology (ASNAT) a Collaborative Approach.

November 30, 2007, LaSure's Banquet Hall, Oshkosh. For more information email Karen Stindt, at kstindt@cesa6.k12.wi.us

Autism Make & Take - Visual Support Strategies for Autism Spectrum Disorder

Presented by: Susan Stokes, M.A., CCC-SLP, Autism Coordinator/Consultant, CESA 6 and Peggy Bartman, B. S., OTR

Autism Consultant, CESA 6
 December 21, 2007

8:30-3:00 (Registration at 8:00 am). For more information email Paula Starr at pstarr@cesa6.k12.wi.us

From CESA 11...
Kurzweil 3000 Version 10
 December 3, 2007

9:00-3:00 pm at CESA 11, Presenter: Kim Swenson, AT Consultant

Assessing Students' Need for Assistive Technology (ASNAT) a Collaborative Approach.

April 4, 2008, for more information contact Kim Swenson at kims@cesa11.k12.wi.us

What's In Store for the March Conference?

We are lining up eight fantastic trainers to offer eight different half-day pre-conference workshops this year. This is your opportunity to receive more in-depth training. Here is the preliminary information:

March 6, 2008—Morning

AAC for Adults with Acquired Motor, Language, and/or Cognitive Challenges

Gary Cumley & Julie King,
 University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Universal Design for Learning: The Basics and Beyond

Dave Edyburn, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Low Tech You Bet

The Low Tech Ladies (Sue Loesl, Mary Beth Werner, Valerie Hoehnke), Milwaukee Public Schools

Scan & Read Solutions for Individuals with Learning Disabilities

Nick Hanford, Adaptive Technology Resources

March 6, 2008—Afternoon

Let's Play with AT – Disability Awareness

Laura Plummer, Stout Vocational Rehabilitation Institute; Cindy Pichler, Independence First

Web 2.0 Tools for Today and the Future

Paula Walser, CESA 6

Assistive Technology for Children from Birth to 6

Phillipa Campbell, Thomas Jefferson University

Understanding Low Vision: Overcoming Barriers to Independence



ATP Examination Course: Fundamentals in Assistive Technology

The Wisconsin Assistive Technology Initiative in collaboration with WisTech is providing an ATP Examination Course. The course will run November 9 & 10, 2007, and January 25 & 26, 2008, including additional online participation November through March. RESNA

Testing is available for an additional cost. UW Oshkosh Graduate credit is also available at an additional cost. Testing will be available on March 8, 2008, in Stevens Point,



WI. For more information on course fees, schedule and other information download the brochure at www.wati.org then click on "See What's New at WATI." The course is limited to 30 participants.

WATI Leadership Institute, December 7, in Stevens Point

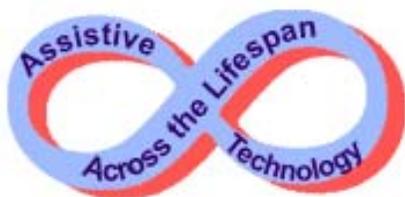
The Leadership Institute was created by the Wisconsin Assistive Technology Initiative to provide ongoing training, information dissemination, and collegial support opportunities to early adopters of assistive technology in Wisconsin. Leadership Institute members demonstrate their AT knowledge beyond a beginner level, practice "best practice" when using AT, and provide AT leadership within their area of influence. Please join us on December 7th at the Holiday Inn Convention & Expo Center in Stevens Point for **"Making the Most of Digital Texts: Evidence-Based Strategies**

for Improving Reading Comprehension of Content Area Materials". Lynne Anderson-Ingman, Ph. D., National Center for Supported eText, will lead us in an interactive workshop on using digital texts to improve reading comprehension for students with disabilities. Three major topics will be introduced, followed by examples, activities, and recommendations. The first is "supported e-text" - 11 different ways in which digital texts have been and can be enhanced to support reading comprehension. The second comprises of specific strategies students can use to improve their reading and

understanding on any digital texts used in the classroom. The third is NIMAS, the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard, which requires all textbook publishers to make digital versions of their texts available to students with print disabilities. All content emerges from federally funded research.

Costs for the Workshop is \$20 for WATI Leadership Members and \$100 for Non-members.

Download the workshop flyer at <http://www.wati.org/> then click on "See What's New..."



The Assistive Technology Across the Lifespan Conference

March 6-7, 2008

Co-sponsored by WATI and WisTech

Holiday Inn and Convention Center, Stevens Point

**Call for Presenters deadline has been extended to October 31, 2007!
Download the Call for Presenters file at <http://www.wati.org/>
then click on the Conference page**

Milwaukee Public Schools' "Music Man"!

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Traveain Keith Finley. I am a senior at Hamilton High School.

This summer during the ESY (Extended School Year) session I was the DJ. I used a laptop computer to play music for the students before school



started every day. I also had a receiver. A receiver is a stereo with better sound. Technology has helped by having the laptop computer, speakers, and the receiver.

I always pick the music, today's R&B and old school. I like to play Robin Thicke, Minnie Riperton, Earth Wind and Fire, Rose Royce, Keith Sweat, Barry White, and Alexander O'Neil. I really don't like the rap music, but I play it

when it is requested. I really enjoyed having the help of technology this summer. I have been on the radio (FM98.3 WJMR) many times and that has given me many opportunities to practice my skills. The radio station WJMR plays R&B and Old School. At home I practice also with my own music. A good friend of mine, Mike, helped me put the equipment together this past summer.

I really appreciate the technology and how it helps me to be able to play different music from all over so people can have fun".

Traveain Keith Finley

Although Traveain has cerebral palsy and is in a wheelchair, he has found some exciting ways to express himself through music



and share his passion with others. Ideally, he would like to consider a career using his music spinning abilities. Traveain gets a lot of joy seeing people happily dancing to his music!

Another powerful piece of assistive technology for Traveain is his Alphasmart™. He can work on his homework and other writing tasks both in school and at home with this portable word processor, and then email the

work. It really has made a difference in his ability to complete his assignments independently and to express himself in his own words.



Attention Assistive Technology Exhibitors!

Don't miss your chance to share your products with Wisconsin service providers and consumers!

***Holiday Inn Hotel and Convention Center
Stevens Point, WI***

MARCH 6 & 7, 2008

For complete conference and exhibitor information and the 2008 Call for Presenters, visit <http://www.wati.org> then click on the Conference link

Great News from BOOKSHARE.ORG!

Bookshare.org is happy to share some incredible news that will transform Bookshare.org.



2007, Bookshare.org will cease charging these schools and students anything to join Bookshare.org.

The Office of Special Education Programs of the federal Department of Education awarded a major five year grant of \$32 million to Bookshare.org. This will further the objectives of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), by supplying high quality textbooks and educational materials to students with special needs. This funding is to fully support all schools and

They also expect to add over 100,000 new educational titles in high quality DAISY and Braille formats over the next five years, getting students the terrific quality textbooks they need for academic success!

Bookshare.org believes that

**As of October 1, 2007,
Bookshare.com will no longer be
charging schools and students
anything to join!**

people with print disabilities should have the same ease of access to books and periodicals that people without

students 26 years old and under with qualifying print disabilities in the United States, K-12 and post-secondary. Bookshare.org will provide these students with access to the entire Bookshare.org collection of accessible electronic books and software for reading those books. As of October 1,

disabilities enjoy. The bookshare.org library is a community driven project. Most new tests are added by Bookshare.org members and volunteers who choose to share their favorite books. Our volunteers make sure that the

Bookshare.org library includes current books on the New York Times Best Seller list.

To create an account with Bookshare.org:

1. Visit their website at <http://www.bookshare.org>
2. Follow the links for creating either a school/group account or an individual subscription (depending if you are a school or an individual student).
3. Enter the word "OSEP" in the field for the promotion code.
4. Sign up as usual. Providing contact information, proof of students' disabilities, etc. (information about all these forms can be found on their site).
5. Ignore the payment section at the end. Entering the "OSEP" promotion code will alert Mandy Throckmorton, their Project Coordinator, who will help to process your free membership.

WATI Special Buys for 2007

Read & Write 8.1 from Texthelp and Boardmaker® From LAB Resources.

WATI's Purpose in arranging these special buys is to make assistive technology more available to children with disabilities in Wisconsin. Visit our website for product information and pricing!

<http://www.wati.org/> then click on Special Buys

Lending Library Updates

There are new items available for check-out in the WATI lending library. For more information about costs and descriptions visit the website at www.wati.org

10.0.1.0.c-s	Teaching Access Ability CD Rom Mac/Win	4.1.3.1.u-s	Playaway - Lord of the Flies
10.0.1.0.d-s	The Interest Indicator CD Win	4.1.3.1.v-s	Playaway - Red Badge of Courage
10.0.2.0.ah	EZ AT (for ages 3-8)	4.1.3.1.w-s	Playaway - Wind in the Willows
10.0.2.0.er	Using AT to Meet Literacy Standards for grades 7-12	4.1.4.0.a	Victor Reader Vibe
10.0.2.0.r	Show Me How (Quick Tips for Using IntelliTools Classroom Suite)	4.2.3.0.z-s	Spark Space CD Rom Mac/Win
10.0.3.0.a-v	Universally Designed Technology in Schools (DVD)	4.2.4.0.d	Colored Overlays for Reading Sampler Pack
10.0.3.0.bt-v	Developing Minds : Attention	4.2.4.0.e	See It Right! (Complete Testing Manual Set)
10.0.3.0.bu-v	Developing Minds : Memory	4.3.1.0.a	Sci-Plus Talking Calculator
3.0.2.3.cc	iTalk2 Communicator	4.3.2.0.h	Time Timer Wrist Timer
3.0.2.4.a	Phrase Maker Communicator	4.3.2.0.m	Cue
3.0.2.4.i	Tech Speak 4 x 32	4.4.1.0.a-s	Switching on Science & Test Me: Habitats CD Rom Mac/Win
3.0.2.6.a	DynaVox V 5 (w/WordPower)	4.4.1.0.b-s	Switching on Science & Test Me: Solar Systems CD Rom Mac/Win
3.0.3.0.x-s	My House, My Town, My School Package CD Rom Mac/Win	4.4.1.0.c-s	Smithsonian Computer Microscope - CD Rom Win
4.1.3.1.s-s	Songs I Sing at Pre-School & Five Frogs Plus (w/overlay cds)	8.0.2.0.a	BigShot Screen Magnifier (Win)
4.1.3.1.t-s	Playaway - Charlie & the Chocolate Factory		



Smithsonian Computer Microscope #4.4.1.0.c-s



GREAT NEWS FROM THE WATI LENDING LIBRARY!!

Before long, WATI will be providing return postage paid for items borrowed from the lending library.

The details are being finalized and we will have more information very soon. Visit

<http://www.wati.org/> then click on the Library page or What's New page!

MORE DETAILS ARE FORTHCOMING!



2007-2008 Monitor Schedule

October 15
December 15
February 15
April 15

Articles are due the 15th of the prior month.

Monitor Editor

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We're on the web!

<http://www.wati.org>

Our Mission ...



WATI assists school districts and Birth to Three programs in their responsibility to ensure that every child in Wisconsin who may need assistive technology (AT) has equal and timely access to appropriate assessment and the provision and implementation of needed AT devices and services.



The Mission of the Milwaukee Public Schools is to ensure that maximum educational opportunities are provided for all students to reach their highest potential so that:

1. Students achieve their educational and employment goals, and
2. Parents choose the Milwaukee Public Schools to educate their children.

WATI Regional Consultants

WATI has Regional Consultants in each CESA. Their role is to provide training, technical assistance, and support to all who are striving to increase their capacity to provide effective, efficient, AT services in school districts and Birth to Three programs. You may contact the AT Consultant in your region.

CESA 1—Michelle Weingarten, Phone 262-787-9566. Email sweingarten@cesal.k12.wi.us

CESA 2—Jill Gierach, Phone 608-758-6232 X 340. Email jgierach@cesa2.k12.wi.us

CESA 3—Cindy Nankee, Phone 608-822-3276 X 268. Email cnankee@cesa3.k12.wi.us

CESA 4—Lillian Rider, Phone 608-786-4850. Email lrider@cesa4.k12.wi.us

CESA 5—Judi Cumley, Phone 608-742-8814 x 311. Email cumleyj@cesa5.k12.wi.us

CESA 6—Karen Stindt, Phone 920-236-0585. Email kstindt@cesa6.k12.wi.us

CESA 7/8—Patti Lindstrom Drescher, Phone 920-569-6515. Email pdrescher@cesa7.k12.wi.us

CESA 8/9—Marcia Obukowicz, Phone 715-453-2141. Email marciao@newnorth.net

CESA 10—Jacob Ehlert, Phone 715-720-2063 X 3021. Email jehlert@cesa10.k12.wi.us

CESA 11—Kim Swenson, Phone 715-986-2020 X2179. Email kims@cesal1.k12.wi.us

CESA 12—Laura Comer, Phone 715-682-2363. Email laurac@cesal2.k12.wi.us

