

TTAP, the Quarterly Newsletter of the Texas Technology Access Program
Volume 25
March 2015

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What's NEW? We are on Facebook!

We are joining in Social Media!!! We have launched our very own Facebook! This will feature our demo centers, what's going on in the TTAP as a whole, what is happening in Texas with technology and much more! Please share our link with all of your colleagues, friends and family for maximum exposure! The link is below, <https://www.facebook.com/UTTTAP>

Latest News from the Device Loan Program

We have new equipment – the new Accent 1000 and 1200 and they are already out on loan!

With its large 12" display, Accent 1200 is the perfect choice for individuals who want a larger screen or those with complex access needs. The Accent 1200 offers multiple access options including hosting NuEye, the latest eye gaze system from PRC.

Lightweight and portable, the Accent 1000 features a 10.1" touch screen display manufactured with Corning Gorilla® Glass. This dedicated device offers synthesized voices, multiple access options, direct selection and 1- and 2-switch scanning. The Accent 1000 offers multiple access options including hosting NuEye, the latest eye gaze system from PRC.

Art-Lime-Light!

VSA Texas. The State Organization on Arts and Disability and Artworks Creative Industries

Call for art from the Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities

The annual Texas NDEAM Poster Art competition is open to any Texas artist with a disability. There is NO FEE for entries; deadline for submissions is March 15. The winner's artwork will be featured on the Texas version of the NDEAM poster, which is distributed statewide and nationally in recognition of National Disability Employment Awareness Month in October. Submission Guidelines and Entry Form are on the NDEAM website, or contact for more info:

Jo Virgil, Community Outreach and Information Coordinator
Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities
P.O. Box 12428
Austin TX 78711

512.463.5740 or Relay Option of your Choice
512.463.5745 – *Fax*
jo.virgil@gov.texas.gov
<http://gov.texas.gov/disabilities/>

Sign up for Gov Delivery Bulletins on Disability Issues:
<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXGOV/subscriber/new>

Info Sphere

You are probably familiar with Signing Savvy. The name rings a bell with most of us as being the "most comprehensive online sign language resource for educators, students, or anyone interested in American Sign Language." Now welcome MotionSavvy. MotionSavvy could easily be imagined as content from Signing Savvy powered by the touch-free micro-motion, multi-pointing, motion sensors of LeapMotion technology in a tablet. Whereas Signing Savvy is the basics of ASL, MotionSavvy is the language designed for easy two-way communication.

MotionSavvy and Leap Motion have partnered together to launch UNI. UNI is an app that literally becomes an interpreter for the speaker. UNI does this by translating sign language into

audio and spoken word to text. For the moment, UNI is available for the special campaign price of \$198.00. There are two payment plan options. A consumer can pay \$99 to reserve their UNI, and then pay the remaining \$99 when the item is shipped in 2015 or pay \$198 now. Upon receiving your UNI, a \$20/month subscription fee is required for software updates and crowdsigning capabilities. For more information about MotionSavvy and UNI visit <http://www.motionsavvy.com>.

Photo of MotionSavvy's UNI
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Most people would probably conclude that a promising musician would need physical control of their neck, arms, elbows, and fingers to play a musical instrument. Yet, they would be surprised to discover how laser technology has opened a new outlet for people with limited physical strength and mobility. Beamz Interactive, Inc. has revolutionized music making through its interactive laser controlled music system.

They introduced interactive music technology that allows anyone to play melodies by simply moving their hands through four laser beams.

According to Beamz, they "passionately believe that interactive experiences with music can enrich the lives of people of any age or physical ability." Jerry Riopelle, an accomplished musician and songwriter, invented Beamz, the laser-based music-technology instrument, and is reported to have originally developed the product for children with special needs.

The Beamz music library has a variety of musical styles to choose. Word is that Beamz software is easy to install into your PC or to download onto your Mac, iPhone or iPad. The laser controller plugs into any computer with its universal USB cable and uses Bluetooth to light up the lasers to use with your iPhone or iPad. Anyone can create their own musical sound and even improvise by moving their hands and fingers.

The Beamz Family package or bundle includes 34 interactive songs and can be purchased from \$199.95-\$249.95 from the Beamz' shopping site. The Beamz Education bundle is available from Enabling Devices for \$349.95. The Beamz player is also available from Ableplay.org. Overall, the Beamz product seems like a fun, creative, and educational instrument that enables wannabe musicians of all ages and abilities to interactively create and play music.

Tech Corner

ATIA January 2015

In a photo, Roger talks with AbleLink about their newest technology "WayFinder", at ATIA conference January, 2015.

WayFinder uses GPS-based personalized audio and visual cues to support independent travel via bus systems and on foot. With WayFinder, specific travel

routes can be created, and then activated from the GPS location. Users then receive customized audio and visual instructions to prompt them through route navigation.

When installed on a SmartPhone with active service, WayFinder also allows remote caregivers to send a text message to WayFinder and WayFinder automatically returns a text message with a map link showing the current location of the traveler.

WayFinder can be purchased as a stand-alone application or added to AbleLink's Community Integration Suite or Pocket Endeavor. This is a software-only product. No Pocket PC is included. AbleLink recommends the HTC Touch2 as a Pocket PC platform for WayFinder.

For more information, details and video demonstration click on the following link, <http://www.ablelinktech.com/index.php?id=33>

Spotlight on TTAP Demonstration Centers

Valley Association for Independent Living

VAIL is the only organization in our Rio Grande Valley and South Texas service area which provides independent living services to individuals with disabilities. VAIL partners with other local agencies and organizations whose programs support and extend the services available to consumers. We work with you to develop programs and resources that will enable you to achieve your goals to live independently in your community.

VAIL Rio Grande Valley – McAllen Office

Valley Association for Independent Living
3012 N McColl Road
McAllen, Texas 78501

Toll Free: 1-866-400-8245
Program Fax: 956-878-1601
Email VAIL/McAllen: info@vailrgv.org

Did you know?

Lionel Logue, age 26. Australian Speech Therapist responsible for the un-stammering of King George VI. (A photo of him with his future wife, 21-year-old Myrtle Gruenert.) This story was made into a film called *The King's Speech*, a 2010 British historical drama directed by Tom Hooper and written by David Seidler. Colin Firth plays King George VI who, to cope with a stammer, sees Lionel Logue, an Australian speech and language therapist played by Geoffrey Rush. The men become friends as they work together, and after his brother abdicates the

throne, the new King relies on Logue to help him make his first wartime radio broadcast on Britain's declaration of war on Germany in 1939.

What's on TTAP for Summer

Texas Assistive Technology Network (TATN) Statewide Conference

June 9 - 10, 2015 at Region 4 ESC, Houston, TX

<http://www.texasat.net>

Abilities Expo

Houston July 31 – August 2 2015 NRG Center (Formerly Reliant Center) Hall E

Fri. 11am-5pm Sat. 11am-5pm Sun. 11am-4pm

<http://www.abilities.com/houston/>

Census Corner

This is an image of a chart displaying Americans with disabilities and percentages of their pay versus the disability. Total U.S. population is 303.9 million. People with disabilities is 56.7 million. People with disabilities are less likely to be employed. With a disability 33%. With no disability 73% People with disabilities are more likely to be in poverty. With a disability 23%. With no disability 12%. People with disabilities are more likely to have health insurance. With a disability 90%. With no disability 84%. People with disabilities earn less. With a disability median earnings \$19,735. With no disability \$30,285.

Source: Americans with Disabilities 2010 report, data from Survey of income and Program Participants, and American Community Survey.

Assistive and Adaptive Technology from Ancient to Modern Times

A popular history of assistive medical devices that improve functional capabilities and adaptive technology specifically designed for people with disabilities. Read more here:

<http://bluebirdcare.ie/assistive-technology-ancient-modern-times/>

Just for Laughs

An image of an old computer base with the side open, the inside parts exposed and a white and tabby cat stands inside, appearing to be picking at the guts of the computer. Over the image it reads "Don't worry, I'm from tech support".

Any suggestions, comments, or article you would like to have included in our newsletter, please contact us:

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Texas Technology Access Program
The University of Texas at Austin
Texas Center for Disability Studies
Commons Learning Center
10100 Burnet Road
Austin, Texas 78758-4445
<http://techaccess.edb.utexas.edu>

TTAP Demonstration Centers

- Ability Connection, Dallas
- Brazoria County Center for Independent Living, Angleton
- Brazos Valley Center for Independent Living, Bryan
- Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living, Corpus Christi
- Disability in Action, Abilene
- East Texas Center for Independent Living, Tyler
- Easter Seals of Greater Houston
- Goodwill Industries of Central Texas, Austin
- Goodwill Industries of Fort Worth
- Heart of Central Texas Independent Living Center, Belton
- Helping Hands, Amarillo
- Houston Center for Independent Living, Houston
- Paso Del Norte Children's Development Center, El Paso
- REACH Center for Independent Living, Plano
- RISE Center for Independent Living, Beaumont
- VAIL – Valley Association for Independent Living, McAllen