



AERODYNAMICS

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NOW BOARDING

Never Too Late

By Sara Bennett, Editor

When I first looked at the line-up of items for this issue of AERODYNAMICS, I was surprised that so many programs and resources were new—not just that—that certain programs and resources hadn't been developed before now. But then I thought it's never too late for a valuable, impactful program or resource. They are always welcome because the need is so great. Unfortunately, I had to bump some of those items to future issues of the newsletter because of space constraints.

By the same token, it's never too late for professional development. What's important is that we pursue it, not only for our own benefit but for that of our students. Join AER or encourage a colleague to do so. Take a course or attend a conference. And, perhaps most importantly, take a break, which is just as crucial as checking off items on our to-do lists.

The deadline for sending in items for the June 2019 issue of AERODYNAMICS is May 25, 2019. Or of course, you could just wait for a future issue of the newsletter! Please email me anytime at: saralb@sympatico.ca

Message from Your Canadian AER Rep

By Carole Williams

Happy Spring to all AER Canada members! I'm sure you are all looking forward to sunnier skies and warmer weather!

On behalf of all Canadian members, I would like to extend a warm welcome to Janie Blome, our new Executive Director, as well as to Emily Coleman, our new President. We are looking forward to working with you both, to assist us in increasing membership and improving AER benefits.

Based on recent conversations with these lovely ladies, I am confident that they will provide outstanding leadership and support to the Canadian membership.

Within the next couple of months, I will be sending out a very important survey to both current and lapsed AER members, as well as professionals in the field who have never been involved in our organization. We want to get your feedback on how AER can better support vision professionals across Canada. Please give some thought to member benefits that you would like to see and some fresh ideas to promote networking, membership and professional development. We need to hear from YOU, our Canadian members! Watch your in-box and please take a few minutes to fill out the survey!

Coming soon!

- New Canadian AER Facebook page to promote improved communication among members across this great country!
- Save the date: Friday, May 10, 2019: AER Ontario Chapter Workshop: “Standing at the Crossroads” with a Focus on Transitions
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Karen Wolffe, Counsellor/Educator
Location: CNIB Toronto
Special registration rate for all AER members. Online option may be available for those unable to join us in person!
If you or someone you know is interested in presenting at this workshop, please contact the AER Ontario Board President, Doug McJannet at dougmcjannet@yrdsb.ca or contact the Planning Committee directly at: AEROntarioBoard@gmail.com.

Please feel free to contact me anytime at: carolewilliams2017@gmail.com

FIRST CLASS

Scholarships Available!

- Braille Literacy Canada (BLC) is thrilled to announce the launch of the 2019 Edie Murre Scholarship! This scholarship provides funding to those pursuing training to become a braille transcriber, proofreader or educator in Canada, and those pursuing braille courses in either English or French to learn or update their braille code skills are encouraged to apply. The application deadline is March 31, 2019. Visit: <http://www.brailledliteracycanada.ca/en/professional-development/edie-murre-scholarship>
- The 2019 Alliance for Equality of Blind Canadians/T-Base Communications Scholarship Program is now accepting applications. Each year, the AEBC offers scholarships to recognize outstanding blind, deaf-blind and partially sighted post-secondary students. This year, four awards will be offered with an application deadline of March 29, 2019. Please visit: <http://www.blindcanadians.ca/programs/scholarship>
- The Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority (APSEA) offers a number of scholarships for post-secondary students who are blind or visually impaired or students who are undertaking post-secondary training in a field related to visual impairment. The

application deadline is April 1, 2019. For a list of funds and scholarships available, visit:

<https://www.apsea.ca/families-students/scholarships-aid.html>

- The National Student Awards Program of the National Educational Association of Disabled Students (NEADS) provides a number of scholarships to students with permanent disabilities. For further details, visit:
<https://www.neads.ca/en/about/projects/ete2/scholarship/>
- CNIB awards post-secondary and master's scholarships to students who are blind or partially sighted and pursuing post-secondary and post-graduate studies respectively. The next application period for both scholarship programs opens in Spring 2019.
[Click here for information on the post-secondary program.](#)
[Click here for updates on the master's program.](#)

BUSINESS CLASS

Hall of Fame Nominations Now Being Accepted!

The Hall of Fame for Leaders and Legends of the Blindness Field is dedicated to preserving, honouring and promoting the tradition of excellence manifested by the specific individuals inducted into the Hall of Fame and through the history of outstanding services provided to people who are blind or visually impaired.

Why not nominate, or renominate, someone? The nomination process will close April 30, 2019. To learn more about the process for submitting a nominee to join the 62 current inductees, please visit: www.aph.org/hall_fame/nominate.html

Who should be the next inductees into the Hall of Fame for the Blindness Field?

- Persons who have made significant contributions to improve the lives of those who are blind or visually impaired in such areas as professional practice, research, writing, leadership, direct service and/or in their professional organizations.
- Persons are eligible five years after departure/retirement from positions where their significant lifetime body of work was made.
- Individuals from North America are eligible for nomination. (North America is defined as the United States, Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean).

Visit the Hall of Fame website and learn more about The Hall and those honoured there:
http://www.aph.org/hall_fame/index.html

Get Involved in AER!

Are you interested in being a part of an AER Workgroup or Board Committee? Click the link below and view the many opportunities available. Whether you're interested in advocacy, continuing education, membership development or some other way to contribute, this is your chance to get involved. Sign up now; space is limited!

[Click here.](#)

First-Ever O&M Book in French!

Authors Agathe Ratelle and Julie-Anne Couturier are proud to announce the release of their book, “Manuel d’intervention en orientation et mobilité”, now available from the Presses de l’Université de Montréal (PUM). The authors are retired professors from the Université de Montréal’s School of Optometry. They implemented the O&M services at the Institut Nazareth et Louis-Braille in Montreal, as well as the graduate O&M professional training program held at the School of Optometry since 2000.

Their book, relating to O&M techniques and teaching strategies, is the first of its kind to ever be published in French. The authors expect it to be of value to O&M instructors working with students who communicate in French including those in Québec, across Canada and in the European French community.

The book can be obtained from the PUM store at:
<https://pum.umontreal.ca/catalogue/manuel-dintervention-en-orientation-et-mobilite>

Education & Fun from NBP

Encourage your students to learn during fun activities with these books from National Braille Press.

- “Hands On Science Activities: For Pre-School and Second Grade”, by Dr. Lillian A. Rankel and Marilyn D. Winograd, is available in large print/braille. Visit: <http://www.nbp.org/ic/nbp/SCI-HANDSON.html>
- “The Big Book of Braille Puzzles: 50 Searches, Anagrams and Ladders to Help You Master Braille”, by Eileen P. Curran, M.Ed., is available in braille and large print:
<http://www.nbp.org/ic/nbp/BRL-PUZZLES.html>

ALL SYSTEMS GO

iOS 12 Resources

- From November 2018 AccessWorld
[iOS 12: An Overview from an Accessibility Perspective](#), by Janet Ingber
[iOS 12 Without the Eye](#) by Jonathan Mosen: A Book Review by Jamie Pauls
- From National Braille Press
[iOS 12 Without the Eye](#), by Jonathan Mosen
[iOS 12 Reference Card](#), by Anna Dresner

Calendar of Events

March 13-14, 2019 – [Georgia AER Spring 2019 Conference](#), Canton, Georgia, USA

March 21-23, 2019 -- [2019 PNW AER Conference](#), Ellensburg, Washington, USA

March 29, 2019 -- [DC/MD AER Conference](#), Columbia, Maryland, USA

April 10-12, 2019 – [AER Alive in 2019 Dakotas AER Conference](#), Grand Forks, North Dakota, USA

April 24-26, 2019 -- [Penn-Del AER Conference](#), Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, USA

April 26-28, 2019 – 2019 [Alliance for Equality of Blind Canadians \(AEBEC\) Conference & AGM](#), Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

May 3-5, 2019 – [Canadian Federation of the Blind 2019 Convention](#), Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada

July 11-12, 2019 -- [Fifth Annual Perkins CVI Symposium](#), Waltham, Massachusetts, USA

November 13-17, 2019 -- [Getting In Touch With Literacy Conference](#), Seattle, Washington, USA

July 22-26, 2020 – AER International Conference 2020, St. Louis, Missouri, USA

PILOTS & PROJECTS

The WRMS Bridges Program

By Dan Maggiacomo, WRMS Principal

Success in post-secondary education is a high stakes matter. Students who are blind or visually impaired have increased challenges in realizing this success. Those of us who work in the field know first-hand the challenges in successfully helping to transition students to post-secondary education; we wish we could do more. Without being there in those first months of post-secondary life, it may feel like there is little more that we can do.

The Bridges Program at the W. Ross Macdonald School (WRMS) aims to improve the outcomes of students entering post-secondary education through a carefully thought-out experience for District School Board students in their final year of Secondary education. A small cohort, selected through an additional application process, will have the opportunity to experience post-secondary education in a supportive environment, achieving college/university credit while receiving the highest level of instruction in the Expanded Core Curriculum. Students will refine academic skills, explore independent living and travel, and encounter new opportunities through community connections and post-secondary campus experiences.

The Bridges Program at WRMS may be the missing element in a student's successful transition to post-secondary education, a year-long experience that is not an extension of high school but a bridge to a successful future. This program is open to all qualifying students in Ontario, provided they have not already left their current secondary school placement. For more information, contact Emilie Hyde, Admissions Coordinator, W. Ross Macdonald School, 350 Brant Ave., Brantford, ON; 519-759-0730 ext. 249; emilie.hyde@ontario.ca.

A unique opportunity currently exists for blind and visually impaired post-secondary students and alumni to provide their views on the type of knowledge and skills they think assisted, or would have assisted, them in successfully navigating their post-secondary careers. They can fill out a survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/25W6D2K>
Similarly, parents and professionals with children/students enrolled in higher learning can fill out a survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3YTFMSB>

THE JOURNEY

Blind Beginnings: A Life Without Limits

By Shawn Marsolais, Executive Director

I was born with retinitis pigmentosa, a rare eye condition that caused my vision to deteriorate throughout my childhood. At that time there was little support or services for my family or for other children like me in British Columbia (BC). When I started working, I saw that a need for more resources and support still existed. That's why, along with an amazing group of individuals, we founded Blind Beginnings.

Since 2008, Blind Beginnings has been working to support families across BC by endeavouring to help children and youth who are blind or partially sighted live a life without limits. our programming is broken down into four key areas:

- Youth Leadership & Pre-Employment Programming helps blind and partially sighted youth prepare for their future transition to work and adult life.
- Our Adventure Camps & Active Lifestyle Program caters to children and enables them to challenge personal limits, develop new skills and increase physical activity.
- Our Educational & Experiential Learning Program exposes children to skill-building activities and experiences that support cognitive and motor development, communication, independent travel, social networking and career development.
- Our Early Intervention, Counselling & Family Support Program offers support groups and individual counselling for children, youth and parents, as well as early intervention retreats for families with pre-schoolers.

When we as an organization look back at the programming we have established over the last decade, we all feel incredibly proud. We also feel excited and motivated for the next ten years. Right now, Blind Beginnings mostly services families in the Lower Mainland. What we want is for us to be the go-to organization for families across BC. When we talk to parents and learn how they have been able to form connections and relationships with other parents of blind and partially sighted children and be a resource for one another, it's difficult to put into words the sense of fulfillment those involved with the organization feel. If we can empower even more families all over BC in the next ten years, we will look back in 2029 and feel a great sense of pride in the work Blind Beginnings is doing to help blind or partially sighted children live a life without limits.

For more information, visit <http://www.blindbeginnings.ca> or email: info@blindbeginnings.ca

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Views herein represent those of the authors and not necessarily those of AER, its Board of Directors, staff, members or Editor. Likewise, any products or services mentioned do not necessarily represent endorsement.

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