From the Director's Chair - *Jill Pleasant, MA, OTR/L*

July 8th, the date for **AzTAP's 15th Annual Assistive Technology Summer Institute** taking place at the Arizona Grand Resort and Spa in Phoenix is rapidly approaching. We are excited about the new venue and well-rounded program. AzTAP staff and our Planning Committee are confident that this year's conference experience will be extremely worthwhile and enjoyable.

Consistent with our focus on technology, AzTAP is incorporating more technology into the conference infrastructure. New this year is the use of a **free**, **mobile app** enabling participants to download conference information including the program, schedule, session descriptions, speaker bios and presentation materials – directly to their mobile devices. An additional feature is the ability to create and store a customized, personal program. For a preview, scan the above QR code into your mobile device or enter this link into your device's browser: http://m.twoppy.com/AZAT/. Aside from the "cool factor", there are several advantages for doing this. Attendees will be able to view the program in advance of the actual conference, program changes and updates can be made in real time and it is more cost effective; allowing us to reduce printing costs. Additionally, all participants who have registered at least one week in advance of the conference will receive the conference program electronically. Our goal is to provide easily accessible information at less cost and in an environment-friendly manner. We won't be completely paper-free, just "paper-reduced". Hard copy and alternative formats will, of course, be available for anyone who requests them. We look forward to feedback from conference participants.
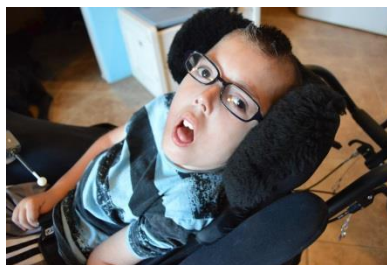
With so many people relying on technology during the conference, we needed to address issue of recharging batteries. Our solution is to offer an **E-Resource Station**. This will be a supervised location for recharging electronic devices. It will also serve as the place to download PowerPoint presentations and handouts for those of you who do not have ready access to mobile devices or who prefer to transfer information directly to their computer or thumb drives.

If you have not yet registered consider the following: VMI Mobility Center is sponsoring the Networking Reception on Monday from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. The Exhibit Hall is sold out. We have excellent speakers covering a wide range of assistive technology topics, and we have fantastic door prizes for our closing session raffle (including a large COACH tote, AZ Grand Resort gift certificates, AT products, and much much more). Register now by going to the conference link on the AzTAP website at www.aztap.org.

Client Corner: **A**chievement through **T**echnology
Santana Black - Believe

The following story submitted by Brenda Del Monte MA, CCC-SLP, *illustrates how AzTAP's Short Term Equipment Loan Library benefits therapists in the community when addressing their clients' assistive technology needs…*

On December 16th, 2006, Santana Black survived a near drowning experience and began his courageous course to recovery. He was 22 months old at the time and has since survived multiple surgeries, life threatening illnesses and infections along the way. From that tragic day forward, the Black family motto has been "Believe" and they live each day with hope. About two years ago, he began working with an occupational therapist who saw intentional movement in his right wrist. Melanie Conaster, OT, put a drum stick in his hand and began to sing "If you're happy and you
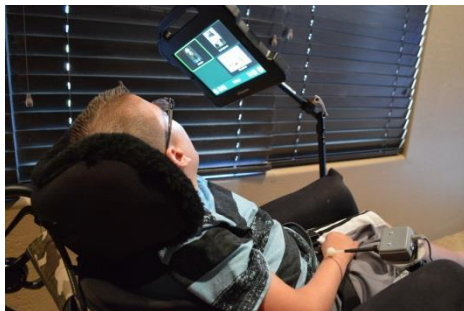

know it clap your hands". Then she waited and Santana tapped the drum. This intentional movement held exciting promise to a long sought after access method for Santana to participate in his world. After ups and downs, but with consistent work, this movement was refined and the next step began.

The therapists at Advanced Therapy Solutions (ATS) completed an AAC evaluation where they explored a variety of systems that could be accessed through a single switch with his volitional right wrist movement. ATS borrows assistive technology on a regular basis from AzTAP's Short Term Equipment Lending Library. For Santana, this included the RJCooper SuperSwitch that, with its scanning

capabilities, helps clients like Santana access AAC apps on the iPad. At the evaluation, Santana accessed the GoTalkNOW application on the iPad using the RJCooper SuperSwitch connected to a wobble switch that was strategically placed above his right hand. With a slight right wrist movement, he was able to activate the switch and make a choice. His choices included songs, bubbles, toys and "kisses from mom". During this portion of the evaluation, he selected "kisses from mom" and mom would jump up and kiss him. He chose this button over and over with consistency, waiting for the application to auto scan through "bubbles" and "music". As the device scans there is visual feedback, but with his cortical visual impairment, Santana also relies on the auditory preview to let him know each option. When the device previewed "kisses from mom" he popped his wrist up to activate the switch, made his selection and was rewarded with a highly desirable action from his favorite person, Mom.

Upon receiving his the various assistive technology components, it has been a collaborative effort involving Santana, his family, and his OT and SLP to mount the equipment to his wheelchair, create an alternative mounting system when he is in bed and finally, to program the device with appropriate content for Santana's communication.

His teachers and vision therapist at Weinberg Elementary in the Chandler School District are also invested in integrating this system into his school activities.

At school he is now able to use assistive technology to greet his friends and answer questions like "What did you do this weekend?" Each day Santana shows us more of his wants, needs, preferences and personality traits that had been trapped inside his body. His volitional wrist movement opened up his world to AAC technology. Use of AzTAP's Short Term Equipment Lending Library allowed the ATS team to easily access equipment at no cost that they would not otherwise have had available to them. The team effort has brought Santana forward and the team can't wait to see what he "says" next. To read more about Santana and follow his story, go to www.prayforsantana.org.

The Training Calendar

AzTAP has scheduled several opportunities for small group AT training in July and August. These events are **free**, but space is limited. **You must register in advance**; contact Mellowdee Brooks at Mellowdee.Brooks@nau.edu, 602.776.4667.

"Switch It Up" (Tucson)
July 22, 2013 - 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Murphy-Wilmot Branch Library; 530 N. Wilmot Road, Tucson AZ
Participants will learn about strategies for switch selection and skill development training. A variety of unique switches will be introduced to participants with ample opportunity for hands on exploration.

"AT in the Bag" Is Back in Phoenix!
Starting July 25th 11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
AzTAP Office - 2400 N Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85004
This 6 week lunch time series on assistive technology is designed to promote an informal discussion and demonstration of assistive technology products and how they can be used. The sessions will take place on Thursdays beginning July 25th in the AzTAP Training Room. A different topic and demonstration of AT will be introduced each week; participants can register for all or selected sessions. During the first meeting **only** (July 25th), lunch will be provided; after that participants are welcome to bring their own "brown bag" lunch.

- July 25 – Mainstream AT
- August 1 – Communication
- August 8 – Vision
- August 15 – Hearing
- August 22 – TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury)
- August 29 – Music

Microsoft Accessibility Resource Center Demonstration for Windows 8"
August 26, 2013 - 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
AzTAP Office - 2400 N Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85004
Learn about the latest accessibility features of Windows 8, including: the Ease of Access Center, Magnifier, Speech Recognition, the On-Screen Keyboard

and more. This is a demonstration session. If you have your own Windows 8 laptop, consider bringing it with you for more hands on instruction.

Sharing Our Space

Need space to hold an AT evaluation, product demonstration, small group training or meeting? AzTAP's AT Lab and Conference Room are available by reservation to service providers, vendors of AT products and services and nonprofit groups for assistive technology and/or disability related needs. Please call 602.728.9534 for more information.

Nice Device(s) – Switching into Mobile iOS Devices

AzTAP receives frequent questions about switch access for mobile devices, with an emphasis on the iPAD. A "switch" is an external device used to make a selection when the person cannot use the standard touch screen or buttons as a result of physical limitations. To address accessibility, more companies are developing switch interface products for mobile devices. The interface is the "go between" that allows a switch to work with the mobile device.

Switch access is two-fold. First, the desired app MUST be "switch accessible" for scanning. Secondly, a switch interface device must be used. Keep in mind that most general apps are not switch accessible, as it is up to the developer to embed switch accessibility in their software. However for apps that **are** switch accessible, there are currently two basic types of switch interfaces that will work with mobile devices. Some connect directly with a product, while others connect wirelessly via Bluetooth. The following list of devices is not exhaustive, but offers a sampling of the types of devices available and what we have for loan here at AzTAP.

Interfaces that connect directly to a device include the Pererro and ZyBox. The Pererro is $275 http://tinyurl.com/lh9nmme). The device plugs into the the port on the bottom of the Apple iOS products, works through VoiceOver (a screen reader) and provides access for one switch. The ZyBox at $345,

available through Zygo (http://tinyurl.com/kr63yta) attaches with the port and works through VoiceOver as well. The main differences is that ZyBox allows for up to six switches.

For Bluetooth 2.1 switch interfaces, RJ Cooper offers the Bluetooth Super Switch ($149) http://tinyurl.com/lp7y6pb and Bluetooth Switch Interface ($99). http://tinyurl.com/lahv548. Both offers two switch ports.

The APPlicator ($165) http://tinyurl.com/ajoczjy is a Bluetooth 2.1 switch interface, has four switch ports and accesses the device's music library. The "Quick Media Mode" button is already programmed for play, forward etc. Another switch is the Blue2, http://tinyurl.com/l7xctxr, for $149. The product has 2 switch ports and offers computer access.

AzTAP has these products available for demonstrations and/or short term loans. Contact us at 602.728.9534, 1.800.477.9921 AskAzTAP@nau.edu.

Long Term Equipment Loans

AzTAP initiated its Assistive Technology (AT) Demonstration & Short Term Equipment Loan programs in May of 2007 and since then, has amassed an inventory of about 1900 different pieces of AT. As technology advances and time passes, some of the items in our inventory are no longer being manufactured or considered "state of the art". As a result they may be less useful for AzTAP program purposes.

However, older devices can still be useful in the life and daily activities of a person with a disability. As long as the device remains functional, we will consider making it available on a long term, open ended loan. AzTAP has a wide variety of AT potentially available for long term placement. In some instances these older device can be used temporarily while the individual works to obtain funding for a more current piece of equipment. Alternatively, the device may fill a need for an individual who cannot afford AT and does

not qualify for other funding. If you are a person with a disability and lack resources to obtain of a piece of AT or are a rehabilitation professional and know of someone in this position, please consider contacting us. We have marked many of these items as eligible for long term loan on the item's listing on the AT Demo & Loan inventory webpage at www.azatdemoloanprogram.org. For more information, send an email to AskAzTAP@nau.edu or call 602.728.9534.

AT Equipment:

The AzTAP AT Lending Library is designed to provide persons with disabilities, family members and service providers such as educators and rehabilitation professionals with free and easy access to assistive technology for short term use.

AzTAP would like to hear from Occupational, Speech, Physical and Recreation Therapists interested in having a customized AT **"Kit"** for use with their clients. Kits would include individually selected AT items for demonstration or short term loans for exclusive use with their clients. These kits would then be given to therapists on a long term loan agreement or be kept at AzTAP for check out and pick up as needed. The therapist would be responsible for the equipment and agree to work with AzTAP staff on establishing a mutually convenient way for us to collect federally required outcome data on the equipment when it demonstrated and/or loaned to their patients/clients. If you are interested in an AT Kit for your practice, send an email to AskAzTAP@nau.edu or call 602.728.9534.

We also welcome suggestions for adding equipment to our inventory. This can be done on our website: http://www.azatdemoloanprogram.org/suggest.php.

Assistive Technology Reutilization and Reuse

AzTAP hosts the **Arizona Assistive Technology Exchange,** an online forum for the community to buy, sell or donate used or pre-owned Assistive Technology (AT) and Durable Medical Equipment (DME) items. As an extension of this program, AzTAP also recently launched a webpage for the Arizona Assistive Technology & Durable Medical Equipment Reuse Coalition. This is a listing of participating Medical Equipment Loan/Reuse programs. Each listing relays the programs' eligibility requirements, services guidelines, type of AT/DME Reuse activities they provide, and the types of equipment they typically manage. Watch as this page grows and develops. Please check out these pages at www.AzATEXchange.org and www.AzATReuse.org.

Contact Us

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Visit our website at www.aztap.org or scan this QR Code into your mobile device

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AzTAP is a Phoenix-based program of the Institute for Human Development at Northern Arizona University
This document is available in alternative formats. Call 602.728.9534.