

**Solutions for Assistive Technology
Regular Conference Sessions
Thursday, April 30, 2009**

**7:30 – 8:30 am
Complimentary Continental Breakfast
Salon I**

8:30 am – 9:30 am

Azalea - Kurzweil 3000 Version 11: A Comprehensive Toolkit for Struggling Learners

Presenter: Missy Tatum – Kurzweil/Audio Optical

Kurzweil 3000 is reading, writing and learning software that can read aloud virtually any text, giving struggling learners independent access to curriculum materials. Within the multi-sensory, interactive learning environment of Kurzweil, students have access to features that address the writing process, word study, test-taking, study skills, research, and more. This session will focus on the use of Kurzweil to support Universal Design for Learning/ differentiated instruction, and all tiers of Response to Intervention (RtI).

Magnolia TBI - AT and the Latest Research

Presenter: Joan Cunningham – AbleLink Technologies

Technology that utilizes some basic design principles - straightforward user interfaces, consistency, auditory/visual input and output - can change the picture for people with brain injuries. AbleLink Technologies takes a ubiquitous technology - a PDA - minimizes the clutter, provides access to a calendar, a mechanism for recording notes, sequencing activities, and more!

Camelia – Lite Tech in Real Life

Presenter: Amy Koch - Adaptivation, Inc.

Come see fun and functional ways to incorporate Adaptivation's lite tech products throughout the day. Applications from cooking to self care will be demonstrated as well as ways to incorporate lite tech into leisure activities.

Beauregard - Test Me: Let Me Show You What I Know

Presenter: Scott Marfilus – AT Consultant

Teachers and staff are accountable for the education of students with severe cognitive disabilities. When it comes to testing, what exactly does that mean for students with severe cognitive disabilities? Are we assessing what we think we are? What is being done with the results? This session will look at the assessment process for students with severe disabilities and how information can be used to impact instruction.

Salon I – Exhibits

9:45 am – 10:45 am

Azalea - What's new with TobiiATI!

Presenter: Betsy Walker – Tobii/ATI

The presentation will update participants about new developments in products and communication software from TobiiATI. The product line will be reviewed. In addition, we will explore VS Communicator, the communication software available on the products from TobiiATI.

Magnolia - Keys to an Extraordinary Implementation of WYNN

Presenter: Bonnie Hill – Freedom Scientific/LSG

WYNN is one of the easiest to use options when considering text-to-speech for all students (UDL). Easy is key. Come learn how one Parish and one AT person initiated momentum, and teachers and students ran with it! It took collaboration, but the motivation was driven by student success and AYP. What made the difference in this Parish success?

Camelia – Out of Pocket AAC Devices

Presenter: R. J. Cooper – R. J. & Associates, Inc.

Responding to your requests for, relatively, inexpensive AAC devices, that do almost the same job as the 'big boys', I have developed 3 AAC devices that allow people that do not have funding options open to them, procure devices of similar abilities.

Beauregard - Sorting through Software for Task & Behavior Supports - Presenter: Kelly Fonner – Fonner Consulting & Training – Scott Marfilus – AT Consultant

Do you need to create schedules and task supports for the students/adults with disabilities who struggle with keeping on task and/or acceptable behavior? During this fast-paced, intermediate level presentation we will look at the features of stand-alone and add-on products that educators are using. We will demonstrate the features that should be considered during assessment and selection of task supports. This session is not about what product we think is the best, this is about sorting through the options available so that you can be more informed when making decisions.

Salon I – Exhibits

10:45 am – 11:45 am
Visit the Exhibit Hall

11:45 am – 12:45 pm

Azalea - Using Laureate's Free Syntax Assessment Software

Presenter: Mary Sweig Wilson – Laureate Learning Systems

Through demonstration, attendees will learn to use the new free Syntax Tests CD to assess knowledge of grammatical forms necessary for sentence understanding and use. The Syntax Tests software is especially useful with difficult to test students including those with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Built-in reports provide comprehensive documentation.

Magnolia - Improving Communication: Enriching Lives

Presenter: Chrissy Wostmann - News-2-you

Research supports the use of newspapers and current events as teaching tools. Thus, current events should play an important role in the classroom and therapy room. They provide a window on the world essential to the able-bodied and disabled alike. This presentation will demonstrate how current events supplement functional instruction, encouraging improved communication and enriching the lives of all involved.

Camelia - In the Trenches with the Extended Standards

Presenters: Kim Haynes – AT Consultant, Karen Nelson, EBR Parish Schools

You want me to address the general curriculum in special education! What do I do, where do I start? We are in the trenches every day working with students with significant disabilities. This session will demonstrate multiple strategies and techniques that can be utilized with students with significant disabilities, so that they are participating in the general curriculum. This presentation will address the needs of upper elementary through high school students with significant cognitive impairments, however, the strategies are appropriate for any age and applicable to almost any subject area. You will see a variety of activities addressing the extended standards of the grade level expectations in English/language arts, science and math.

Beauregard - The Price is Right: Low Cost or Free Solutions to Support Struggling Students

Presenter: Scott Marfilus – AT Consultant

This session will explore a variety of low cost and free technology solutions that can assist struggling students with their academics. Provide students with the supports they need to be successful learners. The price is right.

Salon I – Exhibits

12:45 – 1:45 pm - Lunch On Your Own
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2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Azalea - A Complete Line of Smart Solutions from AMDi

Presenter: Allison Yates – Vermilion Parish School District

Experience AMDi's complete line of Smart Solutions. Spanning the communication needs of all students from beginning single message switch users with the Partner series, to static devices accompanied by national content standard based activities in the Smart series, all the way to dynamic solutions with the Tech/Touch.

Magnolia - The Suitcase Series

Presenter: Byron Wilkes – Learning Magic, Inc.

This session will explore the over one hundred and thirty finished activities on the Suitcase Series CD. Written in IntelliTools Classroom Suite the CD provides instructional materials for Pre-school through the first grade. Curriculum areas include Early Learning, Language Arts and Math.

Camelia - Eye Control Solutions for Complicated Access

Presenter: Meher Banajee - LSU Health Sciences Center

Access has historically been an issue in using communication systems with individuals with cerebral palsy and fluctuating muscle tone. Various methods of access have been attempted including head pointing and scanning. Scanning systems require not only motor control but also are slow and cognitively more challenging whereas head pointing requires additional head control seldom seen in these individuals. Eye control system (such as available on the My Tobii) is one solution to resolve these issues. Results of a research project using single subject case study will be used to compare the benefits of eye control, head pointing and scanning systems.

Beauregard - Literacy Integration thru Technology

Presenter: Kelly Fonner – Fonner Consulting & Training

As concern for literacy learning heightens in educators of all students, we look to the tools and strategies of assistive technology to bring the curriculum to students with special needs. Based upon practices in adult learning such as ECT and the literacy framework of the 4 block model, LIT training was developed to support teachers and teams serving students with severe disabilities in the acquisition of literacy skills. The results of this year long training project will be presented throughout the session with video, technology and off-computer examples. This is a project that can be replicated within any parish/program that serves students with severe disabilities as it gives purpose to the technology that you have already and will guide your decisions for future purchases.

Salon I – Exhibits

3:15 pm – 4:15 pm

Azalea - A Technological RTI Approach in a UDL World grades Pre-K-5

Presenter: Dee Garcia - Cambium Learning Technologies

Technology is the great equalizer for your struggling students. See a unique intervention tool that combines direct instruction with a flexible tool environment to help students mastery in reading, writing and math. Provides students with explicit instruction, constructive practice and embedded assessments to allow teachers to gauge progress and individualize instruction for ALL students.

Magnolia - Say it! Sam: Vocabularies, Autism, French and Spanish

Presenter: Gaylon Ponder – Words Plus

Special features in Say it! Sam. Pre-programmed vocabularies. Say it! Sam, Autism, a few tricks and choosing the correct device. Mixing Sam with other programs for education purposes. Using Sam to speak other languages for school based foreign language study or communication with non English speaking family and friends.

Camelia - Building a framework for literacy development for AAC users

Presenter: Jennifer Henry – Prentke Romich, Co.

Individuals who use AAC devices to communicate are often challenged with developing literacy skills comparable to those of their peers. Join us as we explore ways to develop and incorporate literacy for users of Prentke Romich Devices.

Beauregard – Putting the “You” in UDL

Presenter: Terry Hamman - TextHelp

Increasing awareness of the value of implementing Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles also prompts the question “What can You do to implement UDL principles in your classroom?” While there are many potential answers to that question, there are some that will have more impact than others.

Of the myriad UDL strategies, principles, and tools that have been explored, Read & Write GOLD ranks among those most widely used. Its diverse set of features, along with its teacher tools, give teachers the power to diversify instruction. Join us to learn more about what You can do with the right tools.

Salon I – Exhibits

**Solutions for Assistive Technology
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Friday, May 1, 2009**

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Complimentary Continental Breakfast
Salon I**

8:30 am – 9:30 am

Azalea - What's new with TobiiATI!

Presenter: Betsy Walker – Tobii/ATI

The presentation will update participants about new developments in products and communication software from TobiiATI. The product line will be reviewed. In addition, we will explore VS Communicator, the communication software available on the products from TobiiATI.

Magnolia - The Writing Bin Series

Presenter: Byron Wilkes – Learning Magic, Inc.

A more concise review of the three CDs mentioned in the pre-conference submittal. Ranging from Early Skills development through supported writing templates and activities appropriate for middle to high school, the Writing Bin Series provides over a dozen writing templates and over 100 finished activities in a wide range of curricular areas.

Camelia – The GOLD Standard in Literacy Support Software

Presenter: Terry Hamman - TextHelp

Join us to learn about the difference our software can make! Read & Write GOLD (RWG) is an award-winning software program that gives students an edge in learning and studying. Since those who are looking for that edge are sometimes constrained by computer configurations, Texthelp Systems Inc. has responded by offering several deployment solutions for RWG.

Designed to collaborate on the fly with familiar programs like Microsoft Office and Adobe Reader, RWG puts literacy support tools right at students' fingertips. The question is getting that solution to those fingertips – via network, USB mobile device, and so on. Attend this session to determine the best configuration for your students.

Beauregard – The Strongest Link To My Curriculum: Classroom Suite 4

Presenter: Dee Garcia – Cambium Learning

Are you looking for a tool that links to your curriculum and supports individual student learning? This hands-on exploration of Classroom Suite 4 is for you. Research shows to build literacy skills students need a strong foundation of phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. The foundation of basic math skill development is emphasis on developing number sense and automaticity. Join us to see dozens of activities quickly modified to your curriculum needs.

Salon I - Exhibits

9:45 am – 10:45 am

Azalea - From Single Words to Sentences: Evidence-based Intervention Strategies

Presenter: Mary Sweig Wilson – Laureate Learning Systems

Students with language disorders regardless of etiology have more difficulties mastering syntax than acquiring a vocabulary. To become competent communicators, however, they must learn to comprehend and use sentences. This session will present current theory and research-based approaches to developing receptive and expressive syntax competence.

Magnolia - Out of Pocket AAC Devices

Presenter: R. J. Cooper – R. J. & Associates, Inc.

Responding to your requests for, relatively, inexpensive AAC devices, that do almost the same job as the 'big boys', I have developed 3 AAC devices that allow people that do not have funding options open to them, procure devices of similar abilities.

Camelia - Testing Accommodation: A Low Cost Solution Relieving Readers and Scribes

Presenter: Bonnie Hill – Freedom Scientific/LSG

Until recently, human readers were the only way students with reading difficulties could have a test read aloud. This presentation will demonstrate how one or many students can all test independently, at the same time, with TESTTALKER. Additionally, TestTalker can be a reading tool. The price will fit your budget for Parish wide use.

Beauregard - Unique Learning System

Presenter: Chrissy Wostmann - News-2-you

Have you been looking for a standards-based curriculum that will address the unique needs of your students? The Unique Learning System from News-2-You is a comprehensive curriculum designed specifically for special learners. Teachers have access to new, fresh materials and subjects every month. Symbolized materials, differentiated lesson plans, and assessment tools will be described and viewed during this session.

Salon I – Exhibits

10:45 am – 11:45 am
Visit the Exhibit Hall

11:45 am – 12:45 pm

Azalea - Lite Tech in Real Life

Presenter: Amy Koch - Adaptivation, Inc.

Come see fun and functional ways to incorporate Adaptivation's lite tech products throughout the day. Applications from cooking to self care will be demonstrated as well as ways to incorporate lite tech into leisure activities.

Magnolia - In Control and Organized! Help for Short Term Memory Issues

Presenter: Joan Cunningham – AbleLink Technologies

For people with memory issues, maintaining a schedule, staying organized, and following through are critical. A video and lecture provide insights into relevant technologies.

Camelia - Breaking Tradition: Creating Static Communication Page Sets that Enhance Curriculum

Integration - Presenter: Allison Yates – Vermilion Parish School District

Discover Smart/Ease activities for use with AMDi's Smart and Tech series of static display devices. These national content standard based activities are interactive, educational and fun. Learn how curriculum integration provides the opportunity to teach proper device use, communication skills, and foster learning of important grade level skills in students.

Beauregard – Low-Cost and No-Cost Assistive Technology Solutions

Dr. Rose Angelocci - University of New Orleans, TRAC

With limited budgets, parents, teachers, and employers need to be aware of low-cost and no-cost solutions that can provide children and adults with disabilities access to computers. Presenters will demonstrate assistive technology solutions to accommodate people with visual, learning, or physical disabilities. A resource list will be provided.

Salon I – Exhibits

1:00 – 2:00 pm

Azalea - Kurzweil 3000 Version 11: A Comprehensive Toolkit for Struggling Learners

Presenter: Missy Tatum – Kurzweil/Audio Optical

Kurzweil 3000 is reading, writing and learning software that can read aloud virtually any text, giving struggling learners independent access to curriculum materials. Within the multi-sensory, interactive learning environment of Kurzweil, students have access to features that address the writing process, word study, test-taking, study skills, research, and more. This session will focus on the use of Kurzweil to support Universal Design for Learning/ differentiated instruction, and all tiers of Response to Intervention (RtI).

Magnolia - Can you hear me now? Can you make me faster? - Presenter: Gaylon Ponder – Words Plus

The new generation of speech generating devices with fabulous sounding speech output. One young adult said \"I sound like a real woman for the first time in my life\". New techniques for faster scanning including timed comparisons. Multiple access methods for easier access and to avoid repetitive use injuries. These include eye gaze part of the day, switch scanning at school, different switches and devices at other times of the day or in different environments. The realization that one access method all the time is not necessarily best for the client has reached the point that speech pathologists are recommending them and funding sources are approving them.

Camelia - TBA

Beauregard - Emergency Preparedness Strategies for Persons With Complex Communication Needs

Presenter: Meher Banajee – LSU Health Sciences Center

In the summer of 2005 a category 5 hurricane hit the Gulf Coast of the United States. People with disabilities, including those who rely on augmentative and alternative communication (AAC), suffered greatly. United States Society of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (USSAAC) announced a need for support, following which; concerned USSAAC members formed an Action Group. In February 2008, the Action Group met with representatives from various levels of government to discuss emergency preparedness for AAC users. This presentation will discuss the outcomes of the meeting, follow-up procedures and development of guidelines for emergency preparedness to assist AAC system users.

Salon I – Exhibits

2:15 pm – 3:15 pm - Salon I – Exhibits – Door Prize Drawing – Must be present to win.