Universal Access to Education

Faculty Resources and Support for Alternative Media

# Overview

Access to information and knowledge is emerging and changing around us. Institutions of higher learning have seen changes regarding delivery of information including online classes and email. Additionally printed textbooks and published material still have had a significant influence on how faculty conveys subject matter and how students interact with that matter. Within both the public and private arenas the world is seeing changes in the publishing industry. There is for the first time a move toward universal design - whether planned or based on technological evolution.

This presentation will explore the tools and changes within the laws that have for years influenced the disability community and now are playing a significant role in how students of all abilities will access information. Participants will learn about the informational supports and resources that will help them to produce, recommend and promote the most accessible material. By adopting some of these practices participants will create learning environments that are accessible so they can refoccs their attention on the central task of educating students.

Presenter Joe Tedesco, Membership, Outreach and Assistive Technology Manager

Joe Tedesco, Membership, Outreach and Assistive Technology Manager, is responsible for the development and on-going delivery of AMAC services to its members. Joe earned his Masters of Education degree at Wayne State University in Detroit and was awarded a certificate in Assistive Technology from the University of Miami. He was among the first professionals in the state of Georgia to earn his certification as an Assistive Technology Practitioner (ATP).

Joe has presented at conferences nationally on topics related to the use of assistive technology, technology and literacy, implementing technology in schools, and computer reuse. He enjoys providing training and is recognized for his knowledgeable yet practical approach to technology and education.

Joe stays involved with local groups who work to bring assistive technology services into the lives of individuals with disabilities. His career has afforded him a variety of experiences leading to a rich understanding of the disability field and the effects of technology. His past experiences include Early Intervention (DHR), Even Start (Coordinator, DOE), Tech-Able (Director, Assistive Technology Resource Center), as well as private sector experience in the area of direct delivery of services, and Marcus Institute and Lekotek.

He has been recognized two years in a row by the Department of Labor's Tools for Life Program for his ability to foster collaboration among agencies and organizations in Georgia. Joe proudly serves as Vice Chair of the Georgia State Rehabilitation Council.

# Training Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Demonstration of Software / Features
   * Versatile; Access based practices and activities that promote learning;
   * Notes
   * Highlight
   * Text-To-Audio
   * Summary
   * Find

\* Available on campus, tutoring labs, library, classrooms and on student’s computer.

1. Case Study: Christopher Lee, Ph.D.
2. AMAC Overview: Point of Change
   * AccessText Network
   * STEPP
3. Examples of Alternative Material (electronic, alterna-sensory)
   * Standard e-Text (pdf, doc, txt,)
   * Specialized e-Text
     + Amazon
     + E-Pub
     + Daisy
   * Audio
     + CD
     + MP3
     + Wav
   * Tactile
     + Braille
4. Universal Design around us.
   * Convenient vs. Necessary
   * Print Related Disability
   * Accommodation: Alternative Media same information, same expectations different format

# Faculty Resources

* + AMAC Training; staff and students

The Alternative Media Access Center (AMAC) is committed to removing barriers for individuals with disabilities by improving the human condition through technology in academic and workplace environments.

* + - <http://www.amac.gatech.edu/wiki/index.php/Main_Page>
    - <http://amacusg.org/events.php>
  + CATEA; Center for Assistive Technology and Environmental Access

CATEA is a multidisciplinary engineering and design research center dedicated to enhancing the health, activity and participation of people with functional limitations through the application of assistive and universally designed technologies in real world environments, products and devices.

* + - Faculty Resources
      * Making standard faculty educational documents adhere to Universal Design.
        + <http://www.catea.gatech.edu/grade/index.php>
        + <http://www.catea.gatech.edu/grade/guides/introduction.php>
  + University of Washington: Do-It Center

The [international](http://www.washington.edu/doit/Resources/international.html) DO-IT Center promotes the success of individuals with disabilities and the use of computer and networking technologies to increase their independence, productivity, and participation in education and careers.

* + - <http://www.washington.edu/doit/Faculty/Strategies/Disability/LD/>
  + CAST

CAST is a nonprofit research and development organization that works to expand learning opportunities for all individuals, especially those with disabilities, through Universal Design for Learning.

* + - <http://www.cast.org/>
  + Microsoft Enable Website (Case Studies)
    - <http://www.microsoft.com/enable/casestudy/default.aspx>