A Guided Conversation on Assistive Technology: What Works!

The Schenck School
Thursday, February 3, 2017

Carolyn Phillips and Tori Holder, Tools for Life
Stephen Patrick Harvey, Cole Harvey,
Tucker Phillips, and Meera Phillips

With contributions from the TFL Team
www.gatfl.gatech.edu

For Handouts: http://www.gatfl.gatech.edu/tflwiki
www.amacusg.org
Guiding Principles

• We – Collectively – are Brilliant & Can find an Innovative Path and Create Brighter Futures

• Smooth Transitions Make The Difference!

• We must Think, Live and Act from a place of Abundance – We have enough time, money, resources.

• We Must Focus on Abilities!

• Assistive Technology is Key to Success.

• Success Breeds Success

• YOU have the Power to make the Difference!
  – Change vs. Progress (Bob Phillips)
What is AMAC?
AMAC works with colleges and universities to provide students with textbooks in formats that best meet their needs, including:
E-Text, Audiobooks, and Braille.

How does AMAC work?
Students meet with their disability services office to place an order for their textbooks in the preferred format.
AMAC creates practical solutions that work, with a focus on utility, ease of use, and high quality.

• **Accessibility Consulting** focuses on organizational accessibility needs with evaluation, technical assistance, customer support, and website accessibility solutions.
• **Braille Services** produces customized projects from both print materials and electronic text including partial books and chapters or graphics only using cutting-edge technology.
• **Captioning Services** makes classrooms, meetings, labs and other audio environments fully accessible for deaf or hard-of-hearing.
• **Professional E-Text Producers** provide high-quality e-text in many formats such as PDF, DOC, DAISY, and HTML.
• **Certified Assistive Technology team** provides on-site and remote assessments, demonstrations, training and technical assistance for education, work, and daily living environments.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.amacusg.org](http://www.amacusg.org)
Tools for Life Mission

We’re here to help Georgians with disabilities gain access to and acquisition of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services so they can live, learn, work, and play independently in the communities of their choice.
Why Assistive Technology?

• For a person without a disability, technology makes things easier....

• For a person with a disability, technology makes things possible.

TIP: USE Assistive Technology! I have yet to meet a successful student with disabilities who doesn’t use Any AT.
**What is Assistive Technology?**

**Assistive Technology Device**
...any item, piece of equipment or product that is used to increase, maintain or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

- Public Law 105-394 [29 USC 2201]

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Observations & “Hanging out with Intent”

Assistive Technology is a continuum of tools, strategies, and services that match a person’s needs, abilities and tasks.

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- voice recognition
- environmental control devices
- apps over $100
Welcome to the AMAC Student Download Center

Go to My Orders to:
Download your completed electronic book files.
Check the status of your book orders.

Go to My Requests to:
Place an AMAC order for your textbook.

Go to Software to:
Download software for your computer.

Go to Apps to:
Download apps for your iPad/iPhone.

Go to Support, and click Student Support Resources to view descriptions of software and video tutorials.

Get started with how-to videos below.

Tour of the AMAC Student Download Center
Downloading Books
ClaroRead Overview
Intro to PDF Equalizer
Texthelp

- Text-to-Speech software
- Helps improves reading skills
- Built in text and picture dictionaries
- Study skills highlighter

- Google Chrome app available
- www.texthelp.com
Read&Write Toolbar

• Grammar Check
• Word Prediction
• Dictionary
• Picture Dictionary
• Homophones
• Verb Checker
• Pause, Stop, Play
• Capture
• Mp3 File maker

• Daisy Reader
• Scanner
• Fact Checker
• Fact Mapper
• Screen Masking
• Speech Input
• Translator
• PDF Aloud
• Word Cloud
Read&Write Gold

- PC and Mac Compatible
- PDFs, DOCs, DAISY, and Webpages
- Synchronous highlighting
Read&Write Gold
(additional features)

- Read & Write Gold
  - Multiple tool bars to assist with study skills, research and writing
Ginger

- Online grammar and spell checker
- Can see corrections as you type or use Ginger Proofreader to scan the entire document for mistakes
- Will read corrections out loud
- Has a mobile Android, iOS and Windows
- Works inside Word and emails
- Text to Speech
  - Read emails and docs
  - Can choose voice and accent
- Ginger Demo
Speech Recognition Software

• Turn spoken words into text
• Connect with the timing of your thoughts
• Dictation speed 70 to 100 words per minute
Speech Recognition

How to use Speech Recognition

[Video demonstration of using Speech Recognition on a Windows device]
Tools for Life
AppFinder
Your TFL AppFinder

Search by:

✓ App Name
✓ Categories
  - Book
  - Education
  - Environmental Adaptations
  - Hearing
  - Cognition, Learning, Developmental
  - Navigation
  - Personal Care and Safety
  - Productivity
  - Communication
  - Therapeutic Aids
  - Vision
Voice Dream Reader

- Text-to-Speech
- Highlights as it reads
- Import
  - Bookshare
  - Dropbox
  - Gutenberg
  - Word Doc
  - PDFs
- Buy different voices
- Change rate of speed
- Download for later reading

- $14.99 in iOS App Store
- $9.99 in Android App Store
BARD Mobile

- Access directly to the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS)
- Must be registered
- Settings
- Can use with braille display
- [http://www.loc.gov/nls/find.html](http://www.loc.gov/nls/find.html)
- Free for iOS and Android
Genius Scan

- Scan documents or handwritten notes
- Email the scans as JPEG or PDF
- Free for iOS and Android
- Genius Scan Plus ($2.99)
  - allows upload to Dropbox, Skydrive or Evernote
Audible

• Digital audiobooks
• Read by Hollywood stars, authors, and professional narrators
• Listen anywhere
• Over 180,000 titles
• Membership
Waze

- World's largest community-based traffic and navigation app.
- Join drivers in your area who share real-time traffic and road info to save time, gas money, and improve daily commuting for all.
- Free on iOS and Android
Key Ring

- For loyalty cards and savings while shopping
- Plan, save, and organize by carrying your cards, stores’ weekly ads, coupons, and your shopping lists
- Free on iOS and Android
• Pictorial shopping list
• Customize different lists for different users using pictures on camera roll
• Add your own items and categories
• Assign item prices
• Assign item locations (for example, aisle numbers)
• Several accessibility options
  – text-to-speech
  – uses large easy-to-see images
  – item prices automatically totaled
MyMedSchedule

• Keep track of medication
• Reminders
• Refill Reminders
• Healthcare Provider Profiles
• Insurance Information
• Allergies
• Works across Platforms
• Free for iOS and Android
• www.mymedschedule.com
Breathe2Relax

- Portable stress management tool
- Detailed information on the effects of stress on the body
- Instructions and practice exercises to learn the stress management skill called diaphragmatic breathing
- Free on iOS and Android
Ergonomics in the Classroom
Live Scribe Pen

• Records what it hears and what you write
• Uses specific paper for playback
• Connects to computer by USB for saving
• Tap on note and playback from there
• Jump forward and back in notes
• Dictionary
• Translation Apps
• Purchase Apps online
• Demo
“The ‘rate’ at which you learn will become the only sustainable competition advantage you’ll have in your life.”

- Peter Senge

- Visual Perception & Discrimination
- Auditory Perception & Discrimination

Dyslexic Example

Control Example
Specific Learning Disabilities

- **Dyslexia** - Difficulties with learning to translate printed words into spoken words with ease

- **Dysgraphia** - Deficits in writing (organization, clarity, unity, mechanical errors, spelling, handwriting)
What is Assistive Technology?

• Assistive Technology (AT) is any item or piece of equipment that is used to increase, maintain or improve the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities in all aspects of life, including at school, at work, at home and in the community.

• Assistive Technology ranges from no/low/light tech to high tech devices or equipment.
Defining Universal Design

Universal Design makes things *safer, easier and more convenient* for everyone.

Universal Design involves designing products and spaces so that they can be used by the widest range of people possible.
The “FAST” Track

✓ Frustration
✓ Anxiety
✓ Stress
✓ Tension
6th Grade Student
Went to Schenck School for 3 years
Going St. Francis
Stephen Patrick – More about me

I like to:

- Play Baseball and Football
- Fish
- Chill Out
- Go to the Beach
- Watch Movies
- Read
- Travel the World & Explore!
I have Learning Disabilities - Dyslexia

I also have a very tough time paying attention
Stephen Patrick – My AT for Reading

• Learning Ally:
  – Pro: Has words – it doesn’t just speak
  – Con: Harder to operate and it changes voices

• Bookshare:
  – Just learning this now.

• Audible:
  – Pro: Has better voices and is a lot easier to operate
  – Con: I don’t see the words.
Learning Ally

- **DAISY**
- Membership required
  - Free trial
- Over 75,000 audiobooks, audio textbooks, and other recorded books
Bookshare

• Online Accessible Library
• Free membership to qualified students and schools
  – Textbooks if school is member
• Over 515,000 titles
• Serves individuals with:
  – Vision disabilities
  – Physical disabilities
  – Learning disabilities
Audible

- Digital audiobooks
- Read by Hollywood stars, authors, and professional narrators
- Listen anywhere
- Over 180,000 titles
- Membership
Stephen Patrick – My AT for Writing

• I use text-to-speech
• I also use speech-to-text
• Text-to-Speech software
• Helps improves reading skills
• Built in text and picture dictionaries
• Study skills highlighter

• Google Chrome app available
• www.texthelp.com
Speech Recognition

• Turn spoken words into text

• Connect with the timing of your thoughts
• Color coding
• Agenda – with Calendar
• Google Drive
• Reminders on my phone
Google Drive

Introducing Google Now

The right information at just the right time

From knowing the weather before you start your day, to planning the best route to avoid traffic, or even checking your favorite team's score while they're playing, Google Now brings you the information you want, when you need it.

Assistance around the clock
Reminders

- Built-in iOS App
- Organize your reminders
- Siri
I have an Apple Watch

• Receive Calls and texts
  – “Inner Circle”
• Apps
• Can be used for fitness
  – Heart Rate Monitor
  – GPS
  – Accelerometer
• “Hey Siri”
• Haptic feedback
• Calendar
Stephen Patrick – My AT for Focusing

- Stress Balls
- Fidget ring
- Rocking Chair
- Runtz Chair
- Vidget Chair
Stephen Patrick – My Learning Style

- I need to see it being done while hearing it.
• I want to be a MLB Hall of Famer.
• Work for Apple.
• I haven't figured out where I want to go to College yet.
• Get married and have children.
Don’t’ give up on your kids.
Always give them help.
Be there for them.
We will forget stuff and make mistakes.
Talk things through.
• Never give up!
• Try out different learning styles.
• Try new ways to help you read and write.
• Be very patient
• If you see that we look confused – help us understand.
• Try out using flash cards for math and English.
Tucker Phillips
5th Grade Student
Henderson Mill Elementary School
In Discovery Program
I struggle with reading, spelling and focusing/paying attention

I reverse letters, words and numbers. For example, I have a difficult time with
“b” and “d”
“w” and “m”
“was” and “saw”
“5” and “2”

Being tested (Educational Psychological Evaluation) in June for Learning disabilities – dyslexia
Tucker – My AT for Reading

Need words spoken. I do not like tracking.

Like reading on the “faster” side.
Audible

- Digital audiobooks
- Read by Hollywood stars, authors, and professional narrators
- Listen anywhere
- Over 180,000 titles
- Membership
Tucker – My AT for Writing

• Speech Recognition
  – I speak into the phone in the notes app
  – Then email it
  – Then use Word or PowerPoint
  – Use spell check and grammar check
Microsoft Surface

- Slim and has a USB port for thumb drives
- Moveable Tiles
- Built-in Accessibility
  - Speech-to-text
  - Narrator
  - Magnifier
  - High contrast
- Thin pressure sensitive cover that doubles as a keyboard
Tucker – Universal Design for Learning (UDL)

• I Love Projects!
  – Use my art skills to show what I have learned and accomplished.
Gaming helps me focus and give me confidence.

I need to move a lot.

I need to Stand up.
Ergonomics in the Classroom
Tucker – My Learning Style

I like to Do it to learn it!
Tucker – When I Grow Up...

I want to go to Georgia Tech! (Go Jackets!)

I might be a bounty hunter or something with law enforcement and intelligence gathering, interviewing people and solving problems.

I might be a 1st grade teacher, Coach or Veterinarian.

I want to play Soccer!
Teachers should at least try to learn more about their students and technology and how it can help.

They need to come to the IDEAS Conference!
Presenter – Cole Harvey

7th grader at Saint Francis
Alumnus of Schenck School
Cole – More about me

• I like
  – Swimming
  – Basketball
  – Art
  – Chill out with friends
Cole – My disAbilities

• Dyslexia
• ADD
Cole – My AT for Reading, Writing, and Organization

• Color coding
• Grammarly
• Adobe
• Google Drive
• Google Docs
  – Word prediction
  – Highlight and read aloud
• Corrects grammar as I write on the computer
  – Underlines incorrect grammar in red and correct grammar in green
• It will let me know when it is checking because there is a green “G”
Presenter – Meera Phillips

Meera F. Phillips
7th Grade Student
Henderson Middle School
Meera – More about Me

I was born in India and lived on the streets.
My Mommies Picked Me!

I Love being an American!

I love Music, singing, dancing, soccer, GT Women’s Basketball, Travel in the US, Cooking, and Helping people

I love my Family!
Meera – My disAbilities

- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Cerebral Palsy
  - Some people don’t understand me.
Success: Consider this

Meera:
– Going to IEP since 1st grade
– Involved in My Plan!
– Choosing my AT
– Using My AT
– Speaking Up
– Speaking Out
I use an Apple iPad/Mini

- Multi-touch screen
- Smart Keyboard with iPad Pro
- New iOS 10
- Millions of apps
- Surf web
- iTunes
- HD Video
- Organization
- Accessibility
- Books
- Photos
- Speakers
- 5.0 megapixel camera
I like the Amazon Echo

- Speech-controlled speaker system
- Voice recognition - further distances
- All functions are server-side
- Compatible with many EC brands
- $179.99
I like the FitBit

• Fitness tracker
• Variety of styles and colors
• Track Activity
• Track Food
• Track Sleep
• Track Heart rate
• Works with other Apps
• New Smartwatch
Ergonomics

- Inhibits blood flow
- Creates muscle shortening
- Stresses back muscles and compresses spine
- Can inhibit learning
- Compresses diaphragm
  - Affects breathing
  - Voice quality
Learning Medication Management

• Automatic medication dispenser
  – Holds 29 doses
  – Set up to 4 alarms per day

• Pillpac.com
  – Organized pills packaged by pharmacy
  – Sealed pouches for each day
  – Time stamped
  – Lessen medication errors
Meera – My AT for Reading

• Audible
  – I like the voices
  – I have read over 20 books on audible

• Read2Go
  – Easy to use
  – I like that it highlights as it reads
  – I can control the speed
Meera – My AT for Communication

- I first try to speak
- Then Sign
- Then Speech Device
- iPad
- AAC Apps
Meera – My AT for Writing

• I love Cowriter
• I use word prediction
iOS – Word prediction

Our smartest keyboard ever.

iOS 8 makes typing easier by suggesting contextually appropriate words to complete your sentences. It even recognizes to whom you’re typing and whether you’re in Mail or Messages. Because your tone in an email may be different from your tone in a message.

Learn more ›
Meera – My AT for Organization

This is Hard!

- Still working on this one.
- Computer
Meera – My Learning Style

• I need to Do it to Learn best.
• Travel helps
• Experience
Meera – When I Grow Up…

• I want to go to Georgia Tech or Georgia (UGA).
• I want a job where I can take care of babies and help other people.
• I want get married and have children.
• I want to live in a medium size house.
• I want a driverless car!
Meera – Advice for Peers

• Be kind.
• Understand I have seizures.
• Understand I am smart.
Transition Success: Consider this

• Our Success relies on
  – Being Involved in “My Plan!”
  – Knowing Myself
    • Self-Exploration
      – Who Are You?
    • Learning Style
      – What is Your Learning Style?
  • Honestly Exploring –
    – What do I want to Do When I Grow Up?
    – What Assistive Technology do I need to accomplish my Goals?
TFL Gaming Initiative

• There are many benefits to playing games
  – Improved Hand/Eye coordination
  – Increased problem solving and cognitive function
  – Better handle stressful environments
  – Social outlet

• Tools for Life has recognized the importance of play and is starting an initiative dedicated to gaming with disabilities. Some objectives of the program are:
  – Demonstrate the accessibility of gaming
  – Build relationships with developers and aid in creating more accessible games
  – Increase public awareness of the importance of accessibility in games
Research points to attention difficulties in being a key component of dyslexia. One study has shown that people with dyslexia improved their reading comprehension following sessions of games heavy on action.

It is believed the constantly changing environments require more intense focus.

Xbox One with Kinect

- Control your entertainment with your voice
- Netflix, Skype, YouTube, Internet Browser, Music, Television, etc.
- Gesture Control
- Price varies depending on bundle.
- Xbox One $299
- Kinect ~ $100
FRU

• FRU is a puzzle platformer that features an innovative use of Kinect, in which your silhouette becomes a "portal" between two worlds.

• Encourages physical movement, activity, and cognitive function.

• Can be played individually or cooperatively.

• https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pH2zzMEBb7E
iHomework

- Keep up-to-date with your school work, grades, to-do's, teacher's information
- School organizer that can be with you anywhere you go, whether that be on your iPhone/iPod touch, iPad, or Mac
Up and Over
And in between:
The letters,
Words.
Biography.
Work done—
Like a phenomenon
In Georgia on a summer afternoon Foll
and
Poes
I am dreamed
And washed behind
I reach the middle
Most readily
I lift and see
And teach them the concept;
I then read their thoughts
To Tim.
I struggle to be understood
By you.
Do you understand?
I am near Clear or Mind.

—Carolyn Phillips.
Consider This

• Our Success relies on
  – Failing
  – Dignity of Failure
    • I learned More from My “Failures” sometimes than my “successes”
    • Give yourself room to fail – and Grow from the experience
    • Learn to Laugh - a lot!
    • Be Optimistic
    • Evaluate & Evolve!
Moving from Information to Action

Educational Psychological Evaluations
✓ One to one assessment
✓ Comprehensive battery of tests
✓ Detailed report with recommendations for support in work and/or learning

What did You learn in your Evaluation?

Moving from Information to Action

Using your Evaluation results as an Action Plan for AT
Enhancing All of Life’s Functions

Considering AT:
• Identify Environments
• Determine the Functional Areas
• Select AT

Dr. Cheryl Wissick and Dr. Elizabeth Bagley
Successful Transitions Help Create a Successful Life Journey

Teach Students to:
• Get to Know Yourself
• Plan for Your Success – in school, work, Life!
• Begin with the End in Mind
• Be able to tell Your Story
• Listen & Learn
• Try – Fail & Try again...
• When things get off track - Evaluate and Evolve
• Explore & USE Assistive Technology
• Laugh Much!
• Celebrate your Successes!!
Transition Success

• Our Success relies on
  – Building win-win-WIN relationships
    • Establishing a solid circle of support
      – Receiving and providing support
    • Diversify your Circle of Friends and Acquaintances
    • It sometimes is “Who you know”
    • BALANCE - Social Life and Studies
VGo Telepresence Robot

- Enables a person to replicate themself in a distant location and have the freedom to move around as if they were physically there
- Reduces travel costs
- School
- Hospital
- Work from home
VGo increases productivity and effectiveness while lowering costs by enabling a person to get to a location instantly and easily. VGo is not designed as a replacement for in-person interaction but rather as the next best alternative to “being” in the workplace. VGo also eliminates the deficiencies associated with other video solutions that are locked to a TV or computer monitor by providing 100% remote controlled mobility.

In addition to “being” at work from home, VGo can help people who can get to the workplace, but who cannot practically move about the facility or campus. A VGo can be used to enable a person to move around in one part of the facility while they are physically in another.

The benefits of using VGo in the workplace include:

- Getting to places previously inaccessible increases opportunities
- Freedom of movement increases personal interaction with others
- Quality of life improvements by expanding the work and social environments
- Costs can be reduced by lowering or eliminating select transportation expenses, and by communications and speeding decision making
Tools for Life endeavors to break down the barriers which prevent individuals with disabilities, their families, and service providers from acquiring and effectively using Assistive Technologies to gain greater independence.

To insure that AT products are available to Georgians with disabilities

Eliminate Funding Barriers
What's New In AT and the AT Community:

• Perhaps, Where We Are Going
CCS Wearables Forecast

CCS Insight Global Wearables Forecast, 2016-2020

- **Volume**
  - 2016: 123 million
  - 2020: 411 million

- **Value**
  - 2016: $14.0 billion
  - 2020: $34.2 billion

- **Device sales in 2020**
  - Eyewear: 97 million
  - Wristbands: 164 million
  - Tokens, clip-ons & jewellery: 4 million
  - Wearable cameras: 25 million
  - Watches: 110 million
  - Other: 2 million

February 2016

info@ccsinsight.com / @ccsinsight
See for Yourself

What is OrCam?

OrCam is an intuitive portable device with a smart camera designed to assist people who are visually impaired.

OrCam gives independence.
Lechal

- Haptic Footwear
- Uses GPS to let you know where you are
- Connects with app
- www.lechal.com
Redefining Navigation

Feel Your Way

Lechal’s haptic feedback, via simple vibrations, is with you every step of the way, giving you detailed route guidance at every turn. It even works offline! Which means you can wander off with no internet or data connectivity or get off a plane in a new country and Lechal will work, always in all ways.

Features
B-Calm

- “acoustic shield”, allowing the individual to have control of the sound environment
- helps reduce off task behaviors and irritability
- disturbing noises are blocked and replaced with familiar and soothing sounds
T. Jacket

- Wearable technology vest
  - Provides customizable deep touch pressure
  - Uses adjustable air pressure compression controlled via smartphone app
Neutun

• Makes it easy to track, manage and live with epilepsy
• App for Smart Watches
• Useful for:
  – Medication Management
  – Care Circle
  – Health Insights
  – Log Seizures
• Measures and tracks anxiety to help you better understand behavior and prevent meltdowns.
GlassOuse

• Helps people control electronics without using their hands
• Based on your head movements, it moves the cursor onscreen. You bite on a blue extension to click, and it can go a week without charging.”
• https://vimeo.com/158593763
Lumo Lift

- Lumo for back and head/shoulders
- Sends gentle vibration alert when posture needs to be corrected
CellHandle

- Wearable tech for all phones and cases
- Great for larger phones
- Safe way to hold and use phones
- Solves dexterity issues
- Rotates
- Adjustable and detachable
3D Printers

- Coming down in price
- Creating assistive technology for lower cost
- In classrooms
- Ability to feel how something looks
- Prosthetics
- Medical Advances
Cicret Bracelet

- Turns your arm into a touchscreen
- Works on every skin color
- iPhone and Android
- Phone screen mirroring
- Removeable battery
- Water resistant
- Pre-Orders begins in 2017
- Cicret Bracelet
- https://cicret.com/wordpress/
Octopus by Joy

• Smartwatch for Kids
• Icon Friendly
• Watch, Scheduler, and Assistant
• Visual Reminders
• Octopus by Joy
Mindrdr app

MINDRDR FOR GOOGLE GLASS LETS YOU TAKE AND SHARE PICTURES JUST BY THINKING

NEUROGADGET - JULY 11, 2014

SHARE ON:  

1,720 FOLLOWERS

1,948 FANS

Neurogadget.com

1,040 people like Neurogadget.com.
MIT Finger Device Reads to the Blind in Real Time

By RODRIQUE NGOWI
Associated Press
JULY 9, 2014 5:04 AM
The Tools for Life Team

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