



2014 SWOMA Conference: Finding My Way

November 13-15, 2014

Texas School for the Blind & Visually Impaired in Austin, TX

We welcome you to the 2014 Southwest Orientation and Mobility Association (SWOMA) Conference at the Texas School for the Blind & Visually Impaired. We hope that you enjoy your stay in Austin and your time on our campus. TSBVI is proud to host this event on our campus and hope that this conference will provide valuable information for you as you work with individuals of all ages who are visually impaired or deafblind.

SWOMA Pre-Conference Agenda - Thursday, November 13th

10:30 AM-5:30 PM

Sign-in and packet pick-up in the James C. Durkel Conference Center Lobby.

1:00 - 4:30 PM

Breakouts Sessions

Participants will be assigned a rotation that will take them through all three of these hands-on breakout sessions. Breaks will be provided between each 1 hour session and a snack provided in the Conference Center foyer that you can take with you. No food and only water is allowed inside the auditorium.

Apps for Maps

Barraga Room

Chris Tabb, Facilitator

This 1 hour session will provide an overview of available apps for iOS, Android, and Windows phones, as well as technologies available via the computer for navigating outdoors and indoors.

Making Tactile Maps Using Low Tech

Hatlen Room

Tracy Hallak, Facilitator

This 1 hour session enables even the most fearful map maker to easily create functional, useful maps. No worries about high technology! Begin simply by using everyday materials from craft stores or home to create useable maps and models that allow students and clients to have information about their travel environment and develop concepts and skills for more independent travel can be created.

Making Tactile Maps Using High Tech

Silverrain Room

Pat van Geem and Sue Mattson, Facilitators

In this 1 hour session participants will learn about high tech methods for producing tactile maps. Participants will learn how to use computer programs to develop maps and specialized printing equipment to produce tactile maps and images that can then be reproduced as needed and edited to update for new information and details.

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Holiday Inn Midtown Hotel Welcome Reception

Holiday Inn Midtown honors SWOMA participants with a come-n-go welcome reception at the hotel between 6-8 PM. Light snacks and beverages will be served courtesy of the hotel.

SWOMA Conference Agenda for Friday, November 14th

8:30 AM-5:00 PM

Sign-in continues in the James C. Durkel Conference Center Lobby

8:45 - 9:00 AM

Welcome and Housekeeping

TSBVI Auditorium

SWOMA Planning Committee representatives share information and housekeeping notes important to SWOMA participants.

9:00 – 11:45 AM

General Sessions

Two general sessions are offered with a short break scheduled between them.

Improving Cane Technique through Proprioceptive Facilitation

Dr. Sandra Rosen

TSBVI Auditorium

Dr. Sandra Rosen, coordinator of the O&M program at San Francisco State University and licensed physical therapist, provides an overview of the role of proprioception in the performance of mobility skills, and a demonstration of strategies, based upon the principles of proprioceptive neuromuscular facilitation, to assess and teach mobility skills to students who have poor proprioception. A special hands-on session practicing assessment and teaching strategies during the 4:45-5:45 PM time slot on Friday afternoon will be available to up to 30 participants.

Environmental Strategies for Safe and Independent Travel

Dr. Sandra Rosen

TSBVI Auditorium

Dr. Rosen continues her general session by sharing environmental strategies for increasing safety and independence for the individual with visual impairments including fall prevention, glare remediation, lighting considerations, and environmental analysis.

11:45 AM - 1:00 PM

Lunch

Participants are on their own for lunch. There are many restaurants within walking distance of TSBVI in any direction you travel. Check by the registration desk to get a listing of restaurants in the area and a map to help you get where you need to go.

1:00 - 2:30 PM

Breakout sessions:

Methods Developed by Parents who are Blind and Visually Impaired to Travel and Shop with Children – Part 1

Rosario Manning, Jamie Sibson, Charlotte Simpson, Elizabeth Meyer, and Scott Meyer

TSBVI Auditorium

Traveling with children is never easy, but when you are visually impaired or blind simple trips to the grocery store or out in the community can be challenging. How about trips to Europe or China? A panel of parents who are visually impaired or blind and who travel with children daily will discuss and demonstrate methods they have developed to successfully travel with children and handle shopping. These include the use of dog guides, wraps for infants – 5 year-old children, carriers, leashes, adult trikes, canes, para-transit and public buses. Part one will discuss and show various methods they use.

Finding the Balance between Work and Play: Promoting Leisure, Recreation and Competitive Opportunities

Julie Brown, Cody Hatfield, Christy Householter, Elina Mullen, Jody Royder, and Aleisha Virjan

Barraga/Silverrain Room

This session will explore the numerous ways vision professionals can involve persons with visual impairments in leisure, recreation, and competitive activities that promote healthy living, address multiple areas of the expanded core curriculum, and lead to a better quality of life. Participants will have hands on opportunities to learn specific adaptations and modifications for mainstreamed sports, an overview and rules for several sports specific to persons with visual impairments, and a multitude of leisure and recreational activities and hobbies that can be easily taught.

O&M Assessments for Infants

Jill Brown and Michelle Garrett Johnson

Hatlen Room

Participants will have the opportunity to learn about O&M assessment tools for young children and infants and assessment activities for the COMS to consider in a variety of places within the home.

2:30-3:00 PM

Break

Breaks are set up in the James C. Durkel Conference Center.

3:00 - 4:30 PM

Breakout Sessions

Methods Developed by Parents who are Blind and Visually Impaired to Travel and Shop with Children – Part 2

Rosario Manning, Jamie Sibson, Charlotte Simpson, Elizabeth Meyer, and Scott Meyer

TSBVI Auditorium

Traveling with children is never easy, but when you are visually impaired or blind simple trips to the grocery store or out in the community can be challenging. How about trips to Europe or China? A panel of parents who are visually impaired or blind and who travel with children daily will discuss and demonstrate methods they have developed to successfully travel with children and handle shopping. These include the use of dog guides, wraps for infants – 5 year-old children, carriers, leashes, adult trikes, canes, para-transit and public buses. Part two (from 3-4:30 PM) will offer hands-on experiences and additional demonstration of strategies.

O&M and ECC Changes in Chapter §30.002 of the Texas Education Code: Putting Law to Practice

Christy Householter and Brent Pitt

Barraga/Silverrain Room

The 83rd session of the Texas Legislature passed two bills relevant to students with visual impairments, SB 39 and HB 590, which made changes in Chapter §30.002 of the Texas Education Code. This session will review the Q&A that was distributed by a statewide group in August, 2014, including any recent updates to that document.

Infusing the ECC into O&M Instruction

Sue Behm, Lori King and Amanda Andersen

Hatlen Room

The new ECC law encourages COMS to consider the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) in O&M instruction for the student with visual impairment or deafblindness. Three COMS will share information and strategies to demonstrate how infusing the ECC into O&M instruction is a natural.

4:45 - 5:45 PM

After Hours Optional Activities

Blindfold Practice

Blindfold practice is open to anyone who wishes to participate. You need to bring your own cane and blindfold. Staff from TSBVI and CCRC will facilitate this opportunity for you to get hours practicing under blindfold.

Proprioceptive Facilitation Hands-on (*limited to the first 30 requests*)

A special hands-on session led by Dr. Sandra Rosen focusing on assessment and teaching strategies related to Proprioceptive Facilitation will be available for to up to 30 participants. Registration for this event will take place during the general sessions on Friday morning on a first-come-first-served basis.

6:30 - 9:00 PM

SWOMA Networking Social

Holiday Inn Austin Midtown

Please join us for a come and go networking social. Light snacks and beverages will be available.

SWOMA Conference Agenda for Saturday, November 15th

8:30 - 10:00 AM

Breakout Sessions

Optimizing Auditory Skills and Non-Visual Skills for O&M Travelers with Low Vision

TSBVI Auditorium

Carly Weaver

Presenters will discuss and demonstrate on how instructors at CCRC incorporate auditory and non-visual skills with low vision O&M students.

REFLEXES: Unintentional with a Purpose

Barraga/Silverrain Room

Tracy Hallak

Reflexes are unintentional movements that are often misunderstood. While these movements are “nonpurposeful” with regard to cognition, they are essential to sensorimotor development. Understanding the function and integration of reflexes in the development of motor skills is essential to an orientation and mobility evaluation. This presentation will discuss reflexes, integration, assessment, and interventions strategies for working with children with visual impairments.

O&M for Students with CVI

Hatlen Room

Lisa Calaci and Ruth Ann Marsh

Lisa Calaci will discuss characteristics of Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI) with a focus on exploring teaching strategies for O&M lessons. Participants will learn through video-taped lessons from a variety of school aged students. This session will be referencing Christine Roman-Lantzy's, Cortical Visual Impairment: An approach to Assessment and Intervention, published by AFB Press in 2007.

10:00-10:30 AM

Break

Breaks are set up in the James C. Durkel Conference Center.

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Breakout Sessions

Student/Consumer Panel: Training at CCRC

TSBVI Auditorium

Julie Brown and Carly Weaver, Facilitators

A question and answer panel of Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center Students sharing their experiences on their O&M training in an adult vocational training center. Topics of interest include: structured discovery, long white straight canes, non-visual travel, successes and challenges, and adjustment to blindness.

O&M Specialist, Audiologist and Teacher of Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Collaboration for Individuals with Deafblindness

Baraga/Silverrain Room

Robbie Blaha, Lisa Sutherland and Chris Tabb

For students with deafblindness, the hearing loss creates special considerations which must be taken to insure their safety during travel. In this session the presenters will explore some of the special considerations for these individuals and how good collaboration between the audiologist, the teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing and the O&M specialist can benefit these individuals who are using assistive listening devices and need auditory training for environmental sounds.

Apps for Independent Living

Hatlen Room

John Rose

This session will focus on reviewing apps for portable devices that can assist students with independent living skills. There will also be time dedicated to evaluating student need and matching apps with student capability.

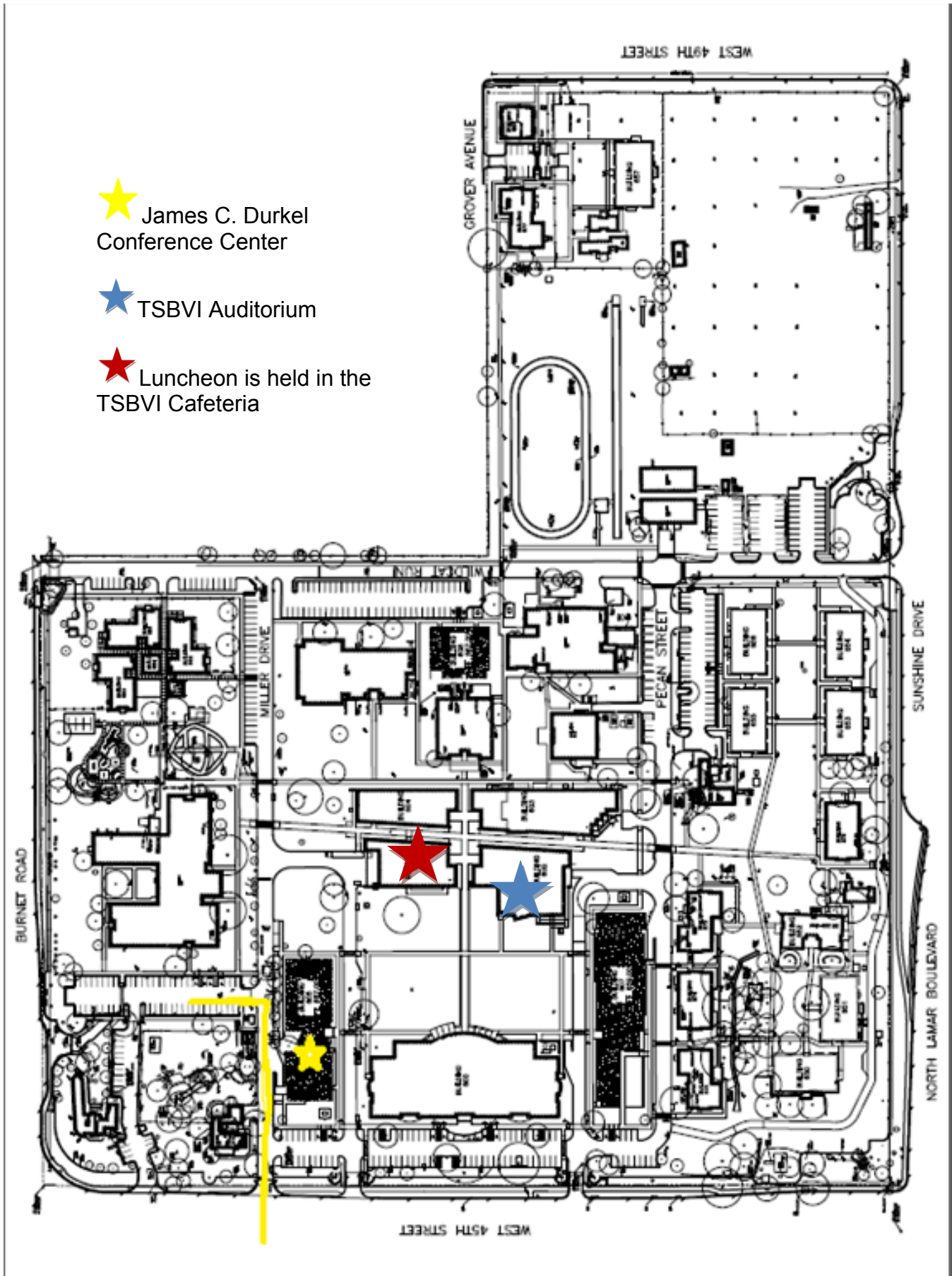
12:15 - 1:45 PM

SWOMA Working Luncheon

During this very special working lunch a variety of vendors and poster session exhibits will be set up for participants to visit. A boxed luncheon will be provided so that participants may take their meals along with them to the various exhibits and chat with vendors and poster session presenters over lunch.

SWOMA At-a-Glance

Date	Time	Session Title	Room
Thurs., Nov. 13th	10:30 AM – 5:45 PM	Sign-in and Packet Pick-up (beginning at 10:30 AM)	Conference Center Foyer
	1-4:30 PM	Apps for Maps	Barraga
		Making Tactile Maps Using Low Tech	Hatlen
		Making Tactile Maps Using High Tech	Silverrain
Friday, Nov. 14th	9:00-11:45 AM	Improving Cane Technique through Proprioceptive Facilitation	Auditorium
		Environmental Strategies for Safe and Independent Travel	Auditorium
	1-2:30 PM	Methods Developed by Parents who are Blind and Visually Impaired to Travel and Shop with Children – Part 1	Auditorium
		Finding the Balance between Work and Play: Promoting Leisure, Recreation and Competitive Opportunities	Barraga/Silverrain
		O&M Assessments for Infants	Hatlen
	3-4:30 PM	Methods Developed by Parents who are Blind and Visually Impaired to Travel and Shop with Children – Part 2	Auditorium
		O&M and ECC Changes in Chapter §30.002 of the Texas Education Code: Putting Law to Practice	Barraga/Silverrain
		Infusing the ECC into O&M Instruction	Hatlen
	4:45-5:45 PM	Blindfold Practice	Auditorium
		Proprioceptive Facilitation Hands-on	Conference Center Foyer
Saturday, Nov. 15th	8:30-10 AM	Optimizing Auditory Skills and Non-Visual Skills for O&M Travelers with Low Vision	Auditorium
		REFLEXES: Unintentional with a Purpose	Barraga/Silverrain
		O&M for Students with CVI	Hatlen
	10:30-12 PM	Student/Consumer Panel: Training at CCRC	Auditorium
		O&M Specialist, Audiologist and Teacher of Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Collaboration for Individuals with Deafblindness	Barraga/Silverrain
		Apps for Independent Living	Hatlen
12:15-1:45 PM	SWOMA Working Luncheon	Cafeteria	



★ James C. Durkel
Conference Center

★ TSBVI Auditorium

★ Luncheon is held in the
TSBVI Cafeteria

My Session Choices

Use this table to map out your conference choices and locations.

Date	Time	Session Title	Room
Nov 13	1-4:30 PM		
Nov 14	9:00-11:45 AM	Improving Cane Technique through Proprioceptive Facilitation	TSBVI Auditorium
		Environmental Strategies for Safe and Independent Travel	
Nov 14	1-2:30 PM		
Nov 14	3-4:30 PM		
Nov 14th	4:45-5:45 PM		
Nov 15	8:30-10 AM		
Nov 15	10:30-12 PM		
Nov 15	12:15-1:45 PM		

Please complete the on-line evaluation form following this event if you would like to receive ACVREP credit. Include all codes provided for each session you attend; you will not receive credit for your attendance without the code. You must also sign-in at the start of each session including the general sessions, blindfold practice and the luncheon.

Date	Time	Session Title	Session Code
Nov 13	1-4:30 PM 3 CEU	Making Tactile Maps Using Low Tech	
		Making Tactile Maps Using High Tech	
		Apps for Maps	
Nov 14	9:00-11:45 AM 2.25 CEU	Improving Cane Technique through Proprioceptive Facilitation	
		Environmental Strategies for Safe and Independent Travel	
Nov 14	1-2:30 PM 1.5 CEU	Methods Developed by Parents who are Blind and Visually Impaired to Travel and Shop with Children – Part 1 Finding the Balance between Work and Play: Promoting Leisure, Recreation and Competitive Opportunities O&M Assessments for Infants	
Nov 14	3-4:30 PM 1.5 CEU	Methods Developed by Parents who are Blind and Visually Impaired to Travel and Shop with Children – Part 2 O&M and ECC Changes in Chapter §30.002 of the Texas Education Code: Putting Law to Practice Infusing the ECC into O&M Instruction	
Nov 14th	4:45-5:45 PM 1 CEU	Blindfold Practice Proprioceptive Facilitation Hands-on	
Nov 15	8:30-10 AM 1.5 CEU	Optimizing Auditory Skills and Non-Visual Skills for O&M Travelers with Low Vision REFLEXES: Unintentional with a Purpose O&M for Students with CVI	
Nov 15	10:30-12 PM 1.5 CEU	Student/Consumer Panel: Training at CCRC O&M Specialist, Audiologist and Teacher of Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Collaboration for Individuals with Deafblindness Apps for Independent Living	
Nov 15	12:15-1:45 PM 1.25 CEU	SWOMA Working Luncheon	
CEU Max. 13.5		Your Total CEUs Earned	

SWOMA Sponsors



Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center – Division of Blind Services



Education Service Center Region 10



Education Service Center Region 11
Statewide Leadership Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired



Holiday Inn Austin Midtown



Stephen F. Austin State University



Texas Education Agency



Texas School for the Blind & Visually Impaired



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