



2015 Southwest Orientation and Mobility (SWOMA) Conference

Welcome to the 2015 SWOMA Conference. This is your guide to sessions, information about the conference, a place to keep track of those all-important session codes so you can receive ACVREP credit and much more. Please take time to review this document so you will be completely informed about all the SWOMA events and other pertinent conference information.

SWOMA 2016

Please take time to complete the SWOMA online survey while you are at the conference. Laptops will be available at registration and at the luncheon to access the survey while you are here. If you miss this opportunity you can go to <http://www.tsbvi.edu/o-m-page> to access the survey link until January 1st. Let us know your preferences for SWOMA 2016!

SWOMA Pre-Conference Agenda - Thursday, November 5th

10:30 AM-5:30 PM

Sign-in and Packet Pick-up

Sign-in takes place in the James C. Durkel Conference Center lobby.

1:00 - 2:00 PM

General Session

Movement for Life and Health!

Auditorium

Marty Kline, Yoga Instructor and Author and Mary Kob, O&M Specialist, Conroe ISD, Conroe, TX

Our pre-conference begins with a general session covering benefits, challenges and resources in teaching yoga and adapted physical education to individuals with visual impairments including those with additional disabilities.

2:00-2:30 PM

Break

Transition to James C. Durkel Conference Center for break. Light snacks are provided in the conference center.

2:30-3:25 PM, Breakouts Sessions

Yoga for Individuals with Visual Impairments (Blue Group)

Barraga/Silverrain Room

Marty Kline, Yoga Instructor and Author

This is a hands-on session about yoga for individuals with visual impairments.

Tying Adapted PE, Recreation and Leisure, and Movement to the Expanded Core Curriculum (Yellow Group)

Hatlen Room

Mary Kob, O&M Specialist, Conroe ISD, Conroe, TX

This hands-on session will share physical education, recreation and leisure, and other movement activities. Also included in this session is information about how these activities are tied to the Expanded Core Curriculum.

3:35-4:30 PM, Breakout Session (Attendees Rotate to Opposite Room)

Yoga for Individuals with Visual Impairments (Yellow Group)

Barraga/Silverrain Room

Marty Kline, Yoga Instructor and Author

Hands-on session about yoga for individuals with visual impairments.

Tying Adapted PE, Recreation and Leisure, and Movement to the Expanded Core Curriculum (Blue Group)

Hatlen Room

Mary Kob, O&M Specialist, Conroe ISD, Conroe, TX

This hands-on session will share physical education, recreation and leisure, and other movement activities. Also included in this session is information about how these activities are tied to the Expanded Core Curriculum.

SWOMA Sponsors include:



Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center and DARS-Division of Blind Services



Statewide Leadership Services for the Blind & Visually Impaired – Region 11 ESC



Stephen F. Austin State University



Texas School for the Blind & Visually Impaired

SWOMA Conference Agenda for Friday, November 6th

8:30 AM-5:00 PM

Registration opens: Sign-in continues until 5 PM.

James C. Durkel Conference Center Lobby

Participants need to sign-in each day of the SWOMA Conference that they attend in order to receive credit.

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

Looking Inside the Adaptive Brain of Individuals with Ocular Blindness and Cortical Visual Impairment

Dr. Lotfi Merabet, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, The Laboratory for Visual Neuroplasticity, Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary and Schepens Eye Research Institute, Harvard Medical School

Within the setting of visual deprivation, the brain undergoes dramatic reorganization in both its structure and function. Furthermore, these neuroplastic changes are intimately related to compensatory sensory and perceptual behaviors observed in individuals who are blind. Dr. Merabet will present how modern neuroimaging has helped reveal the relationship between the brain and behavior as it relates to blindness. He will also highlight differences between individuals who are visually impaired due to ocular causes as compared to those who have developmental damage to the visual cortex.

Break 10-10:30 AM

Breaks are set up in the Quad or in the Auditorium Foyer, depending on the weather. Only water may be carried into the Auditorium.

10:30-11:45 PM

General Session

Developing Spatial Navigation Skills through Video Games

Dr. Lotfi Merabet, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, the Laboratory for Visual Neuroplasticity, Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary and Schepens Eye Research Institute, Harvard Medical School

We have carried out a combined field and laboratory study investigating cognitive spatial mapping in individuals who are blind. Training and evaluation of navigation performance was carried out with a user-centered, computer-based navigation software platform called Auditory-based Environment Simulator (AbES). Using auditory spectral cues, a user learns to build a cognitive spatial map of their physical surroundings. Participants interact with AbES in order to navigate through a simulated virtual environment that represents an actual physical space. The ability to translate acquired spatial information was assessed with navigation tasks carried out in the actual physical environment. In a second phase of the study, we investigated the neural correlates associated with virtual navigation using functional magnetic imaging (fMRI). The results of this study will 1) help develop novel approaches for O&M and navigation training in the blind and 2) contribute new insights towards our understanding of the neural mechanisms associated with navigation and the adaption to blindness.

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.

Thanks to the SWOMA Planning Committee

Denise Brown

Carolina Gonzalez

Meghan Raney

Jill Brown

Tracy Hallak

Scott Meyer

Julie Brown

Beverly Jackson

Toni Provost

Lelan Miller COMS

Mary Kob

Alecia Self

Lisa Calaci

Mary Shore

Chris Tabb

1:00 - 2:30 PM

Breakout sessions:

Participants will select one of the following three sessions:

#1 Texas Two-Steps (Successfully Teaching Early Purposeful Skills)

Auditorium

Jill Brown, Tracy Hallak, Stephanie Isbell Walker, Michelle Johnson, Gema Nelson, Debra Sewell, Olga Uriegas, Shay Utley, Marjie Wood, Contributors to Texas Two-Steps

This session will provide up-to-date information about the new orientation and mobility assessment and curriculum for use with infants and toddlers.

#2 O&M for Travelers with Auditory Impairment

Hatlen Room

Lelan Miller, COMS and Author of "Ten Thousand Miles from Home", Austin, TX

O&M travelers with auditory impairment have a very wide range of vision and hearing capabilities that require coordination with the audiologist in addition to adaptations of O&M techniques and strategies. This presentation will begin with how normal hearing works, basic acoustic information needed for teaching O&M to the deafblind, finding important hearing information from the audiogram and a set of ten questions about the traveler's auditory impairment and needs that the O&M can ask the audiologist. This will be followed by discussion of different types of hearing impairment (sensorineural, conductive, mixed, and unilateral), etiologies of deafblindness, auditory equipment (hearing aids, cochlear implants, BAHA, and FM), auditory skills assessment, selecting auditory skills goals and IEPs, modifications of the O&M curriculum for those with hearing impairment, teaming with a sign language interpreter for O&M instruction, selection of canes for those who are deafblind, communication with the traveler and with the public, the impact of auditory impairment on standard O&M practices, and incorporating auditory training practices. This presentation is appropriate for instruction of O&M to the auditory impaired from preschool age through senior adulthood.

#3 Evaluation and Ongoing Instruction in Orientation and Mobility for Students with CVI

Barraga/Silverrain Room

Diane Sheline, TVI, and Developer of Strategies to See, Houston, TX

This session is repeated in the 3:00-4:30 PM session. During this session, Diane will briefly review the Ten Behavioral Characteristics of the CVI Range and discuss why they are important when working with students with CVI. She will also discuss the CVI Skills Inventory Strategies Worksheet to document mobility difficulties as well as strategies to use with students with CVI. Finally, Diane will review current Observation Protocol and Assessment Instruments which can be used with this population.

2:30-3:00 PM

Break

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

3:00 - 4:30 PM

Breakout Sessions

Participants will select one of the following three sessions:

#1 Vector Line Drawing Tactile Maps

Auditorium

Pat van Geem, Technology Consultant, TSBVI Outreach Programs and Ryan Conlin, COMS, TSBVI Comprehensive Programs

Participants, who are interested in creating line drawing maps generated by Microsoft Word 2010, may want to pay us a visit. Fellow TSBVI COMS, Ryan Conlin, took an interest in producing a tactile map using Word's drawing tools. He later field tested the map with a student, which was video recorded and will be shown in this session. We will also inform you as to how this map was produced and what guidelines were used to make it readable to the student.

#2 Audiology and Orientation and Mobility Collaboration

Hatlen Room

Chris Tabb, O&M Consultant, TSBVI Outreach Programs

After learning that audiologists, as a standard practice when prescribing and programming assistive devices for students and clients with dual sensory loss, work to eliminate the same “noise” that Orientation and Mobility Specialists advocate the use of for orientation to the environment, it became apparent that we need a way to have our two fields work together rather than oppose one another's efforts. This session provides tools and strategies for the orientation and mobility specialist to use with the student or client for evaluating and developing auditory skills, as well as for educating and collaborating with the audiologist, specialist for the auditorily impaired, and the speech and language pathologist.

#3 Evaluation and Ongoing Instruction in Orientation and Mobility for Students with CVI

Barraga/Silverrain Room

Diane Sheline, TVI

This is a repeat of the 1:00-2:30 PM session. During this session, Diane will briefly review the Ten Behavioral Characteristics of the CVI Range and discuss why they are important when working with students with CVI. She will also discuss the CVI Skills Inventory Strategies Worksheet to document mobility difficulties as well as strategies to use with students with CVI. Finally, Diane will review current Observation Protocol and Assessment Instruments which can be used with this population.

4:45 - 5:45 PM

After Hours Optional Activities

Blindfold Practice

Hatlen Room

Meet in the Conference Center Foyer. 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.

HumanWare Treasure Hunt

Barraga/Silverrain Room

Jim Sullivan from HumanWare will take you on a Treasure Hunt around the TSBVI Campus with Trekker Breeze+ Demonstration Units.

6:00 - 8:00 PM

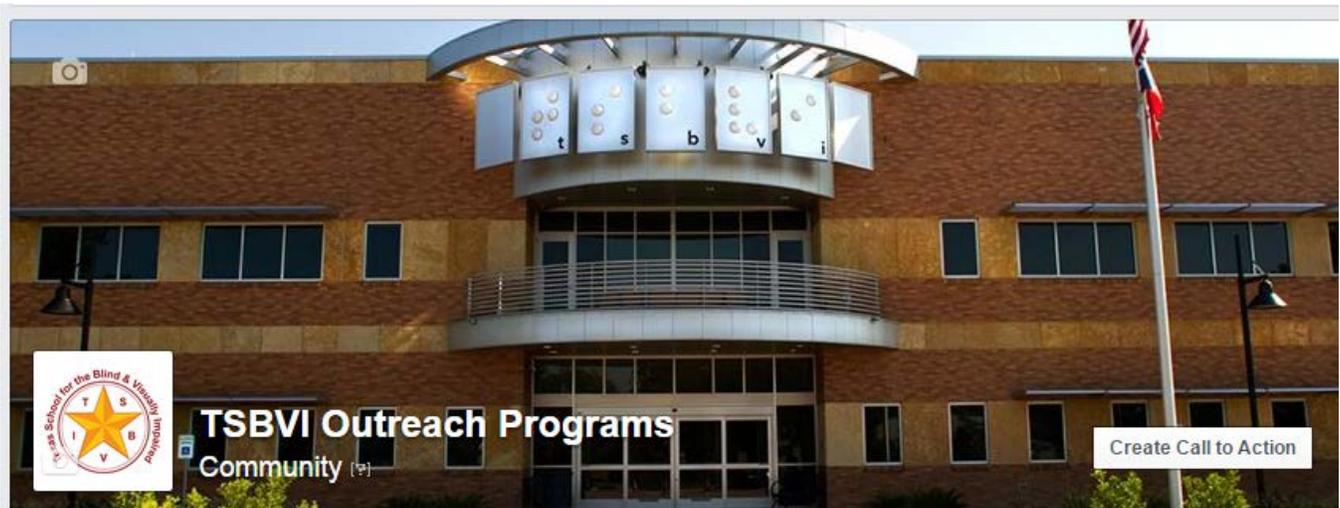
SWOMA Networking Social

Hyatt Place is the location for this happy hour social. Please stop by for this networking opportunity before heading out for dinner and fun. A cash bar is provided along with free non-alcoholic beverages and light hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Like us on Facebook!



<https://www.facebook.com/OutreachTSBVI>



Tweet us on Twitter !



https://twitter.com/TSBVI_Outreach

SWOMA Conference Agenda for Saturday, November 7th

8:30 - 10:00 AM

Breakout Sessions

Participants will select one of the following three sessions.

#1 Assessment to Intervention for Babies with Visual Impairments

Auditorium

Beverly Jackson, Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist, Education Specialist for ESC Region 13

This session will allow participants the opportunity to review and explore a variety of O&M assessment reports and case studies in order to plan intervention for infants with visual impairments who are typically developing and who have additional disabilities. Participants will examine a variety of routines, activities, and materials to support self-initiated and independent purposeful movement.

#2 Inspiring Independence In Adventitiously Blinded Adults

Hatlen Room

Scott Meyer and Staff from Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center, Austin, TX

Adults who come into CCRC have recently lost vision or have been blind a long time; sometimes even their whole life. These adults are taking a huge step, leaving their homes and get training. Many are very uncertain about their future. They wonder if they really can work and be independent again (or even for the first time). Will they regain their confidence and even happiness. To help with this DBS/CCRC do all we can to help these adults with training, but it also takes a very strong empowerment philosophy as well. This presentation will talk about many scenarios we encounter when working with adults and how we use a defined philosophy to get our adults working and living confidently and independently.

#3 Every Move Counts for Orientation and Mobility, Developing Purposeful Movement and Writing Appropriate Goals for Students who are MIVI

Barraga/Silverrain Room

Jane Korsten, Speech-Language Pathologist and Author of Every Move Counts

This session repeats in the 10:30-noon session. Every Move Counts is a sensory based approach to communication and assistive technology for individuals with significant sensory motor differences, developmental differences and autism. It represents the completion of a 33-month Innovative Research Grant awarded by the National Institutes of Health and funded through the National Institutes for the Neurologically and Communicatively Disordered. This approach is used throughout Texas and the United States especially with students who are visually impaired with severe multiple disabilities. This session will look at aspects of Every Move Counts and the part an orientation and mobility specialist might play in helping the child with visual impairments learn to use movements to communicate with others and also with the O&M during instruction.

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

Participants will select one of the following three sessions.

#1 Visual Impairment Scale of Service Intensity of Texas: Orientation and Mobility (OM-VISSIT)

Auditorium

Dr. Rona Poggrund, Professor, Coordinator of Program for Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments, Sowell Center for Research and Education in Sensory Disabilities, College of Education, Texas Tech University and Dr. Shannon Darst, TVI, and Heather Munro, TVI/COMS and SFASU Faculty

This session offers information about the new OM-VISSIT that is currently being developed for use in Texas.

#2 Student Voices: A facilitated panel discussion

Hatlen Room

Trenton Rowland, Jillian Daigle, Pedro Navarro, Josselyn Sosa, with Tracy Hallak, and Michael Munro from Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX

On this panel are four university students with visual impairments who will respond to questions about O&M services they received through-out their public education and the subsequent transitions from high school to higher education. This panel will be facilitated by staff from SFASU.

#3 Every Move Counts for Orientation and Mobility, Developing Purposeful Movement and Writing Appropriate Goals for Students who are MIVI

Barraga/Silverrain Room

Jane Korsten, Speech-Language Pathologist and Author of Every Move Counts

This is a repeat of the 8:30-10 AM session. Every Move Counts is a sensory based approach to communication and assistive technology for individuals with significant sensory motor differences, developmental differences and autism. It represents the completion of a 33-month Innovative Research Grant awarded by the National Institutes of Health and funded through the National Institutes for the Neurologically and Communicatively Disordered. This approach is used throughout Texas and the United States especially with students who are visually impaired with severe multiple disabilities.

This session will look at aspects of Every Move Counts and the part an orientation and mobility specialist might play in helping the child with visual impairments learn to use movements to communicate with others, and also with the O&M during instruction.

12:15 - 1:45 PM

SWOMA Working Luncheon

Cafeteria

During this very special working lunch a variety of vendors and poster session exhibits will be set up for participants to visit. Visit the various exhibits and chat with vendors and poster session presenters over lunch. Gather a sticker from each table you visit; complete all the exhibits and be entered into a drawing for free registration to the 2016 SWOMA Conference.

Vendors and Exhibits

1. All Blind Children
2. Ambutech
3. American Printing House for the Blind
4. Chrystal Vision
5. Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center and DARS-Division of Blind Services
6. Eschenbach
7. Guide Dogs for the Blind
8. HIMS, Inc.
9. Human Ware
10. Research Survey Questions
11. Stephen F. Austin State University Orientation & Mobility Program
12. SWOMA Conference Input Table
13. SWOMA Orientation & Mobility Services Database
14. Texas Tech Orientation & Mobility Program
15. TSBVI Curriculum Department
16. TSBVI Short Term Programs
17. TSBVI Outreach Programs

Evaluation and Certificate

Please be sure to sign-in for each session you attend; this is our only way to confirm you attended a session. You will be given a code at the end of each session; **this code will not be given at any other time so make sure you write it down before you leave the session.** Your attendance at each of the sessions will be recorded within a week. You will receive an email notification for you to complete the evaluation using the appropriate code for each session. **You MUST complete the evaluation within 60 days if you want credit or a certificate.** Once you complete the evaluation and enter the session code, you will be able to download your certificate.

Session Grid and Code Record

Day	Time	Location	Session Title	Code
THURSDAY	1:00 – 2:00 PM	Auditorium	Movement for Life and Health...	
	2:30 – 3:25 PM	Hatlen	Hands on Adapted Physical Education Activities	
		Silverrain/Barraga	Hands on Yoga Activity	
	3:35 – 4:30 PM	Hatlen	Hands on Adapted Physical Education Activities	
		Silverrain/Barraga	Hands on Yoga Activity	
FRIDAY	9:00 – 10:00 AM	Auditorium	Looking Inside the Adaptive Brain of Individuals with Ocular Blindness and CVI	
	10:30 - 11:45 AM	Auditorium	Developing Spatial Navigation Skills through Video Games	
	1:00 – 2:30 PM	Auditorium	#1 Texas Two-Steps	
		Hatlen	O&M for Travelers with Auditory Impairment	
		Silverrain/Barraga	Evaluation and Ongoing Instruction in Orientation and Mobility for Students with CVI	
	3:00 – 4:30 PM	Auditorium	Vector Line Drawing Tactile Maps	
		Hatlen	Audiology and Orientation and Mobility Collaboration	
		Silverrain/Barraga	Evaluation and Ongoing Instruction in Orientation and Mobility for Students with CVI	
	4:45 – 5:45 PM	Hatlen	Blindfold Practice	
		Silverrain/Barraga	HumanWare Treasure Hunt	
SATURDAY	8:30 – 10:00 AM	Auditorium	Assessment to Intervention for Babies with VI	
		Hatlen	Inspiring Independence In Adventitiously Blinded Adults	
		Silverrain/Barraga	Every Move Counts for Orientation and Mobility,	
	10:30 – 12:00 PM	Auditorium	Orientation and Mobility Visual Impairment Scale of Service Intensity of Texas (OM-VISSIT)	
		Hatlen	Student Voices: A facilitated panel discussion	
		Silverrain/Barraga	Every Move Counts for Orientation and Mobility,	
	12:15 – 1:45 PM	Cafeteria	SWOMA Working Luncheon	

Personal Session Choices:

Add your session choice here to have a personalized session guide.

Day/Time	Location	Session	Speaker
Thursday (optional) 1:00 – 2:00 PM	Auditorium	Movement for Life and Health...	Marty Kline Mary Kob
Thursday (optional) 2:30 – 3:25 PM			
Thursday (optional) 3:35 – 4:30 PM			
Friday 9:00 – 10:00 AM	Auditorium	Looking Inside the Adaptive Brain of Individuals with Ocular Blindness and CVI	Dr. Lotfi Merabet
Friday 10:30-11:45 AM	Auditorium	Developing Spatial Navigation Skills through Video Games	Dr. Lotfi Merabet
Friday 1:00 – 2:30 PM			
Friday 3:00 – 4:30 PM			
Friday (optional) 4:45 – 5:45 PM			
Saturday 8:30 – 10:00 AM			
Saturday 10:30 – 12:00 PM			
Saturday 12:15 – 1:45 PM	Cafeteria	SWOMA Working Luncheon	Exhibitors



"This project is supported by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). Opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the position of the U.S. Department of Education."