



President's Message

Joel Mittler, Ed.D.

As your new President, having been elected last year as President-elect, I'd like to introduce myself to you and discuss some of the ideas that I have for TAM. I am a Professor of Special Education at the C. W. Post campus of Long Island University, located on Long Island, New York, about 25 miles east of midtown Manhattan. I have been on the faculty for almost 30 years and served as Dean of the School of Education several years ago.

I was one of those folks fortunate enough to attend the very first CEC Technology Conference, held in Hartford, CT in 1983. At that conference an idea was born that CEC could use a division devoted to the use of technology with students with disabilities. One of the great heroes of our field, Gil Schiffman of The Johns Hopkins University, convened a meeting several months later and a group of like minded folks came together and formed TAM. I was fortunate enough to be both at the Hartford conference and at that later meeting. Like a relative that comes to visit and never leaves, I have been on the Board of TAM ever since the creation, having even served as President in 1990 and in many other roles, most recently as the Children's Action Network (CAN) coordinator.

I am an old time CECer, receiving my Doctorate at Teachers College, Columbia University, the place where CEC began and where my Department Chair, Dr. Francis Connors, a CEC Past President impressed upon us the importance of CEC and the responsibility that we had to be both members and, if we so desired, leaders. Thus, I assume this role with a bit of nostalgia for the "old days" but with a commitment to help TAM and CEC stay strong and relevant.

In these difficult economic times and with what appears to be a diminished interest in many of our nation's teachers

to support professional organizations such as CEC and TAM, I will work to not just strengthen our membership, but to serve our members as best as we can. We hope to maintain our communication with you through our well-regarded *Journal of Special Education Technology* (JSET) and our newsletter, the *TAM Connector*. We hope to offer you products for your professional development that enhance your skills through our publication program and, hopefully, some webinars that are now under development. While we no longer have a TAM conference, we hope to present a broad scope of presentations at the 2012 CEC Convention and Expo, to be held this spring in Denver, CO. Working with a wonderful Board, I hope to identify other ways to serve you, our members, and to strengthen TAM. Finally, I want to thank and acknowledge the wonderful work of our outgoing President, Brenda Heiman. She has served as both a friend and a mentor to me and I look forward to calling on her in the next year. I know that you join me in thanking her for a job well done.

I invite you to join with us with your ideas and your energy. Feel free to contact me at jmittler@liu.edu. In the meantime, I wish you all a very Happy New Year, a bit belated, and pledge to stay in touch.

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Web 2.0 for Teaching and Learning Fan

Interview with the Authors: Linda Carling and Kristen Thompson

Anya Evmenova

Linda Carling is the Program Director and Kristen Thompson is the Project Manager for Teaching and Learning Online at Johns Hopkins University School of Education, Center for Technology in Education. Ms. Carling and Ms. Thompson are the authors of the newest TAM product, *Web 2.0 for Teaching and Learning Fan*. The fan can be ordered by visiting the TAM website at <http://www.tamcec.org/publications/>.

Tell us about Web 2.0 for Teaching and Learning Fan.

There are so many great (and free) web resources that can be used in the K-12 and higher education classroom. Now more than ever, students and teachers can create engaging and rich multimedia projects and presentations, work collaboratively and efficiently, and overall find creative ways to enhance teaching and learning. However, since there are so many tools and resources available, we wanted to organize them in a way that allows teachers to easily find what they want based on their needs as well as select the best tool for them based on the tool's features. The Web 2.0 fan does this for them.

How do you envision TAM members using it?

We envision TAM members using the fan during lesson planning and professional development planning. We encourage users to be creative and discover new ways to use the Web 2.0 tools in teaching and learning.

Do you have any advice for TAM members who want to use your product for professional development activities?

We feel that this is a great resource for planning for professional development. Web 2.0 tools can enhance the professional development experience. For example, a professional developer can incorporate an engaging activity in the PD using one or more Web 2.0 tools or can use a Web 2.0 tool to enliven a content presentation. By doing this, they are modeling the effective use of these emergent technologies in instruction.

What do you think makes Web 2.0 Fan different from other publications on the same topic?

This publication is unique in that it provides over 60 tools that are organized

into categories for easy access. It goes beyond just listing the tool; each tool is described with specific features that help in the decision-making process of when and how to use the tool. Additionally, examples are provided for each tool to help educators gain ideas for creatively and effectively integrating the tools into teaching and learning.

Based on your personal experience, why do you think it is important to use Web 2.0 tools for teaching and learning?

Web 2.0 tools allow students and teachers to communicate, collaborate, and create learning products in new and exciting ways. They have the potential to engage students and allow them to demonstrate their learning through sophisticated multimedia-rich resources. Students and teachers can use collaboration tools to tackle complex problems in an efficient manner. Teachers can better collaborate with colleagues to share and gain new ideas for engaging students.

CAN Report

Much Delayed Federal Budget Passes

Joel Mittler, Ed.D., TAM CAN Coordinator

It should not be a surprise to anyone casually familiar with events in Washington during this Congress, which began in January 2011, to learn that things are not exactly moving along at a quick pace. As many of you know, the federal fiscal year began on October 1, 2011

and extends until next September 30, 2012. Commonly known as Fiscal Year 2012 (FY2012), Congress was expected to pass its appropriations by October 1, 2011. After much delay, the Congress finally did approve the FY2012 budget in

mid December 2011 and we finally have a budget in place for our current FY.

With all the concern about the economy and the need to balance the budget, it appears that IDEA funding held fairly steady with some small increases. Our
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Meet TAM's Newly Elected Member-at-Large

Dr. Cheryl Temple is the Program Manager of Assistive Technology Services in Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS), Virginia. In this role, she plans, manages, and coordinates programs and personnel who are responsible for providing assistive technology support to students and staff in FCPS. She has been working in the field of special education since 1976 after graduating from Illinois State University.



She continued education at George Mason University and completed her Ph.D. in 2006. She has co-authored the book, *Developing Your Assistive Technology Leadership: Best Practices for Success*. Dr. Temple loves teaching and is an adjunct faculty at George Mason University, University of Virginia, Shenandoah University, and Drexel University. She is a regular presenter at state, national, and international conferences and has conducted training for the United States Department of State's Office of Overseas Schools in Venezuela, Chile, Spain, France, Italy, Greece, and Egypt.

"I look forward to having the opportunity to serve on the Technology and Media (TAM) Board as a member-at-large. As a practitioner in the field of assistive technology, I hope to help expand the membership of TAM so that more professionals can take advantage of the valuable resources and products that TAM has available. Supporting the diverse learning needs of individuals with disabilities through the use of technology is my passion. I am excited to be a member of a group who values technology as one of the tools to help individuals with disabilities reach their full potential."

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Much Delayed Federal Budget Passes (continued from p. 2)

largest program, grants to states for school aged children (Pt. B.), received an increase of slightly more than \$100 million while most other IDEA programs received either small increases or cuts. Regrettably the IDEA Technology and Media Services program received a small cut of almost 3.5% or \$1 million. In an environment when there has been so much discussion about budget cuts and budget balancing, it appears that any increase should be celebrated. Unfortunately, there was no funding approved for the Javits Gifted and Talented program.

Things are not moving as well with the reauthorization of ESEA (formerly known as NCLB). While the Senate has moved a comprehensive bipartisan bill out of the Health, Education, Labor and Pension (HELP) Committee for consideration by the full Senate, the House of Representatives seems bogged down in partisan differences. The

House Education and the Workforce Committee has decided to address the reauthorization in a piecemeal fashion and has passed three smaller bills, one of which, concerning charter schools, was approved by the full House. However, it appears that negotiations have broken down between the House committee majority (Republicans) and the minority (Democrats) on crafting bipartisan legislation that addresses the bulk of ESEA. As the new year began, the Republican majority on the House Labor and Workforce Committee released their version. If it passes the full House without bipartisan support, it is predicted that the Democratic majority in the Senate would not concur and that the reauthorization would have to wait until the new 113th Congress begins in January 2013.

With the 2012 Presidential campaign starting to take much attention and the ongoing disputes in Washington

concerning tax and spending issues, it is hard to see too much attention being paid to education. Yet, our folks at CEC are actively working with the Department of Education and the Congress to be sure that students with disabilities and the gifted are protected.

If you wish to receive weekly updates from CEC or have any questions, feel free to contact me at jmittlerliu.edu.

TAM CONNECTOR

TAM Connector is published 4 times a year by the Technology & Media Division of the Council for Exceptional Children. Email all news items to Anya Evmenova (aevmenov@gmu.edu). Change of address should be sent to Susan Simmons at the Council for Exceptional Children, 2900 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000, Arlington, VA 22202-3557.

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