



ANYA EVMENOVA, EDITOR

MAY 2015

President's Message

Cheryl Temple, Ph.D., President TAM

2015 - The Year of Challenges, New Beginnings, and New Opportunities!



It is an exciting time for TAM members as the organization transitions to take advantage of new resources. Thanks to the vision and leadership of our Past-President, Dr. Margaret Bausch, who explored new options to move TAM forward, the current TAM Board has taken the opportunity to make her vision a reality.

Challenges

Along the journey, TAM has faced some challenges. Finding a new publisher for the *Journal of Special Education Technology* (JSET), a physical move to a new warehouse to store TAM products, and a new fulfillment process to purchase TAM products are among a few of the challenges we have faced in the last few months. However, these are minor challenges compared to the unexpected death of our journal editor, colleague, and friend, Dr. John Castellani, who died on March 25, 2015. John was the current JSET editor at the time of his death. He also served as President and Secretary of the TAM division in the past. John was an Associate Professor at Johns Hopkins School of Education. He devoted his career to improving the education of children and adolescents with disabilities (both in the classroom and out) and was a national leader in the field of educational technology. John will be dearly

missed as the TAM division continues to carry on the great work that he has been involved in for so long.

New Beginnings

The TAM Board has worked closely with CEC to explore new warehousing and fulfillment options as well as transitioning to a new publisher for JSET. We are close to finalizing a contract with SAGE Publishing, which will provide many new options for expanding the visibility of the journal. In addition, members will have access to archived JSETs, articles will be published sooner, and the submission process will be faster. The TAM website is another area that we will begin to focus on in 2015. Our goal is to expand the resources available on the website, so that it is a place where all members will be able to obtain new and relevant information.

New Opportunities

The TAM Business Meeting, which was held on April 9, 2015 at the CEC conference in San Diego, was well attended and the room was full of energetic TAM members. We brainstormed new ideas and discussed new opportunities for TAM members to become involved in the organization. Some of these opportunities are:

- Volunteer to become part of a TAM committee
- Apply to be an officer on the TAM Board
- Apply for Journal Editor
- Contact any board member to see how you can share your expertise
- Join the 162 members on the TAM Facebook page *Technology and Media Division of the Council for Exceptional Children*
- Participate in the Legislative Summit July 12 – 15 in Alexandria, VA and meet other CEC and TAM members
<http://specialeducationlegislativesummit.org/>

I hope everyone will take advantage of the opportunity to have an impact on the future of TAM. In order to move forward, we need your involvement!



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Meet TAM's New Board Members

President-Elect



Dr. Cynthia Okolo is the professor in special education at Michigan State University. "I am pleased to serve as President Elect of TAM. I teach

courses in AT, UDL, & instructional methods. My research focuses on improving instruction in the content areas for students with mild disabilities. Technology has always been a major component of my research program, and my colleagues and I have developed and investigated several online learning tools. I want to support members by networking, creating and disseminating relevant and timely information, virtual & face-to-face meetings, conference presentations, offering innovative

Member-at Large



Dr. James Basham is the associate professor in special education at the University of Kansas. "From when I was a young teacher, I always considered

TAM as a leading organization in the field of special education technology. In fact, I remember learning about the use of technology for individuals with disabilities by reading articles in the Journal of Special Education Technology (JSET). Since that time society, the field of practice, and organization have gone through countless changes. After years of watching this transformation, CEC and TAM are focused on reclaiming their leading stature within the profession. As I start my tenure on

products that can help you better integrate technology into your educational or clinical work. This year I'm also serving as the TAM representative to Program Advisory Committee for the CEC's 2016 annual conference. The advisory committee is attempting to broaden the focus of conference presentations a bit by involving more practitioners. We hope to see more presentations based on systematic evidence rooted in practice. I would like to encourage you to submit a proposal. It is due on June 22nd. I hope to have the opportunity to hear from you."

the executive board, I am looking forward to working on recapturing the spirit of an organization on the cutting edge of practice. As a group we are focused on revitalizing the engagement with the ever changing professional community. I think this is an exciting time for TAM and the future of CEC! TAM provides a wonderful opportunity for those who are looking to serve and give back to professional community. I am hopeful that many more individuals will consider becoming active members in TAM leadership. If you are interested, simply reach out to someone on the team."

John Castellani Tribute

Joy Zabala, Ed.D.



Our dear friend and esteemed colleague, Dr. John D. Castellani, passed away unexpectedly on March 25, 2015. John was deeply involved in the leadership of TAM, having previously served as president and, at the time of his death, as the editor of the Journal of Special Education Technology (JSET).

Professionally, John is widely remembered for his intellect, warmth, and passion for his work and deep commitment to improving the education and outcomes of students with disabilities. A former high school special educator, John earned a Ph.D. at George Mason University and served on the faculty of Johns Hopkins University School of Education for 15 years. At JHU, John was instrumental in establishing the Technology for Educators master's program and three graduate level certificate programs. He worked on many projects with the Maryland State Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Education. He was widely published and a valued collaborator in numerous projects across the USA and internationally.

Personally, John was an extraordinarily kind person with an ever-engaging personality. The intelligence, integrity, and sense of humor that made him a valuable colleague also made him a trusted friend. He was able to find a bit of humor in every situation no matter how difficult. He valued his friends, colleagues and students and maintained relationships

with integrity, genuineness, and respect. He led by example, believing in the goodness of each person, and brought out the very best in those fortunate enough to know him.

John is deeply missed by his family, his friends, and his colleagues for so many reasons, not the least of which is that he was a world-class hugger! Rest in peace dear friend.

NOTE: John was a classically trained pianist who loved music. A memorial fund in his honor has been established at the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University. For more information visit <https://secure.jhu.edu/form/peabody>.



Short Story: My AT Story

Yoosun Chung, Ph.D., George Mason University



Hello, my name is Yoosun Chung, and I am an associate professor in the special education department at George Mason University. I have taught several graduate special education courses, mostly related to Assistive Technology (AT). On top of that, I am also benefiting from AT myself.

I have cerebral palsy, which affects my speech as well as my mobility. I have difficulty speaking with my own voice, especially in English. I am originally from Korea. I came to America to study after graduating from high school in Korea. As a person who uses English as a second language, there is no doubt that I am much more fluent in Korean than I am in English. However, when I find myself in stressful situations, it is difficult for me to speak to others, regardless of whether I am speaking in Korean or in English.

I majored in computer science for both my bachelor's and master's degrees. I changed my major to AT for my doctoral degree. After I thought over my future career, I changed my major to AT because I always wanted to take a more active role in the disability community.

By the way, I did not know that communication devices even existed in the world, until I studied AT. When I studied computer science for my bachelor's and master's degrees, I just simply closed my mouth for the entire school years. I began to accept this common situation as my destiny. I told myself that destiny cannot be changed by human power,

so I had nothing that I could do but to accept it. However, after using my communication device, I realized that destiny can be changed through a combination of strong will, plus a little help from my communication device.

At first, I had an internal dilemma in deciding whether or not to use an Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) system myself. What I worried about was the possibility I might never be able to speak in public with my own voice if I depended on an AAC too much. I worried that I might become less and less brave to talk with my own voice. Because of these concerns, I was not sure whether using AAC was the ultimate solution to overcome my speech difficulties. However, I now want to assert that speech is one of many communication methods, and using AAC is an important alternative for people who have difficulty speaking naturally.

When a teaching job was offered to me right after earning a Ph.D., I hesitated very much whether to accept the offer. I thought, how could I teach students at the University? I know I cannot speak even a word when I am nervous. How could I? After I was thinking and thinking, I decided to accept this excellent opportunity. I have a strong educational background. I have my communication tool. I can utilize PowerPoint presentations. I realized that I should have self-confidence. I thought about Dr. Stephen Hawking. He completely lost his speech abilities, but with his communication device, he gives lectures all over the world. I guess my speech condition is much better than his. Of course, I am not smarter than he is though.

But I thought, if he could do it, I could do it. And, actually I have taught students at the University for many years.

Based on my personal experience as well as professional experience working in the AT field, I would like to assert that AT, including AAC, can make impossible things become possible. Who could have imagined that I would become a professor who teaches graduate level courses at a university in English in America? It could not have been possible without my AAC. AT is AWESOME!

Call for Editor

The Technology and Media (TAM) Division of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) seeks applicants for the position of Editor or a Co-Editor Team, of the *Journal of Special Education Technology (JSET)*, for a term of 5 years that will begin in January 2016. The first issue under the direction of the editor is anticipated to be Volume 31, Issue 1, published in Spring 2016.

About *JSET*

JSET is a peer-reviewed, refereed professional journal, published four times a year, that presents up-to-date information and opinions about issues, research, policy, and practice related to the use of technology in the field of special education. *JSET* supports the publication of research and development activities, provides technological information and resources, and presents important information and discussion concerning issues in the field of special education technology to scholars, teacher educators, and practitioners.

Qualifications and Responsibilities

Qualifications for the position are an established record of scholarship in the disabilities and technology field, national/international reputation in the field, managerial skills necessary to oversee the editorial cycle, member in good standing of TAM, and the ability to recruit and retain respected experts to the editorial board.

The main responsibilities of the Editor of *JSET* are:

- Processing manuscript submissions using an online document management system and overseeing the peer review of approximately 100 manuscripts a year.
- Soliciting high quality manuscripts from potential authors and assisting them in developing their manuscripts for publication.
- Managing an existing pool of expert reviewers and recruiting and selecting new reviewers.
- Synthesizing reviewers' opinions and making decisions regarding publication of manuscripts in a timely manner.
- Editing manuscripts and working directly with the journal publisher (e.g., copyediting and layout) to publish a print version and pre-print online publication of issues.
- Providing a clear vision for the direction of the journal.
- Attending monthly virtual TAM board meetings as a voting member of the Executive Board.
- Attending the annual TAM board meeting held at the national conference of CEC.



Applicants must have clear employer or institutional support for this activity for the duration of their appointment, including release time and general office support. TAM/the publisher provides an annual stipend of \$3000 to help support the editor(s) and staff, but does not pay for office space or release time.

Application Process

Interested individuals should prepare and submit an application via e-mail including the following:

- **Letter of Application** that describes your qualifications for the role of Editor(s) of *JSET*, including but not limited to, past experiences as a reviewer and member of a journal editorial team, experience as a guest (e.g., topical issue) or regular editor of a journal or similar publication, national or international recognition as a scholar and leader in the field of special education technology, and a demonstrated capacity to manage deadlines and recruit and retain contributors to projects.
- **Vision Statement** that provides a clear description of your vision for *JSET* under your leadership. The statement should set forth your goals and plans for the content of the journal, the model you propose using, and a description of how you will manage the editorship. Applications presenting a team model (e.g., co-editors, associate editors) are encouraged.
- **Vita** that includes your reviewer and editorial experiences, background in special education technology, current affiliations with professional organization in the field, and contact information.
- **Evidence of Institutional Support**, which should include a letter(s) of support or other documentation that describes and confirms the degree and type of support that will be provided by your employer should you be selected for the position.

The Publications Committee will review applications beginning immediately and continue through September 1, 2015. The new editor will be announced in December 2015. Interviews will be conducted using web conferencing technology.

Applications will be accepted via e-mail only. Send applications and attachments to Dr. Margaret Bausch (meb@uky.edu), Co-chair of the Publications Committee, by September 1, 2015.



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TAM Nominations

TAM members are invited to nominate themselves or other members for a position on the TAM Executive Board. Nominations are sought for the positions of **President-Elect**, **Member-at-Large**, and **Secretary** to serve during 2016. The individual elected to be the President-Elect serves a three-year term: the first year as President-Elect, the second year as President, and the third year as Past-President. In order to be considered for the position of President-Elect, the nominee must have at least two years of leadership experience within TAM. The Member-at-Large serves a term of two years, serves as Chair of the Membership Committee and as a delegate to CEC's Representative Assembly. The Secretary serves a term of two years, attends all board meetings, and records minutes. All elected executive board members are expected to attend the day-long executive board meeting held during the annual CEC conference, the summer leadership institute held at CEC headquarters, participate in monthly conference calls, and be an active participant on the TAM board. Members interested in serving TAM by running for these offices should submit the following information by **July 31, 2015**:

- Name
- Phone number
- E-mail address
- Position for which you wish to be nominated
- Biographical information, limited to 100 words, which will be used by the Nominations Committee to determine the slate of candidates and presented to the membership during the voting process.

Nominations that include the above information should be sent via e-mail to the TAM Nominations Committee chairperson, Margaret Bausch, at meb@uky.edu.



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