The Notre Dame Disability Studies Forum presents

B L I N D N E S S
A SYMPOSIUM

Friday, March 6, 2009
9:00 a.m.–5:45 p.m.
McKenna Hall, University of Notre Dame

Keynote
Marc Maurer, ND '74
President of the National Federation of the Blind

Speakers
Edward Wheatley
Edward L. Surtz Professor of Medieval Literature, Loyola University, Chicago

Adolph Kiefer, Shelley Kiefer, and **David Gatz**
Kiefer Products

Georg Bodammer
Venture Manager, Siemens, Munich

Paul Down
Associate Professor of Industrial Design
Fernando Carvalho
(MFA Candidate in Industrial Design) University of Notre Dame

Essaka Joshua
Special Professional Faculty, Departments of Philosophy and English, University of Notre Dame

The Notre Dame Disability Studies Forum is hosting speakers from arts-based and technology-based disciplines to discuss the culture and technology surrounding blindness and partial sight.
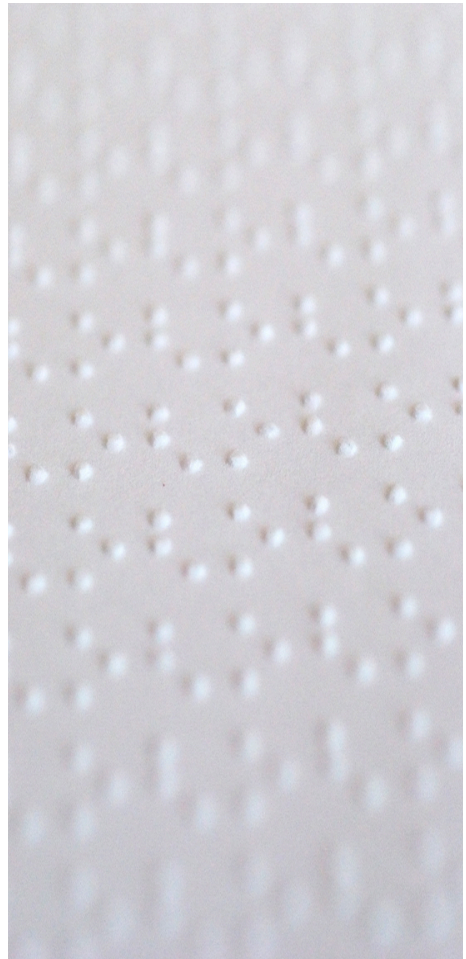
Technology Fair
Exhibitors include: Bosma Enterprises, Easter Seals Crossroads Assistive Technology Center, Eye Can See, GW Micro, Hadley School for the Blind, Indiana Talking Book and Braille Library, RFB&D, Sendero Group, and Social Security Administration

This event is part of a year-long series of talks hosted by the Notre Dame Disability Studies Forum.

For registration, contact Essaka Joshua at **ejoshua@nd.edu.**

There is no fee and all are welcome.

in celebration of the bicentenary of the birth of Louis Braille

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Schedule

8:30 a.m.
Coffee and light snacks available throughout the morning
McKenna Atrium

9–9:15 a.m.
Introduction and welcome
Essaka Joshua, Special Professional Faculty, Departments of Philosophy and English, University of Notre Dame, and John McGreevy, Dean of the College of Arts and Letters
McKenna Auditorium

9:15–10:15 a.m.
Research Paper
Edward Wheatley, Surtz Professor of Medieval Literature, Loyola University, Chicago
"Stumbling Blocks Before the Blind: Constructions of a Disability in Medieval England and France"
McKenna Auditorium

10:15–10:45 a.m.
Coffee Break
McKenna Atrium

10:45–11:45 a.m.
Keynote Speaker
Marc Maurer, ND '74, President of the National Federation of the Blind
McKenna Auditorium

11:45 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Student Discussion With Marc Maurer Facilitated by James Fetter, PhD candidate in Political Science, University of Notre Dame
McKenna Auditorium

12:30–1:30 p.m.
Lunch break
(Coffee is available in the McKenna Dining Room throughout the afternoon.)

1:30–5:45 p.m.
Blindness Technology Fair
Exhibits in McKenna Dining Room
Product demonstrations in McKenna Hall, Room 112–114

1:30–2 p.m.
Research Paper
Georg Bodammer, Venture Manager, Siemens, Munich, Germany
"A Prototype Cognitive Aid System for the Blind and Partially Sighted"
McKenna Hall, Room 210–214

2–2:15 p.m.
Coffee Break
McKenna Dining Room

2:15–3:15 p.m.
Research Paper
Essaka Joshua, Special Professional Faculty, Departments of Philosophy and English, University of Notre Dame
"'Blind Vacancy:' Sighted Culture and Voyeuristic Historiography in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*"

3:15–3:30 p.m.
Coffee Break
McKenna Dining Room

3:30–4:15 p.m.
Research Paper and Panel Q&A
Paul Down, Associate Professor of Industrial Design, and Fernando Carvalho, (MFA Candidate in Industrial Design), University of Notre Dame
"Finding Independence through Low-Tech Design"
Panel includes Adolph Kiefer, Shelley Kiefer, and David Gatz, Kiefer Products
McKenna Hall, Room 210–214

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