U.S. Sen. Tom Carper (D-Del.) visited the New Castle County Assistive Technology Resource Center at the Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington on Monday, April 9, for a first hand look at the wide range of reusable assistive devices available to individuals with disabilities.

Carper's visit followed an announcement by UD President David P. Roselle earlier this year that the Delaware Assistive Technology Initiative (DATI) at the University of Delaware was the recipient of a three-year, $600,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Rehabilitation Services Administration to improve access to assistive devices by Delawareans with disabilities.

Assistive technology includes any device that helps people with disabilities complete various tasks, from canes, walkers and special chairs to unique hardware and software for computers.

"We heard about a similar initiative in New Jersey," Carper said. "We are looking for ways to turn the used technology around, and we want to let the people in Washington, D.C., know about the things that DATI is up to."

Among its services, DATI operates assistive technology resource centers in each county to provide equipment demonstrations and short-term loans of equipment for trial use periods at no cost. Two new loan programs are in the works that would allow Delawareans to borrow money to purchase assistive technology, including a program that would guarantee loans for individuals who

continued on page 2
"We are about to open a new loan program where people can borrow money to purchase assistive technology and pay back the amount over a period of time," Beth Mineo Mollica, DATI director, said. "Our assistive technology resource centers help people find devices that will let them learn and work and play and live more safely in their communities."

Individuals can visit the resource center and learn about the tools available and take them to their school, home or workplace to try them out, Mollica said.

"Not all technology is high-tech. A small or simple device can also make a big difference," Mollica said. "A lot of this depends on the person using the device and what their financial resources are."

During the tour, Carper was given a demonstration of several assistive devices by Marvin Williams, an assistive technology specialist at the center.

Assistive devices on display included Kurzweil 3000 comprehensive reading, writing and learning software that converts scanned text to audio files. Also on display were a dome magnifier that looks like a king-sized paperweight, a Beamer TV-video phone and an Ameriphone P3000 picture phone. Low-tech devices included a slant board to facilitate reading and writing, as well as a pair of "reachers" that make it easier for users to reach and grasp certain objects.

"If people need something, they come to me, and I reach into my bag of tricks and find something for them," Williams said. "The Kurzweil software lets people with visual impairments hear what is in the book. They don't have to miss out on the things they used to enjoy."

Recognizing how much equipment was out there but not being used, in 1993 DATI launched an assistive technology exchange program that enables individuals to buy, sell or give away used devices through "want ads." At that time, those having devices and those looking for devices called a central number to place their listings, which were then published quarterly in The AT Messenger, the DATI's newsletter. With the launch of the DATI's multi-featured web site [www.dati.org] in March 2004, the service became automated, making it much more interactive and efficient.

DATI also operates an assistive technology exchange online want ads web site at [www.dati.org/v3/index.php] that puts people with technology they no longer need in touch with those seeking such technology.

Mollica said that she hoped Carper's visit would help spread the word out about DATI and let First State residents know about the services available at the resource centers.

"We want to get everybody, including state agencies, involved," Mollica said. "We also would like to get large corporations to donate technology they would ordinarily discard when they move up to a newer level. DATI is a way to keep things out of the landfill and get them to the people who need them."

This article was excerpted from one that originally appeared in the April 11 issue of the UDaily. It is reprinted here with the permission of the Office of Public Relations at the University of Delaware.
Sometimes schools will say that they are precluded from providing text alternatives to students with print disabilities because they are concerned about violating copyright law. Several months ago, I asked Ron Hager, Staff Attorney with the National Assistive Technology Advocacy Project (a project of Neighborhood Legal Services, Inc. in Buffalo, New York), to weigh in on this issue. Here is his response:

Pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA 04), States are required to ensure that "blind persons or persons with print disabilities" receive instructional materials in accessible formats in a timely manner. 20 U.S.C. § 1412(a)(23). IDEA 04 does not define the phrase, "blind persons or other persons with print disabilities." However, the "Act to provide books for the adult blind," 2 U.S.C. § 135a, does. The final 2006 regulations implementing IDEA 04 make it clear that the definition from 2 U.S.C. §135a applies to the IDEA 04 requirement. 34 C.F.R. § 300.172(e)(1)(I).

IDEA 04 also amends a provision of the Federal Copyright Law which provides an exception to the Copyright provisions, by adding a section that specifies that it is not a violation of Copyright Law to comply with the above-referenced provision of IDEA 04 for "blind or other persons with disabilities." IDEA 04, Title III, Section 306. At first read, this sounds like a broader exception under the Copyright Law than is contained in 2 U.S.C. § 135a, does. The final 2006 regulations implementing IDEA 04 make it clear that the definition from 2 U.S.C. §135a applies to the IDEA 04 requirement. 34 C.F.R. § 300.172(e)(1)(I).

Possible Resolution
1. Fit the student within the definition of "blind or other person with print disabilities."
The regulations defining this term include:
   (1) blind persons; (2) persons whose visual disability, with correction, "prevents the reading of standard print material;" (3) persons "unable to read or unable to use standard printed materials as a result of physical limitations" (some persons with cerebral palsy, for example, may fit into this category); and (4) "persons certified by a competent authority as having a reading disability resulting from organic dysfunction and of sufficient severity to prevent their reading printed materials in a normal manner." 36 C.F.R. §701.6(b)(1). I believe virtually any student needing an alternative format should be able to fit within this category, especially as we increasingly find organic components to disabilities. If it is not organic, then what causes a learning disability or ADD/ADHD? It is not emotional. To emphasize this point, OSEP refused to remove the term "minimal brain dysfunction" from the definition of learning disability. 71 FR 46551. The comments to the final regulations even indicate that "bipolar dis-
orders and other neurologic disorders" fit within the definition of other health impaired. 71 FR 46550.

All four categories listed above require that a person's eligibility be certified by "competent authority." For our purposes, "competent authority" for this fourth category is defined as "doctors of medicine who may consult with colleagues in associated disciplines." 36 C.F.R. § 701.6(b)(2)(ii). Under the definition of related services, physicians are permitted to do evaluations to "determine a child's medically related disability that results in the child's need for special education and related services." 34 C.F.R. § 300.34(c)(5). The determination of whether or not a child has an organic condition that requires alternate instructional materials would seem to me to meet this definition. Therefore, as part of the evaluation of a student, a physician could assess a student with reading difficulties, which could include a review of other evaluations, and, where appropriate, "certify" the student. In such a case, the district would be protected by the Copyright exception. It would also be easier for the district to provide the materials to the student, as it could now utilize the NIMAC [the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Center], which would also provide better protections for the student.

2. Fair Use Exception
Another possible protection for schools from Copyright concerns is the "fair use" exception also writ-

The case arose because California law requires that parents of special education students be provided with a copy of the test protocol used for the student, which is copyrighted material. A school district brought the case for a declaration of its rights in relation to the Copyright Law. The district felt that it was faced with the problem of either violating a provision of California special education law or a provision of Federal Copyright Law (sound familiar?). The court found that providing the parents with a copy of the copyrighted test protocol, even if it amounted to the entire text of the copyrighted material, did not violate the Copyright Law. The court found that it fit within the fair use exception. I believe this same analysis would apply to districts providing instructional materials in alternate formats to students with disabilities in order to meet their obligations under State and Federal special education laws.

"A big "thank you" to Ron for his insightful analysis of this complex issue!"

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Doors Open on New Financial Loan Programs

Need assistive technology (AT) but can't afford to purchase it? Because many devices are expensive, folks are often forced to go without. Insurance and state agencies rarely pay for AT such as hearing aids, vehicle and home modifications, and adaptive computer hardware. Sometimes you can only get funding for a "bare bones" device that doesn't really meet your needs. In other cases, you may be eligible for funding through insurance or a state agency, but you can't afford to wait months to get the device because you need it right now. If any of these describe your situation, the Delaware Assistive Technology Loan Program may be an option to consider.

The DATLP offers consumer counseling to help you determine whether a loan is the right funding option for you. A program staff member will talk with you about the many AT device options available and how you know which device is right for you. Staff will also make sure you are aware of other funding options, and will review with you the continued on page 5
Doors Open on Loan Programs (continued)

rights and responsibilities associated with borrowing money.

Any Delaware resident with a disability who needs an AT device, home modification, or vehicle modification may apply for a loan through the program. Family members and caretakers, in some instances, may also apply for a loan on behalf of someone with a disability.

The amount of money you will be able to borrow depends on what type of device, equipment, or service you plan to purchase using the money, and on how much you can afford to borrow. Loans are available for any amount between $500 and $30,000, and the length of the loan period is flexible, although it cannot be more than the expected useful life of what you are purchasing. For example, some home modification loans might be for as long as 10 years, yet loans for computers typically need to be paid off in three years or less.

The DATLP will take your unique circumstances into consideration when deciding whether you qualify for a loan. The program may also make special arrangements to make loan repayment affordable for you. Program staff is available to provide guidance and support from the time you first inquire about the possibility of a loan through the loan application process itself. However, as with any loan, you will be expected to provide information regarding your income, expenses, debt, and credit history.

Also new on the scene is the Delaware Telework Equipment Loan Program. This program works just like the DATLP, but is specially designed to enable Delawareans with disabilities to get the equipment that they need to work from home or other locations remote from an employer. This loan program can be used to acquire computers, software, other office machines, telecommunications systems, office furniture, home modifications, and traditional AT.

Both programs are funded by federal grants awarded to the Delaware Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and managed by the DATI. We are delighted that the DEXSTA Federal Credit Union and WSFS Bank are serving as our lending partners on this initiative. For more information about the program, please contact Linda Kelly at DATI’s New Castle County location.

Something To Talk About

DATI now has a discussion board on its website. For those of you who may be new to the world of online discussion boards, a discussion board is a place where you can post questions and messages, and respond to questions and messages left by others. It’s also a place to share information for the greater benefit of the community. Suppose you have a question on just how you go about getting a wheelchair for your mother-in-law who lives with you or about how to get a hearing aid. You can post those questions on the message board, and someone from DATI will try to answer your question. However, someone else may know the answer, and that person can chime in with her experience as well. That is the power of the discussion board—it’s dynamic and growing. The answers stay on the board so that if folks have the same question some time later, they can find the answer on the board. Also, if someone wants to update information on a topic for everyone, it can be done right on the discussion board.

Besides being another place to get info from DATI, the discussion board is a place where you all can interact as an online community and help each other out. It gives us a chance to tap in to the knowledge that all of you have and share it with the group.

To begin, just sign in on the DATI website and select "Discussion Board" from the list of available options. You do have to be a registered user in order to post comments and participate, but you don’t have to be registered in order to read the postings. So what are you waiting for? Log on and see what’s going on!
Hello, True Believers, and welcome to our Spring installment of the AT Bargain Basement. This is the home of the assistive technology bargain, and I am your host, Marvin. For those of you who are new to the Bargain Basement, welcome! Pull up a seat and get nice and comfortable. If you're a Bargain Basement regular, welcome back! It's always good to have new and familiar friends on the journey through the land of the AT Bargain. Before we get started, I'll review our rules of engagement. First, I try to bring you all the best AT I can find for $100 or less. Second, I try to bring you local items that you can purchase in local stores. However, in order to bring you the best bargains I can, I do also list items I have found online. Third, I will always share with all of you the wonderful ideas and bargains that you and your fellow Basementeers bring me. Lastly, I hope you have fun! With that said, let's get to the bargains!

First off I want to revisit a bargain that I brought you in the last issue of the Basement. I mentioned the "Now You Can Find It" electronic locater from Sharper Image. We now have that unit available for loan through your local ATRC. To recap what it does, you can attach up to eight of the remote "find me" units to whatever it is you keep losing and need help keeping track of. Then, when you look for that missing item, you can press the locater button for it and the "finder" device will flash a light corresponding to the number and color of the lost item. The device retails for $49.95 through Sharper Image, but before you buy it, feel free to try it. Contact your local ATRC for help on borrowing one to try.

Since summer is right around the corner, many folks will be trying to keep cool. And with rising electric costs, some folks won't be running big AC units. Instead, they'll turn to the old standard for keeping cool—the electric fan. Fans can be a lower power alternative to running the AC for some folks. For many people, keeping cool is important due to different medications they are on or due to problems regulating their body temperatures. For this reason, many do turn to fans to keep cool in a simple, effective manner. One fan that is a great bargain is the Lasko Pro-hv High Velocity Oscillating Blower Fan. It's a nice unit that has power without taking up a lot of space. It is available from Home Depot for $59.99. As with anything you see in the Bargain Basement, check with your local store for availability and for any variations in pricing.

My next bargain is the LifeWise™ Compact Air Purifier, available at Radio Shack. It is another small, compact unit that does a great job in cleaning the air, especially if you have a dusty room or a room where you keep the windows open and pollen from outside comes right in. It does a great job removing dust, pollen, smoke, mold spores, and cat dander from the air. The air is then pulled through the filter by the whisper-quiet fan. Perhaps one of the greatest things about this filter is that it is designed so that the actual filter part never has to be replaced—simply tap it over a trash can to remove the larger particles, then gently use a vacuum attachment to clean the rest. Placing it under running water easily cleans the pre-filter. This unit is indeed a bargain at only $39.97. Do note, all of you Radio Shack online fans, that this bargain can only be had in your local store, so make sure you give them a call to see if they still have them in stock.

My next two bargains are pretty neat little devices available through the Radio Shack website, www.radioshack.com. The first is the Oregon Scientific PE829 Talking Pedometer with FM Radio. What makes this unit nice is that it will give you a voice announcement of the distance you've walked,
Quick AT for a Temporary Disability

Dan Fendler, AT Specialist
Sussex County ATRC

Recently, I got a call from my son Brian's science teacher. She had broken her predominant arm in a fall, had a cast on, and was having a tough time using the computer. She wanted to know if there was anything that could help her during the time she would be wearing a cast.

We often get calls from people experiencing temporary disabilities resulting from accidents, surgeries, or other circumstances. Often, they do not know where to turn for help, and may not be aware that help is indeed available.

A loss in mobility, such as Brian's teacher had experienced, can impact an individual's day-to-day life in many ways. The loss of a predominant arm has a particularly dramatic impact. It will affect everything, including dressing, bathing, grooming, driving, keyboarding, and working. In this case, there are a number of things that can help.

One-handed Computer Tips

There happen to be a number of things to try if you need to access a computer using one hand. Be
A Temporary Disability (continued)

aware that there are a number of keyboards available that can help one-handed typists. There are a number of different keyboard layouts available—that is, keyboards with the keys placed differently than standard keyboards. Alternate keyboard layouts can contribute to faster typing speeds, but many people are reluctant to learn other layouts. If learning a new keyboard layout is not your cup of tea, consider using a smaller keyboard. Using a keyboard with smaller keys can make it easier to span the keys with your hand, useful for performing multiple press keystrokes.

You can also use several accessibility features of the Windows operating system. StickyKeys is a setting that is included in the XP operating system. For a one-handed typist, it can help with capitalization. Turning it on will help you capitalize the first letter of a sentence, eliminating the need to hold the shift key and another key simultaneously. With StickyKeys on, pressing the shift key and releasing it will cause the next letter to be capitalized. The StickyKeys setting can be found in the Windows Control Panel under Accessibility Options.

Another Windows XP feature that might help is switching the right and left mouse buttons. If you need to use the mouse with your left hand, you can change (reverse) the buttons to make it easier to use. The settings for reversing the mouse buttons can be found in the Windows Control Panel under Mouse options.

The single most productive feature to try is the use of a speech-to-text product such as Dragon Naturally Speaking (DNS). DNS will allow you to "train" your computer to understand your voice, and turn it into text. This can greatly reduce the number of keystrokes you need to make. Many people are hesitant to spend the money to purchase DNS, but if you already own a Microsoft Word 2003 license (or newer), you already have DNS on your computer. All you need to do is turn it on and train it. In order to turn it on, fire up Word, select Tools, then select Speech (see Figure 1). You will be prompted to read several passages so that the computer can learn to recognize your voice. Once done, you will be able to "talk" to your computer. If the DNS components were not installed when you installed MS Word on your computer, you may need to reinsert the MS Word disc to activate DNS.

The new Windows Vista operating system has several new accessibility features built into it. Check the Microsoft website, www.microsoft.com/enable/products/windowsvista, for more detailed information.

Other Temporary Disabilities

One of the items in our library for which we get frequent requests are our portable, folding ramps. Many people who have either had an accident or surgery may need assistance getting in and out of their house due to the use of a wheelchair or crutches. The folding ramps can provide easier access to a home with three- or four-stair entrances.

Whatever your temporary need, if you need some assistance with Assistive Technology, give us a call. We're here to help.
We've all occasionally experienced challenges caused by memory loss:

- Being late because we couldn't remember where we put our car keys.
- Walking into a room then forgetting why we went there.
- Forgetting someone's name.

Millions of Americans face the challenges caused by memory loss on a daily basis. Chronic memory loss may interfere with the ability to live a productive life and threatens independence.

Memory loss may be temporary or it may last a lifetime. Causes include:

- Stress/fatigue
- Depression
- Mild cognitive impairment
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Age
- Dementia caused by
  - Medication side effect
  - Medical condition.

Memory is a critical consideration during transition planning. When a person routinely forgets important tasks such as taking medication or making meals, transitioning to a home environment may be problematic. When a person can't remember the tasks necessary to perform a job, transitioning to or maintaining employment becomes a challenge. When a person cannot remember the names of family and friends, communication becomes strained.

Today individuals with memory loss can turn to technology for help in remembering important information and steps necessary to perform basic tasks independently. This independence may be all it takes to help the individual transition to a home or work setting. Memory aids may be inexpensive and used for a specific task such as taking medication or they may be cutting edge devices that can be used in a variety of settings. This article includes a small sampling of assistive technology for individuals with memory loss. Before purchasing a device, consider contacting an AT professional to determine if an assessment or device trial is needed. A listing of AT professionals in Delaware is available in the AT Provider Directory on the DATI website (www.dati.org).

**Memory Aids**

A medication reminder with an automatic timer may help individuals take their medication on time.

A talking calendar and clock helps individuals keep track of the date and time.

A talking timer can be programmed with your own voice recording.

An appliance timer eliminates the need to remember to turn appliances on or off.

Talking picture frames and albums help individuals remember family and friends.

A Pocket PC with specialized software from AbleLink Technologies provides mobile solutions for use in a variety of settings. Software applications include:

- **Schedule Assistant**, a multimedia scheduling application for individuals with cognitive barriers to reading. Appointments or events can be entered by recording an audio message and des-

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ignating the day(s) and time for the message to activate. A picture or icon can also be displayed when the message displays. Create audio reminders with picture cues to remind users to catch a bus, take medication, or how to perform morning routines.

• **Pocket Coach**, which can be used with a Pocket PC to record a series of personalized step-by-step audio instructions explaining how to perform educational, vocational or independent living tasks.

• **Visual Assistant**, which provides task-prompting support using digital pictures with custom recorded audio messages on a Pocket PC to provide step-by-step instructional support. **Visual Assistant** is ideal for more complex or detailed tasks where the addition of digital pictures of each step of the task can increase accuracy.

Almost all of the products identified in this article are available for demonstration and short-term loan from the DATI Assistive Technology Resource Center in your county. Contact the center closest to you to arrange for a demonstration or equipment loan.

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**AT Resources**

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This article is based on one originally appearing in the Spring 2006 issue of Constellations, the newsletter of the Minnesota STAR Program. DATI has been granted permission to share it with our readers.

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**Participate in a Research Study**

A research team at the Center for Inclusive Design and Environmental Access at The State University of New York at Buffalo is currently conducting a federally funded study on how the built environment influences people's ability to perform routine activities.

The research study uses online surveys to identify activities that are most problematic for people in three built environments:

- Public Buildings
- Public Streets
- Residential Environments

Follow-up surveys will then be conducted to evaluate how well specific architectural design features remedy those problems.

Individuals who participate in the online surveys will be eligible for random drawings of $100 cash prizes as well as a $500 grand prize. Participants will also be invited to join message board discussions where they can share ideas and talk about topics of mutual interest.

To participate in the research study or to obtain additional information, please go to www.udeworld.com/research/index.php or contact the Center for Inclusive Design and Environmental Access at (716) 829-3485 x. 329, (716) 829-3758 (TTY), or via email at idea@buffalo.edu.
The AT Messenger Subscription Form

☐ I am a Delaware resident; please sign me up to receive The AT Messenger

☐ Please cancel my subscription to The AT Messenger

Name: ____________________________________________ Title: __________________________________
Affiliation: ______________________________________________________________________________
Address (check one): __ Business   __ Residence _________________________________________________
City/State/Zip: _____________________________________________________________________________
Phone: _______________________________________  Fax: _______________________________________
Email (check one): __ Business   __ Residence ___________________________________________________

Format:  ☐ I have provided my email address above, please send me an electronic version (large print, plain text, PDF, and HTML versions are available).
☐ I prefer to receive a print version of The AT Messenger through the mail.
  Indicate if an alternate format is needed:
  ☐ audio tape     ☐ Braille     ☐ large print

I am a:  ☐ person with a disability (please specify) __________________________
☐ family member of a person with a disability
☐ friend/advocate/colleague of someone with a disability
☐ professional (please specify) __________________________
☐ interested citizen
☐ other (please specify) __________________________

Please Keep Us Posted!

Has your address changed? Are you receiving duplicates? Would you prefer to receive the newsletter via email?

If the address we have for you is incorrect, please type or print your correct address on the form below and forward it to DATI along with your current mailing label or the first page of your electronic newsletter. If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, visit www.dati.org/news/unsubscribe.html or contact our central office.

Do you know a friend or family member who would be interested in receiving the newsletter? Please provide him/her with the subscription form below.

DATI Equipment Loan Policy

DATI has a wide variety of equipment at the Assistive Technology Resource Centers for the primary purpose of demonstration and short-term loan. The policy for the loan of the equipment is as follows:

The standard loan period is two weeks, defined as the day borrowed (e.g., Monday the 10th) to the same day two weeks later (e.g., Monday the 24th). Loans may be extended providing there are no names on the waiting list and/or that an extension will not interfere with an existing reservation. The maximum loan period is four weeks.

A maximum of four devices may be borrowed during any single loan period. However, combinations of devices may be treated as a single device if the components are interdependent—either operationally, or because one component is required for the user to access another. Equipment loans across state lines are not permitted. Equipment must also remain in Delaware throughout the loan period.

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