Hadley Celebrates 95 Years

Through the generosity of others, building on the past, bringing life-changing services to future generations

Inside:
Low Vision Focus
Web site Debuts
As we celebrate Hadley’s 95th anniversary, it is with mixed emotions that I share with you my intent to retire next spring. When I arrived at Hadley in December 2005, I knew of the school’s reputation, its innovative approach to accessible distance education and its commitment to fostering lifelong independence. What I did not know (though I had an inkling) was how incredibly far Hadley would progress in just a decade. Reflecting upon my 10 years as president, I am so proud of what we have been able to accomplish, thanks to your stewardship.

Hadley has taken the lead in teaching the newly adopted Unified English Braille (UEB) Code, building on our longstanding tradition of braille excellence and commitment to braille literacy for both tactile and sighted readers. Our “Transitioning to Unified English Braille” course outcomes have far surpassed all expectations. More than 1,900 students have enrolled since we activated the course last January, making it the most popular in Hadley’s history!

As an Army veteran, I am proud of our support of blinded veterans and their families. Since the launch of the Blinded Veterans Initiative in 2011, we have had more than 500 veteran enrollments. Equally important to me is Hadley’s dedication to addressing the 70-80% un- or underemployment of the blind. The Forsythe Center for Employment and Entrepreneurship is the only distance education program of its kind focused on helping individuals who are blind or visually impaired start or grow a business. A recent partnership with the National Association of Blind Merchants (NABM) has resulted in specialized, online business training for Randolph-Sheppard Vendors (see page 5).

Currently, we are in the process of rolling out our newest program, the Low Vision Focus @ Hadley. In May, we unveiled a series of 10 new, self-help audio recordings on adaptive living (page 5). This exciting initiative builds on Hadley’s history and expertise, while positioning the organization for the future, since we know that one in six older adults will experience some form of uncorrectable visual impairment. While these individuals may not become totally blind, they will experience progressive vision loss, which will require tools and resources that Hadley is poised to facilitate.

Perhaps the most significant success Hadley has demonstrated in the last decade has been in the area of technology. Through eHadley, we have transitioned to mobile learning, whereby students can study “on the go.” Seminars@Hadley has greatly expanded our commitment to “just in time” learning with 250 topics and more than 60,000 unique views annually (page 6). With our new series of iFocus videos, students, teachers and others also can master the accessible features of the iPhone, iPad and the new Apple Watch.

It is quite evident that Hadley has made amazing strides during the last decade, thanks to your faith in our mission to promote independent living through lifelong learning. In this issue of Generations, we highlight current initiatives, grants and funders and also feature our most recent High School graduates. Our Donor Spotlight on Life Trustee Nancy Jones illustrates just how far Hadley has come—not just in the last 10 years—but since the organization’s founding in 1920.

Thank you for your continued investment in Hadley. Your commitment to our work empowers our students to reach their potential and fully participate in the economy, family and community. Your generosity makes everything we do possible and, for that, I am most grateful. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as president of The Hadley School for the Blind.

Best regards,

Charles E. Young, President

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LEAVE A LEGACY AT HADLEY

Did you know that one of the easiest ways to help provide for Hadley’s future is to make the school a beneficiary of your life insurance, retirement plan, brokerage account or any asset requiring a beneficiary? All you need to do is fill out a “change of beneficiary form” from the appropriate provider. Hadley could be a full, partial or contingent beneficiary with the designated amount being tax free with all of it going to help Hadley’s students. Please let us know if you plan to leave a legacy so we can recognize you as a member of the Clarence Boyd Jones Society.
Our Building Funded and Built
We were operating out of two rooms in the Winnetka Community House, and people were saying that we ought to have our own building. Bud agreed but we said, “How can we have a building when we only have a few thousand dollars in the bank? Just one step ahead of the Sheriff.” One of our trustees said, “That’s no problem. You build the building and then get the money.” We formed a Building Committee among the trustees, made plans and got an architect.

There was an empty lot on Elm Street where a developer was going to build a 16-unit apartment building. The property was for sale for about $25,000. Three trustees stepped forward and donated the money so we could have the site.

We had the ground breaking ceremony. Then we went forth to build it and pay for it later. But Bud and I couldn’t stand that. We wanted to get as much money as we could. Also, publicity was beginning to come, so Bud and I spent every Sunday afternoon for months going to call on some of our well-heeled friends, inviting them to participate in the building of the School. I always remember the excitement when the Weiboldt Foundation came forth with $10,000. We caught John Nuveen leaving for Europe who said, “If you can come over here in the next 20 minutes, I’ll be glad to see you.” We went right over. He said, “I believe in you, and I believe in this being a good thing to back, and I’ll send you a check.” As I remember it was for $7,000. The basement sound studio wasn’t even planned until a donor stepped forward with another $10,000. One of the great sadness’s is that we didn’t put in an elevator. It might not be too late someday to do it. It took us two years to bring in the rest of the money, but we worked tirelessly and, at the time of the dedication, we had the whole cost of the building—$225,000.

continued on page 4
Nancy Jones... continued from page 3

Christmas Cards Created and Sold
In 1954, a friend said she “was so impressed with this beautiful School and would like to send a Christmas card that showed she’d made a donation to Hadley.” So I came running home, and I designed a red tone edged card and, in the corner, I put our brailled hands and then I wrote out the words. I sent them down to the American Printing House for the Blind in Louisville where they put the braille on. Three years later we did the whole process at the School. In those days, there were no charitable Christmas cards; Hadley’s were practically the first ones ever in our country. Rose Donnell and Chris Myers helped me with this for years. Hadley Christmas cards were sent all over the world and each card told a little about the School. People all over learned about the School in the gentlest way.

[Nancy Brown Jones remains a Life Trustee and still lives in Winnetka with her son Stuart. Her husband, Clarence “Bud” Boyd Jones, died in 1994. Her daughter Gwen (McConnaughy), Gwen’s husband Tom and her nephew, Dr. Steven Brown, are current trustees. Her son Ted served as a trustee from 1975-2014.]

2015 BRAILLE HOLIDAY CARD
ON SALE AT HADLEY OCTOBER 15 — DECEMBER 16
Call 800.323.4238 or order online at www.hadley.edu/holidaycard

The 2015 holiday card art was created by Chicago artist Jennifer Beacom. See more of her work at jenniferbeacomfineart.com.

LAVELLE FUND SUPPORTS TRANSITION TO UEB

The Braille Authority of North America (BANA) recently adopted the Unified English Braille Code (UEB), which represents significant changes to the code. The date of implementation is January 2016. In response, Hadley has developed a new course, “Transitioning to Unified English Braille,” to teach students these important changes. The course is now available in braille, large print and online, for both tactile and visual learners in all four program areas.

Among the funders for this important initiative is longtime Hadley supporter, The Lavelle Fund for the Blind.

“The Lavelle Fund for the Blind is very pleased to support Hadley’s work training educators and braille readers in the newly adopted Unified English Braille Code. Braille literacy is essential to independence and success for people who are blind. Hadley’s distance education model is playing an invaluable role in ensuring that braille learners in and beyond the U.S. have affordable and convenient access to excellent instruction in what is now ‘standard English braille,’ ” says Daniel Callahan, president of The Lavelle Fund for the Blind.

In addition to The Lavelle Fund, Hadley also received a generous gift from the American Printing House for the Blind, allowing the course to be offered at no cost for sighted professionals through the end of 2015.
New Low Vision Focus Web site Debuts

Hadley unveiled a brand new Web site for the Low Vision Focus in August (www.lowvisionfocus.org). Launched earlier this year, the Low Vision Focus @ Hadley program (LVF) is designed to help those living with low vision maintain their independence by sharing practical ways to address daily living skills made difficult by vision loss. While the LVF is geared toward older adults, the program is open to any individual who is experiencing sight loss or caring for someone who may be losing his or her vision.

A series of 10 free audio recordings is the core component of the LVF. These recordings are now available as mp3 audio downloads from the Web site. Individuals are required to register online to receive access to the free audio recordings. Each recording is approximately 30 minutes long and covers a different aspect of living independently with low vision. Topics include:

- Making the Kitchen User Friendly
- Getting Around the House
- Simple Home Modifications
- Keeping Prescriptions in Order
- Doing Simple Kitchen Tasks
- Low Vision Cooking
- Looking Your Best
- Going Out for a Meal
- Basic Tactile Marking
- Going Out with a Friend

The LVF Web site has been completely redesigned to be more contemporary, visually appealing, user-friendly and functional. In addition to audio downloads, clients can also access webinars, Hadley courses that are relevant to those with low vision, tips and resources. In the future, Hadley will provide free, “quick tip” videos through the Web site that complement the audio recordings.

Along with CDs and new audio downloads, the recordings are now being offered in Digital Talking Book format on an NLS cartridge. To request CDs or NLS cartridges, please call 855.830.5355.

Hadley would like to thank the following funders of the Low Vision Focus: Lions Clubs International Foundation; District 1-F Lions; Reader’s Digest Partners for Sight Foundation; Abra Prentice Foundation; Gibney Family Foundation; Charles and M.R. Shapiro Foundation; Virginia Lee Shirley Private Foundation; Dr. Scholl Foundation; Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Foundation; H.W. and D.C.H. Irwin Foundation; Frumnan and Marian Jacobson; Charlotte Lindon; Omer Voss, Jr.

NATIONAL BUSINESS TRAINING FOR BLIND VENDORS

Hadley and the National Association of Blind Merchants (NABM) have entered into a joint venture that will significantly change how state licensing agencies train new Randolph-Sheppard vendors, blind businessmen and women who operate and manage vending facilities on federal property.

This first-ever national Randolph-Sheppard training curriculum was developed this past year to respond to the needs of vocational rehabilitation agencies looking to offer quality and cost-effective training to their clients who want to enter their state’s Business Enterprise Program (BEP). The tuition-based online training consists of 11 one-lesson modules. Hadley and NABM will earn revenue from the collaboration. The first nine modules are now complete:

- Introduction to the Business Enterprise Program
- Vending Management
- Café Operations
- Developing Systems to Structure and Manage Your Business
- Sales
- Employee Hiring and Development
- Labor and Cost of Goods Management
- Customer Service for BEP
- Business Processes

“We are excited to offer this innovative online business training,” said FCE Director Colleen Wunderlich. “There are more than 2,100 vendors in the U.S. who can benefit. So far, seven states have signed on. Our goal is to have all 30 states in which NABM has members involved with us in the future.”
Seminars@Hadley, free webinars on a wide variety of topics related to vision loss, launched in 2006. A decade later, they continue to be as popular as ever with more than 250 in all. This past year, Hadley delivered 41 seminars with more than 1,000 participants, including students from other countries. Unique visitors to the seminars archives on the Hadley Web site exceeded 62,000 and hits increased to more than 262,000, demonstrating the ongoing trend in “on-demand” distance learning.

We talked to Hadley Senior Vice President Dawn Turco about why these seminars caught on so quickly.

**What was the impetus for Seminars@Hadley in April 2006?**

I was giving an audio interview about Hadley earlier that year using webinar software (Talking Communities) and suddenly realized that this was a very cool delivery medium, and we should try to use the technology to share information with our students and others interested in topics related to blindness and visual impairment. The first seminar was called, “Braille: Every Day, Every Way.”

**Where do you find your topics and speakers?**

We receive suggestions from participants, faculty and staff at Hadley. I also enjoy coming up with topics myself. We find speakers through our professional contacts and networking. Lately, we have been working to tie in seminar topics to our courses.

**Which seminars have been the most popular and why?**

Technology seminars, hands down, have been the most popular. We have discovered that using seminars is the best way to deliver this type of information, rather than developing a long-form course, because technology changes so quickly. By the time a course comes out, technology already has changed so this allows us to be much more current and timely. In addition to technology, popular subjects also include braille, independent living, recreation and employment.

**How has the initiative changed over the last 10 years?**

The number of seminars has exploded. When we launched Seminars@Hadley 10 years ago, I thought we might do 3-4 per year. For the last five years, we have actually been hosting at least 40!

The other development we have seen is a natural decline in live participants and an overwhelming increase in the number of people accessing and downloading the seminars from our Web site because people know they are available online, anytime. In addition, we know that the numbers we do capture don’t reflect the true “reach” of these webinars because they are being used in classrooms and low vision support groups, where the numbers are actually higher.

**What trends are you seeing?**

There is an increased interest from professionals in using the seminars for continuing education credit. We currently have 24 Seminars@Hadley available for CE credit hours and plan to add more.

**Where is Seminars@Hadley going in the future?**

We will be adding webinars as part of our new Low Vision Focus. We are delivering more on technology, responding to the interest out there. In fact, our popular iFocus videos are actually an offshoot of iFocus seminars, so we may see some additional crossover between audio and video in the future.

**Seminars@Hadley**

Seminars@Hadley is accessible and open to anyone at no charge. To receive information about upcoming seminars, or to access hundreds of titles in the archive, subscribe to our weekly eNews at hadley.edu.
Meet Our 2015 High School Graduates

Christina Buckner, Florida

Christina was born with albinism, which affects the development of the optic nerves and retinas, leading to sight loss. She had a difficult time keeping up with her peers academically due to her sight loss, which was compounded by the fact that her family moved often, and she attended many different schools. Christina’s mother found out about Hadley’s High School Program from a family friend, and it seemed like a perfect fit for her daughter.

While Christina found the courses challenging at first, she began to set weekly goals for herself, and her ability to accomplish them gave her a sense of pride and motivated her to continue. She enjoyed the elective courses she was able to choose, such as the “Parenting” series, as she would like to become an elementary school teacher.

Chrissy Fairbanks, New Hampshire

Chrissy was diagnosed with Stargardt macular dystrophy, an inherited condition that causes blindness at a young age. She struggled with school throughout her life and eventually dropped out.

After having two children, she heard about Hadley through the New Hampshire Services for the Blind. She decided to pursue her diploma for both herself and for her children. Through Hadley’s series of “Food” courses, Chrissy learned how to make cooking easier and safer. She also credits her Hadley education with giving her more confidence in social situations and improving her writing and grammar skills. She is now enrolled in college and is pursuing a degree in business management.

Laura Horsley, Indiana

In addition to vision loss, Laura also has mild cerebral palsy. She says she felt that the public education system failed her, and she never received proper accommodations for her disabilities. She was repeatedly told that she would never graduate high school. She was referred to Hadley’s High School Program by a vocational rehabilitation counselor and credits Hadley’s dedicated instructors for allowing her to achieve her dream of earning her high school diploma.

Her favorite Hadley courses included “General Science” and “Life Science.” She also enjoyed braille courses for the challenge and ultimate sense of accomplishment they provided.

Robert Simpson-Morrison, Texas

Robert is blind due to Leber’s optic atrophy. He had difficulty graduating in the past due to lack of accessibility accommodations. After hearing about Hadley through the Casada Learning Center, he decided to enroll because he wanted to attend a school that specialized in education for blind students. He credits his instructors with helping him accomplish his goals and eventually earn his diploma.

Robert’s favorite courses were “Safety in the Home” and “Independent Living: Cooking.” He always has had a passion for cooking. Now that he has his high school diploma, he is pursuing an education in the culinary arts. He already has earned a management certificate in the safe handling of food and in purchasing.

To read about our other 2015 High School Graduates, visit the Hadley Web site at: www.hadley.edu/Graduation.

CONNECT WITH HADLEY ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Hadley has nearly 3,600 followers on Facebook; 2,000 followers on Twitter; and 550 connections on LinkedIn. Last year, we had more than 20,000 views on YouTube. Are you connected to Hadley on social media? Stay up-to-date on our latest courses, seminars, trends in the field and more!

Facebook: www.facebook.com/thehadleyschoolfortheblind
Twitter: www.twitter.com/thehadleyschool
YouTube: www.youtube.com/thehadleyschool
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/the-hadley-school-for-the-blind
DOUG ANZLOVAR PROMOTED TO VICE PRESIDENT

Hadley is pleased to announce that Doug Anzlovar has been promoted to vice president of education and training. Doug began his career at Hadley in 2008 as a curriculum designer and instructor. He was promoted to dean of educational programs and instruction in 2011. As a member of the administrative team, Doug oversees a 31-member faculty, is involved in curriculum decisions and policy development and is in charge of the Low Vision Focus @ Hadley, the organization’s newest program designed to address the burgeoning number of adults with age-related vision loss.

Prior to joining Hadley, Doug worked as a teacher of the visually impaired in the Chicago Public Schools for nearly 10 years. While at Walter Payton College Preparatory High School in Chicago, he developed a resource program for students with visual impairments and later became chair of the special education department. Doug holds a master’s degree in adult rehabilitation of the blind and a bachelor’s in special education with an emphasis in teaching the visually impaired, both from Northern Illinois University. Doug is also a certified vision rehabilitation therapist. He is currently a member and serves on the board of directors for the Association of Vision Rehabilitation Therapists (AVRT) and the Illinois Chapter of the Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (IAER).