February 3, 2011

ENGR110/210
Perspectives in Assistive Technology

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Questions, Comments, Thoughts?

PR2 & Xerox Alto

Arthur the Robot

Mid-term Project Presentations

- Reports due Monday, February 14th at 5pm

- Team project presentations in-class on Thursday, Feb 10th
- 15 minutes for each team, including questions
- See Assignment One
- Everyone provides a review and comments

- Students working on individual projects will have presentations outside class-time
- Indicate availability by email: three 1-hour time slots

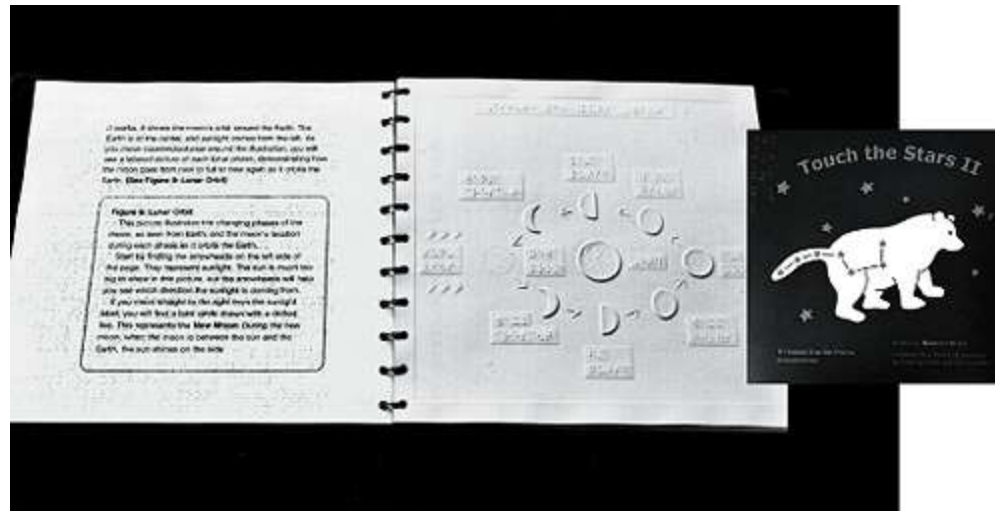# Upcoming Events

Both on Friday, February 4th

- Product Realization Network Mentor / Mentee Lunch
Noon – 1:30pm
Y2E2, Room 299
For students

- ACM Tech Talk
Alan Brightman & Victor Tsaran – Yahoo
Yahoo Accessibility Innovations
6-8pm in Gates 104
(one of three presentations)
Public lecture

BrailleNote

The Braille version of the BrailleNote has 9 keys, the horizontal one being the space bar. Six of the other eight keys each correspond to a dot in the Braille cell. The far left key is backspace, and the far right key is enter/carriage return. Much like ALT, control, and function keys on a QWERTY, backspace, space, and enter are pressed in different combinations with different dot combinations to enter commands. Also, the smaller display is 18, not 16. I don't know why; 16 would make more sense being that it is a factor of 32. Also, if you wonder where the 32 number came from, a 8.5 by 11 sheet of Braille paper fits 32 cells. Larger pieces of Braille paper are 11.1 by 11, and fit either 40 or 42 cells, depending on the margin. Both sizes are 25 lines in length. And yes...it is amazing and ridiculous how much these things cost, and they don't even do 75% of what a computer can do. However, they are a lot smaller and more transportable. By the time you were to buy a screen reader and a Braille display for a laptop, you would be at least $3000 for the assistive technology alone.

Touch the Stars

The book, Touch The Stars II, is the second of six books in a series. They are, in order of being released:

1. Touch the Stars
2. Touch the Stars II
3. Touch the Universe
4. Touch the Sun
5. Touch the Night Sky
6. Touch the Earth

All of them have tactile pictures. Touch the Stars is the only one that has embossed pictures; all of the rest all have plastic pictures or a glue like material on paper. They are particularly useful because the pictures are simple enough to be understandable. If you make tactile pictures too detailed, you end up with a jumbled glob of confusion.

Bill Gerrey

Jumper cables were passed out – what were they for?

"They are to protect your clothing during meals; they are a cheap version of what your dentist has. With a good run of paper towels, maybe three sections (not torn apart), you use the clip cord around the back of your neck, to hang the towel down your front. You might say, this arrangement is "a landing pad for debris"."

Bill Gerrey

There were two RESNA Student Design Competition articles in the handouts – why were they included?

"I guess I didn't have a chance to mention that the RESNA Student Design Competition winners are, to my mind, star examples of "ingenuity" -- the very subject of my talk."

Development and Evaluation of a Thoracic Pressure Chair for a Student with Autism

Infant Patting Project

Next Tuesday

Peter W. Axelson, MSME, ATP, RET
Designing Beyond the Norm to Meet the Needs of All People

Optional dinner after class at Max's in Stanford Shopping Center

Today

Richard D. Steele, PhD
The Lingraphica - An Assistive Technology for Persons with Aphasia

Adjourn