

SUMMER 2018

Thrive

HADLEY INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Education and Skills
Lead to Employment
and Entrepreneurship

Technology and
Independence

Blind Parenting

hadley partners
with apple

apple technology—accessible for all





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5 Simple Steps to

Adjust the Text Size on Your iPhone

- 1 Open **Settings**
- 2 Click on **General**
- 3 Click on **Accessibility**
- 4 Click on **Larger Text**
- 5 Enable **Larger Accessibility Sizes**

The rest is up to you!
Move the slider to your
desired font size and read
your phone with ease!



HADLEY INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

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Hadley has 6,715 Facebook friends, 3,373 Twitter followers and 1,470 YouTube subscribers. Are you connected to Hadley on social media? Stay up-to-date on our latest courses, webinars, events, trends in the field and more!

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youtube.com/hadleyinstitute





A Letter from the President...

In this issue, you will learn more about the program and Forsythe Center founders Sandy and Rick Forsythe (pages 6 and 7).

This past April we moved out of the Hadley building to a space donated by the nearby BMO Harris Bank—see page 10—so renovation work could begin. In addition to significant updating of HVAC and other systems that is desperately needed, we have redesigned the building so that staff can more easily collaborate with one another as Hadley transforms into a 21st century learning destination. We expect to be back in the building in early 2019.

You can follow the renovation progress on our website: hadley.edu/renovate. We'll add new photos from time to time, so be sure to check back.

As always, the heart of Hadley is its learners. But, this time, Hadley is doing the learning. Read about the standing panel of advisors that is informing the transformation of Hadley (page 11).

We are pleased to introduce you to learners who are thriving at

home, at work and in their communities. People like Cliff Hembree, a former Marine and police officer blinded in the line of duty, who turned to Hadley to learn how best to parent his two young boys. And Kelly Castino, a school psychologist who has worked in the blindness field, who found that techniques created for professionals to work with people who are blind also can help young people with autism that don't "see" social cues. And U.S. Appellate Court Judge David Tatel who is visually impaired and swears by Hadley's instructional videos to show him how to use his iPhone in order to stay on top of an extremely demanding caseload.

You, our donors, make all of this and so much more possible. Because you care, our learners thrive!

Sincerely,

Julie S. Tye
President

You are part of a very exciting time in Hadley's nearly 100-year history. I hope you're as thrilled as we are by Hadley's new partnership with Apple! You may be aware of Hadley's more than 85 instructional videos on YouTube and our website that teaches people to use the accessibility features built into iPhones, iPads, Apple Watches and Macs. We are delighted to announce that Apple has asked Hadley to create instructional videos for their new initiative, Everyone Can Code. See page 5 for the details.

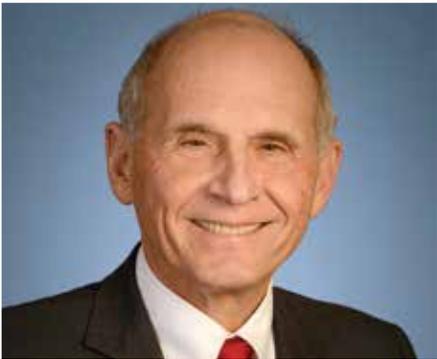
Meanwhile, at the Hadley Board of Trustees meeting in June, Colleen Wunderlich, director of the Forsythe Center for Employment and Entrepreneurship (FCE), announced the winner of the 2018 New Venture Competition.

our mission Hadley Institute for the Blind and Visually Impaired creates personalized learning opportunities that empower people to thrive—at home, at work and in their communities.



Technology and Independence

Despite struggling with vision problems most of his life, Judge David Tatel looked for solutions through technology to remain independent.



United States Court of Appeals Judge David Tatel credits advances in technology and Hadley's Assistive Technology Director, Douglas Walker, for helping him remain independent, despite his battle with Retinitis Pigmentosa—an inherited disorder rendering him legally blind since the 1970s.

Judge Tatel has maintained a successful career, beginning with his education at the University of Chicago Law School, and then teaching at University of Michigan and Stanford Law Schools. Later, he built a career as a private practice attorney, before being nominated by President Bill Clinton, in 1994, to the United States Court of Appeals, District of Columbia, filling the seat vacated by Judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

While he struggled with some vision problems most of his life, it wasn't until his early 30s when his vision truly began to decline.

"When I began losing my eyesight I taught myself braille, learning how to use a braille typewriter and computer. This was helpful, but it still left me looking for better solutions," Judge Tatel explained. When the iPhone came out, he was motivated to learn about the product. "I'm an avid user of the iPhone; it's made an extraordinary difference in my life...and in my day-to-day functioning."

In December 2017, Judge Tatel discovered an article citing the 10 most useful apps for the visually impaired, written by Douglas Walker. "I immediately emailed Douglas and received a prompt response; he was and has been enormously helpful. Whenever I have a question, he seems to have an answer," Judge Tatel explained. Douglas is legally blind himself and found a friend in Judge Tatel. "From the get-go Judge Tatel was excited and eager to learn. He knows himself very well and asks the type of questions that help me learn and grow too," Douglas said.

During their first interactions, Judge Tatel inquired about text-to-voice apps, hoping to find a tool that would allow him to listen to court documents without assistance. Douglas introduced him to Voice Dream Reader—a voice-based mobile app, making it possible for Judge Tatel to place court briefs into Dropbox, allowing him to listen on his own schedule. He says

Voice Dream Reader is now one of his favorite and most used apps, dramatically changing the way he functions at work. "Just the other day, as I was leaving the office, I received a three-page memo. Thanks to Voice Dream Reader, I was able to take the document with me on the go, load it into Dropbox and listen while on my way home," Judge Tatel shared.

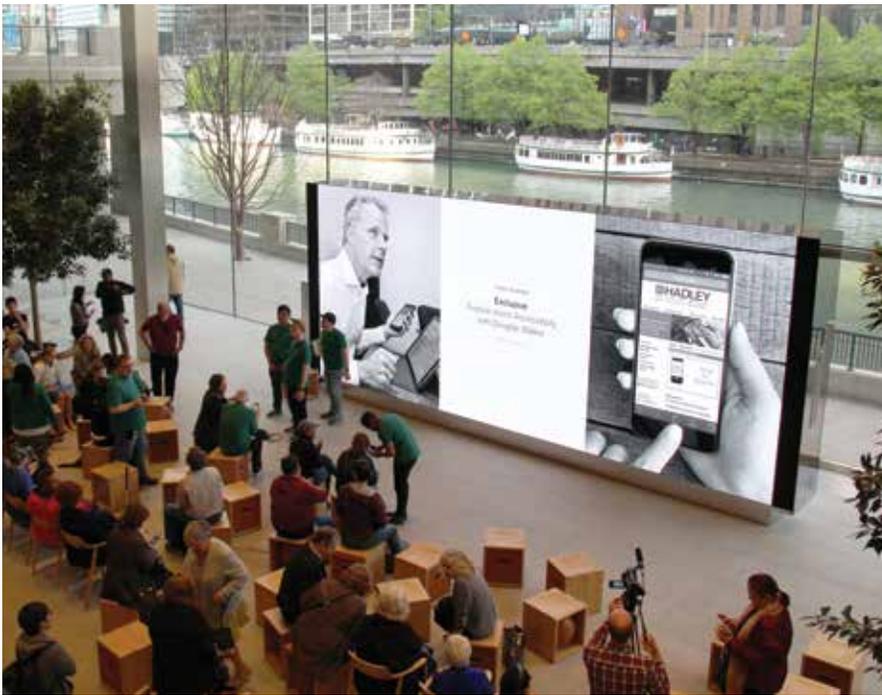
Since then, Douglas has introduced Judge Tatel to other apps with his easy-to-follow videos found on the Hadley website. "People like Douglas and I are very dependent on technology, grateful for the difference it has made in our lives," Judge Tatel said. "For me, technology has provided the opportunity to read all the documents I need to read each day, while maintaining my independence." ■



Hadley's instructional video, "Using the Voice Dream Reader App," taught Judge Tatel how to listen to printed court briefs on his iPhone.

**YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE
FOR HADLEY LEARNERS TO
THRIVE AT WORK**





New Partnership: Apple and Hadley

Hadley is developing an exciting partnership with Apple. Apple has been an industry leader in making its devices accessible for people who are blind and visually impaired. Hadley has developed more than 85 instructional videos that teach people to use the accessibility features of the iPhone, iPad, Apple Watch and Mac desktop. These are incredibly successful videos, so much so, in fact, that Apple lists Hadley as an external resource on its website (apple.com/accessibility/iphone/vision).

On May 15th, Douglas Walker, director of assistive technology at Hadley, was the featured presenter at Apple's flagship store in downtown Chicago.

As part of Apple's in-store educational series "Today At Apple," Douglas addressed an audience of nearly 100 people,

many of whom are blind, on how to use three of the most important accessibility features of Apple's iOS devices.

The presentation was 90 minutes in length and included information about Douglas's experience as a person who is visually impaired, hands-on practice and, of course, information about Hadley. It was a successful event and the manager of this store will be urging Apple to have Douglas deliver the same presentation at Apple stores in other major markets.

Two days later, on Global Accessibility Awareness Day, Apple announced a partnership with Hadley that will advance our commitment to our learners' ability to find meaningful employment. Hadley will support Apple's new initiative, Everyone Can Code. Code is the language of technology and Apple's

philosophy is that coding is an essential skill. Learning how to code and then writing code develops important skills including problem-solving and creativity. There continues to be a high demand for employees who know how to code.

As a first step, Hadley will develop a series of free instructional videos that teach learners how to use Apple's Swift Playground app. "It's imperative that people with visual impairments, both children and adults, are not left behind in the digital age," said Douglas Walker. "Coding is definitely the future for everyone, even when you're in your 50s." ■

BECAUSE YOU CARE,
HADLEY LEARNERS THRIVE
IN THE COMMUNITY

Education and Skills Lead to Employment and Entrepreneurship

The Forsythe Center for Employment and Entrepreneurship (FCE) was founded by Sandy and Rick Forsythe in 2011 to provide employment and entrepreneurship training for people who are blind or visually impaired. The innovative business curriculum is designed to guide a blind person through their business idea while providing the knowledge-base to start or expand a business, or to advance in traditional employment. The FCE is the nation's only business education program developed by

and for people who are blind or visually impaired.

In 2013, Colleen Wunderlich was named director of the Forsythe Center. Colleen has a BA from Purdue University and an MBA from the University of Chicago where she concentrated in Economics, Strategic Management and Entrepreneurship. Her role includes teaching as well as marketing to help grow the program. Colleen says, "The Forsythe Center's free one-lesson courses are a low risk way for a

blind person to see if they are meant to be self-employed."

Through Colleen's leadership, the program has grown and now offers 26 courses and 40 seminars and lectures that can be accessed for free on Hadley's website at home, at work or on a mobile device.

The Forsythe Center's New Venture Competition was developed to serve as an incentive for aspiring blind and visually impaired entrepreneurs with innovative business ideas.

DIRECTOR COLLEEN WUNDERLICH AND NORA

When Colleen's guide dog, Wynsom, died in 2017, she turned to The Seeing Eye for help. In February, Colleen met her new dog, Nora, at The Seeing Eye campus in Morristown, NJ where they spent several weeks training together. Nora is a cross between a black Labrador and golden retriever. Colleen says, "Nora has a great willingness to work, is obedient, gentle, kind and very playful."

Since 2011:
2,940 learners enrolled
in 6,240 FCE courses

In 2017, FCE taught 848 learners.

- 714 from 49 states (U.S.)
- 134 from 32 other countries



Making a Difference

FCE... continued from page 6

In its third year, the competition is open to any visually impaired individual who completes at least one Forsythe Center business course or module and submits their business plan. This year, 21 business plans were submitted—all competing for the \$30,000 award.

Competition judges include entrepreneurs James McManus, director of business enterprise programs Washington D.C., Gray Stevens, entrepreneur and founder of Sandy Creek Partners, and Michael Bullis, director of IMAGE (Independent Marylanders Achieving Growth through Empowerment) Center of Maryland. Mike is also blind.

The 2018 Competition winner is Lisa Smith, owner of Forage LLC, an innovative candle company aimed at offering high-quality luxury lotion candles made using only natural, locally-sourced ingredients. Forage's goal is to provide a unique and unforgettable end user experience—luxury skincare in a candle. A wide variety of candles are found on their website, foragecandle.com.

With the unemployment/under-employment rate for people who are blind or visually impaired at 70 percent or more, the Forsythe Center for Employment and Entrepreneurship is equipped to provide employment and entrepreneurship education and skill-building for these individuals. ■

When she started volunteering at Hadley, Sandy couldn't have known that her husband, Rick, would develop macular degeneration. Sandy and Rick Forsythe of Winnetka, IL have been involved with Hadley since 1986 when Sandy joined the Hadley Woman's Board after a neighbor invited her to attend a meeting. Interestingly, they learned that Rick's Mom, Dorothy, was a volunteer doing secretarial work at Hadley in the 1950's.



An active member of the Woman's Board, Sandy plays a key role on several projects. Each year Sandy spends two to three days a week from mid-October to mid-December selling the Woman's Board braille holiday cards. She also scans and edits books to include on Bookshare.org—an online library Hadley partners with—to provide access to books online for people with visual and print disabilities. Additionally, Sandy is scanning letters and documents to include in Hadley's archives, some of which will be used during Hadley's 100th anniversary in 2020. Sandy explains, "Even after 30 years, I continue to be impressed with the Woman's Board and the many amazing women who work together to further Hadley's mission."

At one of the early Woman's Board meetings Sandy met Jim Kesteloot, then director of Chicago Lighthouse, who connected Rick with a Johns Hopkins research study on macular degeneration. Rick received treatment there that slowed the progression of his macular degeneration and has stabilized his vision so much so that he can now drive during the daytime. Sandy says, "Rick is functioning very well today and I am grateful for the connection through Hadley that helped us find help for him."

In 2011, Rick and Sandy founded the Forsythe Center for Employment and Entrepreneurship at Hadley. They continue to fund the program, explaining, "We want blind and visually impaired people to have every opportunity to develop the skills they need to succeed in business and employment." ■



Lisa, Cliff, Pate,
Price and Sampson.

Blind Parenting

Blinded in the line of duty, Cliff Hembree turns to Hadley's Parenting courses to learn to care for his sons with confidence.

Like most expectant parents, Cliff Hembree wanted to be as prepared as possible for the arrival of his first child. Cliff's concerns were different from most expectant parents, because he is blind.

Cliff, a former Marine, followed in his father's footsteps by becoming a police officer. After working as a Louisiana State Trooper, Cliff and his wife, Lisa, decided to transfer to Alabama where they hoped to start a family. In 2003, Cliff was blinded in the line of duty when responding to a domestic violence call. A woman fleeing the scene struck Cliff with her car while he was standing outside his vehicle, which resulted in severe head trauma and other injuries, leaving him blind.

Cliff underwent intensive physical therapy and completed training with his guide dog Sampson.

When asked what advice he would give to others, Cliff states, "Keeping a positive attitude will take you far."

As a result of Cliff's accident, Lisa was inspired to obtain a second master's degree in Blind Rehabilitation Orientation Mobility. During her studies, she learned about Hadley and encouraged Cliff to explore the possibilities and inspired him to keep learning.

Cliff's positive attitude served him well while taking Hadley's *Parenting: Infancy and Parenting: Preparation* courses with instructor Sharon Howerton. Cliff learned how to care for a baby, and especially benefitted from knowing what to do during "the stages of crawling and walking, and the importance of keeping to a schedule."

Cliff and his wife, Lisa, have two sons, Pate, now in second grade, and four-year-old Price. Cliff says, "Hadley's parenting courses gave me the confidence I needed to raise my sons, while making sure they are healthy and on the right path." Cliff continues to participate in Hadley's weekly chats for blind parents and says, "These phone conversations are very helpful and supportive." When asked what he would say to others considering taking Hadley courses, Cliff said "They really need to do it. The classes totally erased my fears of being blind and being a parent." ■

YOUR SUPPORT
HELPS HADLEY LEARNERS
THRIVE AT HOME

Understanding Blindness Challenges

When Kelly Castino started taking Hadley courses, she discovered she had a family connection. Her mother, who grew up in Winnetka, said that her great-aunt, Marge Oppenheimer, had been a longtime volunteer and Hadley trustee. In June 2017, Kelly visited Hadley and met with President Julie Tye, sharing how Hadley helped her to be successful in her profession.

Kelly first learned of Hadley while working at the Florida Division of Blind Services. She took courses to better understand the challenges her blind and visually impaired colleagues and clients were facing. The *Blindness Basics* course helped Kelly, “know the difference between totally blind, partially blind, and visually impaired,” and both Human

Eye courses were invaluable for her career, as they “helped me understand what [my coworkers] go through each day.” She also learned more about her own severe astigmatism, revealing that she could benefit from tinted glasses. The course *Low Vision and School-Age Children* was especially interesting to Kelly given her desire to teach. When recalling what she enjoyed most, Kelly notes, “the flexibility of online courses and instructor feedback helped me excel as a student.”

Kelly has an Education Specialist degree and a doctoral degree in education; her dissertation focused on transition years for deaf-blind students. Kelly now works as a school psychologist at UCP of Central Florida, a school for children with disabilities. Kelly learned that the techniques for

educating and interacting with blind and visually impaired people can help students with other conditions as well. She explained, “Since people with autism may have trouble ‘seeing’ nonverbal cues, describing those verbally can help people with autism in educational settings.” Kelly has autism and was not diagnosed until college. Now, she is able to help students in similar situations because she understands what helped her.

When considering her goals for the future, Kelly would like to work as a social skills consultant, or director of a special education program. For now, she’s focused on gaining teaching experience in her current role. When asked what advice she would offer to people interested in Hadley courses, Kelly states, “Work hard. Be open-minded. And learn what you’re interested in because interest makes it more fun.” ■



YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR HADLEY LEARNERS TO THRIVE AT WORK

Left: Colleagues Kelly James, Kelli Parker with Kelly Castino at Division of Blind Services in Orlando; Right: Kelly Castino





Hadley 2.0

Hadley is transforming the way we offer our education programs. Extensive field research into best practices in teaching adults has yielded an initiative we are calling Hadley 2.0. Over the next few years our traditional courses, webinars and videos will be transformed into dynamic learning products whose form fits the function of the content. Products will have the same high quality, and will be tailored for the way adults learn best. Learners can look forward to:

- 10 to 20 minute learning experiences
- Conversational tone of voice
- Engaging content: multi-media approach when appropriate
- Gamification: Elements such as leveling-up, leaderboards, etc.
- Relevant content: scenario-based learning with real life application
- Practice opportunities
- Access to an expert: instructor coaching
- Social learning: Interaction with other learners
- Tracking progress on a Learner Dashboard
- No expiration date on access to the learning product

Look for progress updates in future issues of **Thrive!**

BMO Harris—Thank you!

Hadley Institute is most grateful to BMO Harris Winnetka for graciously providing their 2nd floor space for us to use rent-free while the Hadley building is being renovated. Since our move in early April, we have unpacked boxes and made the space our own for the next eight months. Thank you to our friends at BMO Harris for being extremely welcoming to us during this transition time! You have made us feel right at home.



Learning from Our Learners

Hadley has created a standing panel of advisors of various ages and walks of life. The common element is a connection to visual impairment. Each Advisor is either personally visually impaired, professionally involved in the field, or has a friend or family member with vision loss.

Our Advisors will help inform decisions such as the relaunch of hadley.edu and content areas for new course/video/webinar offerings. We contacted 28,000 Hadley learners and are delighted that 1,600 joined the Advisory Panel. What we heard from our first surveys was a desire for:

- More instruction on using technology in everyday life
- More ways to interact with and learn from each other
- Increased opportunities to interact with Hadley staff
- Personalized recommendations for learning

Monthly Giving Can Help You Give More to Hadley

Monthly giving might be a great option to increase your support of Hadley's learners. For example, if you usually give \$100 each year, you can increase your gift to \$180 by contributing \$15 per month.

Your monthly gift can be automatically charged to your MasterCard, Visa, or American Express. **For questions, call Joe Flint at 847.784.2765 or joe@hadley.edu.**



How can you increase your support as a monthly donor?

IF YOU USUALLY GIVE...	AND GIVE THIS AMOUNT MONTHLY...	YOUR ANNUAL GIFT WILL INCREASE TO...
\$100	\$10	\$120
\$150	\$15	\$180
\$200	\$20	\$240
\$250	\$25	\$300
\$300	\$30	\$360

SNEAK PEEK: Presenting the Hadley Woman's Board



Online
orders
begin
Sept. 10

Order
Early—
Limited
Supply!

2018 Braille Holiday Card

To Order Your Cards:
Beginning September 10, call
800.323.4238 or order online
at **hadley.edu/holidaycard.**



This year's artwork was created by Hadley learner and professional artist Terri B. Webb, who began to gradually lose her sight in 2004. Knowing that she would continue to have vision loss, she reached out to Hadley to help her prepare to navigate her new world. Today, she continues to paint with her residual sight, and is constantly developing assistive techniques to guide her through her artistic process. See more of her work at **terribwebb.com.**