

LD@LAB
Meeting Notes
February 20, 2006

Paula Worthington began the program on assistive technology by welcoming those in attendance. She then introduced Louis Baggetto, a Lab school junior, who spoke about his experience with the Kurzweil software. He demonstrated the program's ability to read text aloud, to highlight text as it is being read, and other features. Louis fielded numerous questions from the audience about how he uses the software and what its strengths and weaknesses are. The audience was completely taken with Louis's confidence and willingness to speak about his experience, and all expressed gratitude for his presentation.

Next, since a mixup on dates prevented another guest speaker, Sarah Imboden of Hyde Park Day School, from attending, Lab school computer teacher Lucy Gray kindly offered to give an impromptu whirlwind tour of various technology-based accessibility tools, programs, and operating system (Apple and PC) features. We heard about software that facilitates writing, etc., and Lucy agreed to follow up with putting some info together for people to access later.

The evening concluded with some informal discussions about different assistive technology tools. Irene Sherr showed a couple of reading-related tools (Franklin speller, "smart" pen) and described how they can be used, and other people shared some tips on resources they have found helpful.

Possible follow-up ideas include: making lists of websites, products, etc. available via LD@LAB webpage, email, or similar; arranging an assistive technology "expo" aimed at parents, students, tutors, and teachers, at which companies could demonstrate and showcase their products; having a more student-focused program at which selected students might demonstrate how they use certain tools in their learning at home or at school.