As broadcasters, we ask ourselves every day, “Who is our audience?” Audience is everything. We want to know what they listen to, what they buy, how they think. We want that audience to grow, and we program accordingly. Our audience keeps us going—whether through advertising revenue or public radio support. We, in turn, provide news, information and entertainment.

Growing audience is a challenge we all face, and audio information services have a major image problem to overcome. You see, we are known for our service to people with blindness and other vision impairments. But there is another group we serve—we serve the print-disabled. There are two problems with using this term to describe our audience.

1) It’s not a household name. It’s not even in the Dictionary. People are more likely to know what it means to autotune than they are to understand what print-disabled means.

2) Print-disabled is an all-encompassing term for a lot of different reasons why you might not be able to read standard print. Maybe you were injured by an IED in Afghanistan and no longer have use of your arms. Maybe you have ALS, MS or cerebral palsy and are unable to hold a book. Maybe you have a brain injury, autism or learning disability. These all fall under the term print-disabled, and we rely on our potential audience to know what that means.

This creates a marketing challenge for audio information services. Thousands who could benefit from the service don’t think they are “blind enough”. We rely heavily on our volunteers, our own small staffs and community groups like Lions Clubs to help us spread the word.

We need your help! Spread the word about Audio-Reader. Share information with your civic groups, friends and other connections. Among those connections are most certainly visually-impaired or print-disabled people who could benefit from access to their local newspaper, a monthly magazine or a new book. A few minutes of your time could make all the difference in someone’s life.

New Faces

By Jennifer Nigro
Coordinator of Volunteers

Please give a warm welcome to the following new volunteer!

Roberta Renz is a retired bank examiner. She enjoys reading, running and sewing in her spare time. Roberta was inspired to volunteer because her father-in-law is visually-impaired. She begins as a substitute reader.
Beulah Carrington has been an Audio-Reader listener since 1995. Beulah is a devoted listener of the Kansas City Star, Topeka Capital-Journal and Lawrence Journal World newspapers. In addition to keeping up with daily current events, Beulah looks forward to the weekly grocery ads and learning what is on sale at Dillon’s grocery store.

Before tuning in to Audio-Reader most mornings, you can find Beulah drinking coffee outside on her patio with her guide dog Nicky. “Morning is my favorite time of day. It is before everyone else gets up and I get my own private quiet time. Also, I have more energy in the mornings and I like to write in the morning while my brain is still fresh,” Beulah said. That’s also when Beulah and Nicky go for their walk.

“I was always afraid of dogs and so used a cane to get around, but in 1978, when my son was 11 years old, he convinced me to get a guide dog. I investigated it and am proud that I overcame my fear of dogs. I am thankful to my son for convincing me to get a dog because I have so much more freedom and feel less vulnerable with the dog,” explained Beulah. “I currently have a German shepherd. She is my fifth guide dog, but my first shepherd. My first dog was a golden retriever, and then I had three different Labrador retrievers. It is hard to believe that I used a cane for 26 years before getting a dog,” Beulah shared.

Nicky and Beulah use their daily walks as an opportunity to socialize with neighbors, friends and family. Beulah has two children, seven grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

Beulah loves to travel and she purchases a coffee cup souvenir on each expedition to remind her of the trip. “I have coffee mugs from many states and certain events or places I have attended. I label each with a Braille label. When I get coffee in the morning it brings back the memory of that place, occasion or person. Today I’m drinking out of a cup that my granddaughter gave to me that says Coffee Hound,” giggled Beulah.

Beulah grew up in the country on the outskirts of Kansas City, KS. She has fond memories of sharing long talks and stories with her mom while canning vegetables. Food was often the center of good family time. Cherry pie, fried chicken and BBQ are still some of her favorite fare.

Beulah has many favorite things. Her favorite book is the Bible and one of her favorite authors is Paul Evans. Her favorite types of music are classical and religious. Her favorite song is Great is Thy Faithfulness. “Many mornings when I go outside I sing this because it talks about the different seasons,” Beulah said. The changing of seasons is her favorite aspect of living in Kansas.

Before she retired, Beulah also worked for the state of Kansas for many years as a clerk-typist at Topeka State Hospital. She was a “trailblazer” and mentor for other blind state employees over the years.

TACTILE ART SHOW BEING PLANNED FOR THIS COMING FALL

The Jayhawk Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of Kansas wanted to do something different for their annual Meet the Blind Month activity that is planned for each October.

A tactile art show, therefore, is being planned for sometime this coming October. Arrangements for a venue are currently underway.

“What is tactile art?” you may be asking. We are defining it as any art that can be appreciated through the sense of touch. We are including pottery, textile arts, jewelry, sculpture and acrylic painting in our definition, but entries are not limited to those media only.

If you know of an artist who might be interested in donating items for this fundraiser, or if you are an artist who would like to participate, please contact Susan Tabor at Audio-Reader at stabor@ku.edu for more information.

Susan Tabor and Renee Morgan, a local musician, are co-chairs for the event. “We’d love to see this become an annual event,” says Morgan.

The Closed Circuit will publish more details as they become available. Stay tuned!
Clarification to Audio-Reader Parking Policy

It has come to our attention that we need to make a change to how we’ve been handling parking for volunteers with some KU parking permits. This will primarily affect those of you who are students, but here is a rundown of how everyone fits into the system.

Those of you with YELLOW KU parking permits can ONLY park in yellow zones, regardless of your status as a volunteer, during restricted hours (7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday). There are a few yellow spaces just south of the main Audio-Reader lot.

Those of you with RESIDENCE HALL parking permits can ONLY park in a residence hall lot. We do not have metered parking in our lot, so this means you will either need to find on-street parking, or volunteer during unrestricted hours (before 7 a.m. or after 5 p.m. on weekdays, any time on weekends).

Those of you with RED, BLUE, GOLD or RETIREE parking permits can park in Lot 51 or anywhere else on campus your permit is valid. Remember, if your vehicle is registered as an alternate vehicle under the name of a spouse who has a KU permit, you cannot be on campus at the same time.

Those of you with NO KU PERMIT can park anywhere in Lot 51, provided you have given Audio-Reader staff the necessary information to register your vehicle with KU Parking and Transit. If you come in a vehicle other than one registered, you need to report the information to staff upon arrival so we can register it with KU Parking and Transit. Failure to do so may result in a ticket. All changes to vehicle information are your responsibility to keep updated with staff.

In short, if you have a KU parking permit, that permit trumps your status as a volunteer and you must abide by that permit’s restrictions. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Software Developer Joins Audio-Reader

By Susan Tabor, Assistant Coordinator of Volunteers

Audio-Reader has a new person on staff to help with software development and with other technical duties. Danny Mantyla began work at Kansas Public Radio in 2013 and has recently added Audio-Reader to his job duties.

Danny grew up in Wichita and graduated from Wichita Northwest High School. He is a KU graduate. In his spare time, he loves rebuilding motorcycles. Danny says you could sum up his hobbies by saying “tinkering in the garage.” What he really seems to like is restoring vehicles. “I restored a 1974 Honda CL200 motorcycle, and right now I’m working on a 1973 Honda ATC90 three wheeler. Last year, I finished restoring my pickup truck - a 1983 Chevy K10 - and that was a lot of work. I painted it inside and out, installed a 1974 front clip (hood, fenders, grill, headlights, etc.), overhauled the suspension and motor, and much, much more. After that experience, I can say without a doubt that I enjoy working on motorcycles much more! They’re smaller, cheaper and easier to work on.”

Danny has a twin brother who lives in Topeka. His dad lives in Lawrence and his mom lives in Wichita.

Danny is excited about working for Audio-Reader. “My work will help those with reading disabilities to hear newspapers and magazines, and that is the best part of my new job. I’m excited about creating a new website for Audio-Reader because we have big plans for making it much more accessible. The archived audio will be easier to listen to, and we will increase the amount of archived audio from one week to one year. We’ll also integrate the audio into podcasts so people can subscribe to them, and when there’s new content available it will automatically download to their computers, tablets and smartphones.”

So if you see Danny as you are coming or going from your reading assignment, say hi and introduce yourself! Welcome, Danny!
We're recruiting audio describers! This program is growing, and we need to add to our small but dedicated group of describers. Audio Description (AD) is a narration of all the visual elements of a performance, including action, costumes and setting. It's a free add-on; our listeners access it by picking up a pair of headphones from our volunteers. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Jen at (785) 864-4604 or jnigro@ku.edu. We'll set up an informational session and demonstration. You can also learn more at www.audiodescribe.com.

In addition to describers, we are recruiting volunteers in the Lawrence and Kansas City areas willing to attend performances and help hand out headsets to our listeners. If you’re interested in description but not quite ready to dive in, this is a great way to learn more about the process while getting involved and meeting our listeners. Contact Jen if you are interested in helping.

Audio-Reader Volunteer Dies

Audio-Reader is saddened to learn of the death of volunteer Bob Fidler. Bob, who read the sports section of the Kansas City Star for Telephone Reader on Mondays and often filled in on live regional news readings, died Tuesday, April 19, at the age of 74. Bob had been a volunteer for just over two years.

Congratulations Graduates!

Congratulations to the following Audio-Reader volunteers who graduate this May!

Heather Eldrige will receive her Master of Occupational Therapy from KU School of Medicine! Heather is looking to work with an elderly population after graduation, and will continue volunteering as a substitute reader.

Stephen Jackson is receiving his Bachelor of Science degree in biology, with an emphasis in ecology and evolution. Stephen has volunteered for nearly two years, reading the University Daily Kansan and Kansas City Star opinion section for Telephone Reader. He’ll say goodbye after graduation—we’ve appreciated his help!

Mitch Montague is graduating from KU’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences with a bachelor’s degree in Linguistics. He’ll continue volunteering as a special request reader this summer before moving to the Kansas City area for a media production job. We wish him the best of luck!

Cranberry Nut Bread / Muffins

Stir together dry ingredients. Cut butter into bits, cut into dry ingredients. Beat together juice, zest and egg. Pour in cranberries and nuts. Spray a 24 mini muffin pan and a 12 muffin pan. You may have some excess. Spoon in batter, not quite full.

Bake at 350 degrees for 25 minutes.

Adapted From: How to Cook Everything by Mark Bittman.
Five Questions:

Name: Dave Schaaf

Current assignments:
Kansas City Star sports and weather, Thursdays; For Your EARS Only.

Years of service: 9 years, 3 months

Q: Where did you grow up?
A: I grew up in Kewanee, IL, a town of 14,000 (when I lived there) located between Peoria, IL, and Davenport, IA (“as the crow flies”).

Q: What is your favorite book?
A: My favorite book is Presumed Innocent by Scott Turow. I love how Turow goes into the intricacies of the law without bogging down the story, and how Turow’s fictional world mirrors the intrigue of the Chicago and Illinois I grew up with. I wish I could be more high-minded to say another book I love, To Kill a Mockingbird, lead me to become an attorney, but Presumed Innocent probably had much more to do with that decision.

Q: How or why did you get involved with Audio-Reader?
A: My late wife, Lella (who passed away in 2005), was visually-impaired, and that was how we found out about the WUIS-WIPA Radio Information Service, an equivalent to Audio-Reader located in Springfield, IL. As I was already speaking publicly in other forums (as an attorney and as a lector at my church), reading Sports Illustrated for 1-2 hours a week for Radio Information Service seemed an ideal way to give back to a service that gave so much to us. When I moved to Kansas City, I wanted to continue volunteering, so the director of RIS gave me information about Audio-Reader. I auditioned in 2007 and have been reading ever since.

Q: What is your favorite or most unusual reading assignment?
A: My favorite weekly assignment is my current one, reading the Kansas City Star sports on Thursdays. My favorite individual piece, though, was an article about a cricket match between India and Pakistan in Sports Illustrated. I don’t know anything about cricket, and very little about Indian-Pakistani relations, but that article always stands out to me.

Q: What is your favorite thing about volunteering for Audio-Reader?
A: Two things—I love the opportunity to honor my late wife Lella’s memory by continuing to read, and I love the opportunity to share something I love (reading about sports) with others.

Editor’s Note: To Commemorate the Centennial Celebration of Lions Clubs International, LCI has created a series of Touchstone Stories which share defining moments in Lions history. Audio-Reader will be publishing these in Closed Circuit over the next several months. You can also read them, and find out more about Lions Clubs International, at www.lionsclubs.org. Thanks to our outreach coordinator and listener liaison, Lori Kesinger, for providing this information. The Lions clubs in our region are major funders and supporters of Audio-Reader and we are grateful for their support.

Touchstone Story #70
Serving the Elderly

The Essendon Lions Club in Essendon, Australia, had the land.

The Coburg Lions Club in Coburg, Australia, had the money.

They came together with a vision: to build a caring community for elderly people in need.

Lionsville was founded in 1966, built on “crown land” owned by the government but under the management of the Essendon club. It began with a modest eight units, each one housing a single occupant. But within three years, the success of Lionsville attracted government grants, allowing the community to expand to 39 buildings.

A chance encounter between an Australian Lion and a friendly stranger in Canada led to Lionsville’s further expansion. The Australian Lion was the victim of a pickpocket while vacationing, and the Canadian loaned him some cash. The stranger asked about the Lions Clubs International pin on his lapel, and he was so impressed with the Lions philosophy of service that he took his gift one giant leap forward: the stranger sent a $20,000 donation to Lionsville to establish a recreation hall, to be called Ruthville in honor of the stranger’s late wife.

Lionsville has continued to grow. Today, it consists of 84 units, a lakefront cycling and walking path and a full schedule of activities. The Essendon and Coburg Lions continue to volunteer at Lionsville, and visitors from as far as Japan have come to take note of how Lionsville serves its residents.

“We’ve been able to develop from small beginnings to a project that really does deserve worldwide recognition,” said Lion Neil Baudenette, former secretary of Lionsville. “We stepped into and filled a gap that was very visible—and nobody seemed to be trying to fill it.”

Care for the elderly is a priority for Lions clubs around the world. Offering assistance with care and dignity is an honor and a privilege among the many services Lions provide.
Audio-Reader’s 7th Annual Golf Classic Approaching Soon

Join us Monday, June 6 on the beautiful greens of Eagle Bend Golf Course for Audio-Reader’s 7th Annual Golf Classic! Erin O’Neil, KU Head Coach Women’s Golf, is back again to chair the event. For only $125, you can register to play in the tournament, and that includes breakfast, lunch and a chance to win fun prizes. You’ll even have the opportunity to “beat the pro” when you tee off against of the team’s star players. Make sure to register yourself and/or your team by May 20. To register for the event or to become a sponsor, contact Meredith Johanning at (785) 864-5336 or mjohanning@ku.edu. Brochures for the tournament are available at Audio-Reader and on our website at www.reader.ku.edu/AR_GolfTourney_Brochure_for_web.pdf

New Sensory Pavilion Nearing Completion

If you’ve been to Audio-Reader lately, you may have noticed extra work taking place in the Sensory Garden. Students with The Dirt Works Studio (KU Architecture 509 class), under the leadership of Professor Chad Kraus, have been working hard building the Sensory Pavilion they designed for the garden. The unveiling of the new Sensory Pavilion is set for Friday, May 13 with the students doing a ribbon cutting ceremony mid-morning. Parking will be very limited as it usually is on weekdays, so if you would like to see the finished pavilion after the ribbon cutting, we encourage you to stop by later in the day or any time over that weekend when parking is more readily available. Or, make sure to check it out the next time you are in to read at Audio-Reader! We are thankful to The Dirt Works Studio for bringing a beautiful, sustainable and sensorial element to the garden and we are thankful to Randy Austin and Colinda Austin Staley for making this project possible. To learn more about The Dirt Works Studio, check out their website at www.dirtworksstudio.ku.edu.

Purchase Avon Products and Support Audio-Reader!

Did you know when you purchase any Avon product from volunteer Lori Lange that 10% of your purchase goes directly to Audio-Reader? It’s that simple! Avon brochures are available in the Audio-Reader lobby. Please get in touch with Lori at langegang6@juno.com to purchase Avon skincare and makeup products and give back to Audio-Reader in the process!

This Month in Audio-Reader History

By Lynne Ellis, Audio-Reader Volunteer

• May 2011: About 30 volunteers attended a workshop presented by Dan Compo, Audio-Reader volunteer and actor, to learn new techniques for improving their delivery. You can find these workshops on our website at http://reader.ku.edu/workshops.shtml!

• May 2006: The Help Expand Audio-Reader (HE-AR) direct mail campaign set a new record, bringing in more than $60,000.

• May 2001: The Volunteer Appreciation Banquet moved from fall to May and marked the 30th year of broadcasting to print-disabled listeners in Kansas and Missouri.
MAY BIRTHDAYS

We at Audio-Reader have spring in our step as we wish the following volunteers and staff a Happy Birthday in the month of May:

1. **Karen Boyer** reads from the sports section of the *Kansas City Star* on Saturdays for Telephone Reader and is on the *Breakfast Table Times* rotation for Sundays.

Mary Howe reads *Breakfast Table Times* on Mondays.

2. **Carla Tilghman** reads the *Holton Recorder* for special requests on Wednesdays.

Jack Wilson reads Tuesday eastern Kansas regional newspapers.

3. **Brandon Edling** is one of our substitute readers.

4. **Lisa Coble-Krings** works for our annual For Your Ears Only fundraiser and works in the Audio-Reader sensory garden.

Wade Dexter is one of our Emeritus volunteers.

5. **Melissa Wick** reads gardening magazines for special requests.

Donna Decedue reads books and also reads the Sun Fresh Market and Price Chopper grocery ads.

6. **Jim Powers** reads *Consumer Reports*.

7. **Connie Mitchell** reads local Kansas City area regional news from Alphapointe.

8. **Kimberly Morrow** is one of our Emeritus volunteers.

9. **Nancy Yockey** is one of our Emeritus volunteers.

10. **Jean Finch** is a clean-up reader for Telephone Reader on Thursdays.

11. **Rex Swartz** reads obituaries from the *Kansas City Star* for Telephone Reader on Fridays.

12. **Tim Nauman** is one of our substitute volunteers.

Doug Washburn is one of our audio describers.

13. **Christine Bial** reads *VFW Ladies’ Auxiliary Magazine* for special requests.

Janis Hutchison reads program notes for Lied Center events and serves on the Audio-Reader Development Committee.

Maurice Joy is one of our Emeritus volunteers.

14. **Cindy Penzler** serves on the Audio-Reader development committee.

15. **Michael Rapport** reads world and national news and the FYI section of the *Kansas City Star* for Telephone Reader on Wednesdays.

16. **Garry Huber** is a substitute reader and also provides tech support for our location at Alphapointe.

Max Mayse reads *Discover Magazine*.

17. **Kerry Magee** reads books.

18. **Gene Vollen** reads news of southeast Kansas from the Homer Cole Center in Pittsburg.

Lorie Williams is a clean-up reader for Telephone Reader on Sundays.

19. **Kip Niven** reads *Veterans Voices*.

20. **David Wallace** reads regional news of southeast Kansas from the Homer Cole Center in Pittsburg.

21. **George Waters** is one of our Emeritus volunteers.

22. **Kerry Magee** reads books.

23. **Evie Rapport** reads from the *Topeka Capital-Journal* for Telephone Reader on Fridays.

24. **Dar Williams** is one of our Emeritus volunteers.

25. **Ann Dean** reads *Cosmopolitan Magazine*.

26. **Katie Bartkoski** is a clean-up reader for Telephone Reader on Sundays.

27. **Michael Rapport** reads world and national news and the FYI section of the *Kansas City Star* for Telephone Reader on Wednesdays.

28. **Lorie Williams** is a clean-up reader for Telephone Reader on Sundays.

29. **Meredith Kohring** reads books.

30. **Evie Rapport** reads from the *Topeka Capital-Journal* for Telephone Reader on Fridays.

31. **Dar Williams** is one of our Emeritus volunteers.

32. **Kerry Magee** reads books.

33. **Gene Vollen** reads news of southeast Kansas from the Homer Cole Center in Pittsburg.

34. **Lorie Williams** is a clean-up reader for Telephone Reader on Sundays.

STAFF BIRTHDAY:
May 7

Nick Carswell is Audio-Reader’s program manager.

May 30

Meredith Johanning is our development assistant.

Have a beautiful, springtime birthday, May birthday celebrants!

And thanks to each and every one of you, our volunteers! We appreciate all of you and your contributions to and support for the mission of Audio-Reader!
We had such a fun time celebrating Volunteer Appreciation Week with a book club gathering, microphones with everyone’s name on them in the entryway and an interactive display of assistive technology. Thank you to Mikel McCary and Sarah Knutson of Assistive Technology for Kansans, pictured here showing some of the many tools available to volunteers Chris Malik, David Kent and Randy Austin. For more information about Assistive Technology for Kansans, visit www.atk.ku.edu.