FROM THE PRESIDENT

ADED is well into its 12th year of operation as a leader in professional information exchange for Transportation of Disabled Individuals. Those of us who have worked in the clinical field of Driver Evaluation, Education and Rehabilitation have gained an acute sensitivity to the Human Condition and perseverance of the Spirit. The Human service industry that we have chosen to pursue is not an easy one. Recruiting and retaining professionals dedicating to providing state-of-the-art techniques and adaptive products is increasingly difficult and remains a challenge for persons concerned with this specialized field. Common ground and established protocol do not yet exist in our field.

As we all strive to validate and refine our services ADED stands alone as an invaluable catalyst for change. ADED has been diligently working on professional certification standards for clinicians working in the field of Driver Assessment. ADED members have played a key role in the direction of the Adaptive Devices Subcomm-
committee of the SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers). ADED Corporate members have taken it upon themselves to establish a Manufacturers group to better serve the clients we all share. This dynamic movement is expected to provide an increased measure of consistency and quality in the services that we all deliver.

As is the case in any Association or Organization, ADED gives us as much or as little as each individual strives to gain. There are unprecedented opportunities for each member of ADED to effect a change. ADED is not a self serving organization but it is an organization dedicated to providing a forum for information exchange and professional refinement. This goal is clearly international in its intent as our active membership covers several countries and continents.

As I enter my year of office, I encourage each one of the ADED members to get involved. We are only as strong as the group we represent. Inform and advise the ADED leaders of how you see our group helping you. Help us all by recruiting one other professional to join sharing the benefits of this truly dynamic association. Together we can create a vibrant field of endeavor and ultimately help those who need us most... the disabled driver.

Season's Greetings

THE CANADIAN CONNECTION

Can life get any busier! It appears like we're always running full tilt and there's not sufficient time to plan what you'd like to do, or evaluate what you've done! We have some ideas for an exciting addition to our program but need some time to write a proposal and apply for funding—only when we're successful will I share it with you in this column.

Preparation for Winter Driving

Last winter an Ontario couple (both in wheelchairs and some years ago seen through our assessment service) after having been refused access to a taxi cab, slid off the road in their van. The battery was flat and the weather was stormy. Despite efforts to keep warm, the woman died the following day in the hospital from exposure to the cold. The coroner (a physician who had also been assessed in our program) made the following recommendations:

1. Associations for seniors and disabled persons, through newsletters and pamphlets, inform their membership of the importance of vocalizing any special requests to cab companies, and that during inclement weather they inform a third party of their plans and expected time of return.

2. The Ontario Ministry of Transportation advertise through the media the "dangers of winter," specifically: wear proper clothing; carry a spare blanket in your vehicle; travel wisely; stay on travelled routes; be wary of adverse weather conditions; make sure vehicle is mechanically sound and the tires are in good condition.
3. Associations for seniors and disabled persons assess the suitability of signalling and communication devices (flares, etc.) to their particular needs and advise their membership through newsletters and pamphlets.

4. The Canadian Paraplegic Association continue their study of cellular phones for emergency purposes.

The Cellular Communications Assistance Fund

Our pilot project here at HMHC was very successful and I'm pleased to say is now a national program! Bell Cellular and all its affiliate members across Canada Cell Net Canada have launched The Cellular Communications Assistance Fund to assist disabled drivers to obtain cellular telephones for their vehicles.

The program is administered by The Canadian Paraplegic Association but one need not be spinal cord injured to apply. At the present time eligibility requirements are restricted to those disabled persons who drive their own vehicle, who rely on the use of a wheelchair (manual or electric) for basic mobility, and who cannot stand or walk. Approved applicants receive:
- an appropriate cellular telephone (hands free if required) free of charge
- free installation in the disabled driver's personal vehicle
- no monthly access rates
- up to 100 free minutes of local air time per month.

As of writing, only 4 provinces (Quebec, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia) are cellular, and only major cities and some adjoining corridors provide cellular services. Expansion is planned on a phased program, and additional persons will become eligible as cellular services reach their area.

The project is being administered by the C.P.A.'s national office, with an applications review committee meeting approximately 1 month. To date we have approved approximately 200 applications. Although the phone itself is free, we do ask if the recipient is able to donate monies to the fund—all contributions are tax deductible.

It is very exciting to have played a small part in this project which will be of help to so many.

Have a safe winter and Merry Christmas!

NOTEWORTHY!

In April CAROL BLACKBURN, OTR, joined the staff of the Driving Program at Humana Hospital Lucerne as a full time driver evaluator/trainer. For Carol, this is a return to the program she initiated. I't's sure Sue is glad to have her back.

The Newsletter is the official publication of the Association of Driver Educators for the Disabled. It is published and distributed four times a year to all ADED members.
CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

This year's conference was a huge success with over 180 registerants. A grand total of 91 attended the preconference workshop. Among the conference attendees was a family from South Africa who have a daughter with cerebral palsy. They had read about the conference in Accent on Living Magazine and included it in their vacation plans. They were very impressed at the amount of service and equipment available for the disabled driver in this country.

Adding to the conferences' international flavor was a speaker from England (who is also a terrific dancer) and a representative from the Driver Education Center of Australia.

A warm "THANK YOU" is extended to all the vendors for their participation and support.

CHRYSLER HELPS PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED

During the 1988 model year Chrysler Motors will provide a cash allowance of up to $500.00 to assist in reducing the cost of adaptive driving aids and conversion equipment installed on a new 1987 or 1988 model Chrysler Motors car or vans.

The "physically challenged" individual must pay for the devices first and then have a form completed by the adaptive equipment installer. Chrysler will then reimburse them $500.00.

Chrysler is to be congratulated for their efforts on behalf of the "Physically Challenged Driver".

Sue Pierce, Conference Host is pictured with Tony Regan guest speaker from England.
EDITOR'S COMMENTS

I received numerous requests for persons who attended the ADED conference for the first time for various information sources. Hopefully, I've included them all under "Resource Materials". If I left anything out, please let me know.

I want to once again encourage both old and new members of the association to submit information for the newsletter. I would like to establish some "roving" reporters from several different areas across the country to gather related news in your locale for the newsletter. Any volunteers?

RESOURCE MATERIALS

VIDEO AVAILABLE

The "I Never Thought it Could Happen to me Again" video presented at this years annual conference in Orlando is available for purchase for $30.00.

This is a 13 minute production which discusses pros and cons of a variety of wheelchair restraint systems including Crash-test results.

Check should be made payable to Humana Hospital
Mail to: Darlene S. Fatula
Administrative Director
Lucerne Spinal Center
818 South Main Lane
Orlando, Florida 32801

BIBLIOGRAPHY

An extensive collection of articles and research related to the field, including sections on drivers projects, assessment, wheelchair loading, and equipment testing is available free to ADED members. $25.00 to nonmembers:

Contact: Jolan Cossairt
Box 108
Plymouth, Michigan 48170

REHABILITATION GUIDE

For those of you who heard Dr. Deutsch speak on being an expert witness at this years conference his book entitled "A GUIDE TO REHABILITATION" is available through:

Matthew Bender & Co.
DM Dept.
1275 Broadway
Albany, N.Y. 12201
1-800-833-3630

This subject is just one of the topics in this guide which includes such things as, developing life care plans for permanent injuries, case reviews of catastrophic injuries and managing work related accidents.

VISION REFERRAL SOURCE

A member roster containing the names and addresses of Optometrists separated by city and state is available from:

College of Optometrists in Vision Development
National Office
P.O. Box 285
Chula Vista, Ca. 92012
619-425-6191

These are optometrists who have expertise in evaluation treatment of persons with eye movement disorders.
"KEEP ALIVE. DON'T DRINK & DRIVE" is the theme of this year's MADD Poster Contest.

This sounds like an appropriate contest for some of our talented spinal cord or brain injured patients to enter. Entries are due by February 19, 1988.

Details are available from:

MADD
National Youth Program
669 Airport Freeway, Suite 310
Hurst, Texas 76053