



# THE MARYLAND RELAY *Connection*

SPRING 2017



## Stevenson Students Put Production Skills to the Test for Maryland Relay!

Last fall, we were fortunate enough to partner with three students at Stevenson University on a very special project. Students enrolled in the university's Documentary and Promotional Production course produced a video promoting Maryland Relay! The students offered to produce the video at no cost in order to gain real-world experience in video production and course credit.

The project began in September with a kickoff meeting at Stevenson University. Working together, we created a video that will help raise awareness for Maryland Relay and the important services it provides to Maryland residents. The video was completed in December.

Thank you to Stevenson University and its students for agreeing to help us with this project—we love the final product!

**See the video here: [tinyurl.com/hn4q9nh](http://tinyurl.com/hn4q9nh)**



Voice/TTY: 800-552-7724 or 410-767-6960

Fax: 410-767-4276

Video Phone: 443-453-5970

[mdrelay.org](http://mdrelay.org)



You may notice that in our contact information, we include a Video Phone (VP) number. Persons using American Sign Language can contact us via Video Phone at 443-453-5970.



Students who worked on the video smile for the camera.  
Left-right: Jonathan Kuchinskis, Daniel Douglas, and Jaime Barthol

## Maryland Relay Sponsors Veteran Outreach Program

Maryland Relay is a proud sponsor of the Maryland Public Television (MPT) Salutes Vietnam Veterans Traveling Exhibit!

Celebrating the military service of Marylanders during the Vietnam War, the exhibit has visited dozens of locations across Maryland and D.C. Maryland Relay's outreach coordinators have also been on site with the exhibit at libraries in Frederick and Harford Counties to greet visitors and raise awareness for Maryland Relay and the Maryland Accessible Telecommunications (MAT) program.

**Visit [vietnam.mpt.org/travelingexhibit](http://vietnam.mpt.org/travelingexhibit) to see where the MPT Salutes Vietnam Veterans Traveling Exhibit will be next!**



welcome  
to the Team!

We are happy to welcome a new member to the Maryland Relay team. Kenya Colbert is a student at Towson University who is pursuing her Bachelor's degree in Deaf Studies with a minor in Information Systems. This semester, she is joining Maryland Relay as an intern and will be using her ASL skills as she works closely with Assistive Technology Administrator, Kevin Steffy, to conduct evaluations for the MAT program and assist with advertisement of the new tablets in the program.



## Mary Lynn Lally Recognized as Deaf Community Leader

Congratulations to Mary Lynn Lally, Maryland's recipient of the Hamilton Relay 2016 Deaf Community Leader Award!

Kelby Brick, director of the Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, nominated Mary Lynn, stating that she has worked hard to advance issues affecting Deaf and hard of hearing seniors in Maryland.

**Thank you for all your great work!**

## DoIT Welcomes New Leadership

The Maryland Department of Information Technology (DoIT) welcomed a new leadership team at the beginning of 2017. Michael Leahy is the new Acting Secretary, and comes to us from the City of Annapolis where he was the Chief Legal Officer to the Mayor and the City Council.

Lance Schine is the new Deputy Secretary. He most recently served as the Chief Technology Officer with the Maryland Department of Human Resources.

In addition, Stan Kizior and Stephen Kolbe are the new Assistant Secretaries.

**We want to welcome everyone to the team!**



### Secretary David Garcia

Earlier this year, we sadly bid farewell to David Garcia as Secretary of the Maryland Department of Information Technology (DoIT). During his tenure, Mr. Garcia was an avid supporter of Maryland Relay, and a staunch advocate for improving telecommunications access for everyone in our State.

“My work here has been extremely rewarding, and the relationships I have built with you and with our team members have been a great gift, personally and professionally,” said Garcia.

We were especially grateful to have Mr. Garcia’s support as we worked to introduce tablets to the Maryland Accessible Telecommunications (MAT) program last fall.

Mr. Garcia has returned to running his private company in Chantilly, Virginia. **We wish him all the best!**

### Deputy Secretary Luis Estrada

It is with much regret that we also bid farewell to Luis Estrada as Deputy Secretary of DoIT. Mr. Estrada encouraged a renewed focus on customer service and citizen outcomes, which allowed us to see the big picture and understand how our efforts positively impact the people we are here to serve. Thanks to Mr. Estrada, collaboration with our sister agencies is better than ever before.

Mr. Estrada has entered the private sector, and **we wish him well!**



*Former DoIT Secretary David Garcia with the Telecommunications Access of Maryland team in December 2016*



## Outreach Coordinator Transitions to Public Relations Officer Role

Congratulations to Asia Johnson on her transition from Outreach Coordinator to Public Relations Officer. Asia started at Maryland Relay as an Outreach Coordinator in 2014 and has spent the past three years traveling throughout the State to educate people about Maryland Relay's services.

In her new role, she is responsible for planning, developing, and enhancing the marketing and public relations strategies of Maryland Relay, as well as serving as a liaison to the Governor's Advisory Board for Telecommunications Relay (GABTR), among other responsibilities.

**Our whole team is excited to see her take on this new role!**

## TAM Delivers Valentines to Those in Need

On February 14, the Telecommunications Access of Maryland (TAM) team spent the day delivering care packages containing shampoo, toothpaste, and other toiletries to men and women at Helping Up Mission and My Sister's Place (Catholic Charities of Baltimore).

"Working with those who are less fortunate in the community reminds us of the needs that extend beyond what we do day-to-day as an agency," said Brenda Kelly-Frey, Director of TAM. "It's important that we give back to our neighbors."

A State agency within the Maryland Department of Information Technology, TAM oversees all Maryland Relay services and programs, including Captioned Telephone and the Maryland Accessible Telecommunications (MAT) equipment distribution program.



## Tablets Are a Successful Addition to MAT Program

We are excited to announce that since introducing tablets to the Maryland Accessible Telecommunications (MAT) program last fall, close to 150 tablets have been distributed!

“We are so excited by the initial success of this program, and the support we’ve received from Governor Hogan, the State of Maryland, and our community partners,” said Brenda Kelly-Frey, Director of Telecommunications Access of Maryland (TAM). “We have been overwhelmed by this incredible response, and are thrilled to be able to offer Marylanders the latest in mobile technology to meet their telecommunications needs.”

**If you, or someone you know, want to apply to be evaluated for the MAT program or would like more information, please visit [mdrelay.org](http://mdrelay.org) or contact Maryland Relay at 800-552-7724 (Voice/TTY), 410-767-6960 (Voice/TTY), or 443-453-5970 (Video Phone).**



## Now Offering 880iB Braille CapTel

We are excited to share that the MAT program is now offering a new CapTel® product—the CapTel 880iB—designed for people who are DeafBlind. The device, also called “Braille CapTel,” allows people with vision and hearing loss to read Braille on the phone.

With Braille CapTel, users connect their Braille display with Bluetooth or a USB cable. During calls, the device displays everything that is said in Braille. Ideal candidates have low vision and difficulty hearing, read Braille, and speak for themselves. It is important to note that the Braille display reader is sold separately.

At this time, CapTel 880iB is not a subsidized product, and customers cannot get this device using the same third-party certification process that covers other CapTel models. It can only be ordered on an as-needed basis, given its highly specialized nature and limited user base.

Detailed product information, including training videos and a list of compatible Braille devices, can be found at [captel.com/braille](http://captel.com/braille)

If you are interested in being evaluated for a CapTel 880iB through the MAT program, please contact Maryland Relay.

*CapTel is a registered trademark of Ultratec, Inc.*



## GABTR News

We welcome **Patricia Ferran** as the newest member of the Governor’s Advisory Board for Telecommunications Relay (GABTR), representing Relay users who are Deaf and hard of hearing.

**The next GABTR meeting will be held Saturday, June 10, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Maryland Relay (301 West Preston Street, Suite 1008A, Baltimore, MD 21201)**



## Telecommunications Access of Maryland

Maryland Dept. of Information Technology  
301 West Preston Street, Suite 1008A  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201



 [facebook.com/MarylandRelay711](https://facebook.com/MarylandRelay711)

 [twitter.com/MDRelay711](https://twitter.com/MDRelay711)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Look for Maryland Relay's Outreach Coordinators at these upcoming events.

To see a complete list, visit [mdrelay.org](http://mdrelay.org):

### April 21

Alzheimer's Association: Annual Dementia Conference  
Sheraton North Baltimore Hotel

### April 22

Harford County Youth & Family Resource Festival  
Harford Community College

### April 27

Maryland Military & Veteran Women Business Conference  
War Memorial Building

### April 28

MSHA 2017 Annual Convention  
Embassy Suites International | Hunt Valley

### May 19

Queen Anne's County Senior Summit  
Queen Anne's County 4-H Park

### May 24

PG County Senior Health & Fitness Day  
Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex

### June 2

The Arc Maryland State Convention  
Hilton Baltimore BWI Airport

### June 3

Mid-Atlantic Deaf & Hard of Hearing Festival  
Howard County Fairgrounds

### June 26-27

Maryland Municipal League Conference  
Roland E. Powell Convention Center | Ocean City

### August 17-18

Maryland Association of Counties Conference  
Roland E. Powell Convention Center | Ocean City