



# PONDICHERRY UNIVERSITY

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Date : 01.02.2013

## E-CIRCULAR

### Ananda Rangapillai Library & Enabling Unit for the Differently Abled

welcomes you for a

### Special Presentation and Workshop

by **Daniel Kish**

(President, World Access for the Blind)

#### Presentation

Venue : J.N. Auditorium

Date : 05.02.2013

Time : 10.00 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.



#### Workshop

Venue : Library Annexe

Date : 05.02.2013

Time : 2.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.

#### Key features:

- Perceptual mobility specialist would teach the blind to 'see' with flash sonar techniques.
- Train to navigate sensing echolocation etc.



*Forenoon session would be open to all. The afternoon workshop would have in depth training for the blind both indoors and outdoors. However those who are interested are welcome.*



**Come one and all to 'see' the World through their eyes.**

**All are invited...**

*Samyuktha*  
1/2/13

**UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN**

## **Daniel Kish and World Access for the Blind (WAFTB)**

World Access for the Blind is a Non-Profit organisation based in California. The organisation helped over 5,000 students in over 18 countries with a dedicated team as most are blind! Their unique, scientific method teaches blind people to see in new ways by activating the brain to gain images of the world through sound and touch - like lighting a match in the dark. The motivation is to help more blind children and adults globally to improve their quality of life, to challenge poverty and social isolation, and to find freedom to realize their dreams.

WAFTB is the only organization known to focus on developing and implementing comprehensive, innovative approaches to improving the functioning of blind people through enhancing sensory processing in combination with mobility and life skills training.

Daniel Kish is the lead Founder and President of World Access for the Blind, and its echolocaters Perceptual Mobility Training Division. He established the organisation in 2000, to share his unique knowledge and perspective to address the significant challenges confronting blind people. Daniel lost his sight as an infant; yet, he grew as a normal child free to enjoy the world and learn by doing. Daniel accomplished this by teaching himself when very young to "see" with sonar by clicking his tongue, which enables identification of spatial relationships using acoustics (hearing), similar to how a bat uses echolocation. He is known as a real-life Batman or Human Batman, the blind see with brain.

Being the first totally-blind certified mobility instructor, Daniel led the establishment of World Access For The Blind (WAFTB) in 2000 to share his unique knowledge and perspective to address the significant challenges confronting blind people.

Daniel holds Master's degrees in both Developmental Psychology and Special Education, emphasizing perceptual development, family dynamics, and children at risk. He also holds two national certifications in Orientation and Mobility, COMS and NOMC. Daniel is the first totally blind individual to obtain both certifications. Daniel has collaborated extensively with very renowned therapists and specialists in the areas of neural science, communication, biomechanics, and perception. Given his unique combination of training, background, and associations, Daniel refers to himself as a Perceptual Mobility Specialist, emphasizing in his instructional practice the perceptual foundations underlying navigation and environmental interaction. Daniel has worked with over 5000 blind students of all ages and backgrounds, and from many cultures. He has particular experience with deaf-blindness, autism, and perceptual processing disorders.

In addition to his work as a Perceptual Mobility Specialist, Daniel has coordinated and supervised all types of educational and enrichment programs including assistive technology, Braille and large print instruction, student/family coaching, peer tutoring, public awareness, and a mentor program. Daniel has stayed and worked extensively with dozens of families in many countries to help them break down the barriers to realising their children's potential to achieve a quality of life comparable to their peers. He has presented and conducted hundreds of invited presentations and workshops internationally on all topics related to human perception and blindness, including professional development trainings for top scientists, Teachers, and medical practitioners.

He was involved in developing and implementing a multiphase model for training individuals, blind and sighted, to provide Perceptual Mobility instruction to other blind people, and to mobilize public awareness campaigns to shed a more positive light on the real issues faced by blind individuals.

Daniel is perhaps best known for his expertise in echolocation, and has created the first systematic, comprehensive echolocation curriculum for advanced training. Kish and his organization have taught echolocation to at least 500 blind children around the world.

Kish has helped Tamil actor Vikram, who plays a RAW agent role in the film "Thaandavam". Vikram played the role of a visually challenged person in the film.

He has coined the term "FlashSonar" and some of his students have applied FlashSonar combined with other techniques to riding bicycles independently at moderate speeds through unfamiliar environments, and to participate effectively and independently in other complex activities such as skating, ball play, and solo wilderness travel. Daniel and his associates have also designed the first portable device to enhance Flash Sonar for day to day use.

***For more details log on to <http://www.worldaccessfortheblind.org/>***