



PHOTOS: ISAAC ARJONILLA, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wayne Heidle is an assistant professor and adaptive technology specialist at Marshall B. Ketchum University. He is accompanied by his guide dog, Poncho.

## NO TIME FOR 'PITY PARTY'

Fullerton's Low Vision Center honors a volunteer who helps others adapt as their eyesight fails.

BY LOU PONSI  
STAFF WRITER

Over the years, Wayne Heidle's volunteer efforts have made such an impact on clients of the Low Vision Center at Fullerton's Marshall B. Ketchum University, the 60-year old husband, father and grandfather will be bestowed with the institution's highest award.

Heidle, who is legally blind, will receive the Individual Humanitarian Service V-Award at the university's Shared Vision Gala and V Awards event on Oct. 2.

But just 10 years ago, Heidle thought his life was over.

Diagnosed years earlier with retinitis pigmentosa, a degenerative eye disease that causes severe vision loss akin to looking through a pinhole and often leads to total blindness, he found the Low Vision Center.

He had given up his career as a construction contractor. Completely blind in one eye and with pinhole vision in the other, he could no longer drive or read.

"You don't think you have a future," he



Heidle has discovered and researched technology tools that allow people with low vision to read or interact with text.

### Shared Visions Gala & V-Awards

The gala serves as a fundraiser for Marshall B. Ketchum University of Fullerton, home of the Southern California College of Optometry and Low Vision Center.

**Where:** Nixon Presidential Library & Museum  
**When:** 5:30 p.m. Oct. 2

**Tickets, information:** [ketchum.edu/sharedvisions](http://ketchum.edu/sharedvisions)

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## City wants public's thoughts on outdoor music downtown

BY LOU PONSI  
STAFF WRITER

The municipal code allows for outdoor amplified music to be played in downtown Fullerton as long as the establishment gets a permit from the city.

The public will get to weigh in on whether outdoor amplified music should continue to be allowed in the downtown zone, or in the transportation center specifically. And if amplified music is allowed, guidelines on how noise levels are measured and regulated will need to be established.

The City Council last week directed staff to schedule a public hearing at a future Planning Commission meeting to discuss the issue. A specific date has not been

set.

"I would like to see us have a community meeting ... a study session and invite all the folks who live around the downtown and have businesses in the downtown and come out and talk to us about what they need," Councilwoman Jennifer Fitzgerald said.

The debate over allowing outdoor amplified music and regulating noise levels has been playing out since 2008.

The issue came up again recently when resident Tony Bushala, a business and property owner in the area, said music being played on the outdoor patio of a restaurant in the transportation

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FILE PHOTO

Korean culture will be showcased along a section of La Mirada Boulevard this weekend for the 31st Arirang Festival of Orange County.

### If you go

**When:** 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday through Sunday  
**Where:** On La Mirada Boulevard, between Beach and Alondra boulevards, in Buena Park  
**Cost:** Admission to the festival is free. There is a cost for food and merchandise.  
**Information:** 714-228-1188 or [arirangoc.com](http://arirangoc.com).

## ARIRANG FESTIVAL TO SHOWCASE KOREAN CULTURE

A section of La Mirada Boulevard in Buena Park will celebrate Korean culture this weekend during the 31st Arirang Festival of Orange County.

Festivities will include traditional Korean music and dance performances, an open-air market with dozens of booths, a talent show, a singing contest, K-POP performers and martial arts demonstrations.

The festival began in 1981 in Garden Grove under the name Korea Day and then changed to the O.C. Korean Festival. In 2013, the name was changed again to the Arirang Festival and moved to Buena Park.

The name change is meant to reflect that other cultures are participating in this year's festival.

Arirang does not have an exact English translation. It is the refrain of a Korean folk song and is used to express joy.

- Lou Ponsi



PHOTOS: ISAAC ARJONILLA, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wayne Heidle demonstrates the capabilities of the ClearView CCTV, which helps magnify text and reads it aloud.

## VISION: Altruism extends beyond helping at Fullerton facility

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said. "It's the worst feeling in the world."

The key to turning that feeling around, said Heidle, is finding "the one thing that makes it not about you anymore. If not, you'll sit in your pity party."

Dr. Rebecca Kammer, Heidle's physician at the Low Vision Center, helped him find that one thing.

Kammer persuaded Heidle to volunteer time teaching other visually impaired patients how to use the eye center's technology.

His title: volunteer assistant professor and adaptive technology specialist at the University Eye Center at the Southern California College of Optometry.

"I was in shock," said Heidle, recalling the request.

With his tan Labrador retriever, Poncho, laying nearby, Heidle talks enthusiastically from a room in the Low Vision Center aptly called the "Room of Hope."

About the size of an average bedroom, the room is filled with equipment that makes life easier for clients with visual impairments.

Devices available can scan text and then read it aloud, computers can magnify newspaper print-sized text and handheld GPS devices can help with naviga-



Poncho grabs a nap in the "Room of Hope," which is filled with equipment that makes life easier for clients with visual impairments.

tion. All of this is technology that was discovered and researched by Heidle before becoming standard equipment at the Low Vision Center.

"We can teach someone to read in five minutes" he said. "We can teach someone who has used a computer to use a computer again in 10 minutes."

Heidle volunteers time helping clients learn the technology. He also has the empathy to provide hope for people who feel they have none.

"What winds up happening is that you get to a point where you think you can't do a lot of things," Heidle said. "If you come into the room and you can't read,

and five minutes later you can read, this is huge."

Heidle's altruism has expanded beyond the Low Vision Center.

He facilitates a men's support group at the Braille Institute in Anaheim. He shows off Poncho to schoolchildren and talks about what life is like for a person with visual impair-

ments. Heidle even convinced a member of the Braille Institute support group, Brett Pearce, to volunteer at the Low Vision Center.

"I owe everything to this guy," said Pearce, 52. "I was at the end of my rope."

Heidle said he doesn't plan on slowing down anytime soon.

"I have to have something going because there is nothing worse than sitting around doing nothing," he said. "I absolutely love this university and I love to help people."

**CONTACT THE WRITER:**  
714-704-3730 or  
lponsi@ocregister.com

## MUSIC

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center exceeded decibel levels established in the transportation center's specific plan. Bushala used a deci-

bel meter to measure the sound.

Readings from decibel meters can vary and may not be enforceable in court, City Attorney Dick Jones said. Also, the restaurant playing the music outside has been doing so since be-

fore a noise ordinance was in place, possibly exempting the establishment from having to adhere to the guidelines, Jones said.

As the downtown area continues to become more populated, noise levels will become more of an issue,

Bushala said.

"We're expecting housing development and we are planning for people to live in the downtown," he said. "If we go forward and change the Fullerton municipal code to allow for outdoor amplified music to be

played, we are basically putting a nail in the coffin for any future development."

Until clearer regulations are in place, the city is temporarily halting the issuance of new permits to play outdoor music.

"We have an evolving downtown," City Manager Joe Felz said. "At the end of the day, we need some guidelines."

**CONTACT THE WRITER:**  
714-704-3730 or  
lponsi@ocregister.com

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