Meet another of our highly qualified ATC staff. In this and the next issue, we will feature our instructors.

Arthur Rizzino has been an instructor in our center since August 1998, but he has been using -- and studying -- access technology since he was first introduced to TotalTalk software in 1981. Even before that in high school, Art was intrigued by the idea of creating computer programs, and relied on his computer teacher and fellow students to read aloud teletype printouts of program code and results.

Spero Pipakis, ATC coordinator, says, "Art's ability to think on his feet as well as to think outside the box is invaluable when working with students who have a wide variety of needs. Our clients range from those who use voice recognition programs like Dragon Naturally to others learning to use the Deaf-Blind Communicator to interact with friends and family."

Art has a bachelor of science degree in computer science from Rochester Institute of Technology, and he continues to enjoy learning about new technologies. He is our resident iPhone expert, and recently participated in the
first Helen Keller National Center train-the-trainers seminar for telecommunications equipment.

Art feels one of his greatest strengths is his tenacity when looking for the best solutions for clients' access problems. He says, "It is rewarding when I have a positive influence on students and they are able to use their equipment independently after I have worked with them."

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BVRS

Blind and Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh, a 103-year-old private nonprofit, has been a leader in programs and services for people of all ages who are blind, vision impaired or have other disabilities. Our team of professionals provides comprehensive and personalized computer instruction, employment and vocational services, personal adjustment to blindness training, independence skill building and in-home instruction. We also offer comprehensive low vision evaluations accompanied by training and rehabilitation strategies. BVRS is United Way Impact Fund Award for Excellence Agency and is accredited by The National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving People with Blindness or Vision Impairments (NAC).