

# **Pace Students Invent Fun & Friendly “Smile Gear” iPad Stylus**

## **Victory through Hardware: Pace Students Invent Fun & Friendly “Smile Gear” iPad Stylus**

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This month, two of Pace’s MS in Educational Technology students, Jennifer Simon and Janelle Wallace, achieved their dream of being published before they graduate.

As part of their TS642 Computer Hardware, Troubleshooting, and Maintenance class taught by Dr. Jean Coppola, Simon and Wallace developed adaptive iPad styles for the hand/arms and head that they call “Smile Gear.” These unique, colorful, and friendly stylus’ have been selected to have their Assistive Technology invention placed into a new book, *Design and Technologies for Healthy Aging* (DATHA) as part of a coalition initiative housed at the Center for Assistive Technologies and Environmental Access (CATEA). The DATHA is currently under development by Claudia Rébola, Tenure Track Assistant Professor of Industrial Design at Georgia Institute of Technology.

Simon and Wallace explained, “We discovered that in certain cases of cerebral palsy and other physical disabilities, patients are not able to use e-Devices to their full capacity because they are restricted physically. To help solve this problem and also bring a smile to people with disabilities, we have created two gizmos designed for touchscreen devices that are cool, colorful, functional, and simple to create. These friendly self-made adaptive tools are a refreshing change to the cold and uncomfortable metal/plastic pointers that are the norm for alternative tools. The tools we have developed are inexpensive to make, flexible for different needs and body sizes, and lend themselves to people with disabilities who have difficulty using the iPad or other e-Devices. These cool & colorful styluses are able to wrap around hands, arms, or the head to point and select apps on touch-screen devices. One special and distinctive feature about our tools is that they are available in different colors and textures even with fun accessories like eyeballs and antenna which transform these styluses into friendly creatures that not only aid those with disabilities, but that also boost their confidence by putting a smile on their faces and making them feel “cool” about using it.”

This new book by DATHA will focus on design tools used for aging for the purpose of identifying and communicating designed technologies for healthy aging. The book will be illustrated with approximately 200 pages containing an inventory of designed technologies for older adults. The completion of the book is expected within two years, with Wiley being a target publisher. For this book, designed technologies are defined as products that make use of digital interactive technologies to support an activity for older adult.

Just another example of what PACE Students can achieve! To find more, you can visit their website at: <http://paceuniversity2012.wix.com/victoryhardware>.