**uReview makes its debut, amplifying research**

The UniDescription Project always has been a research-focused initiative, intent on bringing more empiricism to the field of Audio Description. But now — following years of development of this idea — we have a robust new online uReview tool that allows us to ask research questions about descriptions, even at scale, and handle that data in efficient ways. In other words, we now can conduct Audio Description research beyond what others in the world can do. That should make for an exciting future. We also had many other important achievements in this past academic year (2021-2022), including:

Hosting another large Descriptathon (D8, Oct. 26-28, 2021) that attracted more than 100 participants from cultural, natural, and heritage sites around the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. This event – sponsored by grants from the U.S. National Park Service and Google – brought together new collaborators from National Parks UK, the Royal National Institute of Blind People, the Canadian Council of the Blind, The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and the Nigeria National Park Service. In addition, we welcomed back enduring partners from the U.S. National Park Service, the American Council of the Blind, the Blinded Veterans Association, the Helen Keller National Center for DeafBlind Youths and Adults, and Parks Canada. As a part of that event, we unveiled many more major improvements to [UniD’s website](http://www.unidescription.org/) and mobile apps, offering robust and open-access online tools for learning about, making, and sharing Audio Description. We received significant additional grant-support from the National Park Service and Google to improve Audio Description research and practice, meaning …

Descriptathon 9 is on!

**Other highlights from June 2021 to May 2022**

**Honored with the “AccessAbility” Award from Helen Keller Services as well as a “Projects of Influence” Best in Heritage Award:** Dr. Brett Oppegaard, UniD’s Principal Investigator, accepted two major honors for The UniDescription Project this year: 1. UniD was selected for an international award, as a “Project of Influence,” at The Best in Heritage conference in Dubrovnik, Croatia. The Best in Heritage is an annual and global gathering to celebrate award-winning museum, heritage and conservation projects. And, 2. Helen Keller Services selected Dr. Oppegaard for one of its national “AccessAbility” awards, recognizing individuals who are using their talents and resources to support the DeafBlind community.

**Extensive Field Research:** The new uReview system debuted in January 2021 and by May 2022, we already had completed independent and triangulated reviews (at least three per site) of descriptions from about 100 U.S. National Park Service sites. The uReview system can be done online and asynchronously, so reviewers can provide feedback when they can, and the system is fully customizable in terms of what questions can be asked and what response data is gathered. We expect this system to lead to all sorts of interesting research in the near future.

**Website and Mobile App Improvements:** The UniD website ([www.unidescription.org](http://www.unidescription.org/)) had several new features added this year, including a Dashboard view, integrated uReview reports, and a new message center. The UniD mobile apps also were updated.

**NEA Project:** With $10,000 in grant support from the National Endowment for the Arts, Dr. Brett Oppegaard commissioned a team of sound artists (Andy Graydon, Ernst Karel, and Eden Girma) to create a novel and model piece of Audio Description at the Goldsworthy Walk in The Presidio within the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, which is one of the most-visited NPS sites in the country. The sound-art production was a hit with the 20 American Council of the Blind members who tested it, including a team of 5 on-site, and we will be writing about those results in the next year.

**More Major Grant Support:** UniD was awarded new grants from the NPS ($68,000) and Google ($50,000) to continue our Descriptathon-related activities and basic research. All funds contribute to the ongoing development of UniD’s webtools and support systems, including the Descriptathon training workshops.

**More Published Research:** During this year, Dr. Oppegaard led research efforts that produced academic journal articles and presentations at multiple international conferences.

**Coming soon, Descriptathon 9 (Oct. 18-20, 2022):** D9 again will include 16 teams, more than 100 participants, and our organizational partners at the National Park Service (including representatives from three regions, Midwest, Intermountain, and Pacific), the American Council of the Blind, Fish & Wildlife, Parks Canada, Blinded Veterans, and the Helen Keller National Center. D9 also will welcome new collaborators from the Aquarium of the Pacific and Brooklyn Botanic Gardens.