



Since 1983, a worldwide alliance working to create opportunities for people who communicate using little or no speech.

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Hi, ISAAC Members:

We are already in April of 2011 and I am happy to report to you that, with Franklin Smith, our new Executive Director and the rest of the Secretariat, activities in the ISAAC office have been progressing well. The new website is taking on form nicely and should be available for testing by you all in the not-too-distant future.

April is a particularly important month for ISAAC, as Shirley McNaughton celebrated her 80th birthday together with the 40th anniversary of [Blissymbolics](#) on April 15th in Toronto. Hearing this made me reflect back to when I first met Shirley at my very first ISAAC conference in Stockholm in 1990. At that meeting Shirley and others argued vigorously that communication was too important to be compromised by politics and that communication should transcend political boundaries. This argument won the day and left me in awe of Shirley's vision and leadership. Since then I became more familiar with Blissymbols and worked towards the incorporation of this powerful tool for communication into the curriculum of the South African university where I taught.

As the Founding President of ISAAC, founder of Blissymbolics Communication International, and Order of Canada recipient, Shirley is living proof of the power to effect change and make a difference in the lives of those with severe communication problems. Her compassion and tireless efforts in promoting AAC worldwide are an inspiration to us all. ISAAC has indeed been privileged to have had leaders like this to spearhead the ISAAC mission. Thank you, Shirley, for being such a positive force within the AAC world. We all look forward to the next 40 years of Blissymbolics!

Take Care and Keep Communicating!

[Erna Alant](#)

Not yet an ISAAC member?

Members Only

April 2011 *Message from the President* in **French, German, Italian** and **Spanish**:

Message de la Présidente - Avril 2011 [Click here](#)

Avril 2011 Brief der Vorsitzenden [Click here](#)

Aprile 2011 - Messaggio del Presidente [Click here](#)

Abril 2011 Mensaje de la Presidenta [Click here](#)

1. ...From the Executive Director

I am pleased to say that over the course of the past two months, I have been able to speak with many different chapter representatives from around the globe. I am appreciative of those who have made the time in their schedules to take me up on my invitation in the February edition of E-News, to "link up" on Skype. This has given me the opportunity of getting to know many of you on a personal level. For those chapter representatives who have not yet set up a time to talk, I would encourage you to send me an email to franklin@isaac-online.org, so that we can set up a time. [Click here to view document](#)

...From the Executive Director in **French, German, Italian** and **Spanish**:

Avril 2011 ...de la part du Directeur Exécutif [Click here](#)

April 2011 ...Brief des Geschäftsführers [Click here](#)

Aprile 2011...Messaggio del Direttore Esecutivo [Click here](#)

Abril 2011...Del Director Ejecutivo [Click here](#)

2. ISAAC to Launch New Website in Fall 2011 - Call for Photographs

In July 2010, the Council approved a proposal for the **development of a new ISAAC website**. The project is proceeding well and according to plan, and the launch of the new website is scheduled for the fall of 2011. [Click here to view document](#)

We are seeking photographs for the new ISAAC website. **Please send us a photograph or two, along with a permission form signed by each person appearing in the photograph(s)**, which will allow us to use the image on our website or in any other print or electronic materials related to the role and function of ISAAC. [Click here to view form](#)

3. ISAAC 2012 - Pittsburgh - Wow!



Mark Your Calendar!
July 28-29: Pre-conference, AAC Camp, Executive & Council
July 30-August 2: Main Conference
August 3-4: ISAAC Research Symposium

Morgan Ball, Bob Conti, Amy Goldman, Katya Hill, Jennifer Lowe and Franklin Smith met recently at the Westin in Pittsburgh to discuss the ISAAC 2012 Conference. [Click here to view article](#)

4. Call for ISAAC Directory Advertisers

Interested in advertising in **ISAAC Directory 2011**? Full details are available [here](#).

Circulation for last year's edition was over 3,800. Reserve space for your ad by **May 16, 2011** using the [ISAAC Directory 2011 Email/Fax Back Form](#).

5. Tweeting about AAC ... Are you in Twitter?

Wherever you are in the world, Twitter is a good way to connect on all things related to AAC! We can provide tips in English that can tell you about how to get started in Twitter. Please contact Dr. Bronwyn Hemsley and she will pass these on to you.

Bronwyn is in Twitter at @bronwynah.

Two ISAAC Chapters are in Twitter: Communication Matters (ISAAC in the UK) and ISAAC Australia. Please let us know if your chapter or country has Tweeting ISAAC members! [Click here to view full article](#)

6. Parent-Professional Partnership in France

Mutual Support and Sharing for a Single Goal: The Child, Part 2

On Saturday, April 2, the French "antenna" of ISAAC Francophone held its first Parent-Professional Collaboration meeting in Paris. The day was organized in cooperation with APETREIMC, a parent organization that provides integrated daycare and activities for children with disabilities such as cerebral palsy. [Click here to view article](#)

7. Preparing for International AAC Awareness Month, October 2011

Faye Warren, ISAAC's Leadership Chair for People who use AAC, has developed a project for October 2011 called **Power of Communication Relays**. The idea is find a new, fun way to promote awareness of augmentative communication methods and to raise money to increase access to communication for people with little or no speech. Faye explains the idea in a [video posted on YouTube](#). Faye would also like to invite everyone to join the [ISAAC LEAD Support Group](#) on Facebook. It is a place where you can post comments and questions, and "encourage each other to dream big!"

If you have any questions about this project, please contact [Faye Warren](#). Visit [International AAC Month on Facebook](#) for news and current events.

8. Kilometres for Communication - Join the Team!

ISAAC Canada is proud to be a partner in the 2011 [Kilometres for Communication](#) awareness event. Spearheaded by Skye Wattie, Kerr Wattie and Gail Fisher-Taylor, the goal of this event is to "empower the voices and lives of people who have limited or no speech, and to make accessibility and inclusion a national priority." From May through August 2011, Skye will cycle across Canada raising awareness, educating and fundraising for the AAC community. [Click here to view article](#)

9. International Events

Many ISAAC members will be attending the exciting conferences that are planned for this spring and summer. See [Conferences and Courses Calendar](#).

10. Resources

Have you seen these e-newsletters? They contain information and perspectives of interest to ISAAC members:

[Interface](#) from South Africa

[AAC-RERC](#) from the U.S.

[ACWN Newsletter](#) from the U.S.

[Deepshika](#) from India

Do you publish an e-newsletter that you would like us to feature? Please let us know! See contact information below....

11. Contact Us

ISAAC Chapters and members worldwide are invited to submit items of interest from your country or region. News, AAC practice tips, research, personal essays, etc., whether in article format or as a link to online articles or resources, will be posted on the [Information Exchange](#) section of the ISAAC website. Please send articles and photos to [Nola Millin](#), Editor of IE.

ISAAC E-News is published five times each year. Your comments on this issue are welcome. Please contact [Heather Stonehouse](#), Media Editor.

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