

December 2013



Jeffrey K. Riley,
ISAAC President

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Message from the President

Dear ISAAC Members:

As I write this in early December, it is just days after the passing of one of the world's great figures, Nelson Mandela. Mandela's story is an extraordinary example of patience, compassion, vision, and determination under the most dire of circumstances. Despite 27 years of imprisonment and isolation, upon obtaining his freedom Mandela was able to speak with calm and compassion to lead his fractured country and transform it into a nation based on democracy, freedom, and human rights. His resolve and understanding of the human condition stand as an example to all of us.

In similar ways ISAAC members around the globe struggle against isolation, neglect, and ignorance to ensure that our fellow human beings have a voice for self-expression, self-determination and participation as members of their communities. While our efforts rarely receive the attention of broader human rights movements they are indeed essential acts of civility and humanity that reflect on the best attributes of our species. In my decades of professional experience, I have met and worked with many

people who were virtual prisoners of their inability to communicate. When finally given their voice through AAC, these individuals have been fired with a keen passion to change the world so no one else will have to endure the silence they did. In our communities people who use AAC push the boundaries, and present themselves as living examples of the triumph of communication over silence; they are the public face of AAC; they are the spark of Mandela in our midst.

In other developments around the globe, world leaders from Barack Obama to the Pope continue to highlight the current economic situation and the challenges for equitable distribution of wealth and opportunity. In many countries, economic crises are resulting in significant cuts to social, education, and health services. For people who use AAC these cuts are particularly painful and damaging. Ironically while these messages of inequity are being delivered by world leaders, the technology giants that manufacture much of the base technology for

...continued on page 2

Message from the President ... continued

AAC (e.g., tablets and computing hardware) are posting record profits of multi-billions of dollars.

One of ISAAC's primary roles as an organization is advocating for improved conditions for people who use AAC, and expanded awareness of the importance of communication and self-determination. As ISAAC members we have a unique perspective on the fragility of the human condition and our interdependence. Imagine what we might be able to achieve for people who use AAC across the globe if we could share in the most infinitesimal fraction of the huge profits generated by the likes of Apple or Samsung - what a world of difference it would make to so many. ISAAC members are a diverse group, connected to all parts of the human community across the globe. It is our responsibility to be the Mandela spark as we speak with our families, friends, colleagues, and acquaintances in all walks of life to promote the change we know we must see and instill the consciousness of human potential and AAC in those who have the power and means to make change happen.

It is my hope that ISAAC members will work together to fan these sparks into bright lights in the spirit

of humanity and calm resolve of Nelson Mandela.

May the coming New Year bring only the best of health, happiness, and prosperity to you all.

Best wishes,
Jeff

Jeff Riley
ISAAC President 2012-2014

[Click here](#) to find this article
in translation

Thank you to our ISAAC
E-News translators:

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Ana Saavedra (Spanish)

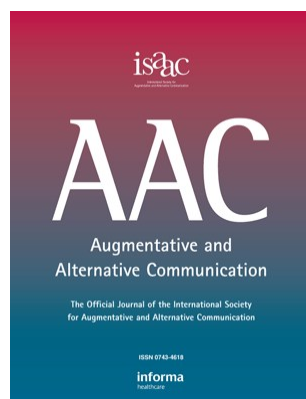
isaac

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View ISAAC's
calendar of
[upcoming AAC
events](#)



Now available!

**AAC Journal
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[click here.](#)

... From the Executive Director

DESCOBRIR A COMUNICAÇÃO – DISCOVER COMMUNICATION!

As I look at the calendar, I realize that our 2014 Conference in Lisbon, Portugal, is a mere 7 months away! I want to express my tremendous thanks to Heather Stonehouse, Teraiz El-Deir, Judy Shapiro, and Tony Needer, for their help and support in moving the organization of our conference forward. I also want to thank our Executive Board, members of Council, Conference 2014 Leadership, including our Conference Co-Chairs, and the army of volunteers for all of their efforts, wisdom, and support these past months.

ISAAC International's 2014 Conference paper submission online system has now officially closed. Opening on June 3rd, 2013, the system was originally scheduled to close on October 15th, 2013. By popular demand, the deadline was extended until November 15th, 2013. The paper review process has now begun, and is being ably led by the ISAAC Research Committee. Paper reviews will be completed in time to have acceptance notifications sent by February 15th, 2014. We were absolutely amazed by the number of papers submitted, particularly those during the last 36 hours that the portal was open!

Thanks also to everyone who has taken the time to complete and submit an application for one of ISAAC's travel assistance grants, as well as the Outstanding Consumer Lecture. The applications are now being reviewed, and all applicants will be notified on progress and results.

December 2013 is also the month that the online registration system for our conference is scheduled to go live. Accessed through the ISAAC website at <https://www.isaac-online.org/english/conference-2014/>, it will allow for conference registration and payment, as well as hotel reservations and deposit payments. Please make sure that you take advantage of our early-bird registration rates, which will only be in effect until February 21st, 2014.

On behalf of ISAAC International, I attended the United Nations High-level meeting of the General Assembly on disability and development. It took place in New York at the United Nations Headquarters, on September 23rd, 2013, and my attendance at this important meeting was in support of our organization, its membership, and our non-governmental (NGO) status with




Franklin Smith, ISAAC
Executive Director



The 16th Biennial
Conference of
ISAAC will be held
July 19 – 24, 2014
in Lisbon, Portugal.

◆
Pre-conference
Workshops &
*AAC Camp:
July 19-20

Research
Symposium:
July 25-26

* Final AAC Camp
dates to be
confirmed

...continued on page 4



... From the Executive Director, continued

ISAAC 2014 is
on Facebook



Follow us on
Twitter!
@ISAAC_AAC



[Click here to
find this article
in translation](#)

the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It was clear from the way General Assembly delegates spoke, that the development of the post-2015 disability agenda is viewed with great importance by representatives from both developing and developed countries. The developing world is clearly looking forward to taking advantage of technologies, techniques, and processes that will assist them in securing a better position for individuals with disabilities within their own countries. The developed world also wants to assist, by sharing their own experiences and best practices with countries in the developing world. ISAAC, along with the other NGOs represented at these meetings, looks forward to finding more ways of

influencing the public agenda in these areas.

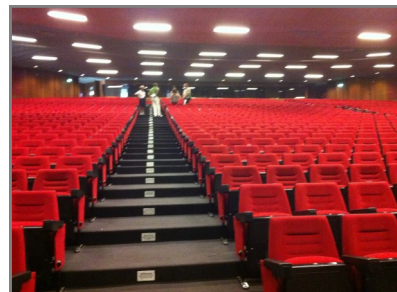
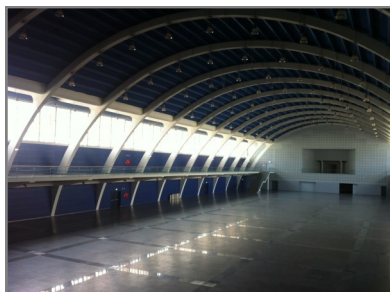
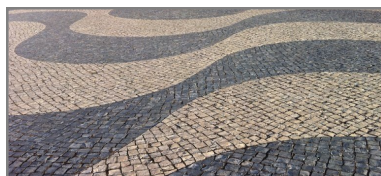
We were pleased to see all of the International AAC Awareness Month activities that took place during October. Please check the ISAAC International [website](#) for the entire list of activities and materials that were submitted to us. If you have materials for activities not already listed, please feel free to forward them directly to [Heather Stonehouse](#).

As always, I welcome your thoughts and feedback. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly at franklin@isaac-online.org should you require any further information or assistance.

Regards and thanks,
[Franklin Smith](#)



Lisboa Congress Centre
Venue for ISAAC 2014
(above, right) Exterior
(below, far right) Auditorium
(right) Exhibit Hall





Conference 2014 Updates

ISAAC 2014 PAPER SUBMISSIONS—THANK YOU!

The paper submission portal for Conference 2014 is now closed, and submissions are currently under review. Applicants will be notified of acceptance by February 15, 2014. Thank you to everyone who submitted abstracts. The response to our Call for Papers was overwhelming!

2014 RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM JULY 25-26, 2014

A Call for Seminar Proposals for the 2014 ISAAC Research Symposium has been circulated to ISAAC members. Proposals are to be submitted by midnight on December 22, 2013. All submissions will be evaluated, topics finalized and notifications sent out by mid- January.

ISAAC 2014 TRAVEL GRANT PROGRAMS NOW CLOSED

Thank you to those who submitted applications for the travel assistance to attend Conference 2014. The application process for these program has now closed. For details on these and other ISAAC awards and scholarships, please [click here](#).

STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER AIRLINES APPOINTED AS THE OFFICIAL AIRLINE NETWORK FOR ISAAC 2014

The Star Alliance member airlines are pleased to be appointed as the Official Airline Network for ISAAC 2014. You will save up to 20% when you book your travel with one of Star Alliance's participating airlines. Details are available [here](#).

ISAAC's partnership with Star Alliance will potentially result in substantial savings on travel to the 16th Biennial Conference of ISAAC.

These savings will be available only to ISAAC members, Conference 2014 Sponsors and Exhibitors. After completing online registration for the conference, you will be sent the code needed to book your airfare at reduced conference rates.



COMING SOON...

We look forward to opening the ISAAC 2014 Registration portal in the coming few weeks, and will announce the opening date and time by broadcast email as soon as it is available.



Conference 2014 Updates ... continued

ISAAC 2014 HOTEL OPTIONS

Information is now available online regarding hotel accommodations for the 16th Biennial Conference of ISAAC, to be held on July 19-24, 2014, in Lisbon, Portugal.



The first group, ISAAC's "Picks", includes five hotel options. Please note that these hotels are offering special ISAAC Conference 2014 rates, available when reserving online through the

Conference 2014 website. Transportation between ISAAC's "Picks" hotels only and the Lisboa Congress Centre will be available for all conference attendees.

The second listing, Additional Hotel Choices, provides a number of hotels situated in various locations around the city.

For more information, contact info@isaac-online.org

What's happening in Social Media?

ISAAC's Blog: During International AAC Awareness Month last October, ISAAC launched a blog to highlight interesting people, places, and things related to ISAAC and AAC. If you haven't visited yet, you can catch up here. We'd love your feedback and suggestions for future blog topics. Please drop us a line!

Dr. Bronwyn Hemsley [@BronwynHemsley](https://twitter.com/BronwynHemsley) recently received a Discovery Early Career Researcher Award from the Australian Research Council. This research, starting in 2014, will evaluate the impact of training designed to increase the use of Twitter for information exchange among people who have little or no speech and who need information for better inclusion, empowerment and evidence-informed decision-making. With as many as seven per cent of Australians having a physical and/or communication disability and being disenfranchised from information, Twitter offers a valuable form of social media allowing short segments of text communication that bypass impaired speech. Outcomes will inform policies and practices in training vulnerable populations to use social media for increased information exchange and will promote inclusion of all people with disabilities in social media campaigns. For information about the study and how you may participate, please contact Bronwyn directly at bronwyn.hemsley@newcastle.edu.au.

Social Media & People with Disabilities: Archived webcast links are posted here for this webinar, held on October 23rd with presenter Lisa Lehmann. This event was co-sponsored by ISAAC and AAIDD, the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.



Report from ISAAC-Israel

*Submitted by:
Judy Seligman-
Wine, Founder
and Past
Chairperson of
ISAAC-ISRAEL.*

For many years ISAAC-ISRAEL has led the initiative to request the inclusion of communication devices within the Basket of Services which are recognized and funded by the Ministry of Health in our country. A critical issue which emerged from the submission in 2012 was the question as to whether communication tools are medical devices.

With the assistance of ISAAC colleagues from around the world, we accumulated evidence, with particular reference to the American FDA, showing that they are medical devices. (Wheelchairs and hearing aids have long been accepted as medical devices within this same context.) This year, with the assistance of a public relations company experienced in medical lobbying, we once again submitted a request, supported by research evidence, to have high-end communication devices together with access technology (for example, eye-gaze systems) funded by the health system. Yonit Karnieli, a past ISAAC-ISRAEL Chairperson, participated in the deliberations of a Health Ministry Advisory Committee, in which it was accepted that communication tools are indeed medical devices.

Despite this, on November 25, 2013, the preliminary report from the deliberations as to which new technologies will be included in the Basket in 2014 indicated that our request was being transferred to the

National Insurance Institute for its possible consideration. This sidetracking is totally unacceptable and we are now preparing a formal appeal for re-consideration of the issue. We are also organizing a demonstration outside the offices where the Committee is meeting, as well as media coverage. We shall not let the voices of persons who communicate using AAC go unheard because of financial restraints.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our colleagues from around the world, with particular thanks to Lew Golinker and Sarah Blackstone, for all their assistance in this mission.

ISAAC-Israel has launched a Facebook campaign in support of this initiative. To show your support, please "like" ISAAC-Israel on [Facebook](#).

ISAAC's Council member organization in South Africa, the Centre for AAC, has honoured Nelson Mandela in a touching article by Dr. Alecia Samuels, a lecturer at the Centre: [The Centre for AAC pays tribute to the life and legacy of Mr. Nelson Mandela](#).

Our thoughts are with CAAC during this time of national mourning.



International AAC Awareness Month 2013 in Review

*Submitted by
Kate Anderson
Australian
Representative
to the ISAAC
Council*

GREETINGS FROM DOWN UNDER!

As AAC awareness month has just passed, ISAAC Australia is excited to celebrate the success of SCOPE Victoria's silent morning tea campaign. Tea drinkers at 143 events around Australia learned more about the AAC community and were encouraged to try using alternate forms of communication while they socialized. Those who hosted a tea within Australia also received a post-pack of resources and ISAAC Australia pens to distribute at local events. A guest post on [ISAAC Australia's blog](#) provides additional details.

Also for AAC awareness month, ISAAC Australia hosted a live Twitter chat on October 14th to discuss AAC, particularly topical issues within the Australian ISAAC community. People around the world took part in this chat. Participants identified some key AAC awareness messages, and talked about the use and usefulness of Twitter in the AAC community. The complete discussion can be viewed online at: <http://storify.com/bronwynah/aacaware-for-october-we-are>.

Finally, ISAAC Australia celebrated its half-century membership this past September with a total of 51 members! We would also like to welcome our newly established neighbouring organization, Thailand,

which we were thrilled to support through ISAAC's "Five and Five" membership program for individuals from emerging AAC and developing countries. We look forward to working with president Nitha Ungsuprasert and her team in the future.

If you would like to learn more about our members and our chapter's activities, please visit our blog: www.isaacaustralia.com, or follow us on Twitter: [@ISAACaus](https://twitter.com/ISAACaus).

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON
INTERNATIONAL AAC
AWARENESS MONTH,
OCTOBER 2013, PLEASE VISIT
ISAAC'S WEBSITE
[CLICK HERE.](#)

Happy Holidays

*From all of us at ISAAC
International!*

Please note that the
ISAAC International office
is officially closed for the period
December 23rd through
January 6th, 2014.



International AAC Awareness Month 2013 in Review

*Submitted by
Meng-Ju Tsai,
Taiwan Society
for
Augmentative
and Alternative
Communication
(TWSAAC)*

AAC AWARENESS IN TAIWAN: A TWSAAC REPORT

Dr. Pat Mirenda from the University of British Columbia, Canada, was invited to present a topic on "A Picture is Worth 1,000 Words: Visual Supports for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder." The event took place at the School of Speech Language Pathology and Audiology of Chung Shan Medical University in Taichung City, Taiwan, on October 31st. About 40 students and AAC practitioners participated in this session.

Dr. Mirenda was invited to the Maria MAMA Hand Made Bread for a light lunch (served by individuals with disabilities) with the AAC practitioners of the Maria Social Welfare Foundation. Dr. Meng-Ju Tsai, the President of The Taiwan Society for



Dr. Mirenda, Dr. Tsai, and students from the School of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology at the Chung Shan Medical University, Taichung City, Taiwan



Dr. Tsai, Dr. Mirenda,
Dr. Yang and Dr. Chen

Augmentative and Alternative Communication (TWSAAC) and the society council had a welcome dinner with Dr. Mirenda.

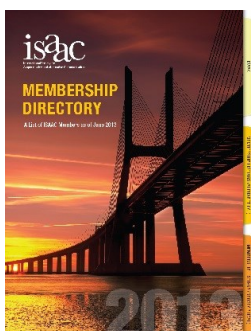


Welcome party with Dr. Mirenda and
TWSAAC Council

The Asia Pacific Society for the Study of Speech, Language and Hearing invited Dr. Pat Mirenda as a keynote speaker at the AAC International Symposium on November 2nd. Her presentation was on "AAC Assessment Issues for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder." More than 200 domestic and international scholars, practitioners, and students participated in her session. In the afternoon, over 150 participated in a three-hour AAC Master Class sponsored by Utechzone Co., Ltd., which was titled "Overview and decision-making" and "AAC access techniques."



Dr. Tsai introducing
Utechzone Co. Ltd.,
sponsor of the AAC
Master Class, to Dr.
Mirenda



ISAAC Membership Directory 2013 is available in electronic format on our website.

Please [click here](#).

ISAAC Chapters

ISAAC Australia
(www.isaacaustralia.com)

[ISAAC Brazil](#)

ISAAC Canada
(www.isaac-canada.org)

ISAAC Denmark
(www.isaac.dk)

ISAAC Suomi Finland
(www.papunet.net/isaac)

ISAAC French-speaking countries and regions
(www.isaac-fr.org)

ISAAC German-speaking countries and regions
(www.isaac-online.de)

ISAAC India
(www.ayjnihh.nic.in)

ISAAC Israel
(www.isaac.org.il)

ISAAC Italy
(www.isaacitaly.it)

USSAAC Launches New Website

In early December USSAAC launched a new [website](#) at www.ussaac.org.

Members can now sign up or renew using an online form.

ISAAC Netherlands/Flanders
(www.isaac-nf.nl)

ISAAC Norway
(www.isaac.no)

ISAAC Sweden
(www.isaac-sverige.se)

ISAAC United Kingdom
(www.communicationmatters.org.uk)

USSAAC
(www.ussaac.org)



ISAAC has 15 Chapters and more than 3,000 members worldwide. For information about how you can participate in your country or region, contact the organizations listed below, or [ISAAC International](#) for areas not listed.

**INTERNATIONAL
SOCIETY FOR
AUGMENTATIVE &
ALTERNATIVE
COMMUNICATION**

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Visit us at
www.isaac-online.org

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

ISAAC E-News is published four times each year. Comments on this issue are welcome. Please contact [Heather Stonehouse](#).



ISAAC's *Vision* is that AAC will be recognized, valued and used throughout the world.

ISAAC's *Mission* is to promote the best possible communication for people with complex communication needs.

ISAAC is a Non-Governmental Organization in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Contact Us

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