

December 2016



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Message from the President

Dear ISAAC Members:

Amazing work is being done to promote AAC all over the world. In November I had the opportunity to combine a short research stay in Warsaw (Poland) with a meeting of representatives of *Mówić bez Słów* (Speaking without Words), the Polish AAC organization. I want to send many thanks to our Polish friends, who made this meeting possible even though it was on short notice and on a Sunday morning on the weekend after Poland's National Independence Day! Also, thank you to Agnieszka Pilch, a former President of *Mówić bez Słów*, who could not attend the meeting, but travelled a long way to connect with me and share wonderful AAC work and many creative initiatives that are going on in different regions of Poland.

Katarzyna Cichocka Segiet, President of *Mówić bez Słów*, welcomed me to Warsaw. Małgorzata Donska, the organization's first president,

reported on the foundation of *Mówić bez Słów* 17 years ago as result of an AAC development program supported by the United Nations Umbrella Project. Alina Smyczek reported on progress in recent years. She had been a recipient of The Bridge School / ISAAC Teacher in Residence Award (2000-2001). This included a one-year stay at Bridge School near San Francisco, USA, to see and learn how AAC is practiced there. Alina was the second president of *Mówić bez Słów*.

Beata Kazimierczak, a highly engaged mother of a person with complex communication needs and a current board member, spoke about political activities and achievements for persons

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Message from the President, continued

who use AAC. Agnieszka Bal reported from the perspective of a person who uses AAC. She is a board member of *Mówić bez Słów*, a university student who uses AAC and winner of the Person without Barriers National Award. She pointed out the urgent need for more public awareness about AAC.

Aldona Mysakowska Adamczyk, ISAAC Chair of Council, pointed out the leadership role of *Mówić bez Słów* in the development of AAC in the other countries in Central and Eastern Europe, through mutual visits and involvement in organizing the Eastern and Central European Regional Conference of Alternative and Augmentative Communication (ECER-AAC).

Dr. Beata Batorowicz, a Polish-born Canadian researcher who attended the meeting, reported on the importance of a global view not only for science but also for evidence-based practice. Anna Walkiewicz reported as a member of the steering committee for ISAAC membership.

The vision of *Mówić bez Słów* is so similar to the vision of ISAAC that it seems to be an ideal Chapter of ISAAC. The fantastic news is that the board of *Mówić bez Słów* has in fact decided to become an ISAAC Chapter in 2017. The family of ISAAC Chapters and the AAC community is continuing to grow.

Aldona as Chair of Council and myself as President reported on ISAAC's structures and procedures, and addressed concerns regarding the independence of *Mówić bez Słów* as an ISAAC Chapter. We pointed out that ISAAC does not govern the Chapters. On the contrary, the Chapters and regions as members of the ISAAC Council decide on the strategic orientation of ISAAC. *Mówić bez Słów* is more than welcome to play a major role in that respect. Katarzyna Cichocka Segiet stressed the organization's commitment to ISAAC.

Thank you, dear friends, for your commitment and for this moving meeting! I hope to report positive developments in other parts of the world soon.

With kind regards,
Yours sincerely,

Gregor Renner

ISAAC President

October 2015 - September 2018



“Thank You!”

We gratefully acknowledge the support of our Conference 2016 Sponsors and Exhibitors. Visit the ISAAC website to view their logos and link to their websites.



...From the Executive Director

Message from the President, and ...From the Executive Director can be found in translation on the ISAAC website, [here](#).

Welcome to the December 2016 edition of ISAAC E-News. The ISAAC International office continues its work on behalf of the membership around the world, and is pleased to advise on the following initiatives:

CONFERENCE 2016 AND BEYOND....

Conference 2016 was a tremendous success for ISAAC!

ISAAC International was thrilled to welcome 1,200 participants from 40 countries worldwide to Toronto. As a result of this tremendous achievement, ISAAC is being honoured by Tourism Toronto and the Toronto Leaders' Circle this month.

ISAAC International also received congratulations from the Government of Canada, through the Department of National Heritage, for our efforts in providing simultaneous translation in both of Canada's official languages, English and French.

We also learned many valuable lessons as an organization relating to conference management, and we will be taking that experience to ensure the financial and operational success for all future conferences.

Make sure to mark your calendars for ISAAC Conference 2018, being held from July 21st through July 26th, 2018 in Gold Coast, Australia. This will be the

first time an ISAAC Conference is being hosted "Down Under", and we are excited to be promoting the field of AAC in Asia-Pacific.

Finally, work is also underway for ISAAC Conferences 2020 and 2022. Stay tuned for more details....

ISAAC 2017 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership renewal packages were sent in November via email to members of ISAAC through our Chapters in Canada and the United States (on whose behalf ISAAC International manages membership), and to our "international" members.

If you are a 2016 member of ISAAC through ISAAC Canada, USSAAC, or ISAAC International you should have already received your email renewal package. If you did not receive it, or would like another copy, please send an email to membership@isaac-online.org.

For these members, your renewal can be processed and paid through the ISAAC International Members Only area at <https://www.isaac-online.org/english/members-only/>.

Members of ISAAC through any of our other Chapters will be receiving 2017 membership renewal notices from them directly.

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...From the Executive Director, continued

INTERNATIONAL AAC AWARENESS MONTH 2016

A big round of thanks to everyone around the world who carried out activities supporting International AAC Awareness Month this past October. We are thrilled at the volume of information that has been shared with us, and it is all posted on the [ISAAC International website](#). Make sure to check it out!

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](#)

ISAAC 2016: Conference Highlights

A BIT OF HISTORY... FROM THE 2016 CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS

ISAAC 2016 conference in some ways seems like yesterday however so many months have past. In other sections of this e-news you will read about some of the specific elements of the very successful conference with plentiful learning opportunities as well as time to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones.

Toronto was the birthplace of our organization and we want to highlight the rich history which began in Toronto with meetings of our leaders and founders in 1980 and 1982 to establish the ISAAC organization formally in 1983. We were lucky to have many of those founding members at the conference in 2016. ISAAC's first conference was held in Boston in 1984 and on the website there is a tab outlining each of the [ISAAC conferences and co-chairs](#).

Since 2002 ISAAC has honoured members who have earned distinction within the ISAAC community through outstanding contributions and leadership. A full [list of our Fellows](#) can be found on our website.

And most importantly we do this work to enhance the lives of those who use AAC. We are pleased to share some feedback from one of our attendees who uses AAC...

"The ISAAC Conference 2016 in Toronto was fabulous!

I am so grateful that you chose to help me be able to afford to go to this amazing conference. I could not have done it without your help and support!

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ISAAC 2016: Conference Highlights, continued

At ISAAC, I met people who communicate like I do, who actually gave me the time to talk to them, and who get it. That to me was the best part of the conference. I met some new to me people my age, who communicate like I do using AAC, and am so glad. Sometimes it gets really lonely being the only person I know in my community who uses AAC like I do, and ISAAC really helped with that. Even if my new friends live in other countries half way around the world, I know I am not alone!

Lana, Neeko (my service dog) and I are so thankful we had this incredible opportunity. THANK YOU. It is wonderful to know I am not alone, and others truly get how important AAC is to people like me!

Sincerely, Zhade Thompson”

Let's keep this richness going within ISAAC as we embark on our first conference “Down Under” in 2018. Here we come, Australia!

Submitted by 2016 Conference Co-Chairs: Tracy Hunt, Tracy Shepherd and Shelley Deegan

SNAPSHOTS FROM ISAAC'S FOUNDING YEARS



Top Left: International meeting of ISAAC colleagues

Top Right: Meeting in East Lansing, Michigan (USA), October 1983

Bottom Left: First ISAAC Executive Meeting, Stratford (Canada), May 1983

ISAAC 2016: Conference Highlights, continued



TOWN HALL MEETING

The ISAAC Town Hall was held on August 8th as part of ISAAC Conference 2016. For people who didn't attend, at a town hall meeting only people who are using AAC devices are allowed to participate. The only exception is if someone is using a low-tech device, then another person is allowed to tell us the message. No other person is allowed to participate. People walk around the room with microphones. Individuals indicate when they have their message ready to share, and wait for a person with a microphone so we can all hear each other.

Apparently this year's Town Hall was one of the most well attended that ISAAC has had in several years. I know this was because the Town Hall was well promoted. We had the questions that were going to be discussed on the website well ahead of time. This gave people who use AAC time to think about their responses and program some of their thoughts into their devices.

I had the pleasure of co-chairing this Town Hall along with Jess Weber. These are the questions we asked participants:

1. Introduce yourself and tell us about your culture and where you are from:
 - a. How are we the same?
 - b. How are we different?
2. What makes ME strong?
3. What makes us strong together?
4. How can we change the world?
5. If you could do anything you wanted to, what would it be?

We had many wonderful responses. A lot was shared about people's cultures, which is always interesting to hear. I would love to see more professionals attend these town hall meetings. I know that the professionals who do attend always enjoy it and go away with their minds blown. Town hall meetings give people who use AAC the opportunity to say whatever is on their minds. It also provides the newer participants who use AAC a chance to see us "older" folks use our devices.

I'm thrilled that I was asked to be a co-chair for the 2016 Town Hall. I only hope the 2018 Town Hall is bigger and better!

Submitted by Nola Millin



ISAAC 2016: Conference Highlights, continued

FROM INDIA

Madhumita Dasgupta, Special Educator and Jeeja Ghosh, Head Advocacy and Disability Studies and a Member of the Governing Body represented IICP in the 17th Biennial Conference of ISAAC, Toronto, 2016 from 8-11 August.

Madhumita and Jeeja presented the work done in IICP related to AAC: "Building Bridges: A Bridge for Effective Inclusion" by Madhumita Dasgupta, and "Media Lab: An Experience that Challenges Exclusion" by Swati Chakraborty and Jeeja Ghosh. Swati was not able to travel and the paper was presented by Jeeja.

At the BUILD Committee Meeting, (includes South Africa, S. E. Asia, Asia Pacific, Europe, Mexico and others), Madhumita and Jeeja volunteered to speak about India and IICP's role in spreading awareness of AAC in the country with its limited resources.

Submitted by Jeeja Gosh

ISAAC FILM FESTIVAL

The ISAAC Film Festival is a new event in 2016, designed to showcase our vision, Changing Lives. It will feature the remarkable people who use AAC and their communication partners around the world. Story ideas were submitted, and people were invited to create and submit their films. The ISAAC Film Festival took place during the Welcome Reception on August 8th at the Westin Harbour Castle's Harbour Ballroom. The films are available for viewing on the [ISAAC Website](#).

SIGHTS AND SOUNDS

Experience the sights and sounds of ISAAC Conference 2016 through the eyes of our on-site videographers. "Exhibitor Interviews" and "Hi ISAAC" are available [here](#).

Also posted at the above link are video recordings of the Opening Ceremonies and the ISAAC Outstanding Consumer Lecture, by Glenda Watson Hyatt.

ISAAC'S FAMILY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The goal of this Committee is to encourage family-to-family exchange to support families of people with communication disabilities around the world. India Ochs, Chair of the Family Engagement Committee, hosted its first get-together at ISAAC Conference 2016 called "Striving for Thriving: An Open Forum on Families of All Kinds." Keep up to date on future developments by joining [Family Engagement on Facebook](#).



AAC Around the World

COMMUNICATION MATTERS - UK

The [Communication Matters](#) (CM) Annual Conference is the most important event in the life of the organization, but this year's event was especially significant as 2016 marks CM's 30th anniversary. The conference attracted a record number of presentations and about 400 delegates and exhibitors. [Click here](#) for a full report.

ISAAC-BRAZIL

Carolina Aguiar, mother of a 8-year-old girl who uses AAC and a member of the board of [ISAAC-Brazil](#), organized a family event called "1 Encontro de Famílias de Angelman" (First Angelman Family Gathering) on September 3rd, 2016. Mothers shared their experiences about their children's communication development and recent findings on medicine and the law regulating the health insurance system with respect to Angelman Syndrome.

More about this unique event, [here](#).

Also from Brazil:

- [Recap: III Regional Meeting of AAC](#), November 19, 2016.
- [Announcement: Next ISAAC-Brazil Conference](#), to be held in Natal/RN, Aug 22-25, 2017.

INTERNATIONAL AAC AWARENESS MONTH 2016

"Access All Areas" was one of this year's themes for International AAC Awareness Month, to challenge ISAAC members to expand the concept of accessibility to include communication access in their own communities, regions, and countries. A dozen countries submitted their event reports and photos, which are posted on the [ISAAC website](#). Thanks to all for your submissions!

We can still add your event to the website! Please send brief text and photos [here](#).

SOUTH AFRICA

Congratulations to the [Centre for Augmentative and Alternative Communication \(CAAC\)](#) at the University of Pretoria, for winning the Regional Gold Award for Africa at the Reimagine Education Conference Awards in Philadelphia (USA) on December 5th, 2016.

[Reimagine Education](#) is a leading global education competition and it awards the most innovative Higher Education and EdTech projects.



2016 Awards: Recognizing Outstanding Achievement

Every two years at the ISAAC Biennial Conference a number of awards and scholarships are presented to ISAAC members who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to ISAAC's mission and achievement in the field of AAC.

At the Awards and Membership Meeting, held on Wednesday, August 10th, the following individuals were honoured:

- Hanne Rohde (Denmark) received the ISAAC Distinguished Service Award for her outstanding contribution to ISAAC and the field of AAC. Hanne has made a difference through her work on She is now officially retired, but is sure to continue her commitment to AAC.
- Janice Light and David McNaughton (US) received the ISAAC President's Award, for their outstanding work as co-editors of the AAC journal.
- Carmen Valcu (Romania) received the The Bridge School / ISAAC Teacher in Residence for 2016, an award that sponsors her participation in a training program at [The Bridge School](#) in California.

- Each year, the AAC journal's Associate Editors choose the most significant articles published in the journal during the preceding calendar year in two categories: *Most Significant Research Article* and *Most Significant Student Article*.

The following authors were recognized at the 2016 Awards and Membership Meeting for their outstanding contributions to AAC during 2015. The awards were presented by Martine Smith, AAC Co-Editor.

MOST SIGNIFICANT RESEARCH ARTICLE

Presented to Jennifer Kent-Walsh, Kimberly A. Murza, Melissa D. Malani, and Cathy Binger for their article:

"Effects of Communication Partner Instruction on the Communication of Individuals using AAC: A Meta-Analysis." *Augmentative and Alternative Communication*, 31, December 2015.

MOST SIGNIFICANT STUDENT ARTICLE

Presented to Jennifer J. Thistle and Krista M. Wilkinson for their article:

"Building Evidence-Based Practice in AAC Display Design for Young Children: Current Practices and Future Directions." *Augmentative and Alternative Communication*, 31, June 2015.

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2016 Awards, continued

ISAAC Outstanding Consumer Lecture Award

Every two years the ISAAC Outstanding Consumer Lecture Award is presented to a person who uses AAC. The recipient is a featured presenter at the ISAAC Biennial Conference. This year, **Glenda Watson Hyatt** (Canada) was our award winner. The title of her lecture is, "Finding Your Dream, the North Star for Your Life's Journey."

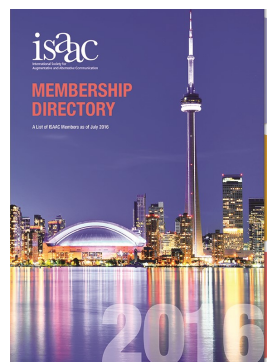
We would like to express our sincere appreciation to Glenda for her truly inspiring presentation. Thanks also to John Costello for his ongoing work and dedication on behalf of this biennial event, always a highlight of the ISAAC conference. This year was no exception!

Glenda was a featured presenter at the conference on August 9th. [Click here](#) to see the video recording of Glenda, as well as previous Outstanding Consumer Lecture Award presentations.

ISAAC Resources

A flash drive was included in each ISAAC 2016 delegate bag, featuring the Conference Proceedings and the 2016 ISAAC Membership Directory in PDF format. A limited number of flash drives are still available. Please contact ISAAC International Membership Coordinator, [Teraiz El-Deir](#), to make the necessary shipping arrangements.

The Directory is also available online [here](#), in the Members Only section of the ISAAC website.



Silent Auction 2016

Thanks to the efforts and energy of the Friends of ISAAC, a silent auction is held at each biennial conference to raise funds to assist people who use AAC to attend future conferences.

Congratulations and thanks to everyone for their donations and participation in the ISAAC 2016 Silent Auction. This year more than \$3,300 was raised for the ISAAC Travel Fund, which enables people who use AAC to attend future conferences.

Our sincere thanks to Pat Politano for once again taking the lead, and to the Friends of ISAAC who volunteered at this event during the conference.



Meet the ISAAC Executive Board 2016 - 2018

ISAAC President, Gregor Renner, on behalf of the ISAAC Council, is pleased to confirm the following Executive Board (EB) members for the next two-year term. The new EB assumed its responsibilities on October 6th, 2016.



Gregor Renner, ISAAC President, Germany

Gregor Renner's first contact with persons with disabilities was when he worked in community services as conscientious objector after school. From this time forward he was convinced that persons with disabilities must have their place in all areas of life.

He studied electronics and special education in Berlin and started to work in the AAC field in the early 1990s. At that time he became a member of ISAAC. He founded an AAC centre and established a national association for AAC centres in Germany.

In 2004 he completed his doctorate about the theoretical basis of AAC. He worked as a postdoc on different research projects in Berlin and Halle. In 2008 he received the offer of the first professorship of AAC in the German-speaking area at the Catholic University of Applied Sciences in Freiburg. He continues to conduct studies on AAC. He has established an AAC focus in the special education program at the university and an advanced AAC training program for professionals there as well. He was co-chair of the ISAAC Research Committee from 2004 – 2016.

Gregor and his wife Kathrin have three daughters Viola (2002), Annika (2004) and Leonie (2004) and live near Berlin.



Meredith Allan, ISAAC President-Elect, Australia

Meredith Allan is a long-time ISAAC member, who has served on multiple ISAAC committees including LEAD, Publications, Finance, Nominations, and as a representative on the ISAAC Council. She was the 1998 winner of the Words+/ISAAC Outstanding Consumer Lecture presented in Dublin, Ireland, and was honoured in 2006 with the ISAAC President's Award in Dusseldorf, Germany. With an academic background in economics and her career background with the Australian Taxation Office, Meredith has also volunteered in various finance and governance positions with ISAAC-Australia, AGOSCI (Australian Association for People who use AAC). Meredith is the first person who uses AAC to serve as President-Elect of ISAAC. Her two-year term as President will begin in 2018.

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Meet the ISAAC Executive Board 2016 - 2018, continued



Aldona Mysakowska-Adamczyk, Chair of Council, Poland

Aldona Mysakowska-Adamczyk has been a speech and language therapist for nearly thirty years (of which almost twenty have been dedicated to AAC), working with people of various ages, mostly youngsters.



Among the first therapists to introduce AAC to Poland, with hardly any resources available, she was desperately looking for knowledge and information in the field of augmentative and alternative communication. Joining ISAAC in 1997 started a new chapter in Aldona's professional career, and the Washington 2000 ISAAC conference opened her eyes to the abundance of AAC while raising the awareness of how much had to be done towards social inclusion of people with special communication needs in Poland. Since then, as one of very few Polish members, she has attended all ISAAC conferences (a big challenge with no financial support from any institution). She represented Poland on the ISAAC Board of Directors/Council (2008-2012). In the years 2006-2012 she was on the Board of *Mówić bez słów* (Speaking without Words), a nationwide AAC society, where she oversaw international relations and served as Vice-President. With a view to uniting AAC groups in Europe, in 2011 she co-organized the VIII Eastern and Central European AAC Conference "Let's Talk Together – AAC in Europe," held in Warsaw and attended by Erna Alant, President of ISAAC at the time.

Cooperating with NGOs all over Poland, she has conducted numerous workshops on AAC and AT. In an effort to promote the idea of AAC, as well as to increase awareness of the many achievements in the field, Aldona has invited ISAAC friends from several countries to visit Poland.

A passionate believer in making connections and collaborating, she has visited AAC centres worldwide (Croatia, Czech Republic, India, Russia, Singapore, UAE, and USA) to develop a better understanding of cultural differences in the use of AAC systems, while at the same time discovering how much all human beings have in common.

We were pleased to announce at the 2016 Council Meeting that, due in large part to Aldona's efforts, Poland will form a new ISAAC Chapter in 2017.

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Meet the ISAAC Executive Board 2016 - 2018, continued



Nadia Browning, Chair-Elect of the Council, Canada

Nadia Browning is an Occupational Therapist with over 30 years' experience working with individuals with complex communication needs, their families, and teams. She graduated in OT from the "Sociedade Unificada de Ensino Superior Augusto Motta" in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) in 1978. Nadia has a Master of Science degree from the University of Western Ontario (2001), and has worked for 18 years with the Augmentative Communication Services team at Thames Valley Children's Centre, London (Canada) and two years at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital in Toronto with the Communication and Writing Aids Services (Canada). Nadia is currently working with the ACE Centre in the UK.

Nadia lectured, supervised placement and research, and mentored students from the University of Western Ontario for more than five years. She was also a guest lecturer at the Catholic School of Applied Sciences in Freiburg, (Germany) for two years. Nadia has participated in and coordinated various community projects and camps for individuals with complex communication needs and their families. She has written articles in English and Portuguese and presented at many national and international workshops (Canada, US, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Portugal, Croatia, Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, and Russia). Nadia has been an ISAAC member since 1987. She has been involved in developing country committees and ISAAC Camp 2012. Nadia has assisted with the formation of the ISAAC-Brazil Chapter. She is currently eager to contribute to ISAAC International to the best of her abilities.



Sally Clendon, Vice-President for Conferences, Australia

Sally Clendon is a speech-language therapist who is passionate about communication and literacy for individuals who use AAC. Sally completed her PhD in 2006 at the Centre for Literacy and Disability Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (USA). Since that time she has held academic positions at the University of Sydney (Australia) and Massey University (New Zealand). Sally currently works partly for Massey University where she teaches AAC and coordinates the postgraduate program, and partly as a consultant where she partners with schools and teachers across

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Meet the ISAAC Executive Board 2016 - 2018, continued



New Zealand to implement comprehensive literacy programs for their students.

Sally is an Associate Editor for the AAC journal. She is also a trustee of the Assistive Technology Alliance of New Zealand (ATANZ) and is very active in bringing professional development in AT and AAC to New Zealand. Sally is excited to collaborate with her Australian colleagues on the next ISAAC conference in the Gold Coast, Australia.

Sally lives in Auckland, New Zealand with her husband James and their two children, Jack and Lily.

Lateef McLeod, Vice-President for LEAD, USA

Lateef McLeod is currently the Vice President for LEAD on the ISAAC Executive Board. He was previously the President of the United States Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (USSAAC). He is also a phenomenal poet, who published his first poetry book entitled *A Declaration of a Body of Love* in 2010 and is currently writing a novel tentatively entitled *The Third Eye is Crying*. He recently finished a three-year internship at the people of colour with disability art collective, *Sins Invalid*, and was in two of their theatre productions. He was also the first Storytelling Fellow for the national public radio show, *Making Contact*, and assisted in producing a radio segment on how people who use AAC are viewed by the mainstream public. The show can be heard on Making Contact's website: <http://www.radioproject.org/>. He continued his radio career as a co-host of the show *All the Rest of Us* on 89.3 KPFB in Berkeley. Archived shows are posted on <http://www.mixcloud.org/alltherestofus>.



Lateef has a BA in English from UC Berkeley and a MFA in Creative Writing from Mills College. He has just commenced the Anthropology doctoral program at the California Institute for Integral Studies, where he studies ways people who have severe disabilities can dismantle barriers to social empowerment.

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Meet the ISAAC Executive Board 2016 - 2018, continued



Tracy Shepherd, Vice-President without Portfolio, Canada

Tracy Shepherd is a speech language pathologist with a long-standing passion for AAC. As a student she worked part time doing home support for a family who had two young girls who used AAC. It sparked her interest and love of this field, which enables people to share themselves with the world. She has been practicing clinically in AAC since 1991.

Tracy works in the Augmentative Communication Service at Thames Valley Children's Centre in London, Ontario, Canada, and as a Clinical Education Coordinator at the Centralized Equipment Pool (operated by Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital) in Toronto, Ontario. She has co-developed an extensive educational program to train clinicians who work in the area of AAC.

Her research interests span many areas, including reliability of speech-generating devices (SGDs), abandonment of technology, outcome measurement as well as other areas of clinical interest (teamwork, listening and family impact). Along with colleagues she has implemented the *Libraries for All* program, which encourages communication access in the community.

Tracy was on the Executive Board of ISAAC-Canada from 2006 to 2009 and President from 2009 to 2013. In addition, Tracy is a member of the organizing committee for the *Breaking the ICE* conference (a national consumer-focused conference for people who use AAC) and was one of three co-chairs for the ISAAC 2016 conference in Toronto, Canada.



Sarah Yong, Vice-President for BUILD, Singapore

Sarah Yong's first encounter with AAC was when she saw a LIGHTWRITER being used during a placement in Chicago. Since then, she has been passionate about enabling people to "find their voice." Sarah, a speech therapist by training, lives in Singapore where she is Head of Clinical Services at the Specialised Assistive Technology Centre, SPD. AAC is one the main focus areas at the Specialised ATC and she has had the privilege of seeing individuals with complex communication needs become competent AAC users. Sarah also lectures on AAC at the National University of Singapore's

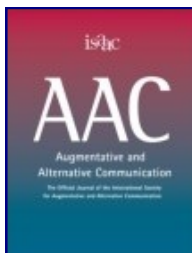
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Meet the ISAAC Executive Board 2016 - 2018, continued

Speech and Language Pathology program. She believes training potential speech therapists is essential as they will be working with individuals who will need AAC. Through her work, she has also collaborated with teachers and therapists to integrate AAC into classrooms.

Her connection with ISAAC began about ten years ago. She was the recipient of the third ISAAC / Bridge School Teacher in Residence Award. Her many experiences at ISAAC conferences, the advice and discussions shared, as well as the friendships formed, have positively shaped her as a person who works with people who use AAC. She has especially learned a lot from those in emerging countries. She has been greatly inspired by the examples of how they have pioneered and accomplished so much, often in very challenging circumstances. Sarah is excited to continue working together with the BUILD Committee to increase the presence and support of AAC in emerging countries.



**Current issue of AAC Journal
now available online!**

View Table of Contents, [here](#)



Taylor & Francis
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Communication Support World Network (CSWN) News

We are pleased to share with you [CSWN's December 2016 edition](#). In the words of Editor Dorothy Fraser, you will find in this issue “articles about important progress in a variety of areas where communication supports for people with disabilities are getting greater attention, including large nations like China and Russia and smaller areas like Sri Lanka and Tanzania. We found especially encouraging the way specialists in Poland are helping to support the development of AAC in Russia ... We also bring news of important cutting-edge work currently being carried out at the Bridge School in California, and of the Bridge School's tenth Teacher-in-Residence. As usual, we have scoured the Internet for information about new resources that are now available for both families and professionals.” Click on the link above to check out this essential international AAC resource!



In Memoriam: Mick Joyce

On September 29, 2016, Mick Joyce passed away at the age of 66. Mick was a pioneer/leader in the field of AAC. Born with cerebral palsy to a schoolteacher and carpenter, he was one of 4 children and claimed to have 17 aunts and uncles and at least 40 first cousins. Mick majored in creative writing and political science as an undergraduate and earned Master degrees in Health Policy and Urban and Regional Planning. He worked as a policy analyst for workforce development in Madison WI (USA).

Mick always wrote poetry, gave speeches, and participated actively in the AAC community. He published *Bent*, a poetry collection, in 2004, giving his readers an intimate glimpse into his emotions and experiences. "I write from my heart," he said, "but I tune it up from my head". He also wrote a chapter titled, *A Fish Story*, which showed his individualism, sense of humor, and intellect.

I am a fish out of water. Like Forrest Gump, the Rainman, and Edward Scissorhands, I operate more effectively by creating my own world than by trying to live in other people's reality.

What type of fish am I? I'd like to say I am a multicolored rainbow trout, a swift and speedy musky, or a graceful marlin that can leap high in the air. But I'm not. I feel more like a bullhead most days... (from Speaking Up and Spelling It Out, edited by Fried-Oken M. & Bersani, H. 2000)

Mick was the recipient of the Words+/ISAAC Outstanding Consumer Lecture Award in 1992. Those who knew him best would certainly agree that "Mick Joyce was one of those 'bigger than life' people. He lived life to the fullest and was always a delight to be around." Perhaps Michael B. Williams sums it up best: "We will remember Mick as a guy who tried to live life on his own terms, always with grace and great wit."

We all send our very best wishes to his family.

Submitted by Sarah Blackstone

BUILD COMMITTEE MEETING 2016

Once again many books and other resources were donated for distribution to ISAAC members from emerging AAC nations at ISAAC 2016. Delegates were invited to review these materials during the conference and take home any they would find useful. From Sarah Yong, BUILD Chair, a big "thank you" to everyone who donated resources!

Don't forget to follow [ISAAC BUILD AAC](#) on Facebook!



In Memoriam: Paul Marshall



Photo: Nola
Millin and Paul
Marshall

On Oct 25 we lost a special guy, Paul Marshall. Paul was known by many throughout ISAAC. He spoke internationally and nationally. He was quite the advocate for people who use AAC.

I had the pleasure of meeting Paul in the early '90s as we both became associate editors for *Communicating Together*, a quarterly magazine about people who use AAC. Paul quickly became a great friend and a royal pain-in-the-

butt to me. Throughout the years Paul and I would team up and do many things together. Whether it was writing articles, doing presentations, or co-chairing town hall meetings at *Breaking the Ice* conferences, Paul had this gift of procrastination that absolutely drove me crazy. I can't count the number of times I threatened his life because he would wait until the last possible second to do something he was supposed to have done two weeks prior.

People who knew us would refer to us as "Double Trouble." We were always instigating something – usually a prank on someone else or on each other. I remember being at a function and I came back to a table after being on the dance floor. I took a drink of what I thought was my white wine -- IT WAS WATER. Paul was conveniently on the other side of the room conversing with someone who had no clue as to why Paul was laughing hysterically as I approached. He ended up producing my glass of wine in between the laughter!

Paul inspired many, many people. I had the privilege of being able to attend a Celebration of Paul's life. The hall was filled with people who loved this man and who had been touched by him. He'll be greatly missed by each of us. The one good thing now is that I know Paul is free of all the pain he was in. I know he is in heaven with our God that Paul deeply loved. As well, I know for sure "Double Trouble" will one day be together again.

Submitted by Nola Millin

[In Memory of Paul Marshall, February 17, 1963 – October 25, 2016](#) is a video created by and shared with the permission of Shirley McNaughton. Thanks to Blissymbolics Canada for making this available.

International AAC Awareness Month 2016



“Access All Areas” was one of this year’s themes for International AAC Awareness Month, to challenge ISAAC members to expand the concept of accessibility to include communication access in their own communities, regions, and countries. A dozen countries submitted their event reports and photos, posted on the [ISAAC website](#), and we know there were many more! If you’d like us to post your event on our website, please send brief text and photos [here](#).

AAC Reading List

[Augmentative and Alternative Communication: Engagement and participation](#) by Erna Alant, D.Phil. San Diego: Plural Publishing Inc., 2016.

“An indispensable resource for speech-language pathologists, special education practitioners, and researchers in AAC, as well as for instructors and graduate students in the fields of speech and hearing sciences and special education.”

[Communication Interventions for Individuals with Severe Disabilities: Exploring research challenges and opportunities](#), Rose A. Sevcik, PhD and MaryAnn Ronski, PhD., Volume Editors. Baltimore: Brookes Publishing Co., 2016.

“Essential for the reference libraries of educators and professionals, this book offers powerful insights about today’s communication interventions—and sets a clear agenda for tomorrow’s ground-breaking research.”

[Learning to Kiss](#) by Eve E. Megargel, 2016. Available through Amazon. Recently featured on ISAAC’s Blog, [here](#).

“Eve Megargel’s raw and honest account of her son’s physical, psychological and spiritual dimensions transports the reader into every moment of Billy’s struggle to express his life in the midst of chronic pain. Now at 25, Billy is an independent communicator, artist and yogi. He has been the subject of a documentary film as well as several news articles.”

Here are some of the latest publications from staff and students at the [Centre for AAC](#) at the University of Pretoria:

- [Reflections from Fellows of ISAAC](#). Smith, Beukelman, Bornman & Light.
- [Teachers' Perceptions of Implementation of Aided AAC to Support Expressive Communication in South African Special Schools: A pilot investigation](#). Tönsing & Dada.
- [Police Officer Disability Sensitivity Training: A systematic review](#). Viljoen, Bornman, Wiles & Tönsing.

isaac Chapters

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[ISAAC Taiwan](http://twsaac.blogspot.tw)
(twsaac.blogspot.tw)

[ISAAC UK](http://www.communicationmatters.org.uk)
(www.communicationmatters.org.uk)

[ISAAC US](http://www.ussaac.org)
(www.ussaac.org)

ISAAC has 14 Chapters worldwide. For information about how you can participate in ISAAC's mission, contact the organizations listed above, or ISAAC International for areas not listed.

ISAAC International
would like to extend
sincere appreciation
to everyone who helped make
ISAAC Conference 2016
a tremendous success.
Please mark your calendars
For ISAAC Conference 2018
in Australia!



AACcess All Areas
ISAAC 2018
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** Please check out ISAAC Conference 2018 on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). You can also follow [ISAAC the Moose](#), who made his debut at Conference 2016, as he travels from Toronto to Australia.

**INTERNATIONAL
SOCIETY FOR
AUGMENTATIVE &
ALTERNATIVE
COMMUNICATION**

312 Dolomite Drive
Suite 216
Toronto, ON
M3J 2N2
Canada

Tel: 905-850-6848
Fax: 905-850-6852
Email:
info@isaac-online.org

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).

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