



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

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#### **Dear ISAAC Members:**

I hope that those of you also in the northern hemisphere are enjoying the lovely summer weather and that the winter experienced by those in the south is not too severe. These weather differences always remind me of the diversity we have to contend with in understanding people around the globe: While your boat might be sailing along peacefully, others may be confronting a very different scenario in trying to keep their boat afloat!

Clearly, the variety in circumstances under which people live, their perspectives and ways of dealing with disability-related issues are most relevant to ISAAC as we are embarking on developing a new long-range plan for the society for 2012-2017. The Executive Board and ISAAC International key staff kicked off initial ideas for ISAAC's strategic planning with a highly productive two-day executive meeting in Toronto on June 8 & 9. The five main points discussed during the meeting included critical outcomes and strategies for, 1) increasing awareness and knowledge of AAC around the globe, 2) strengthening communication and networking within and outside the organization, 3) strengthening AAC leadership by people who use AAC, 4) promoting research and development in AAC, and 5) strengthening ISAAC's organizational capacity.

The Executive Board is in the process of finalizing initial ideas on these five broad strategic goals to send out to Council members by **September 2011**. We encourage ISAAC members in each country to discuss these goals and provide input to their chapter presidents or council representatives for feedback to the Executive Board by no later than **November 30, 2011**. After November, the Executive Board will collate comments and finalize the plan for dissemination at ISAAC meetings in Pittsburgh in July 2012. Please participate in this process, as we do need your input to make this a collaborative and meaningful way of steering ISAAC forward in the next five years.

**Not yet an ISAAC member?**

**Members Only**

Take Care and Keep Communicating!

Erna Alant

June 2011

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

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

Juni 2011 - Brief der Vorsitzenden [Click here](#)

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

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

## 1. ...From the Executive Director

**Welcome to the June 2011 edition of E-News.** Here at the ISAAC International office, we have been very busy on a variety of different activities, all of which have one focus in common - our valued membership! [Click here to view full article](#)

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

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

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

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

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

## 2. ISAAC 2012 - Wow!

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**

Don't miss out on keeping up to date with ISAAC 2012 planning and important dates to remember. Facebook is the quickest way to stay on top of news about the conference! [Click here to view full article](#)

**Inviting all authors!** To find information on preparing your papers for electronic submission, see the [Call for Papers](#), now available on the ISAAC 2012 website. The deadline for submission is **November 1, 2011**. [Click here to view full article](#)

If you haven't yet confirmed your **exhibit space**, now is the time! At the [Exhibition & Sponsors page](#) on the ISAAC 2012 website you can check out the exhibitors, their locations and available space by moving your mouse over the floor plan. Also available is the Commercial Exhibition Packet in pdf format - or you can request a packet and more information by [email](#). [Click here to view full article](#)

Many individuals and organizations are interested in supporting the ISAAC mission through **sponsorship** at the 2012 Conference. Look for sponsorship opportunities coming soon from the Sponsorship Committee under the leadership of [Tracy Kovach](#). [Click here to view full article](#)

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### 3. New ISAAC Website - Update

The creation of a new ISAAC website is well underway, as approved by Council in July 2010. We would like to thank members of the Executive Board and Website Development Committee (Web-DC) for their help to date in reviewing and providing feedback on the test site. The website development project has proceeded according to a planned timetable. [Click here to view full article](#)

When the website is launched in August 2011, it will have a new look, updated information and accessibility features that will facilitate navigation for our members. In the meantime, please contact [Eija Roisko](#) or [Franklin Smith](#) if you have any questions.

### 4. International AAC Awareness Month - The Power of Communication Relays

**International AAC Awareness Month** is celebrated around the world each October. Community events are held to promote the many different ways people may interact using augmentative and alternative communication devices. One of the ways we propose to celebrate this year is to organize relays in each participating country. The name of the event is **The Power of Communication Relays**. [Click here to view full article](#) If you have any questions about this project, please contact [Faye Warren](#).

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### 5. Facilitating Skill Training for Leadership in AAC

People who use AAC interested in leadership roles can develop these skills by a variety of proactive and supported life choices. Here are five ideas to consider. [Click here to view full article](#)

*Article submitted by [Faye Warren](#), ISAAC Leadership Chair for People Who Use AAC*

### 6. Serious Fun in Twitter! An Update from ISAAC-Australia, in partnership with AGOSCI

Twitter is an online networking tool often categorized as "social media" and is also a

form of "micro-blogging" - each tweet is a tiny, permanent, and public "publication." The Library of Congress in Washington D.C. is provided with every tweet for storage into the future. Because many people are not familiar with the "culture" of Twitter and may find it a bit daunting, a unique Twitter handle has been set up for those interested in AAC, to mentor and give tips to new twitterers (people who tweet!): **@TweetAAC** (caps or lower case). We are particularly interested in connecting with people who use AAC and want to use their AAC systems or computers to tweet. [Click here to view full article](#)

*Article submitted by [Bronwyn Hemsley](#), with acknowledgement to Jane Farrall, Cha Cullen, Barbara Landsberg, Greg O'Connor of Spectronics and Katie Holmes of Communication Matters, UK. Bronwyn is in Twitter at [@bronwynah](#).*

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## **7. WORDS+ Outstanding Consumer Lecture Award Deadline is October 31, 2011**

The WORDS+/ISAAC Outstanding Consumer Lecture Award is presented every two years at the ISAAC biennial conference to a person who uses AAC. The deadline for submissions for the 2012 WORDS+ Award is **October 31, 2011**. For more information, see [Guidelines for Submission](#).

## **8. The Bridge School Teacher-in-Residence Award 2012 - 2013**

[The Bridge School Teacher-in-Residence Award](#) provides an opportunity to an individual from a country with emerging technology innovation for an internship within [The Bridge School](#) program in Hillsborough, California. The Award is presented in collaboration with ISAAC at the biennial conference. The application process for the 2012-2013 award will open in December 2011. Deadline for submissions is **March 1, 2012** [Click here to view full article](#)

## **9. Kilometres for Communication (K4C)**

ISAAC Canada is proud to be a partner in the 2011 [Kilometres for Communication](#) awareness event. Skye Wattie (brother of Kerr Wattie, a person who uses AAC) began his journey in British Columbia, Canada, in May. He is cycling across the country to raise awareness and funds for people who have communication disabilities. Skye will reach Newfoundland, on the east coast, in August 2011.

Special events are being held in Kerr's hometown when Skye reaches Toronto in July. A parade is planned for July 3rd, and a "meet and greet" breakfast event is being held at [Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital](#) on July 4. Click [here](#) and [here](#) for details. For more information on how you can participate, visit the [website](#) or send an email to [K4C](#).

## **10. International Events**

Conferences scheduled for this summer include the **VIII Eastern and Central European AAC Conference in Warsaw, Poland**, coming up soon on June 30 - July 2. The **2nd Regional African AAC Conference** will be held in Boksburg, South Africa, on August 1-4.

For details on these and other upcoming events, see [Conferences and Courses Calendar](#).

## **11. New AAC Resources**

Augmentative Communication Community Partnerships Canada (ACCPC) has been involved in promoting communication access in Canada over the past four years. In a recent project, they surveyed Canadians who have communication disabilities and developed an online resource for businesses and organizations about making their services accessible to people who have communication disabilities. The [Communication Access website](#) is available in English and French. [Click here for full article](#)

Also available on this new website is a proposed [Communication Bill of Rights](#). You can read more about the proposal and you are invited to complete a short questionnaire by **July 29, 2011**.

*Article submitted by [Barbara Collier](#), Executive Director, ACCPC.*

\* \* \*

The FOFA AAC Youth Empowerment Project is a training program for young adults with severe communication problems. The aim is to focus on the facilitation of the development of leadership and empowerment skills for independence and to increase employability. For a recent video on the FOFA program, [click here](#). For more information on FOFA, contact [Michal Harty](#).

## **12. 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 - whether in article format or as a link to online articles or resources - will be posted on the new ISAAC website. Please send articles and photos to [Nola Millin](#), Editor.

**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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