Message from the President

Dear ISAAC Members,

Looking back on the 35 years of ISAAC’s history, there has been tremendous achievement in the development and dissemination of AAC. And we are continuing our efforts to establish and support AAC worldwide. One focus of the last years has been the Asia-Pacific region, including the 2018 ISAAC Conference in Australia and all activities mentioned in the June 2017 message. I am happy to add that I will have the opportunity to visit Singapore, to meet the Chair of the BUILD Committee, Sarah Yong, and to support the AAC community there.

“Increasing Awareness and Knowledge of the Use of Augmentative and Alternative Communication Strategies Worldwide” is one of five objectives of ISAAC's strategic plan. The current strategic plan was implemented in 2015 and terminates this year. We are working on a report of the progress and drawbacks, as well as on a draft for the next Strategic Plan 2018-2021, to be approved by ISAAC’s Council. Closely related to the first objective is the second: “To Increase Opportunities for Members Worldwide to Communicate, Interact and Support One Another”. ISAAC uses the internet and social media to spread the word and to network worldwide. However, language continues to be a barrier. Automatic translation may help in the future. Until then we need local volunteers for translations from plain English into the local language, and vice versa.

“Strengthening AAC Leadership by People Who Use AAC” is the third objective. The LEAD Committee, chaired by Lateef McLeod, is working hard on progress here. LEAD is hosting a Dare to LEAD Workshop at ISAAC Conference 2018.

Objective #4, “Promoting Research and Development in AAC” includes the AAC journal, which continues to be a very successful research

...continued on page 2
Message from the President …continued

journal in the field. Editors Martine Smith and Bronwyn Hemsley, supported by editorial assistant Jackie Brown and many associate and consulting editors, are doing a great job. The editors’ term ends December 2018 and we have published a call for the next AAC Journal Editor(s). The deadline for applications is May 7th.

We used to have a Publications Committee responsible not only for the AAC journal, but for a number of other publications that do not exist anymore. For this reason, the Publications Committee suggested its future focus be on the AAC journal. Consequently, it was proposed that the Publications Committee be dissolved and replaced by an AAC Journal Committee. ISAAC President-Elect Meredith Allan has prepared all related documents for the ISAAC Council’s consideration and decision in July 2018.

We have also received input that non-native English-speaking researchers find it hard publish their results in the AAC journal. The Executive Board is discussing options to provide support on this question.

The fifth and last objective is “Strengthening the Organizational Capacity to Support ISAAC Goals and Activities”. We have made significant progress here, but we also face new challenges by social media and their potential for abuse. The Executive Board suggests to reflect this by adding an item, “Plan and implement a transparent procedure for complaints, breaches of ISAAC’s social media policy and other risks for ISAAC” to the strategic plan. A working group on risk management has been established to prepare suggestions with a deadline of September 2018.

Preparations for the 2018 ISAAC Conference continue with increasing pace. The submissions have been reviewed and the authors have been advised on acceptance of their papers. A preliminary program is available here. And the registration numbers show promising development.

I am looking forward to seeing you there!

With kind regards,
Yours sincerely,
Gregor Renner
ISAAC President
October 2015 - September 2018
Welcome to the March 2018 edition of the ISAAC E-News. The ISAAC International office continues its tremendous efforts on behalf of the membership around the world, and is pleased to advise on the following initiatives:

Conference 2018
Make sure to book your calendars for ISAAC Conference 2018, being held from July 21st through July 26th, 2018 on beautiful 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. We here at the international office in Toronto would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation for all the efforts being undertaken to make this conference a success, most notably by our amazing Co-Chairs Meredith Allan, Kate Anderson, Sally Clendon, Jane Farrall, and Gayle Porter, and their respective committee and sub-committee teams.

With now four months left to go before the conference, the Conference 2018 Leadership Team is hard at work ensuring an amazing conference, program, and experience! All indicators – conference program, registration, exhibitors, sponsorship, etc. – are pointing towards a very successful conference. Please make certain to register soon for this incredible opportunity to experience a first-of-its-kind ISAAC conference, at https://www.isaac-online.org/english/conference-2018/conference-registration/.

ISAAC International Financial Audit 2017
We are beginning our 2017 financial audit, and will have fully audited financial statements posted in the Members Only area of the website in time for Conference 2018.

ISAAC Strategic Planning 2018-21
The ISAAC Executive Board has been working extremely hard over the past six months to finalize the draft Strategic Plan, 2018-21. The existing Strategic Plan, 2012-17, which was approved by the ISAAC Council at its 2012 meeting in Pittsburgh (USA), can be found on the ISAAC website at: https://www.isaac-online.org/english/about-isaac/organization/long-range-plans-operational-plans/.

This new draft strategic plan will be distributed shortly to all Council members to review in advance of this July’s 2018 Council meeting.

...continued on page 4
From the Executive Director
...continued

We thank all Council members and Chapters for their review of the preliminary strategic plan document, and for providing so much in the way of valuable comment and feedback.

ISAAC Membership Renewal, 2018
Membership renewal time is upon us! If you are one of our valued Chapter members, please respond to your Chapter membership renewal request in a timely fashion to ensure that your membership is renewed for 2018. If you are an ISAAC International member, you should have already received your membership renewal package with an email reminder directly from the ISAAC International offices. Please also remember that those 2017 ISAAC members who have accessed the Conference 2018 member rates have until April 30th, 2018 to ensure that your membership in ISAAC or one of our Chapters has been renewed for 2018.

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 Executive Director

Conference 2018 Updates

ISAAC 2018 AAC CAMP
The ISAAC 2018 AAC Camp is going to be all about reality – Reality TV! The Let’s Get Real! AAC Camp will run on July 21st and 22nd at the fully accessible Currumbin Community Special School on the Gold Coast.

Activities will be planned appropriately for the age groups attending and Nature Reality will include hands-on contact with some Australian animals.

Detailed program information is available on the ISAAC website.

Register for AAC Camp via our online conference registration portal.

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS
JULY 21 & 22, 2018
GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY
GOLD COAST, QLD, AUSTRALIA

Pre-Conference Workshops take place the weekend before the Main Conference. Five exciting workshops are offered. Workshop schedules and detailed program information are available on the ISAAC website. Register for workshops via our online conference registration portal.
Important Notice: ISAAC Council Meeting 2018

In accordance with section 11.4 of the Bylaws of ISAAC, this is the official notification of the date, time, and location of the upcoming ISAAC Council Meeting, taking place at the 18th Biennial ISAAC Conference.

Date: Sunday, July 22, 2018
Time: 9:00 to 17:00
Location: Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, 684-2690 Gold Coast Hwy, Broadbeach QLD 4218, Australia
Room: TBA

Called by the Chair of the Council,
Aldona Mysakowska-Adamczyk
February 9, 2018

Important Notice: ISAAC Biennial Membership and Awards Meeting 2018

In accordance with section 8.1.5 of the Bylaws of ISAAC, this is the official notification of the date, time, and location of the upcoming ISAAC Biennial Membership Meeting, taking place at the 18th Biennial ISAAC Conference.

Date: Wednesday, July 25, 2018
Time: 14:00 to 15:00
Location: Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, 684-2690 Gold Coast Hwy, Broadbeach QLD 4218, Australia
Room: TBA

Called by the Chair of the Council,
Aldona Mysakowska-Adamczyk
February 9, 2018
People Who Use AAC (PWUAAC) Conference Registrations

PWUAAC conference registration rates are available to people who use AAC and their families, and include admission for one (1) attendant. Additional attendant registrations are available for CAD $175.

>LEARN MORE

Questions about Accessibility?

Hotel, venue, and public transportation accessibility information is posted on the conference website.

>LEARN MORE

>LEARN MORE about Conference Registration here.
>LEARN MORE about Conference Accessibility here
Conference 2018 Updates

ISAAC 2018 Short Film Festival

ISAAC is looking for newly created films to showcase the theme of the conference: AACcess All Areas.

Plan your short film and submit it to the ISAAC Short Film Festival, ISAAC 2018 Conference – Gold Coast, Australia. The Submission Deadline is April 16, 2018.

The top 10 films will be screened at the ISAAC 2018 Welcome Reception, on the evening of July 23rd.

The winner will receive a one-year prepaid membership to ISAAC for 2019, sponsored by ISAAC Australia. Terms and conditions apply; please see page 3 of the Short Film Festival Entry Form for details.

Let's reach across the world to AACcess All Areas!

ISAAC 2018 Short Film Festival
How Do I Make My Short Film?
ISAAC 2018 Short Film Festival Entry Form (Form fillable PDF, 614 kB)*
ISAAC 2018 Short Film Festival Judging Criteria

VISITORS TO AUSTRALIA

Transportation options and tips for conference participants are posted at Getting to and around the Gold Coast.

Why not “travel Queensland” while you are in Australia for ISAAC 2018? Tourism & Events Queensland encourages you to explore this “land of surprising contrasts and textures – from prehistoric rainforests to reef-fringed beaches, sunburnt plains to urban laneways.” Take a look at the many tourist destinations in Queensland on the conference website. #thisisqueensland

*I Form fillable PDF documents need to be downloaded and saved to your local computer before completing them.
Conference 2018 Updates

ISAAC 2018 MAIN CONFERENCE PROGRAM

The Provisional Conference Program is now available online!

Our Conference Co-chairs (photo below) have been hard at work to ensure that participants will find the very best of AAC at ISAAC 2018!

They have reached out to some of our attendees and presenters to share their perspectives on what they enjoy and anticipate most about ISAAC Conferences in a series of short videos, which you will find posted on Facebook at ISAAC Conference 2018.

Hotel Accommodation

Guests can access our dedicated hotel accommodation site to book or modify a reservation for ISAAC Conference 2018, subject to availability, and to secure the conference group rate by clicking the link below:

Conference Booking Site

If you have questions about accessibility, at the hotel or on the Gold Coast in general, please send an email to accessibility@isaac-online.org

Silent Auction

Organized and led by the Friends of ISAAC, a Silent Auction is held at each ISAAC Biennial Conference to raise funds to support people who use AAC who wish to attend the next international conference. We are asking all conference participants to bring a small item with them to donate for the auction.

For more information on the Silent Auction, please visit the ISAAC website.

For those who have had papers accepted for ISAAC 2018, please remember:

- At least one presenting author from your paper must register for the conference by April 6th to confirm your paper’s place in the program.
- Final editing of abstracts as per the Instructions to Authors (emailed on March 16th) must be completed by April 20th, after which time the system will close and no new edits will be possible.
ISAAC joins with the rest of the world in recognizing the tremendous lifetime achievements and the passing of world-renowned theoretical physicist Professor Stephen Hawking on March 14, 2018.

Recipient of the ISAAC 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award, Professor Hawking made a significant contribution to our understanding of both the universe and the indelible human spirit. His intellect, spirit, and contributions will be sorely missed. We at ISAAC are honoured, humbled, and inspired to be part of the work that he described as “the expansion of the human voice and spirit across our world.” Read more on ISAAC's Blog.

**Augmentative and Alternative Communication**

**Call for Editors**

**Deadline: May 7, 2018**

*Augmentative and Alternative Communication* publishes scientific articles related to the field of AAC. Content includes reporting research or discussing theory, technology, and systems development relevant to AAC. The journal's mission is to document the evidence base, advance understanding, and improve outcomes for individuals with complex communication needs and their families. For more information and application details, click here.

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Follow us on Twitter [@aacjourn](https://twitter.com/aacjourn)
Chapter News

NEWS FROM ISAAC-TAIWAN

On November 27, 2017, Dr. Meng-Ju Tsai from Chung Shan Medical University in Taiwan invited Professor Stephen von Tetzchner from the University of Oslo to give a short talk: *Scaffolding Children Who Use Augmentative and Alternative Communication.*

Professor Judith L. Page from the University of Kentucky, was invited by Chung Shan Medical University, Taichung City Speech and Language Therapists Union, Speech-Language-Hearing Association of Taiwan, and ISAAC-Taiwan to give several short talks on December 9, 10 and 11, 2017.
Chapter News

**NEWS FROM ISAAC-TAIWAN**

... CONTINUED

Dr. Meng-Ju Tsai from Chung Shan Medical University in Taiwan invited Professor Shula Shilon from Wucailu Center for Children with Autism to give a brief presentation on January 5, 2018, on the *Application of Natural Language Processing to Augmentative and Alternative Communication.*

Prof. Shula Shilon, Wucailu Center, with Dr. Meng-Ju Tsai

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Watch for the next ISAAC Edition of the *CSWN Newsletter* in April 2018. You will find past issues posted on the ISAAC website. Those who have been receiving the CSWN Newsletter for many years will not be surprised by the wealth of information on AAC around the world contained in its pages.

Thanks to CSWN Co-editors Dorothy Fraser and Nadia Browning for bringing you news from emerging AAC countries around the world through this comprehensive publication.

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**IS AAC-US**

**U SSAAC** (ISAAC-US) is continuing its popular webinar series as well as publishing the *SpeakUp Blog*, and holding monthly Twitter chats (#USSAACChat).

Recordings of USSAAC’s webinars can be found on the ISAAC website, [here](#).
Chapter News

ISAAC-DENMARK

ISAAC-Denmark held its annual conference in Vingsted, Bredsten, on March 12-13, 2018. More than 200 people were in attendance. It was the third or fourth year in a row that we set a record for attendance. President Birgitte Brandt opened the conference with a report on the organization’s activities during the past year. In the next edition of ISAAC E-News we will tell you about the issues in the annual report.

The biggest achievement of the year was that ISAAC was successful in bringing about a change in translation of the UN Declaration in order to emphasize the right to AAC in our legislation. The report and conference program are available online, at www.isaac.dk – but unfortunately only in Danish. We would like to mention that among the keynote speakers were Kathryn Drager from Pennsylvania, US, Gunilla Thunberg from Göteborg, Sweden, and Louise Bøttcher from University of Århus, Denmark.

As well, professionals from Norway and Denmark contributed to the program. The participants had a lot of possibilities to choose from, and that can be hard! During the conference people who use AAC had a meeting. We also had an exhibition and small presentations from AAC companies that participants could choose to attend.

We ended the conference with a fantastic story from a family of a young child with CP and his amazing AAC development.
ISAAC Activities & Projects

BUILD AAC COMMITTEE

ISAAC BUILD AAC supports the development of augmentative and alternative communication in emerging AAC countries, finding practical ways to offer them support. The BUILD meeting at ISAAC 2018 will be held on Thursday, July 26th. Take a moment to view a video by Sarah Yong, Chair of ISAAC BUILD AAC, as she shares her thoughts with us about the first-ever ISAAC Conference with an Asia-Pacific theme. We’d also like you to meet some ISAAC members from Croatia, who also share their excitement about the upcoming conference on video.

BUILD RESOURCE DONATIONS PROGRAM

As in past conferences, BUILD will be pleased to accept resource materials that will be redistributed to ISAAC members and conference attendees from emerging AAC countries. Details to be released shortly.

LEAD COMMITTEE

The ISAAC LEAD Project encourages and supports people who use AAC as leaders within ISAAC. For those attending ISAAC 2018, LEAD will be hosting a 4-hour leadership workshop called “Dare to Lead.” Also, as in previous years, there will also be a fantastic ISAAC Town Hall meeting.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The goal of this committee is to support families of people with communication disabilities around the world. If you are interested, join Family Engagement on Facebook. A Family Engagement Forum will be held on Thursday, July 26, at ISAAC 2018. Details to follow.

INTERNATIONAL AAC AWARENESS MONTH 2018

Theme: “DARE TO LEAD”

Join ISAAC’s celebration of International AAC Awareness Month in October 2018. This year’s theme is "Dare to LEAD". We invite you to plan or attend an AAC awareness event in your community, or participate in online events that bring to life the visions of people who use AAC toward future leadership opportunities – locally, nationally or internationally. For more information, contact Lateef McLeod, Chair, ISAAC LEAD Committee.
ISAAC Awards 2018

The ISAAC Awards will be presented at the Membership and Awards Meeting on July 25th, 2018, at the 18th Biennial Conference of ISAAC, on the Gold Coast, Australia. Visit the ISAAC website for details on how to submit a nomination for the following ISAAC Awards, which are still open for nominations:

**ISAAC Fellowship Award**
This award honours ISAAC members who have earned distinction within the ISAAC community. The title Fellow of the International Society of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC) is given for the life of the recipient and may be abbreviated as F.ISAAC. Application guidelines can be found online.

**Application deadline: April 30, 2018**

**ISAAC Distinguished Service Award**
The ISAAC Distinguished Service Award is presented to an ISAAC member or group to recognize an outstanding contribution to the field of AAC through clinical work, information/knowledge, distribution, and research.

**Application deadline: April 28, 2018**

**The Bridge School/ISAAC Teacher in Residence Award**
The Bridge School/ISAAC Teacher in Residence Award enables an individual from a country with emerging technology to learn and teach AAC methods through an in-depth internship. Applications are now being accepted for the 2018-2019 school year.

**Application deadline: May 25, 2018**

**Have You Renewed Your ISAAC Membership for 2018?**
If not, please renew through your Chapter. If you are an ISAAC International member, you will have received an email reminder. Please contact Teraiz El-Deir, ISAAC Membership Coordinator, for further information and assistance.

**Special Offer!** With any renewed or new Institutional or Corporate ISAAC Membership (for 2018 membership year only), either as an international member or through an ISAAC Chapter, a subscription to the AAC journal for 2018 is included at no additional cost. Click here for ISAAC membership information.
Chapters

ISAAC-Australia
(www.isacausralia.com)

ISAAC-Brazil
(isaac.org.br)

ISAAC-Canada
(www.isaac-canada.org)

ISAAC-Denmark
(www.isaac.dk)

ISAAC-FSC
(www.isaac-fr.org)

ISAAC-India
(http://isaac.org.in)

ISAAC-Israel
(isaac.org.il)

ISAAC-Italy
(www.isaacitaly.it)

ISAAC-NF
(www.isaac-nf.nl)

ISAAC-Norway
(www.isaac.no)

ISAAC-Poland
(www.aac.org.pl)

ISAAC-Sweden
(www.isaac-sverige.se)

ISAAC-Taiwan
(twsaac.blogspot.tw)

ISAAC-UK
(Communication Matters)
(www.communicationmatters.org.uk)

ISAAC-US (USSAAC)
(www.ussaac.org)

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

ISAAC Membership Directory© 2017
Available online in the Members Only section.
Click here for access using your ISAAC member ID# and password.

The ISAAC Membership Directory 2018 will be in production over the next few months. Look for it on our website this July!

Stay up-to-date through ISAAC on social media by clicking on the logos at left. Your likes, follows and feedback are much appreciated!
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.

Executive Board 2016-2018

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Sally Clendon
V-P for Conferences, NEW ZEALAND

Meredith Allan
President-Elect, AUSTRALIA
Lateef McLeod
V-P for LEAD, USA

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Jackie Brown
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