

**October is  
International  
AAC  
Awareness  
Month  
(see p. 3 & 7!)**

**October 2012**

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## Message from Erna Alant, President 2010-2012

*Dear ISAAC Members:*

I want to thank all of you who participated in and worked so hard to make ISAAC 2012 in Pittsburgh such a great success. The diversity of people involved in ISAAC and their joint commitment to promoting communication for all is what makes this a unique organization.

The most inspiring thing about ISAAC for me, however, lies in the ability of its members to argue their points of view while remaining open to the thoughts and opinions of other members. Perhaps it is not totally coincidental that the latest hurricane to sweep through America was called "Isaac"! Although our organization can sometimes work up a storm, the commitment to work through and grow from the inevitable differences of opinion amongst its diverse membership is clear. In the complex and interconnected world in which we live, I can think of nothing more important in moving the mission of ISAAC forward.

As I am now at the end of my term as President, I want to thank you all for the opportunity and honour of serving you. I have served on the Executive for six years and feel privileged to have been part of such a competent ISAAC team. In particular,

I would like to thank Franklin Smith, who was appointed as Executive Director of ISAAC in January 2011, just after my term as President of the organization started. He not only hit the ground running, but was (and remains) a constant source of support and inspiration for the Executive Board. A big thank you is also due to the Executive Board: Jeff Riley, Shelley Deegan, Eija Roisko, Rajul Padmanabhan and Faye Warren, as well as those in the ISAAC International office, namely, Heather Stonehouse and Teraiz El-Deir.

Finally I want to thank all of the ISAAC members. The Executive Board appreciates your engagement and participation in ensuring a thriving future for this exceptional organization. I wish Jeff Riley, incoming President, and the rest of the incoming Executive Board, all the best. We are indeed privileged to have such an experienced and skilled group of people to take ISAAC forward.

Go well,  
Erna Alant  
ISAAC President (2010-2012)

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

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## Message from Jeff Riley, President 2012-2014



I would like to take this opportunity to thank and recognize Erna Alant for her energy, dedication, and hard work over the past four years on the ISAAC Executive Board: two years as our President-Elect, and most recently a further two years as our ISAAC President.

During her tenure Erna has overseen and guided the development of a new five-year strategic plan for ISAAC, the engagement of a new ISAAC Executive Director, a complete overhaul of our website, and many other changes that have prepared ISAAC well for the next five years.

The role of ISAAC President is a voluntary assignment, in which an individual gives freely of her/his time. Erna has given very generously of her time, energy, and creativity, and on behalf of the ISAAC family I extend our heartfelt gratitude to her for this precious gift. Despite my large feet it will be a challenge to fill Erna's shoes, but as I assume the role of the next ISAAC President I am comforted by the fact that she has left me a well-tended ship to steer through seas, whether calm or stormy, over the coming years.

Erna, a deep and sincere thank-you from all of us, a fond "totsiens," which I understand means "until we see you again" in your native Afrikaans, and a warm Zulu farewell "hamba kahle!"

Jeff Riley

ISAAC President (2012-2014)

### ... From the Executive Director

Welcome to the October 2012 edition of E-News. The ISAAC International office is excited to report on some of the many initiatives currently underway.

It is hard to believe that we have started planning for ISAAC 2014, with the very successful 2012 Pittsburgh Conference now only a month or two behind us. Conference 2012 was able to gather well over 1,200 registrants from over 30

countries! By the sights and sounds of some of the events, such as the Opening Ceremony, Closing Ceremony, and Welcome Reception, to name just a few, ISAAC 2012 was a resounding success! Many thanks and kudos to our Conference Co-Chairs, Amy Goldman, Katya Hill, and Søren Vintergaard, who led an amazing team of staff and volunteers. You all know who you are, and your efforts on behalf of ISAAC are sincerely appreciated.

isaac

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this article in  
translation](#)**

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*Continued on page 3...*

## ... From the Executive Director (continued from page 2)

*“As always,  
I welcome your  
thoughts and  
feedback.”*

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**Click here to see  
this article in  
translation**

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We look forward to seeing the world at ISAAC 2014 in Lisbon, Portugal. For those who were not present at the Closing Ceremony in Pittsburgh, the Conference Co-Chairs for ISAAC 2014 are: Luis Azevedo, Isabel Amaral, Pedro Encarnação, and Maria Margarida Ramalho Talone Nunes da Ponte.

ISAAC International is thrilled to announce the official launch of our new Webinar platform. Starting in October, members of the ISAAC Council will be able to hold live internet meetings and discussions, either within a Chapter/Region, or amongst different Chapters/Regions. We are communicating with the Council now as to how they can schedule and reserve time for this. Also, ISAAC International plans to hold at least two webinars each year,

so please watch for email announcements with further details in the coming weeks.

We are also getting ready for 2013 Membership Renewal. ISAAC is planning to make membership sign-up, renewal, and payment for our International members available on line for the first time since migrating to our new website. We will be releasing more information on this as it becomes available.

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

Regards and thanks,  
Franklin Smith

### Attention ISAAC 2012 Presenters!

You are invited to submit your ISAAC 2012 presentation and/or handouts for posting on the ISAAC website. Please note that by submitting any materials to ISAAC, you are providing your explicit permission to ISAAC to make this material available on its website. Please send materials, with email addresses for all presenters, if possible, to Heather Stonehouse, Manager--Communications, ISAAC.

International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication [www.isaac-online.org](http://www.isaac-online.org)



Share a story...interact...  
mentor...teach...advocate...  
lead...learn more...

**Power of Communication Relays**



**AAC\* Campaign Events in Communities Worldwide--October 2012**

More information plus stories and videos by people who use AAC: [www.aacawareness.org](http://www.aacawareness.org)

Join us also at International AAC Month on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/isaac). \*AAC = other ways to communicate besides speech

## ISAAC 2012 Awards & Scholarships: 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 1<sup>st</sup> in Pittsburgh, the following individuals were honoured:

- Filip Loncke (top left) received the ISAAC Distinguished Service Award, for his outstanding contribution to the field of AAC.
- Martin Pistorius (bottom left) was presented with the ISAAC President's Award, for his extraordinary leadership and support of both ISAAC and AAC worldwide.
- Peter Zein received the Shirley McNaughton – ISAAC Exemplary Communication Award, in recognition of sensitive, caring and insightful teaching of persons who use AAC.
- The Sherri Johnson / ISAAC Conference Consumer Travel Scholarship, established for the purpose of assisting a person who uses AAC to attend ISAAC's biennial conferences, was awarded to Luis "Gus" Estrella.
- Madhumita Dasgupta of Kolkata is the The Bridge School/ISAAC Teacher-in-Residence for 2013, an



*Filip Loncke,  
Recipient of the  
ISAAC Distinguished  
Service Award*



*Martin Pistorius,  
Recipient of the  
ISAAC President's  
Award*

award that sponsors her participation in a training program at The Bridge School in California from January to July 2013.

- Ann Sutton was recognized for her outstanding service as Editor of the AAC journal from 2008 to 2012.

### 2012 Words+ /ISAAC Outstanding Consumer Lecture Award Winner

ISAAC had the pleasure of presenting Lisa Lehmann with the Words+ / ISAAC Outstanding Consumer Lecture Award at ISAAC 2012. Lisa's remarkable lecture was titled, "The Human Need for Intimacy."

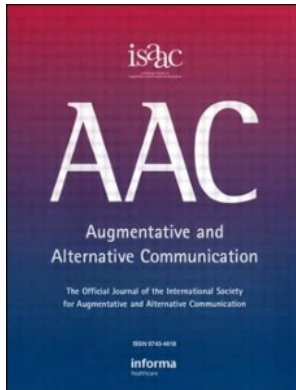


*Lisa Lehmann, Words+ / ISAAC  
Outstanding Consumer Lecture Award  
winner, with son Hunter and Jeff  
Dahlen of Words+, Inc.*

We would like to express our sincere thanks to Lisa, to Words+, Inc. for its support and sponsorship of the award, and to John Costello for his work and dedication on behalf of this biennial event, which is always a highlight of the ISAAC conference.



## ISAAC/AAC Editors' Awards



Each year, the AAC 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 2012 Awards and Membership Meeting for their outstanding contributions to AAC during 2011. The awards were presented by David McNaughton, AAC Co-editor.

### Research Articles:

Emily R. Baumann Leech & Cynthia J. Cress, "Indirect Facilitation of Speech in a Late Talking Child by Prompted Production of Picture Symbols or Signs," March 2011.

Gonda Pickl, "Communication Intervention in Children with Severe Disabilities and Multilingual Backgrounds: Perceptions of Pedagogues and Parents." December 2011.

Kazuko Fujisawa, Tomoyoshi Inoue, Yuko Yamana & Hirofumi Hayashi, "The Effect of Animation on Learning Action Symbols by Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities," March 2011.

### Student Article:

Nadine Trottier, Lorraine Kamp and Pat Mirenda, "Effects of Peer-Mediated Instruction to Teach Use of Speech-Generating Devices to Students with Autism in Social Game Routines," March 2011.

### AAIDD / ISAAC Webinar November 28, 2012

ISAAC and AAIDD (American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities) are collaborating on a webinar series. The first 60-minute session will be a discussion on mobile devices and apps as AAC tools. More information will be available shortly; watch your inbox and visit ISAAC on line for details.

## BUILD Book Donations at ISAAC 2012

Once again a flood of books and other resources were donated for distribution to ISAAC members from emerging AAC nations. Delegates from 18 different countries who attended the BUILD Meeting on Wednesday, August 1<sup>st</sup> in Pittsburgh were invited to review these materials and take home any that they would find useful.

Thanks to everyone who donated resources! In particular, we would like to acknowledge and thank Judy Yandow, a retired ISAAC member, who donated her entire text book library to BUILD. A large number of these books were gratefully received by a delegate from Bangladesh.

Thanks also to Juan Bornman and Rajul Padmanabhan, Coordinators of the ISAAC 2012 Book Donations Program.

## ISAAC 2012 Research Symposium Update

The ISAAC 2012 Research Symposium was held on August 3-4, directly following the 15<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of ISAAC in Pittsburgh. More than 120 participants were in attendance, making this the largest Research Symposium ever.

The six leading-edge seminars were:

**1. AAC and Aphasia: Science and Clinical Practice**

Primary organizer: Rajinder R. Koul

**2. AAC Assessment and Measurement Issues**

Primary organizer: Filip Loncke

**3. AAC Meets Tele-Rehabilitation: Envisioning Transformative Tele-AAC Research**

Primary organizer: Ellen R. Cohn

**4. Blissymbol Research and Practice Issues**

Primary organizer: Stephen Von Tetzchner

**5. iPads (and other tablets) as an AAC Device: Research Issues**

Primary organizer: Lindsay Dutton

**6. Gathering AAC Data for Enhancement of Language Research: The Intersection of Linguistics and AAC**

Primary organizer: Carol Tenny

The Symposium Chair, Lyle L. Lloyd, would like to thank the organizers, presenters and participants for all of their efforts and commitment to the success of this year's Research Symposium. The six primary organizers and some of their participants have started preparing the content of their seminars for publication as part of the ISAAC 2012 Research Symposium Proceedings, to be posted on the ISAAC website early next year. We are looking forward to another successful ISAAC Research Symposium in 2014.

## Silent Auction Results 2012

*Thanks to the efforts and energy of the Friends of ISAAC, a silent auction was held at ISAAC 2012 to raise funds to assist people who use AAC to attend future conferences.*

Congratulations and many thanks to everyone for their donations and participation in the ISAAC 2012 Silent Auction. This year, the value of the 163 items donated was estimated to be over \$9,000. More than \$4,500 was raised for the ISAAC Travel Fund, which enables people who use AAC to attend future conferences.

The ongoing success of the Silent Auction is due to the generous participation of ISAAC members, who continue to contribute their time, talents and goods to this biennial venture. Thank-you to the Friends of ISAAC, who organized the event and volunteered during the conference. Special thanks to Pat Politano for taking the lead in organizing this year's auction.



## International AAC Awareness Month Campaign 2012

*Share a story ... mentor ... teach ...  
advocate ... lead ... perform ... and  
show the world what is possible with an  
effective communication method of one's  
choice.*

Visit, read, and share stories, poems,  
songs, multi-media projects and videos  
online at [www.aacawareness.org](http://www.aacawareness.org).

### 4th Annual 24-Hour AAC Chat on October 17<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00 am EDT (USA): Skype, Facebook & Twitter

To join the chat on Skype, download  
the Skype program, free at  
[www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com) and send your Skype  
address to [info@aacawareness.org](mailto:info@aacawareness.org).  
Post your comments, news, and  
favourite links on the International  
AAC Month page on Facebook on Oc-  
tober 17<sup>th</sup>, or any time in October. If  
you haven't tried to Tweet yet, here's  
your chance; use the Twitter hashtag  
#AACchat.

### ISAAC Executive Board 2012 - 2014

The new ISAAC Executive Board (EB)  
assumed its responsibilities on  
October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012:

**Jeff Riley**, President - Canada

**Bronwyn Hemsley**, President-  
Elect - Australia

**Vic Valentic**, Leadership Chair for  
Persons who use AAC - Canada

**India Ochs**, VP without Portfolio -  
USA

**Rajul Padmanabhan**, VP without  
Portfolio - India

**Chih-Kang Yang**, Chair of the  
Council - Taiwan

**Janice Murray**, Vice-Chair of the  
Council - UK

A very warm welcome to the new  
EB. We look forward to working  
with you over the next two years!

### New from ISAAC in 2012...

A CD-ROM was included in each ISAAC 2012 conference registration package, featuring Conference Proceedings (presentation and poster session abstracts in Research, Clinical/Educational, PWUAAC, Plenary/Special Lecture tracks). There are a limited number of copies of the CD still available. If any Council Member wants to receive any of these on behalf of their Chapter or Regional Membership, please contact the ISAAC International Membership Coordinator, [Teraiz El-Deir](#), to make the necessary shipping arrangements. Please note that a minimum order size of 10 copies applies.

The **2012 ISAAC Membership Directory** in pdf format is also on the CD. The Directory is also available online [here](#), in the Members Only section of the ISAAC website,

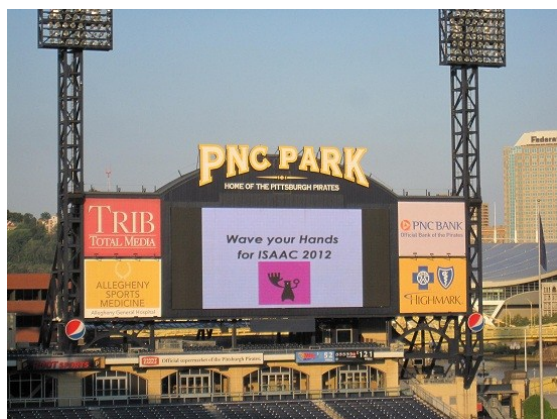
## ISAAC 2012 Media Gallery



*Peter Yarrow at the Opening Ceremony*



*Erna Alant, welcoming delegates to the Opening Ceremony*



*A great time was had by all at the local party, held in Pittsburgh's PNC Diamond Club overlooking the sports field*

## "The Artist Within" Preconference Workshop



## Links

Local Newspaper Coverage, with Katya Hill, Conference Co-chair

New Technology Showcased in Pittsburgh media, with Vic Valentic, incoming ISAAC Leadership Chair for People who use AAC, and Franklin Smith, ISAAC Executive Director.

## And on YouTube...

Musician Snoopi Botton opens the conference with a Parade of Flags, and sings with Peter Yarrow of Peter, Paul and Mary:

Don't Laugh at Me  
Puff the Magic Dragon  
If I Had a Hammer



## Daring to Dream: Turning Dreams into Future Realities

*A Digital Book by Dr. Diane Nelson Bryen, with contributions by Melinda Smith and Kitty Uys, and a Prologue by Martin Pistorius*



"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." - Eleanor Roosevelt.

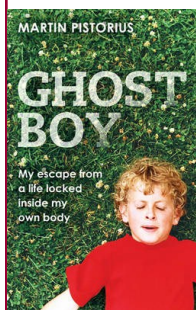
**Daring to Dream: Turning Dreams into Future Realities**, published on July 22, 2012, is an experience-based guide to dreaming and developing an action plan to turn that dream into a future reality. This guide was developed by the author, Dr. Diane Nelson Bryen, Professor Emerita, with contributions from Melinda Smith of Australia and Kitty Uys of South Africa. Martin Pistorius, who uses AAC, has written the prologue to the book.

The process of daring to dream has been implemented throughout the United States, and in India, Israel, South Africa, Singapore, and Australia. Hundreds of individuals with disabilities who have little or no functional speech have thrown off years of oppression by daring to dream and by turning their dreams into realities.

Whether you are a person with a disability, a family member, a caregiver, an advocate or a professional, *Daring to Dream* will be an invaluable resource. In this book, you will learn how to dream and how to be bold enough to make your dreams known to others. You will learn how to turn your dreams into achievable goals - goals that are both positive and possible.

Diane says, "It is my hope that *Daring to Dream* will help those who have experienced oppression due to race, gender, or disability create a life worth living."

### More good reads...



**Ghost Boy** by Martin Pistorius (Simon & Schuster Ltd., 2011)

*Ghost Boy* is the compelling story of Martin Pistorius. In 1988, at age 12, he fell inexplicably ill. First he lost his voice and stopped eating, and within eighteen months he was unable to speak or walk. Martin's parents were told that if he survived, he would have the mind of a baby. What no-one knew was that while Martin's body remained unresponsive, his mind slowly woke up. In his book, Martin recounts his journey of recovery against all the odds.

**One Little Finger** by Malini Chib (Sage Publications, 2011)

Malini Chib recounts her experiences from childhood to adulthood in *One Little Finger*; as she struggles with motor skills and speech, and the indifference of people towards her and others with disabilities, she grasps every opportunity to educate herself. Malini learns to type with her little finger and speak through a Lightwriter. Finally, she works through unfavorable social systems and attitudes to establish a successful career as an event manager.

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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

### Executive Board 2012-2014

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President-Elect, Australia

[Vic Valentic](#)  
Leadership Chair for People who  
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[India Ochs](#)  
VP Without Portfolio, USA

[Rajul Padmanabhan](#)  
VP Without Portfolio, India

[Chih-Kang Yang](#)  
Chair of the Council, Taiwan

[Janice Murray](#)  
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