Dear ISAAC Members:

It is an honour to serve you and the fantastic organization of ISAAC as your President for the next three years. I would like to briefly introduce myself to you.

I have been engaged in the field of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) for over 20 years in my home country of Germany. In the 1990s I studied electronics and special education in Berlin and I have worked in the AAC field since that time. In 2004 I completed my doctorate on the theoretical basis of AAC. I worked as a postdoctoral researcher on different projects in Berlin and Halle. In 2008 I received the first professorship in AAC in Germany at the Catholic University of Applied Sciences Freiburg.

I have also been co-chair of the ISAAC Research Committee since 2004, and ISAAC President-Elect since 2014. I am actively involved in research, professional education and training, and service delivery in the area of AAC. During my term as President, strengthening ISAAC as an international organization, encouraging leadership by persons who use AAC, and supporting the research base of AAC will be among the priorities.

I look forward to working with you and having the opportunity to meet many of you in person over the next few years.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Gregor Renner
ISAAC President
October 2015 - September 2018

More information here (in English) and here (in German).
Message from the Past President

Dear ISAAC Members:

On a hot Sunday in Barcelona, in July 2010, I formally stepped onto the ISAAC Executive Board as ISAAC President-Elect, and in 2012 in Pittsburgh I assumed the role of ISAAC President. The Barcelona conference seems a long time ago, and now more than five years later I am penning my last E-News greeting to you as ISAAC President. It has been quite the ride, at times smooth and at other times bumpy, with a full range of experiences from very challenging to joyful and awe-inspiring. I am truly proud of the many significant achievements made during this period for ISAAC and for people who use AAC across the world.

The accomplishments of my tenure could never have happened without the incredible support, hard work, and creativity of so many people dedicated to ISAAC and to people who use AAC. I have had the unique opportunity to meet with, to speak to, and to work beside so many of you, and regardless of which side we found ourselves on in the many issues we tackled, each and every one of you renewed my faith in humankind as a positive force, and inspired me to be the best human being I can be. To all of you I say a sincere and heartfelt “Thank-you!”

For more than 30 years of ISAAC history, ISAAC members have worked to ensure that the voices of all members of our families and communities are heard. I am confident the renewed ISAAC Executive Board, the skilled ISAAC staff, the dedicated committees, and committed national and regional Chapters of ISAAC will continue to reach new heights. I am humbled by the rare chance to work with so many talented people and achieve so much. I bid you farewell for now but certainly not good-bye… ISAAC is in my blood and I hope to be a part of this great organization for many, many years to come.

My parting wishes are that you will continue to take the time to listen, to laugh together, and to be kind to one another.

Best wishes to you all,

Jeff Riley
Past-President of ISAAC
2012 - 2015

The ISAAC International office continues its work on behalf of the membership around the world, and is thrilled to advise on the following initiatives:

**Conference 2016**
The Conference 2016 Call for Papers is soon closing! The online submission portal can be accessed by clicking here, or by navigating to https://www.isaac-online.org/english/conference-2016/call-for-papers-2016/, and clicking on the blue button at the top of the webpage. We have so far had a very strong response to our Call for Papers, which is currently scheduled to close on October 30th, 2015.

For those individuals wanting a review of how to submit a proposal in our online submission portal, there is a webinar video available on the ISAAC website at: https://www.isaac-online.org/english/conference-2016/call-for-papers-2016/conference-2016-call-for-papers-webinar/

Planning for the conference is now “kicking into high gear” and we are looking forward to welcoming the world to Toronto, Canada in August, 2016! Please check out all the current conference information, including the Star Alliance air discounts, at https://www.isaac-online.org/english/conference-2016/.

**ISAAC Webinars**
USSAAC, ISAAC International’s Chapter in the United States, continues to work with ISAAC International in hosting and producing information webinars for the broader AAC community. The next webinar is currently scheduled for October 21st, and more information is available on the ISAAC website at https://www.isaac-online.org/english/news/webinars/.

If other ISAAC Chapters or Council members want to make use of the ISAAC International webinar platform, feel free to get in touch with me directly.

**ISAAC International 2016 Membership Rates**
At its September 2015 meeting, the ISAAC Executive Board (EB) decided to hold the ISAAC 2016 membership rates at their 2015 levels. Further the EB is committed to meeting the goal…continued on page 4
set for it by the ISAAC Council at its July 2014 meeting, “that the ISAAC EB take on the task of reviewing the membership fee structure during 2015-2016.”

**ISAAC Executive Board (EB) 2015-18**

I have been privileged these past few years to work directly with ISAAC Presidents Erna Alant and Jeff Riley, both of whom brought a strong focus of collaborative leadership and pragmatic thinking to this organization and the stakeholders it represents.

I know everyone associated with ISAAC will join me in extending a warm welcome to both Gregor Renner and Meredith Allan, as they begin their terms as ISAAC President and President-Elect respectively. Both Gregor and Meredith bring strong leadership skills to the EB, which will be well served by the forward-thinking and global perspectives they bring.

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 OUTSTANDING CONSUMER LECTURE AWARD 2016**

Now open for submissions! Details, including application guidelines, can be found here. The deadline for submissions is **November 30th, 2015**.

**ISAAC CONFERENCE 2016**

“Bringing Us Together / Ce qui nous rassemble”

The 17th Biennial Conference of the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication will be held at the Westin Harbour Castle Hotel in Toronto, Canada, August 6-13, 2016. Closing Date for Call for Papers has been extended to **October 30th, 2015**.
(Re)Introducing ISAAC’s Family Engagement Committee

"Les gens ont des étoiles qui ne sont pas les mêmes. Pour les uns, qui voyagent, les étoiles sont des guides. Pour d’autres elles ne sont rien que de petites lumières. Pour d’autres qui sont savants elles sont des problèmes. Pour mon businessman elles étaient de l’or. Mais toutes ces étoiles-là elles se taissent. Toi, tu auras des étoiles comme personne n’en a…"

“All men have the stars,” he answered, "but they are not the same things for different people. For some, who are travelers, the stars are guides. For others they are no more than little lights in the sky. For others, who are scholars, they are problems. For my businessman they were wealth. But all the stars are silent. You – you alone – will have the stars as no one else has them…”

Le Petit Prince (The Little Prince) - Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

ISAAC is proud to announce the launch of the Family Engagement Committee! During the July 2015 Executive Board Meeting, the former “Family Support Group” was renamed – and restructured – into the Family Engagement Committee. ISAAC’s mission and goals revolve around supporting the lives of people who use AAC (PWUAAC) and at the centre of that support is family. But just as we all may see stars in the sky differently, we each have different family dynamics within our lives (including what the definition of family is)! Those differences – and the desire to discuss and support such differences – are at the core of the new Family Engagement Committee.

Whether you are a PWUAAC who is a parent or married, a spouse of a PWUAAC, a child of a PWUAAC, a parent or sibling of a PWUAAC, or connected in any other way that makes you “family,” we want to be here for YOU!

Our first initiative for the coming year is NETWORKING. Our primary goal for the Family Engagement Committee is simply to get you talking! We believe one of the best ways to strengthen our lives as families is to be able to share stories with others, whether it is to seek advice, encourage others, or just to be able to vent. The Committee has developed two social platforms to promote such communication:

1) Facebook: ISAAC Family Engagement Committee page is https://www.facebook.com/Isaacfamilysupport. Our

...continued on page 6
(Re) Introducing ISAAC’s Family Engagement Committee continued

Facebook page is open to EVERYONE who has an interest in family and AAC! (you do NOT need to be a Committee member to be active on Facebook). Come “like” the page, view posts by others about family issues related to AAC or disability in general, or post your own thoughts or links.

2) Google Group “ISAAC – Family Engagement”: People communicate in many different ways and we want to make sure you have a place where you feel comfortable discussing family issues with others. For that reason, we created a secured Google group where individuals can communicate over a protected listserv or view messages online. While, just like Facebook, this group is also open to EVERYONE interested in family and AAC, we added an extra level of protection in “approving” group members to avoid any outside trolls or hackers. We also understand that some discussions just are not appropriate for a place like Facebook.

3) Interested in joining the group listserv? Just email India Ochs, at india.ochs@gmail.com.

The Family Engagement Committee is also committed to providing those within the AAC community with the resources and information available to support PWUAAC and their families. Part of that commitment is to collaborate with ISAAC’s LEAD and BUILD Committees as many of our committees’ internal goals intersect. At the same time, we are eager to strengthen our support throughout the world, especially in non-English speaking countries. So, if you are interested in contributing to these efforts as a Committee member – or just have other suggestions or comments – contact us at any time!

- India Ochs, ISAAC VP without Portfolio and Family Engagement Committee Chair
AAC Journal Celebrates 30 years with Release of Free Access Articles

It’s been 30 years since the founding of the Augmentative and Alternative Communication journal in 1985. To celebrate this milestone, the AAC journal editors, past and present, and publisher Taylor & Francis are providing key articles free for a period of 30 days. One article will be featured every two weeks, starting in October 2015 to coincide with International AAC Awareness Month, continuing through November, December, and January. For more information, please click here.

View Table of Contents here.

AAC Editor’s Awards for 2014
The AAC Editors and Associate Editors are pleased to announce the winners of the Editor’s Awards for the most significant articles published in 2014:

Most Significant Research Article
Laura Roche, Jeff Sigafoos, Giulio Lancioni, Mark O’Reilly, Vanessa Green, Dean Sutherland, Larah van der Meer, Ralf Schlosser, Peter Marschik, and Chaturi Edrisinha, for Tangible symbols as an AAC option for individuals with developmental disabilities: A systematic review of intervention studies

Most Significant Student Article
Timo Saloviita, Marjatta Leppänen, and Ulla Ojalammi, for Authorship in facilitated communication: An analysis of 11 cases

Congratulations to the authors for their outstanding work!

Make Sure You Renew Your ISAAC Membership for 2016 Early To Take Advantage of Our Conference 2016 Early Bird Member Registration Rates
If you are currently a member of ISAAC, you can renew your membership through your national or regional Chapter. Members of ISAAC International and ISAAC Canada may renew their membership online.
October is International AAC Awareness Month!

Events are held around the world each year in October to celebrate International AAC Awareness Month. One of our themes this year, "Bringing Us Together," coincides with the theme of our upcoming ISAAC Conference 2016.

Some of the awareness events going on around the world during October 2015 are posted on the ISAAC website here. Please send us news and photos of events that have taken place (or are still to come) in your community, and we’ll post them on our website.

**ISAAC Conference 2016 Film Festival**
The ISAAC Film Festival is looking for story ideas that showcase our vision, Changing Lives, featuring the remarkable people who use AAC and their communication partners around the world. The top ideas that tell an inspiring story and showcase this year’s themes will be invited to create and submit their films. These films will be shown at the ISAAC Film Festival, which will take place during the Welcome Reception on August 6, 2016, at the 2016 ISAAC Conference in Toronto, Canada. Deadline for submissions is October 30, 2015, no later than 18:00 Eastern (Toronto) time. For Film Idea Inclusion Criteria, Sample Script, and Submission Form, please [click here](#).

**ISAAC Conference 2016 Research Symposium**
The ISAAC Conference 2016 Research Symposium (August 12-13, 2016) will connect AAC researchers across the globe and strengthen research networks within ISAAC to drive innovation and excellence in the field of AAC. Chaired by Bronwyn Hemsley, Associate Professor, School of Humanities and Social Science (Speech Pathology), University of Newcastle, Australia. Deadline for submission of proposals is November 15, 2015. For links to the Call for Proposals and Submission Form, [click here](#).

**ISAAC Conference 2016: Invitation to Exhibitors**
We invite all companies and organizations to explore the marketing opportunities that will be open to you as exhibitors at the Main Conference (August 8-11, 2016). ISAAC Conference 2016 includes an expanded program, offerings, and activities, and anticipates attendance from more than 50 countries worldwide, to provide the maximum exposure possible for exhibitors. Please [click here](#) to find a link to our Exhibitor Information Manual. For more information, contact Tony Needer, Conference 2016 Exhibitor Sales Specialist.
Chapter News

ISAAC-UK
COMMUNICATION MATTERS: MORE THAN JUST TALKING!

The 2015 Communication Matters (CM) Annual Conference ran from Sunday, September 13th to Tuesday, September 15th at Leeds University, UK. This year we welcomed over 420 delegates including people who use AAC, family members and support workers, a wide range of professionals, researchers, and suppliers. There was a real energy around the Conference. The positivity and passion were recognized by the MeetINLeeds Conference Team who, as in previous years, put extra effort into making the Conference such a success.

We were honoured to have Denise West and Brett Reynolds from Australia as our keynote speakers. They also led workshops throughout the Conference on the Communication Access for All project, which we are hoping to pilot in the UK.

The Tuesday Plenary called AAC around the World was presented by Janice Murray (ISAAC Chair of Council) and Gregor Renner (ISAAC President as of October 1st), along with Dot Fraser and Aldona Mysakowska-Adamczyk, who shared about the BUILD initiative and their work in Poland.

Following the AGM, invited guests took part in the popular “CM on the Sofa,” ably facilitated by Tom Griffiths (CM Trustee). This featured a brilliant recorded interview with CM supporter Doug Hartley, who was completing the Ironman Challenge in aid of CM at the time the Conference started.

The exhibition of over 20 suppliers is central to our Conference program and we are very appreciative for the support our supplier members give to us during Conference and throughout the year.

Alongside the regular program we enjoyed a Sign and Sing (“Sign Out Loud”) presentation, which got delegates rocking (!); an incredible fancy dress
Chapter News  continued

“Sunshine” Conference dinner, complete with CM sticks of rock and a fabulous steel band from Leeds; a raffle that raised over £800 towards supporting people who use AAC to come to the Conference; and a presentation of the Alan Martin Award to Sam Knapp, who uses AAC for his photography.

It takes a huge amount of work and effort to put on a Conference, so thank you to all who contributed. It is so worth it to see people go away inspired and encouraged as to what can be achieved in whatever situation they may be in.

We are already planning for next year, which is the 30th Anniversary of CM – a bumper year ahead – so check out our website for updates on events and activities: www.communicationmatters.org.uk

ISAAC-BRAZIL
Congratulations to ISAAC-Brazil for hosting a successful VI Congress of Alternative Communication in June 2015. Here are a few photos:

Photos courtesy of Eliana Cristina Moreira, President, ISAAC-Brazil

2015 Communication Matters (CM) Annual Conference, Exhibition

…continued on page 11
Chapter News continued

ISAAC-TAIWAN

ISAAC-TAIWAN has invited the several scholars to visit Taiwan during the past five years to publish their research to the Journal of the Speech-Language-Hearing Association of Taiwan, as follows:


A Celebration of Life: Edward A. Christie ‘Ted’

On September 22, 2015, a Celebration of Life took place in Toronto to honour Ted Christie, husband of former ISAAC Executive Director Nancy Christie. From the Globe & Mail notice: “Passed away in his 75th year on September 14, 2015, after a brief illness. Beloved husband and best friend of Nancy, proud and loving father of Tim (Gizelle) and Glen (Amanda). Cherished grandfather of Lewis, Warren, and Thomas.” Our deepest condolences go out to Nancy and her family.
17th Biennial Conference of ISAAC
August 6 - 13, 2016

The ISAAC Conference 2016 Call for Papers is open for submissions! Click here for submission guidelines.

The deadline for submission of abstracts has now been extended to October 30th, 2015 (18:00 GMT)
ISAAC BUILD AAC

The BUILD Committee looks at the welfare of the Emerging AAC Countries who are low resourced economically and/or in the area of AAC.

BUILD has embarked on a number of exciting projects and activities this year. This article will highlight a few:

BUILD Champions
BUILD Champions were chosen for different regions of the world. The rationale was that these individuals would spearhead the development of AAC in the BUILD countries in this region. They would then form smaller subcommittees of interested individuals who would focus on implementation of the work in their countries. The regions are Asia Pacific, Europe, Africa, and South America.

Visit to Prague in Czech Republic
In August, BUILD Committee members Aldona Mysakowska-Adamczyk and Dot Fraser visited Prague in Czech Republic as a mini-holiday to reconnect with their AAC connections. The Prague group organized an informal study day at their centre, bringing together AAC professionals from other parts of the country, demonstrating their work and making connections nationally. Participants heard from Aldona and Dot about ISAAC and BUILD activities. There were discussions, looking at possibilities of international collaborations and sharing material between Poland and Czech Republic. As outcomes from the meeting, our colleagues from Prague have joined ISAAC BUILD Resources on Facebook and have posted information about International AAC Awareness Month on the Czech AAC group Facebook page.

Presentation at Communication Matters (ISAAC UK) Annual Conference in September
BUILD received good coverage at the Communication Matters Conference. The plenary session “AAC around the World” was led by Gregor Renner and Janice Murray. Aldona talked about BUILD and the history of AAC development in Poland. Dot Fraser gave an overview of her collaboration with...
ISAAC BUILD AAC  continued

Aldona and other AAC professionals in Poland as an example of a BUILD Subcommittee for Europe activity, supporting European AAC developing nations.

New Members on the Committee
We welcome Vic Valentic, ISAAC’s Leadership Chair for People who use AAC, to our Committee. We are excited and hope that this will lead to greater collaboration with the LEAD Committee and people in emerging countries who use AAC. We also welcome Ming Chen, who is a Professor in the area of Special Education and an AAC advocate from Taiwan!

Interest from Countries around the World
Some countries that do not have Chapters, such as Pakistan, the Philippines and the UAE, have expressed interest in joining ISAAC. We are excited about the prospects of supporting and starting AAC communities in these countries.

We Need You!
The BUILD Committee has been active, but there is much more to do. We would like to invite you to partner with us in this exciting work. If you are interested, please contact Franklin Smith, ISAAC Executive Director at franklin@isaac-online.org, or myself at spritevanilla@gmail.com.

CSWN News
Communication Support World Network (CSWN) News (formerly Augmentative Communication World Network Newsletter) welcomes articles about emerging AAC nations where you live or that you support. Please send your submissions to CSWN Newsletter editor Dot Fraser.

To read the latest issue of CSWN News in PDF format, please click here.

ISAAC on Social Media
Click here to view and “like” ISAAC International on Facebook, as well as ISAAC BUILD AAC, and ISAAC’s Family Engagement Committee (read more about this committee’s initiatives on page 7). These pages share news about ISAAC and AAC. Follow ISAAC on YouTube for video updates.

Check out ISAAC’s Blog for more!
BOOKING YOUR OWN CONFERENCE TRAVEL IS EASY AS ABC
WITH THE GLOBAL ONLINE BOOKING TOOL FROM STAR ALLIANCE CONVENTIONS PLUS

No matter where you are travelling from, the Star Alliance™ network offers you a wide choice of flights to ISAAC Conference 2016 in Toronto, Canada.

And with over 19,500 flights a day to 1,321 destinations across 193 countries, our 27 member airlines extend the same choice to any future conferences you are planning to attend.

You can also save money when you book your flights. Simply quote the Convention Code AC01516 and you plus one travelling companion will receive a special discount. Better still, no matter which Star Alliance member airline’s frequent flyer programme you belong to, you can earn and redeem miles across all 27 airlines.

For more information, or to join the airline network that offers you more choice wherever your conferences take you, simply go to www.staralliance.com/conventionsplus
ISAAC has Chapters in 14 countries or regions worldwide. For information about how you can participate, contact the organizations listed above, or ISAAC International for areas not listed.

**ISAAC Chapters**

- ISAAC-Australia
  (www.isaacaustralia.com)
- ISAAC-Brazil
  (www.isaac.org.br)
- ISAAC-Canada
  (www.isaac-canada.org)
- ISAAC-Denmark
  (www.isaac.dk)
- ISAAC-Francophone (French-Speaking Countries and Regions)
  (www.isaac-fr.org)
- ISAAC-India
  (ayjinihh.nic.in)
- ISAAC-Israel
  (www.isaac.org.il)
- ISAAC-Italy
  (www.isaacitaly.it)
- ISAAC-NF (Netherlands and Flanders)
  (www.isaac-nf.nl)
- ISAAC-Norway
  (www.isaac.no)
- 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 Membership Directory 2015**

This year’s ISAAC Membership Directory is now available online. In order to access the Directory, you will need to know your ISAAC Member ID number and password. If you need do not have these, please contact Teraiz El-Deir, Membership Coordinator.
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 2014-2016

Gregor Renner
President, Germany

Meredith Allan
President-Elect, Australia

Janice Murray
Chair of the Council, UK

Aldona Mysakowska-Adamczyk
Chair-Elect of the Council, Poland

India Ochs
VP without Portfolio, USA

Tracy Shepherd
VP-Conference Planning, Canada

Vic Valentic
Leadership Chair for People who use AAC, Canada

Sarah Yong
VP without Portfolio, Singapore

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Teraiz El-Deir, Membership Coordinator

Heather Stonehouse, Manager – Communications

Nola Millin, Editor, ISAAC Website

Martine Smith, Editor, AAC Augmentative and Alternative Communication

Jackie Brown, AAC Editorial Assistant

Judy Shapiro, Conference 2016 Sponsorship Specialist

Tony Needer, Conference 2016 Exhibitor Sales Specialist

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