

September 2013



Jeffrey K. Riley,
ISAAC President

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Message from the President

Dear ISAAC Members:

In 2013 the world of human communication passed a significant milestone. According to a report released in 2012 by Cisco Systems (Cisco's "Visual Networking Index (VNI) Global Mobile Data Traffic Forecast Update"), in early 2013 there were for the first time in history more mobile connected devices than there are people on the planet. Of course, if you live in a city almost anywhere in the world you have only to glance around while riding the bus, or the subway, or just standing on a corner to observe that likely more than half the people within your view are interacting with a mobile device. For the many members of ISAAC who are people who use AAC, or their families or professional supporters, this massive technological connectivity has been a tremendous boon, enabling all of us to communicate in ways we had not even conceived of a decade ago. And yet, there is something unsettling about so many people so focused on their handheld devices, busily communicating with people or media systems far removed from their immediate context. My suspicion, although I have no specific data to back it up, is that with the total number of mobile devices now

surpassing the number of people in our world, there has been a correlated reduction in the number of spontaneous real-time face-to-face conversations between strangers, acquaintances, and even friends and families.

It is in this context that ISAAC members embark on our annual focus to raise awareness about AAC. October is International AAC Awareness Month and during this month people who use AAC, and their friends, families, and supporters will apply their creativity and energy to reach out to people in their communities and try to engage them. Some of these efforts will be through specific events that garner media coverage, and there will be many other activities that have a profile in the cyber world of Facebook and Twitter (take note: an ISAAC Twitter Chat using the tag #AACaware will take place on October 14th). Still other activities will involve events in community locations that encourage the public to interact directly with people who use AAC, to break down barriers, build connections, and increase understanding of AAC.

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Message from the President ... continued



Through the various AAC awareness activities I believe we are really hoping that people in our communities will take a moment to look up from their tiny screens and see another person who may only be able to speak using a tiny screen and share a real-time face-to-face conversation together. In this spirit I encourage you all to go out and create the most small-screen engaging or distracting, fun and innovative human interactional activities that you can.

For ideas from past AAC Awareness events, please check out the [ISAAC website](#).

I look forward to hearing about all the talking, chatting, laughing, texting, tweeting and interactions you have, especially with people in your communities who may never have met a person who uses AAC or never heard the term AAC. My sincere wishes to all of you for a happy and full International AAC Awareness Month!

Jeff Riley

ISAAC President 2012-2014

September 2013

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

View ISAAC's Calendar of [upcoming events](#) on our website

Conference 2016: Request for Letters of Interest

ISAAC is currently accepting Letters of Interest from individuals, groups, or ISAAC Chapters who would like to host our 2016 Conference in their country or region. Because ISAAC 2014 is being held next year in Portugal, ISAAC 2016 must be held outside of Europe in order for us to be in compliance with our bylaws and operating practice.

Background information on the conference and a list of previous locations can be found [here](#). We welcome the submission of Letters of Interest from all interested parties, according to the [guidelines posted on our website](#). We look forward to hearing from you!

*Special thanks to
our ISAAC E-News*

translators:

*Ghislaine Picot
(French)*

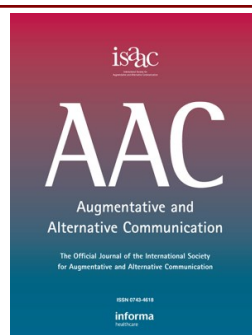
*Cordula
Birngruber
(German)*

*Elena Panigadi
(Italian)*

*Ana Saavedra
(Spanish)*



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ISAAC's
YouTube
Channel](#)



**Now available!
September 2013
edition of AAC Journal**

View AAC September 2013
Table of Contents [here](#).

... From the Executive Director

DESCOBRIR A COMUNICAÇÃO – DISCOVER COMMUNICATION!

We are very excited here at ISAAC International, since we are getting closer to the launch of our online Conference 2014 registration. Built directly into the ISAAC website, it will allow many attendees to purchase their Conference 2014 registrations and hotel reservations directly online. Please watch for the launch of registration during the coming weeks.

ISAAC International's 2014 Conference paper submission online system is still open for paper acceptance. Accessible directly from our website at <https://www.isaac-online.org/english/conference-2014/call-for-papers/>, it allows for registration of your paper and upload of a PDF abstract. The system is open for submissions until 18:00 GMT on October 15th, 2013, after which time the system will close, to allow the review process to complete and have acceptance notifications sent by February 15th, 2014.

On behalf of ISAAC International, I attended the United Nations High-level meeting of the General Assembly on disability and development. It took place in New York at United Nations Headquarters, on September 23rd, 2013. I will be providing the ISAAC membership with a report

of the meeting and my activities in the December E-News. My attendance at this important meeting was in support of our organization, its membership, and our non-governmental (NGO) status with ECOSOC.

October is International AAC Awareness Month! The ISAAC International office will be excited to hear about all of the initiatives taking place around the world. Please forward your activities to the international office so that we can highlight them on our website and to the entire membership. Reports, videos, pictures, etc., can be forwarded to Vic Valentic, ISAAC Leadership Chair for People Who Use AAC, and to Heather Stonehouse, our Manager of Communications.

While on the subject of local activities, our own Shelley Deegan, former Chair of the ISAAC Council, is arranging a very special event at Mohawk College in Hamilton, Canada. Scheduled for this November, students from Mohawk College are going to be helping in the organization of a "flash mob" event. A person who uses AAC in Hamilton has written a song titled, "I've Got a Lot to Say". As part of ISAAC's support for this initiative, the song has been professionally recorded. The song will be programmed onto a number of devices used by




Franklin Smith, ISAAC
Executive Director



The 16th Biennial
Conference of
ISAAC will be held
July 19 – 24, 2014
in Lisbon, Portugal.

♦
Pre-conference
Workshops &
*AAC Camp:
July 19-20

Research
Symposium:
July 25-26

* Final AAC Camp
dates to be
confirmed

...continued on page 4



... From the Executive Director, continued

ISAAC 2014 is
on Facebook!



Follow us on
Twitter!
@ISAAC_AAC



clients of the Technology Access Clinic. This is what will be used for the flash mob. The event will be videotaped and uploaded to YouTube. Following the flash mob there will be an opportunity for the Mohawk College students to interact with the people who use AAC attending the event, which will also feature local vendors of AAC devices and products. Good luck with the event, Shelley, and pass along our thanks to the many people involved!

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

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



Conference Co-chairs, ISAAC Executive Board,
and staff at ISAAC 2014 planning session, July 2013

Photos courtesy of Chih-Kang Yang

Sights to see near the Lisboa Congress Centre...



25th of April Bridge / Jeronimos Monastery

Photos courtesy of [Visit Lisboa](#)



News & Events

*Submitted by
Kate Anderson
& Bronwyn
Hemsley,
ISAAC Australia*

BUILD is on
Facebook!



BUILDING ON BUILD

The need to increase communication for people with a disability is a global priority according to the World Health Organisation and the World Report on Disability. Bronwyn Hemsley, ISAAC Australia member and ISAAC President-elect, and Meredith Allan, Treasurer of ISAAC Australia, are currently supporting three countries in the Asia-Pacific with members of ISAAC towards becoming official Chapters of ISAAC: Thailand (with Nitha Ungsuprasert) Taiwan (with Chih-Kang Yang and Meng-Ju Tsai) and Korea - specifically South Korea (with Soojung Chae). These Asia-Pacific groups have more than 10 ISAAC members are therefore eligible to apply to become official ISAAC Chapters. They are busy raising awareness in their countries and increasing the ability of their countries to provide services to people who use AAC. These groups are working to achieve improvements through better access to information, and through the rich personal learning networks of social media.

If you are a group of ISAAC members in the Asia-Pacific region interested in becoming an ISAAC Chapter, please contact Bronwyn Hemsley. The ISAAC BUILD committee can assist you and your group to build your ISAAC membership to the minimum required level. It is important for countries with established ISAAC Chapters to provide whatever

support they can to help fledgling chapters meet the governance requirements of their home countries, and the governance requirements of ISAAC. ISAAC Australia is very pleased to have the opportunity to support and promote our nearest neighbours in their work to improve communication for people with communication disabilities in their countries.

FACILITATED COMMUNICATION

REVIEW: UPDATE

The Facilitated Communication Review committee is continuing its work to complete the review process. Due to the high volume of papers and materials submitted for inclusion, the FC Review Committee has requested an extension of the submission date to have more time to fairly and objectively review the material. The ISAAC Executive Board seeks a balance between adequate time to create a thorough and objective review, and the need to bring the process forward to the next steps. In this context the ISAAC EB has granted a short extension of the submission date to the FC Review Committee of an additional month to **October 18th, 2013**.

The ISAAC EB is committed to ensuring that all members are kept apprised of progress, and ensuring the full involvement of the ISAAC Council in moving this initiative forward. Detailed information on the submission process and planned next steps can be found here.



News & Events ... continued

ISAAC 2014 CALL FOR PAPERS: OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS UNTIL OCTOBER 15TH

The ISAAC 2014 Paper Submission Guidelines can be downloaded in both [English](#) and in [Portuguese](#). Abstracts can be submitted online [here](#).

Applicants will be notified of acceptance by February 15, 2014.

2014 RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM JULY 25-26, 2014

A specific call for proposed seminar topics to be developed for the Research Symposium will be sent out later this year.

ISAAC 2014 TRAVEL GRANT PROGRAMS: APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED!

Follow the links for details and application forms for the following travel grant programs:

- [Travel Assistance to Attend ISAAC Conference: People who use AAC](#)
- [Travel Award for Emerging Researchers' Attendance at the Biennial Conference of ISAAC 2014](#)
- [Travel Assistance to Attend ISAAC Conference: People from Emerging AAC Countries \(BUILD\)](#)

For more information, contact the [ISAAC International office](#).

What's happening...

IN SOCIAL MEDIA

Interested in Social Media and People with Disabilities? [Click here](#) to register for a free webinar presentation by Lisa Lehmann. Register for October 16th or 21st.

Check out [Centre for AAC](#), [Communication Matters UK](#), [ISAAC 2014](#), [ISAAC BUILD AAC Committee](#), [ISAAC Canada](#), [ISAAC Denmark](#), [ISAAC Israel](#), and [USSAAC](#) on Facebook. Have we missed anyone? Please let us know!

Also: Watch for the launch of ISAAC's blog in the coming weeks!

AT THE UN

The United Nations held a High-level Meeting on Disability and Development on September 23, 2013, at their headquarters in New York. Executive Director Franklin Smith was there representing ISAAC. [Click here](#) for background and a webcast from the meeting.

WITH STEPHEN HAWKING

A new book and a movie on the life of renowned physicist Stephen Hawking have recently been released. Information on *Hawking* and *Stephen Hawking: My Brief History* can be found on his [website](#).



October is International AAC Awareness Month

During October, **Bronwyn Hemsley** (ISAAC President-Elect) is leading three initiatives in Twitter:

1. Each ISAAC Chapter with a Twitter account is requested to add the tag #AACaware to any tweet relating to AAC.
2. A Twitter Chat using #AACaware: Could a representative of each Chapter or group of ISAAC members or individual members in a country who is interested in helping with the global Twitter chat #AACaware please email Bronwyn with 150 words describing a Twitter Chat discussion topic, as follows, and these will be considered for inclusion on the ISAAC-Australia website for information around the world:

Please provide:

ISAAC Chapter's name:

ISAAC Member moderating the Chat:

Date of Twitter #AACaware Chat:

Country of Tweeter:

City time/zone:

Handle of Moderator:

Description of the Twitter Chat: 150 words

Topics: List 3 topics that will be discussed in your country's Twitter chat so others can decide if they wish to join yours or someone else's in a slightly different time or date. Make your topics interesting and easy to understand to include more people, such as those who do not know a lot about AAC already but might work with people who have difficulty speaking. Please email your topic to Bronwyn Hemsley by October 6th, or simply add the topics to your own website and send a Tweet using the tag #AACaware to Bronwyn @bronwynhemsley and it will be distributed in Twitter.

3. Bronwyn is offering to support any country with information or materials about how to use Twitter to raise awareness about AAC. Simply join Twitter and follow Bronwyn in Twitter @bronwynhemsley or follow ISAAC Australia @ISAACaus to get help, or email Bronwyn.

ISAAC Canada has chosen Thursday, October 3rd to be AAC Awareness Day. Please spread the word everyone. They will be sharing events from around the country on Facebook.

For more International AAC Awareness Month highlights, [click here](#).

ISAAC OUTSTANDING CONSUMER LECTURE AWARD

DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 29, 2013

The ISAAC Outstanding Consumer Lecture Award provides a platform for a person who uses AAC to present on a topic in which she or he has special expertise. ISAAC wishes to highlight the talents, perspectives or individual endeavours of an individual beyond AAC, reinforcing the point that a person who uses AAC is not defined by AAC. The award recipient will be a presenter at the ISAAC 2014 Biennial Conference in Lisbon, Portugal, and will receive a cash award of \$5,000 CAD. For application details, [click here](#). For information on other ISAAC awards for 2014, please [visit our website](#).



News from South Africa

By Robyn White,
Centre for AAC,
South Africa.
First published
in *Interface-
CAAC*, August
2013

A TALE OF TWO CITIES:

PRETORIA TO RABAT

Charles Dickens's famous *A Tale of Two Cities* starts with, "It was the best of times..." and indeed it was, as Juan Bornman, Kitty Uys and Robyn White boarded the Air France A380 flight from Johannesburg to Morocco – via Paris! Imagine that... having to fly from the southern part of Africa to the northern part via Europe.



Rabat, Morocco's capital was hosting the 11th International Conference of the Society of Neuroscientists of Africa (SONA) from 13-17 June 2013. We presented our work with Prof. MaryAnn Ronski and Prof. Rose Sevcik from Georgia State University on *Speech and Language Delays in Children with Neurodevelopmental Disorders in South Africa: Successfully translating standardized tests*. The conference was well attended by approximately 300 scientists and post-graduate students from all over Africa as well as by researchers who have an interest in Africa. The opening

address. *Genetic control of apoptosis in Nervous System Development and Disease* was presented by Prof. Robert Horvits, a Nobel Prize Laureate. At the SONA conference we also had the opportunity to meet Dr. Kathleen Micheals, who coordinates the Brain Development program at the National Institute of Health, at the Fogarty International Centre in the USA, who currently funds our research. Attending the conference provided us with a wonderful opportunity to collaborate with researchers who are doing ground-breaking work in Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's Disease, Epilepsy and Alzheimer Disease. Again we stood amazed when we were confronted with the plasticity of the brain and the capacity that humans have for learning... we were truly created wonderfully. We were also excited to hear that South Africa, Durban, won the bid for the next International SONA Conference in 2015.

However, when we learned that we had the opportunity to visit Rabat, we also consulted the ISAAC Membership Directory and in doing so met Jamaldin Slimani. We e-mailed him and expressed our desire to visit a Centre for Children with Disabilities in Rabat, with the opportunity to do some training. He contacted Lamia Mouhssine at the Amal Educational and Rehabilitation Centre and in doing so, turned our dream for collaboration into a reality.



News from South Africa.... continued

He was also kind enough to volunteer to do the translation from English into Moroccan Arabic and French.

First we were treated to a visit of the facility, starting with the young group of five-year olds who were playing with Lego and completing form boards, then to older children colouring, cutting, and doing beadwork to a group who were following an adapted school curriculum who were learning to read. The Centre also has a computer room where children were copying a printed text poem to the computer. We also visited an older group where children were being taught social skills as well as vocational skills, e.g., in a simulated kitchen where the focus was on cooking, safety and hygiene.

Our training, focusing on Visual Aid Strategies for the Classroom Context, generated good discussion on the importance of creating a context for communication to take place. An interesting idea was put forward by one of the teachers: he had wrapped a bandage around the head of a teddy bear and left it in a prominent place in the classroom and observed how the children noticed this "out of the ordinary event" and started discussing what could possibly have happened to the poor teddy bear. The importance of multi-modal communication and using more static and visual forms of communication,

such as pictures and symbols facilitated much positive discussion as it helped communication from just "disappearing" like spoken words do. For this reason, visual recipes and shopping lists with Velcro strips were received with enthusiasm, as were the song boards and rhyme boards. The South Africans shared "Incy Wincy Spider" while the Moroccans had a similar story about Ants and Cicadas.

Morocco is an exotic destination. A place filled with centuries of history and magic, where the old Medina lives peacefully alongside modern trams (similar to the Gautrain). The birthplace of the tagine, home of



couscous and the best freshly squashed orange juice in the world.... It smells of exotic spices – cumin, turmeric and cinnamon.... These experiences will stay with us, but even more than this, the possibility of continued collaboration and support - maybe even a joint presentation at the 2014 ISAAC conference in Lisbon. As far as AAC goes, the tale of these two cities has just started.



AAC Bookshelf

Submitted by
Diane Bryen,
Professor
Emerita at
Temple
University;
Diane N. Bryen,
Consulting

UPCOMING ELECTRONIC BOOK: “TOWARDS ENDING THE VIOLENCE FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH COMPLEX COMMUNICATION NEEDS: AN INTERNATIONAL RESOURCE”

Juan Bornman from South Africa and I are pleased to announce that we are editing an electronic book that will provide international perspectives on violence against children and adults with disabilities and promising approaches to risk reduction, intervention, and access to justice when violence does occur. A unique focus of this book is on children and adults who have complex communication needs as a result of a variety of disabilities. Their voices have been silent too long. As a result of the physical, intellectual, and communication disabilities, these children and adults are especially vulnerable to violence. Additionally, they are often denied equal access to the criminal justice system.

In order to reach the widest audience possible, the book will be published digitally by Amazon's Kindle so it will be widely available internationally. In addition, given the small cost (US\$2.99) and its availability via voice enhancement, the book will be more accessible than most other means of publication.

Each chapter will present the scope of the problem from their country's

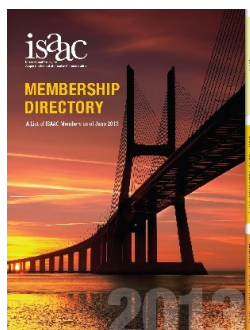
experience and will also provide promising practices that have been successful in their country to improve personal safety, communicating and telling, providing victim services, appearing in court as a witness or expert, successfully trying cases in court, and others. Although the full manuscript will be written and published in English, each author will be responsible for having the abstract translated into his or her respective language and each abstract will be provided in Easy English.¹

Chapters are from the United States and Canada, South Africa, India, Australia, Israel, and the UK. Several of the chapters have been written by people who use AAC. Expected publication date is Autumn 2013. Given the format of the book, updated and expanded versions of the book are feasible. So if you are interested in submitting a chapter for future editions of the book, please contact either [Juan Bornman](#) or [Diane Bryen](#).

¹ Easy English is a style of writing that is easily understood by the widest range of people.

The Centre for AAC in South Africa is now on Facebook and would like to invite you to “like” our page in order to keep up to date with all our local news and interesting events, seminars and workshops.

Our Facebook page can be found [here](#). You can also follow us on Twitter @CentreforAAC.



ISAAC Membership Directory 2013 is now available in electronic format on our website. Please [click here](#).

ISAAC Chapters

ISAAC Australia
(www.isaacaustralia.com)

[ISAAC Brazil](#)

ISAAC Canada
(www.isaac-canada.org)

ISAAC Denmark
(www.isaac.dk)

ISAAC Suomi Finland
(www.papunet.net/isaac)

ISAAC French-speaking
countries and regions
(www.isaac-fr.org)

ISAAC German-speaking
countries and regions
(www.isaac-online.de)

ISAAC India
(www.ayjnihh.nic.in)

ISAAC Israel
(www.isaac.org.il)

ISAAC Italy
(www.isaacitaly.it)

ISAAC Netherlands/Flanders
(www.isaac-nf.nl)

ISAAC Norway
(www.isaac.no)

ISAAC Sweden
(www.isaac-sverige.se)

ISAAC United Kingdom
(www.communicationmatters.org.uk)

USSAAC
(www.ussaac.org)

The logo for ISAAC, featuring the word 'isaac' in a stylized, lowercase, serif font. The letters are dark red with a slight shadow effect.

ISAAC has 15 Chapters and more than 3,000 members worldwide. For information about how you can participate in your country or region, contact the organizations listed below, or [ISAAC International](#) for areas not listed.

**INTERNATIONAL
SOCIETY FOR
AUGMENTATIVE &
ALTERNATIVE
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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).

Contact Us

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