

# DR. LYLE L. LLOYD

ISAAC Founder and AAC Giant

## Contributors

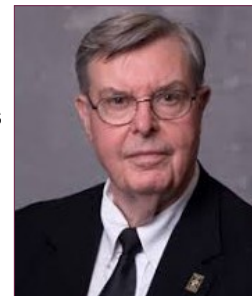
- *Erna Alant*
- *Meredith Allan*
- *Juan Bornman*
- *Marilyn J. Buzolich*
- *Soojung Chae*
- *Krista R. Davidson*
- *Shelley Deegan*
- *Donald R. Fuller*
- *Kim Ho*
- *Shirley McNaughton*
- *Janice Murray*
- *Gregor Renner*
- *Jim Sands*
- *Ralf Schlosser*
- *Martine M. Smith*
- *Gloria Soto*

## In Memoriam

Dr. Lyle L. Lloyd, “Father of AAC,” passed away quietly in his sleep in West Lafayette, Indiana, on February 12, 2020. ISAAC posted this [press release](#) on our website to honour Dr. Lloyd’s many contributions to ISAAC and AAC. Details about his life and legacy can be found in [his published obituary](#).

On behalf of the ISAAC Executive Board past and present, and the ISAAC Council and staff, we express our sincere condolences to Dr. Lyle Lloyd’s family and countless friends, colleagues, and students.

We offer these tributes and condolences from many of Dr. Lloyd’s AAC colleagues, friends, and admirers as a gift to his family. The day and time for the memorial service will be announced at a later date.



“Some may argue that in fact there is a field of AAC because there was a Lyle Lloyd. He impacted the field in profound and long-lasting ways. I am deeply affected by his passing as I reflect back on how much I learned from him.” – *Gloria Soto, San Francisco State University CA, and Co-chair, ISAAC 2020/21*

Ralf Schlosser, currently AAC Editor-in-Chief (Northeastern University, USA), has prepared a list of Dr. Lloyd’s PhD and Post-Doctoral students over the years. There is no better way to illustrate his global influence and the reach of his lifetime achievements in the field of AAC. Please [click here](#) to view the list, which is posted on ISAAC’s website.

“He and Macalynne Fristoe created one of the first – if not *the* first – stand-alone AAC course in higher education around 1977. He mentored some well-known academics in AAC including Carol Goossens’, Judith Page, Donald R. Fuller, Carol Zangari, Ralf Schlosser, Rajinder Koul, Samuel Mathew, Ravi Nigam, and Oliver Wendt. He provided his students and colleagues a wealth of ideas, comments, and insights into AAC and his vision for its direction.

“Lyle was a consummate professional, mentor, advocate and friend to the AAC community. His contributions will continue to direct the evolution of the field of AAC for decades after his passing.” – *Donald R. Fuller, Professor and Chair, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley*

Along with Donald R. Fuller and Helen Arvidson (1997), Dr. Lloyd co-wrote and co-edited the textbook *Augmentative and Alternative Communication: A Handbook of Principles and Practices*. Just three weeks before his death, he and Donald R. Fuller submitted a manuscript for what will likely be the most comprehensive textbook on AAC ever published, with 23 chapters and 45 contributing authors. It is slated for publication in November 2020. He remained Professor Emeritus at Purdue University until his death on February 12, 2020.

“Lyle gave the world the term Augmentative and Alternative Communication. People sought Lyle out at Purdue University to learn more about the emerging new field of AAC. We have come so far in such a short time thanks to Lyle and his contemporaries highlighting AAC and pushing it into the agendas of the disability sector.”

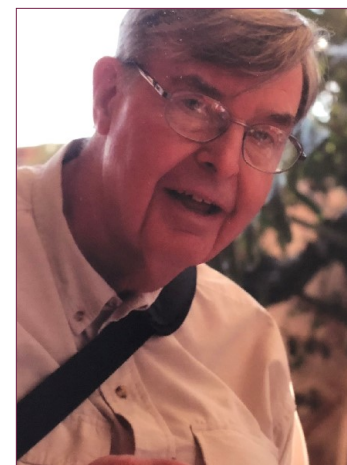
– *Meredith Allan, ISAAC President*

## Decisive Influence on the Field

“Lyle Lloyd is one of the founding fathers of AAC and ISAAC. Over many decades, he has had a decisive influence on the field and has earned countless merits. For me personally he was one of the first international contacts in the AAC field from the first ISAAC conference I attended – 1998 in Dublin. He has done a fantastic job of supporting young scientists all over the world and has organized the research symposium for decades. ISAAC and the AAC field mourn the loss of one of its tireless pioneers.” – *Gregor Renner, Former President of ISAAC*

“Lyle's contribution to the field of AAC and to ISAAC is exceptional. Wedded to a commitment to honour the field with a scientific basis, he brought his exceptional intellect, boundless energy, and infinite curiosity to the task of documenting and extending the science of the field. Like the greatest mighty oaks, his enduring legacy is represented in the vast number of acorns he nurtured. His passion for encouraging new researchers and students spread far and wide. I will never forget, as a junior assistant lecturer, green behind the ears and only weeks after publishing my first paper in the AAC journal, I received a long-distance phone call from Purdue University, inviting me to contribute a chapter to an upcoming textbook. It was my first-ever invitation to contribute a chapter and it marked the beginning of a warm mentorship that was often turbulent but always respectful, warm, and stretching. His legacy lives on in many of the leaders of our field; may we continue to honor him by stretching ever further to enhance the lives of people who use AAC.” – *Martine M. Smith, PhD, Trinity College Dublin, and former AAC Journal Editor*

“My heart broke when I learned of Dr. Lloyd's passing. He was my advisor and mentor at Purdue (2001-2005). Some would call him the grandfather of AAC. He was a giant in our field. He instilled in me so much foundational knowledge and had such a huge impact on my career. I am who I am because of his AAC Professional Preparation Program. ‘L3’ made sure I was funded during my time at Purdue. I also went to South Africa with him as a teaching assistant. I am forever grateful that I had the opportunity to learn from him and carry on his passion for AAC. I will miss hearing his hearty, ‘Hello!’ but I know he will never be forgotten. His legacy lives on in all of his students out doing the good work in AAC.



“Two pearls of wisdom from his class that I'll never forget:

- The first rule is, technology always fails.
- Unaided AAC is anything you can take in the shower with you!

“As a student, I noticed Dr. Lloyd had bags monogrammed with the letters ‘AAC.’ I thought that idea was quirky and creative. It was also another little way to show his passion for the field. Since I left Purdue, I've monogrammed all of my work bags this way as an homage to him.” – *Krista R. Davidson, M.S., CCC-SLP, The University of Iowa.*

*Dr. Lloyd and students on a 2005 study abroad trip to South Africa  
(Photo memories from Krista Davidson)*



### A Long and Distinguished Career

“Lyle made a contribution to ‘AAC’ (even before we had the term) through his publications with Macalynne Fristoe in the late seventies. He participated resolutely in ISAAC’s formation in the eighties, and maintained his strong support, along with encouraging that of his students, throughout the decades that followed! As ISAAC’s first president, and with Lyle serving on the Board of Directors, I have vivid memories of both the topics on which we agreed and on those where we had differing perspectives. We always shared mutual respect and high regard for each other – and strong perseverance! We mostly arrived at constructive outcomes. Those of us in the Bliss community will always appreciate the support Lyle gave to Blissymbolics within AAC. His presence at conferences will be missed but his influence will live on through the many students he mentored. I value the many quiet chats we had throughout the years!” – *Shirley McNaughton, Chair, Blissymbolics Communication Institute – Canada*

“Lyle Lloyd was a most distinguished researcher, teacher, and mentor in AAC in the US. However, his generosity in sharing his knowledge and skills went far beyond the USA. He was most committed in strengthening AAC research and training in South Africa as well as other developing nations. He was a pillar in promoting the field of AAC internationally and will be very much missed.” – *Erna Alant, Former President of ISAAC (Read Erna’s blog post, [Standing on the Shoulders of Giants: A Personal Tribute to a Great Mentor](#), published February 23, 2020.)*

“He was a colossus in ISAAC, and certainly enabled us to move the field to where it is.” – *Janice Murray, Former Chair of the ISAAC Council*

“I was lucky enough to study under Lyle for my master’s and Ph.D. at Purdue University. He had such a powerful reputation in the AAC community and had mentored so many superstars that I was intimidated when I showed up in West Lafayette. ‘L3’ immediately made me feel welcome and worked tirelessly to find funding for me each semester. He was never short on ‘exciting opportunities.’

“I felt burned out after my 3 1/2 years for the master’s degree, after all the prerequisite courses in speech and extra AAC classes. But then L3 got me funding to go to ISAAC, and I was hooked. I immediately applied for the Ph.D. program and spent more years in lovely Lafayette, IN. I will miss seeing him at ASHA and ISAAC conferences, standing in the back of the room, talking to anyone and everyone about his thoughts and ideas.

“Thank you, Lyle, for all your guidance and support over the years.” – *Kim Ho, PhD CCC-SLP, RBT, Confidence Connection, Needham, MA.*

“I have had tremendous respect for Dr. Lyle Lloyd throughout my career spanning over four decades. I met him for the first time at a poster session I did at ASHA in 1978. I had the opportunity to serve with him as an associate editor for the AAC Journal when he was editor. He taught me so much and took his job as AAC editor very seriously. I always loved our talks and his perspective on all things AAC. I thoroughly admired his courage to stand up and challenge a colleague even if he would likely take a lot of heat for it. He was the one early on who made sure our terminology was consistent so we could all understand each other’s work and research.

“Lyle continued to push the field forward throughout his long and distinguished career. We all owe him a debt of gratitude for his generous contributions ... his time, thought, heart, and soul. My deepest condolences to his family and friends. He will be sorely missed.” – *Marilyn J. Buzolich, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, ACTS Founder/Director, San Francisco, CA*



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## Researcher, Teacher, Mentor

"I was Dr. Lloyd's doctoral student majoring in AAC and graduated in 2011 (now I am an associate professor in Jeonju University, South Korea). Dr. Lloyd was my mentor, teacher, and supporter during the years that I studied in the US. He did great research and inspired me a lot.

"The pictures below were from ISAAC 2014 in Lisbon, when I presented my poster at the conference.

"I miss him!! I want to say, 'Thank you very much, Dr. Lloyd' and RIP." – *Soojung Chae, Jeonju University, South Korea*



*Photo memory from  
Juan Bornman (South Africa), ISAAC President-Elect  
(Juan is standing second from the left, back row,  
beside Dr. Lloyd)*

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*Photo memory from  
Juan Bornman (South Africa)  
ISAAC President-Elect*

“Dr. Lloyd added greatly to needed services for students with disabilities in the Lafayette and Tippecanoe county Indiana area.

“Graduate students in Dr. Lloyd’s AAC program provided research-based services to students within the three local school corporations of Greater Lafayette Area Special Services (GLASS), a special education cooperative. In addition to the direct service benefits for AAC users within GLASS, graduate students were able to refine their skills for further use in the field. Dr. Lloyd referred to this dual benefit as a ‘win-win.’ His vision and creativity added so much to the success of this program.

“Lyle will be missed within the Purdue University and GLASS communities. His contributions to the field will last forever.” – *Jim Sands, Retired Director of Special Education, GLASS, and Adjunct Instructor, Purdue University*

*“The news of Lyle’s passing is sad. I will be thinking about the family at this difficult time.” – Jim Sands, Purdue University*

“I knew Lyle for many decades, but although I did not know him well, I had great respect for him – he always made things interesting! His contributions to the field of AAC are countless.” – *Shelley Deegan, former Chair of the ISAAC Council*