



ISAAC Honours Dr. Lyle L. Lloyd, Pioneer in the Field of AAC

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Toronto, Canada – February 14th, 2020: The International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC) joins the rest of the AAC world in honouring the legacy, and mourning the loss, of Dr. Lyle L. Lloyd, who passed away in the early hours of February 12, 2020, in West Lafayette, Indiana (USA).

“Lyle Lloyd was a pioneer in the field of AAC. He was among a small group of dedicated individuals who founded ISAAC in 1983,” said Meredith Allan, ISAAC President. “His contributions to the concept and substance of knowledge about AAC were truly ground breaking.”

Dr. Lloyd was the second editor of ISAAC’s scientific peer-reviewed journal, *Augmentative and Alternative Communication*, a position he held from 1986 to 1993. He had a clear vision for taking AAC, a field in its infancy, to the broader research community. He recognized the need to promote ISAAC’s interest in advancing and expanding AAC research globally, and to encourage qualitative and quantitative approaches. His work to establish the ISAAC Research Symposium was designed to facilitate international collaboration and interdisciplinary research. The first Research Symposium was held in Sweden following the 1990 ISAAC Conference, and this event continued to follow every biennial conference until 2016. It has been said that Dr. Lloyd created a culture of AAC research. In 2004 he was honoured with title of Fellow of the International Society of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC).

His significant role within ISAAC was far from the only contribution by Dr. Lloyd to the field of AAC. According to Donald R. Fuller, “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.”

Along with Donald R. Fuller and Helen Arvidson (1997), he 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 this November. He remained Professor Emeritus at Purdue University until his death in the early hours of February 12, 2020.

The following remembrances are among the many tributes that have been pouring in:

“Lyle made a contribution to ‘AAC’ (even before we had the term) through his publications with Macalyne 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 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*

“Lyle was indeed a giant in our field. 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.” – *Gloria Soto, ISAAC 2020 Co-Chair*

“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*

“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*

“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*

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

ISAAC will be compiling a more detailed tribute, to be shared subsequently with his family. We welcome submissions from all our stakeholders. Please send your remembrances and photos, if you wish, to feedback@isaac-online.org.

ISAAC is an international membership organization with head offices in Toronto. ISAAC’s goal is to create worldwide awareness about how AAC can help individuals without speech. ISAAC accomplishes this by sharing information and promoting innovative approaches to research, technology and literacy through AAC. Activities include hosting the ISAAC biennial conference, sponsoring projects, and offering awards and scholarships.

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