

Article from **RERC on Communication Enhancement eNews**

([http://www.imakenews.com/aac-rerc/e\\_article000442253.cfm?x=b11,0,w](http://www.imakenews.com/aac-rerc/e_article000442253.cfm?x=b11,0,w))

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September 8, 2005

## **Announcing....**

Want to know what's new in our world? Check out what we've recently participated in, produced, published, and posted, as well as what's new with personnel happenings.

## **Dissemination through Participation**

### **AAC Webcasts**

The **webcasts** on various AAC and communication-related topics, which began on February 1, 2005, have been very successful! The first two webcasts, Supporting Successful Transition for Individuals who use AAC (David McNaughton) and AAC Interventions to Maximize Language Development for Young Children (Janice Light), are still available for viewing. Future topics include:

- AAC and Aphasia: A Review of Visual Scenes Display Project (David Beukelman, available September 2005)
- An Overview of the Health-based Funding Programs that Cover SGDs (Lew Golinker, available November 2005)

To view the webcasts, go to the [AAC-RERC website](#) and follow the links for Webcasts. The next webcast scheduled is:

### **AAC and Aphasia: A Review of Visual Scenes Display Project**

**Presenter:** David Beukelman, Ph.D., University of Nebraska at Lincoln

**Availability:** September 2005

**Webcast Description:** This presentation will review the research and development activities associated with the Visual Scenes Display (VSD) Project at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Specifically:

- The VSD interface will be demonstrated
- The strategies for capturing and entering content for individuals with aphasia who rely on AAC will be discussed
- Examples of VSD setups for specific individuals will be presented
- Intervention outcomes will be reported.

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### **New Products on our Website**

Our website is constantly changing. Visit often to see what's new. Several of our projects have updated progress on our website. Check out:

- We have a new link to [USSAAC's Gulf State Hurricane Relief Plan](#) on our homepage.

USSAAC is assisting individuals who rely on AAC, their families, and the professionals serving them who have been affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. USSAAC will help children and adults who can benefit from AAC (including professionals, agencies, rehabilitation centers, hospitals and organizations serving them) to gain access to AAC equipment (devices, communication displays, batteries, etc.), AAC materials (books, software, etc.) and AAC/AT services. Through its Web site, USSAAC is currently accepting donations of money, equipment/materials and services/supports. The website also allows you to post job openings and job needs.

- **Third International Conference on Aging, Disability and Independence** will be held in St. Petersburg, Florida, February 1-4, 2006. The University of Florida RERC on Technology will host this conference in partnership with several federal agencies, corporate sponsors, and partner organizations. The conference will bring together researchers, practitioners, business leaders and people involved in aging policy issues. Conference tracks include: Smart Homes, Injury Prevention, Telehealth, Assistive Technology, Home Modifications and Universal Design, Transportation and Injury Prevention. The tracks will address themes including research and development, consumer perspective, business perspective, policy, practice/services, and international collaborations. The organizers have posted a **Call for Submissions** at [www.icadi.phhp.ufl.edu](http://www.icadi.phhp.ufl.edu) for lectures, symposia, posters and technology demonstrations. **Student scholarships** have just been announced. Visit the website for more information. Please submit proposals and scholarship applications online by September 15, 2005.
- We have also posted the article, "[Speech Generating Devices and Telephone Use](#)", originally published in the NSLHA newsletter.
- A reminder that we have three [clinical pathways](#) for **communication changes and swallowing associated with ALS** available to download from our website. We've made PDFs for all three clinical pathways available in two sizes - 11 x 17 and 8.5 x 11.

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## Publications Hot Off the Press

The partners and staff of the AAC-RERC have been busy spreading the word through journal and newsletter articles. Here's a list of some of our recent publications. Check the [Pubs & Presentations](#) section our website for a complete bibliography.

- **A Call to Write.** Schwartz, J. (2005). *Alternatively Speaking*. 8:1, 5.
- **ACETS Online Increases Employment Opportunities for People Who Use AAC.** Hemphill, J. (2005). *The ConnSENSE Bulletin*, 6:1, May 23, 2004. <http://www.connsensebulletin.com/joehacets.html>
- **ACETS Training Guide.** Institute on Disabilities (2005). Philadelphia, PA: Institute on Disabilities.
- **Attitudes toward individuals who use augmentative and alternative communication: Research review.** McCarthy, J. & Light, J. (2005). *Augmentative and Alternative Communication*, 21, 41-55.
- **Augmentative and alternative communication for children and adults (Third Edition).** Beukelman, D. & Mirenda, P. (2005). Baltimore, MD: Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co.,
- **Communication support for persons with ALS: A fact sheet.** Ball, L. & Beukelman,

- D., & Pattee, G. (2005). *Augmentative Communication News*. 17:2, 8.
- **Freeing Voices.** Meredith, Dennis. (2005) DukeMed Magazine, 5:1, Spring/Summer 2005, 36-38
  - **Getting More out of School Transition Programs.** McNaughton, D. (2005). *Augmentative Communication News*, 17:1, 5-7.
  - **High-Tech AAC to Supplement Residual Speech.** Geluso, B. (2005). *The ConnSENSE Bulletin*. 7:1, April 1, 2005.  
<http://www.connsensebulletin.com/bill.html>.
  - **Interview: Living with ALS.** Blackstone, S. with Linda Rutz (2005). *Augmentative Communication News*. 17:2, 1-3.
  - **Primary communication facilitators.** Ball, L, Schardt, K., Beukelman, D. (2005). *Augmentative Communication News*. 17:2, 7-8.
  - **Special issue of the *Journal of Medical Speech Language Pathology*—Proceedings of the Conference on Speech Motor Control.** Hartelius, L., Yorkston, K., Beukelman, D. (2004). December, Volume 12.
  - **The case for change.** Bryen, D.N., Berry, B., & Creegan, P. (2005). Pennsylvania Teacher Education.
  - **The Coming of Age Transition.** Blackstone, S. (2005). *Augmentative Communication News*, 17:1, 1-4.
  - **Tom's AAC System.** Beukelman, D. (2005). *Augmentative Communication News*. 17:2, 7-8.
  - **Transitions: Straight Talk.** Schwartz, J. (2005). *Augmentative Communication News*, 17:1, 5-7.
  - **Writers Brigade to Disseminate AAC-RERC Activities**, Schwartz, J. (2005). *AAC-RERC e-Newsletter* 1(2)
  - **Writers Brigade: Year Two.** Schwartz, J. (2005). *Alternatively Speaking*. 8:1, 7

In our last eNews issue, we included "**Toward a Taxonomy of Assistive Technology Device Outcomes**" (Jutai, J., Fuhrer, M., Demers, L., Scherer, M., DeRuyter, F.) in our list of publications. This publication is on its way to becoming a seminal article in the AT field. It was published in the *American Journal of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation*, 84:4, 294-302.

#### **Abstract:**

The advancement of assistive technology device (ATD) outcomes research requires a substantive taxonomy for ATD outcomes. This article describes the assumptions and principles that should underlie such a taxonomy. It advocates for an approach to classifying outcomes that would promote consistency in how ATDs are distinguished, based on their intended effect on the user. The approach is designed to accommodate the widest variety of ATD applications, reflecting combinations of user population, ATD type, service, and context for use. In essence, the provisional taxonomy proposes that ATD outcomes can be effectively operationalized from three vantages—effectiveness, social significance, and subjective well-being. It emphasizes a distinction between the proximal effect of ATDs and the more distal outcomes associated with their use. Because it promotes consistency in the language used for categorizing outcomes, the taxonomic approach should facilitate the development of ATD-specific causal models. The utility of a taxonomy in ATD outcomes research is discussed.

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## Postings from ACOLUG

Have you ever dared to dream? Do they teach anything about AAC or AT in high school? What is webcrawling?

Have you ever thought about these questions? Felt like discussing them? Through the Augmentative Communication On-Line Users Group (ACOLUG), you can.

ACOLUG is a LISTSERV created to exchange ideas, information, and experiences on augmentative communication by people from all over the world. By using e-mail, people who use augmentative communication and their friends and families discuss issues related to augmentative communication, such as equipment, funding, learning techniques, and supports. Recently, ACOLUG discussions revolved around:

- Daring to Dream, 4/11
- Upcoming Webcasts on AAC Interventions and Children, 4/25
- High School Training in AAC and Assistive Technology, 5/23
- Writer's Brigade Update, 6/27
- Webcrawling Summary, 7/11
- Recognition of Dysarthric Speech, 7/25
- AAC and Aphasia, 8/8
- Usability Survey, 8/22

The AAC-RERC provides support to ACOLUG. All you need to join is internet access and an email address. To check it out, visit [ACOLUG](#) on the web.

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## Personnel Happenings

**Ami Profeta** was hired as the RERC Liason Intern to ACOLUG. He is taking over the responsibilities that **Tracy Rackensperger** held during her tenure. Tracy is now working full-time for the University of Georgia.

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