

Thursday, January 13, 2005

Winter 2005

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 2

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disabled**ISAAC 2004 in Natal Brazil***by Diane Nelson Bryen, Ph.D., Temple University*

I would like to share some thoughts about the ISAAC 2004 conference from the perspective of one RERC partner.

Over 450 participants, including 22 people who use AAC, attended the ISAAC 2004 conference in Natal, Brazil. People traveled many, many hours from 33 different countries to the first ISAAC conference in the southern hemisphere (see the map below to discover just where Natal, Brazil is, and a photo of Natal's beautiful coastline). If you are interested in learning more about the coastal city of Natal, go to the website

<http://www.natal-brazil.com/>



AAC-RERC partners were quite busy at ISAAC 2004! During the conference, 330 papers or posters were presented – several written or delivered by AAC-RERC partners (Partner Diane Bryen with her colleagues R. Boyd, K. Cohen, S. Lever, T. Rackensberger, and Partner Sarah Blackstone) and by people who rely on AAC technologies. There were 15 pre-conference instructional courses (2 conducted by AAC-RERC partners (Bryen, and colleagues Boyd, Cohen, and Lever), as well as 5 seminars in the post conference research symposium (coordinated by AAC-RERC partner Sarah Blackstone). I was particularly proud of our AAC-RERC poster with brochures in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. Here are some photos that capture a few of these presentations.



An instructional course at ISAAC 2004 led by AAC-RERC partner Diane Bryen and her colleagues from Temple University

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Instructional Course – Bryen & Lever



Instructional Course – Bryen, Boyd & Cohen



Presentation by Meredith Allen, Australia

We were treated to an amazing Words Plus Distinguished Lecture by Samondeeb Mukherjee from the India Center for Cerebral Palsy. This multimedia presentation about his journey to the Himalayas was truly inspiring.



Awardee Samondeeb, his family, and Suda Kaul from Calcutta, India



John Costello assists with Samondeeb's presentation

Thirty-one booths (18 international and 13 national companies/entities) shared new technologies in a busy and festive Brazilian atmosphere.

The social networking among participants from different cultures, countries, and life experiences was one of the highlights of the conference. Participants danced, ate and drank together, swam under the beautiful Brazilian sky, reunited with friends and colleagues from across the globe, planned future collaborations, and simply enjoyed communication with each other. ISAAC 2004 was great fun. And.... Brazil is both an exciting and beautiful country. I hope that you have the opportunity to visit it.



AAC-RERC partner Bryen & Australian, Melinda Smith



Colleagues from CAAC, South Africa

Finally, hope to see you in Germany for ISAAC 2006!

[PRINTER FRIENDLY VERSION]

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