

that some people without speech or limb movement during waking hours can move and speak when asleep. So perhaps, John reasons, the ultimate speech prosthesis will be a drug - or even chanting.

Tamara L. Redburn

## Artificial speech

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**Communication Outlook** is an international publication which provides a forum for individuals interested in the application of techniques and aids for persons who experience communication handicaps due to neurological or neuromuscular conditions. It is a cross-disciplinary information source and a reference for individuals who wish to contact others working in the field of communication enhancement. Communication Outlook is edited and published by the Artificial Language Laboratory at Michigan State University in partnership with the Trace Center for the Severely Communicatively Handicapped, University of Wisconsin, Madison. It is a publication of the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC).

Communication Outlook is more than a quarterly publication. It provides a regular forum allowing individuals interested in communication enhancement to exchange views and establish contacts, as well as furthering the progress toward an adequate delivery system of state-of-the-art communication aids to those who need them.

### ISAAC

ISAAC goes one step further, in enabling Communication Outlook readers to belong to an organization linking people throughout the world, whose common goal is to advance the

transdisciplinary field of augmentative and alternative communication techniques and aids. As the one international organization for the entire field of augmentative and alternative communication, ISAAC is dedicated to the following: the involvement of consumers; an international information exchange; giving attention to the interaction and integration into all life situations of augmentative and alternative communication; the prospect of highly developed countries helping developing countries; increased awareness in communities around the world of the needs and accomplishments of individuals experiencing communication handicaps; publications and conferences to upgrade professional knowledge; a greater use of systems to complement one another; professional training; and service standards.

Membership in ISAAC entitles you to a one-year subscription to *Communication Outlook*, as well as to a special reduced subscription rate to *Communicating Together*, a quarterly publication of the Blissymbolics Communication Institute in Toronto. ISAAC members are also entitled to reduced conference fees for conferences organized by ISAAC, and to receive free of charge and be included in, with their permission, a registry of ISAAC members and others concerned about or working in the area of augmentative and alternative communication. In addition, special arrangements will be made available to ISAAC members concerning ISAAC conference proceedings and other ISAAC publications. For ISAAC membership information, contact Donald Sherman, Secretary and Treasurer, ISAAC, c/o Artificial Language Laboratory, Computer Science Department, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824.

### **Community of readers**

The community of readers of *Communication Outlook* spans many diverse backgrounds. It includes users and potential users of communication aids and their parents, family members, and friends, as well as physicians, psychologist speech pathologists, occupational and physical therapists, social workers, teachers, educational administrators and supervisors, government officials, computer scientists, inventors, manufacturers and distributors, and electronic, mechanical, and rehabilitation engineers.

### **Features**

The main themes and purpose of *Communication Outlook* are improving communication for individuals experiencing communication handicaps and promoting communication among professionals in the communication enhancement field. Our goal is to communicate to our readers developments and progress in the field of communication enhancement. The format consists

of regular features combined with articles from our readers. The features include "News on Aids", articles on communication aids that are commercially available and under development, as well as on components used to build aids; "New Materials", descriptions of new publications and resources available; "Where the Action Is", reports from readers about centers and groups working on various aspects of communication enhancement; "Interfaces/Accessories", information on interfacing and augmenting communication aids; "Recreativity", techniques, aids and accessories to facilitate recreation and independent activity or creativity; "Tips", innovative methods, procedures, teaching strategies, and uses of materials shared by readers; "Advocacy Update", pertinent advocacy issues, including new groups, strategies, and successes; "Courses Offered", courses offered to professionals in the field of communication enhancement; "Anybody Know?", questions from readers to readers; and "Coming Up", a calendar of events of regional, national, or international interest.

Articles from readers include narratives by users of communication aids describing their experiences with their aids; articles by parents describing their childrens' struggles to obtain communication; articles by communication-aid developers describing the need for research, funding, education, and support; as well as articles dealing with funding, legal aspects, terminology, research, engineering, and advocacy.

### **Other publications**

In addition to Communication Outlook, we also disseminate other publications and materials of interest to the communication enhancement community. The "Communication Enhancement Bibliography" (compiled by Donald Rabush, Coordinator of Special Education at Western Maryland College, Lyle Lloyd, Professor and Chairman of Special Education at Purdue University, and Michael Gerdes, undergraduate Research Assistant at Purdue University) is available from Communication Outlook in both computer diskette and book form. The bibliography is annotated and contains 758 entries on all aspects of communication enhancement. Topics include type of paper, source, type of exceptionality, subject age, symbol systems and focus. Further, cassette tapes of various speeches given by communication-aid users are available, allowing individuals to hear the quality and intelligibility of various voice synthesizers. In the future, we plan to publish readers' papers, articles, technical reports, etc. as monographs concerning communication enhancement, thus providing a wide audience and distribution for their ideas and research.

**Participate in the forum**

Communication Outlook belongs to its readers, bringing people together to facilitate communication between individuals interested in augmentative communication, so that they may in turn facilitate communication for those unable to communicate. We need individuals involved in the field to give us their suggestions, opinions, and ideas on what information is needed to advance the field and help those within it. We urge our readers to contribute to Communication Outlook, as we are always interested in receiving articles regarding new developments and current activities in all areas of the communication enhancement field. To those of you new to Communication Outlook, we invite you to join our forum and to become an active participant in the development of the field. Only through the support of interested individuals can Communication Outlook continue as a successful vehicle to aid in the advancement of the field of communication enhancement. Please write to Communication Outlook, Artificial Language Laboratory, Computer Science Department, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824.

**Tamara L. Redburn** is Editor of Communication Outlook and Manager of the Artificial Language Laboratory, a multidisciplinary research centre at Michigan State University. The Laboratory is involved in basic research in speech analysis and synthesis, pattern recognition, and neurolinguistics. It does applied research in aids for blind individuals, assessment systems for matching individuals with communication enhancement technology, and voice-output communication aids.