Augmentative Communication Online Users’ Group
An international Internet listserv established in 1995. Its primary purpose is to provide a forum for people who use AAC to communicate with each other. In its 15th year, ACOLUG is a vibrant community of 800 subscribers. Information is exchanged, friendships forged, college students studying AAC learn from individuals who use AAC, wisdom and advice shared, and research from the AAC-RERC disseminated.

ACOLUG joined the RERC on Communication Enhancement in 1999. Since then thousands of messages have been posted. In an average month, about 250 messages are posted. ACOLUG has had a consistent membership of AAC users and parents of children who rely on AAC. Other members include manufacturers, researchers, practitioners, allies and university students.

Students from 21 universities that prepare personnel in AAC-related fields have spent up to one semester listening to and learning from the discussions on ACOLUG. Universities include:

- Arcadia
- Assumption
- Augustana
- Kean College
- Latrobe University Australia
- Minnesota State University
- Old Dominion University
- Purdue
- Rockhurst University
- Saint Rose College (NY)
- Temple University
- University of Georgia
- University of Guam
- University of Illinois
- University of Kansas
- University of Nevada Medical School
- University of New Mexico
- University of Queensland Australia
- University of Rhode Island
- University of South Dakota
- Whitchita State University

Why I Joined ACOLUG:
- Course requirement
- Gain better insight into how users of AAC feel about it and their [AAC] devices
- Recommended as a good resource
- Recommended by the professor in the course on AT
- Recommended by ASHA

What I gained from ACOLUG:
- Insight into the world of AAC and its impact
- Understanding of the complexity and importance of a good person/device match
- Information from AAC users about their systems and work/life
- Learning about International AAC Month
- How ACOLUG encouraged the philosophy of the Communication Bill of Rights

My goals from being a member of ACOLUG:
- Learn more about AAC—benefits/disadvantages
- Learn how I can be a better SLP for AAC users
- Learn from other AAC users
- Learn about devices from a person who uses them, not just a company brochure
- Gain an understanding of the concerns, challenges, abilities of AAC users

Understanding of how diverse the [AAC] population is; that individuals with communication disabilities are no different than those without disabilities
- Insight into the power of the internet; how it probably saves these people’s lives
- Being in Guam, ACOLUG will continue to be a great resource; I plan to share it with others
- Learning that ACOLUG is a method of advocating, giving all a “voice”
- Awareness within me of how much we take our communication for granted

To subscribe to ACOLUG, go to http://listserv.temple.edu/archives/acolug.html
OR FOLLOW THESE STEPS:

1. Send an email to listserv@temple.edu.
2. Leave the subject blank.
3. In the message type: Subscribe acolug yourfirstname yourlast name (example: subscribe mary smith).
4. Send message.
5. Use the reply function to the Command Confirmation Request, leave the subject the same and in the body of the message, type the word “ok”.
6. You are now subscribed, so introduce yourself.

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ACOLUG is more than an Online International Forum for People with Complex Communication Needs!

by Diane Nelson Bryen, Professor Emerita, Temple University