

Prof Erna Alant

Neville Cohen Award

**Messages from friends, colleagues
and former students**



Baie geluk met hierdie wonderlike bevestiging van jou uitnemende bydrae, Erna! Jammer ek kon nie daar wees om dit met julle te vier nie.

Baie groete,

Kobie Boshoff

(University of South Australia)

Professor Erna Alant has had a deep and lasting impact on my life. When I look back at when she first took me under her wing, I cringe at how little I knew, about anything! Yet Professor Alant took the time to work with me and she believed in me. Many cups of tea were made and afternoon walks enjoyed, where she was a sounding board, a mentor and an encourager.



That is who she is, and what makes her impact the world around her so deeply. She believes that each member of society, no matter who they are and how little knowledge and ability they currently display, has the capacity to achieve greatness. I have no doubt that I would not have come as far without Professor Alant in my corner, and I am sure many others would say the same. With deep gratitude always,

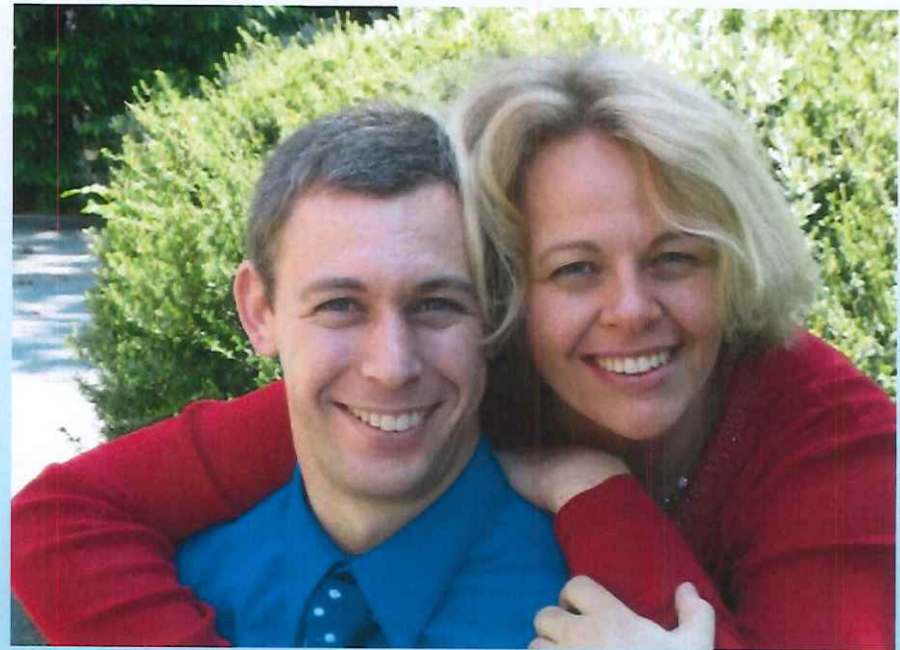
Dr Elsa Popich, Australia

I am honoured by the invitation thank you , but devastated that it is at a time I cannot attend.

Erna you have been an important part of my professional and my personal life since our time together at the Open Air School. I am so sad that I can't be with you to celebrate this well deserved award, and to have time with you again. Enjoy the celebrations and being with family friends and colleagues my friend, and know that I will be with you in spirit.

Glen Jager

Erna, congratulations on being awarded the Neville Cohen Memorial Lecture. I can think of nobody more deserving to receive it. I am sorry that I can't be there today. But want to extend my deepest gratitude and thanks to you. You have had a positive and significant impact on my life - as you have to many others lives.



Martin Pistorius

I am really disappointed that I am not able to join you today with this great occasion!

You have put so much love and energy into these two causes close to your heart: AAC and our lovely country South Africa Congratulations!



During the 15 odd years we've known each other, we both have suffered great losses but also reaped great awards. As you continue further on the road of life, may it be filled with joy and happiness as you continue to touch the lives of everyone you meet. I am honoured to call you a scholar, a mentor, a colleague and above all a friend.

Best wishes en baie liefde

Magdel

Congratulations Erna on receiving the prestigious Neville Cohen Award!

I cannot think of anyone more deserving! You have empowered so many to have a 'voice'. You are one of those exceptional world-leading academics who inspires us all with the tremendous contribution you make not only in terms of research but also truly improving the day-to day lives of so many people through your work in AAC and severe disability. Your integrity, human warmth and compassion are phenomenal.



I can hear your wonderful warm laugh as I write this. Equally impressive is the way you have empowered so many PhD students and professionals to continue to propel things forward. Having you as a PhD supervisor is one the greatest gifts I have received.

After all these years you are still the person on this planet that I most admire! Nicci Campbell

Congratulations Erna, on another achievement. You continue to inspire those whose lives you have touched
I wish you everything of the best and that you continue to make a difference to people wherever you are.

With my very best wishes

Barbara Solarsh



Congratulations on yet another recognition of the outstanding and indeed remarkable contribution you have made to the world of AAC through this international Neville Cohen Award! But from our perspective in South Africa, your contribution takes on a bigger, personal magnitude, because for AAC in South Africa, the CAAC heads the way, and you are the 'mother' of the CAAC. There are very few in the field of AAC in South Africa who have not been influenced by you, even if indirectly. We are so very proud to call you our own. But on an even more personal note, I owe you a deep debt of gratitude for guiding me to completion of my PhD! For that alone you need an award!

Thank you so much for all you mean to all of us.
May God bless you

Marina Herold



Congratulations on this award Erna! When I think of your contribution to the field, it *IS* in terms of the birth of the Centre for AAC and growing its reach and influence. But it *IS ALSO* in the way you invested in people. From the AAC PhD graduates, who are still actively pursuing research careers and advancing the field, to the people with severe disabilities who you gave a hand up to (not a hand-out). I know of very few people who have leveraged their influence to benefit so many! I count it a privilege to have worked alongside you and learnt from you!”

Michal Harty





Congratulations
Erna !

PhD Class 2007