

Annuntiatus

International Association of Special Education

The 12th Biennial Conference in Namibia – July 10 -14, 2011

Update on the 2011 Conference

By Bill Towne

Bill Towne (IASE Pres.), Steve Leitz (Conference Program Co-Chair) and Paula Leitz (Conference & Program Co-Chair) spent a whirlwind week in Windhoek finalizing plans for the 12th Biennial Conference. The days were filled with meetings with our University of Namibia (UNAM) organizing committee, hotel and catering managers, and our tour/shuttle operator, Uanee Karuombe (pictured below with Bill, Paula and Steve). All parties graciously received us and they are looking forward to welcoming the international delegates to their country.

The **Gala dinner and Live Auction** will be held at the beautiful Windhoek Country Club on Tuesday evening. Delegates are asked to wear traditional dress or semi-formal evening attire. With delegates representing 35 countries, this should be a colorful evening. Entertainment will start at 6:30 pm, at which time you can examine the auction items and mingle with your fellow delegates. Following the 7:30 pm dinner, our live auction, local entertainment and dancing will conclude the evening. It promises to be a wonderful event!



Bill, Paula, Uanee and Steve

During our visit, we learned that we needed to change two of our optional conference tours. We traveled up to Okahandja to find that the Crafts Market experienced a devastating fire last winter. Although they plan to have the market rebuilt by July, we decided to drop that trip from Tour #2 on Sunday and instead spend more time at Okapuka Game Reserve returning to Windhoek to prepare for the Vice-Chancellor's reception.



Zebras and Wildebeests on a River Crossing Lodge Game Drive

Second, we learned that Daan Viljoen Park was closed for redesign under new management. We were invited to a new game reserve at **River Crossing Lodge** just east of Windhoek in the Auas Mountains, less than a 10 minute drive from downtown. They offer a four hour game drive every morning and afternoon through the Auas mountains and you can see twenty animal species including wildebeest, zebra, giraffe, eland, steenbok, and numerous bird species.



Game Drive Through the Auas Mountains at River Crossing Lodge

It is important that you contact our tour operator, Uanee Karuombe at uaneek@gmail.com, ASAP to reserve any of the tours listed on the conference website.

Please visit <http://sites.google.com/site/iase2011conference> to learn about all tour options, get a conference registration form, and gain other pertinent information about this exciting conference. July is the busiest month of the tourist season, so accommodations fill up early.

Keynote speakers – The honorable Dr. Abraham Iyambo, Minister of Education, will open the conference on Monday, followed by Dr. Inaani Lisony Kahikuata-Kariko, Ministry of Education, Chief Educational Officer for Special Programmes and Schools. Tuesday will open with a lecture by Dr. Richard Villa and Dr. Jacqueline Thousand entitled, "Restructuring for Caring and Effective Education: The Inclusive School". Wednesday morning will begin with a presentation by Mr. Edward Ndupo, recent graduate from the Africa Leadership Academy, entitled, "Guaranteeing the Right to Education for the Most Disenfranchised Segments of Society". And our final keynote will be presented just before lunch by Dr. Stephen Shore entitled, "Life on and Slightly to the Right of the Autism Spectrum: An Inside View Towards Success".

Over the three days, there are 14 sessions that will include 140 lectures, workshops, panels, round table and poster discussions by 250 delegates from 35 countries. This will be a wonderful opportunity to build new friendships and partnerships all focused on "Educating Every Learner, Every Day – A Global Responsibility".

See you in Windhoek!

Volunteer Service Project Update

By Mary Gale and Marg

We represented IASE at SekuCo in Magamba, Tanzania when the first graduation ceremony in the history of the country conferred Special Education Bachelor degrees on 133 students. It was a glorious day when the students led by dignitaries, a live band and IASE volunteer Richard Zigler, paraded along a ½ mile dirt road to the new campus conference center where they received their diplomas. During the ceremony Provost Anneth Munga acknowledged the part that volunteer IASE professors played in helping the students gain the academic credits to graduate.



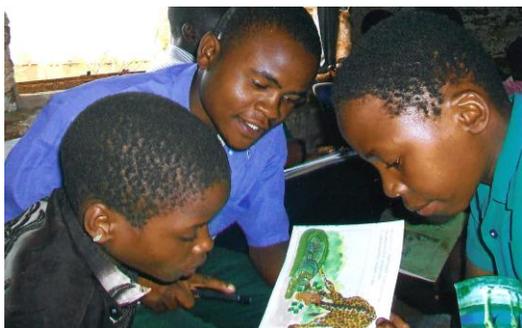
IASE member Mamertha Pancras from Tanzania smiles as her husband displays her diploma.

Farida Khakoo, National Chairperson of the Diana Women Empowerment Organization, introduced us to one of her sites in Tanga, Tanzania. She is serving orphans and women with AIDS and has applied for volunteers to help educate her children.



Farida Khakoo invites IASE volunteers to her Tanga site.

From Dar es Salaam, Tanzania we flew to Blantyre, Malawi. Our hostess Sandra Trevethan introduced us to her new NGO entitled Mwayi Trust which she has developed to serve students who have special education needs. Her project addresses drop-out prevention, the implementation of a high school student mentoring program for younger at-risk students, building of a vocational training center and establishing a local radio station. This is a new Volunteer Service Project site and IASE member Karen Nave will serve here in June of 2011.



A Mwayi Trust student mentors in the after-school program.

Next, we flew to Mzuzu, Malawi and met Professor Simeon Gwayi who introduced us to Mzuzu University. We were graciously received by the Vice Chancellor who is most interested in developing a Special Education degree program. Professor Gwayi has just begun teaching the first "Survey of Special Education" class and we presented two sessions on "Best Practices" for the students. IASE GIVING funds supplied 20 text books which are co-authored by IASE member Yvonne Bui.

We traveled by bus to Lilongwe, Malawi and met with David Njaidi, Minister of Special Education at the Malawi Department of Education. He was most interested in learning about IASE and how we can help to serve in Malawi. A lively discussion on the development of special education in Malawi ensued and we are interested in collaborating with Mr. Njaidi and his department in the future.

In Stone Town, Zanzibar we returned to Mnazi Moja Hospital to provide supplies from our IASE GIVING fund to create a classroom for the special students who are clients at the Occupational Therapy Department which is headed by IASE member Amina Suleiman. IASE volunteer Meghan Gallagher introduced us to her students and their new classroom overlooking the Indian Ocean.

So, IASE continues to serve others. IASE members who may be interested in volunteering can visit www.iase.org to learn more about the project.

Treasurer Report for 1/1/11-2/20/11

By Steve Leitz

Beginning Balance (1/1/11) - \$275, 277

Total Credits - \$42,426

- Conference registrations - \$40,490
- Memberships - \$1910
- Interest - \$26

Total Debits - \$3565

- Conference planning trip - \$2228
- Printing (winter newsletter) -\$795
- Postage (journal, membership) - \$321
- Credit card processing fees - \$146
- Bank fees – wire transfers - \$75

Ending Balance (2/20/11) - \$314,137

IASE ELECTION BALLOT

Your IASE Nominations Committee offers this slate for your vote. Members who have paid their dues by March 1, 2011, are eligible to vote. The new officers will be introduced during the General Membership Meeting in Windhoek, Namibia. Their term of office will be January 1, 2012, through December 31, 2013.

Please check YES or NO and return via postal mail by April 30, 2011, to Mary Gale Budzisz, Nominations Chair, Box 2836, Pawleys Island, South Carolina 29585, USA.

YES ___ NO ___ President-Elect	Iris Drower	USA
YES ___ NO ___ Treasurer	Jim Chapple	USA
YES ___ NO ___ Secretary	Virginia MacEntee	USA
YES ___ NO ___ Member-at-Large	Marg Csapo	CANADA
YES ___ NO ___ Member-at-Large	Richard Freeze	CANADA
YES ___ NO ___ Member-at-Large	Margorzata Sekulowicz	POLAND

Volunteering in Tanzania

By Meghan Gallagher

What do you get when you quit your job, move to a different continent, leave your boyfriend, family, and friends, and use up all your savings to get there?? A fabulous opportunity to volunteer and make a difference in other people's lives, a time for self-reflection, a chance to meet new people and travel, and numerous other positive experiences that you will remember for the rest of your life- and not to mention, fabulous pictures! Welcome to my journey from Virginia, USA, to Zanzibar, Tanzania! My name is Meghan and I have had the great pleasure of representing IASE in Stone Town, Zanzibar, at the Occupational Therapy Clinic in the Mnazi Moja Hospital. IASE members can volunteer at this site. I have been here for almost two months working on starting an early intervention and educational center for those who attend the OT clinic. I have a Master's Degree in Special Education and have been a teacher in Virginia, United States, for four years. This opportunity has been a different, new, and exciting challenge. While I enjoyed my teaching jobs in the United States, I can't say I miss the traffic and noise of traveling to and from work in Virginia, especially since I now get to walk to and from work along the Indian Ocean and the rooms at the hospital overlook the ocean as well! I have been blessed with this opportunity as it has been my childhood dream to teach in Africa.

The OT clinic is a department that consists of two rooms. One room is used for OT, while I have transformed the other into a classroom. This transformation has been made possible through many donations (books and school supplies) from the school (Belle View Elementary) where I taught in Virginia, many trips to different thrift stores in Virginia to buy books and toys, donations of toys and teaching supplies from KenCrest (www.kencrest.org), a donation of a new set of Brigance Early Intervention Assessments from Curriculum Associates (www.curriculumassociates.com), and the generous donations from the IASE GIVING fund. When I first arrived here in early November, there was only a whiteboard and computer paper. I worked for many weeks on the floor with the children with just the supplies and donations I was able to bring from the US. Thanks to the IASE GIVING fund, the room now consists of a small table and chairs for the children, two spacious cabinets for supplies, containers for storage, a laptop computer, and other educational supplies. With all of the donations, especially those from the IASE GIVING fund, I now feel that I have an actual classroom that is functional and promotes a positive learning environment for the children here.

I have worked with children as young as two, to adults as old as 24. Within this wide range of ages, there are also a multitude of abilities and a variety of diagnoses. Even in the small amount of time I have been here, there have been plenty of success stories. I will share two short stories with you. The first is about an almost three year-old child named Ali. The first couple of times he came to me, he cried and did not want to attempt any "work". In the last three weeks he has completely transformed and has worked without giving up.



IASE volunteer Meghan is thrilled to see the positive reaction of her student when he accomplished a dexterity task.



Amina helps a young student learn to ride a new motorcycle provided by IASE GIVING funds.

He and his family are very excited about his progress, as am I! The second story is about an 18 year-old named Yussuf. The first time he came to see me, I asked if he knew how to read and he said he did not. However, he did know the alphabet and the letter sounds. With that, I had him working on three-letter short vowel words. He did a very good job and worked hard. I worked one-on-one with him for about three hours and by the end he had read a children's story that consisted of short vowel words. Even when he came to difficult or new words, he took his time and sounded them out himself. I was so proud of him and he was happy and proud of himself. He has blossomed in the short amount of time I have worked with him and continues to improve. Even though he does not speak English (and my knowledge of Swahili is limited) he has become one of my favorite students to work with.

There are many challenges I have faced while teaching here, the main one being the language barrier, (I am slowly learning Swahili and have learned a lot of teaching vocabulary). These challenges are nothing compared to the obstacles the families go through to bring their children for services as well as the challenges they face every day caring for a child with special needs. Many parents and older siblings take multiple buses and/or walk to get to the hospital. With the expense of travel, the majority are only able to make it once a week. Many children are not able to walk and their families carry them to the hospital. Their dedication to bringing them in each week and completing "homework" and returning the following week has been a great testament to their love for their children and siblings with special needs. It is also a testament to the people in Zanzibar who work to educate and promote awareness for special education and early intervention.

The staff of women who work in the OT clinic have been very welcoming and helpful from the very beginning of my visit. I feel so fortunate to work with them. Amina is the head of the OT department and is a member of IASE. Fatma is a recent addition to the department as she had been living and working in Pemba (a nearby island) for 10 years. She and Amina studied together in OT school. Poppy is a volunteer from England and she has been in Zanzibar for two years. She works in the OT department two days a week and volunteers at another local hospital. All three ladies have been extremely helpful, especially when I need translating!

Now that the program has been started, continuity will be most important. The program needs volunteers who can continue the work, so the children do not have a break in instruction. The continual need for assessment is vital as well as documentation for each child. In the future of the program, I hope to see collaboration with the schools that would include school visits, assessments, and IEPs to monitor goals and progress. Parent involvement and parent education are equally important and need to be improved. I have enjoyed starting this program and look forward to coming back in the future to see the progress and hopefully volunteer again!

If you have any questions about the program in Zanzibar, please feel free to e-mail me at meqkg24@gmail.com or you may find information at www.iase.org.

International Association of Special Education

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Two Easy Ways to Renew Your Membership

By Mail: IASE Treasurer

Steve Leitz

8220 67th St. CT. NW

Glg Harbor, WA 98335, USA

By Email: sleitz@centurytel.net

Please print information clearly:

Name: Last _____ First _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State / Province _____ Postal Code _____

Country: _____ Email: _____

Membership Dues: Regular \$US 50 _____ Regular/Sponsor \$US 70 _____

Student Membership \$US 20 _____ Developing Country \$US 20 _____ Institution \$US 70 _____

Name of person sponsored _____ E-mail of person sponsored _____

Address of person sponsored _____

Donation to Marg Csapo Scholarship \$ US _____ **Total Enclosed \$ US** _____

Payment Information: _____ Visa _____ Master Card _____ Cheque (Payable to IASE, US funds)

Credit Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Name of Cardholder (print) _____

Signature of Cardholder _____

If you have special needs that require the journal or newsletter to be sent to you electronically, please note that here.