



# ANNUNTIATUS

Volume XXXI, Issue 2, May 2017

## INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

The 15<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference in Perth, Western Australia June 25 - 29, 2017

### President's Message

By Iris Drower

Greetings to all IASE Colleagues and Friends,

I've been an IASE member for almost 10 years and have seen some incredible work completed by our IASE leadership and membership during those years. I hope to continue the legacy that IASE has brought to our profession. After all, we will be celebrating 30 years of achievement and service for thousands around the world.



Marg Csapo with young students at Don Bosco Cochin, India

To celebrate this milestone, we want to take the time to celebrate our founder, Dr. Marg Csapo, and our members who have helped us get here.

To honor Marg and to illuminate the unique, inspiring reasons people choose to support IASE, **we will be featuring these items here over the course of 2017.**

It is humbling to think of how many loyal individuals have benefited over the years, and we hope you will enjoy learning more about them. I am asking you to submit any stories, photos, and memorabilia to Roni Chavez at [iaschavez@gmail.com](mailto:iaschavez@gmail.com) by May 30<sup>th</sup> of 2017.

I also hope you are planning to attend our 15<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference in Perth, Australia from June 25-29, 2017. It will be fabulous! This is a true collaboration between IASE, Curtin University and Edith Cowan University. We will highlight two of our own IASE members as Keynote Speakers: Dr. Morgan Chitiyo from the USA and Dr. Kim Fong Poon-McBrayer from Hong Kong. We have many IASE related sessions on our Volunteer Service Projects, National Chairs, Publications, a Think Tank and so much more. You can read more about several of our Volunteer Service Sites in this edition of the Annuntius. In addition, we will be conducting numerous 'Showcase Sessions' highlighting programs from the Perth area, as well as our first 'Invited Virtual Showcase Presentation.' Our Roundtable/Poster sessions will be more interactive in nature and there will be plenty of time for networking and collaboration on future research endeavors.

We encourage all members to attend the IASE General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00-8:45 am (rooms 1-2) at the Perth Convention & Exhibition Center. Based on our work over the year we will be making some adjustments to our strategic plan and voting on changes to our Constitution and By-Laws. We need your involvement!

I close this message with a challenge. If your membership in IASE is not making you a better teacher, researcher, student, professor, advocate and/or collaborator, what needs to change?

I would invite members to share ideas regarding how IASE as an organization could better meet your needs in these areas. At the same time, I would also invite members to discover ways they could contribute through IASE to share their expertise and talents with others around the world.

### The International Journal of Special Education

Our IASE founder, Dr. Marg Csapo, welcomes submissions to her on-line journal, The International Journal of Special Education. The intent is to make the journal available internationally and free of charge to everyone who is interested in special education or is a student of special education.

For more information go to our new website at:

<http://www.internationalped.com/issues.cfm>

## 15th Biennial Conference

# IASE

June 25 - 29, 2017



## PERTH, AUSTRALIA

## Another March Visit to IASE Volunteer Service Project Sites in Vietnam

By Mary Gale Budzisz

On March 12, 2017 Iris and I flew the new Hong Kong Express flight from Hong Kong to DaNang, Vietnam. We were met at the DaNang Airport by a driver and were whisked away to arrive in Hue about three hours later. As we climbed up the 25 steps to the lobby of the Orchid Hotel located in Hue, we could see our friend at the reception desk...and we felt at home again. Over the years of our visits to our Volunteer Service Project site in Hue, we have lodged at the lovely Orchid Hotel. When we show up we are greeted as friends and guests who are very welcome. It is us who truly appreciate our beautiful room with the towel swans on our beds. Their newly remodeled breakfast area is just like home as the breakfast menu is huge with fresh fruit, eggs whatever way you order, and the greatest French baguettes out of France!



Dr. Nhan showed us the toy that IASE GIVING provided for the new center.

Dr. Nhan and his staff at the Office of Genetic Counseling & Disabled Children (OGCDC) welcomed us the next morning at the Hue University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Hue City, Vietnam. Phoung Anh had the list ready for the "power shopping" adventure. We were off in a small cab to purchase farm implements and needed items to take out to the farm. We arrived at a very small shop stacked to the ceiling with a wide array of items. We never thought we would be able to obtain all on our list little by little. The shop keeper managed to pull out shovel part of a shovel.

Counting to 12 items...and then the handles of bamboo appeared so we could match these items and lo and behold a shovel was born out those pieces!!

Chicken wire appeared and we cut enough and rolled it up and found a place for it in the cab. We bought boots and gloves, rakes and hoes, and still wondered where all would go. Alas, everything on the list was purchased and stashed into the cab.

We drove back to the University and were treated to local carry-out food in Dr. Nhan's office...a picnic flavor and nice way to share food and stories. Then the staff gathered the teaching items they had already purchased and showed us these. We are sure that the children will enjoy using them...because we also wanted to stop and play with all of them. But no time to play as we were hustled out to re-pack our farm items into a larger vehicle, plus new recreational items and bags of food to deliver to the Early Intervention Centre and Organic Farm in Nam Dong. A short stop at the new OGCDG assessment center to view the playground equipment GIVING funds have purchased was made, and I was thrilled to see what has transpired in that small area. Great adaptive recreational items encourage all children to play and enjoy physical activity while they wait for their appointment with a therapist. We also provided a new bench for the caregivers to rest and watch the playground activity.

After a two hour ride we arrived in a beautiful rural area of Vietnam. And then there appeared a brand new building...the dream of Dr. Nhan...with adolescents scurrying around and rushing to greet Dr. Nhan as he became the Pied Piper of Nam Dong.

The students showed us their garden projects, we watched staff members carve up a pig head, watched the process of cooking the vittles, and got a tour of the new building. The two large rooms compose a girl's dorm and a boy's dorm each which can house 10 clients. There are lovely bathrooms and a large multipurpose recreational area/classroom/dining hall.

The next part of the tour was very memorable as we visited the cleanest pig pen I have ever seen with large porky pigs feeding and seemingly very happy. They do not realize that they will be sold after a four month fattening time frame. Some of the IASE GIVING funds purchased the newly born chicks that the students will raise for about three months and then those also will be sold.



Here is one of the baby forest pigs that GIVING funds purchased for the farm.

Our last livestock purchase was five forest pigs that were running through the acreage searching for food and getting fatter for the future sale. Dr. Nhan was especially proud of the new freezer that the GIVING fund purchase so that the staff are able to freeze food to be used for the students who live at the farm Monday-Friday. Iris and I did get a little time to teach an UNO card game. Would any of you IASE members be interested in coming with us in 2018 to teach some other recreational games??

The recent OGCDG Newsletter sent in April of 2017 stated IASE has "supported us with toys, equipment and reference books for farming with the aim of creating fun, good teaching and a pleasant working environment for people with a disability. We would like to express our deepest thanks to IASE for such wonderful gifts for our children with disabilities."

The next day Mr. Dzong, the Manager of the Orchid Hotel, arranged a driver for us to travel south to DaNang and meet Quyen from the Dien Ban Day Centre with her shopping list. We again did our power shopping and filled our vehicle with loads of supplies for the centre. The following day we did get to visit the students and staff at Dien Ban...and it was like "old home week" because we received many "high-fives", smiles and hugs...plus THANKS for bringing the supplies for all to use. It has been our pleasure to help this fantastic school and watch it continue to grow and serve the special students of this little community...which is about 10 miles out of the center of Hoi An. An article by Jackie Wrafter, the CEO of the Kianh Foundation's Dien Ban Day Centre, about the transition projects being implemented for the older students is also in this issue of the Annuntiatius. Please read it.

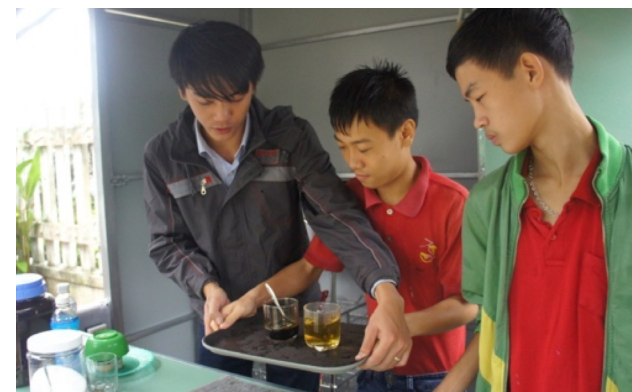
As Iris and I sat in the new Coffee Shop and Store area at the Dien Ban Day Centre, we could reflect on what has transpired in the short time this facility has been built. It truly is a gift to the community and especially to all of the students who have had a chance to better their lives with the dedicated support and care delivered by the whole staff.



Finding meaningful employment for young adults with special needs is not the easiest thing in the world anywhere, but is certainly even more difficult in Dien Ban, a semi-rural part of Central Vietnam. One of IASE's support projects, The Kianh Foundation, has its school based here and we are facing this problem now as several of our first students turn eighteen. In the area where we live, there are two handicraft workshops staffed by people with disabilities. They turn out beautiful and intricate craft items that are bought by tourists but they are able to do this because their impairments affect their mobility only. Other people with disability in the area who have jobs that are not so stable, ride the town in their amended vehicles, selling lottery tickets and newspapers. These are also people with mobility problems. Their jobs are hard, often grueling in this climate, but they make a bare living. Outside of this group, there is a huge number of people who cannot undertake even this work due to their cognitive understanding, or problems with their fine motor skills and speech. This is the majority of students at our school.

We have been given some opportunities by business owners for our children to become acquainted with the world of work on a part-time basis, but so far, the work has been too complex and has required a work coach to be on hand constantly, with no hope of this support ever being able to end for the tasks required. The few forward-thinking businesses who have been willing to give them a try have all been far away, and after several months of road-training and learning to use public transport, we have had to conclude that we cannot send our students out alone onto roads that are, without exception, chaotic and dangerous. Strict training about traffic lights and zebra crossings means nothing when traffic lights and zebra crossings are ignored at whim. We live in a beautiful part of the world, with an abundance of hotels. Some GMs have made positive noises about our students being trained to work there, but as the request goes further up the chain, it is abruptly halted. Many people are unwilling to give our students a chance, fearful that they will be too much hard work, not up to standard, a burden. On the other end of the spectrum, one romantic and well-intentioned hotelier was enthusiastic about giving work to as many of our students as possible, on the condition that we could harness the 'genius' that lies in all people with special needs and put it to work at his hotels. His main desire was that they would be able to create an award-winning garden for him!

We want our students to graduate from our school, where they have learned so many things, to live lives integrated in their communities, to have a visible face. But for now we have concluded that we must start their jobs 'at home' in our centre and if in the future these jobs grow outside of our safe haven and protected bubble, then the job will be a job well done. In the community where we live, as I have described above, there is nobody working with the challenges our particular group of students face. People veer from thinking that they can do nothing at all, and never will be able to, or that they can do everything, with little or no support. So we have to showcase what they can do.



Khong, the therapist, teaches Duc (18) to serve tea and coffee the proper way, whilst Hieu (16) observes.

At the beginning of this year, we received a donation to set up a small coffee kiosk and a store in our school grounds. These two 'businesses' open early in the morning and late in the afternoon, when the parents bring their children to school. A member of staff, Ms Thao, has been assigned to work with our older students here, and each small shop has one student in charge, who is typically a student with Cerebral Palsy from our mainstream class: good cognitive skills but problems with speech and fine motor. His/her assistants are older students from our Life Skills class, who are physically able but have cognitive impairments. They are able to carry out the manual tasks and manage the money, with guidance from the other student.

Vietnam abounds with coffee shops and small stores so these are definitely areas that these students could eventually work in with practice. But whilst they are learning these skills, we have seen other things happening: the students with Cerebral Palsy are working hard to manage their speech better in order to be understood by their customers; the students with cognitive problems are becoming social and confident.

One formerly very shy girl with Down's Syndrome, Hien, can sometimes be seen strutting around with a tray raised in the air, her other arm folded behind her back, barista style. Parents have started to stick around longer at the school once their child is dropped off, to share coffee and conversation with other parents in similar situations to themselves. And now that the people living nearby know what we are doing, local farmers drop in from time to time to buy a jug of coffee for out in the fields, or to pick up some salt or fish sauce on the way home.

The children are getting better and better with money and can now put together a mean coffee with less and less support. Everyone who comes to the coffee shop or buys from the store is delighted to see the children in action and offers them their support and encouragement. Working in this small way, we hope we can give others the chance to see what our students can do, how happy and motivated they are when given a chance, to see that they are worth investing in.



Chau (18) on left and Khoa (16) on the right man the store.

In the meantime, we continue to explore avenues for our students to find work locally, with supportive and patient people. Until then, we will stay inside our safe haven a little longer, waiting for the call, waiting for the world outside our immediate walls to catch up and take a chance on people who have already overcome so many hurdles and have much to offer.

## Life as a Carnegie Diaspora Fellow in Kenta, East Africa

By Zandile P. Nkabinde

I am an Associate Professor in the Department of Special Education of New Jersey City University. In the fall of 2016, I was awarded a Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship which gave me the opportunity to travel to Kenya, East Africa. I spent three months at the University of Kabianga located in Kericho a small village situated in the Western part of Kenya.

I taught some basic education classes and worked with the faculty. This young university which was established in 2007 desires to implement a special education curriculum. Hopefully, we could help change this situation in the future.



There are forty-two tribes in Kenya, some of which include Maasai, Luo, Kipsigis, Kisis, Kikuyus, and other subtribes. In the town of Kericho, the main tribe is Kalenjin. The University of Kabianga where I was placed, had a diverse faculty and student body united by the language of Swahili.

As a South African native, it has been easy assimilating to the culture and the African rural conditions. I worked in a beautiful tea estate area. I was able to experience riding the Matatus, (the South African version of Combies) and Boda Boda (local motorcycles) which were my common means of transportation. It was a great experience and I truly want to return someday..

On the left: Dr Zandile P. Nkabinde in the middle with yellow blazer surrounded by students of the University of Kabianga.



## FEATURED IASE MEMBER

### Monika Burzynska



Monika Burzyńska is a Ph. D. student at the University of Lower Silesia in Wrocław (Poland), a special educator and a speech therapist. She has been working with children with special educational needs: with aphasia, dyslexia, selective mutism, intellectual disabilities for years. Monika is currently conducting research on the frequency of selective mutism in children in Poland.

Major publication: Wczesna interwencja logopedyczna w nurcie psychomotorycznym – studium przypadku dziecka z hemiplegią in Psychomotoryka – 3 (2016).

Monika is a mother of two children and an avid marathoner. She thinks she can't sing but loves to dance salsa.

## WHY IASE?

Renew and become an IASE Member today!

- Connect with our international communities and leaders from around the world.
- Share best practices, experiments, and research;
- Make a difference around the world;
- Volunteer at our 18 Volunteer Service Sites;
- And so much more

Go to [www.iase.org](http://www.iase.org) for more information.

Contact Karen Nave at  
[knave@mtintouch.net](mailto:knave@mtintouch.net)

### Treasurer's Report

By Colleen Meyer

Checking:	\$66,000.00
VSP/Giving:	\$35,954.03
Marg Scholarship:	\$11,332.00
General Operations:	\$141,000.00
Total:	\$254,660.09

This total reflects conference registration fees which will be used to pay for the conference venue.



## Perth, a Real "Down Under" Experience

We are getting excited about your arrival to Perth! The local arrangements committee has been busy with securing amazing conference materials, including a fabulous conference bag, fliers, maps, and a "gift" for each delegate.

Perth is full of wonderful places to explore, delicious food, and very hospitable people. Be sure to check with our volunteers (identified by their T-Shirts) for further assistance.

We are delighted to join Hon Sue Ellery MLC, Minister for Education and Training; Leader of the Legislative Council in the Parliament of Western Australia as she provides a special welcome to all of our delegates on Monday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at our Opening Plenary session. She is the first woman to lead the Government in the Legislative Council.



Featured left to Right: Sandra Trevethan, Karen Nonis, Mary Gale Budzisz and Grahame Hay

Our IASE General Membership Meeting will begin at 8:00 am on Tuesday, June 27<sup>th</sup> at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre (PCEC) rooms 1-2. This will be a time for our members to learn more about our organizational structure and general tasks completed during the past two years. In addition, at this will be announcing the 2018-2019 IASE officers and the location of the 2019 16<sup>th</sup> Biennial IASE conference location.

Please remember to bring an item or two for our silent and live auction. Feel free to contact our Chair Dr. Sharon Matthews at [matthews@mail.strose.edu](mailto:matthews@mail.strose.edu) for further information. This is an opportunity to bring something that represents your homeland to donate. All proceeds from the auctions will benefit the Marg Csapo Scholarship fund.

The Closing Plenary will convene on Wednesday afternoon. Highlights of that session will include local presentations from Rocky Bay and Wheelchairs for Kids.

Rocky Bay is a leading provider of disability services, offering choice and independence to thousands of people of all ages living with a physical or intellectual disability in Western Australia. We are lucky to have the Rocky Bay CEO, Michael Fait, and Mai Welsh, the Manager of the Rocky Bay Children's Program, as keynote speakers to inform the attendees about the purpose of Rocky Bay: Discovering abilities---optimizing the quality of life for people living with a disability.



Honourable Sue Ellery

The second team of keynoters representing Wheelchairs for Kids will be Brother Olly Picket, Workshop Manager, and Bob Sheridan, Workshop Coordinator, who will inform the audience about the dedicated volunteer work of this organization. Wheelchairs for Kids is a project of the Rotary Club of Scarborough, Western Australia which is supported by the Christian Brothers. The wheelchairs which cost \$200 to build have been produced since 1998 and over 30,000 have been distributed to disadvantaged and disabled children in over 78 countries worldwide.... examples are Iraq, Myanmar, Zimbabwe, Vietnam, Bali, India, Bangladesh, Zambia!! Donations will be accepted during the conference and a drawing will be held at the closing of the conference to send a wheelchair in the honor of the person whose name is drawn!

The Gala Event will be held at the Perth Convention Center. Remember to dress in your native or country attire. That evening we will be eating traditional Australian cuisine and enjoying performances by the South Ballajura Education Support Centre, which will include drumming, singing, and a Jump Jam as well as The Rock Troupe (performing artists of The Rock Foundation) featuring Meena, Joyce, Sunny with music from Joshua from Hong Kong.

The 15<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference is going to be a fabulous event from the Welcome Reception to the closing session...so plan to be there to celebrate 30 years of IASE.



A recipient of Wheelchairs for Kids project.

Roni Chavez  
21 - 7 St  
Nazareth, Cagayan de Oro  
Misamis Oriental, Philippines  
9000



### Renew Your IASE Membership

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Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Membership Dues: Regular \$US 50 \_\_\_\_\_ Regular/Sponsor \$US 70 \_\_\_\_\_  
Student Membership \$US 20 \_\_\_\_\_ Developing Country \$US 20 \_\_\_\_\_ Institution \$US 70 \_\_\_\_\_  
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Donation to Marg Csapo Scholarship \$US \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed \$US \_\_\_\_\_  
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I would like to receive the publications ( ) electronically or ( ) paper

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IASE membership runs from January 1 through December 31 of each calendar year.