

# Annuntiatus

## International Association of Special Education

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



### Namibia in 2011 By Barry Birnbaum

The International Association of Special Education in collaboration with the Faculty of Education at the University of Namibia and the School of Education at Pacific Lutheran University will conduct the 12<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference at the University of Namibia in Windhoek, Namibia on July 10-14, 2011.



**The University of Namibia**

The University of Namibia is a leading public higher education institution with a student population close to 10,000 students each year. Academic programs include agriculture and natural resources, economics and management sciences, education, humanities and social sciences, law, medical sciences and health sciences. A young, but dynamic and committed faculty and competent administrative support staff has earned UNAM a rating of being one of the top rated African Universities.

To date UNAM has graduated over 12,000 students who are serving the country in various sectors of the economy with most occupying prominent positions in the government and private sector.



**Windhoek's Children**

Windhoek is located about 30 minutes from Hosea Kutako International Airport and 5 minutes from Eros Domestic Airport (for travelers within Africa). While most visitors fly from Europe or South

Africa, there are connecting flights from United States (Delta, British Airways, Air Namibia, Lufthansa, South African Airways and Air Berlin have regularly scheduled flights). You can also reach Windhoek by land with luxury buses traveling from Johannesburg and Cape Town in South Africa. Buses are also available from Botswana and Zambia. Most tourists do not need to get a visa to visit Namibia as long as they don't stay longer than 90 days.

There are a number of excellent hotels in Windhoek that are about 5 miles from the university. Many bed and breakfast places are within walking distance of the university. There are also a variety of low cost lodgings within a short, inexpensive taxi ride of the university.

Namibia lies in Southern Africa between Angola and South Africa. It is the youngest country in Africa. With independence from South Africa in 1990, the government introduced far-reaching reforms allocating over 25% of its budget to the education sector to build classrooms and enlarge its teaching force. English is the official language.

Namibia is a desert country of stark beauty with one of the world's wildest coastlines. The terrain is mostly high plateau with the Namib Desert along coast and the Kalahari Desert in east. Namibia contains the tallest and oldest sand dunes in the world (Sossusvlei), the second largest canyon in the world (Fish River Canyon), and one of the largest game reserves in Africa (Etosha National Park).

The sand dunes of Sossusvlei in the Namib Desert are often referred to as the highest dunes in the world. Sossusvlei is one of the most spectacular sights in Namibia. It is located in Naukluff Park, the largest conservation area in Africa, and fourth largest in the world.



**Sossusvlei Dunes**

The Fish River Canyon is one of the most impressive natural beauties in the southern part of Namibia. It developed predominantly during the pluvial times - a rainy climatic epoch - many millions of years ago. With a depth of up to 550 meters, the Fish River Canyon is the second largest canyon in the world, after the Grand Canyon in America. The Fish River Canyon probably formed about 500 million years ago. The gorge was created by water erosion and through the collapse of the valley bottom due to movements in the earth's crust.

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## Volunteering in Visakhapatnam

By Karen Nave

This past summer I had the privilege to volunteer at Lebenshilfe School run by Saraswathi Devi in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India. Lebenshilfe is a school and hostel for over 400 students and adults with varying degrees of cognitive delay. About 100 of the students live on site during the school session.

I was there to work with staff on programming and brainstorming for children with the more severe disabilities and multiple handicaps. We had weekly workshops on Saturdays and discussed communication styles, goal planning in diverse groups, low-cost/no-cost materials, and using games and activities in the classroom.



**Students Playing Ball in Hallway**

The staff was warm, welcoming and receptive to new ideas. I learned as much from them as they did from me. The children were delightful and the staff was kind and helpful.

India has a rich, unique culture and a different reality than rural Montana and it became quite apparent that we take much for granted in the US that cannot be assumed elsewhere in the world.

It was an experience I would not trade for anything, and I intend to continue to volunteer anywhere I might be helpful as often as I can.

Anyone who is considering volunteering through our Volunteer Service Project is welcome to contact me for additional information: [knave@mtintouch.net](mailto:knave@mtintouch.net)

### Dr. M.V.R. Raju Organizing Secretary



IASE member Professor M.V.R. Raju was the organizing Secretary for the 45<sup>th</sup> National and 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Indian Academy of Applied Psychology. The theme of the conference was "Quality of Life and Globalization: Effective Self Care Interventions."

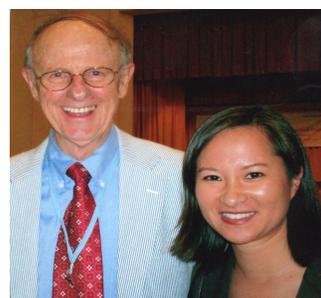
The venue was Andhra University in Visakhapatnam, India. Over 899 registrants participated in this exciting, well-coordinated three-day conference.

Mary Gale Budzisz and Marg Csapo conducted an all day workshop addressing the behavioral needs of special education students. The workshop was conducted as an interactive session. The participants learned how to adapt the strategies to their own situations. They left the session armed with new ideas they were anxious to share with their colleagues.

## Thank You

By Yvonne Bui

Stan Love, a longtime member of IASE and owner of Love Publishing Company in Denver, Colorado, USA, has authorized the Sebastian Kolowa University College (SEKUCO) in Tanzania to use the e-book version of "Exceptional Children in Today's Schools: What Teacher's Need to Know" at no cost to the University. The introductory special education textbook was co-edited by Yvonne Bui and Edward Meyen. Due to the cost and difficulty of transporting hardback copies, this will help to alleviate some of the shortage problems with textbooks. Michelle MacLuckie, IASE Volunteer Service Project Committee member and coordinator of the SEKUCO Project, is working on the logistics of the gift and the technology to install it on campus in Tanzania. The textbook will also be used for the new introduction to special education classes at Mzuzu University in Malawi. Stan has also extended his generosity to Mzuzu University with a 50% discount on the textbooks (which includes the e-version) and free shipping to any site in the U.S. For those of us who have had the honor to know and work with Stan over the years, these gestures are representative of the dedication and commitment that he has towards families and children with disabilities and the special education community.



**Stan Love and Yvonne Bui**

### DID YOU RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Our new membership year began on January 1, 2010. IASE offers a wide variety of exciting opportunities to get involved in worthwhile projects throughout the world. As a member, you will receive this quarterly newsletter. You will also receive our Journal that features articles about special education in various places around the world. You can become an active participant in our Volunteer Service Projects where our members share their expertise with less developed countries. You may also want to serve on a committee and interact on a regular basis with members all over the world.

Prospective members from developing countries may need assistance due to financial need. If you would like to be a new sponsor, please indicate that on the form. For \$20.00 a year you can give an IASE membership to a person who will be thrilled to be a part of the organization. You may also donate to the Marg Csapo Scholarship Fund to enable partial funding for IASE members from developing countries to attend the 2011 Conference.

You may renew by completing the form on the back of this newsletter and sending it in to our Treasurer, Laura Frey. **This will be your last newsletter if you have not paid your 2010 dues.**

### Help Wanted

The editor of the International Journal of Special Education is looking for a volunteer formatter. Its website is [www.internationaljournalofspecialeducation.com](http://www.internationaljournalofspecialeducation.com). There are two or three issues per year. Paul Prangley in New Zealand did a superb job for the last ten years, but unfortunately the time has come when he has other priorities. Anyone familiar with special education, and APA style, and who is willing to help formatting the articles accepted for publication, please reply to Editor, Marg Csapo at: [margcsapo@shaw.ca](mailto:margcsapo@shaw.ca)



**Fish River Canyon**

Etosha National Park is one of Southern Africa's finest and most important Game Reserves. It covers an area of 22, 270 square km, and is home to 114 mammal species, 340 bird species, 110 reptile amphibian species and, surprisingly, one species of fish. The game viewing in Etosha National Park is excellent. Visitors can expect to see many buck species, elephant, giraffe, rhino and lions.



**Etosha National Park**

The best time to travel in Namibia is from May to October when the weather is a little cooler. During July the weather is very comfortable – around 70's during the day and cooler in the evenings.

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### **Volunteers Are Needed for the Conference**

If you are interested in serving on a conference committee, please contact 2011 Conference Chair, Barry Birnbaum at: [barry.birnbaum@waldenu.edu](mailto:barry.birnbaum@waldenu.edu)

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### **IASE Journal** By Morgan Chitiyo

The *JIASE* is a peer-reviewed journal which publishes research articles pertaining to the education of individuals with special needs around the globe. The PRAXIS section of the journal is intended for the dissemination of practical strategies that readers can immediately implement in their classrooms/schools. We, therefore, encourage you to consider submitting research articles or any strategies that you have utilized with students and have found to be effective and of possible interest to others. For further information about submission guidelines, please contact Editor, Morgan Chitiyo at: [mchitiyo@siu.edu](mailto:mchitiyo@siu.edu)

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### **Treasurer's Report**

There is no report for this newsletter. Please contact the Treasurer, Laura Frey at [lmfreyedu@aol.com](mailto:lmfreyedu@aol.com) with any questions.

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### **Oswego Students Invited to Visit Sankalp Centers** By Ginny MacEntee

IASE member, Anu Chadha, invited students from the State University of New York to visit the Sankalp Centers in rural Hisar, north of Delhi. The Sankalp Centers provide education for the children of rag pickers who have not had the opportunity to attend school. The Oswego delegation visited the Centers in January 2010 as part of their studies. EDU 382/GLS 399 was



**Oswego Students at Sankalp Center**

designed to foster an understanding of the relationship between schools and society both in the United States and in India. Visits to the schools in India provided the students with a better understanding of how the Indian education system mirrors, parallels, and contrasts with the American school experiences for disadvantaged students and students with special needs.

During their stay in India the students visited the Faith Foundation School located in the slums at Vasant Vihar, New Delhi. They were surprised to see how well the students were doing and how happy they were.



**Girls Outside the Faith Foundation School**

The next stop was at The Oxford Square School which is dedicated to providing a quality free education to children living in extremely poor conditions in the slum areas of Delhi. Its aim is to brighten the future of these children through education.



**Teachers, Students and Oswego Students  
Outside Oxford Square School in Delhi**

The Oswego students commented that this was a life changing experience for them. They are encouraging their peers to enroll in EDU 381/GLS 399 and visit India next January.

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Two Easy Ways to Renew Your Membership

**By Mail: IASE Treasurer, Laura Frey, Central Michigan University  
Department of Counseling and Special Education – 355 EHS Building  
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48859 USA  
By Email: [Lmfreyedu@aol.com](mailto:Lmfreyedu@aol.com)**

**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 \_\_\_\_\_ Country 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.