

Annuntiatu

International Association of Special Education

The 14th Biennial Conference in Wroclaw, Poland, June 21-25, 2015

Message from IASE President: Final Report

By Paula Leitz

I want to begin with expressing my deepest thanks to the IASE Board, Chairs of committees, volunteers and the entire membership. Without your commitment and support, I do not think we would have accomplished so much over these last two years, however, we did. I believe the potential of this organization is limitless. The IASE has always been close to my heart, as the people in it are so genuine about what they believe in and do. Thank you!

This is my final report as your President as when the February newsletter is published, Dr. Iris Drower will be IASE's President. You will be in very capable hands, indeed. Thinking about what has been accomplished since January 2012, I realize that good work has been done by so many. Mary Gale Budzisz and Marg Csapo have worked diligently to grow our Volunteer Service Projects (VSP). A most notable endeavor was to provide seed money to the Mwayi Trust to begin construction of the Vocational Centre in Blantyre, Malawi. Please visit our website to learn more about this project and many others. Mary Gale and Marg, thank you for all you do for others and for the IASE.

Thanks for the dedication of Rick Freeze as we now have National Chairs for the United Kingdom, India, Pakistan, Sweden, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. The work that Rick has accomplished has allowed this new endeavor of the IASE to move forward.

For the first time in IASE's history, conference delegates now receive a two-year membership and members now receive a membership card. Because of the work of Jim Chapple, our treasurer, and Karen Sealander, our membership chair, all of this was accomplished. Thank you two for all your hard work.

Our website has seen a remarkable transformation. Pictures, videos and increased traffic from around the world (over 100 countries!) have occurred over the last two years. Soon there will be a "Members' Only Page" where recent publications and other members' only information will be shared. Now this is tricky, as I know the Webmaster personally, however, I do believe he needs to be recognized for his service and dedication. Thank you, Steve Leitz, as you have brought IASE into the 21st Century.

A committee comprised of Mary Gale Budzisz, Iris Drower, Jim Chapple, Steve Leitz and myself completed work on an organizational framework and strategic plan for the IASE that will serve as a guide for our work. Another part of this plan involved the development of job descriptions for each person on the leadership team as well as the National Chairs.

Lastly, however, with great appreciation, I want to send out a huge thank you to Shamani-Jeffery Shikwambi for accepting the position of the IASE National Chairs Program Coordinator and to Marcel Lebrun for taking on the Marg Csapo Scholarship Chair position.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the IASE as its President. I have learned so very much, however, more importantly I have worked alongside so many wonderful people. As your soon to be Past-President, I will see you in Poland in 2015.

All my best, Paula

Capacity Building ... Spread the Word

By Iris Drower

There is so much to do in IASE, and the organization is so alive and vibrant that there are always wonderful people with whom to work. I am always thankful for the opportunity.

As I reflect on the last two years I am amazed at the qualified and energized leaders within our management team and extended Board. We have worked diligently to lay out our organization's expectations in our strategic plan. We are looking forward to welcoming and carrying out this new leadership and vision over the next four years.

I want to touch on my first point....there is so much to do in IASE. As stated in the first part of our mission, IASE promotes professional exchange among special educators and encourages international cooperation and collaboration all over the world. So how do we as an association promote what we do collaboratively around the world? My answer is one member at a time.

So, for this upcoming year I now challenge you to take every opportunity to talk about what we do and how it impacts others. I challenge you to talk to your family members at gatherings. I challenge you to work with your children's teachers or grandchildren's teachers in order to spread the word about how they can become part of this vibrant organization. I further challenge you to take any other opportunity that presents itself to promote our organization and our profession. I know if you take the challenge, it will be rewarding!



Jummai from Nigeria and Helvecia from Cameroon share their perspectives about leadership at the Empeace Lab in India.

I took this opportunity at an Empeace Workshop in Jalgaon, INDIA, to present our mission to young entrepreneurs from 14 African countries. We engaged in an open dialogue about the needs of youth in their respective countries. Just on the basis of some of the comments made by several of these bright and upcoming social entrepreneurs during our exchange, I knew they learned some positive aspects about our IASE. If we take opportunities like these to dialogue, then we build our capacity and in turn make a difference one person at a time. The outcome for IASE will be that I am going to sponsor at least three new IASE members. I challenge each of you to do the same I am proud to be a part of such a great community of professionals!

Mwayi Trust's Vocational Training Centre Growing!

By Sandra Trevethan

It is with great pleasure that we can report that the work on our 'inclusive' Vocational Training Centre (VTC) is progressing. As the pictures below demonstrate, the building is now up to the roofing stage. The roof trusses are up and the window frames and roof are the next to go up.



A local crew using minimal scaffolding to construct a wall of the building.



The building as it looks with the trusses...ready for a roof, windows and doors.

We were very lucky to have a contingent of four IASE members Marg Csapo, Mary Gale Budzisz, Scott Adams and Carol Coronis visit us for two weeks to volunteer with two projects. The first were the Patron's and Peer Educator's workshops and the second actually working at the building site. Their input was fantastic. At the workshops they taught the Patrons (teachers who volunteer to supervise the Homework Centers after school) and the Peer Educators how to make quilts, papier-mâché fish and mosaics using locally available resources, so in turn they can teach the learners at their Homework Centers. Everybody had a great time and the learners will definitely benefit from the IASE volunteers' input. I need to say that the volunteers had to stay in less than desirable accommodations during the four days of workshops as we stayed at an Army Secondary School where the amenities were definitely not 4*. I am sure though that they learned a lot and will remember all their experiences with the young people and the teachers with fondness.



Volunteer Scott Adams (in cap near center back row) and volunteer Carol Coronis (right end of back row) pose with the local women helpers and their children.

IASE volunteers worked relentlessly at the building site for four hours each day for one week sorting and moving bricks for the bricklayers. This may sound like an easy job but it was back-breaking, especially since the average age of these women is 70 years! They were wonderful and in the process had the opportunity to meet many local women (employed by the builders to carry water in buckets on their heads!!) and children.



Local women carried the water nearly 1/2 mile (on their heads) to use for mixing the mortar.

We are still looking for funds to complete the VTC, but without the support of IASE, we could not have started this project. The people of Chileka give their sincere thanks to IASE as they understand the opportunities and impact this Centre will have for their youth. Again thank you IASE and enjoy the pictures.

Sandra Trevethan, Executive Director and IASE member

IASE Treasurer's Report

November 3, 2013

Here are the account balances in both IASE bank accounts:

Bank of America

Checking	\$116,837.95
Savings	\$100,477.47
TOTAL	\$217,315.42

Chase

Checking	\$6,518.54
Savings	\$48,097.30
TOTAL	\$54,615.84

GRAND TOTAL: \$271,931.26

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Chapple

Help with IASE Website

If you have tech skills and have worked on managing websites, IASE is looking for you! Our current webmaster, Steve Leitz, will need help as he also will be our treasurer as of January 1st, 2014. If interested, please contact IASE President, Paula Leitz, at: leitzph@plu.edu.

Thank you!

THANKS to Curriculum Associates for providing FREE OF COST the *Brigance Early Childhood Developmental Inventory* to all of our Vietnam Volunteer Service Project sites. At the present time, most of these site personnel are translating some of the assessment tools into Vietnamese! We sincerely thank Frank Ferguson, CEO of Curriculum Associates, located in North Billerica, Massachusetts, USA, for these gifts....to share the legacy of Albert Brigance around the world.

An Introduction to our New Volunteer Service Project Sites in Vietnam

By Mary Gale Budzisz

On a March 2013 trip to Vietnam by IASE Volunteers Virginia MacEntee, Marg Csapo, Iris Drower, Kathy Daquilanea and me ... we confirmed the addition of four new IASE Volunteer Service Project (VSP) sites. IASE Member Sharon "Roni" Chavez organized the internal travel and appointments that wasted no minutes in solidifying these sites.



Dr. Giang, on the right, with students and volunteers.

Dr. Phan Thieu Xian Giang of the Santa Maria Clinic in Ho Chi Minh City has requested assistance in training on skills and techniques to perform assessments for his clients. We spent time training his students in the Brigance Early Childhood Developmental Inventory and then capped off the tour with a memorable night at the local Karaoke, starring Dr. Giang!



Hoang Thi Nga and Marg Csapo share a laugh while using finger puppets.

The Hochiminh City University of Education under the guidance of Dean Le Thi Minh Ha has requested training in the area of assessment. Their Faculty of Education was established in 2003 and since that time has trained 261 students who have been teaching and working in the field of special education. Hoang Thi Nga, Deputy Dean, and Vo Thi My Dung, Lecturer, showed us their well-equipped campus classroom.

The Office of Genetic Counseling and Disabled Children located at the Hue College of Medicine and Pharmacy in the city of Hue is coordinated by Dr. Nguyen Viet Nhan. He is interested in teacher training. Phuong Anh took us to visit their Early Intervention Centre for children with autism and also to the Duc Son Care Orphanage to meet the children whom they are helping.



Iris Drower is sharing an activity with children at The Dien Ban Day Centre.

Our visit this year to the brand new Dien Ban Dien Day Centre that is managed by the Kianh Foundation in the city of Hoi An and directed by Jackie Waffer was awe inspiring. It is a fabulous new building with



an exceptionally well trained staff. Ms. Waffer is requesting speech therapy, conductive education and skills as tools to provide a more effective transition in to the community.

These sites will be soon added to our www.iase.org and if you are interested in volunteering please let me know at mgbudzisz@aol.com.

Virginia MacEntee teaches a child at the Early Intervention Centre how to use finger puppets.

Save the Date!

The 14th Biennial conference will be held on June 21-25, 2015, in Wroclaw, Poland!

The theme of this conference will be "New Dimensions Toward Education, Advocacy, and Collaboration for Individuals with Special Needs" and will take place at the University of Lower Silesia. The call for presentations will be out in January 2014 and proposals will be due on October 1, 2014. Dr. Malgorzata Sekulowicz and Dr. Jim Chapple will be the conference co-chairs and have been working to begin preparations for this event. Dr. Jim Chapple and Dr. Morgan Chiffyo will serve as the program co-chairs and are seeking program reviewers. Watch for more details on the IASE website.



International Association of Special Education

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New Dimensions Toward Education, Advocacy, and Collaboration for Individuals with Special Needs
Wroclaw, Poland, June 21-25, 2015

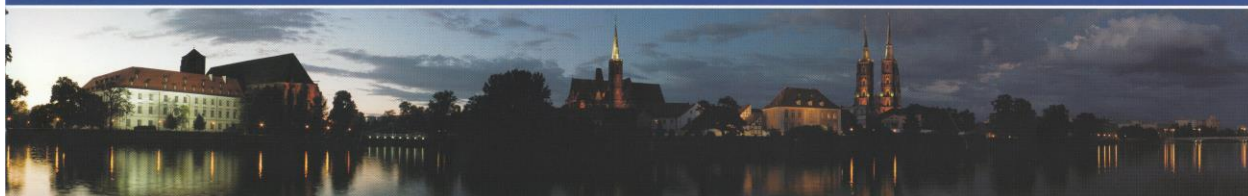


Photo: pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wroclaw

Featured Topics Include

Delivery services
Teacher leadership
Professional roles & ethics in special education
Service learning
Technology & society
Emotional, behavioral & social development
Teacher training world-wide
Early intervention

Collaborative practices & inclusion
Administrative advocacy, policy & procedure development
Distance learning
Life transitions
Support services
Education, family, school & community partnerships
Life-long learning

Organizers

International Association of Special Education
and University of Lower Silesia, Wrocław

Co-Chairs

Professor Małgorzata Sekułowicz, University of Lower Silesia,
Wrocław, Poland
Professor James Chapple, Ashland University, Ohio, USA

The Call for Proposals will be announced at www.iase.org.



University of Lower Silesia

