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INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
The 15th Biennial Conference in Perth, Western Australia June 25 - 29, 2017

President's Message

By Iris Drower

It is hard to believe that the **14th Biennial Conference in Wroclaw, Poland** has come and gone. With a remarkable Welcome Reception catered in style by Michael Szaor at the University of Lower Silesia, to the decadent gala dinner at the Wroclaw Congress Center at Centennial Hall, the breath taking light and sound fountain show and our closing celebrations all provided a picture of the IASE journey. I personally want to thank Professor Gosia Malgorzata Sekulowicz and Dr. Jim Chapple for a job well done. Additional thanks go out to everyone behind the scenes who have worked tirelessly to make this conference an overwhelming success.

Let us take another look at the picture we have assembled over the years. Right in the middle is our IASE journey, and supporting it are our initiatives in terms of improving the affordability, the accessibility, and the quality of special education around the world. We do this to ensure that all individuals are future-ready, and this is a particularly exciting part of our work. We have built a momentum of continuous improvements, and we are committed to sustaining this journey towards excellence. We want to continue to leverage on strong partnerships with our VSP sites, families, and communities to deliver exceptional special education services, providing hope and opportunities to all of our students.

It is my great privilege to stand with all of you united on this front. Let us continue this important work together to embrace new possibilities and future challenges. Success will open hearts and minds to new possibilities for all people. Much has been done, much remains, but we must keep moving on.

Golebiak, Vice Rector of the University of Lower Silesia, provide remarks at the Welcoming Reception. Prof. Robert Kwasnica, Rector of the University of Lower Silesia and Prof. Mirosława Nowak-Dziemianowicz, Dean of the Pedagogical Faculty of the University of Lower Silesia welcomed all during the Opening Plenary Session. The University staff and students assisted with all of the arrangements regarding the facilities which made the conference run very smoothly.



Conference participants represented their various countries by dressing up for the Gala Dinner

Our keynote speakers, Professor Iwona Chrzanowska, Susan Conners and Kevin Spencer provided us with thought provoking and stimulating messages on each of the three days of the conference. This year we also offered four showcase sessions. The presenters were: Dr. John Wheeler, Dr. Stacy Carter, Dr. Richard Villa, Dr. Jacqueline Thousand, Dr. Emily Collins, Dr. Mary Kealy, Dr. Mark Francis, Dr. Nick Burnett, Hazel Chang, Roni Chavez, Dr. Sarah Devi, Dr. Ambumulire N. Phiri, Sally Mohamedali, Mary Gale Budzisz, and Dr. Iris Drower. These showcase sessions allowed for more in depth study of topics of interest for the conference. Throughout the three conference days, delegates were able to select from a variety of lectures, round tables, multiple presentations and poster sessions. Thank you to all of our conference presenters.

For the first time we also offered a dedicated room for the IASE Volunteer Service Projects. This site was a bustle of activity throughout the entire conference and was quite popular with conference attendees. Thank you to all of those who assisted with setting up, manning and hosting sessions in the VSP room. I am sure this will become a permanent part of all future IASE conferences. A special thank you to Mary Gale Budzisz, Marg Csapo and all of the other VSP coordinators and volunteers.

Last, I would like to thank **Prof Malgorzata Sekulowicz** and **Agnieszka Sekulowicz**, conference co-chairs for their tireless energy before, during and after the conference. They attended to every detail and were gracious hosts for all IASE delegates. Their dedication made the 14th Biennial IASE conference a huge success. Good luck to Dianne Chambers and Sally Mohamedali as they begin planning the 15th Biennial Conference in Perth, Australia for 2017!

SAVE THE DATE

15th IASE Biennial Conference

Perth,
Western Australia

June 25th – 29th
2017

14th Biennial Conference is History

By Jim Chapple

The 14th biennial conference of the International Association of Special Education is now history. This conference was held in Wroclaw, Poland on June 21-25th at the University of Lower Silesia. We are happy to announce that 290 delegates from 31 different countries around the world attending this event. Thanks to all of those who attended, participated and/or helped with this memorable event.

A special thank you to the **University of Lower Silesia** staff and administration for being so generous with their wonderful facilities. All meeting room space, audio-visual equipment and personnel were donated by the University as they co-sponsored this engaging and stimulating professional development opportunity. We were honored to have Prof. dr hab. Boguslaw Silwerski, Chairman of the Education Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences, and Prof. Dorota

Vietnam Volunteer Service Project Site Visit

By Roni Chavez

On March 16-17, 2015, over 85 teachers, parents and caregivers participated in a two-day workshop convened at the **Ho Chi Minh City University of Pedagogy**. Iris Drower and Mary Gale Budzisz conducted this IASE Volunteer Service Project (VSP) activity and I had the pleasure of helping for a few hours. The classes originally began in a small room, but soon had to be moved to a larger facility...because the supposed number of 35 ballooned to the larger number. We were very happy to see so many eager participants who were ready to learn and experience new teaching methods. The title of the workshop was "Teaching Social Skills for Children with Autism" which included role playing social skills and incorporating those skills in play activities for children. The attendees wrote and shared social stories, were introduced to hands-on-activities using toy trains, cars, building blocks, bibliotherapy story books and a variety of manipulatives. All items used for the workshop were given to the University for their Teacher Resource Room.



Workshop participants demonstrating how to coach a child with autism when using toy trains for play

On Wednesday, March 18 we flew to Hue to visit the projects sponsored by the **Office of Genetic Counseling and Disabled Children (OGCDC)** from the Hue University of Medicine and Pharmacy. Staff welcomed us at the airport and then took us to Nam Dong which is about 60 kilometers south of Hue.

We were shown the new acreage that Dr. Nhan, Chair of OGDC, plans to use for agricultural purposes. He is in the process of building a boarding house for young adults who will be taught the skills to raise pigs and plant crops that they will raise and then sell. When we returned to Hue we stopped to visit a new OGDC site near the Citadel which was being converted into an early intervention center. Our meeting with Dr. Nhan at his office included a discussion about his future plans and how the IASE Volunteer Service Project can collaborate.

Our next stop was in Hoi An to see Jackie Wrafter at her **Dien Ban Day Centre**. Using the "wish list" prepared by her and her staff, we were able to shop for items that they need plus purchase two new sturdy bicycles for the students. This school continues to be model for special education...it is a fantastic place and the smiles on the faces of all...including students and staff...are proof.

The last day back in Ho Chi Minh City was a shopping expedition for the **Santa Maria Clinic**. Meeting with Dr. Giang and his psychologists is always a pleasant time. We learned a lot from them as they shared what they are doing for their clients and we hosted a St. Patrick's Day Party for them. This whole whirlwind trip was another special learning experience for me and I am happy to be the VSP Point Person in Vietnam.

Attention all Regular Members of IASE: We need your help!

By Karen Nave

We had a wonderful conference in Poland this summer. As a result of the enthusiasm and interest, we have also had a flurry of new member requests. Among them are several from developing economies who are unable to afford the membership fee and are in need of sponsors. At this time we have assigned all of our current sponsors with other members and we are in need of additional sponsors.

If you wish to sponsor one (or more!) members, we have added a new feature on our webpage to facilitate doing so. Just go to iase.org, click on membership and follow the instructions. The cost is \$20.00 USD per sponsored member. You will be notified as to the name and country of your sponsored person.

Treasurer's Report

By Steve Leitz

We raised \$4415 at our silent and live auctions at the 14th Biennial Conference. Thank you delegates for your contributions and Sal Zimmerman for coordinating the events. This money goes into our Marg Csapo Scholarship Fund to assist IASE members from developing nations to attend our conference. After paying for the registrations and lodging of eight deserving delegates at our recent conference, there is \$11,188 in this dedicated amount.

As of July 31, 2015, IASE had expended \$8265 of its 2015 General Fund Budget which is 30% of the approved of \$27,115. Additionally, nearly \$40,000 has been expended from our GIVING/Volunteer Service Project (VSP) account which funds support training activities and supplies at our 20 VSP sites. The combined account balance is \$264,052.

National Chair Representation at Conference

Six of our nine IASE National Chairs attended the Biennial Conference in Poland. For most, it was the first time to meet each other. IASE National Chair Coordinator, Shamani-Jeffery Shikwambi, facilitated a roundtable discussion session in which they shared experiences from their respective countries. Each presenter explained how they were promoting IASE in their role as a National Chair. Shamani also presented IASE bags to each representative. President Iris Drower hosted a dinner in their honor at a local Polish Restaurant.



From the left: Girma Berhanu (Sweden), Yousaf Masih (Pakistan), Chair Shamani-Jeffery Shikwambi, Tolulope Eni-Olorunda (Nigeria), Swaleha Mohamedali (Tanzania) and Meng Deng (China).
Not pictured: Ambumulire N. Phiri (Malawi)

Mzuzu University: Building Capacity and Professional Expertise in Inclusive Education

By Dr. Fartun Mohamud

I had the pleasure of returning home to Africa and volunteering with International Association of Special Education (IASE) Volunteer Service Project (VSP) on July 3-7, 2015 at Mzuzu University in Mzuzu, Malawi. With the \$15,000 US from the IASE VSP GIVING Fund, Mzuzu University has established an Inclusive Education Center as an approach for advocacy and collaboration for students with diverse learning needs. The Department of Education at Mzuzu University perceived the center model as an efficient, effective and viable means for community engagement that responds to societal needs relevant for Malawi. The concept was based on Mzuzu University's mission to provide high quality education, training research and complementary services that meet the technological, social and economic needs of individuals and community in Malawi.

This commitment to inclusive education for students with disabilities was born out of the collaborative Volunteer Service Project between IASE and Mzuzu University. As part of the mission of the Inclusive Education Center and with the support of IASE VSP, the Department of Education and Teaching Studies at Mzuzu University organized a two day Train-the-Trainer Professional Development (PD) Model for local special education Resource Teachers.



Ambumulire N. Phiri, Fartun Mohamud, Iris Drower and two young ladies from Jubilee House in Mzuzu, Malawi who sewed the VSP workshop bags.

During these two days, I had the honor of co-facilitating these critically important topics: **"How to Make Learning Visible Through Social Skills"** with Mary Gale Budzisz, IASE VSP Co-coordinator, and Dr. Iris Drower, IASE President, plus an **"Albinism Awareness"** session with Mr. Boniface Massa, the Chairperson of the Association of Persons with Albinism in the country of Malawi.

The workshop participants expressed gratitude in gaining new knowledge about Albinism and the need for explicit teaching of social skills and establishing an inclusive environment in the classroom and community for ALL students. To this I add, we also learned much from the participants' "compassion and passion" for teaching and learning.

At the end of our short two days together, with renewed commitment and the focused purpose of building an inclusive and collaborative culture at their designated school sites, each resource teacher completed an Action Plan with specific goals of implementation of skills gained and action steps. A sampling of their goals include, Provide Teaching Social Skills and Albinism Awareness PD for Teachers at their school sites with follow up mentoring and coaching in the classrooms and to Conduct Albinism Awareness sessions for parents and community members.

This whole experience was a collaborative effort and serving as critical team members for our volunteer work and champions of inclusive education in Malawi were the numerous faculty and administrators from Mzuzu University including, but not limited to, Dr. Sam Safuli, Mr. Enwood Sangoma, Ms. Febbie Chibambo, Head of the Education Department, and Dr. Simeon Gwayi, Dean of the School of Education. I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize and extend a special THANK YOU to Mr. Boniface Massa and the CCAP Synod of Livingstonia Education Commission for arranging our visits to the St. Maria Goleta School for Learners with Visual Impairment, Bandawe School for Learners with Hearing Impairment and Bandawe Girls Secondary School. Thanks to all of the students, teachers and administrators at these schools for opening their doors for our visit and reminding us that it takes a global village to raise a child for the benefit of humanity. I plan to return to Mzuzu University in the near future and provide continued support to IASE's efforts of expanding inclusive education in Malawi and beyond.



Ambumulire N. Phiri on the left with the group of workshop participants.



Watch an IASE conference video created by Agnes Sekulowicz and her local team at the University of Lower Silesia, Wroclaw, Poland.

www.facebook.com/IASEorg

Applications Invited for Website Administrator

IASE is looking for a member to fill the position of website administrator. If interested, please submit a letter of interest with your background and skill set. Email the letter to Iris Drower at iris.drower@asu.edu or post to PO Box 2159, Mesa, AZ 85214 AND to Steve Leitz at stevenleitz@gmail.com or post to 8220 67th St. Ct. N.W., Gig Harbor, WA 98335.

International Association of Special Education 14th Biennial General Membership Meeting Agenda By Beatrice Adera

The 14th Biennial General Membership meeting was called to order by President, Iris Drower on June 23, 2015 at 8:30 AM. There was a quorum present. Paula Leitz moved that the minutes of the 13th Biennial General Membership Meeting held in Vancouver, British Columbia in July 2013 and published in the Annuntiatius Newsletter Summer 2013 be accepted. Jim Chapple seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Iris Drower - President

Iris shared that the primary mission of IASE is to improve the quality of life and service delivery for all individuals with special needs. This involves promoting awareness, exchange of ideas and research, encouraging collaboration and adoption of positive educational practices and services for individuals with disabilities around the world. The responsibility of the President during their tenure is to build capacity and work towards more sustainable solutions for the organization. Iris Drower discussed the fact that the face of IASE is changing and the organization is becoming truly international given that we have many people from developing countries [specific figures to be reported by membership chair]. She noted that as we approach our 30 year celebration [which will take place during our 15th Biennial conference in 2017], we will continue to build on the fine foundation and support of our current officers and extended board members. The majority of the committee positions for this year have been filled, however, IASE is still looking for more people to volunteer. In reference to membership, the organization is currently close to 500 members (with a strong percentage of members from developing economies) compared to the 2013 membership that totaled only 343. This increase in membership is mainly due to the new forms of communication being used, collaborative efforts of the Membership Chair, VSP project coordinators, Treasurer, National Chair Coordinator and the respective National Chairs, interest in the Biennial Conferences and on-going website updates.

Jim Chapple – President-Elect

The major focus and role of President-Elect is to serve as co-chair for the Conference. This was the major focus for the past year and a half and will continue to be the main activity until the end of his term. Jim Chapple served as co-chair of the conference with the mother and daughter team of Gosia and Agnes Sekulowicz. The main responsibility of the conference co-chairs was to ensure that all agreements were in place, process the conference program, confirm that all hotels were okay and all logistics associated with the conference venue at University of Lower Silesia, Wroclaw Poland. The local arrangements committee helped support the different facets of the program and a big thank you to the students and faculty of the University who were very generous to volunteer their time, make contributions that helped financially, provided the rooms and continued to help with conference logistics.

Steve Leitz – Treasurer.

IASE in healthy standing – the year started at \$253,000 and currently \$312,000 in the bank before paying conference bills. The year to year general budget has currently stabilized at \$20,000 dollars a year supported mainly by our membership dues and used to cover administrative costs including mailing. A 40% budget reduction has been reported by going greener and also through electronic delivery of the newsletter. Any additional funds we brought in besides membership dues will be directed towards supporting our Volunteer Service Projects – this includes profits from the biennial conference, donations and any other funds. This year we budgeted \$56,000 for volunteer service sites.

Steve noted that IASE provided healthy support for the Inclusive Education Center at Mzuzu University in Malawi and also supported the Mwayi Trust Vocational Training Centre construction in Malawi. Additionally funds have been budgeted for all 20 volunteer sites. He also discussed the need for the board to explore ways to hold targeted donation campaigns in the coming years to support specific sites. He also reported that the website administrator is continuing to update the VSP pages on the website to inform members and visitors about each site.

Steve Leitz – Website Administrator

The primary job of the Web Administrator is to respond to the Board members and Committee Chairs who are responsible for the various website pages. Current focus is to try providing more opportunities on the website by building the pay-pal portal to support payment of membership dues and conference fees. Also, we are trying to add more information/adding photos of visits to different sites and activities so you can see the good work IASE is doing around the world. We are looking for a volunteer to take over the website administration.

Paula Leitz – Past President

Paula worked on developing the slate for new board members and was also involved with a committee that was reviewing and updating IASE's Constitution and By-Laws. The final proposed amendments will be presented to the membership for a full vote during the 2017 conference in Perth, Australia.

Karen Nave - Membership

Karen shared that current membership is 503 with 56% from countries other than the US. We also have 60 members who are sponsored by other members of IASE. Anyone interested in sponsoring other members can submit extra sponsorship fees to the treasurer. Also, emails encouraging lapsed members to renew their membership have been sent.

Renata Ticha - Newsletter Editor

Reported that the newsletter is transitioning from paper copy to electronic dissemination and with time, many IASE members are selecting the e-option. This has saved the organization in terms of newsletter printing and postage expenses considering that postage has gone up over the past two years. Currently, approximately 50% of newsletters are being disseminated electronically. Renata will be transitioning to her new position as the IASE Journal Co-Editor and will work with the incoming newsletter editorial team to assure a smooth transition.



Attendees at the Biennial conference in Poland

Mary Gale Budzisz - Volunteer Service Project [VSP]

Mary Gale Budzisz reported that the organization currently has 20 established volunteer sites in 6 developing nations. She indicated that each site is unique and there are no identical sites. She also reported that during the last two years, June of 2013 to the present, that the VSP expenditure has been \$59,553 to support the Volunteer Service Project (VSP) sites by purchasing items needed at the sites. Below is the breakdown of the different expenditures:

- From July to December 2013 – we spent \$ 4,500 to provide a number of items requested by the different VSP sites via their wish list outlining what will be good for them.
- Jan-Dec. 2014 - \$24,600 was spent for VSP sites in Tanzania (Jaffery Academy, Toa Nafasi, Diana Women, Pediatric Occupational Programme); Malawi (Mzuzu University and Mwayi Trust); India (Vimukti, Lebenshilfe, Don Bosco, Sankalp); Vietnam (HCMC University, OGCDC, Santa Maria Clinic, Dien Ban Day Centre) and Bangladesh (Hope for Life, Nowzuwan and Songshoptaque). We are looking for self funding volunteers to travel to our volunteer sites.
- Sept. 2014 the VSP and GIVING accounts were collapsed into the VSP dedicated account.
- March 2014 - a new VSP brochure was developed in 2014 and proposals for various VSP Sessions were submitted for the 2015 IASE Conference;
- Jan-May of 2015 - \$15,953.06 spent for VSP sites in Tanzania (Jaffery Academy, Toa Nafasi, and Diana Women); India (Vimukti and Lebenshilfe); Vietnam (HCMC University, OGCDC, Santa Maria Clinic, and Dien Ban Day Centre). Malawi: \$15,000 given to Mzuzu University to create an Inclusive Center and \$10,000 given to Mwayi Trust to continue finishing construction of the Vocational Centre in Blantyre Total=\$35,953.06.

In addition, Mary Gale Budzisz reported that a team of volunteers conducted a collaborative workshop in-Arusha, Tanzania. The Volunteer Service Project (VSP) and the IASE National Chair Project shared the costs. Sally Mohamedali the CEO of the VSP site at Jaffery Academy and also the IASE National Chair of Tanzania, organized representatives from 18 of the Special Education Regions in Tanzania. Another VSP Workshop was conducted at HCMC Education University in Vietnam last March. She reported that all IASE volunteers from the USA use Intellicorp services to check backgrounds. Mary Gale noted that different countries have their own background check requirements and IASE volunteers will comply with the requirements of their respective countries. She also reported that IASE is in the process of gathering information to help start writing a book about the VSP and all the great things that different sites and volunteers are doing. Letters and inquiry forms for collecting data and stories about the VSP have been sent out to respective site personnel and volunteers to begin gathering information needed for writing as book.

Mary Gale Budzisz - Archive

Archival materials are being collected to preserve the history of IASE. These could be copies of past newsletters, journals, articles, stories, photos, etc.

Shamani Shikwambi - National Chair

The following countries have National Chairs: China, India, Malawi, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sweden, Tanzania, United Kingdom, and Zimbabwe. National Chairs to continue sharing information about IASE and Mr. Shikwambi will continue outreach to National Chairs across the globe and support their work and IASE mission.

New Business Announcements

President Drower introduced the newly elected IASE Board members who will take office on January 1, 2016:

President-Elect: Swaleha G. Mohamedali (Tanzania)

Secretary: Beatrice Adera (USA)

Treasurer: Steve Leitz (USA)

Member-at-Large: Roni Chavez (Vietnam)

Member-at-Large: Ambumulire N. Phiri (Malawi)

Member-at-Large: Dianne Chambers (Australia)

Jim Chapple will move to the Presidency and Iris Drower will become Past-President.



Newly elected IASE Board Members: Steve Leitz, Beatrice Adera, Swaleha G. Mohamedali, Roni Chavez, Ambumulire N. Phiri, and Dianne Chambers

Special Volunteer Service Project Awards were awarded by Mary Gale Budzisz and Marg Csapo. VSP Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to volunteers and coordinators who have served at VSP sites during the last two years. Mary Gale Budzisz and Iris Drower presented Bernadeta Szczupal, a Professor at the Maria Grzegorzewska University in Warsaw, Poland, an award to recognize her commitment and dedication in translating a number of IASE Journal articles into Polish for circulation in Poland throughout the last 10 years.

President Drower introduced Diane Chambers. Diane announced that the 15th IASE Biennial Conference will convene on June 25-29, 2017 at the University of Notre Dame Australia, on the Fremantle campus, located a short distance from Perth. A video presentation about Perth in Western Australia was shown for the audience. A Save The Date flyer was distributed.

Adjournment

Paula Leitz moved and Jim Chapple seconded the motion for adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 AM.

Featured Member



Le Thi Minh Ha has been an outstanding IASE member for four years. A Doctor of Psychology from Hanoi University of Education, Minh Ha is a driving force of special education in Vietnam. She has co-written several textbooks and reference books that are used in universities all over Vietnam.

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Roni Chavez
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Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam



Renew Your IASE Membership

Please print information clearly:

Name: Last _____ First _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State / Province:** _____ **Postal Code:** _____

Country: _____ **E-mail:** _____

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): _____ **Date:** _____

Signature of Cardholder: _____

By Mail: IASE Treasurer
Steve Leitz
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If you have special needs that require the journal or newsletter to be sent to you electronically, please note that here.
IASE membership runs from January 1 through December 31 of each calendar year.