

# Annuntiatus

## International Association of Special Education

The 14<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference in Wroclaw, Poland, June 21-25, 2015

### President's Message

By Iris Drower

These are truly exciting times for the International Association of Special Education (IASE). Our role is becoming increasingly more complex because many of our members are recognizing the importance of global engagement and sustainability around the world. The depth and scope of this engagement has been demonstrated through increasing membership with schools, universities, and people creating a wide variety of international representation. We have the challenge of supporting and applying best practices and coordinating many of these initiatives that have championed and lead others to make decisions that best meet the needs of their students, faculty, and the communities they represent.

One such project is the Inclusive Centre at Mzuzu University, another is developing Regional Workshops run by National Chairs in their countries, and, of course, engaging IASE members at the upcoming 14th Biennial Conference entitled: **New Dimensions toward Education, Advocacy and Collaboration for Individuals with Special Needs.**

As we move forward, let us continue to commit to engaging globally, building capacity within our organization and developing sustainable solutions for education of all children and young adults. Come join us at our **14th Biennial Conference in Wroclaw, Poland**, and engage in solutions toward education, and advocate and collaborate toward opportunities for all children and young adults with special needs throughout the world. It is truly the knowledge and solutions that we share today that will shape the quality of life for future generations. We have an opportunity and an obligation to make our world a more sustainable place. I look forward to many engaging conversations.

See you in Poland!

### 14th Biennial Conference is Coming!

By Jim Chapple

It is hard to believe that the conference is about 220 days away!!! There is much to do, so please read the articles about the conference in this newsletter. Also, it is important for you to check the IASE website ([www.iase.org](http://www.iase.org)) as there is a great deal of information about many aspects of the conference. The conference chairs (Gosia and Agnes Sekułowicz and I) are working diligently to plan not only a rewarding professional experience for you, but also a social and networking experience that will make many lasting memories.

The program is coming together!! We have had over 340 proposals submitted from 36 different countries! Morgan Chitiyo, the Program Co-Chair, and I met to review and begin to slot proposals that have been peer reviewed. A huge thank you to the many peer reviewers who volunteered to read each proposal and give some professional feedback on the selection for our program. Primary presenters will be notified by December 1, 2014, if their proposal has been selected and ALL presenters will need to register for the conference by February 1, 2015, to be included in the program. This year, along with our three Plenary Session keynoters we are highlighting five invited Showcase Sessions each of which will be two hours in length. You will find these timely and exciting topics related to the theme of our conference.

We have arranged for two educational all-day tours that you might want to consider on Thursday, June 25th. You will have a choice of a tour visiting three schools in the Wroclaw area or taking a tour to the Society of Saint Celestine Rehabilitation Center in Strzelin. These tours are at an additional charge to cover the bus and lunch costs. Check them out on the IASE website. Be sure to register early as I know they will be popular.

Accommodations in Wroclaw are available at six different hotels across all price ranges. Please read the descriptions and how to make your hotel reservations as each of them have their own process. Make sure you check the deadline for making a reservation in order to get the conference prices. I think you will find one that is within your budget!



IASE Conference Planning Committee: Jim Chapple, Gosia and Agnes Sekułowicz

For those who have more time and want to be more adventuresome in areas in and around Poland, we have made arrangements with Wroclaw Travel Services for six sightseeing tours. You can register for those sightseeing tours on the IASE website. If you are selecting one of the overnight tours, be sure to provide your full name (as it appears on your passport) and your date of birth. The travel agent will need that information as he is making the preparations for those trips. I am sure you will agree that there are some wonderful opportunities for sightseeing. Each trip has a minimum number of people required to attend.

Just a friendly reminder ... bring something to donate to the Silent and Live Auctions. Items representative of your hometown, your region, or your country are always welcome. The Silent Auction will take place on each of the three conference days and our "honorary auctioneers" will host the Live Auction at the Gala! Sal Zimmerman is in charge of the Silent and Live Auctions, so look for his article in the newsletter.

The Children's Art Exhibit is another exciting event at our conference. Please try to obtain some art to add to our exhibit. It's wonderful to see artwork done by students with exceptional needs. Kathy Brown and Clarissa Rosa have an article in the newsletter with more details.

Well, enough of the teasers about the upcoming June 2015 conference in Wroclaw, Poland. I am sure you will agree that you do not want to miss this one! Watch for more information in future newsletters. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or need additional information, but remember the website ([www.iase.org](http://www.iase.org)) is full of helpful tidbits. Jim Chapple at [chappjw@aol.com](mailto:chappjw@aol.com) or my mobile number is 440.225.1547.

## Gala Extravaganza at the 14<sup>th</sup> Biennial IASE

### Conference

By Jim Chapple

The Gala for the 14th Biennial IASE Conference will be held at the Centennial Hall in Wrocław, Poland. Centennial Hall is a unique venue on the map of Poland, where history harmoniously interacts with modernity. It was designed by Max Berg, an outstanding city architect, and recognized as one of the top masterpieces of the 20th century architecture. The designer assumed that the Hall was to serve citizens and visitors to Wrocław, the capital city of Lower Silesia. It continues to perform this function successfully.



Centennial Hall in Wrocław, Poland

Multi-purpose space, unusual structure, and the unique and spacious location represent just a few of its' strengths. The Centennial Hall complex currently is one of the most desired venues among domestic and foreign organizers for major exhibitions, conferences, cultural, sport and congress events. The Hall's inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2006 emphasized the rank of this facility. Undoubtedly, it is one of the most characteristic flagships of Wrocław on an international scale, and an exceptionally magical site in the city where the charts of history record its multi-generational experience.

The evening will be filled with a delicious dinner of traditional Polish cuisine, entertainment, a cash bar, our annual live auction to raise money for the Marg Csapo Scholarship, and the evening will be capped off with a spectacular fountain lightshow. Bus transportation will be provided to and from the gala. We encourage participants to dress in traditional clothing from their home country.

### Children's Art for IASE Conference

The Children's Art Committee is requesting donations of art works by children with disabilities for the 2015 conference in Wrocław, Poland. The art pieces may be 2 dimensional or 3 dimensional items, small enough to fit in a suitcase. These items will be displayed and sold at a Silent Auction with proceeds going to the IASE Marg Csapo Scholarship Fund. Each artist will receive a certificate of recognition as well as photographs of the display. We are asking National Chairs to assist us in soliciting at least 3 works of art by children with disabilities in their region. In previous years, the children's art display has been a beautiful and heartwarming component to this international conference. We hope to continue this lovely tradition. For more information contact Kathleen Brown [k-brown5@neu.edu](mailto:k-brown5@neu.edu) or Clarissa Rosas [clarissa.rosas@msj.edu](mailto:clarissa.rosas@msj.edu).

### Call for 2019 Biennial Site Proposals

IASE is soliciting site proposals for the 2019 Biennial Conference. Inquiries must be forwarded to Dr. Iris Drower at [iris.drower@asu.edu](mailto:iris.drower@asu.edu) by January 1, 2015. The proposals will be reviewed by the 2019 Site Selection Committee.

## Silent and Live Auction Items Requested

A much enjoyed tradition of the IASE conference is the closing Gala celebration with a Live and Silent Auctions. Conference attendees are asked to bring an item from their home country to donate to both auctions. Past favorite items have included small two and/or three dimensional art pieces, such as student made textiles or jewelry. Also in the past, photography and/or keepsakes/mementos from countries have been represented. The Silent Auction runs concurrently to the Live Auction. Proceeds from both auctions contribute to the Margo Csapo Scholarship Fund. This scholarship fund provides recipients with financial support that pays for conference registration, Gala Dinner and five nights of lodging during the conference. For more information contact Sal Zimmerman at [SZimmerman5@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:SZimmerman5@schools.nyc.gov).

### A Thank You Note from Tanzania

Dear IASE Members,

My name is Nasra. I study at Jaffery Academy in Arusha. I am in class three. Thank you for the laptop. GOD Bless you and your family.



### Membership Renewal

IASE renewal letters will be sent out in mid-November. Our membership is now over 500 and continuing to grow. It would be of great assistance if people were to renew as early as possible to avoid the crunch. The quickest and easiest way to renew is to go to our website ([www.iase.org](http://www.iase.org)) and use the on-line membership application button on the Home or Membership pages. Payment could then be taken care of easily using PayPal. You can also complete the membership form on the back of this newsletter. Because of the generosity of many current members, we now have over 65 sponsored members. Please encourage colleagues to join IASE as well and reap the benefits of membership. All IASE members receive the annual *Journal of the International Association of Special Education* and the *Annuntius* our quarterly newsletter. Furthermore, we are excited about our 14th Biennial conference held in June 21-25, 2015 in Wrocław, Poland. For more information, contact Karen Nave, Membership Chair at [knave@mintouch.net](mailto:knave@mintouch.net) or (406) 265-6527.

### Treasurer's Report

By Steve Leitz

As of November 1, 2014, IASE had expended \$14,836 of its 2014 General Fund Budget of \$34,800 or 43%. Additionally, \$27,371 of a budgeted amount of \$30,600 (89%) has been expended from the GIVING and VSP dedicated accounts.

Account balances are as follows:

- VSP Dedicated Account = \$644
- GIVING Dedicated Account = \$2,585
- Marg Csapo Scholarship Dedicated Account = \$9,032
- General Fund Savings & Checking = \$224,895

Total IASE Accounts balance = \$237,156

Just a reminder that nominations for the IASE board positions are due on December 15th. Please email a letter of intent and vita to Paula Leitz, Committee Chair, to [leitph@plu.edu](mailto:leitph@plu.edu).

## Mwayi Trust 2014 Workshop

By Marg Csapo

Greetings from Blantyre, Malawi, from all 92 volunteers. These include 77 secondary students, 13 patrons (head teachers and classroom teachers), Sandra Trevethan from Mwayi Trust and myself, representing IASE. We all participated in the annual Mwayi Trust Workshop for Patrons and Peer Educators.

We all worked together in a large classroom at a teacher training college for four days and nights to prepare the students for the role of Peer Educators in their village primary schools. Sessions were presented on how to motivate learners, how to create appropriate learning environments, how to apply positive reinforcement, plan individual lessons, monitor progress, use educational games, etc. Each of the Peer Educators work three afternoons a week with 3-4 children who have problems in learning.



**Marg Csapo, Second from Left, with Mwayi Trust Patrons**

This is the first step towards special education for children who might be in a class of 175-200 with one teacher in a country where Education for All is yet to be achieved. You made this possible with your IASE GIVING Fund and volunteers to help train the Patrons who now run the workshops with lots of confidence. The Patrons' workshop preceded the Peer Educators workshop. There was fun, laughter, good interaction, full participation, and also excitement. The culminating activity of this workshop was a concert, organized by the students, singing and acting followed by a dance.

Some students have volunteered for two, some for three years as Peer Educators and many will start for the first time this September. We called a group of "veterans" together and asked them to write answers to a few questions about being a volunteer Peer Educator and share with you their experience.

### **Why did you become a volunteer peer Educator?**

William Nyalaya, Peer Educator for two years, wrote: "I became a volunteer Peer Educator because I see some learners who continuously repeat the same class because of some problems they encounter in a large class."

Gloria Smith, Peer Educator for two years, added: "I decided to be a Peer Educator because I want to help students to learn to read, to write and to understand what school is all about. Plus to make them love school."

"I will always be proud because I taught children who have difficulties in learning. I decided to assist these learners so that they would do well in class", said Chisomo Malinga, a Peer Educator for two years.

John, her twin brother, a Peer Educator for two years, stated: "To be a Peer Educator gives me joy. I want to help slow learners and encourage them to work hard in class in order to have a better tomorrow."

"I decided to be a peer Educator to help young children who have difficulties in their education to perform better in school" added Lizzie Dolola, a Peer Educator for two years.

### **Give a few examples how you helped the children with learning problems?**

Lizzie Diola wrote: "I taught children who failed to learn to read and write using locally available resources, such as singing songs using the words they had to learn. I helped them to recognize the alphabet and then taught them words with consonant + vowel and better and taught them to be honest, patient and to smile at the teacher."

"I taught them by playing traditional games that related to the lesson", said William Nyalala.

John Malinga: "I taught them self-control, how to work hard in class and be assertive".

Chisomo Malinga said she asked the teacher to place these children in the front of the class where they could see and hear better and taught them to be honest, patient and to smile at the teacher.

### **What was your best experience as a Peer Educator?**

Gloria Smith wrote: "Teaching Fusani who failed to recognize words. Now he is reading fluently after I taught him many different words and how to put syllables together to make words."

Chisomo thinks the best experience was to learn not to punish, or use negative words, but to encourage learning with love, understanding and skills. "When they succeed, they are really proud of themselves."

### **Do you think being a peer Educator will help you with a career choice?**

"I want to be a teacher because I want to make Malawi a wonderful country full of educated people", answered Gloria.

John Malinga wants to be a judge. "As a Peer Educator I learned many skills, how to solve problems, to love everyone, to overcome my own weaknesses".

William Nyalaya and John Mwarimba want to become teachers and build on the skills they have already acquired.

May they all reach their dreams!



**The Kitchen Crew Hard at Work in the Open Air Ovens**

Imagine how lucky we were! After a bicycle race, some bicycles were given away. Our winner was a new Peer Educator, sponsored by Mwayi Trust for her education, who walks to school 10 km one way. Now she can pedal her daily 20kms and have more time to spend with her students. On the way, she will pick up another Peer Educator who walks 9 kms to school.

You should know that the Mwayi Trust Vocational Centre is standing under a sky blue metal roof waiting to open as soon as enough money is found for plastering, a cement floor, windows and doors, electrical work, plumbing and a new septic tank.

If we all saved a few pennies a day until the conference in June 2015, the school may open in September 2015 or in 2016! Thanks for all your help, it is really needed.

International Association of Special Education

Renáta Tichá  
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**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**

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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.