

Annuntiatus

International Association of Special Education

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

Capacity Building through our Tanzanian National Chair

By Iris Drower

The International Association of Special Education (IASE) is covering new grounds with new partnerships to support the access to quality education and opportunity for every child. Swaleha Mohamedali, IASE National Chair of Tanzania, continues to make a significant impact in her country. In July 2014, while visiting and working with our Tanzanian Volunteer Service Project sites, Ms. Mohamedali organized meetings with special education representatives from nearly every district in her country. One meeting convened at the Ministry of Education in Dar es Salaam and the second meeting at the SEN department of Jaffery Academy in Arusha. The IASE team consisted of Mary Gale Budzisz, volunteer Meghan Gallagher, and me. Together, a platform was raised to exchange exciting views, escalate our ideas, expand our global network, and discuss how our organizations can benefit from each other in the field of raising awareness and assisting children and young adults with disabilities.



Meeting at Ministry of Education in Dar es Salaam from left to right: Mrs. Grace Mtunguja, Mr. Joachim Tamba, Mrs. Astrid Kimweri, Mr. Aly Ndale, Ms. Swaleha Mohamedali, Dr. Iris Drower, Mr. Benjamin Kulwa, and Mrs. Mary Gale Budzisz

Credit goes to Ms. Eunice Tondi, Head of SEN office at the Arusha City Council, for her leadership that continues to support open dialogue, encourage self-reliance and create a sustainable network of shared responsibility in the learning for all. Her support is truly appreciated.

The motivational efforts of Swaleha Mohamedali have cultivated many new memberships in IASE. We now have 18 new individual members, along with SEKUMO University and one Primary School in Arusha. IASE Treasurer, Steve Leitz, and Membership Chair, Karen Nave, report that history is being made as 48% of our members now represent the international community! Ms. Mohamedali is encouraging a large contingent from Tanzania to attend the upcoming 14th Biennial Conference in Wroclaw, Poland, in June 2015. The theme is *New Dimensions toward Education, Advocacy and Collaboration for Individuals with Special Needs*. This is an example of capacity building within the framework of a National Chair.



The Jaffery Academy SEN Department staff, supporters and guests outside the new building for students with special needs. Back row from left: M. Remtula, S. Mohamedali, Zamada, Shabnam. Second row from left: T. Martha, T. Fouzia, T. Husan, T. Regina, Mr. William, I. Drower, T. Howa, Ms. Kulsum, MG Budzisz

14th Biennial Conference Update

By Jim Chapple

Mark your calendars for the 14th Biennial IASE conference in Wroclaw, Poland, June 21-25, 2015. Plans are well underway and you do not want to miss this amazing opportunity. A partnership between the University of Lower Silesia and IASE is planning a stimulating professional development opportunity in a country that you want to visit!



Your 2015 IASE Conference Planners are hard at work. From left: Malgorzata (Gosia) Sekulowicz, Jim Chapple, and Agnes Sekulowicz

The deadline for the "Call for Proposals" is rapidly approaching!! Proposals must be submitted by October 1, 2014. The proposals form is on the IASE website and is easy to use. We are looking for proposals/presentations on all topics of interest to the field of special education. Presenters will be notified if they are accepted by December 1, 2014. All presenters must be registered for the conference by March 1, 2015, to be included in the program.

Three plenary speakers have been selected and confirmed. On Monday, June 22, the conference will kick off with the first speaker, Professor Boguslaw Sliwerski from the Academy of Special Education in Warsaw. Susan Connors, an international speaker on the field of Tourette Syndrome will present on Tuesday, June 23. The third plenary speaker will be our own Kevin Spencer presenting his most recent research on arts integrated approaches used to work with children with special needs.

All conference sessions will be in the main building at the University of Lower Silesia with easy access to workshops, roundtables and poster sessions. We will be featuring invited "Showcase sessions" highlighting the conference theme of "New Dimensions toward Education, Advocacy and Collaboration for Individuals with Special Needs".

A wide range of hotels have been selected for conference attendees to choose from in making their travel arrangements. We are sure you will find one that fits your needs and your budget! Watch for more details on the IASE website and make your reservations early!

The children's art exhibit, the silent and live auctions to benefit the Marg Csapo scholarship will also be held at the conference. The Gala dinner will be one to remember and do not forget to stay for a few extra days as school and rehabilitation center tours are being planned as well as customary sightseeing tours around Wroclaw and other areas of Poland.

All in all, the 14th Biennial conference will be one you will not want to miss! Your conference planners, Jim Chapple, Gosia Sekulowicz and Agnes Sekulowicz, have many other exciting things planned!

So, mark the dates on your calendar and plan to attend!

Volunteer Team Visit to Tanzania

By Mary Gale Budzisz

The local Welcome Committee appeared at the Dar Es Salaam Airport promptly at 1:25 PM on Wednesday, July 16, 2014. From that moment on all arrangements prepared by IASE National Chair Swaleha (Sally) Mohamedali went like clockwork. We were whisked away in two loaded vans to our DAR lodging, Nico Kamero's lovely home. His wife Deanna and daughter Tricia welcomed us. Meghan Gallagher, Iris Drower and I became part of the family instantly.

The next day we reunited with Farida Khakoo, National Chairperson for the DIANA Women Empowerment Organization (DIWEO), and saw the new items meticulously sewn, stitched and prepared for sale to help support the organization. A short walk in her community took us to the monthly food bank she holds for local women. Next, we were treated to a lovely lunch hosted by the Hon. Emmanuel Ole Naiko, Honorary Consul of Botswana-Tanzania, who is on the DIWEO Board. After television and newspaper interviews, we went on a shopping excursion. It is truly an adventure to watch Farida in action, negotiating, bargaining, estimating, analyzing, and finally purchasing items for the orphans at our Tanga VSP site. We purchased backpacks, school and food supplies and clothing for all.



Orphans and caregivers at VSP site in Tanga, Tanzania

Friday started with a meeting at the Ministry of Education SEN Department, introductions of people who had traveled from afar and promises to work together in the future. Then school visits with warm welcomes by staff and children sharing songs and dances. Amina Suleiman, CEO of the Stone Town Mnazi Mmoja Hospital VSP Project in Zanzibar, arrived from the ferry to join us. She brought her "wish list" and we were able to shop for the items that afternoon.

On Saturday we were lucky to have Farida share her driver Mubarak (Sweetheart) and Interpreter Tonny. They picked us up in a loaded van and began a driving excursion to Tanga with a variety of stops along the road. We delivered staples like rice, oil and sugar to various locations. All were learning experiences for us. The arrival at our site in Tanga was heartwarming for me because I got to reunite with the orphans who have grown into fabulous young people and with the caretakers who have been creating a family for all.

Sunday was a driving trip up the mountains to Lushoto. On Monday we met with staff at Sebastian Kolowa Memorial University (SEKOMU).



SEKOMU lead staff from left: Dean Edward Bagandanshwa, Secretary Meriana Makamba, Sella Munyendo, Rev. Dr. Eberhardt Ngugi, and Dr. Andrew Mollel

There we were treated to a campus tour including their fantastic new Benjamin William Mkapa Auditorium. We were also given a presentation about the history of the University plus the projected plans for the future as well as treated to a delicious lunch. A drive down the mountain and arrival in Arusha took a number of hours ... interesting roads and detours, too.

On Wednesday we started shopping for Sally's "wish list". Her connections in Arusha helped immensely with cost savings and swift delivery of the purchases. In the afternoon we visited the campus of Jaffery Academy. When I saw the newly constructed building for children with special needs, I was truly taken aback because I knew the previous small little classroom where the classes began five years ago. The super teaching staff, parents, children and a Board Member, the charming Mr. Muslim Remtula, greeted us and then we shared information about our IASE Volunteer Service Project.

We were able to present items provided by our GIVING Fund: Big Keys keyboards, computers, a refrigerator, a sewing machine and some beautifully designed and constructed classroom furniture. The smiles on the faces of the children, parents and teachers were sincere thanks to all IASE members who made these gifts possible.



Student at Jaffery Academy introduced to Big Keys keyboard

They have assessed 160 primary students and are presently helping about 25 of the most needy students. A pull out support program has been implemented and students are getting help in literacy and numeracy. We were lucky to be able to spend some time in their classroom. Then shopping for school supplies was much fun.



Sarah Rosenbloom and two students served by the Toa Nafasi Project

As an IASE National Chair, she has plans to have representatives from all over Tanzania collaborate and connect to share ideas and best practices for the benefit of our children and youth with special needs.

On Wednesday Eunice Tondi, representing the Arusha City Council, organized visits to five local schools and we were treated by representatives of the Itemba Foundation to a fabulous lunch. We also shopped for a water dispenser for Sally's School.

Thursday was another learning experience with the pleasure of meeting Susan Michell a special educational consultant who also has created Masijo Tours which specializes in tourism for our special populations. She also has plans to construct lodging which will be handicapped accessible. She drove us to Moshi to connect with our final visitation site. Sarah Rosenbloom and Angie Stone-McDonald welcomed us to the Toa Nafasi Project located in a local elementary school.

We finished the whirlwind tour with a two-night camping trip and were able to see lots of local animals up close and personal!! Then again rushing to get on planes Meghan to Stone Town to volunteer throughout August, and Iris and I back to the USA.

As you know, all of our travel expenses are out of our own pockets, but many thanks go to our IASE members and our GIVING Fund to be able to pay for the "wish lists" of our Volunteer Service Project site personnel. All items purchased will go far to bring basic supplies to the children and youth at the IASE volunteer sites.

Sally's organizational skills were truly exceptional.

IASE Volunteering in Malawi

By Lynn Aylward

In the spring of this year I was fortunate to spend five weeks in the warm heart of Africa - Malawi. My IASE Volunteer time was split between two sites, in April and May, Mzuzu University, in the northern region of Malawi and Mwayi Trust, located in the southern part of Malawi near Blantyre. At Mzuzu University I began a collaboration with the IASE National Chair, Ambumulire Phiri, that will see us continue to work together in the coming year on curriculum development and community outreach in the areas of special and Inclusive education. I had the pleasure of giving a public lecture on "Inclusive Education in Canada" while on campus and I met with graduate students of the Education Department.



Ambumulire Phiri with the Vice-chancellor, Dr. Loveness Kaunda, at Mzuzu University

During my time at Mzuzu University (or "Mzuni" as many folks call it), Ambumulire and I were able to meet with faculty and university administration to plan possible next steps for a graduate degree in Inclusive Education as well as develop a proposal for the Mzuzu University Centre for Inclusive Education (M.U.C.I.E.). A lot was accomplished in a short time due to the leadership of Ambumulire and the enthusiastic cooperation and mentorship of Head of the Education Department, Ms. Febbie Chimbambo, as well as Vice Chancellor, Dr. Robert Ridley, and Deputy Vice Chancellor, Dr. Loveness Kaunda.

Some of the work envisioned for MUCIE is to strengthen teacher education and professional development in all areas of Inclusive Education, such as HIV/AIDS education, gender and schooling, dis/ability support, anti-poverty action and cultural/linguistic diversity. Another main purpose of the center is to deepen the capacity for Mzuzu University to support post-secondary students with disabilities. Ambumulire and I met with some community-based disability education groups (representatives from the Synod of Livingstonia) and made a site visit to meet with the staff and students at the Loudon School for the Deaf in Embagweni, in order to initiate a network for future partnerships. With assistance from the IASE Giving Fund, many donated teaching resources have already been shipped for use within the proposed center at Mzuzu University. My daughter volunteered at the children's library and made a donation of children's books we brought from Canada. All in Mzuzu warmly welcomed my family and me.

The second part of my IASE volunteering was working with Sandra Trevethan, Executive Director of Mwayi Trust. IASE has been partnering with Mwayi Trust for several years on two projects: Mwayi Trust Homework Centers and the construction of an Inclusive Vocational Training Centre. While staying at what I affectionately refer to as the "IASE guesthouse villa", a lovely renovated space next to Sandra's house, Sandra and I were able to write and submit a proposal to an international human rights organization for funding to support the purchase of learning materials and furniture for the Mwayi Trust Inclusive Vocational Centre, once construction is complete.

With the help of my husband and daughter, we made many learning games for the Mwayi Homework Centers. Another significant part of my work with Mwayi Trust was the planning and delivery of an instructional workshop for teachers who coordinate and support the peer educators at the after-school homework centers and a workshop for the peer educators themselves. Patron teachers were happy to gain professional development in the areas of literacy assessment, and multi-level instructional strategies.



Lynn Aylward with Patrons from Mwayi Trust

The peer educators' workshop focused on literacy/ mathematics activities. The IASE Giving Fund provided the workshop materials and covered the costs. The homework centers were just getting started after the school break when I arrived in Blantyre but I did have the chance to visit two sites.

The time spent with the Peer Educators and Patron Teachers was wonderful and their level of commitment to helping all elementary students reach secondary school was admirable.

Call for IASE Board Officers Nominations 2016-2018

Nominations are being accepted from now until **December 15, 2014**. The following positions are open:

1. *President-Elect*, 1 to be elected for two-year term
2. *Secretary*, 1 to be elected for two-year term
3. *Treasurer*, 1 to be elected for two-year term
4. *Member at large*, 3 to be elected for two-year term

Descriptions of the roles and responsibilities for each of the above positions are in IASE's constitution and by-laws. IASE Constitution states that the Board shall be comprised of a minimum representation of 3 countries to reflect the international focus of the organization. Criteria for application include a valid IASE membership and prior experience with IASE (e.g., committee chair/work or elected position). Board members are not paid a salary and must attend meetings at their own expense. If you are interested in volunteering your time and expertise, send a letter of intent and a short (one page) resume to Paula Leitz, IASE Nominations Chair. These documents can be emailed to leitzph@plu.edu or mailed to Paula Leitz, IASE Nominations Committee Chair, 8220 67th St. Ct. N.W. Gig Harbor, WA, USA, 98335.

The committee will review all nominations and forward their recommendations to the Board for ballot approval. The voting ballot will be included in the February newsletter sent to all paid members.

According to the IASE's Constitution no board member may serve more than two consecutive two-year terms in the same office.

Treasurer's Report

As of August 1, 2014, IASE had expended \$13,357 of its 2014 General Fund Budget of \$34,800 or 38%. Significant savings to the General Fund have been realized in printing and postage due to the increase in publications delivered electronically. Additionally, with respect to dedicated accounts, \$1,456 has been expended from VSP (69%) and \$18,449 from GIVING (62%).

IASE account balances are as follows:

- VSP Dedicated Account = \$644
- Giving Dedicated Account = \$10,215
- Marg Csapo Scholarship Dedicated Account = \$9,032
- General Fund Savings & Checking = \$225,526

Total IASE Accounts balance = \$245,417

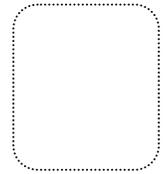
International Association of Special Education

Renáta Tichá

104 Pattee Hall

150 Pillsbury Drive SE

Minneapolis, MN, 55455, USA



SAVE THE DATE

14th Biennial Conference of the International Association of Special Education
New Dimensions Toward Education, Advocacy, and Collaboration for Individuals with Special Needs
Wroclaw, Poland, June 21-25, 2015

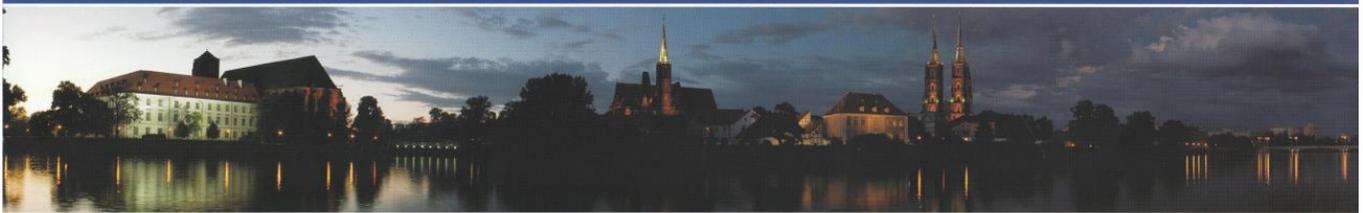


Photo: pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wroclaw

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

