

Annuntiatus

International Association of Special Education

The 13th Biennial Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, CA – July 7 -11, 2013

A Message from the President

By Paula H. Leitz

It has been eight months since the 12th Biennial Conference in Windhoek, Namibia, when so many of us were able to come together to share, to listen, to meet new colleagues and friends, and to discover the beauty of Namibia. It truly was a wonderful time and I am looking forward to the 13th Biennial Conference in Vancouver. I know that Iris Drower and Marg Csapo already have been working to organize another great event.

First, I want to introduce the new board members who began their service in January of this year. They are: Iris Drower, President-Elect; Jim Chapple, Treasurer; Ginny MacEntee, Secretary; Bill Towne, Past-President, and; Malgorzata (Gosia) Sekulowicz, Marg Csapo and Rick Freeze, Members-at-Large. These people have been active members of IASE for many years and they bring to the board a shared vision for the future of IASE and a deep commitment to serving well.

There are several initiatives that I will focus on during my tenure as President. Growth of our membership and continued maintenance of this membership is essential for IASE's future. Increasing our membership means that more people from around the world will have opportunities to become involved in our organization, including attending the biennial conferences and taking part in the many volunteer service projects we have. To move forward on this initiative, the Board at its February 20th board meeting approved having National Chairs in countries around the world. The role of the national chair would be to communicate with the IASE Board to provide information about national inclusive and special education events, to promote membership in IASE within the country and surrounding countries, and to communicate nationally about the goals, activities, publications, conferences, projects, volunteerism, opportunities, journal, newsletter, and website of IASE. The national chair is a volunteer position. Dr. Rick Freeze who originally proposed this idea is working with a subcommittee to design a process and application for these positions. In addition, to ensure the healthy future of IASE, I, along with an Ad Hoc committee will start work on a five-year plan. This plan is intended to guide us as we continue to grow and expand our influence and to refine the guiding principles for our work. Although I am aware that there is more to be accomplished, I believe that increasing membership and developing a five-year plan are the most critical at this time.

Our next board meeting will be on June 22nd to June 24th. This will be a face-to-face meeting held at my home in Gig Harbor, Washington. If you are a committee chair or member and wish to attend this meeting you are welcome. Just let me know. Our third board meeting will be a conference call in October.

Thank you for letting me serve you. I look forward to our work together over the next two years.

Paula Leitz, Ph.D.

President

Paula has been a member of IASE for 18 years and has served as Co-editor of the newsletter and as a Treasurer. She has spent 40 years in educational with the last 18 years as a professor at Pacific Lutheran University. She has also worked as a district level administrator of special education and Title 1 programs.



In 1997, she was the program chair for IASE's 5th Biennial Conference in Cape Town, South Africa. In 2002, she was the principal investigator for an USAID/ALO grant in Namibia (Capacity Building for Teachers of the Ondao Primary Mobile School). This two-year grant involved training 75 teachers from over 35 sites in the Kaokoland Region with university colleagues from Norway and Namibia. Paula's current educational interests include the development of cultural competence in student teachers, teacher development and inclusion. She is married to Steve and has three married sons with a grandson on the way!

William Towne, Ed.D.

Past President

Dr. Towne is the immediate Past-President of IASE. He is currently a visiting professor at the School of Education, Salem State University, Massachusetts. Dr. Towne is a retired (42 yrs) public school teacher, district administrator, principal, as well as an assistant superintendent. He has been a local, national and international presenter, keynote speaker, consultant and is a published author. Dr. Towne served as an IASE



Secretary (6 yrs), President-Elect (3 months), and Marg Csapo Scholarship Chair (9 yrs). He has also served on the Auction Committee (10 yrs) and numerous other committees.

Iris Drower, Ph.D.

President - Elect

I am honored to be your incoming President-Elect and co-chair of the (IASE) 13th Biennial Conference that will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, in July, 2013. I am learning from the best: our current President Dr. Paula Leitz, my co-chair Dr. Marg Csapo, and our volunteer service co-coordinator Mary Gale Budzisz on setting up and planning for what will be the event of the century! I am presently located in Phoenix, Arizona (even though I still



claim Chicago as my true home) where I work with graduate students in the field of teacher preparation as well as an inclusion specialist and trainer with a public school system.

Over the past year, I have also had the privilege of presenting at several international conferences (most recently a Pacific Rim Special Education Research Consortium Conference), working on various international boards and organizations (CEC, DISES, and Sister City Programs), and interfacing with the Loughborough Alumni Association in the UK on events pertaining to special needs education. These international experiences make it clear to me that wherever we are in the world we need to address issues that deal with educating students with special needs.

Jim Chapple, Ph.D.

Treasurer

Dr. Jim Chapple is currently an assistant professor of special education at Ashland University in Ashland, Ohio, teaching both graduate and undergraduate courses in special education. He has previously worked 12 years as the coordinator of

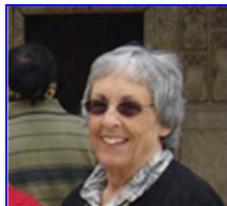


Instructional Resource Services at the Northern Ohio Special Education Resource Center. He has 40 years of experience in special education as a teacher, principal, and director of special education, as well as an educational consultant. Dr. Chapple has been actively involved in VSA Arts, Council of Exceptional Children, and DISES and the International Association of Special Education. He has co-authored several articles and chapters for the special education field and has presented at conferences across the United States, Canada, Spain, Hong Kong, Latvia, Ireland, Havana, Cuba, and Windhoek, Namibia in Africa.

Virginia MacEntee, Ed.D.

Secretary

Dr. MacEntee is an assistant professor of special education at The State University of New York at Oswego. Professor MacEntee has taught both graduate and undergraduate courses in education and special education and has 25 years of experience in the field. She has served as an active IASE member, newsletter



editor and as a Member-at-Large. She was the first IASE volunteer for the Volunteer Service Project in India. Ginny has co-authored several chapters and articles and presented at conferences across the U.S. and world-wide. She received several awards and grants, including the U.S. Department of Education Christa McAuliffe Fellowship and the International Education & Programs Grant. Dr. MacEntee has been recognized for outstanding and dedicated service to the teaching profession as an NCATE Program Reviewer.

Prof. Malgorzata Sekulowicz

Member at Large

Prof. Malgorzata Sekulowicz (Gosia) is a director of Scientific Affairs and head of Department of Education and Rehabilitation of Children with Intellectual Disability. She is the director of Autism Research Center at the University of Lower Silesia in the Institute of Special Education in Wroclaw, Poland. Since 2010, she is a member of the Polish National Council for Higher Education. She is a Polish representative in the European Network on Teacher Education Policies. Prof. Sekulowicz is a member of many scientific associations and several editorial boards of scientific journals. Her main scientific interests include: early intervention system for children with special needs, instruction of children with intellectual disabilities and Autism Spectrum Disorders, the integration and inclusion of children with disabilities, and special educators' burnout syndrome. Prof. Sekulowicz is an author of more than 60 articles and monographs.

Marg Csapo, Ph.D.

Member at Large

Marg has earned her B.A., B.Ed. and M.Ed. from the University of Toronto, MA from the University of San Carlos, Guatemala, and her PhD from the University of Kansas. She has worked as a teacher for emotionally disturbed children in the late 50s and for the Toronto Board of Education till 1971. Since 1971, she has served as an assistant professor, associate professor, and professor in the Department of Special Education at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada.



Between 1994 and 2001, Marg established undergraduate and graduate training for special education teachers at the University of Darussalam, Brunei. She is also an advisor to the Minister of Education in establishing programs for special education in the Brunei public schools. Marg has held the role of an editor of the International Journal of Special Education and is its Past President (1985-1989). She is a representative of the Department of Educational and Counseling Psychology and Special Education of the University of British Columbia and of the Association of Professors Emeriti.

Marg's special assignments include: Lesotho (USAID), Nigeria (UNESCO), Indonesia and British Honduras (Canadian Teachers' Federation, Project Overseas). She is a life member of IASE.

Rick Freeze, Ph.D.

Member at Large

Dr. Rick Freeze is a professor of Inclusive Special Education in the Administration, Foundations, and Psychology Department of the Faculty of Education at the University of Manitoba. Over the years, Rick has worked as an elementary and a secondary classroom teacher,



special educator, school principal, and an educational psychologist. Today, Rick teaches inclusive special education courses in the after degree (B.Ed.), graduate (M.Ed. & Ph.D.), and professional development (P.B.D.E.) programs of the Faculty of Education.

Rick has investigated and written about a variety of inclusive special education topics, such as Precision Reading, reading in the content areas, consultation and collaboration, inclusive schooling, promoting responsible behavior, student self-determination, differentiating instruction and assessment, and transition from school to work and post-secondary education for students with intellectual disabilities. He has presented at academic and professional conferences in the U.S., U.K., Europe, Asia, the Caribbean, and Canada. Rick has worked extensively with schools, communities, and disability groups in the areas of research and professional development. Rick is married and has a daughter in graduate school.

Karen Sealander, Ph.D.

Membership Chair

Karen Sealander has been a member of IASE for over a decade. She is a professor at Northern Arizona University where she specializes in assessment, RTI, and data-based decision-making processes and practices. She serves as an inclusion-RTI consultant to schools serving Native students in the rural and remote areas of the Northern Arizona.



In addition to her work with students, Karen has raised a service dog for an organization that provides dogs for individuals with disabilities. She has a therapy-certified dog Rothman who goes to local schools to increase awareness of the role of service and therapy dogs.

Mwayi Trust Conducts Workshop for Peer Educators

By Sandra Trevethan

Mwayi Trust is a locally based NGO working with communities in southern rural Malawi, near the city of Blantyre. It is an IASE Volunteer Service Project site. Currently we are running a Homework Centre Program that focuses on bringing the community together to assist young learners with special needs to increase their school attendance and retention in the education system. Class sizes in government schools in Malawi are excessively large, often with over 100 learners in the classroom with one teacher, making it extremely complicated for learners with learning difficulties and other special educational needs to receive the attention and programs they need to succeed. Added to this, at the end of each year the learners must sit through a standardized exam. Failure in this exam means the students must repeat the whole year. Many learners fall into a failure cycle, increasing their absenteeism that leads to dropping out of school altogether.

The Mwayi Trust Homework Centre Program enlists the voluntary support of Form-3 students from the local secondary school and school leavers to act as Peer Educators under the supervision of Patrons (teachers volunteering) to operate these centers three afternoons a week for approximately 1 ½ hrs each session. We are operating five homework centers this year. Each center is provided with a resource box containing balls, games, puzzles, learning resources, and stationery. *Many thanks to the IASE GIVING Fund for providing some of these needed supplies.*



Marg Csapo (left) and Sandra Trevethan (right) with peer tutors sharing feedback on a topic discussed at the training workshop

This program has been in operation for only one year but already we are seeing increases in attendance rates of the learners involved, some of up to 90%, as well as improvements in grades for many learners. We anticipated that the Peer Educators would improve their social and leadership skills, but we are also finding that many have seen improvement in their own grades. Parents are voicing their pride in the improvements their children are making. Head Teachers report greatly improved cooperation and communication between the primary and secondary schools. What is wonderful is to see 'at risk' learners coming back to school with such enthusiasm to learn.

During last year, we held several one-day training workshops for new peer educators. Through discussions with Marg Csapo, Mary Gale Budzisz and Karen Nave we decided to run a four-day intensive training workshop for the new group of volunteers. In June of 2011 Karen Nave came to Malawi to volunteer for a three-week period to produce the materials for the Mwayi Trust Homework Centre Training Manual that provided the framework for the workshop. In July, Marg and Mary Gale returned with me from Namibia to work with the Malawi Ministry of Education, Science and Technology for one

week and then to Blantyre to assist with the workshop. The financial assistance from the IASE GIVING Fund enabled us to transport nearly 100 participants from their villages, procure not only food supplies, but also all the stationery necessary to ensure the participants were ready to work and learn. T-shirts were given to participants who truly appreciated them. Both Marg and Mary Gale facilitated some sessions and even taught the Patrons some games that were definite hits. Sessions covered topics such as, creating a positive supportive learning environment, characteristics of learners with special needs, assessment, planning a lesson, recording and monitoring progress and making T/L resources from locally available resources.

Evaluations were very positive and indicated the effectiveness and value of conducting a four-day intensive workshop rather than individual one-day workshops. The participants really enjoyed meeting other volunteers, lodging at Montfort Teacher's College, and learning new skills. For some, this was the first time that they had travelled outside of their local area and it was an exciting experience. We look forward to running this workshop every year for each new group of volunteers.

Mwayi Trust would like to sincerely thank the IASE GIVING Fund, Marg, Mary Gale and Karen for their support which enabled us to run such a successful workshop. The learners with special needs attending our Homework Centers will definitely benefit from this activity.



Karen with Sue (patron) and Mary (trustee) displaying results of reduction in school absenteeism of Homework Centre learners

The Journal of the International Association of Special Education

The Journal of the International Association of Special Education (JIASE) is a peer-reviewed journal that publishes research and PRAXIS articles pertaining to the education of exceptional children from around the world. The PRAXIS section of the journal is intended for the dissemination of practical strategies that readers can immediately implement in their classrooms/schools. These methods/strategies may be new and unique ideas or they can be effective methods/strategies that some teachers have been using and believe that by their publication many more teachers could effectively implement them in their classrooms. The editorial team is currently working on the 2012 edition of the JIASE with manuscripts at different stages of processing.

For more information about the submission guidelines for either the research or PRAXIS section, please contact the JIASE Editor, Morgan Chitoyo, at mchitoyo@siu.edu.

If you are not a paid 2012 IASE member, this will be your LAST newsletter!

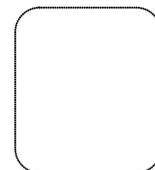
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Two Easy Ways to Renew Your Membership

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Dr. Jim Chapple

1230 Cherokee Path

Vermilion, Ohio 44089-3328, USA

By Email: chappjw@aol.com

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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.