

AnnuntiatuS

International Association of Special Education

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

President's Message

By Iris Drower

It is a great honor and privilege for me to assume the role of President of the International Association of Special Education (IASE). IASE plays a critical role in helping to improve the quality of life and service delivery for all individuals identified as having special needs around the world. Therefore, I am committed to provide the leadership IASE requires to achieve its objectives and implement its strategies, as well as listen and respond to your needs as members and work closely with our IASE board.

The scope of IASE has broadened considerably over the past several years. This reflects the expanding uses of how the quality of life and service delivery for individuals with special needs is being deployed, the increasing diversity of our organization and skills, and the corresponding expansion in demands of our members.

Those who have steered IASE along this dynamic road have done so in a responsive and impressive way, ensuring appropriate adjustment and continuity in our affairs. Many people have contributed to this outcome, far too many people to mention here by name. However, there are a few individuals I must recognize: Paula Leitz (USA) for her leadership and friendship during her term as President; Marg Csapo (Canada) for her input and contribution in the planning and organizing our IASE 13th Biennial conference; Mary Gale Budzisz (USA) for her infinite wisdom, dedication and vision over the years of our organization; Jim Chapple (USA) for his guidance and assistance with the 13th Biennial conference program; Morgan Chitiyo (USA) for his continuous work on our premier journal; Renata Ticha (USA) for organizing our newsletter; Karen Sealander (USA) for keeping our members informed; Ginny MacEntee (USA) for keeping our minutes in order, and Steve Leitz (USA) for his creative expertise on monitoring and updating our website and to all our conference chairs and committee chairs for their hard work this past year.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank our outgoing IASE board members for their dedication and support over the past two years: Member at Large: Rick Freeze (Canada); Member at Large: Marg Csapo (Canada); and Past President: Bill Towne (USA). In addition, I would like to recognize our incoming IASE Members-at-large: Malgorzata (Gosia) Sekulowicz (Poland); Sajjad Khan (Bangladesh); and Ambumulire Phiri (Malawi). Congratulations should also be noted to the rest of our incoming board: President-Elect: James Chapple (USA); Secretary: Virginia MacEntee (USA); Treasurer: Steve Leitz (USA); and Past-President: Paula Leitz (USA). Finally, please welcome our new Scholarship Chair: Marcel Lebrun (USA) and our new National Chair Coordinator: Shamani-Jeffrey Shikwambi (USA-Namibia).

We have an ambitious strategic focus and plan for our association. This shows we are an organization built on teamwork and an organization on the move.

I look forward to working with you and receiving your contributions. Let us continue to promote IASE and grow.

Cheers, Iris

Save the Date for Wroclaw, Poland In 2015

By Jim Chapple

The IASE 14th Biennial conference will be held June 21-25, 2015, in beautiful Wroclaw, Poland...the largest city in western Poland and the capital of Lower Silesia. This conference will take place at the University of Lower Silesia in Wroclaw. Practice pronouncing the name of this city. Despite the fact that Wroclaw is pronounced unlike it is written in English, it is not difficult, if you practice! You can go to www.pronounceitright.com and click on the "w" for Wroclaw...and then practice, and practice.

Wroclaw's charm derives from the city's scenic location, its splendid architectural monuments, abundance of greenery as well as a special social atmosphere. It is a city with rich cultural, academic and economic life. Conference Co-Chair, Malgorzata Sekulowicz, is a Professor at the University of Lower Silesia and resides in Wroclaw. On the front page of the Call for Proposals is a photo of the Wroclaw Town Hall, a magnificent Gothic structure with a later Baroque reconstruction. This building was developed over a period of 250 years from the end of the 13th to the middle of the 16th century.



City center in Wroclaw

The University of Lower Silesia (ULS) was founded in 1997 and has established a distinct identity as a private institution of higher learning. ULS attracted accomplished academic researchers and professors who have helped create a first-rate academic reputation for this university. During the last fifteen years of development, the student body has grown from 368 students to almost 8,000 who are served by academic staff of over 200 scholars. ULS is close to the city center and only a 20-minute drive from the airport.

Your "Call for Proposals" invitation is an insert in this newsletter. You can go to www.iase.org and download the entire proposal packet and guidelines. Please share this request for proposals with your colleagues and friends so that we obtain the best presentations for consideration. The deadline for proposals is October 1, 2014. If you are interested in volunteering to review proposals or assist in the conference planning, please email Jim Chapple, IASE President-Elect and Conference Co-Chair at chappiw@aol.com.

BE sure to mark your calendars!

National Chairs Report: Reporting from the UK!

By Bronwen Hewitt

In July of last year, I attended the IASE Biennial International Conference in Vancouver along with one of my Trustees, Judith Waterfield. It was my first time as a delegate and I was impressed by the dynamic and grassroots approach of the association. I met many inspirational people and enjoyed sharing the work of my organization, the Dame Hannah Rogers Trust or 'Hannahs, as it is now known. Vancouver was such a wonderful venue!

Prior to attending the conference, I had been asked to represent IASE in the role of a National Chair for the UK for IASE and I had accepted this opportunity. Whilst talking to a group of conference attendees, we decided that there were potential exciting opportunities that should be explored further, such as:

- Excellent contacts for the future
- Potential for joint research
- Opportunities to conduct conferences and/or workshops highlighting projects and/or activities in the UK
- Opportunities to share advice and support with centers in Malawi and Tanzania and other volunteer projects for our therapists.

In December, as a result of these connections and in my role as a National Chair I welcomed a group to my organization, the Dame Hannah Rogers Trust or "Hannahs", located in Devon, England. This covered workshops and networking with a variety of professionals, a reception with the University of Plymouth, meeting with the Chief Executive of the National Association of Special Education (NASS) in London and a backstage tour of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory hosted by one of its stars, Nigel Planer. We, of course, took the opportunity to introduce our guests to a little sightseeing!

Mary Gale Budzisz had the opportunity to talk about volunteer projects she so tirelessly supports and we now look forward to more detail to enable us to send a therapist or two over and create a mutually beneficial program. Sally Mohamedali came and was able to showcase her amazing work in Tanzania. Kevin Spencer amazed us all with his magic and illusion skills, keeping us forever entertained but also moved deeply by the benefits of this approach.

Kathy Johnson, IASE member, was unable to come at the last moment, but is hoping to visit soon. Penelope Moon, CEO of A Quiet Place from Liverpool, shared her project for special students in the UK. Anastasia Somoza, a student in London, was also in attendance from her home in the US. You will see from the photograph that we took the opportunity for Anastasia to open our newly completed accessible holiday flat.



From left: Judith Waterfield, Bronwen Hewitt, Kevin Spencer assisting Anastasia Somoza

In England over the last twenty years, there has been a strong move toward inclusion in education with subsequent closure of special facilities (91 special schools closed by 2005). While in theory this was laudable, the reality has been very different. Full inclusion requires robust resourcing and strong leaderships at national, regional and institutional levels. Consequently, the lack of adequate space, facilities, equipment and staff training led to the policy failing the young people for whom it was created.

Baroness Warnock, the original advocate for inclusion in the UK, said that her policy had failed and left a disastrous legacy (2005). She further stated that the policy had gone too far and that vulnerable children had become isolated in mainstream schools. The crucial themes of participation, entitlement, funding, quality and provision are still challenges 16 years after the government report by Tomlinson (1996) on Inclusive Learning. Confirming this sense of failure of the original goal of inclusive education, the memorial lecture for Professor John Tomlinson in 2006 was entitled "Something happened to it along the way...". At Dame Hannah Rogers Trust in the UK, we have looked at inclusion in an entirely different way; thinking carefully where it is appropriate and where it is detrimental for young people.

The European Human Rights Act states that everyone has a right to Education and a Right to Life. Society's dilemma is 'what are we educating for and what is a quality of life?'. We work on a simple philosophy of asking ourselves 'what do we want for our own children and families?' The answer that is given should be no different for those who have a disability! We also challenge the concept of "Special Need", so easily linked with neediness when we should be thinking about entitlement and individual rights! We all need adjustments made for us and hope that people see our strengths and talents, and support our aspirations; experiences of people with disabilities should be no different. Our social model of disability is aptly captured by Len Barton (2002)... "we were concerned with developing an approach to special education in which social interest rather than individual differences and deficits were to be a fundamental focus of analysis." In developing a model, we have challenged the reductionist model of deficit philosophy. We work toward a social model of inclusion where exclusion and inequality are not tolerated and the collective engagement of people with disabilities is fundamental in all aspects of our services and ventures. Through this model "the non-disabled world can be provided with an alternative and positive view of disability" (Barton 2002).

Read more by going our website (<http://www.iase.org/>) under UK National Chair.

The Journal of the International Association of Special Education (JIASE)

We had an overwhelming response to the "call for manuscripts" for the first topical issue of the JIASE due for publication later this year. The large volume of submitted manuscripts has kept the editorial team very busy. We are therefore inviting any IASE members from different countries who may be willing to join our editorial team as consulting editors to contact the editor, Dr. Morgan Chitiyo, at chitiyom@duq.edu. Please send a brief letter of interest and abbreviated CV. Dr. Morgan Chitiyo, JIASE Editor

IASE Treasurer's Report as of January 14, 2013

By Jim Chapple

Chase Bank Account:

Checking	\$ 9,246.36
Savings	\$48,101.29
TOTAL	\$57,347.65

Bank of America Account:

Checking	\$117,672.92
Savings	\$100,486.50
TOTAL	\$218,159.42

TOTAL: \$275,507.07

Old IASE Documents Needed

We are in the process of archiving old IASE documents and would like to find issues of the *International Journal of Special Education* printed in 1989, 1990, 1995, 1997, 1998, 2000, and issues of *The Journal of The International Association of Special Education* printed in 1999-2004. Also newsletters needed are: 2000/June & August, 2003/August, 2006/September and 2007/winter... plus all issues from 1987-1999. Any conference proceedings are welcome. Please contact Mary Gale at mgbudzisz@aol.com.

The Newest Volunteer Service Project Site

By Luz Narvaez and Cap Lee

FUNPROSEFAM is an inclusive school and community center designed to teach the whole child as an individual. Reaching into the community for the past 30 years to provide education as well as social services to children, youth, adults and seniors, the foundation prepares them for the world through a realistic hands-on approach which includes the understanding of English as a second language. Funprosefam serves the impoverished community on the south west side of Barranquilla, Colombia, in South America. Only 10% of the parents can afford to pay a small fee, thus 90% pay nothing at all. The fully certified teachers who also live in this poor neighborhood are most dedicated to serve the neighbor's children for no salary.

The mission of Funprosefam is "prosperity, education and family"...with family being the fundamental institution of society. The goal is to expand the school/community center to serve 120 students which would include 30 special needs students, most of whom have never been to a school. There are limited teaching training opportunities in this country, but the local Universidad del Atlántico is interested in teaming up to promote services and education for those who have shown a willingness and interest to become teachers. Via the outreach program many community center attendees are able to access services that they need.

There are many dreams for Funprosefam, such as a salary for certified teachers, training of teachers to gain expertise to serve special students, to have enough funds to purchase new school furniture, like chairs and tables, new books, a copy machine and a computer that works! Because Funprosefam has become the newest IASE Volunteer Service Project site, the GIVING Fund has been able to provide the Spanish version of the Brigance Inventory of Early Development. When the teachers are trained, they will be able to assess new students and find a baseline at which they can begin to teach. They will also be able to write individual plans for each student, and monitor their growth and development.



Luz reads a story to some of her young students



The GIVING Fund has also provided new gardening tools and now students can collaborate with local seniors to create a Gardening Project behind the school building. The students will have the opportunity to learn to prepare the soil, then plant, weed, water, and care for their plants.

Cap, with guitar, and Luz (in red shirt) practice a song with some of the boys

We are thankful for the support of IASE and look forward to continued collaboration with their volunteers. The parents, teachers and assistants of some of our students were once students here themselves. We welcome you to come and join our community to help make some dreams come true!

Vietnam Volunteer Experience

By Brenda Lazarus

A fortuitous meeting with three Vietnamese colleagues at the Biennial Conference of IASE in Vancouver, British Columbia, in July 2014 led to a volunteer experience at the Ho Chi Minh City University of Pedagogy. The invitation was to work with faculty on an understanding of specific learning disabilities (LD). I flew to Ho Chi Minh City and conducted workshops in January 2014 for faculty of special education, primary education and psychology, as well as for invited colleagues from the district special education office.

It was a challenging task, given my lack of speaking Vietnamese, but the young faculty members who had studied in the UK/USA provided translation of my presentations. Mary Gale Budzisz was my able presenter and we were treated wonderfully by Dean Ha and her faculty. Mary Gale brought lots of teaching aids, courtesy of the IASE GIVING Fund, for their assessment center; rolls of Velcro got the biggest squeals from the faculty. While in Ho Chi Minh City, we also visited the Santa Maria Clinic (another IASE volunteer site) and met with Dr. Giang and five psychologists. We discussed how they could adapt the Brigance Inventory of Early Development for their clients. The Brigance was given to them in March of 2013 by IASE and they translated the entire protocol. We also visited the Blue School, a new school that is in the process of becoming an IASE site. It is directed by IASE member, Sharon (Roni) Chavez, and is designed for children with autism and other developmental challenges. We presented to parents and were able to involve them in sharing of ideas.



Faculty of Special Education at Ho Chi Minh University of Pedagogy warmly welcomed IASE volunteer Brenda Lazarus. From left: Vo Dung, Lecturer, Brenda Lazarus, Dean Le Ha, and Deputy Dean Hoang Nga

After the university workshops, we flew north to Hoi An to visit another IASE site, The Dien Ban Day Centre. Once again, Mary Gale delivered manipulatives for the school and rolls of Velcro for communication books. We discussed the intake assessment tool they developed from the Brigance Inventory of Early Development with the expert help from Peng Eng, an Australian volunteer. Then we took one of the young staff members to Danang with a "wish list" to shop at the local economy rate. It was a treat to see the excitement of the staff when we returned with a van full of supplies and teaching materials.

As with any volunteer experience, I learned so much myself and hopefully, the recipients of our volunteer time learned some things as well. It was a fast-paced eight day volunteer experience, but one that I will not forget. It was a great chance to see the work of the IASE in action helping people who were truly appreciative of the assistance we were able to provide.

From the IASE Membership Team

If you have not renewed your IASE membership for 2014, this will be your last newsletter. BUT, if you renew, you will continue to receive your newsletter, the Journal of the International Association of Special Education, and have a special rate for conference registration! Additional information about our publications and a membership form can be found at www.iaae.org.

International Association of Special Education

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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
Wrocław, Poland, June 21-25, 2015

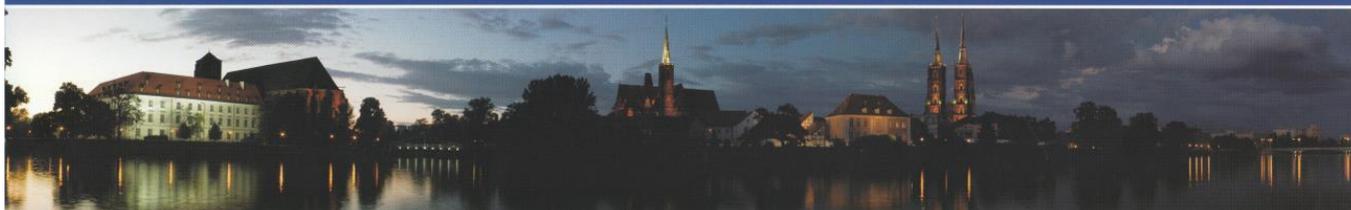


Photo: pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wrocław

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

