

# Annuntiatus

## International Association of Special Education

### The 12<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference in Namibia – July 10 -14, 2011

#### Never Been to Namibia? Then, You Will Want to Be at the IASE Conference in Windhoek, Namibia, July 2011

By Paula Leitz, Conference Co-Chair & Barry Birnbaum, IASE President-Elect and Conference Co-Chair

If you have never been to Africa or more specifically Namibia, then this is your chance to enjoy a wonderful conference. The weather is perfect in July with sunny blue skies during the day and more stars than you can count in the evenings. Come and meet the friendly Namibian people, learn about their culture and explore the variety of landscapes. This truly will be an extraordinary experience, one that gathers people from all parts of the world to share our global responsibility for educating every learner, every day.

From June 27 to July 3, 2010, we traveled to Windhoek, Namibia, and were afforded many opportunities to meet and plan with people who will play important roles at the 2011 conference. Edwin Tijamba and Emelia Aniceto from the Vice Chancellor's Office of Development coordinated a whirlwind of activities. Planning meetings were held with the Ministry of Education, UNAM's Vice Chancellor (Prof. Lazarus Hangula), The Dean of Education (Prof. R.K. Auala) and the local organizing committee from the Department of Educational Psychology and Inclusive Education. We were overwhelmed with the warm, gracious welcome extended at all of these sessions concluding with a Friday afternoon invitation to the US Ambassador to Namibia's July 4th celebration and a Friday night celebratory dinner with the UNAM planning committee at Joe's Beerhouse which was in a World Cup watching frenzy. They are truly excited to host international delegates in July, 2011.



**Local Organizing Committee at UNAM & IASE Conference Co-Chairs**  
Top (l to r): C.C. Chata, J.U. Hengari, Dr. J. Mushandja, P. J. February, Dr. L.M. Mostert (Head of Dept.), C. Haihambo, Prof. R. F. Zimba, P. Leitz (Conference Co-Chair).  
Bottom (l to r): Prof. C. Kasanda, Prof. R. K. Auala (Dean), B. Birnbaum (Conference Co-Chair, IASE Pres. Elect). Photo taken by Edwin Tijamba.

#### Highlights of the Conference

The opening Reception hosted by the Vice-Chancellor will be on the campus of the University of Namibia on Sunday, July 10, in the evening. The conference sessions will be on Monday, July 11, through Wednesday, July 13. However, there will be optional tours from July 9 through July 14. Plus some extended tours will begin on July 15.

The Opening Ceremony will convene at 9:00AM on Monday with local dignitaries and keynote speakers. A "silent" auction will be held on campus during the conference and the "live" auction will be held on Tuesday evening at the Gala Dinner (price included in the registration fee) at the Windhoek Country Club. It will be an evening filled with Namibian entertainment and dancing. Plan on bringing an item for the auction that most represents your country and culture. Children's art from Africa will be displayed throughout the conference and will be available for purchase.

#### Optional Events:

On Saturday, the 9<sup>th</sup>, there is a trip to Windhoek's amazing Craft Center, a local township, and Penduka, a development organization working with women, where you can find handmade textiles and beadwork. On Sunday, the 10<sup>th</sup>, there is an optional trip up to Okahandja, the seat of the Herero nation (the second largest ethnic group), to the largest outdoor craft market (get your bartering skills ready). After that onto Okapuka for a game drive (at this time of the year animal viewing is spectacular). On Monday evening, the 11<sup>th</sup>, after the sessions you can opt to stretch your legs and take a tour of Hero's Acre, a large monument commemorating Namibia's struggle for independence. You can walk many stairs up to the top for a view of Windhoek as the sun is setting. After this little stretch we will have dinner at a large, popular outdoor/indoor restaurant called Joe's Beerhouse. The decor itself is worth the visit. On Thursday, the 14<sup>th</sup>, there are tours of schools in Windhoek in the morning and a wonderful hiking trip up to Dann Viljoen where you can see all of Windhoek and walk with the animals! And finally, on Friday, the 15<sup>th</sup>, you can choose between two tours. One is a three-day trip to the world's tallest sand dunes in Sossusvlei and the other is a five-day trip to Etosha, one of Africa's largest game reserves, and then onto Swakopmund, a town right out of the past along the coast.

#### General Information

Namibia's money is the Namibian dollar (currently the exchange rate is about 7.3 and it fluctuates) and it is tied to the South African rand. You can use the rand in Namibia. However, you cannot use the Namibian dollar in South Africa. There are many wonderful places to visit in Windhoek, including museums and shops. A wide variety of restaurants are located within Windhoek and most dinners will cost you between US\$10-\$15. East African, Portuguese, Italian, and many more types of food are available.

So what makes this conference different? The Ministry of Education in Namibia has decided to support from 120 to 150 Namibian teachers from all regions of the country to attend the conference. You will have a fine opportunity to share your experiences, hear of others' experiences and to build new friendships. Look for more details in the next newsletter and on the IASE website.

## Promoting Professional Exchange Among Special Educators All Over the World

By IASE Member Swaleha (Sally) Mohamedali,  
Teacher in Jaffery Academy in Arusha, Tanzania

It was suggested by Mary Gale who visited us in July 2009 to further enhance our tiny room for vocational training and job placements and we are now blessed with a three-room building for the intellectually challenged children on an exclusive and inclusive basis. Because we need to grow in the right direction, God gave each of us a piece of The Map to reach our Goal. And together, if we unite and join the pieces, we can reach our goal with much enthusiasm. This is how I experienced one of those pieces...

On March 21, 2010, I received Principal Sister E. Gaitonde and Deputy Principal Dr. Radhike Khanna, from SPJ Sadhana School in Mumbai, India. The day after our guests arrived, we gave them a tour of Jaffery academy. They were introduced to the Jaffery Board Members and then met SEN children and teachers. I shared that I was having problems mainstreaming my special students. Dr. Khanna suggested to the Board they see the 30 minute audio visual presentation entitled "Breaking Barriers." There was a question and answer session at the end, which proved to be very helpful. Thereafter, we had an evening dinner and another presentation with the Anjuman Ladies Committee at the mosque hall.

The next day we took everyone to visit Shanga, a vocational training centre for adults with multiple disorders. Here we witnessed eight mute and physically handicapped individuals making wonderful things from recycled glass materials. They make beautiful necklaces, belts, earrings, and all sorts of other magnificent and amazing things. Soon after that, there was a presentation at the New Safari hotel by the HOD of the SEN from Arusha municipal who gave us a briefing about the importance of special education needs children in Arusha. We were shown a documentary from SPJ Sadhana School entitled "A New Paradigm" that focused on job opportunities and placements for mentally and multiply handicapped individuals. Disability does not mean inability!

Ms. Eunice Tondi, an expert in the use and training of sign language, highlighted the importance of SEN in Arusha. The Jaffery Academy School Manager, Mr. Mir, encouraged us and the municipal to travel to Mumbai for training in November. This was a brilliant suggestion since we cannot bring SPJ Sadhana School to Tanzania. BUT we can certainly bring the skills here to Arusha. The day ended with a fruitful meeting with Board Members of Jaffery Academy. They are Chairman Mr. Mustafa Panju, Secretary Mr. Muslim Remtulla, School Manager Mr. Mir Ackbaraly, and the HOD of SEN at Jaffery Academy, Mrs. S. Mohamedali.



Swaleha Mohamedali (r) and her colleagues at Jaffery Academy hosted these visitors and guests (l to r): Sister E. Gaitonde, Mrs. Eunice Tondi (SEN Officer of Arusha City Council), Mr. Onesmo (HOD of Arusha Municipal SEN School), and Radhike Khanna.

Now that we are aware of everything that is possible, we just need the right guidance. We developed objectives that I would like to share with you:

- o To learn the curriculum for pre-vocational training for mentally challenged children by traveling to Mumbai in November for a period of four weeks.
- o To create such a facility here in Tanzania, with Arusha being the centre for training.
- o To look for sponsors to continue with the extension plan of the ground floor that consists of two rooms, toilet facilities and kitchen, and the building on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor dedicated to pre-vocational and vocational training.
- o To build contacts with hotel management and other businesses industries for job placements.
- o To spread awareness among the community and business world.
- o To interlink with the Arusha municipal with the goal to apply vocational skills.
- o To further train more staff through workshops towards the education of mentally challenged children.

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## IASE Seeks Proposals for the 2013 Conference Site

IASE, with membership in 45 countries, is seeking proposals for consideration for the 2013 Conference Site. Recently, IASE has held conferences in Alicante, Spain (2009); Hong Kong (2007); Halifax, Nova Scotia (2005); and Warsaw, Poland (2001). The 2011 Conference will be held at the University of Namibia, Windhoek, Namibia. There were over 500 attendees at the 2009 Alicante Conference, representing almost 40 countries. The conference is typically held Monday through Wednesday and should be scheduled sometime from the second week of June through the third week of July.

We welcome proposals for a venue site that meets the requirements listed below.

1. Be located in a city with an international airport.
2. Be able to provide adequate meeting space: (a) 12-15 meeting rooms that would accommodate 25-35 persons for sessions, (b) one large meeting space (to accommodate 3-400 people) for general plenary sessions and (c) space for registration, exhibits, and poster sessions.
3. Provide equipment that may be needed (e.g., overheads, and/or LCD projectors, screens, lap tops, easels).
4. Have food services available at/near the venue site.
5. Be situated in a reasonably close proximity to hotels.
6. Be able and willing to help promote the conference in your region/country.
7. Be willing to provide guidance to the IASE planning committee regarding appropriate tours, school visits, venue for Gala Dinner, and more.
8. Be able to designate a minimum of 5-6 people to serve on a Local Planning Committee who would work with the IASE Planning Committee on various conference related needs (e.g., printing conference program).
9. Be able and willing to accept registrations from your own country. This would include accepting the registrations and funds, and maintaining appropriate records for accounting purposes.
10. Have available low cost sleeping rooms (e.g., dorms) for individuals who seek/prefer to stay on the university campus.

If you are interested in hosting the 2013 IASE Conference, please develop and submit a proposal to IASE to host the conference utilizing the information delineated above. Please, send your proposal to William Towne, IASE President, P.O. Box 38, Byfield, Massachusetts 01922, USA.

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## Welcome Steve Leitz, IASE Treasurer

By William Towne, Ed.D.

On behalf of the IASE Board it is my pleasure as your President to introduce you to Steven Leitz, our new IASE Treasurer. Since 1998, Steve has been serving as the Principal of the Minter Creek Elementary School in Gig Harbor, Washington, USA. His inclusive school is home to the district's program not only for children with autism but also for highly capable children.

Steve earned his BA in Psychology from the University of Washington, Seattle, WA, and his MA in Curriculum and Teacher Education plus his EdS in Educational Evaluation from Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA. His career to date has spanned teaching and various administrative assignments from the Makah Indian Reservation on the Olympic Peninsula in the state of Washington, to the school system in New Brunswick, New Jersey, to the New York City Calhoun Middle School leading to his current position. Steve is also currently an Adjunct Professor at Pacific Lutheran University having previously been an Adjunct Professor at Rutgers University.

Steve has co-authored numerous articles and is a respected speaker at various national and international conferences.

His previous service to IASE included Newsletter Editor and construction of the original IASE Website. IASE is honored to have Steve accept this Board appointment to fulfill the unexpired term of Treasurer through December 2011.

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## Board of Directors' Announcements

### BOARD CHANGES

It is with sincere regret and best wishes that the IASE Board of Directors announces their acceptance of resignation of Dr. Laura Frey as the IASE Treasurer, effective June 2010. Laura is assuming an important new faculty role with increased responsibility at her University and we wish her great success in this new endeavor. She has given generous service in her role as an IASE Treasurer and the Board sends sincere thanks and appreciation to her for her years of service.

The IASE Board of Directors announces their acceptance of the resignation of Beverly (Bev) Johns as the Immediate Past President of IASE effective Friday, August 6, 2010. We thank her for her many years of service to IASE.

### IASE BOARD OPENINGS

Your IASE Nominations Committee is now accepting nominations for the 2012-2013 Executive Board. The positions that will be open are: President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer and three Members-at-Large. Our IASE Constitution states that the Board shall be comprised of a minimum representation of three (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, please send a letter of intent and a short (one page, please) resume to: Mary Gale Budzisz, IASE Nominations Chair, Box 2836, Pawleys Island, SC 29585 USA. These items must be received by December 15, 2010. The information will be shared with the Nominations Committee and a slate will be prepared and presented to the Board. The ballot will be included in the Spring 2011 Newsletter mailed to all paid IASE members.

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## Volunteers Are Needed for the Conference

If you are interested in serving on a conference committee, please contact 2011 Conference Co-Chair Barry Birnbaum at: [barry.birnbaum@waldenu.edu](mailto:barry.birnbaum@waldenu.edu)

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## Volunteer Service Project News

The Volunteer Service Project (VSP) continues to grow and evolve. Sincere thanks to all our IASE members who are involved, have been volunteers, are applying to volunteer, have been receiving sites and will become new sites for our volunteers.

A short overview of new site offerings for our IASE volunteers are the following: HOPE FOR LIFE BANGLADESH in Dhaka, Bangladesh, is a business that manufactures prosthetics, orthotics, and assistive devices, plus conducts training programs for people with a variety of disabilities; MZUZU UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION & TEACHING STUDIES in Mzuzu, Malawi, is developing an introductory course for special/inclusive education and has long range plans to develop a degree program in Special Education; RESPLANDOR INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL AND EDUCATION CENTER in Guanajuato, Mexico, is a humanitarian organization dedicated to empowering those with limited resources to develop their human potential and improve their quality of life through education; and VIMUKTI GIRLS SCHOOL in Jaipur, India, is an initiative to combat and overcome the vulnerability of the girl child through literacy and education. The needs of each volunteer site will be posted at [www.iase.org](http://www.iase.org).

During 2010, IASE has had volunteers serve at a variety of sites. Volunteer Virginia MacEntee escorted some of her State University of New York at Oswego students to the Sankalp Centres located north of Delhi, India. IASE member Anu Chadha continues to develop these schools. Under the direction of IASE member Sarah Devi, Lebenshilfe, located in Visakhapatnam, India, was the site for volunteers Marg Csapo and Mary Gale Budzisz. They conducted various teacher workshops and coordinated an All School Sports Day conducted by the staff with all students participating. IASE provided three volunteers to Sebastian Kolowa University College (Sekuco) located in Magamba, Tanzania. Lynn Aylward from Nova Scotia, Canada, Richard Zigler, from British Columbia, Canada, and Michael Jones from Honolulu, Hawaii, spent numerous months teaching classes at Sekuco. The Provost Rev. Dr. Anneth Munga stated to Lynn in a written report: "We have appreciated the number of IASE volunteers sent to Sekuco to date and we have been pleased with their level of commitment and professionalism." Richard Zigler also traveled to Stone Town, Zanzibar, to meet IASE member Amina Suleiman. She introduced him to her Occupational Therapy Department at the Mnazi Mojo Hospital and took him to visit schools and rural families in need of service and support. Michael Jones also spent time volunteering and supporting Director Sawrav Barua at Songshoptaque in Chittigong, Bangladesh.

We are in the process of updating our VSP application forms. If you are interested in volunteering, please check the website, [www.iase.org](http://www.iase.org) for the new forms.



Lynn Aylward, an IASE volunteer at Sekuco from February to May of 2010, presents \$500.00 of school supplies to Provost Rev. Dr. Anneth Munga. The supplies were purchased through a grant from the IASE GIVING Fund.

**International Association of Special Education**

*Renáta Tichá*

*104 Pattee Hall*

*150 Pillsbury Drive SE*

*Minneapolis, MN, 55455, USA*



**Two Easy Ways to Renew Your Membership**

**By Mail: IASE Treasurer**

Steve Leitz

8220 67th St. CT. NW

Glg Harbor, WA 98335, USA

**By Email: [sleitz@centurytel.net](mailto:sleitz@centurytel.net)**

**Please print information clearly:**

**Name:** Last \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State / Province** \_\_\_\_\_ **Postal Code** \_\_\_\_\_

**Country:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**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)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Cardholder** \_\_\_\_\_

If you have special needs that require the journal or newsletter to be sent to you electronically, please note that here.