

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Iris Drower

We have had an extremely successful and exciting 2017 year to date. IASE has enjoyed a very active summer, full of events. These include: the IASE 15th Biennial Conference in Perth, Australia, celebrating 30 years of achievement, our VSP workshops with *Mwayi Trust Vocational College* in Blantyre, Malawi, a site visit to Sebastian Kolowa Memorial University in Magamba, Tanzania East Africa (our next location for the 16th Biennial conference) and the development of our new Strategic Plan.

As my term as your IASE President turns the corner toward its last months, I want to thank you all for your camaraderie and passion for our organization. My main mission as President has been to build capacity for our organization and to make our members more aware of the many facets of our organization. Getting involved and sharing experiences with colleagues is a priceless benefit and there are numerous opportunities within IASE to get involved. Please reach out to any Board members, Committee Chairs, or myself personally to find out how you can play a part in our organization. I strongly encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity that awaits you with your IASE membership.

As you read in the following pages about all that has been happening lately in our vibrant organization I hope that you will feel a renewed sense of pride in IASE. Whether or not you are part of its past—as a professor, practitioner, academic, researcher, student, parent, NGO, community member or in some other role—we want you to be part of its future. In closing, my challenge to each of you is to take the initiative to grow personally and professionally with IASE. Together we can continue to make IASE a leading global organization.

2019 CONFERENCE REPORT

Susan Pursch

"We will bus you up the mountain...
And bus you down the mountain...
And change your life in between!"

Plans for the 2019 IASE Conference at Sebastain Kolowa Memorial University (SEKOMU) in Magamba, Tanzania, East Africa, are well on the way. On October 9 and 10, 2017, IASE Conference Steering Committee members Iris Drower, Susan Pursch, Mary Gale Budzisz, Sandra Trevethan, Sarah Rosenbloom and Gasto Lekule met at SEKOMU. The Local Conference Committee chaired by Anne Munga, the Director of Postgraduate Studies, International Relations and Linkages at SEKOMU, was represented by Edward Bagandanshwa, Joseph Mbatia, Msafiri Mbilu, Geoffrey Kingazi and Vincent Kibiyo. SEKOMU committee members have assumed numerous responsibilities and are thrilled to welcome IASE members and guests to their flourishing campus. IASE members Sarah Rosenbloom and Gasto Lekule will be serving on both committees because they are located at our Toa Nafasi Volunteer Service Project site in Moshi, Tanzania. You can check out the university conference site at <http://www.sekomu.ac.tz/index.php/en>.



Members of the IASE Conference Steering Committee with Anneth Munga, Chair of the Local Committee, from the left are: Iris Drower, Susan Pursch, Anneth Munga, Gasto Lekule, Sandra Trevethan, Sarah Rosenbloom and Mary Gale Budzisz.



Members of the Tanzanian Local IASE Conference Committee from left: Sarah Rosenbloom, Gasto Lekule, Geoffrey Kingazi, Edward Bagandanshwa and Msafiri Mbilu.

Special Needs Education is required of all SEKOMU students no matter what academic program they have chosen. Conference participants will not only have the opportunity to be a part of the lovely campus, but also will have the opportunity to choose from two Thursday, July 18, 2019 Optional Tours. One will be to the Irente School for the Blind, Irente Rainbow School, Irente Farm and the Irente Children's Home which are in close proximity. The second option will be a visit to a local tea factory and the Lutindi Mental Hospital.

Guest speakers are being contacted. The Call for Proposals will be ready soon and posted on the www.iase.org. The theme for the conference is being prepared.

Leadership roles are filling in and the excitement for this unusual conference is building. The Reception is scheduled for Sunday, July 14, with the sessions convening on Monday, July 15 through Wednesday, July 17, 2019. Make your plan NOW to attend. Tell your friends and encourage others to attend.

Participants will also have opportunities to build their own experiences in Tanzania....such as a safari before or after the conference! There will be a variety of choices and costs for safaris and booked by the participants. It is one thing to visit the facilities humans build to see wild animals. It is another thing to be their guests. Remember....We will bus you up the mountain....And bus you down the mountain...And change your life in between! Look for more conference information in your next newsletter!

The Journal of the International Association of Special Education (JIASE) is looking for consulting editors!! If you are a member of IASE and are interested in reviewing journal articles on various topics from special and inclusive education from around the world, please contact Renáta Tichá, JIASE Editor, at tich0018@umn.edu.



FEATURED MEMBER

Hala Raad joined the Department of Psychiatry at the American University of Beirut Medical Center in 2012 as a special education teacher. In her role at the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (DCAP), she provides special education assessments and interventions to children with academic and behavioural disorders or difficulties as well as guidance and training to parents, nurseries, and schools. She also assists the department team in teaching educational, behavioral, and disability-related issues in children and adolescents to medical students and residents. As part of the Division's evaluations, she also administers the Autism Diagnostic Interview Schedule (ADOS-2) and the Bayley Scales of Infant and Toddler Development-Third Edition.

Mrs. Raad participated in the design and implementation of "Safe Start", an early intervention mental health program at DCAP. Safe Start provides clinical, research, teaching and advocacy services to infants and children with developmental or mental health disorders aged from birth to 6 years in Lebanon and the Arab region.

Over the years, Hala Raad has accumulated an extensive clinical experience in dealing with infants and children with neurodevelopmental disorders and their families in Lebanon and other Arab countries. Having also worked in academics, clinical and community development settings, Ms. Raad gathered a particular blend of experiences and skills which granted her a multi-faceted special education profile.

Mrs. Raad is a graduate of the Université Saint-Joseph in Lebanon with a BA in Educational Sciences/Special Education. She completed her master's degree in Special Educational Needs at the University of Leeds in the United Kingdom.

TREASURER'S REPORT

[Colleen Meyer](#)

Current Financial Status:

Checking: \$10,158.39

General Operational Funds: \$126,427.80

VSP/Giving: \$35,963.14

Marg Csapo Scholarship Fund \$7,333.60

Mary Gale Budzisz

IASE volunteer Craig Goldsberry from California served at the Ho Chi Minh City University of Education, located in HCMC, Vietnam, during June of 2017. It was his fourth visit to this institution and he reports that “we should be proud of their progress and that their passion and purpose remains strong and focused.” He continues to report that the staff is becoming the owners of the program and that he is being relied upon more as a consultant than as a trainer. Also, he gives credit to IASE Volunteer Rachael Gonzales for her help to move quickly forward to their goals. The Action Plan involves beginning a BASICS Curriculum to be implemented in a local school. THANKS to our IASE volunteers who have selflessly donated many hours to provide expertise and knowledge to form a solid working relationship with HCMC University of Education.

On Tuesday, August 8, 2017, I boarded a flight in Charleston, South Carolina and on Friday, August 10 I arrived in Blantyre, Malawi. Sandra Trevethan was at the airport to greet me and whisk me off to the Mwayi Trust Vocational Training College. It is a site to be seen...rising out of a pastoral scene, off a dirt road, a few miles from the hustle and bustle of the Chileka Airport ...the blue roof and brick structure is a welcoming creation. I remember the pile of red clay bricks four years ago and now an impressive L-shaped building stands distinctly on this piece of land. Things are beginning to happen within this building....as I was invited to visit the first Carpentry classroom. Students dressed in blue uniforms, hard hats and new boots were busily creating wooden items.... chairs and new workbenches...with a wide array of new tools. The smiles on their faces of these students, composed of girls, special students with hearing problems, and boys signified pleasure in their tasks being taught by a distinguished teacher.



Mwayi Trust carpentry students with their instructor (far right) and Sandra Trevethan (center back)

Next, we were on the road again to shop supplies and food items for the upcoming five-day annual workshop to prepare new Peer Educators with the skills to be first class mentors for elementary school students. Power shopping at the ultimate speed began with the purchase of stationery, rice, beans, flour, toothbrushes and paste. To feed 75 Peer Educators and 15 Patrons we purchased 12 packages of beef, 12 packages of chicken drumsticks, 10 packages of chicken wings, 12 loaves of bread, biscuits, plus vegetables, and minerals...better known to most as “soda pop.” To prepare all of these food items we hired the matrons/cooks at the Mountainview School for the Deaf who used firewood to cook over open fires. They did a marvelous job of creating scrumptious meals which the Peer Educators helped to serve.

On Saturday, August 12 the Patrons (classroom teachers) were hosted at the Ryalls Hotel in downtown Blantyre. This one-day planning session was to prepare a schedule for the workshop. Sandra prepared an outline for the day which included workshop topics that would be addressed and the delegation of duties for the week. The Patrons diligently prepared their teaching notes and materials for the next week. I was able to teach a little background about Dream Catchers and the belief that our Native Americans place these in their windows to catch the bad dreams and let the good dreams pass through. Scott Adams, a previous IASE Volunteer, provided the funds for materials so that each Patron and Peer Educator was able to create their own Dream Catcher. All enjoyed creating their own original Dream Catcher...none were the same...but all were perfect!!

The group arrived via local mini-buses on Monday, August 14 and for the next five days, all the minutes and hours were filled with different topical sessions, games and songs, and activities that were learned by all which can be used when mentoring in the classrooms. Thursday evening was the time for each of the school groups to prepare and present a Final Act. We witnessed dramas, dances, and songs all prepared by the students. Then the final, final hour was the time for the DJ's to play music loved by all and then the dance floor became a flurry of moving bodies and energy. Friday, August 18 arrived very soon, the sessions ended, the food was all eaten, the luggage all packed and then the arrival of the mini-buses signaled the end to another Mwayi Trust Workshop. IASE has been involved with the funding for the last five years...and being able to participate in what transpires during one long week...is truly amazing. A closing speech was delivered by Eric Mchecka, a local young man who just returned to Malawi from the USA with his MA degree.

He told the students that he had a dream, and it came true with hard work and perseverance. It really tied in with the Dream Catcher project....that if you work and study to the best of your ability...good dreams can really come true. He wished all the very best and thanked them for helping future generations of Malawian students. The Peer Educators Students learned skills and teaching methods that take others semesters to acquire...then, in turn, they will give their skills and expertise to those learners who need that little extra time in the huge classrooms and become better students! It is a win-win situation for all involved.



Mwayi Trust Peer Educators with their own Dream Catchers.

October was the month in which three of our Tanzanian Volunteer Service Project (VSP) sites were visited. In conjunction with an IASE Conference Steering Committee meeting at SEKOMU in Magamba, Tanzania we were able to purchase supplies that were requested. First, we were able to purchase an anatomical model to educate the clinical study students at SEKOMU. Then we traveled to Tanga to visit our Diana Women Empowerment orphans at that VSP site. Iris Drower and I were able to visit the home where we have watched the children grow up and now are lovely young adults. We were able to provide four computers, some maize, and footballs for soccer games. Plus we hosted the students and staff for a dinner at a local restaurant. Our last stop was in Moshi where the Toa Nafasi Centre is run by Sarah Rosenbloom. She took us on a tour of the Gabriella Children's Rehabilitation Centre at which three of her students have been placed in more intensive care. The IASE GIVING fund was able to provide two computers, a printer, a chair, and modem plus some books for the Toa Nafasi Project. It has been my pleasure to travel to visit our VSP sites and carry GIVING Funds and materials to help make a difference in the lives of our special students.



Image 1: Diana Women Empowerment founder Farida Khakoo showing a hand crafted purse.



Image 2: Abdula opening the gate at the Diana VSP site in Tanga.

HIGHLIGHTS ON THE WORK BEING DONE IN NIGERIA

Prof. Tolu Eni-Olorunda

IASE Chair (Nigeria)

I am delighted to let you know that professionals in Nigeria, either as a group, institution, association or individual, are doing their best to promote special education. In Nigeria, we have two major associations that bring special educators together. These associations are the National Association on Exceptional Children (NAEC) and the National Association of Special Education Teachers (NASSET). These two associations are made up mainly of university, polytechnic, and lecturers from the college of education. We also have others from ministries and NGOs who are members of these associations.

In Nigeria, we organize conferences/workshops on a yearly basis to discuss various issues as it relates to special education. Then we try to offer solutions for the benefit of persons with special needs in our society. Some of these conferences and activities have included: 1). A two-week intensive workshop and capacity building for Lagos State caregivers and teachers of persons with special needs. This was facilitated by the department of special education and the University of Ibadan in July of 2015; 2). A conference run by NAEC, in 2016 in one of the States in Nigeria based on the theme of "Sustainable Special Needs Education in Nigeria;" and 3). NASSET in 2017 held a conference with the focus mainly on "Special Education and Service Delivery." This NASSET conference addressed concerned issues militating against the sustainability of education and training of persons with special needs. It was a successful conference, and professionals returned to their home base to rise up to the responsibility of putting in more effort into service delivery.

Here in Nigeria, we have many challenges. Professionals are being met with resistance in most rural areas, because of superstitious beliefs held by the general public about persons with special needs. Special teachers are not well remunerated, hence they prefer to teach as regular teachers rather than assisting as special teachers. In most of the public schools, the government is not financially ready to support children with special needs. Inclusive education is not fully embraced, hence most schools still reject children with special needs. The special schools established by the government are not adequately funded and teaching materials are scarce. However, special educators are resolute to persist in doing their best in helping children with special needs to be able to live fulfilled lives.

As IASE National Chair for Nigeria, I have continued to sensitize professionals on the need to be part of IASE, not only by registering as members but also to attend international conferences. Many have promised to attend the 2019 IASE conference in Tanzania. In conclusion, professionals have created more awareness by implementing more activities in various Nigerian states.

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Renew Your IASE Membership

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): _____ Date: _____
Signature of Cardholder: _____

I would like to receive the publications () electronically or () paper

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IASE membership runs from January 1 through December 31 of each calendar year.