

AnnuntiatuS

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INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
The 15th Biennial Conference in Perth, Western Australia June 25 - 29, 2017

President's Message By Iris Drower

Sustainable growth has been an operative theme of our organization during my term. Currently IASE continues to seek opportunities for our members! One such opportunity is to provide sponsorships for those prospective members who cannot otherwise be part of our organization. Any member can sponsor a prospective member. It is easy! You can send a check to our treasurer or pay via our Pal Pay account marked sponsorships (go to our membership webpage at: <http://www.iase.org>.)

Karen Nave (knave@mtouch.net) our Membership Chair will try to match all those from developing economies who are interested in becoming an IASE member with a current IASE member who wants to sponsor someone. Both you and your prospective new member will be notified when this takes place. This program is a win-win situation for everyone.

Thus our IASE members have the opportunity to provide valuable resources about our organization and make a connection with someone around the globe. Many of our current members and officers started out this way and now they are doing the same for others, too! I challenge each of our members to sponsor at least one new member....which is an opportunity to enhance our IASE family all over the world.

Malgorzata (Gosia) Sekolowicz is a good example of a long time IASE member. Since 1993 she has been a member and has attended all of our conferences since 1997 in Cape Town, South Africa. When she lost her luggage on arrival, our IASE members stepped up to the plate and shared clothing, tour tickets, and kindness to welcome her to the conference.

During her IASE membership she has had the opportunity to serve as a Board Director for two different terms and a total of eight years as a Member at Large representing Poland. She has served as an Associate Editor of The Journal of the International Association of Special Education from 2006 to the present. Gosia has served on various committees and been able to meet and make IASE friends who have collaborated with her for many years. She was the Conference Co-Chair for the 2015 IASE Conference which convened in Wroclaw, Poland in June of 2015. Through her connections with her Dean, faculty Staff at the

University of Lower Silesia, she was able to provide many in-kind donations to help make the conference at her university a huge financial success for IASE.



Our Volunteer Service Learning Projects (VSP) is another exemplary example of how IASE is creating opportunities for systemic change for a sustainable future. In this issue read more on how these VSP projects learn and change together to instigate, sustain, and scale up these innovations and best practices. The foundation of our VSP efforts is the ongoing work of our IASE members who are content experts and on-site practitioners in their respective countries and then volunteer to share their expertise worldwide. So, get involved and grab the opportunity to volunteer at one of our 20 VSP sites in six countries.



The Polish President Bronoslaw Komoroski congratulates IASE member Malgorzata (Gosia) Sekolowicz as he awards her a most prestigious professional award only held by seven others in Poland.

On a final note, Steve Leitz and Jim Chapple will be leaving us at the end of this year. The board voted that Colleen McShane-Meyers will be replacing Steve as treasurer, I will serve as President, and Marg Csapo will serve as Past-President. At this time I want to thank both Steve and Jim for their work and service to our organization. We wish you the best in your future endeavors!

SAVE THE DATE

**15th IASE
Biennial
Conference**

**Perth,
Western Australia**

**June 25th - 29th
2017**

Treasurer's Report By Steve Leitz

As of October 1, 2015, IASE had expended \$12,111 of its 2015 General Fund Budget of \$27,115 or 45%. Additionally, \$43,036 of a budgeted amount of \$56,050 (77%) has been expended from the VSP dedicated account. \$4,415 was added to the Marg Csapo Scholarship Fund as a result of the live and silent auctions at our 14th Biennial Conference in June.

Account balances are as follows:

- VSP Dedicated Account = \$17,392
 - Marg Csapo Scholarship Dedicated Account = \$11,18
 - General Fund Savings & Checking = \$232,030
- Total IASE Accounts balance = \$260,610

An Opportunity for Collaboration and Sustainable Support for Learners with Diverse Learning Needs:

Mzuzu University Center for Inclusive Education

By Febbie Chibambo and Ambumulire Phiri

Mzuzu University Center for Inclusive Education (MUCIE) was a concept borne from collaboration and sharing of members of the International Association of Special Education with the University's education faculty, with recognition of the challenges faced by educators in our Malawian communities today. The faculty of education observed that the needs of diverse student populations and communities are acute and often there are limited material resources to draw upon. Through conversation with IASE members and Volunteer Service Project (VSP) partners like Lynn Aylward, Mary Gale Budzisz and others, it was envisaged that establishing a center for Inclusive Education at the University would enable collaborative, interdisciplinary research projects, strengthen teacher education programs and curricula and offer the possibility of further community partnerships and outreach. The Mzuzu University Center for Inclusive Education would engage in teaching, research and programming that aim to address the multiple elements of inclusion and exclusion that contribute to inequity/equity in Malawian society and the wider world.



Through the discussions, the team consultation agreed and understood that the field of Inclusive Education is one that takes into account the learning context and barriers to participation when considering curriculum and teaching practice for educating diverse learners. As the United Nations noted in 2009,

"Inclusive Education is central to the achievement of high-quality education for all learners and the development of more inclusive societies...it is increasingly seen more broadly as a reform that supports and welcomes diversity amongst all learners." (UNESCO 2009, p.5)

Therefore, the Center's purpose was to engage in activities that approach inclusive education in a way that ensures every learner has a fair opportunity to experience meaningful education. All this was in support of Malawi, the government's efforts and commitment to provide equal educational opportunities, and access educational opportunities and training without discrimination for all children (Malawi Government, 2007).

The Center's concept was also in line with Mzuzu University's mission and vision that focuses on relevance, responsiveness to societal needs and community outreach and engagement.

Bringing the Collaborative Plan to Action

When Lynn Aylward was in Mzuzu in 2014, she facilitated discussion with the faculty and students. The idea of a center was born from these discussions. IASE Followed up and supported the idea to materialize. Through the Volunteer Service Projects Giving Funds, IASE provided seed funding of 16,000 US Dollars to help the center establish its base. Mzuzu University provided a room for the centers activities, and provided a matching grant of 5000 US Dollars as a commitment to this vision. The IASE president, Iris Drower and the VSP coordinator, Mary Gale Budzisz mobilized information resources and shipped books and reference materials to Mzuzu University. When the funds were provided, the University's Information Communication Technology Department assessed the room, and provided expertise for electronic equipment to help the center realize its vision. The Malawi Ministry of Education offered a Braille Embosser as a contribution to the technology purchased by the IASE VSP Giving Fund. Furniture, a copier, computers, a printer, a projector, a video camera and materials for internet wiring were purchased. The University's ICT department, wired the environment, and connected it to the University's Optical fiber Cable network. The University Library specialists coded the books and information resources and students accessing the university's main library can locate the books in our center. The collaboration has thus been at international and local level. We are thankful to IASE for the support and encouragement to establish this facility. It is a baby that is growing to become a bigger dream.

Realizing the Centre's Purpose Now

Today, we are able to use the room to support our teacher education programme and also begin to support and reach out to our communities in a small way. We are subscribed to the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) online learning resource through the IASE VSP Giving Fund, and are linked to the most current researched teaching tools. Our students conducting research on special education and inclusive education have had a chance to use these resources, and so far three students have started utilizing these new resources for their research projects focused on inclusive education. Secondly, our newly developed undergraduate program in special/inclusive education will benefit from the center resources. Other Instructors in the faculty are able to use these resources to support instruction where student numbers are large for instance, in making copies for handouts to students, and projecting lecture presentations using the projector. One of the computers has capacity to support software for a braille editing and access for a user with visual impairment. On a day to day basis, the room is used for formal and informal meetings of faculty members, with students and professionals wishing to conduct collaborative research or projects.



Future Plans

Although the center is still in its infancy stages and a few activities have already been started. In July, when the IASE President, Dr. Iris Drower, the VSP Chairperson, Ms. Mary Gale Budzisz, and the VSP volunteer Dr. Fartun Mohamud visited Mzuzu University, a workshop with community teachers was conducted successfully. We hope to find ways to open it to larger community through outreach activities, continuous professional development courses for participating teachers, meetings on awareness and addressing issues that impact learners with diverse learning needs will also be done through the center. We are currently developing a website that will be connected to the main university site, in a process to acquire an ISSN for an African Journal of Inclusive Education that will focus on issues pertaining to special and inclusive education in Africa, giving a wider platform for dissemination of research and documentation of best practices written at local levels.

For those wishing to work with us, we need more information resources, as we will have an undergraduate and a post graduate degree programme in 2016, and we need to have these supported adequately.

References

- Ilimu-Phiri, A. N. & Aylward, M. L. (2014) Mzuzu University Center for Inclusive Education: A strategy for Community Engagement. Paper Presented at IASE 14th Biennial Conference in Wroclaw, Poland, June 2015.
- UNESCO (2009). Policy Guidelines on inclusion in education. Available from www.unesco.org

Extraordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things in Vietnam By Craig Goldsberry

As is the case in all of the IASE Projects in various countries around the world, Vietnam is certainly no exception. I had the honor and privilege to meet extraordinary people doing extraordinary things under extraordinary conditions. After a discussion with Mary Gale Budzisz regarding the various projects in Vietnam and their interest in Transition curriculum and program development for adults with disabilities, I was thrilled to volunteer my time during the summer of 2015. I had the opportunity to travel to Hue City in Central Vietnam, where Dr. Nhan and his staff were passionately and professionally serving the educational needs of children with disabilities. They shared with me the development and the ongoing services of their various programs which included three early intervention centers where important screening and teaching was being provided, the Future School Special Education program serving school aged children up to the age of 25, two Special Education classes in Duc Som Care Orphanage and three classes in the Nam Dong area.



I also visited two community businesses: Thrift Shop and Healing Wounded Hearts Shop owned and operated by a staff of artisans with hearing impairments. We were able to share many ideas about Transition services and potential opportunities for adults with disabilities in the community.

The IASE was also able to donate funds for the purchase of much needed toys and supplies for their early intervention centers. A covered playground is planned for in the near future. Currently, the planning and development of an Organic Farm in the Nam Dong area is in process.

They have already broken ground and cleared land for construction of a farm house that will be the home to many adults with disabilities. What an exciting opportunity this is for the local community as well as an opportunity for the training of vocational and independent life skills for adults with disabilities who will make this beautiful place their home. I can't say enough to express how extraordinary this exchange of information was and look forward to our continued support of Dr. Nhan and his staff.

From Hue City, I traveled to Hoi An and visited with Jackie Wrafter, Director of the Dien Ban Day Centre. I was impressed with the exceptional organization and programming offered at this school and had a chance to talk with Ms. Wrafter and assure her the intentions of IASE support now and in the future.

I completed my volunteer experience in Ho Chi Minh City. There, I again had an extraordinary experience meeting with Dr. Giang (Santa Maria Clinic), Nguyen Thu (Sunflower Center) and Dean Nga (HCMC University). Dr. Giang, Nguyen Thu and their staff joined me in four long days of functional curriculum development training and it was nothing short of extraordinary. Their passion and professional quest in the field of disabilities was uplifting and inspirational. We all worked many hours training together, sharing ideas and discussing the value of developing a functional curriculum for people with disabilities providing Transition skills that can be applied to community vocational and independent life opportunities for adults. I was so honored to be a part of their team. IASE donated funds to purchase toys and supplies for the Santa Maria Clinic/Sunflower Center.

My meeting with Dean Nga was very beneficial. We shared information regarding curriculum that would meet the educational and functional needs of individuals with disabilities. Our discussion resulted in a plan to return to Vietnam and conduct a training for the Special Education Lecturers at HCMC University focusing on Curriculum Design and Program Development for people with moderate and severe disabilities. Once again, I am honored and look forward to this opportunity with the expectation that we will learn together, share our knowledge and continue the pursuit of providing the best education possible in meeting the needs of those individuals with disabilities.

An extraordinary experience with extraordinary people indeed!

It has been a period of transition for JIASE. In spring of 2015, the leadership of our professional journal changed. Dr. Morgan Chitiyo, of Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA, USA, served for many years as editor for JIASE, and we thank him greatly for his guidance and his years of service to this organization and to the field. The Journal's new editors, Dr. Renata Ticha and Dr. Elizabeth Dalton, invite ALL IASE members to consider submitting manuscripts for review and possible publication

Guidelines for publication are available on the IASE website at <http://iase-biz1.webs.com/jiase>. Additional questions can be posed directly to the Co-editors at edalton@techaccess-ri.org or tich0018@umn.edu.

Mwayi Trust Annual Workshop

By Angela Ingram

Muli Bwanje, from Blantyre, Malawi! Smiles and warm hearts flooded the streets in Blantyre and laughter filled the air. Without a doubt, the Malawian people are some of the friendliest people I have met. It was that time of the year again for the Mwayi Trust 5th Annual Workshop which provides training for the Homework Centre's Patrons and Peer Educators. It is funded by IASE GIVING. With many thanks to Sandra Trevethan, Mwayi Trust ED, and our own Marg Csapo, (an IASE volunteer) I was fortunate enough to spend a few weeks volunteering with these astounding ladies to help prepare and present the workshop. The lovely Ryalls Hotel in Blantyre was the site of the Patron's pre-workshop preparation. The fourteen Patrons (teachers volunteering their time) and six Head Teachers, received presentations on Characteristics of Learners with Special Needs and The Importance of Hand Eye coordination from myself and Marg. Then decided what sessions they wanted to lead at the Peer Educators' workshop. There was fun, good interaction, excitement and full participation at the Patrons' workshop, and of course scrumptious food was served by the most hospitable hotel staff.



The Mountain School for the Deaf, located an hour bus ride from Blantyre, was the site for this workshop. The Peer Educators who participated in the five-day workshop came from four Secondary Schools in rural Chileka near Blantyre. The Homework Centre Program is unique in all of Malawi because no one is paid to participate...all are volunteers! The Peer Educators who attended are taking a step closer to helping kids with special needs get a chance they didn't have before. Over the course of five days the Peer Educators attended and participated in a wide variety of workshops focusing on topics such as: characteristics and strategies for working with SEN, scope and sequence, lesson planning, monitoring progress, benefits of hand-eye coordination, simple math and reading assessments, positive reinforcement and much more. The level of participation and engagement from the Peer Educators impressed me.

Some of the comments made by the Peer Educators included:

"I have learned more technical skills in order to teach learners in our homework centers.", "It is good to be a peer educator because it helps raise education in Malawi.", "The most important thing I learned is how to teach kids with autism, make lesson plans and teach learners." "I have more teacher skills to teach learners in our homework centers.", "Mwayi Trust helps the education in Malawi."

The closing activity of this workshop was an enjoyable, creative and entertaining concert performed by the students followed by an energetic dance. When asked if the workshop was good, one Peer Educator remarked, "It should have been two weeks!" This remark clearly indicated that they had a memorable learning experience. You should also know that the Mwayi Trust Vocational Training Center is looking good and close to completion though it still requires funds for furniture and equipment. By July 2016, a grand opening of the Vocational Center is anticipated.

Featured Member

Currently, Samuel 'Sal' Zimmerman is a Borough Deputy Director, Special Education for the New York City Department of Education Brooklyn North Field Support (BFSC) leading a school/district support team for approximately two hundred and fifty schools in seven community districts servicing over 125,000 students. The new, geographically-based BFSCs are providing integrated supports to schools across areas of instruction, operations, including finance and human resource support, and student services including health resources and counseling, support to English Language Learners, and support to students with disabilities. Prior to this position, Sal served as a Deputy Network leader supporting twenty five New Vision high schools in Brooklyn as the Deputy Network leader providing operational, legal, and special education guidance to school leadership teams. Sal has been a middle school art and special education teacher, Dean of Students, Assistant Principal, and district administrator of special education.

The IASE conference in Poland was for Mwayi Trust a godsend as it produced several very generous IASE members whose donations have made a marked difference to our Inclusive Vocational Training Centre.



Marg Csapo, Iris Drower and Mary Gale's donation enabled us to install 5 double metal doors, Madalen Sugrue and Iris Drower's donation purchased 4 external wooden doors while donations from Mark Francis, Dianne Chambers, Morgan and George Chitiyo enabled the purchase of 4 internal wooden doors. A huge donation from Jayne Nadarajoo and family of US\$10,000 enabled us to plaster all walls and floors, install ceilings, complete internal plumbing and glaze all windows.

From Mwayi Trust and the youth of Chileka many heartfelt thanks.

Roni Chavez
003 My Tu 1
Phu My Hung, District 7
Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam



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Please print information clearly:

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Membership Dues: Regular \$US 50 _____ Regular/Sponsor \$US 70 _____

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