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INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION



International Association of Special Education

Fostering a Global Exchange of Ideas and Information

President's Message

Daniel McCarthy

As your IASE President, I want to share with you the latest news from the Board and the various IASE Committees that are working on your behalf. Our focus continues to be on growing our international community of special educators.

Since my last report, Renata, our Past President and Iris, our Treasurer were able to visit Thimphu, Bhutan to meet with the local conference committee on June 2 thru June 8 to visit the site of our 19th Biennial International Conference, at the Royal Thimphu College (CTC). They had the opportunity to visit the proposed conference facilities, hotel and lodging options and several local school and community programs. The Updated conference information will be posted on our website. The 19th Biennial Conference is scheduled to be held June 21-26, 2026, and hosted by the Royal Thimphu College (RTC) located in Thimphu, the capital of Bhutan.

Given the feedback from members, the Board had a zoom meeting with the staff of Easy Chair, a software company which provides conference management services and support. We have entered into an arrangement with them to provide conference support, especially for the submission and acceptance of conference proposals and development of the conference program. You can find the conference proposal submission link on our IASE website conference webpage.

**INSIDE,
WE ALSO
TALK
ABOUT:**

VSP Updates

Membership updates

Treasurer's Report

Save the Date - IASE
2026 Conference



President's Message continued

At our last IASE Board meeting on April 26, the Board voted to accept the nomination of Elia Balagilije Dyiteg ((Tanzania) as the new Member at Large on the IASE Board of Directors. In addition, Dr. Brenda Lazarus was appointed our IASE Historian and will be working on collecting and storing our past documents and activities. We also welcomed Dr. Girma Berhanu from the University of Gothenburg, Sweden as our new IASE Journal Editor.

We had our 1st Virtual Dialogue on March 29th. The dialogue was focused on three presentations from our National Chairs in Canada, India and Nigeria. It was a great success due to the effort of our National Chairs Committee chairperson Dr. Samantha Mrstik. Dr. Mrstik is also our Virtual Dialogue Committee chairperson, so if you have any topics for future dialogues, please communicate your recommendations to Dr. Mrstik or any member of the Board.

Our 2nd Virtual Dialogue: Growing up with a Disability: Challenges and Accomplishments is scheduled for September 13th.

Dr. Mrstik has two participants for the Virtual Dialogue and would have space for one more. Please contact her if interested in presenting your story.

I would also like to thank our website moderator, Dr. Kalynn Pistorio for her continued work on improving our IASE website. Please communicate any ideas on what content or information you want posted on our website.

To remind everyone, communication is a vital component and important part of our mission. In that spirit, Tejal Kothari, our Board Member at Large from India has volunteered to coordinate our social media messaging.

As a reminder, the IASE Board meets 4 times during each calendar year. Our next scheduled Board meetings are on 8/23 and 11/15. If there are any issues, suggestions or topics that you would like to bring to the Board to address, please communicate your thoughts to our leadership team. The leadership team contact information is located on the website at iase.org under About Us/Leadership/Board of Directors.

The Board and I will continue the effort to expand our memberships in unrepresented countries and improve our most important international initiatives.

- 1) The Volunteer Service Projects (VSP)
- 2) The National Chairs Project
- 3) Virtual Dialogues
- 4) Biennial Conference

Again, our organization cannot function and grow without you, our members who provide the dedication, personal time and professional expertise. So, thank you all for your support and continued membership in IASE.

Please respond with comments to: Daniel McCarthy, IASE President at DanielRNM@comcast.net

Congratulations to Our IASE National Chair

Dr. Ashleigh Molloy Appointed to the Order of Canada

Jul 1, 2025

By Lisa McMahon

Dr. Ashleigh Molloy, an adjunct professor at Niagara University in Ontario, was appointed to the Order of Canada by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada, on June 30, 2025. The recognition is one of Canada's highest honors and is bestowed upon individuals across all sectors of society who have made extraordinary and sustained contributions to that nation.

A global expert on developmental disabilities, Dr. Molloy has dedicated his personal and professional life to promoting inclusion as an educator, advocate, and mentor. He has taught special education at the elementary, secondary, and college levels, and his work in international disability education has been recognized by the governments of countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, and North and South America. He is founder and president of Transformation Education International, a global leader in transformative professional development, and is a member of the boards of Community Living Toronto and of the City of Toronto's Accessibility Committee.

IASE is proud of our National Chair Dr. Ash for receiving this most prestigious award. A global expert on developmental disabilities, Ashleigh Molloy has dedicated his personal and professional life to promoting inclusion as an educator, advocate and mentor. Founding president of Transformation Education International, he has been globally sought after for his lectures, consultations and conference presentations on facilitating training in equitable education.

More information [found here](#)



Conference Committee Updates

By Drs. Renata Ticha & Iris Drower

Bhutan, also known as Druk Yul (Land of the Thunder Dragon), is a secretive, interesting, and visually rich country. Bhutan's attractiveness extends beyond its visual beauty and is deeply rooted in the country's traditions and culture. We are therefore, excited that our IASE 19th Biennial conference will be co-hosted by the Royal Thimphu College (RTC), in Thimphu, Bhutan from June 21-June 26, 2026.

The Local team (pictured below) and our IASE Board have been working hard to



provide you with a top-notch experience! So please submit your proposals/abstracts early! We are using a new format for submission which will provide the authors easy access. You can go to [Bhutan 2026 Conference](#) or our IASE website at: iase.org/19th-biennial-conference-bhutan

All events, including morning and afternoon breaks, lunches, opening and closing ceremony and gala dinner will take place on this amazing campus at the foothills of the Himalayas. RTC is Bhutan's first and only A+ accredited institution, connected with both the Royal University of Bhutan (RUB) and the Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences (KGUMSB). Studying at RTC offers an experience that goes beyond the classroom. Students are exposed to an international-style learning environment in order to improve educational quality and develop an internationally renowned institute.

Conference Committee

Updates Continued

Below you will see a snapshot of the campus which was constructed to also facilitate a variety of extracurricular activities. A full-size football pitch, indoor and outdoor basketball, volleyball, and badminton courts, and a fitness facility all promote healthy physical exercise. However, be advised that you will definitely get your steps in by walking around this amazing facility! Bring comfortable shoes too! A dining hall, café, mini-mart, and bookshop allow opportunities to socialize while purchasing food and networking. Gotta adore the cappuccino given in a huge cup with a breathtaking view of the mountains! Iris even mastered walking down the stairs without spilling a drop!



Please note the **important dates** and **deadlines** and put them on your calendar:

October 1, 2025: Deadline for submission of proposals/abstracts

December 1, 2025: Notification of acceptance of proposal

December 2, 2025: Registration and housing choices open

February 15, 2026: Conference proceedings due

March 1, 2026: Early Bird registration and housing deadline

April 20, 2026: Final registration deadline

We are looking for sponsors for students and teachers from Bhutan and other developing countries. If you are interested in sponsoring conference attendees from low-income countries, please check out the IASE conference sponsorship site at <https://www.iase.org/bhutan-sponsorship>.

We will have additional updates on our website, so check it out monthly at [iase.org/19th-biennial-conference-bhutan](https://www.iase.org/19th-biennial-conference-bhutan). We are excited to see everyone at this one-of-a-kind event.



Please keep in mind that IASE will be celebrating its 40th birthday in Bhutan. So here are some highlights from our past events. Please share your favorite memory or photo to our newsletter editor. These will be featured in our upcoming newsletter. Email Samantha Riggleman at sriggleman@luc.edu.



Anu is one of our National Chairs and VSP site!

Award Winner!

Sankalp Society, an IASE volunteer site was recognised for its contribution in the social sector by Rotary on 22nd June 2025. The event was a reflection of shared commitments, lives that were touched and transformed and the magic created by effective collaborations and partnerships. The event recognised the importance of Service above Self. Sankalp in collaboration with Rotary in the year 2024-25 executed several initiatives of service spanning all areas of service impacting communities, empowering individuals and spreading hope. Some of the interventions included parent empowerment workshops, cervical cancer vaccination camp, oral health programme, menstrual hygiene campaign etc. Together we will create more stories aiming empowerment and large scale impact.



Dr. Anupriya Chadha is being presented with a special award from Rotary



**International Association of Special Education
Presents our next Virtual Dialogue:
Growing up with a Disability: Challenges and Accomplishments**

Please join us on September 6, 2025, at 10:00 AM, EST.

Featuring:

Samuel Delali Anku, Ghana, Vice President of Inclusion Africa and Self-Advocate Representative on the Board of Inclusion Ghana

Sampson Dzivor, Ghana, Software Developer

Julia Njeri Kiguru, Kenya, Special Education Advocate

To RSVP for this event, please [click this link](#). You will be sent a Teams Link before the event.



Check out our new IASE lapel pins that will be available at our next in person event the 19th Biennial Conference in Bhutan.

See Page 11 for more details

Update of IASE VSP Sites in Vietnam **By Craig Goldberry, Vietnam VSP Liaison**

IASE members, who got well acquainted during the IASE Conference in the Czech Republic (2024), had a reunion of sorts and shared time together in July 2025. IASE members attending the reunion included Ms. Oanh, Dean Nga, Melanie Reid, Dr. Ha, Ms. Khuyen, Dr. Rachael Gonzales, and Mr. Dung (as pictured in the photo: L to R). It was a great opportunity to exchange experiences, reminisce about their time in the Czech Republic, and discuss their future plans as it relates to the IASE and their personal aspirations and interests in volunteering with the IASE.

Dr. Rachael Gonzales spent the month of July working together with Dean Nga at the HCMUE as well as taking time to review important information regarding behavior management at the local IASE VSP sites. These included the HCMUE Intervention Room, which now has a large classroom dedicated to the BASICS3 Curriculum Framework Program and the Nhan Hoa Center owned and managed by Ms. Thu. Melanie Reid was also in attendance. She was welcomed by the IASE members and had expressed interest in becoming an IASE volunteer in Vietnam. They all met together at the IASE conference in Czech Republic, had a wonderful time while in HCMC, and spent the better part of July sharing information and experiences with each other.



Mary Gale and Iris were able to visit the Vietnam VSP sites this year to observe the activities and progress of services to children with special needs in Hue City, Hoi An, and HCMC. They proudly delivered much needed funds for each of the VSP sites as well as meet up with the VSP site managers and observing their progress. VSP sites visited included the Kianh Foundation School in Hoi An (Ms. Quyen), the Future School in Hue City (Ms. Anh), the Nhan Hoa Center in HCMC (Ms. Thu), and the Early Intervention Room at HCMUE (Ms. An).

In addition to the gathering of our IASE members in HCMC, we had a request by Dr. Asha Rao, an educator and scholar from Camosun College in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, for further information regarding her interest in volunteering in Vietnam at HCMUE. She has extensive experience in instruction and working together with individuals with special needs in various disciplines and would be a great resource for our needs at the university; We were able to hold a zoom meet with Dr. Rao, Dean Nga, Dr. Rachael Gonzales and Craig Goldsberry. It was a very informative meet, and a lot of information was exchanged to answer some questions Dr. Rao has regarding the IASE VP sites and the potential of becoming as IASE volunteer. She was very enthusiastic and expressed an interest in returning to Vietnam in 2026 and offers her time as an IASE volunteer at various VSP sites throughout Vietnam.



Dr. Rachael A. Gonzáles, Membership Chair

The International Association of Special Education (IASE) expresses appreciation to its current members and encourages renewing memberships to support its mission of improving the quality of life for all individuals with special needs.

Members are reminded to renew their membership to continue receiving benefits such as the *Annuntius* newsletter, the annual Journal of the International Association of Special Education, invitation to participate in our virtual dialogues, biennial conference special price, and opportunity to volunteering at our VSP sites.

FIVE MEMBERSHIP TYPES:

Regular – \$50

Student – \$20

Developing Economy – \$20

Institutional – \$70

Regular + Sponsorship (from a developing economy) – \$70

SPONSORSHIP – Consider sponsoring an individual from a developing economy nation to become a member of IASE. We have several individuals who would appreciate the support from a sponsor. Click the donation button on the membership page to support an individual. For \$20 you can sponsor a new member. \$100.00 will pay for five new members. Click on the sponsorship button to the right to sponsor one member. Click on sponsor members for more than one sponsorship.

<https://www.iase.org/membership>

REPRESENTATION OF INSTITUTIONS – If you are representing an institution and would be interested in being identified on the IASE website, please contact me. Your name and the institution that you represent would only be identified with your permission.

Current Membership -380

2025 Membership Goal -500

Any information or concerns you may have on issues related to membership the Membership Committee (Stacy Hylton, Debora Sembiring, Mary Sima Nkatiah and Radhika Misquitta) will discuss those issues at our next meeting. Please send any ideas/thoughts to rgonzales@csus.edu



Treasurer's Report

By Dr. Iris Drower

As of August 3, 2025

Checking	\$3,862.72
VSP Account	\$12,437.89
Marg Scholarship	\$7,894.76
Operating Budget	\$92,232.15
CD 4 Month	\$50,000.00

Total available balance
\$166,427.52



Renew and Join IASE Today!
To join IASE, contact Rachael
Gonzales, email: rgonzales@csus.edu
IASE Membership

Please print clearly

Surname:		First name:	
Address:			
City:		State/Province:	
Postal code:		Country:	
E-mail:			

*Membership type	US	(check applicable)	Name	Amount
<i>Institution</i>	\$70			
<i>Regular</i>	\$50			
<i>Sponsorship</i> 3 or more sponsored individuals – please state number here and attach details in page 2 below. Thanks)	\$20 /person		(Name and email of sponsored)	
			(Name and email of sponsored)	
<i>Student</i>	\$20			
<i>Developing economy</i>	\$20		Please refer to website for qualifying countries.	
<i>Marg Csapo Scholarship</i> (Donation)	\$ _____			
Total				

PAYMENT DETAILS:

VISA Master Card Discover Authorized.net (Please follow link on the website @ www.iase.org)	Name of Card holder (print): Credit card number: Expiry date:	Cheque Payable to: IASE Treasurer US funds Send membership form to: IASE Treasurer US funds PO Box 2159 Mesa AZ 85214
Billing Address:		

Details of 3 or more sponsored individuals

Name of sponsored individual	Email address

IASE's builds on current and historical strength to attend to her mission statement of reaching out to the wider international disability community. The following information that you provide will make a difference to our outcome as an IASE team and is greatly appreciated.

Name of member:-	Country :
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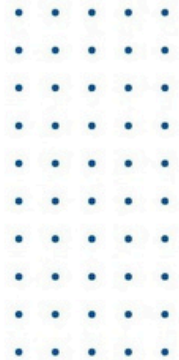
Subject	Check level of participation	✓	Please specify where appropriate
Active participation	Research		
	Practical		
Profession (please check only 1)	Academic		
	Education		
	Therapy		
	Support service		
Area of interest (check NOT more than 2)	Policy/management		
	Specific disability		
	Transition / occupational		
	Social / Community		
	Advocacy		
	Communication/behavior		
	Others		
Interest for participating in IASE programs	Presentation		
	Sharing /Observing		

Effective 28 June, 2017 IASE is implementing rolling membership dates. This means that an individual new membership will be effective for a year after payment is processed. Membership renewal will work similarly: membership will be extended for one year provided a renewal is processed before the membership expires. If a renewal is received after the membership has expired, the new expiration date of the membership will be one year after the renewal.



19TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION (IASE)

Cultivating Inclusive Futures:
**Innovations in Special
Education**



A Partnership between

**INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
SPECIAL EDUCATION
(IASE)**

&

**ROYAL THIMPHU
COLLEGE (RTC) IN
BHUTAN**



THIMPHU, BHUTAN

JUNE 21, 2026– JUNE 26, 2026

**SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL
HERE BY 1ST OCTOBER 2025**

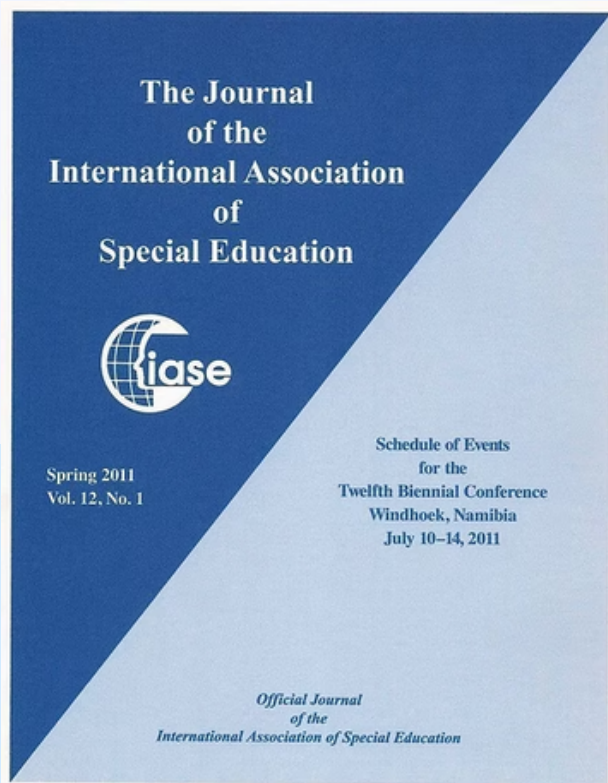


visit our website
www.iase.org | www.rtc.bt

JIASE - Journal of the International Association of Special Education

IASE would like to thank Renata Ticha for her leadership as journal editor. Girma Berhanu will take over as editor of JIASE. Once the transition takes place, the 2024/25 issue will be out.

As a member of IASE, you have access to JIASE. JIASE, is published annually in the spring. The ISSN # is 1555-6913. JIASE is listed with EBSCO, SWETS, and Wilson indexes. If you are an IASE member, you may purchase a journal for a fee of \$35 US. If you are not an IASE member, you may purchase an extra Journal for \$70 US. Purchase your journal today using the QR Code below.





| CALL FOR CO-SPONSORS |

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Cultivating Inclusive
Futures:

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(IASE)

&

ROYAL THIMPHU
COLLEGE (RTC) IN
BHUTAN



THIMPHU, BHUTAN

JUNE 21, 2026- JUNE 26, 2026

**SUBMIT YOUR SPONSORSHIP
HERE BY 1ST OCTOBER 2025**



visit our website

www.iase.org | www.rtc.bt

The IASE Conference Committee is looking for upcoming conference venues 2028. If you have suggestions, please share with the committee.

Newsletter Updates

By Samantha Riggleman

If you have any resources, stories, and pictures for a resource corner in future editions. Please email any additions to the newsletter to my email: sriggleman@luc.edu



Stay Up to Date

Visit the website: <https://www.iase.org/>



Save the Date

What: 19th biennial IASE conference

When: June 21-26, 2026

Where: Royal University of Bhutan