

Annuntiatius

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION



International Association of Special Education

Fostering a Global Exchange of Ideas and Information

Presidents' Message

Dr. Renáta Tichá

Greetings to all IASE members around the world. As I am writing this final message of my term as the IASE President, I am reflecting on my IASE journey that involves many of you, including meeting you at IASE conferences, through the journal and many other encounters online or in person. Being actively involved in IASE has changed my perspective on my work in the US and internationally in several ways. I understood that while academic research and publications are important in our field, it is as important to see, discuss, and assist with the various needs, opportunities, and approaches in real setting, in real time, in real situations. IASE provides this wonderful balance between implementation and dissemination of practices and their impact through its Volunteer Service Project (VSP) sites, biennial conferences, journal (JIASE), Virtual Dialogues, and the newsletter Annuntiatius.

**INSIDE,
WE ALSO
TALK
ABOUT:**

Guatemala VSP

Membership
updates

Treasurer's Report

It is an organization where people know each other by name and believe in the importance of the human aspect in what we do.

Several of us visited Cuba at the beginning of November as part of the US Citizen Ambassador program. Even though our time there was impacted by hurricane Raffael, we were able to experience a glimpse of the situation in which children with disabilities, their families and their teachers study, work, and live. While they do not have many material resources as many countries in which IASE has its volunteer sites, they have developed informal networks of support they rely on as neighbors, community members, and friends.

As I leave my position of the President of IASE, I want to keep this momentum of humanity in special and inclusive education and disability supports and service going forward. It is thanks to IASE I have this vision and mission to keep a person always before a formal service.

We are beginning to prepare for our next IASE conference in Paro, Bhutan, in collaboration with the Paro College of Education. I am excited to plan a conference in a part of the world with a different culture, history, language, and educational values from my own.

We have a new board of directors coming in starting in January. I am so happy my colleague, Daniel McCarthy, will be taking over as IASE President. It is a position that requires a serious commitment and passion for what we do. I also want to commend Carolyn Lindstrom for becoming the new President Elect, Rudia Kihura for becoming the new Secretary, Samatha Riggleman as an incoming newsletter editor, Girma Berhanu as an incoming IASE editor, Jan Šiška and Tejal Kothari as incoming Members at Large, and Samantha Mrstik as the new National Chairs committee co-chair, all of whom are wonderful colleagues of mine.

I would like to thank the current officers for their long-standing commitment to IASE.

Stay updated on the upcoming IASE happenings at <https://iase.org/>. Sign up for the IASE blog (<https://www.iase.org/blog>). Reach out to us with any questions.

Wishing you a wonderful end of 2024,
Renáta



Special Education Delegation Havana, Cuba, November 2024

Special Education Delegation to Cuba

By Samantha Rigglesman



A group of IASE board members and others participated in a Special Education Delegation to Havana, Cuba November 3-8, 2024. The purpose of this trip was to meet with professional counterparts in the country, including administrators, teacher educators, and government policymakers, to explore the education system within Cuba. Below is an overview of our time and visits during the trip.

Day 1: We arrived in Havana and enjoyed a beautiful view of the city and lunch at the historic La Divina Pastora restaurant.

Day 2: The delegation was introduced to Cuba's education structure and system (see photo above). We also met with the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP).

Meeting with the representative from the Ministry of Education

Day 3: The group met with the University of Havana and representatives from the University of Pedagogical Sciences.

Day 4: Due to the hurricane, we were camped out in the hotel in our room and watched the storm

Day 5: We walked through Havana and met local teachers who were clearing the debris for students to return the following week. We also spent time in Old Havana touring and seeing local sites.



While walking through the local neighborhood, we met an English teacher and a librarian in an elementary school and shared materials for the students.

Guatemala....A New Chapter

By Dr. Iris Drower and Mary Gale Budzisz



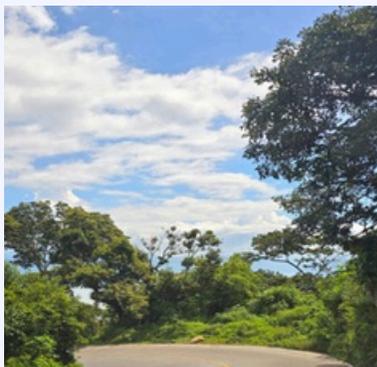
Welcome Centre for the village of Santa Maria with our parent volunteers.

Mary Gale and I returned to Guatemala to revisit Centro Maya Servicio Integral, a non-profit organization that provides comprehensive rehabilitation through CBR Community-Based Rehabilitation and to achieve the inclusion without prejudice of individuals with disabilities. Services now remain within the local communities.

We were informed that the original school site Centro Maya Servicio Integral is not being used. Viviana, Executive Director, explained that the project now has four locations around Lake Atitlan and the neighboring areas. We were able to visit two sites that focus on local service systems, resources, and practical solutions to real-world barriers for people with disabilities and their caregivers.

Our first stop in Santa Maria, at the top of a twisting road, allowed us to tour a room that offered physical therapy, a music program, and equipment for seniors. We met the physical therapist and the music instructor. We also were introduced to a group of enthusiastic and motivated parent volunteers who work tirelessly to promote the educational needs of their children and young adults in this area.

To ensure that no one is left behind, this facility strives to encourage more positive attitudes toward persons with disabilities and the importance of equity.



Guatemala...A New Chapter continued

We were then able to see a school building at the second location in San Marcos. This will be used as an inclusive community model, with services specifically designed for students with special needs.



Viviana introduced us to the administrative assistant at this area.





*Sponsor a New Member and
Make a Difference*

IASE continues to reach out to members around the world as we spread the word of what IASE has to offer. Part of this comes from the generosity of our membership. Here is an opportunity for you to sponsor a new member and become part of their lives. If you would like to support fellow special educators from developing economy nations to become members in our dynamic association, we encourage you to use the donation button on the membership page. For \$20 you can sponsor a new member. \$100.00 will pay for five new members. Click on the sponsorship button to sponsor one member. Click on sponsor members for more than one sponsorship. Thank you for your support. For more information, go to [membership](#) or contact our Membership Chair, Dr. Rachael Gonzales iasemembership@gmail.com



Rachael A. Gonzáles. Ed.D
Membership Chair

IASE is only as strong as our membership

THANK YOU to all who continue to work towards the improvement of quality of life and service delivery for all individuals with special needs in an inclusive environment. A special **THANK YOU** to IASE members who have graciously supported other individuals from developing economy nations to become IASE members.

As 2024 is coming to an end remember to renew your IASE membership. You do not want to miss the **Annuntiatius**, our quarterly newsletter and the annual Journal of the **International Association of Special Education** along with other information about IASE such as participating in the Volunteer Service Projects, the 2026 conference in Bhutan and future webinars.

Current Membership: 334
2025 Membership Goal: 500

Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much



Treasurer's Report

Checking \$7,272.72

Marg Scholarship \$7,893.60

VSP \$8,003.93

Operating Savings \$151,713.29

Total available balance

\$174,883.54



Renew and Join IASE Today!
To join IASE, contact Rachael Gonzales, email:
IASEMembership@gmail.com

Please print information clearly:

Surname: _____ **First Name:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____
State / Province: _____ **Postal Code:** _____
Country: _____

E-mail: _____

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** _____ **Discover**

Online Payment Authorized.net (Please follow link on the website @ www.iase.org)

Credit Card Number: _____ **Exp. Date:** _____
Name of Cardholder (print): _____ **Date:** _____

Billing Address: _____

Cheque (Payable to IASE, US funds)

Please send your membership form to:

IASE Treasurer
PO Box 2159
Mesa, AZ 85214
USA

Newsletter Updates

By *Samantha Riggleman*

I want to thank everyone for the opportunity to share news and information through the quarterly newsletter. As you may have noticed, I will be working on different formats of the newsletter and including various resources. I would love to have teachers and practitioners share resources, stories, and pictures for a resource corner in future editions. Please email any additions to the newsletter to my email: srigglem@sju.edu.



Stay Up to Date

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



Important Date or Events

What: 19th biennial IASE conference

When: June 15-18, 2026

Where: Royal University of Bhutan