

## From the DISES President



***Eileen  
Raymond***

As we have come to the end of 2015 in DISES, we have a number of changes afoot, and many plans for the new year. With our elections recently completed, we prepare to welcome new members to the DISES Board of Directors, and we bid farewell to 2015 members. We are especially pleased to be adding more geographic diversity to our Board next year.

**Vicky Spencer** has served us well for the past year as secretary. Her role in documenting our Board meetings has prepared her well for assuming her new job as our President Elect. Vicky now has a great grasp on the management functions of DISES, and I look forward to working with her in this new capacity.

**Sigamoney Naicker** is joining the



***Tom Gumpel***  
***Executive  
Director***

As the 2015 fiscal year came to a close, the DISES Board of Directors was tasked with reviewing compliance to the 2015 operating budget while also developing an operating budget for 2016. As with membership to CEC, membership in DISES is decreasing and this presents the organization with several difficult operational realities as our budgetary situation is directly related to our membership. DISES must continue to act proactively in order to maintain strong budgetary discipline, while simultaneously exploring supplemental revenue streams. With its reduced membership base, the services CEC provides to its divisions is also shrinking. As CEC undergoes...

[\*\(read more...\)\*](#)

## DISES Student Spotlight



**Anne Crylen**  
**Fulbright Scholar, University  
of Washington, USA**

As a Fulbright Fellow in Cambodia, I have put my boots on the ground and connected with others with shared experience of undefined and misunderstood disability.

Giving Voice to the Families of Children with Autism in Cambodia began with a few conversations and turned into a study in the only special school in the country providing services to these children. As the Khmer definition of disability constrains Autism to the category of Mental Health, there is a strong movement to revise that definition and set Autism, Intellectual Disability, Downs Syndrome, and Cerebral Palsy outside of this category. My research supports a need for this identified area of disability, call for community acceptance, and a social movement of inclusion.



## DISES Round Table

June 26th - July 1st, 2016

## DISES International Round Table

June 26 - July 1, 2016

Plan to register for the event early to take advantage of the Early Bird rate and to ensure that you secure your preferred accommodations. One and two bedroom condos and two and three bedroom houses are available however each of these are limited. We encourage participants to share rooms, condos and houses.

***Registration is now available!***

### ***Information on Nicaragua and the Round Table Event***

DISES received many very exciting proposals for the 2016 Round Table in Nicaragua. Members of the organizing committee visited the Gran Pacific Resort to finalize plans for the event. Visits to three local schools revealed the need for innovative practices that focus on academics while teaching functional practical skills for all children but especially the vulnerable children living in rural areas of the country. Round Table participants will visit the schools and complete a service project at each school during the event.

*The Fulbright Program is part of the United States Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.*

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## **Second Cape Verde Conference on Inclusion**

***Ana Paula Loução***

***Martins***

***University of Minho***

I had the privilege of organizing and participating in the *II Cape Verde Conference on Inclusion*. It was held on Santiago, the largest island of Cape Verde, between December 3 and December 4, and had 150 participants from Cape Verde, Mozambique, Portugal, and Angola, all Portuguese speaking countries. As a DISES member I had the opportunity to present a poster with information related to the organization work in the world. The poster presentation was particularly highlighted by the participants who interacted with me, discussing the importance of advocacy for vulnerable populations by institutions in their countries. They appreciated the information related to international contexts with which they were not familiar. I also had the opportunity to do teacher training and visit schools in the city of Praia.

We had also considered visiting the Trash Dump Community, however, it was apparent that this would not be helpful to the community...



*([read more here](#))*

## **Getting Ready for CEC 2016 Convention in St Louis!**



As we begin a new calendar year, it's time to think about the 2016 CEC Convention in April and all the opportunities it presents. This year we travel to St Louis Missouri in the US. DISES members and friends have many opportunities to network with each other and renew friendships. A reminder: if you're planning on attending, the cheapest registration rates are the early bird rates until February 2. Register early and SAVE. You can register now at <http://www.ceconvention.org/register/>

To whet your appetite, DISES has some exciting opportunities for you...

*([read more here](#))*

## **DISES Student News!**

***Jacob Hackett***

As the Student Representative to the DISES board and broader community, I'd like to say "hello" to the wonderful DISES community

It was an excellent opportunity to gain experience and knowledge, not only about the education of children with special needs, but also about the arts, culture, and identity of Cape Verde Islands, which are located in the Atlantic Ocean off the northern coast of Senegal.

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## **The Reality of Early Intervention Programs in Saudi Arabia**

***Lena Alkhuraiji***  
***University of Northern Colorado***

My name is Lena Alkhuraiji, and I am an international student and a teaching assistant. Currently, I am working on my MA in the field of Early Childhood Special Education in the U.S. I would like to write about the reality of early intervention programs in Saudi Arabia and discuss the importance of early intervention for children with special needs. Studying in the United States has afforded me the opportunity to see how young children with special needs can be taught alongside students with typical development. I have noted that there are many resources for teachers and schools for the purpose of helping these children. As a result, children with special needs can have a chance to become integrated into their society. This is something that I feel is necessary to bring back to my home country of Saudi Arabia.

including DISES Student and Professional Members!



The DISES community would like to recognize the current "Student Spotlight" recipient: Anne Crylen. Please see above for her Spotlight. You can also access her story and future Student Spotlights here: <http://dises-cec.org/site/student-central/student-spotlight/>

Please continue to submit student nominations to our Student Spotlight, as well as blogging on our website each month...

[\(read more...\)](#)

## **Where Will our Next Roundtables Be Held??** ***DISES needs your help!***

Each summer we hold a major professional development event in a different region of the world, like our recent 2015 Round Table In Jerusalem/Bethlehem and our 2016 Round Table next summer in Nicaragua.

But what about 2017, 2019, and 2020? As part of the site selection process, we are currently soliciting "Letters of Intent" from members and others interested in having a Round Table come to their region. A Roundtable is a small professional event (60-75 participants) where participants share papers about their research or projects in the field of special education or related fields. Each Roundtable provides time for extended discussion about the work presented as well as excellent networking opportunities.

One principal current issue is there are few available public centers where children with special needs can receive early intervention...

[\(read more...\)](#)

So we need your help! Do you know of a place that would provide an attractive context for an upcoming event? The ideal location would provide a conference center, hotel, or resort complex that would provide lodging, catering, and meeting spaces in a single location for all participants. The location should also provide opportunities to explore cultural attractions and educational venues in the region.

To submit an initial Letter of Intent to host a Roundtable in your region, [click here to see the proposal form](#) which provides the information you will need. For consideration for the 2017 Roundtable, we need to have all Letters of Intent before 15 February 2016. We will then work with proposers to develop their proposal prior to selection in April 2016. For further information, please contact Eileen Raymond at [DISES.CEC@gmail.com](mailto:DISES.CEC@gmail.com).

Thanks for helping make DISES such a vibrant professional community, one that connects educators around the world!



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DISES Newsletter  
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...welcome articles from our global membership. Please follow the links  
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**Thank you!**



***We Wish You a Very Happy New Year!***

*From the DISES Newsletter staff!*