

Message from DISES President

Eileen Raymond



This is an exciting time to be part of DISES! At our Board of Directors meetings in San Diego, we spent an entire day beginning the process of developing our strategic plan for 2016-2020. There was so much positive energy and work that day - I wish all of our members could have been there to catch some of it.

At the top of our agenda was the identification of ways to provide more opportunities for our members to become actively involved and connected to each other. We drafted goals and initial strategies in four areas. Champions were identified for each area, and they will be guiding their group in refining the goal statements and the strategies for reaching those goals:

- Collaborative Partnerships:

Rachel Brody
rachelbrody1@gmail.com

- Research and Scholarship:

Tom Gumpel

Executive

Director



The 2015
Jerusalem -
Bethlehem
Round Table

begins in just over two weeks, and all preparations are being finalized. As you may imagine, creating an event in two different countries with a complex relationship between them is a complex challenge. Israelis are forbidden entry into Palestine, and Palestinians are forbidden from entering Israel. Nevertheless, we have a tremendous event planned for participants.

We will begin in Jerusalem, meeting at the beautiful Beit Shmuel, which is just a stone's throw from the famous King David Hotel, the YMCA (one of the most beautiful buildings in this beautiful city), and the amazing Old City of Jerusalem. On Sunday afternoon, we will meet for a walking tour of the Old City and work our way through the Jewish, Armenian, Muslim, and Christian quarters of the ancient city, followed by an amazing

Vicky Spencer
vgwspencer@gmail.com

- Advocacy:

Susan O ' Rourke
slorourke@carlow.edu

- OrganizationalHealth:

Eileen Raymond
raymoneb@potdam.edu

We will be keeping members informed about the progress of our planning over the next few months. We invite you to join the process by helping us identify activities or strategies that might help increase our inclusiveness. Please feel free to send your ideas or your needs to any of the board members above or to me.

At the San Diego convention, we held our first annual International...

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**DISES NEW STUDENT
REPRESENTATIVE:
Jacob Hackett**



banquet at the amazing A'Zahara hotel in East Jerusalem.

On Monday, after a morning of presentations, we will tour some of the most fascinating parts of the city, culminating in a walking tour of the amazing outdoor vegetable market with a traditional Jerusalem dinner in the market. On Tuesday, after our morning discussions, we will transfer to Bethlehem and have dinner in a traditional Bedouin tent. Wednesday's meetings will be followed by a walking tour of the many beautiful churches and religious and archaeological sites in Bethlehem, followed by a traditional Palestinian dinner at a well-know Bethlehem eatery. On Thursday, we will complete our discussions and take a tour of the archaeological site of Herodion, build by King Herod the Great in 23 BCE as his fortress, and then view the giant separation...

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**DISES INCLUSIVE
ADVOCATE, EDUCATOR,
AMBASSADOR:
*The Man of Monterrey***

Ashleigh Molloy

In the novel *Don Quixote* written by Spanish author Miguel De Cervantes, the hero known as the Man of La Mancha embarks on an epic journey to pursue his "impossible dream". Cervantes explains the Don's desire to leave his village and take up the

Hello to the wonderful DISES community including DISES Student and Professional Members!!

My name is Jacob (Jake) Hackett, and I am the new Student Representative to the DISES board and broader community.

I am eager to represent the diverse needs of student DISES members, including:

- Providing a student voice during DISES board meetings
- Developing and promoting ways to deliver DISES information to the student community
- Increasing DISES student membership

Currently, I'm a doctoral candidate in the Special Education Department at the University of Washington (UW). As a doctoral candidate I'm both writing my dissertation as well as instructing courses in the teacher education program. I am also a field placement supervisor for pre-service teacher candidates. My international work includes identifying school and community supports for effective inclusion in Cambodian schools, as well as partnering with an interdisciplinary group of professionals in Bulgaria to support inclusive teacher practices and school policies.

As far as my research interests, they

profession of knighthood: "He was spurred on by the conviction that the world needed his immediate presence" (Book 1 Part 2). The cause of inclusive education has, in my opinion, its own knight, Sir Humberto Rodríguez of Escuela Normal De Especialización, whose presence is essential for advancing Mexican special needs education.

Our own DISES past president and "Sir Knight of Inclusion," Humberto Rodríguez, who I will refer to as the "Man of Monterrey", provided colleague Eileen Raymond and me with our own epic journey at the *Congreso Inclusion International: A Horizon of Possibilities*. We were privileged to be invited to participate as presenters at the conference in the beautiful city of Monterrey, Mexico. An international array of collegial advocates who are recognized leaders in inclusive education assembled to share their work with teacher candidates, parents, and educators from across Mexico...

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PRACTITIONERS

ABROAD:

Fulbright Distinguished Award in Teaching Program

Andrew Scheef

Moscow School District, Idaho, USA

For three months in 2014, I had the privilege of working and learning in

include:

- Identifying and promoting teacher supports for inclusion of students with special needs, particularly in poverty-impacted communities.
- Designing tools to support co-teachers.
- Preparing teachers for culturally and linguistically diverse students with special needs in poverty-impacted, particularly urban, communities.

Prior to entering the PhD program at University of Washington, I was a special educator in Atlanta, Georgia, USA...

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I INCLUSIVE EDUCATION IN BULGARIA:

A Current Case Study of Partnership, Development, and Implementation

Iva Boneva

Lilia Krasteva

*Center for Inclusive Education,
Sofia, Bulgaria*

Douglas Cheney

Colin Gasamis

Jacob Hackett

*University of Washington,
Seattle, USA*

Singapore after receiving a Fulbright Distinguished Award in Teaching. For my particular project, I was able to work with the Special Education Branch of the Ministry of Education, the National Institute of Education at Nanyang University (Singapore's only teacher education institution), and in many schools to better understand how students with disabilities are provided training to be successful in the workplace. I was especially interested in Singapore because these special education school programs have helped increase the percentages of graduates with disabilities finding employment from 2.6% in 2008 to 21% in 2010 (Singapore Ministry of Social and Family Development, 2012).

The Fulbright Distinguished Award in teaching allowed me to explore a different educational model to support students with disabilities, which challenged some of my deep-rooted beliefs. In addition to learning about these different perspectives and structures, the award provided me the opportunity to reflect on my...

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Upcoming Events

SAVE THE DATE!!
**DISES INTERNATIONAL
ROUND TABLE 2016 IN
NICARAGUA!**

Overview

UNESCO estimates that over 75 million children are excluded from education due to poverty, gender inequity, disability, child labor, speaking a minority language, being an indigenous person, or living nomadically or rurally. Inclusive Education (IE) is a shared priority of the international community, but complicating its implementation are varied disability definitions across countries and willingness to include students with disabilities in schools.

Bulgaria is working to align its mandates and goals of Education for All (EFA). To address this global initiative, assistance from multiple aid organizations and the Bulgarian ministry support including children with disabilities in the educational mainstream. Implementation obstacles include lack of resources; inaccessible, outdated architecture; and a culture of shame that ostracizes children with special needs and their families.

One School for All is a collaborative project of the Center for Inclusive Education (CIE), Sofia, Bulgaria with the University of Washington (UW), Seattle. The project is implemented in five schools in or nearby Sofia. This article highlights features of the CIE and UW partnership...

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DISES Bylaws Revisions

At our April Board of Directors meeting, the Elections and Constitution Committee reported on revisions to our Constitution and Bylaws to improve our operations.

In accordance with our Bylaws, the

June 26th - July 1st.



Request for Proposals will be sent in early September.



Put this date on
your calendar!
And meet me in St. Louis!

CEC  **2016**
CONVENTION & EXPO
APRIL 13-16 • ST. LOUIS

Watch for more information on the
Council for Exceptional Children 2016
Convention and Expo

coming soon!

revisions are submitted to the Board of Directors for review and then presented to the membership for ratification. The Board will be sending the revisions to the membership later this summer. We urge members to look for the revisions email and to vote on these recommendations.

Thank you!



DISES International Round Table 2015 in Jerusalem & Bethlehem

Moving Towards Engagement for Inclusion in Challenging Contexts

[Round Table Itinerary: CLICK HERE](#)

Or go to
[DISES Website](#)
for more information!



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Arlington, Virginia 22202



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Questions? Contact:
jisne.dises@gmail.com .

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Thank you!
