



March 2009

Newsletter



AASSA Board Election Results

The Association held elections for the AASSA Board of Trustees at the Latin American Administrators' Conference in Atlanta in December. The newly elected Board members are: Susan Barba (American School of Quito), David Cardenas (Columbus School, Medellin), and David Wells (Alliance Academy, Quito). William Johnson will continue to serve on the Board as Past President.

I would like to thank the departed Board members for their service to AASSA: William Johnston (Cotopaxi Academy, Quito), Carol Kluznik (Colegio Franklin D. Roosevelt, Lima), and Eric Spindler (International School of Monagas, Maturin).

The new officers are as follows:

President:	Philip Joslin (Lincoln School, Buenos Aires)
Vice-President:	Susan Barba (American School of Quito)
Treasurer:	Craig Johnson (American School of Brasilia)
Secretary:	Steve Herrera (Escola Americana de Campinas)

Upcoming Strategic Plan Online Survey

AASSA Heads of School will be asked to complete a very brief online survey in April so as to evaluate the organization's success in fulfilling the targets set forth in the Strategic Plan. The results of this survey will also be used as both feedback for future planning as well as evaluation of the Executive Director.

The Board requests that **ALL** member schools complete the survey so that we have universal input into our performance.

Recruiting Fair 2008



The 2008 Recruiting Fair in Atlanta was a well-received and positive event based not only upon personal feedback but also formal evaluations provided by both candidates and recruiters. The online system afforded contact between candidates and recruiters and provided information on both candidates and our schools prior to the fair.

We experienced a 63% increase in the number of candidates over the prior year with 163 in attendance at the fair and we had 59 recruiters from 42 member schools. 41% of candidates were hired at the time of or subsequent to the fair.

A NOTE TO HEADS: One thing that would work to maximize the overall potential of the fair would be if AASSA member schools were to align their notice period for current staff with our regional fair. The early date of our fair is both its main benefit and its worst enemy. There are simply too many positions that are listed as tentative at the time of the fair, and that results in candidates opting for later fairs at a time when jobs will all be definite... Please take this into consideration. If the deadline is moved to early December, teachers will simply decide earlier!



AASSA Recruiting Fair 2009

There will be a major upgrade in the venue of the 2009 Fair. Contracts have been signed by Advance-Ed and AASSA with the Grand Hyatt in Buckhead, a beautiful hotel in a prime location. Both events will take place seamlessly in the same hotel with the conference being held first. This switch allows for the completion of these tandem events with more time to spare before the Christmas break.

The dates are as follows:

December 1-3: Latin American Administrators' Conference
December 3-6: AASSA Recruiting Fair

We plan to complete programming upgrades to the recruiting site and open the site to candidates and recruiters in August.

Margaret Sanders Scholarship

I am proud to announce that Daniela Dorfzaun Rothschild, a senior at Colegio Albert Einstein in Quito is one of only four recipients worldwide of the Margaret Sanders Foundation Scholarship Fund for this year.

While all of the applications we received were impressive, Daniela's involvements stood out as extraordinary and superlative. She is a daughter of Holocaust survivors and has made it her quest to help in the recognition of Dr. Manuel Antonio Muñoz-Borrero, the Ecuadorian Consul in Sweden who saved the lives of 702 European Jews during World War II by granting them Ecuadorian passports. She spent two years researching the Ecuadorian Ministry of Foreign Affairs National Archives, interviewing government officials, and speaking to family members in an effort to document his heroic efforts. As a result, Dr. Muñoz-Borrero will be recognized in the near future as "Righteous Among the Nations," the highest honor given by the Israeli government to non-Jews for saving Jewish lives.

This is only one of Daniela's accomplishments in a portfolio of many pages of impressive involvements at her school and locally in Quito. AASSA is proud to be able to be a part of the recognition of such a fine student and we wish Daniela all the best. I suspect we are going to be hearing more about her in the future!

Upcoming Conferences

Business Managers' Conference

The annual Business Managers' Conference will be held in Miami from July 19-22. Further details will be forthcoming within the next few weeks by email.

Early Childhood Emergent Literacy Conference

A special conference will be offered from August 27-29, 2009 at Graded School in Sao Paulo, Brazil as part of the fulfillment of Keren Soriano's OSAC grant entitled "Preventing Reading Difficulties: A Guide to Early Identification and Intervention in Multilingual Classrooms."

The project aims to help educators in international schools set up a comprehensive balanced emergent literacy program and to aid educators in identifying and helping students who need additional language stimulation to meet literacy expectations. Using assessments appropriate for multilingual students, educators are better able to discern whether students are struggling due to second language learning or whether they are at risk for learning difficulties and then adjust instruction accordingly.

All AASSA schools are invited to participate in the project. Participating schools will receive training and work in conjunction with renowned specialists in multilingual literacy learning: Dr. Linda Siegel, University of British Columbia, Dr. Sylvia Linan-Thompson, University of Texas; and Dr. Ana Luiza Navas, Escola de Medicina Santa Casa.

Participating schools will receive classroom instructional materials, emergent literacy assessments in English, Spanish and Portuguese, and intervention materials. Participating schools will be required to assess kindergarten students three times per year (2009-2010) using the multilingual language and literacy assessments provided and submit the assessment results. Results will be analyzed by the consultants and included in the project documentation. All assessment data is confidential and no school or student names will be used.

Participating schools will be required to send at least one representative to the Emergent Literacy conference, scheduled for August 27-29, 2009 at Graded School in São Paulo. Conference fees and some financial aid will be available for educators from participating schools. The Emergent Literacy conference will include the following strands:

Foundations and Family Literacy: Stimulating early language development in English and supporting native language development through family literacy.

Comprehensive Balanced Literacy Instruction: Read-aloud and exposure to great children's literature, oral language development, comprehension, vocabulary, phonological awareness and alphabetic principal.

Assessment: Language and literacy assessments in English, Spanish, & Portuguese

Intervention: Classroom, Small group and Family supports for struggling readers or preschool students at risk for reading difficulties

Topics will be of most interest to early childhood educators (PreK-1st grade). All AASSA member schools are invited to attend the Emergent Literacy conference. Schools not interested in participating in the project may also attend the conference but no materials or conference costs will be covered.

Please contact Keren Soriano at Keren.Soriano@graded.br if you are interested in participating or receiving more information.

OSAC Grant Approval

Congratulations to Drs. William Johnston and James Stronge for their being awarded an OSAC grant for \$50,000 entitled “The Development and Implementation of Assessment and Evaluation Systems for Overseas Schools.” The results of this project should benefit schools in our region and around the world.

EBSCO Consortium

This year we reached an agreement with EBSCO that a majority of AASSA members have taken advantage of to date. According to our agreement, AASSA member schools can save 42% on the main 3 EBSCO database subscriptions as well as substantial savings on the remainder of their product line. . I would also like to welcome EBSCO as our newest Vendor Member.

My Recent Travels

I have had the pleasure of visiting a number of schools since the December Newsletter as noted below and I would like to thank everyone for their overwhelming hospitality and for the warm welcome I have received at all of our schools (not overlooking the borrowing of everyone’s clothes and the purchase of “collectible” Venezuelan underwear thanks to my lost luggage):

Guatemala: American School of Guatemala

Venezuela: Escuela Las Morochas, International School of Monagas, Colegio Internacional Puerto La Cruz, and Escuela Bella Vista

Guyana: Georgetown International Academy

Trinidad: The International School Port of Spain

The trip provided many memorable experiences (dinner in Antigua, staying at Mike Martell’s by the sea in Puerto La Cruz, and getting a memorable tour of the Georgetown “beach” by Father Reihl), but none topped the ingenuity of the staff at Escuela Las Morochas who decided they wanted me to enjoy the sunset over Lake Maracaibo by setting up a surprise party on the roof of the school! From there we could just see the lake and the oilrigs in the distance...

My visits to schools are over for this year, but I look forward to Brazil in August and hopefully seeing the few schools remaining to be visited on the continent next academic year.

Paul Poore
Executive Director

JEAN VAHEY RECEIVES DEPARTMENT OF STATE CERTIFICATE

During the opening session of the VANAS Conference held in Caracas March 23 JEAN VAHEY was presented a certificate from the Office of Overseas Schools which recognized her valuable work for the students and faculty of Escuela Campo Alegre. In July of this year Jean will leave Caracas and move to London to become the Executive Director of ECIS. Making the presentation on behalf of Dr. Miller and Dr. Scotti of the State Department is Dr. Max R. Tudor of AASSA. Also pictured is Bill Vahey.



AASSA-TRI ASSOCIATION REGIONAL APRENDA TESTING RESULTS

Results from the Regional Aprenda testing to begin to develop regional norms have been released on February 27. All school directors were sent the results via email from Paul Poore.

We hope that additional schools will sign up for the second round of testing in the fall of 2009. Please be in touch with Terry Ambrose of Pearson if you are interested. Her email address is (Terry.Ambrose@Pearson.com).



A Little History

The 1960's were momentous times around the world. 1968 is remembered for student unrest, while 1969 saw the first man on the moon. Closer to home, on the Caribbean island of Curaçao, the 1968/9 academic year saw the opening of a new school. Since that time, the International School of Curaçao has grown into the island's only K-12 international school.

ISC 's history reflects the island's cultural diversity. Originally set up to serve the children of U.S Consulate staff members, it later shared a site with the Hebrew Religious School, and then leased land from the Shell Company. The school later merged with a British Consulate school, and by 1981, enrollment was over a hundred, rising to 176 in 1984.

The International School of Curaçao is now an independent, not-for-profit international school. Apart from being an AASSA member school, it is an IB World School and is accredited by SACSCASI. No two days at ISC are the same. In recent weeks we have celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday, watched our students don lab coats and protective goggles at the 2009 Science Fair, invited an expert in the art of Indian paper folding into our midst, and our dive club has taken an educational trip to the neighboring island of Klein Curacao. Staff and students are feverishly awaiting our Spring Concert, which will be followed just two days later by the annual Talent Show.

ISC Throws a Party

This year, ISC turns forty. What for many people is an age to view with a certain trepidation, ISC's fortieth birthday is cause for celebration and a quiet sense of achievement. From 240 students five years ago, we now have an enrollment of over 500 with a staff of 83. Recent years have seen a number of major building projects, most notably a new multipurpose gym and auditorium, and a suite of high school classrooms, and major renovations have taken place across the school, notably in the Library.

How is ISC celebrating this milestone birthday? For a school that usually looks to the future, we have taken the unusual step of taking a trip down memory lane. The culmination of this year's celebration was a 1960's Sock Hop! This dinner dance, in the style of a 1960's High School celebration was held on March 14th and saw teachers and parents, old and new, as well as members of the alumni, bopping the night away.

Plus ça change...?

The past forty years have seen enormous change. However, no matter what the coming years may bring, the International School of Curaçao will always remember its humble beginnings and be proud of its achievements. And who can tell how ISC will celebrate its 80th birthday?

SPONSOR PLAQUES TO BE PRESENTED AT THE BOGOTA CONFERENCE

AASSA is deeply appreciative of the contributions our sponsors have so generously made to ensure the success of our Bogotá Conference. For the first time, Plaques will be presented to the following for their support of AASSA:

PLATINUM SPONSORS

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt—Blanca Wolek
Pearson—Barbara Field
TieCare International—Rick Gray

GOLD SPONSORS

Lehigh University—Daphne Hobson

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