



Happy New Year from SENIA

Hello SENIA Friends,

Happy New Year! We at SENIA hope you all have a healthy and happy 2021. We all know 2020 was basically indescribable. Wildfires, a pandemic, murder hornets, virtual schooling, and lockdowns all provided us with our share of anxiety and trepidation.



When our SENIA Manila conference was canceled just weeks before its start, we were quite devastated. Ever optimistic, we believed we could still proceed with our December conference as planned. But COVID thought otherwise. In July, the SENIA board decided to go virtual for our December conference. None of us knew how to go about planning such a thing and didn't even know where, or how, to begin. Well, we learned fast! Soon, #SENIA2020 became a reality.

In the end, we had 896 participants from 40 countries worldwide.



Check out more at www.seniaconference.com

Some of you watched the conference from the comfort of your own home while some of you were from large school groups. Many schools took advantage of this, including International School Manila who sent more than 60 educators and Jakarta Intercultural School which had 78! Schools learning together and adopting inclusive practices is really something special.

Some SENIA local chapters had watch parties (where permitted) so our members were still able to network. Best expressed by Kate Balsamo, “The heart of a SENIA Conference is networking and connections. And be it through community chats and meet ups on Whova, or in person watch parties, our members have risen to the challenge and expanded their knowledge and broadened their networks!”



DID YOU KNOW?

99.7% of participants found #SENIA2020 to be relevant and engaging

98.1% of participants learned strategies they can implement immediately

Check out more at www.seniaconference.com

No matter how you took advantage of the SENIA virtual conference, we do hope you enjoyed it. We have read your feedback and have already made some changes for next year's conference based on your thoughts.

We are so grateful for our speakers. Planning a virtual conference is tricky enough. Presenting at one is incredibly time consuming and comes with a high learning curve. Our speakers went above and beyond to give you high-quality presentations. It is due to these excellent speakers, that nearly 100% of participants who answered our survey found #SENIA2020 to be relevant and engaging. We are so incredibly grateful!

If you didn't have the opportunity to attend #SENIA2020, we hope you'll join us for #SENIA2021. We are excited that International School Kuala Lumpur (ISKL) has agreed to host. At this time, we are still unsure if we will be able to host an in-person event, if it will be all virtual or a hybrid model. However, no matter what, we will ensure that those of you who wish to enjoy a virtual conference will get to do so. This is our promise to you.

Happy 2021 from your SENIA International Board.

#SENIA2020 Celebration

Join us as we celebrate the end to a very successful conference. Thank you to all of you who participated in #SENIA2020. Make sure to watch our celebration video below. You may get a glimpse of yourself laughing or learning (or both)!



Part of the fun at this year's SENIA conference was participating in the variety of contests available. Below are our lucky winners, who all walked away with a nice cash prize.



CONTEST WINNERS

CONGRATS

COMMUNITY LEADER CONTEST

Vivaldie Smith

BRIDGE THE GAP CONTEST

Emmy Thamakaison & Vienna Sparks

on behalf of SENIA Youth

Janice Bareng-Pineda

on behalf of SENIA Beijing

SENIAPASSPORT CONTEST

Brian Morris

Jennifer Goldman

BEST CONFERENCE TWEET

Kanako Suwa

SENIA QUIZ

Bee Giek Choo



Thank you to our Sponsors

SENIAPASSPORT is so thankful for our sponsors, who helped make this conference so affordable to our participants. Please read about our sponsors [here](#) and even take some time to explore them in our Exhibitor's Hall in the Whova app. Our Whova app is still open and will remain open until April! It's not too late to learn about these fantastic organizations who support SENIAPASSPORT's mission.

GOLD



MARIO
FRAMEWORK

NESCA

SILVER



InternationalDiagnosticSolutions

BRONZE



Steps
with
THE ERQ

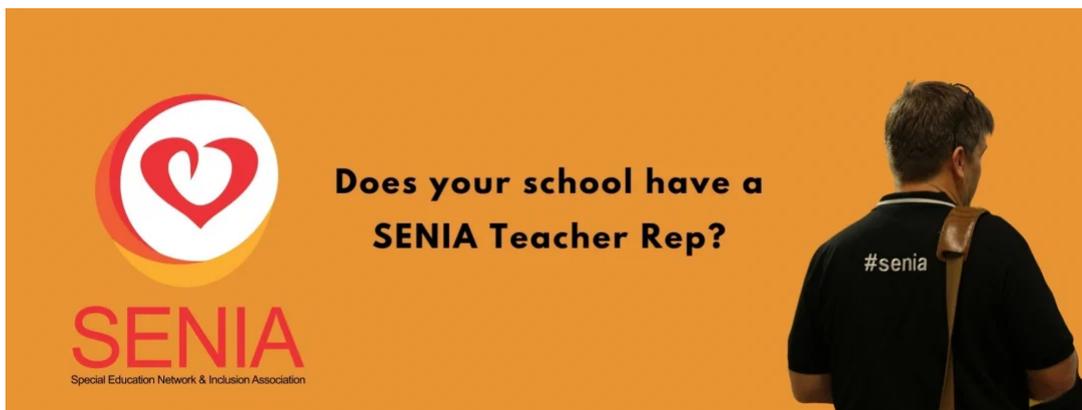


PATRON



Contact us for more details

SENIA Teacher Representatives



Does your school have a
SENIA Teacher Rep?

#senia

SENIA
Special Education Network & Inclusion Association

Does your school have a SENIA Teacher Representative (TR)? We had participants from 127 schools worldwide attend the #SENIA2020 conference and want to ensure that all schools have a SENIA teacher representative assigned.

The SENIA TR keeps your school abreast of SENIA events/conferences. In addition, the SENIA reps encourage their faculty to attend local and international SENIA conferences, help motivate teachers to submit

proposals to present at SENIA, and keep schools informed about inclusion PD in the region.

SENIA recognizes that each school has their own selection process when appointing a representative. As your school determines criteria for the SENIA Teacher Representatives, consider appointing/nominating an individual at your school whose role involves meeting the needs of diverse learners and is committed to advancing best practices in education for all students. Ideally, the appointed individual has attended at least one SENIA conference.

Please contact Kate at kate@seniainternational.org to discuss this exciting opportunity!

We are looking forward to establishing a partnership with your school in the future!

[Contact Us](#)

SENIA Happy Hour Podcast

Did you know that SENIA has a podcast? We have over 30 recorded podcasts for your listening pleasure. Our guests include many of our conference speakers such as Jessica Minahan, Norman Kunc & Emma VanderKliff, & Sarah Ward.

As many of you are heading back to school either live or virtual, we would like to remind you of this podcast with Dr. Roby Marcou, who helps us understand why it shouldn't be "Business as Usual."

Enjoy!



SENIA HAPPY HOUR PODCAST

**RETURNING TO SCHOOL:
IT'S NOT BUSINESS AS USUAL**

**Guest: Dr. Roby Marcou,
Developmental & Behavioral
Pediatrician**



Be Heard.

<https://seniainternational.org/podcast/>

Find Our Podcasts Here

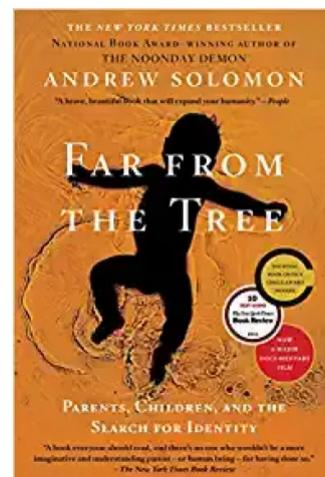
What We Are Reading

Review by Tanya Farrol, SENIA Board Member

Far from the Tree: Parents, Children, and the Search for Identity

By Andrew Solomon, 2012

Far from the Tree by Andrew Solomon explores the cultures of individuals with exceptionalities from multiple perspectives. Each chapter analyzes how families cope with a particular culture like dwarfism, down syndrome, autism, deafness, multiple severe disabilities, prodigies, etc., through the lens of parents, medical professionals, history and the child. These horizontal cultures develop around these exceptionalities but it is these exceptionalities that ultimately unite us.



Another theme in “Far from the Tree”, is the struggle for parents to accept their child for who they are rather than helping them to become their best selves. As you read the stories of parents dealing with the challenges of doing what they believe is best for their child, you can see societal and medical pressures at play.

This book is thoroughly researched and provides wonderful narratives of the experiences of different families. Andrew Solomon takes the reader on a journey through each exceptionality and culture including the reader in the search for an identity. This book is highly recommended to gain a better understanding of each culture.

World Changers



JANE CHRISTINE JUSTINE
Malaysia

For more info, go to:
seniainternational.org/awards/



Congratulations to Jane Christine Justine as the recipient of the January 2021 World Changer Award.

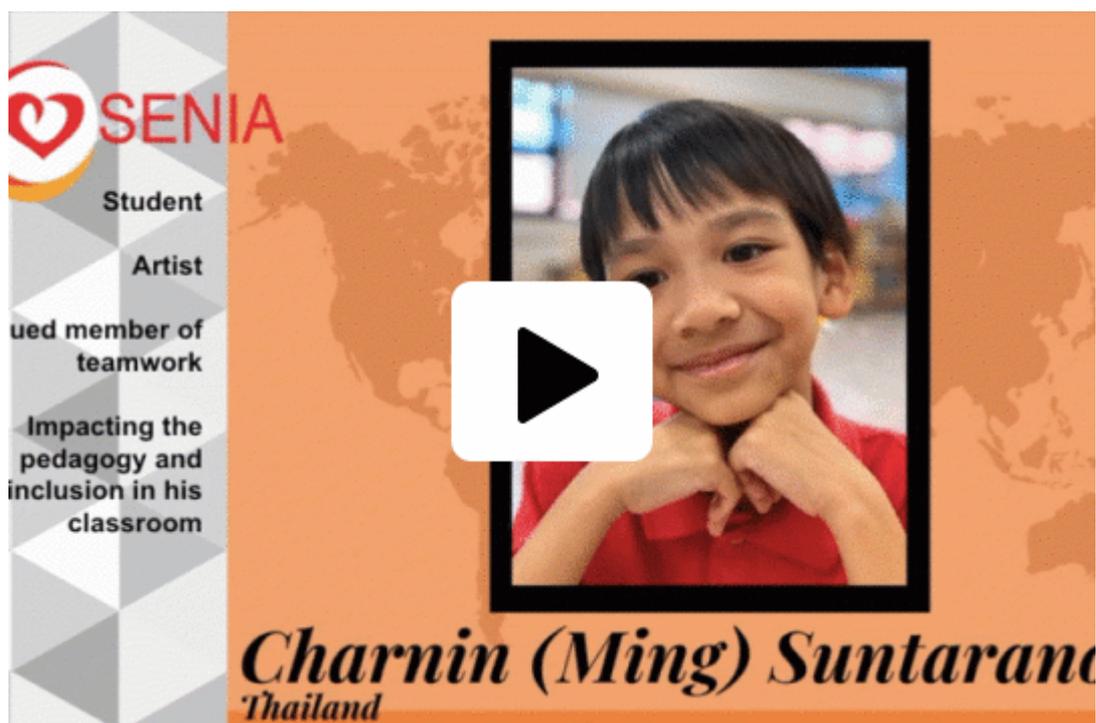
Jane Christine Justine, a student with a hearing impairment, was the leader of her school innovation team specializing in producing vegan food. Along with her team and their advisory teacher, they initiated a project called “Veganbond” which seeks to produce their own vegan food and raise public awareness on vegan lifestyle.

In 2020, she led her team to win three innovation medals in a local innovation competition and two global innovation contests that were virtually hosted in the UK and in Southeast Asia. Veganbond was also a finalist in the 2020 Youth Solution Report produced by SDSN Youth. They

presented their project in sign language and this led to major changes made by the event organizers in order to accommodate individuals with special needs, as only oral presentations were allowed in the past. Her efforts have successfully broken the barriers for students with learning differences, especially those with hearing impairments. Here is a link to their presentation: <https://youtu.be/pE774orv8OI>

[Watch Jane Christine's Presentation Here](#)

World Changers of 2020



You Can Nominate a World Changer!

Watch our video above to see the incredible impact our World Changers have made on their community.

Do you know a World Changer? The SENIA World Changer Award recognizes an individual who actively promotes inclusion in their community while supporting SENIA's Mission and Vision.

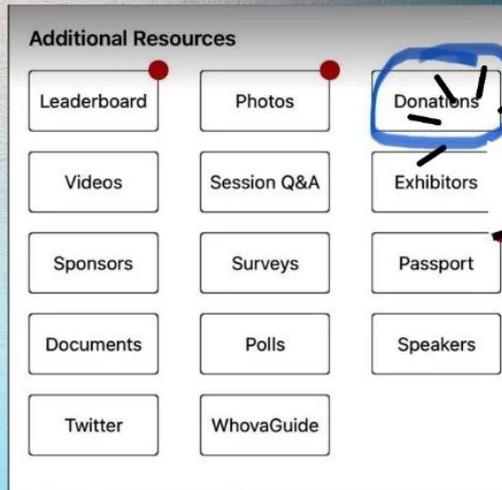
[Nominate](#) someone today!

Donate to SENIA Scholarship Fund

Please Consider a Donation to the SENIA Scholarship Fund!



or Scan this QR Code.



Thank you for your continued support.



SENIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SENIA is a non profit organization. To fulfill our mission of advocating for and providing resources for differently abled individuals, we have a scholarship fund. Our fund will help students with special learning needs with their education and support local teachers in communities where funding may be difficult to attend a professional development opportunity.

Please consider a small donation. If interested, scan the QR code above.

Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities



Hosts

**Autism Exercise
SPECIALIST
CERTIFICATE
WORKSHOP**

**THE STEPS TO EARNING YOUR
AUTISM EXERCISE SPECIALIST CERTIFICATE**

April 14, 21, 28, 2021

Each session begins at 8pm MYT. *Limited to 30 Participants.*



**AMERICAN COLLEGE
of SPORTS MEDICINE**
LEADING THE WAY



EXERCISE CONNECTION
Enhancing Focus, Fitness & Family in the Autism Community

EARN YOUR CERTIFICATE

Step 1: Register, Pay, and Complete Online Modules (\$120 USD)*

To register and pay for the Online Modules go to www.acsm.org

- Search "Autism Exercise Specialist"
- Click "CEC Course | Autism Exercise Specialist" in search results

You will need the following information when registering:

Full Name, Email Address, Mailing Address and Credit Card Information.

***Use the Coupon Code "MYS10" To receive a 10% discount (\$108 USD)**

For the Online Modules you will need to complete two surveys (pre & post), five webinars and read two research articles. The webinars and research articles each have a 15-question quiz to complete in order to pass. Don't worry, you have unlimited times to pass each quiz.

The Online Modules will take 6-7 hours to complete. These can be completed at your own pace, however, they **MUST** be completed by Monday April 5, 2021!

Step 2: Download Online Modules Certificate of Completion

Once you have completed the Online Modules you will receive a Certificate of Completion to your email. Download and save this PDF!

Step 3: Register for the Virtual Workshop (\$350 USD)

Once you have your Certificate of Completion go to AutismExerciseSpecialist.com

You will need the following to register:

- Your Online Module Certificate of Completion to Upload
- Credit Card
- Email address - Use the same email address you signed up for the Online Modules!

WORKSHOP REGISTRATION CLOSING ON APRIL 5, 2021

Limited to 30 Participants

For questions contact Kate Balsamo at kate@seniainternational.org

autismexercisespecialist.com

Become a Certified Autism Exercise Specialist

The [Exercise Connection Corporation](http://ExerciseConnectionCorporation) in conjunction with the American College of Sports Medicine is offering an ONLINE [Autism Exercise Specialist Certificate](http://AutismExerciseSpecialistCertificate).

Registration is open, and there are two parts to the process - outlined in the flyer below. Alternatively, you could [read about it here](#).

Step #1: Sign up for the ONLINE MODULES: \$109 USD with coupon code MYS10 - [Click HERE](#)

- You will receive a notification on your *ACSM online* platform notifying you have passed. Save your "Certificate of Completion" as a PDF, as you will need this to register for the in-person workshop.
- *Once you receive your "Certificate of Completion," you have 1-year to sign-up for the in-person workshop.*

Step #2: Register for the 3 Day Virtual WORKSHOP: \$350 USD - April 14, 21, & 28, 2021 (8:00 - 10:30 PM MYT)

Michelle Garcia Winner

EARCOS is offering two free webinars.

Session 1: Michelle Garcia Winner

Saturday, February 6 at 8:30 am (Hong Kong Time)

"Tools and Tips to Help Students Express Their Stress"

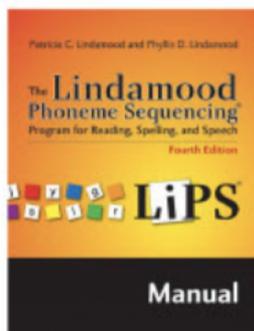
Session 2: Michelle Garcia Winner:

Saturday, March 6 at 8:30am Hong Kong time

"What Problem Are We Solving? Unpacking social problem solving"

Both events are free to educators from EARCOS Member Schools. To register, please visit Upcoming Events at www.earcos.org





Lindamood Phoneme Sequencing Program

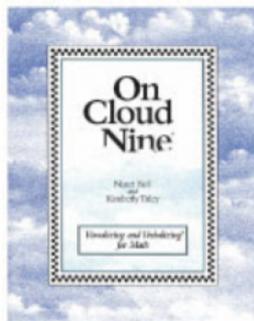
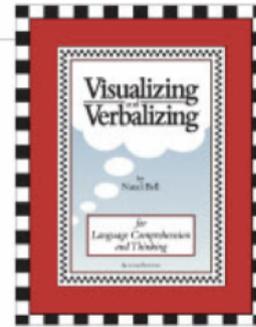
20, 27 February, 6 March

for Phonemic Awareness,
Reading, and Spelling (LiPS)

Visualizing and Verbalizing

27 February, 6 March

for Language Comprehension
and Thinking (V/V)



On Cloud Nine

13, 20 March

for computation
and problem solving

Workshops sponsored by EARCOS and NESAS

Learn the explicit, systematic, sequential, steps to teach students to read, comprehend, and mathematically reason to their potential. After the workshop, you receive a complimentary membership to Lindamood-Bell's online professional learning community, the Imagery-Language Connection. The Imagery-Language Connection is the best way to build on your initial workshop and stay connected with Lindamood-Bell for an entire year! *Imagery Language-Connection available for LiPS and Visualizing & Verbalizing. Register [here](#).*



