

Project Explores Families & Recreation

The importance of recreation for persons with and without disabilities is clear. In addition to promoting physical fitness, recreation can be a vehicle to teach motor and age-appropriate leisure and social skills, lead to making friends, improve self-esteem, and help one learn to make choices. However, participation in community recreation programs by children with developmental disabilities continues to be lower than for nondisabled peers. Research is showing that the reason may be the failure of programs to involve the entire family, not just the child.

Recognizing the need for improved recreation services for persons with developmental disabilities and their families, the University's Division of Recreation, Park, and Leisure Studies, in collaboration with the Institute on Community Integration (ICI), is completing a three-year program called the Therapeutic Recreation Leadership Training Grant Project. The project is funded by a federal grant from the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services of the U.S. Department of Education, and the co-directors are Stuart J. Schleien, John Rynders, and Carla Tabourne.

The primary purpose of the Therapeutic Recreation Leadership Training Grant Project has been to prepare future leaders in therapeutic recreation. The two main components of this project have been research and training with an emphasis on building bridges between families with children with developmental disabilities and practitioners in therapeutic recreation and community recreation. One of this project's activities has been the establishing of focus groups that bring together families and practitioners to make after-school recreation programs more inclusive for children and youth with and without developmental disabilities. The research of the Therapeutic Recreation Leadership Training Grant Project has also led to similar collaborations with Minneapolis Public Schools, Bloomington and Minneapolis Park and Recreation Boards, YMCAs, the Arc of Hennepin County, Wilderness Inquiry, and the Jewish Community Center of the Greater St. Paul Area (JCC) (see FYI, July, 1994).

On April 2, 1995, the three years of research and practice generated by this project will culminate in a day-long workshop at the JCC called "Powerful Partnerships: Parents & Professionals Building Inclusive Recreation Programs Together." The workshop will present keynote speaker Dr. Susan Hamre-Nietupski who is a nationally recognized authority on parent advocacy from the University of Iowa. The workshop will include sessions on the roles of parents and professionals, collaborative strategies for parents and professionals, planning time to bring parents and professionals together, and a presentation of two inclusive community recreation programs. A 100-page monograph is also being developed to be available at the workshop. The monograph is targeted to families who have children with developmental disabilities as well as to practitioners, and it will provide "how-to" ideas and examples of exemplary programs which illustrate relationships between family members and recreation providers.

For information on the Therapeutic Recreation Leadership Training Grant Project, call Stuart J. Schleien at 625-4073. For information and registration materials for the workshop on April 2, call Joni Bergquist at 625-7583.

Staff Update

- **Staff Arrivals:** Jennifer Sandlin is the new Student Word Processing Operator in the RRTC area. Yana Verzhikovskaya is a new Community Program Assistant on the IHE grant for Mary McEvoy.
- **Charlie Lakin** was chosen by the Minnesota Chapter of the American Association on mental Retardation (AARP) to receive the Alfred Binet Award. He will be honored March 1 at the Minnesota AARP meeting for his "original contributions to services, community awareness, training, and research in the field of developmental disabilities."
- **Teri Wallace** and **Julie Lindholm** recently gave a presentation about ICI to the Minnesota Association of Vocational Special Needs Personnel.
- **Amy Hewitt, Bob Prouty, Ellen Blake, and Charlie Lakin** will be participating in the RTC's annual "Reinventing Quality" conference. This year's conference is again co-sponsored with the American Network on Community Options and Resources and is entitled, "Redefining and Redesigning for Quality." It is being held in Phoenix, Arizona from March 5-7.

Dates to Remember . . .

- **February 20:** Institute Council meeting, 9:30 a.m., Room 118
- **February 27:** Cultural Competency Self-Assessment Committee, 9:00 a.m., Room 118.

From the Front Office

News from ICI's Administrative Staff

- **Bulletin Boards Being Set Up.** The Community Building Committee is nearly finished putting up bulletin boards for everyone at ICI to use in Room 5 and on the second floor by the copy machine. Fliers will be posted explaining how to use them. For further information call Pam Hunt at 625-3863.
- **Maroon and Gold Day.** The College of Education is sponsoring an ice cream social on Friday, February 17th in the Wallace Atrium at Burton Hall. Goldie Gopher will make an appearance and the ice cream will be, you guessed it, maroon and gold. You are encouraged to wear the school colors and to call 625-1310 to make a reservation for the maroon and gold ice cream.
- **PIs/Account Managers:** The ABC Budget Office deadline for spring quarter appointments (new hires or changes in appointments) is Friday, March 10. Please try to have information to Beth no later than Monday, March 6.
- **Undergraduate Students:** Beginning spring quarter, undergraduate students will need to provide a copy of their fee statement to Claudia in Room 102. This will help establish and maintain records of eligibility for student appointments. The fee statements should be given to Claudia prior to every quarter.
- **Meeting minutes are available.** The minutes from the Institute Council meetings and the Community Advisory meetings are available for all to look at. They are kept in two notebooks with Dawn in room 102.

Bits and Pieces

Information from the Institute's Research and Technology Consulting Group (RTCG, 110 Pattee, 4-7337) and the Publications Office (109 Pattee, 4-4512).

• Internet Hot Spots

- **This Month's Internet Picks** (a cornucopia of interesting places to visit in Cyberspace):

gopher.legislate.com - Legi-Slate Gopher Server: The Legi-Slate Gopher Service allows users to locate any bill or resolution introduced since the beginning of the 103rd Congress by number (requires Gopher+ client), date, sponsor and chamber and type.

http://thomas.loc.gov - Access to a wide variety of congressional information including full text of bills as they move through Congress including updated revisions every 24 hours. The system has a sophisticated search engine that checks the entire text of all bills.

For information on using Gopher and the World Wide Web, or to get connected, please contact Tim Soulen at 624-7337.

• Publications Workshops, Sales Tax

- **Workshops a success.** On February 1st and 3rd, the Publications Office presented two workshops on writing/editing and design/layout. Fifteen to 20 people attended each workshop. This is an annual series, so if your schedule didn't permit attending this time, look for a repeat next year.
- **We charge sales tax now.** As required by the IRS, the Publications Office is now charging sales tax for publications. This means, among other things, that anyone who purchases a publication on site must pay Minnesota and Minneapolis sales tax. If you have any questions concerning this policy, call Michael at 624-4512.

Miscellaneous

- **Conversations in the College Community Continues.** The next program, "Poverty, Drugs and Child Development" will be on February 15 with Scott McConnell and Ann Masten, Institute for Child Development. The program for February 22 is "International and Comparative Education" with Karen Seashore Louis, Associate Dean, and Joseph Mestenhauser, International Education. The programs are in 250 Wulling Hall from noon to 1:30 p.m.
- **Participants Sought.** RRTC's Parent Case Management for People of Color program is looking for participants as part of its first year of training. Applications are being sought from unserved and underserved individuals with disabilities, and parents or guardians of persons with developmental disabilities in the African-American community. For applications or more information, contact Marijo McBride at 624-6830.
- **Media Exchange on Health Care.** ICI is coordinating a forum on "Health Care Reform - Impact on Individuals with Developmental Disorders: Legal, Ethical, Moral Issues." The first session, "Overview of Health Care Systems," will be Tuesday, February 21 with guest speaker Diane Lardie, Universal Health Care Action Network, Cleveland Ohio. The second session, "The Role of Developmental Disabilities Training Programs in Health Care Reform," will be Tuesday, February 28 with guest speaker Robert Griss, Center of Disability and Health, Washington, D.C. Both sessions take place 2:00-3:30 p.m. in Room 326, Coffman Memorial Union. For more information, call Teri Wallace at 626-7220.
- **Birthdays.** Bob Bruininks (2/22); Dave Johnson (2/26); Laura Medwet (3/6); Beth Nelson (3/8); Hope Hoinville (3/10); Deborah Anderson (3/11); Mary McEvoy (3/13).