

September 15, 1995

ICI Opens in Cyberspace

You're a student at North Carolina university. It's 2 a.m., you're writing a research paper, and you're looking through databases on the World Wide Web to find the latest statistics on the number of people with disabilities living in large U.S. institutions. You're a high school principal in Montana who's looking for ways to improve the post-school outcomes for students with disabilities. You're wondering how other school districts have tackled this problem as you surf the Internet at 4:30 on a Sunday afternoon. You're an Arizona parent of a child with a disability and you need advice and information about how to work with the school to make sure she's welcomed, supported, and fully included. You've just hooked up your home computer to the Internet, and you start searching through education sites to find organizations and materials that can help you.

As of September 15, 1995, these three people, along with millions of others worldwide, can find the disability-related information, resources, and assistance they need through the Institute on Community Integration World Wide Web site (address: <http://www.coled.umn.edu/iciwww/>) on the Internet.

Over the summer the site was redesigned and it is now fully operational. On the Institute on Community Integration home page, users find the following categories: Institute Overview, Institute Publications Catalog, Institute Reports Online, Institute Projects Online, Other Disability Related Servers, and User Survey. By clicking on the icons next to each of these categories users can access a description of all ICI projects, the complete publications catalog, the full text of selected ICI reports and resource guides, updates and requests for information from specific projects, other quality servers around the country with disability information, and a survey asking users for feedback on the site.

The Web site was designed to present the public with high quality, attractive, user-friendly pages that reflect the scope, depth, and professionalism of the work at the Institute. Part of ICI's mission is to share information with others who can use it to improve the lives of persons with disabilities. Electronic dissemination over the Web is a new communications avenue that can compliment other methods of dissemination, allowing ICI to reach people at the user's convenience, any time of day or night, from anywhere in the world. The Web also allows ICI to reach an estimated potential audience of 20-30 million people accessing the Web worldwide at very little cost.

There is an additional ICI Web site just for internal use that will soon be completed. The Institute's public Web site is coordinated jointly by the RTCG and Publications Office. When ICI projects are planning to use electronic dissemination, they should work with Tim Soulen in the RTCG (4-7337) and Vicki Gaylord in the Publications Office (4-6347) to intergrate new efforts into the existing site and to use electronic dissemination most effectively. If you do not have a copy of the Institute's Guidelines for Electronic Dissemination, you can get the sheet from Michael in the Publications Office (109 Pattee). For assistance in accessing the ICI Web site, contact Tim at 624-7337 or the RTCG Helpline at 626-1515.

Staff Update

- **Staff Arrivals:** **Elizabeth Bradley**, Research Assistant on School-to-Outreach Project; **Jennifer Sandlen** returns to ICI as a student word processing operator in the RRTC; **Julie Hirsch**, Research Assistant formerly with the Dropout Prevention Project, is now with the CAREI project.
- **Staff Departures:** **May Yang**, student secretary for Publications, leaves to teach English as a second language at the Sabathani Center; **Dawn Englestad** leaves for Austria soon and her last day at ICI is Friday, September 15. Auf wiedersehen!
- **Carol Davis** has received a faculty appointment at Ed. Psych. and will be directing the Emotional Behavior/Disorder Licensure Program.
- This summer Jennifer Lowell York was married and is now going by **Jennifer York-Barr**. Our congratulations and best wishes!
- **Ilana Duvdevany**, Professor of Social Work from Bar Ilan University in Israel, will be at the RRTC through mid-October as part of the exchange with Bar Ilan and the RRTC. Her Office is in Room 105 Pattee.
- **Amy Hewitt** was recently on a panel at the National Collaborative Academy on Mental Retardation in Washington. Amy spoke to a standing room only audience, perhaps affected by following immediately after John F. Kennedy, Jr. on the program. Sources say that she stole the show.

Dates to Remember . . .

- **September 20: RTCG Open House**, 12:00 p.m., 110 Pattee Hall.
- **September 25: ICI Council**, 9:30 a.m., 118 Pattee Hall.

From the Front Office

News from ICI's Administrative Staff

- **Missing Keys.** A set of personal keys was recently found. If you are missing your keys, come to Room 102.
- **Grant Accounts.** Many grant accounts are ending in the next few months. Please let your grants budget person know if there are printing and other encumbrances that need to be encumbered prior to the end date of the grant.
- **A New ICI Capacity.** What do Megan Dushin, Paul Fossum, John Sauer, Pam Hunt, and Andy Halper have in common? They (along with others) demonstrated some type of watermelon seed spitting capacity at the recent First Annual ICI Watermelon Party. Of the 25 plus people who attended, many demonstrated technique, endurance, and velocity with their spitting. And everyone had the opportunity to join in with the watermelon song: *For honeydew and cantaloupe are mighty fine, yet nothing can taste finer than a watermelon vine* (excerpt from the famous Watermelon song).
- **Wellness Activities.** The Community-Building Committee is sponsoring a couple lunch time events to help reduce stress. On September 22 equipment will be provided for participants to do foot, neck, and shoulder massages. The on Friday, October 13th, Boynton Health's Comfort Zone will present a session on yoga and teach exercises that can be done at one's desk. Both of these events will take place from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. The September 22 event will be held in Room 12, Pattee Hall. For more information, contact Pam Hunt at 625-3863.

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).

- **Open House; New Services**
- **RTCG's Open House.** RTCG is sponsoring an open house on Wednesday, September 20th at 12:00 noon in Room 110. RTCG will provide information on the new procedures for accessing RTCG services and introduce its many new services. Lunch will be provided, along with beverages and dessert. If you wish to attend, please sign up either by the printer in Room 110 or on the bulletin board in the lunch room in Pattee Hall.
- **New Services.** To better meet the needs of the Institute, the RTCG has restructured how its services are accessed. Jon Goldman has been designated the RTCG Generalist. He will staff an RTCG Helpline, and he will be responsible for all general computer/statistical support for the Institute. All requests for RTCG support should be directed to Jon. In case of emergency, you may also call Tim, Megan or the RTCG R.A.'s for assistance. The following are the new phone numbers for RTCG: RTCG Generalist (Jon) & Helpline: 626-1515; RTCG R.A.'s: 626-7881 (Virginia Traylor, Laura Schauben, No-Hoon Kwak, or N.R. Vaidyanathan and *project specific* support); Megan Dushin: 626-8649 (Vax account and SPSS site license information; administrative support to RTCG and the Transition Program Area); Tim Soulen: 624-7337 (RTCG coordinator; backup support for Generalist)
- **New Publications**
- **New.** Off the press this month are the RRTC Report #46 *Residential Services for Persons with Developmental Disabilities: Status and Trends Through 1994*; the revised *Reinventing Quality*; and the Fall issue of *What's Working in Transition*.

Miscellaneous

- **FOIS.** Demonstrations and training sessions are being scheduled for the four ICI program areas on how to use the College's Funding Opportunity Information System (FOIS). Call Tim Soulen to set up a time for your area's session at 624-7337.
- **Slide Show.** Everyone is invited to view the "Remembering With Dignity" slide show on September 20, 4:00 p.m. at the ACT Office, 1821 University Avenue, Suite S-306 (Fairview entrance). For more information, call Charlie Lakin, 624-5005.
- **Federal and State Legislative Updates.** The Community Advisory Committee is sponsoring a meeting on September 20 to provide an overview of legislative changes as well as information on the implications of block grants for Minnesota. Speakers will include Wayne Erickson, Woody Cox, and Colleen Wieck. The meeting will be held in rooms 351 & 352 Coffman Memorial Union, 9:00-11:30 a.m. If interested in attending, call Teri Wallace at 626-7220.
- **Grant Writing Workshop.** About 30 people attended the recent grant writing session which received high marks from participants. The next three sessions are in the process of being rescheduled and will happen as soon as pending federal decisions regarding funding are made. For more information on grant writing workshops, call Teri Wallace.
- **ICI Organizational Updates.** If you missed the ICI gathering on September 8th, copies of the informational packets that were handed out are available from Teri Wallace. Orientations for new employees will be scheduled for later in October.
- **Birthdays.** Kristin Geenan (9/27); Mary Hayden (10/9); Kathie Wolff (10/7); Ellen Blake (9/17); John Rynders (9/21); Jennifer York-Barr (9/26).