

ICI/RTC Collaborating with Israeli University on Disability Project

Staff of the Institute on Community Integration (ICI) and its Research and Training Center on Residential Services and Community Living (RTC) are collaborating with Bar-Ilan University near Tel Aviv, Israel, on the development of the new Center on Disability at Bar-Ilan. The center will be one outcome of a three-year international exchange program between the ICI/RTC and the School of Social Work and its related community services and clinical programs at Bar-Ilan. Also participating are staff from the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs and the School of Medicine at the University of Minnesota. The project is part of the International University Affiliations Program of the U.S. Department of State.

This project will establish a Center on Disability at Bar-Ilan that will draw on the experience of the ICI/RTC in developing an interdisciplinary center of applied research and technical assistance in community services and support for persons with developmental disabilities. Participants from both universities will spend at least one month in each other's countries engaged in joint program development, research, and publication activities, as well as in travel and observation of services within the host country. Like most international exchanges funded by the Department of State, the primary purpose of this project and its parent program is to contribute to the cross-cultural understandings of staff and students of the participating institutions.

The International University Affiliations Program is highly competitive. The success of the Minnesota/Bar-Ilan application was due to two factors: 1) the commitment at Bar-Ilan (with funding from the Israeli government) to develop Israel's first institute on developmental disabilities, and Bar-Ilan's interest in modeling that program on the ICI/RTC; and 2) a history of direct collegial involvement between University of Minnesota participants John Rynders and Charlie Lakin and Bar-Ilan participants Aric Rimmerman and Chaya Schwartz.

Staff of the project include John Rynders (ICI/RTC) and Aric Rimmerman (School of Social Work, Bar-Ilan University) as Directors; Charlie Lakin (ICI/RTC) and Chaya Schwartz (School of Social Work, Bar-Ilan) as Associate Directors. Other participants from the ICI/RTC include Stuart Schleien, Mary McEvoy, Darrell Lewis, and Mary Hayden. Humphrey Institute participants include Sharon Patton and Nancy Eustis. Also participating is Nancy Okinow of the National Center for Youth with Disabilities, which is part of the University of Minnesota's School of Medicine.

The project, which began in the fall of 1993, is funded by a \$100,000 grant from the United States Information Agency, U.S. Department of State. Bar-Ilan University has received financing from Israel's welfare department to support program development. For further information on the project contact John Rynders (624-5241).

Staff Update

- **New Staff:** Heather Batchelor, Undergraduate Research Assistant with the Early Childhood Research Institute; Sara Sulzbach, Community Program Assistant with the Early Childhood Research Institute; Karen Anderson, Word Processing Operator for Mary McEvoy and Joe Reichle; and Warren Hansen, Student Secretary in 102 Pattee.
- **New Location:** The staff of the ADD Training Grant have moved to 203 Pattee; housed in that location are Dorothy Wrobel, David Fee, Amy Hewitt, and Karen Langenfeld.
- **Quality Conference:** The RRTC is co-sponsoring the national conference, *Reinventing Quality II*, February 28 - March 1, in Hollywood, Florida. Participating RRTC staff are Charlie Lakin, Bob Prouty, and Ellen Blake. The conference is being co-sponsored with the American Network of Community Options and Resources.
- **Staff Presentations:** Marijo McBride represented the Institute at the AAUAP Consortium on Inclusive Communities forum, February 1-2 in Kansas City. She also facilitated a workshop titled *Empowerment, Inclusion and Advocacy* on January 24 in Brainerd as part of the Parent Empowerment Training Series sponsored by the Central Minnesota Center for Independent Living, Inc.

Dates to Remember . . .

- **February 21: Institute Council Meeting. 9:30-Noon. 118 Pattee**

From the Front Office

News from ICI's Administrative Staff

- **Institute Council Meeting Info.** If you'd like a copy of the minutes and/or handouts from Institute Council meetings, you can get them in 102 Pattee. The next meeting will be held Monday, February 21, from 9:30-11:00 in 118 Pattee. For information about the times and agendas of future meetings, see Claudia in 102. All ICI personnel are welcome to attend the meetings.
- **Program Work Group Seeks Input.** The Program Development work group of ICI is soliciting staff input regarding its proposal for ICI organization at the program area level. Copies of the proposal were distributed to all ICI personnel the week of February 7. The final two opportunities for input will be on February 17 in the Discourse Room (2nd floor Pattee) at 8-9 am and 12:45-1:45 pm. If you have been unable to attend the scheduled meetings but have comments to share, please give your written comments to Laura Bloomberg, Charlie Lakin, Vicki Gaylord, Terri Vandercook, or Teri Wallace no later than Friday, February 18. Input is desired from all who work at ICI.
- **Administration/Budget Work Group Evaluating Centers.** The Administration and Budget work group of ICI is in the process of evaluating the services and costs of the three cross-Institute centers: the Publications Office, the Research and Technology Consulting Group, and the Administrative Core. At its March 15 meeting it will examine the data from the centers and their users, and will make recommendations regarding center operations and support.

Miscellaneous

- **Mice, Mice, Mice, Mice.** Mice have been moving into Pattee. The count so far in room 5 is nine dead mice and five live sightings. To discourage them from moving in and from moving to other areas of the building, it's essential that the humans in Pattee do not feed them. Please do not leave food sitting out anywhere overnight, clean out your dishes, if you have food in your desk store it in metal or glass containers, and put empty soda cans in the recycling bin.
- **Institute Dialogue Groups.** The ICI has several dialogue groups that offer staff/students a chance to connect with each other around a variety of personal/professional issues. The following are topics, dates, and locations for the next meetings: **Creating Meaning and Balance in Life**, Tuesday, March 1, 11:30 am - 1 pm, 239 Burton, facilitated by Marijo McBride (4-6830); **Leadership: Development of Personal and Corporate Skills and Initiatives**, Thursday, February 24, 11:30 am-1pm, location to be determined, facilitated by Mo Fahnestock (4-5042); **Our Personal Conflict Management Styles**, date/time/location to be set, facilitated by Jo Montie (4-9858). In addition, a new dialogue group is forming to discuss facilitated communication issues and research; for information contact Mo Fahnestock (4-5042).
- **Africana History Month.** African American graduate students from the College of Education are sponsoring a graduate panel discussion about their research and perspectives on issues in education, Wednesday, February 23, from 12:05-1 pm in N647 Elliott Hall.
- **Birthdays.** Deborah Anderson (3/11); Karla Anderson (3/9); Bob Bruininks (2/22); Linda Dorl (3/19); Stacy Goetz (3/6); David R. Johnson (2/26); Mary McEvoy (3/13); Laura Medwetz (3/6); Beth Nelson (3/8).

Bits & Pieces

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

- **New Macs/Price Drops**
- **New Line Coming.** The new Mac line is coming out in March. The processor is based on a new architecture that promises to be significantly faster than the current models. Apple also claims the new machines will be fully compatible with existing software. These machines are going to be competitively priced, which means you can expect prices on the current line to drop in the next four to six weeks. Apple also has several models on sale as part of their Holiday bundle, including the LC 475, the Quadra 800, and the Powerbook Duo 230. For more information stop by and see us in the RTCG (110 Pattee).
- **Trivia, New Stuff**
- **Pubs Trivia.** In the last fiscal year, (7/92-6/93) how many individual publications did the Institute print?
- **New Publications. Using Information to Improve Services to Minnesota Youth with Disabilities in Transition from School to Adult Life**, a report synthesizing information from the 1993 Data Collection Symposium sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Education. **Creating Inclusive School Communities Staff Development Series**, five modules for adults who work in schools. Includes *A Shared Agenda for General and Special Educators*, *Curriculum as Everything Students Learn in School*, *Classmates Learning to be Members of Caring Communities*, *Adults on Collaborative Teams*, and *Providing Support in the Classroom*. ICI staff may borrow the loan copies in 109 or purchase copies.

Trivia answer: Over 79,000!