



November 15, 2013

## Going Global: ICI in Oman, Costa Rica, and Siberia

The Institute on Community Integration (ICI) has long shared its expertise internationally. In recent months, Institute staff have connected with new international partners in Oman, Costa Rica, and Siberia to do innovative work focusing on young people with and without disabilities.

Through ICI's Global Resource Center for Inclusive Education, Christopher Johnstone of ICI and David Porcaro of Seward Incorporated received a \$60,000, six-month contract from UNICEF Oman in April to conduct research on a proposed national "disability observatory" for children with disabilities and special needs. A disability observatory is both a Web-based database and an organization consisting of diverse stakeholders – parents, policymakers, and educators involved with children with disabilities – who guide the observatory's mission. The goals of this disability observatory are outreach, networking, maintaining and expanding the database, and research dissemination. "Oman has made considerable strides in the past 15 years in serving children with disabilities," says Christopher, "and this observatory would help greatly in developing future programs and policies based on timely, reliable, and useful data." The project, which ran from April to September 2013, included travel to Oman to interview stakeholders, and concluded with recommendations to UNICEF about the content and implementation of the observatory.

The American Youth Leadership Program: Learning to Serve...Serving to Learn project directed by Brian Aberly and coordinated by Renáta Tichá, is an 18-month inclusive service learning project pairing 33 students – 12 of whom have disabilities – from the School of Environmental Studies in Apple Valley (a public high school on the grounds of the Minnesota Zoo) with 17 students from a Liceo de Poás high school in Costa Rica's biodiversity-rich rainforest. The students from Minnesota and Costa Rica will study environment, climate change, food security, and nutrition, and develop a collaborative service learning project to address a need in those areas, all while enhancing their cultural understanding, global competency, and leadership skills. In July and August 2014 the Minnesota students will spend three weeks in Costa Rica working with the students there on their collaborative project. "This project is an opportunity to take the inclusive service learning program we developed here at the Institute to a country where educational inclusion is much more the exception than the norm," says Brian. The project is funded by a \$200,000 cooperative agreement from the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and runs from July 2013 to December 2014.

In November, Brian and Renáta traveled to Siberia at the invitation of the Krasnoyarsk State Pedagogical University (KSPU) to run workshops, attend lectures, and observe Siberian special education. "Inclusion is just in its inception in Siberia; they were clearly looking to us for resources," Renáta says. "The workshops we led on inclusive service learning and outcome measures for students with significant cognitive disabilities were very timely as potential tools and strategies they can use to move the inclusion process along." While in Krasnoyarsk, they began exploratory discussions with KPSU about possible ongoing collaboration in the area of progress monitoring for students with significant cognitive disabilities.

FFI on these activities contact Christopher at [john4810@umn.edu](mailto:john4810@umn.edu) or 612-625-2505, Brian at [abery001@umn.edu](mailto:abery001@umn.edu) or 612-625-5592, and Renáta at [tich0018@umn.edu](mailto:tich0018@umn.edu) or 612-624-5776.

## Staff Update

- **Staff Hires/Departures:** None.
- On November 6-8, **Angela Amado** spoke at the 48th Annual Australasian Society for Intellectual Disability Conference in Sydney on friendships and relationships with community members. She also co-facilitated two discussions at the event.
- **Beth Nelson** will serve as ICI's Representative to CEHD's Professional and Administrative Council (CPAC), which is responsible for Professional and Administrative (P&A) employees. CPAC advises the Dean on matters concerning P&A employees under College jurisdiction and maintains communication with the University's P&A Senate. P&A employees can learn about CPAC meetings, minutes, and events at [sky.cehd.umn.edu](http://sky.cehd.umn.edu). Beth will update ICI's P&A staff regularly.
- **Derek Nord, Jeffrey Nurick, Kelly Nye-Lengerman, Susan O'Neil, Mark Olson, and Joe Timmons** presented at The Arc Minnesota Statewide Conference in St. Louis Park, November 1-2. **Nathan Perry, Barb Kleist, Beth Fondell,** and Mark staffed the Self-Advocacy Online booth. The Research and Training Center on Community Living and the Minnesota Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities were among the conference's co-sponsors and **Allana Hayes, Barb,** and Beth helped organize it.

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## Dates to Remember...

- November 21: ICI Pizza Forum, 12-1, 118 Pattee Hall
- November 28-29: University closed
- December 10: ICI Council Meeting, 10:30-12, 118 Pattee Hall
- December 18: ICI Winter Gathering, 11:30-1:30, 325 Education Sciences Building

## From the Front Office

News from ICI's Administrative Staff

- **Buses Return to Washington Avenue December 7.** Metro Transit and other regional public transportation providers will resume bus service December 7 on Washington Avenue through the University of Minnesota's East Bank campus. The return is aligned with significant schedule and routing changes on bus routes throughout the Twin Cities. Routes, maps, schedules, safety tips, and more will be regularly updated at [metrotransit.org/washington](http://metrotransit.org/washington).
- **Emergency Planning.** Recent events on and around campus serve as a reminder to think about safety and your surroundings. Report suspicious behavior to 911 and review the ICI Building Emergency Plan at [ici.umn.edu/intranet/bldgsafety/ICIBldgERPlanFEB2013.pdf](http://ici.umn.edu/intranet/bldgsafety/ICIBldgERPlanFEB2013.pdf). The plan is being reviewed and will be updated and redistributed in December.
- **Benefits Open Enrollment.** Open Enrollment is November 1-December 2. This is only time yearly that University employees can change their health plan coverage. There is no need to re-enroll if you are satisfied with your medical and dental plan choices – your current plans will continue into 2014. Other options include: Enroll to participate in a flexible spending account for 2014; enroll in child life insurance without evidence of good health; enroll in or increase the amount of voluntary long-term disability, if eligible; and increase short-term disability coverage up to \$200 without evidence of good health. Learn more about your options,

review the rates, and view the online Open Enrollment workshop on the Open Enrollment Web site at [www1.umn.edu/ohr/benefits/openenroll/](http://www1.umn.edu/ohr/benefits/openenroll/). Provider directories can be found on the reception table in 102 Pattee Hall.

- **Personal Holiday Reminder.** The holiday season is approaching and staff may extend their holiday cheer! Just a reminder that Civil Service (CS), Bargaining Unit (BU), Professional and Administrative (P&A) employees, and Graduate Research Assistants (GRAs) may use their Personal Holiday once between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014. GRAs should work with their supervisors on recording and tracking personal holiday use. All others (CS, BU, P&A) should record personal holiday use in Workgroup Calendar. Questions? Contact [kuro0008@umn.edu](mailto:kuro0008@umn.edu).
- **ICI Winter Gathering.** On Wednesday, December 18, ICI will hold its annual Winter Gathering in 325 Education Sciences Building, 11:30-1:30. RSVP information will be going out after Thanksgiving break. Watch your e-mail!
- **Institute Council Update.** The Institute Council, ICI's leadership team, met on November 12 and among the topics discussed were the ongoing University Job Family Study and ICI's next steps in participation, the Stephanie Evelo Memorial Art Display, NIRS data collection schedule and needs, and the upcoming visit by the new executive director of the Association of University Centers on Disability.

## Miscellaneous

- **PACER Anti-Bullying Guide.** "Unite Against Bullying: A Student Event Planning Guide," which PACER created with the support of Facebook, is a guide to planning events, activities, outreach, and educational initiatives to help prevent bullying. FFI, visit [pacer.org/bullying/resources/toolkits/classroom/school-event-guide.asp](http://pacer.org/bullying/resources/toolkits/classroom/school-event-guide.asp).
- **Pac Rim Conference RFP.** The Center on Disability Studies at the University of Hawai'i seeks proposals for presentations

for the 30th Annual Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity, "Learn from Yesterday, Live for Today, Envision Tomorrow" which will be held May 19-20, 2014, in Waikiki, Hawai'i. Deadline for proposals is 1/31/14. FFI, visit [pacrim.hawaii.edu/about](http://pacrim.hawaii.edu/about).

- **Birthdays.** **Laurene Christensen** (11/19), **Maureen Hawes** (11/20), **Sherri Larson** (11/26), and **Karen Storm** (12/5). Did we miss your birthday? Let us know! Call 4-2380 or e-mail [kuro0008@umn.edu](mailto:kuro0008@umn.edu).

## Bits & Pieces

New Publications and Web Resources

- **New Publications.** The following new ICI publications are available:
  - *Friends: Connecting People with Disabilities and Community Members* (October 2013). Published by ICI's Research and Training Center on Community Living (RTC). The manual is available on the Web at [rtc.umn.edu/docs/Friends\\_Connecting\\_people\\_with\\_disabilities\\_and\\_community\\_members.pdf](http://rtc.umn.edu/docs/Friends_Connecting_people_with_disabilities_and_community_members.pdf). Accompanying activity worksheets are at [rtc.umn.edu/docs/Friends\\_Activity\\_worksheets.pdf](http://rtc.umn.edu/docs/Friends_Activity_worksheets.pdf).
  - *NCEO Technical Report 68: 2010-11 Publicly Reported Assessment Results for Students with Disabilities and ELLs with Disabilities* (September 2013). Published by the Institute's National Center on Educational Outcomes (NCEO). Available on the Web at [cehd.umn.edu/NCEO/OnlinePubs/Tech68/default.htm](http://cehd.umn.edu/NCEO/OnlinePubs/Tech68/default.htm).
  - *Accommodations for Students with Disabilities on State English Language Proficiency Assessments: A Review of 2011 State Policies* (August 2013). Published by NCEO's IVARED project. Available on the Web at [cehd.umn.edu/NCEO/OnlinePubs/IVAREDELPaccommodationsReport.pdf](http://cehd.umn.edu/NCEO/OnlinePubs/IVAREDELPaccommodationsReport.pdf).
- **E-Newsletters Now In "Products."** The e-newsletters of five ICI projects/centers have now been added to the Newsletters section of the ICI Products pages on the ICI Web site ([ici.umn.edu/index.php?products/browse/newsletter](http://ici.umn.edu/index.php?products/browse/newsletter)). This addition gives the public more opportunities to find out about and sign-up for these valuable resources. The e-newsletters are *Check & Connect News & Resources*, *Connections* (from DirectCourse), *NCSET E-News*, *NCEO eNewsletter*, and *QualityMall.org e-Newsletter*.
- **FYI Deadline.** Items for the next FYI should be submitted to Tom ([donag003@umn.edu](mailto:donag003@umn.edu)) by December 9.