

The Year in Review

1992: What You Didn't Read in the Annual Report

The end of the year is typically a time for reflection on what we've done or haven't done (or wish we'd done/hadn't done) during the past 12 months. At the Institute we have many opportunities for self-examination during the year: each fall when the annual report comes out, every time we complete an interim or final project report, each quarter when we complete quarterly reports, and every time we prepare a proposal or reapplication. However, there are many milestones that aren't captured in the pages of those documents. Here are some of the other events that were part of our lives at the Institute in 1992:

Arriving Staff

- Beth Nelson
- Mike Williams
- Joyce Hayden
- Nan Satterlee
- Laurel Graham
- Hamdy El-Sawaf
- Ellen Blake
- Steve Halverson
- Michelle Krause
- Edward Colon
- Gene Chelberg
- Debra Ehret
- Caroll Rydel
- Liz Hellebuyck
- Patty Moran
- John Smith
- Mo Fahnestock
- Carol Davis
- Marty Smith

Departing Staff

- Yuwen Chang
- Cathy MacDonald
- Steve Halverson
- Kris Schoeller
- Bridget Mathie
- Michelle Orcutt
- Carla Peterson
- David Flower
- Eric Kloos
- Dee Deno
- Kristin Stolte
- Sharon Olson
- Lynda Price
- Jill Jackson
- Sandy Thompson

Births

- Jenna Schleien
- Elizabeth Wallace
- Mary Medwetz
- Reid McConnell-Johnson

Projects

Sixteen new Institute projects were funded in 1992, bringing the total to over 54 projects going on as we enter 1993.

Public Policy Discussion Group

Met biweekly and achieved its goal of filling the conference room with people who wanted to discuss interesting and controversial policy issues, such as political correctness, the coexistence of advocacy and scholarship, reasonable accommodation under ADA, decentralization of services, 1992 state legislative issues, assuring quality of services for persons with developmental disabilities, and influencing public policies for persons with developmental disabilities.

Staff Development Workshops

Held monthly and offered Institute staff and friends opportunities to acquire skills and knowledge in celebrating diversity in the workplace, obtaining foundation support, writing and editing, design and layout, personal safety and building security, making time and space for yourself, using the discourse system, strategies for effective public speaking, and computer care and safety.

Softball

The Institute's softball team in the University's Intramural Co-Rec League finished the spring season with 4 wins and 2 losses, moving into the play-offs. They finished the summer season with 4 wins and 4 losses, and no playoffs.

Awards

Institute personnel received numerous awards and recognitions during 1992, including the following:

- Gene Chelberg, received the Donald R. Zander Award for exceptional academic achievement, leadership, service, and personal character.
- David R. Johnson, received the School Bell Award from the Minnesota Education Association.
- Sandy Christenson, received the Lightner Witmer Award from the American Psychological Association in recognition of scholarly activities and contributions in the field of school psychology.
- Linda Dorl, awarded the Coffman Alumni Scholarship from the College of Education.
- Jim Thompson, awarded the Jason David Schleien Memorial Scholarship.

New Staff, Old Staff . . .

- **Edward Colon** has joined the Institute as the Coordinator for *Together We're Better: Inclusive School Communities in Minnesota*, a statewide systems change project. His background includes positions in human resources management, research analysis and statistics, and community service.
- **Martha "Marty" Smith** has been hired as Coordinator for the Institutes of Higher Education Training Project, which trains higher education faculty in issues related to infants with disabilities or at risk and their families. She has held positions in special education and disability-related areas with a focus on young children, including her last position as a consultant to the Minnesota Department of Education's legislative funding initiative for young children with handicapping conditions.
- **Stuart Schleien** is now the Director of Graduate Studies in the School of Kinesiology and Leisure Studies.
- **Mary Hayden** has been assisting Sacred Fire Lodge, a program for chemically dependent Native American men, with grant writing to raise funding for a new program for women. They have now received a five-year grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide transitional housing and supportive services to Native American women who are homeless and chemically dependent. Mary secured additional funding for the first year of operation from the Minnesota Housing and Finance Agency, Family Housing Fund of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Otto Bremer Foundation, Butler Foundation, Patrick and Aimee Butler Family Foundation, and the St. Paul Companies. The first year funding raised totals \$230,507.
- **Jo Montie, Terri Vandercook, Jim Thompson, Cheryl Light, Kathleen Feeley, and Stuart Schleien** attended and presented at the national TASH conference in November.
- **Patricia Merrill** is moving from the Publications Office to the basement of Pattee, where she will be a Program Associate with the National Transition Network.

Becoming a Better Presenter

If you want to improve your presentations, consider these suggestions from Bert Decker, author of *You've Got to be Believed to be Heard*:

- Create a strong opening by announcing a serious problem that involves your audience - or by telling an emotionally moving story.
- Move around to change the dynamics of your presentation. Whenever possible, leave the lecture area or walk around the conference table. Don't shuffle or pace. Move toward the audience at the beginning and end of your presentation.
- Ask a number of rhetorical questions to keep your listeners active and thinking. Occasionally ask for a show of hands.
- Establish three to six seconds of eye contact with as many individuals as possible. Don't forget the people sitting at the far edges of the room.

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Odds and Ends

- **Custodial Requests:** If you have a cleaning/custodial type request, please leave a message on the Facilities Management Customer Service Hotline instead of leaving a note for the custodian here. The phone number is 626-8119.
- **Take a Message:** There have been complaints about people who share phones not receiving their phone messages. If you share a phone with others, please develop a system for ensuring that everyone gets their messages as quickly as possible.
- **Quarterly Reports.** Reports for activities between October 1-December 31 will be due January 15. Please get them in on time. Contact Laura Bloomberg (5-0502) with questions.
- **Speak-Out!** The summary of town meetings held throughout Minnesota on developmental disabilities issues, titled *Minnesotans Speak Out!*, is now available from the Governor's Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities, (612) 296-4018.
- **Inclusion Conference: *Learning Together: Strategies for Inclusive Education*** conference will be held February 19-20 in Denver. Sponsored by the ACL Colorado, Colorado TASH, PEAK Parent Center, and Weld School District #6. FFI call (800)-284-0251.

Dates to Remember...

- December 16: Institute Holiday Party, 2:30, Shevlin Hall.
- December 21: Core Function Meeting, 9:30.

Celebrations!

Birthdays

- December 11: Pat Tommet
- December 28: Vivienne Dye and Claudia Brummel