

Institute Joins Others in Training Research Professionals

"Good scientific research" has three components: (1) It is adequately conceptualized; (2) it follows scientifically acceptable research practices; and (3) its findings result in the advancement of theory or have applicability to the solution of practical problems. When these three criteria are applied to evaluating research in rehabilitation and related fields, it is often difficult to find sufficient examples of good research. It is believed that the primary cause is inadequate preparation of professionals to conduct research, integrate prior research, and to translate and disseminate research findings into practice.

To address this problem, the University's Department of Educational Psychology through the Institute on Community Integration and the Research and Training Center on Community Living, and the Department of Pediatrics, Center for Children with Chronic Illness and Disability, are collaborating on a three-year project, titled the *Minnesota Rehabilitation Research Training Program*. The purpose of the program is to train research professionals who will undertake careers and assume leadership roles in rehabilitation and related fields. During the three-year period, the project will prepare up to ten post doctoral (M.D. and Ph.D.) professionals for independent careers as researchers in two important, inter-related areas: (1) child and adolescent health, emphasizing chronic illness and disabilities, and (2) applied research on economics of rehabilitation and related community service programs for persons with disabilities.

This program has several components, including:

- Individualized trainee learning and research plans in consultation with an interdisciplinary faculty committee of experienced researchers in rehabilitation and related fields.
- Extensive didactic and classroom training in research methodology, research specialization themes, and foundations.
- Specialized interdisciplinary, focused research seminar series for project trainees.
- In-depth interdisciplinary experiences that provide trainees with specific foundations and methodological expertise outside their primary disciplines.
- Intensively supervised research practicum.
- Ongoing evaluation of trainee progress by advisors and the interdisciplinary faculty committee.

It is expected that this project will have both direct and indirect effects. The most direct effect will be the development of professional researchers who will conduct quality research in rehabilitation and are capable of publishing and effectively presenting research results. The indirect effects will be twofold. First, the knowledge base relevant to rehabilitation will be enhanced, thus policy makers and administrators will be in a better position to shape public policy on rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities. Second, since the program will have a strong applied research focus, persons with disabilities will benefit by being provided with empirically demonstrated, effective interventions and services.

This project is funded by a \$371,824 grant from the U.S. Department of Education. For further information, call David R. Johnson, (612) 624-1062.

What Have They Been Up To?

• **Local Boy Makes Good.** Gene Chelberg, undergraduate research intern in the RTC on Residential Services and Community Living at the Institute, received the Donald R. Zander Award, which is given to one male and one female student for their exceptional academic achievement, leadership, service, and personal character. Gene was selected from among the 200 recipients of the President's Student Leadership and Service Award. Congratulations, Gene!

• **AAUAP.** Scott and Laura were in New Orleans last week for the AAUAP annual meeting. Major emphasis of this year's meeting was to discuss inclusion of people with disabilities and families in planning and implementing UAP programs (e.g. project advisory boards, project staff). Scott and Laura also learned about plans for the upcoming site visit (look for info from them in *fyi* this summer).

• **AAMR.** ICI was widely represented at the 116th Annual Meeting of AAMR (American Association on Mental Retardation) last week, also held in New Orleans. Several staff were in attendance, many of whom gave presentations.

Dates to Remember ...

- **Institute Annual Spring Picnic:** June 5, 3:00 p.m., Pattee Hall backyard.
- **Staff Development Workshop:** *Computer Care & Safety*, noon - 1 p.m. 125 Burton.
- **Community Advisory Council Meeting:** June 15, 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Radisson Metrodome.

Publications Update

Look like a million for under a hundred!

If you create brochures/fliers, there is a new paper assortment that can give your materials the look of professional graphic design, in 2-4 colors. They are preprinted brochure and flier papers that come with the artwork already done. You just add text. For small quantities, use them in the laser printers and photo copiers. For large quantities, we can order the paper and send it to Duplicating Services with your job. Stop in and see the catalog. It's in Vicki's office, 109 Pattee.

Cross Reference

A new video tape, titled *Communicating for Health*, has been added to the Institute's resource library. The 12 minute video assists residential staff in communicating more effectively with health care providers on behalf of and with persons with developmental disabilities. To check it out, contact Marijo, 624-6830.

Career Opportunities

The Forest Lake School District will be hiring an elementary special education teacher for the 1992-93 school year. In addition, there are part-time early childhood and speech/language clinician positions available. Applications will be accepted by written inquiry to Dr. Donley Johnson, Director of Personnel and Administration, Independent School District 831, 6100 North 210th Street, Forest Lake, MN 55025.

How You Can Help

After a person with a vision impairment has undergone training to be paired with a Seeing Eye dog, the first few weeks at home are crucial in the development of the relationship between dog and owner. In that time, the future success of the pair as a working team will be determined. Family members, friends, and coworkers can help by observing some simple rules:

- When owner and dog arrive, greet them in a relaxed manner. Do not rush up to them.
- Let the dog make the first advance.
- Do not follow the team when the dog is working. This is a serious distraction for the dog and will prevent the team from functioning effectively.
- The owner has been taught how to correct the dog by using the leash. This does not hurt the dog and, when coupled with affection, results in efficient guidance and good behavior.
- A Seeing Eye dog is not a pet, but family and friends need not ignore it. The important thing to remember is that the greatest amount of affection and care must come from the owner.

From The Seeing Eye, Inc., Morristown, NJ.

Odds and Ends

• **Institute Spring Bash.** Don't forget! Sign up now in room 6 Pattee for the Institute annual spring picnic this Friday, June 5, at 3:00 p.m. in the backyard.

• **Staff Development Workshop.** The Institute's Technical Assistance Center will present *Computer Care and Safety* on June 11 from noon - 1 p.m. in 125 Burton Hall.

• **Quarterly Reports.** Please note, the last quarterly reports for 91-92 fiscal year will be due **July 10, NOT July 15.** If you are teaching a course this quarter, you can complete and submit a green course/lecture form at any time. The ICI Evaluation manuals will be updated and new forms (to correspond with 1992-93) will be distributed over the summer. If you have an evaluation manual and will be leaving ICI after spring quarter, please return the manual to Laura Bloomberg. If you don't have a current manual, see Laura.

• **Core Function Meeting.** The next one is June 15 from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. in conference room 118 Pattee. Contact Laura Bloomberg, 5-0502, with agenda items.

• **Where's WANDA?** To teach lessons in diversity, the Commission on Women is adapting the game *Where's Waldo?* and asking instead, *Where's WANDA?* WANDA is an acronym for Women and Diversity Audit. All U of M activities should show signs of its commitment to diversity. When we don't see it, we'll use a sticker or button that asks *Where's WANDA?* Join us in auditing diversity on campus and in the community. *Where's WANDA?* buttons can be obtained from the EEO office, 424 Morrill Hall, (612) 624-9547 for a \$1 donation.

Birthdays!

June 3	Joe Reichle
June 4	Eric Kloos
June 8	Jo Montie
June 10	Christina Kimm
June 11	Amy Spiegel
	Lincoln Kallsen
June 13	Shui Fong Lam