

Institute Receives New Training Grant

The Institute's Research and Training Center on Community Living has received a three-year grant for establishment of the Minnesota Rehabilitation Research Training Program. The training program, a collaborative effort with the Center for Children with Chronic Illness and Disability in the University's Department of Pediatrics, will prepare post-doctoral professionals (M.D. and Ph.D.) to undertake careers and assume leadership roles in rehabilitation and related fields. The program's focus will be on two important areas that have critical shortages of experienced research personnel: (1) child and adolescent health, emphasizing chronic illness and disabilities, and (2) applied research on economics of rehabilitation and related community-based service programs for persons with disabilities.

The training program will include the following components:

- Individualized trainee learning and research plans in consultation with interdisciplinary faculty.
- Extensive training in research methodology, research specialization themes and foundations.
- Specialized interdisciplinary seminar series.
- In-depth interdisciplinary experiences that provide trainees with specific foundations and methodological expertise outside their primary disciplines.
- Intensively supervised research practicums.
- Ongoing evaluation of trainee progress by advisors and interdisciplinary researchers.

The principal investigators for the project, which runs from March 1, 1991 to February, 1994 are Robert Bruininks, Robert Blum, and James Ysseldyke.

Arc Minnesota 1991 Awards Program

Nominations are open for the 1991 Arc Awards Program, to be held at Arc Minnesota's state convention, September 20-21, 1991, in Rochester, Minnesota.

The Arc Minnesota Awards Program offers a way to honor outstanding employers, teachers, volunteers, media, advocates, and individuals with developmental disabilities. It is also an opportunity to recognize outstanding community service organizations, recreation programs, public awareness efforts, and chapter achievements in membership development, newsletter production, and research fund contributions.

For more information, contact Carol Reedstrom, Chair of the Awards Committee, Arc Minnesota, 3225 Lyndale Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55408.

Institute Staff in the Spotlight

• David R. Johnson has received an educational achievement award from the Minnesota State Board of Education for his contribution in developing a recently issued Minnesota Department of Education policy report, "*Challenge 2000: Success for All Learners.*"

• Yu-Wen Chang and Tsuey-Hwa Chen have been selected to present their research at the 1991 International Educational and Measurement Symposium in Taiwan this April. Yu-Wen Chang will present "*On Test Information: A Comparison of the Multidimensional and Unidimensional Item Response Theory*", and Tsuey-Hwa Chen will present "*Item Parameter Invariance in the Rasch Model*". Both papers are co-authored with Mark L. Davison, department chair for Educational Psychology.

• Xiaoming Li is among those chosen to present at the 1991 American Educational Research Association annual meeting in Chicago held in April. He will present a paper titled, "*Multidimensional Taxonomy of Measures of Association*" which he wrote with first author Dr. Ernest C. Davenport, Jr., Assistant Professor of Educational Psychology.

Dates to Remember

- March 21: Civil Service Staff Mtg. 8:30-9:00, Room 118 Pattee.
- March 31: UAP re-application due.

New Institute Publications

•The Institute's Annual Report has arrived. Everything you ever wanted to know about what we do and how well we do it. If you didn't receive a copy yet, you can get it in 109 Pattee or by calling 612-624-4512.

•The latest What's Working in Supported Employment is in.

Cross Reference

Books Available for Check Out:

- Community-Based Curriculum Instructional Strategies for Students with Severe Handicaps, by Mary A. Falvey. This book is intended to provide parents, educators, therapists, counselors, and other concerned individuals with strategies for developing and implementing appropriate educational programs for individuals with severe handicaps.
- Supporting Families with a Child with a Disability, by Alan Gardner, Dorothy Kerzner Lipsky, and Ann P. Turnbull. This book is concerned with three entwined issues - disability, culture, and family - and the ways in which they play themselves out in the lives of families with a child with a disability.

Contacting Elected Officials

The following pointers for contacting legislators appeared in Arc Minnesota's Action Alert Handbook.

Legislators measure public support on an issue by the number of telephone calls and letters they receive. On many issues, a legislator may hear nothing from his/her constituents; thus, any letter or telephone call - even just one or two - can affect the way a legislator votes on an issue. Your one letter or one phone call can and does make a difference!

Many people are nervous about writing or calling their legislator. Don't be. Remember, they are there to represent you, and they can't represent you if they never hear from you.

Try to stay informed about issues and legislative goals. Become familiar with the services available in your community and the problems faced by people with developmental disabilities and their families.

Keep the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of your legislators handy to make it easier to contact your legislators.

Whenever you contact a legislator, remember these points:

- Always include the House file number / Senate file number of the bill or the popular name of the bill.
- Get right to the point and start with a simple "I support" or "I do not support this bill" statement.
- Address one issue per letter.
- Give clear, specific reasons for your positions.
- Tell what your personal involvement is, how this bill affects you and your family (or how it affects other families or could have helped you).
- Be polite and reasonable.
- If you don't know, say you don't and follow up.
- Don't threaten or insult your legislator.
- Thank him / her for their time and interest.
- Include your name, address, and telephone number.

Odds and Ends

• Anyone for Lunch?

As we all know, we are an extremely busy group with very little time to "do lunch", but what about meeting in the downstairs conference room on Fridays for a little social time with your co-workers? Learn about the most recent developments regarding the Institute baby boom, who is working on which grant, if anyone called the exterminator, or the most innovative ways to build collegiality. Join us every Friday from noon to 1pm in the basement conference room! It could just be the most refreshing thing you did all day. Bring your own lunch. The first Friday lunch will occur March 22nd.

• Wednesday WALKS!

If you are interested in taking a short walk, please meet at the front door at noon on Wednesdays. The first *Wednesday Walk* will occur on March 20, 1991. Hope to see you there.

• Whose Job Is It?

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to be done, and Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

Celebrations!

BIRTHDAYS

March 19 - Sharon Olson
March 19 - Sandy Thompson
March 20 - Kay Almer
March 25 - Terri Vandercook
March 25 - Phil Guillery