



February 15, 2011

Visual Storytelling: ICI's RTC Media

The Institute on Community Integration (ICI) is renowned for collaborative research, training, and information sharing. And like many other organizations that produce exemplary work in support of the common good, its efforts are sometimes a well-kept secret from the broader community. To promote ICI's work to larger audiences and encourage ongoing discussion, over a decade ago Jerry Smith of the Institute's Research and Training Center on Community Living developed RTC Media, an in-house digital cinema production resource. Through contracts and grants, RTC Media accepts select projects that highlight people with disabilities and those who provide support, throughout the United States and abroad, as they pursue full, productive, and integrated lives in their communities.

A combination of factors differentiate RTC Media from other production companies. Working within a major disabilities research institute provides access to new trends, ideas, and people who are on the leading edge of change. Working frequently on independent projects outside of ICI, Jerry has built strong relationships in the film community with directors of photography, editors, composers, motion graphics designers, and equipment vendors, among others. "We don't always offer the lowest-price option," says Jerry, "but we deliver value through our knowledge of the field and by leveraging creative resources." Since 2001 RTC Media has earned over 50 juried festival awards.

"The RTC on Community Living is focused primarily on the physical, social and economic aspects of community inclusion," says RTC Director Charlie Lakin. "But there is a deeper aspect of community inclusion that derives from the emotional connections among people in daily relationships and interactions. Nothing captures and communicates the emotional aspects of community life better than film and I'm proud of how well this has been done by RTC Media."

With the support of RTC's Shawn Lawler, RTC Media delivers finished programs online through creative, accessible Web sites. Shawn recently developed www.directsupportprofessional.org as part of a contract with the New York State Association of Community and Residential Agencies (NYSACRA). This Web site offers a playlist of five Public Service Announcements and the short film "Making a World of Difference," along with a button allowing visitors to download a large file that they can burn directly to a DVD. "Our member organizations use the download feature to create their own DVDs and hold local screenings," said Joe Macbeth, Assistant Executive Director of NYSACRA. "A few agencies gave DVDs to local television stations who aired the PSAs."

RTC Media is currently in post-production on two Realistic Job Preview videos for the North Dakota Department of Human Services, targeted for those who provide direct support. This project was initiated by Lori Sedlezky and John Sauer, who are providing technical assistance to North Dakota on workforce development issues. Also in production for 2011 is a documentary about the Normalization Principle and the work of Dr. Wolf Wolfensberger, which Jerry is co-producing with Guy Caruso of the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University.

FFI about RTC Media visit <http://rtc.umn.edu/rtcmedia>, call Jerry at 612-624-4336, or visit RTC Media on Facebook.

Staff Update

- **Staff Hires:** **Dane Furfaro**, GRA, Adult Services; and **Dave Welter**, Accountant II, Administration. **Staff Departures:** None.
- On January 27, **Jason Altman** presented at the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's "Improving Student Access to Academic Content" Conference in Madison, Wisconsin.
- **Lynda Anderson** and **Yi-Chen Wu** were among the 40 winners of the College's Professional and Administrative Council professional development award drawing; they will each receive \$300 to apply to a professional development activity. Lynda plans to use her award to subscribe to a journal that interests her and to attend the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) annual conference, which will be held June 6-9 in the Twin Cities. Yi-Chen will use it to renew her memberships in the American Educational Research Association and the International Reading Association; she will use the remainder of the award to buy some statistics books for her professional development and perhaps join the National Council on Measurement in Education.
- **Amy Hewitt** was recently quoted in a news story by an Indiana television station about how low wages and high turnover in the Direct Support workforce can create an abusive environment for the recipients of paid care.

Dates to Remember...

- February 16: Soup and Banana Bread Contest, 12-1, 118 Pattee
- February 18: Pizza Forum, 12-1, 118 Pattee
- March 8: ICI Council, 10-12, 118 Pattee
- March 18: University Closed

From the Front Office

News from ICI's Administrative Staff

- **P&A Performance Review.** Information regarding the annual Professional and Administrative (P&A) Performance Review process was disseminated via e-mail on February 1. Materials should be submitted to Amy Kurowski in Room 102A Pattee Hall by March 14.
- **W-2 Duplicates.** All staff should have received in their home mail their W-2 from the University. If you need a duplicate copy, visit <http://hrss.umn.edu> and click on "Request a Reissued W-2." If you do not have Internet access, see Amy in 102A Pattee Hall.

Miscellaneous

- **MinneWebCon in April.** This annual Web developers conference here at the University is excellent for new and seasoned developers. There are 19 presentations and 2 keynote addresses from well-known experts in the field. For more information and to register, visit www.minnewebcon.umn.edu/. Early bird registration ends February 25.
- **Youth with Autism Using Vocational Rehabilitation Services.** In December 2010, the University of Massachusetts Boston released a Research to Practice Brief titled *Vocational Rehabilitation Services Received by Youth with Autism: Are they Associated with an Employment Outcome?* This publication explores the differences in VR services received by youth with autism compared to youth with other disabilities. It is online at http://www.communityinclusion.org/article.php?article_id=309
- **Child Welfare Policy Web Page.** The College's Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare (CASCW) has launched a Child Welfare Policy Web page full of resources to educate child welfare practitioners about the latest developments in child welfare policy as they are happening, as well as educating policymakers about the latest policy relevant to child welfare research findings. FFI, visit <http://z.umn.edu/cwpolicy>.
- **Minnesota Self-Advocates and Allies.** The Association on Developmental Disabilities (ADD) Commissioner Sharon Lewis is hosting a series of summits across the country called "Envisioning

- **P&A Appointment Information for 2011-2012.** Information/materials on the process for determining Professional and Administrative (P&A) appointments for 2011-2012 were sent via e-mail to Principal Investigators (PIs) on February 11. PIs should work with their accountant to complete this information by April 1.
- **Research Associates.** Information on requesting a promotion to Senior Research Associate will be sent via e-mail in mid-February. Watch your e-mail.

the Future: Allies in Self-Advocacy." A team of 9-12 Minnesotans will attend the regional summit in April in Kansas City. Since not everyone can go to Kansas City, Minnesota self-advocates and their allies are encouraged to bring their ideas to a meeting at the Department of Employment and Economic Development in St. Paul, February 25, 1-4 p.m. These ideas will be presented at the regional summit in April. RSVP to kennedy@selfadvocacy.org. FFI, call Mary Kay Kennedy at 651-641-0297.

- **PACER Report.** *Helping Families Prepare for the Future: 2008-2009 Outcome Data from Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) Parent Information and Training Programs* (2010) summarizes the work of federally-funded parent information and training programs that promote the vocational, independent living, and rehabilitation needs of individuals with disabilities. The data in this report were collected by parent centers and compiled by Technical Assistance on Transition and the Rehabilitation Act (TATRA), a PACER Center project. It is online at <http://www.pacer.org/tatra/pdf/RSA%20Book%202010lowres.pdf>
- **Birthdays.** **Patrick Hilden** (2/21), **Joe Timmons** (2/24), **Renata Ticha** (2/24), **David R. Johnson** (2/26), **Sharon Mulé** (2/27), **Angie Pohl** (2/28), **Beth Nelson** (3/8), **Beth Fondell** (3/11), and **Amy Kurowski** (3/17). Did we miss your birthday? Let us know! Call 4-2380 or e-mail kuro0008@umn.edu.

Bits & Pieces

Information on New Publications and Web Sites

- **New Publications.** The following new ICI publications are available:
 - *Impact: Feature Issue on Postsecondary Education and Students with Intellectual, Developmental, and Other Disabilities* (February 2011). Available from the Publications Office and on the Web at <http://ici.umn.edu/products/impact/233>.
 - *NCEO Synthesis Report 80: Characteristics of States' Alternate Assessments Based on Modified Academic Achievement Standards in 2009-2010* (November 2010). Published by the Institute's National Center on Educational Outcomes (NCEO) and available online at <http://www.cehd.umn.edu/NCEO/OnlinePubs/Synthesis80/default.htm>.
 - *NCEO Synthesis Report 81: Accommodations: Results of a Survey of Alabama Special Education Teachers* (November 2010). Published by NCEO and available online at <http://www.cehd.umn.edu/NCEO/OnlinePubs/Synthesis81/default.htm>.
 - *Frontline Initiative: Feature on Employment Supports* (Vol. 9, No. 1, December 2010). Published by the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals and the Institute's Research and Training Center on Community Living. It is available from 204 Pattee Hall.
- **Helpful Stuff on ICI's Intranet.** Check out the Quick Links (right sidebar) for links to request time off, contact Jon Goldman for technical help (the Coconut), view past issues of *FYI*, and more! <http://ici.umn.edu/intranet>.
- **Update Your ICI Staff Page.** Did you know you have a staff page on the ICI Web site? You can identify your topic areas, add your biography, upload your photo or curriculum vitae, and more via our secure Web site at <http://ici.umn.edu/admin> (log in with your x500). Questions? Contact Megan at dushi001@umn.edu or 6-8649.
- **FYI Deadline.** Items for the next *FYI* should be submitted to Tom (donag003@umn.edu) by March 9.