

February 15, 2005

## ICI Through the Eyes of its GRAs

The Institute on Community Integration (ICI) is home to 40 Graduate Research Assistants (GRAs). Who are they? What do they do? And what does being here mean to them? Here is what some of them said when asked these questions by FYI.

- I work at the Research Institute on Progress Monitoring (RIPM). I am proud that I was able to help develop progress-monitoring measures and then pilot them in a study with 500 students in grades 3-10. — *Hilda Ives Wiley*
- I work on several different projects [with NCEO] in which my main job is statistical analysis of data from states and national databases. Recently my first paper appeared in a NCEO research report. It is always good to contribute to education through statistics; that is my research area. — *Kentaro Kato*
- I work on the College of Direct Support (CDS) doing edits and evaluation of the online training program. In my time at ICI, my biggest accomplishment has been the completion of a CDS course on vocational supports for people with disabilities. — *Derek Nord*
- I am working on the Creating Progress Monitoring System (CPMS) grant and the Research Institute on Progress Monitoring (RIPM). At the moment I am working on data scoring and data entry for both and on a technical report for CPMS. Working on both grants has been very meaningful to me because it is that kind of work that I believe in and would like to pursue professionally. Both grants involve developing educational measures, specifically curriculum-based measurement, and applying them to help low achieving students and students in special education improve academically. Having worked for ICI for the last two years has given me an invaluable insight into educational research, its application in schools, and also into the issues students struggling in school face on daily basis. I also learnt about being a part of a research team. I guess the most exciting thing for me is to actively participate in "research in the making" — to get a direct insight into the process of how knowledge is produced. — *Renata Ticha*
- I work for Student Success = School Success. My primary job is to collect and analyze data and write up a technical paper. I am also working on articles regarding previous research findings. I think one of most exciting events is the ICI Kickoff each fall. I always appreciate the people who prepare and organize that event. — *Saahoon Hong*
- I work on the National Residential Information Systems Project (RISP). I survey state agencies, enter and manage data, and contribute to various publications, including the annual report of residential services for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I enjoy working in a friendly environment with people having expertise in the field. — *Kathryn Coucouwanis*
- I have only just begin my work with ICI so I don't really have much of an opinion so far; it seems great as of yet. I am working with School Age Services and Dropout Prevention. — *Kelsey Norton*

Fifteen GRAs shared their thoughts with FYI, and more of their responses will appear in an upcoming issue.

## Staff Update

- **Staff Arrivals:** **Kathy Gustafson**, GRA, School Age; **Joelle Tegwen**, Information Technology Professional, NCSET; **Tom Delaney**, Education Specialist, NCRRC; **Amy Grack**, Coordinator, NCRRC; and **Haesook Koo**, GRA, NCEO. **Staff Departures:** **Halee Vang**, GRA, NCEO; and **Megan Juffer**, Student Secretary, NCEO.
- **Joe Timmons** made a presentation entitled "Career Planning Begins with Assessment" at the annual Careers Conference in Madison, sponsored by the Center on Education and Work at University of Wisconsin – Madison on February 2.
- **Chris Bremer** of NCSET co-presented "Dropout and Graduation: 2004 Annual Performance Reports," at the 2004 National Accountability Conference on Special Education and Early Intervention in New Orleans, October 4-5. Co-presenting was Loujeania W. Bost of the National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities. **Alison Bendix** and **David R. Johnson** of NCSET were additional ICI authors of the presentation.
- **Eric Lanners** and his wife, Annie Erickson, had a son, Eli, on December 20, 2004. Baby and parents are well.

## Dates to Remember...

- **February 16: HR Workgroup**, 10-11:30, 118 Pattee Hall
- **February 25: Pizza Forum**, 12-1, 303 Elliott Hall
- **March 14: ICI Council**, 10-11:30, 118 Pattee Hall
- **March 18: University Closed**

## From the Front Office

News from ICI's Administrative Staff

- **W-2s.** If you haven't received your W-2 form for 2004, you can print a duplicate through the Employee Self-Service Web site at <http://hrss.umn.edu>, "Self-Service Action W-2 — 2004 Available!" You will need your x.500 Internet ID and University password. Questions? Call Human Resources at (612) 625-2016.
- **P&A Staff.** An e-mail was sent recently to all P&A staff regarding the 2004-05 P&A Annual Merit Review. The revised completion date is March 25. Please submit your materials to Amy in 102A Pattee by March 1. Questions? Call Beth Nelson at 6-8042.
- **ICI Research Fellows.** ICI Research Fellows and their supervisors will soon receive information on the Senior Research Fellow Promotion Guidelines. This is an internal promotion process that is handled by the Personnel Committee.
- **ICI Research Associates.** On February 7, Research Associates were e-mailed an invitation to request a review for promotion to Senior Research Associate. Interested parties should write a formal request to David R. Johnson by March 31. Questions? Call Beth at 6-8042.
- **Performance Reviews.** Annual performance reviews for Civil Service/Undergraduate Students/Graduate Students positions were due February 7. If you have not submitted them, please do so ASAP. Questions? Call Beth at 6-8042.
- **P&A Vacation Records.** Vacation records for January/February are due February 28. Please give them to Beth in 107 Pattee Hall.
- **HIPAA Training.** All employees are required to complete the first two components of the HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability Accountability Act) online training. Questions? Call Beth at 6-8042.
- **Reflection Groups.** Reflection Groups, which are part of the Certificate in Disability Policy and Services, are being held for certificate students, GRAs and interested others. On February 24 Marijo McBride presents "Supporting Cultural Diversity" from 3:45-4:45 p.m. in 118 Pattee Hall. On March 10 she will present "Person-Centered Supports" at the same time and place. FFI contact Marijo at 4-6830 or [mcbri001@umn.edu](mailto:mcbri001@umn.edu).

## Miscellaneous

- **Public Policy Forum.** ICI's Research and Training Center on Community Living will hold a public policy forum on "A General Legislative Update: On Pending Issues in the 2005 Minnesota Legislature" at the Ramsey County Public Library in Roseville on February 25. Anne Henry of the Minnesota Disability Law Center will begin the discussion at 1:30 p.m. Please RSVP Bob Doljanac at [dolja001@umn.edu](mailto:dolja001@umn.edu).
- **McEvoy Lecture Correction.** The next McEvoy Lecture on Early Childhood and Public Policy will take place on March 22, not March 2 as listed in the most recent issue of *Points*. FFI please visit <http://education.umn.edu/ceed/events/>.
- **Birthdays.** Jennifer Huiskens (2/16), Leah Tanke (2/21), Anne Stodolka (2/22), Joseph Timmons (2/24), Renata Ticha (2/24), David R. Johnson (2/26), Kathy Gustafson (3/3), Derek Meyer (3/4), Carrie Sword (3/7), and Beth Nelson (3/8). Did we miss your birthday? Let us know! Call 4-2380 or e-mail [kuro0008@umn.edu](mailto:kuro0008@umn.edu).

## Bits & Pieces

Information from the Institute's Web Development Team (11 Pattee, 6-8649) and Publications Office (109 Pattee, 4-4512)

- **New Publications.** The following new Institute publications are available through the Publications Office and/or online:
  - *NCSET Essential Tools: Interagency Transition Team Development and Facilitation* (January 2005). Published by the Institute's National Center on Secondary Education and Transition (NCSET) and available at [www.ncset.org](http://www.ncset.org).
  - *NCSET Information Brief: Diploma Options for Students with Disabilities* (February 2005, Vol. 4, Issue 1). Published by NCSET and available at [www.ncset.org](http://www.ncset.org).
  - *NCSET Issue Brief: Youth with Disabilities in the Juvenile Justice System: Prevention and Intervention Strategies* (February 2005, Vol. 4, Issue 1). Published by NCSET and available at [www.ncset.org](http://www.ncset.org).
  - North Central Regional Resource Center brochure.
- **New Web Sites.** ICI has launched three new Web sites: *Expanding the Circle*, *National Accessible Reading Assessment Projects*, and *Partnership for Accessible Reading Assessment*. The *Expanding the Circle* project Web site is located at <http://ici1.umn.edu/etc/>. The *National Accessible Reading Assessment Projects* Web site is at <http://www.narap.info/>. The *Partnership for Accessible Reading Assessment* site is on the Web at <http://www.readingassessment.info/>.
- **FYI Deadline.** Items for the next FYI should be submitted to Tom in 109 Pattee Hall or e-mailed to [donag003@umn.edu](mailto:donag003@umn.edu) by Thursday, March 10.