

ICF NACC SPOTLIGHT ON MING SHING

THIS FEATURE MYSTERY GUEST WAS BORN IN MONGOLIA AND SPOKE NO ENGLISH UNTIL HE WAS 12

"Ming Shing" means "bright star", and prophetically, this was Rune J. Simeonsson's name when he was born in Inner Mongolia. His parents (and grandparents, and now his brother) were/are Swedish missionaries with the Swedish Alliance Church, a Christian group. At age 7, his parents moved back to Sweden, where he then had to learn Swedish. Then at age 10, his family moved to Tokyo and stayed for nine years, so he had to learn Japanese. At age 12, he was introduced to English, after already learning three languages! World traveler that he had become, his university education was USA all the way...a B.A. from Tennessee Temple College in 1963, an M.A.T. from University of Chattanooga in 1966 (where, ironically, Paul Placek taught Sociology from 1968-70), a PhD in Psychology from George Peabody in 1971, and an M.S.P.H. in Public Health from UNC Chapel Hill in 1992. Currently, Rune is Coordinator of the Graduate School Psychology Program at UNC, where he has had a long series of appointments since 1976. He has hundreds of refereed journal articles to his credit and seven books, including *Psychological and Developmental Assessment of Children with Disabilities and Chronic Conditions* published by Guilford in 2001. Rune hopes that his next book will be the *ICF for Children and Youth* to be published by the World Health Organization in late 2004. Authorship credit will go to a large number of eminent child development and disability researchers which Rune and his WHO colleague Matilde Leonardi have assembled, but it may well be the new red book that goes on the very top of his shelf. Rune was active in giving ICIDH (1980) workshops in the mid-1990's, has attended more ICIDH-2 Alpha, Beta-1, Beta-2, and Prefinal meetings than he can remember, and waited patiently for ICF (2001) to be finished so he and his international task force could build the *ICF for Children and Youth*. This is a collaborative effort with CDC and WHO, and the code structure builds on the ICF (2001) code structure. Many of Rune's other professional activities are international in nature, so he never takes vacations just to "get away". He will extend some professional trips and take time off, but with his busy schedule, traditional vacations just don't fit in. Rune also teaches two graduate courses per semester, and always brings the ICF into these four courses which he rotates teaching: "Child Development and Disability", "Psychological Assessment", "Psychological Interventions", and "Applied Investigations". Rune also serves as a doctoral thesis advisor. Thus, a number of top UNC graduates have had a heavy dose of ICF before they leave. Hobbies? Rune always packs his running shoes first, and does 6 miles several times a week. He also has a 16' catamaran for sailing in North Carolina lakes and in the ocean sounds. Rune's wife is on the nursing faculty at UNC, and they have two adult children--one a pediatrician, the other an analytical chemist. It therefore seems that "bright stars" run in the family, and we are fortunate that one of them is working on the *ICF for Children and Youth* (WHO, 2004).

