



## Celebrating the people and programs



News from May Institute, a national nonprofit provider of behavioral healthcare, education, and rehabilitative services

### May Institute Receives Top Honors Named National Award Recipient in Behavior Analysis

May Institute is proud to be the first nonprofit human services organization in the country to receive prestigious awards from two national organizations in recognition of the profound impact our programs and professionals have had on the lives of children and adults with autism and other developmental disabilities.

We have been selected to receive the 2007 Award for Enduring Programmatic Contributions in Behavior Analysis, the nation's most distinguished award in the field of applied behavior analysis (ABA). It will be presented to us by the Society for the Advancement of Behavior Analysis

(SABA) in the springtime at the international convention in California.

In its announcement letter, SABA noted that our "systematic replication of successful programs has allowed for careful growth all across the U.S. and has contributed to training efforts in many other countries."

In 2005, May Institute received the Outstanding Training Program Award from the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive

Therapies (ABCT). The award recognized the significant contributions our training initiatives have had on the practice of behavior analysis and therapy and the advancement of the field. ●

*"I congratulate all employees who work tirelessly in our programs year-round, providing exceptionally caring and compassionate support to each and every individual we serve."*

Walter P. Christian, Ph.D., ABPP  
May Institute President and CEO

### A Joyful Noise!

A recent musical Jubilee will forever be a cherished memory for the parents of students at the May Center for Child Development in Randolph, Mass., one of our schools serving children with autism and other developmental disabilities.



Anna engages the audience with the rhythmic sound of the drumbeat.

Parents watched in delight as their children paraded in cool get-ups, beat drums, shook maracas and tambourines, rang bells, struck xylophones, and snapped castanets to the music of the Beach Boys, Village People, Tom

### IMPROVING LEARNING AND BEHAVIOR

More than 100 professionals from 32 school districts in multiple states and Nova Scotia came together this fall to learn how school-wide positive behavior supports (PBS) can improve their overall school climate, reduce problem behaviors, and maximize academic achievement.

The conference, "School-Wide Positive Behavior Support: Improving Discipline & Academic Achievement," was sponsored by May Institute, the National Technical Assistance Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, and the New England Positive Behavior Supports Leadership Network. As one of nine national PBS partners, May Institute is assisting in the implementation of PBS at the school, district, and state levels across the country. 🍎

### FOSTERING ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Response to Intervention (RTI) is a process that expands our PBS programming to include academic supports. It is a very effective way to prevent unnecessary placements in special education, and helps direct academic resources to students who need them the most.

In partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Education, May Institute recently provided an eight-day RTI training to school personnel representing seven districts and over 180 schools. Expanding our program offerings to support both academic and behavioral/social development of students will greatly support the work being done in the districts we serve. 🍎

### MAKING HEADWAY IN SPORTS SAFETY

In October, we teamed with the Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts and Emerson Hospital to sponsor the 2006 Youth Sports Concussion Conference, "Playing It Safe: Identifying, Assessing and Managing Sports Concussion in Youth." Earlier this year, we also joined Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School in sponsoring the 2006 Sports-Related Conference on Concussion and Spine Injury.

May Institute is committed to supporting organizations that promote prevention education efforts aimed at decreasing the number of traumatic brain injuries across the country. The Institute operates a school for children and adolescents with brain injury in Brockton, Mass. 🍎

## Community Unites to Build Home

To its delight, May Institute discovered that the patience of the Easton, Mass., community is exceeded only by its goodwill. Earlier this year, after unexpected delays, ground was broken to build a community residence for four young men with autism and other developmental disabilities.

Individuals and companies from the Easton community, as well as the town of Easton, have donated funds, land, equipment, supplies, and services towards the construction of this new home.

Companies that have contributed towards the project include: Welch Building Corporation, Boro Sand and Gravel, Bradford Steel Co., Douglas A. King Builders, Botti Construction, J.J. Bosse Construction, Benson Enterprises, Yankee Sprinkler Co., T. & M. Realty Corporation, and The RELCO Companies.

**Barry and Judy Pedell**, whose son Michael will be one of the residents of this new home, have been steadfast in requesting and encouraging in-kind donations of services and supplies.



In the 1980s, May Institute recognized the need to provide adult residential services to ensure that the language, behavioral, and social skills that children acquired in our schools were retained when they transitioned into adult services. Today, we have 114 residential homes serving 456 individuals in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Florida. 🍎

## Opening Doors to a Special School

Students with autism and their teachers at the new May Center for Child Development in Woburn, Mass., are happily settling into their new school. Opened this fall, the school has already earned national accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (*see related article on page 7*).

"For more than 50 years, May schools have been at the forefront of providing innovative educational services to students with autism and other developmental disabilities," said **Joy Burghardt**, M.S., BCBA, Senior Vice President of Educational Services at May Institute. "Our individualized approach and exceptional care make progress possible for all students, even those with the most significant learning and behavior challenges."

One of seven May Centers throughout the country, the school provides full-time, year-round services for children ages 5 to 18. 🍎



## TEE OFF! Golfers Unite to Benefit Adult Services

May supporters who participated in the “End of Summer Golf Tournament” at the Beverly Golf and Tennis Club in Massachusetts enjoyed a fun day of golfing while raising money for programs that enrich the learning and living experience of adults with special needs. Among the golfers was Revere’s Day Habilitation Program Director Brad Frithsen, shown here on his approach to the ninth green.

“This event is fast becoming one of the most popular May Center annual fundraisers,” said **Jim Sperry, M.S.**, Senior Vice President of Adult Services. “Year after year, supporters continue to make a significant impact in the lives of adults who are faced with challenging disabilities.”

The fundraiser included 18 holes of golf, dinner, prizes, a raffle, and a silent auction. Tournament Headquarters, an event sponsor, provided cash prizes for two lucky participants. Other donations included signed Boston Red Sox and Bruins memorabilia.

May Centers for Adult

Services provide support to more than 350 individuals in Massachusetts and Connecticut. 🍷



*Winning foursome led by sponsor Ken Davis.*

## Parent Honors May

It has been more than 10 years since Susan Ferrino’s son Vincent left our May Center school to transition to public school, but the autism services he received have had a lasting impact on his life. In gratitude for the progress Vincent made during his time here, Susan nominated May Institute to receive the George Washington Honor Medal from the Bay State Freedoms Foundation.

Chief Clinical Officer **Dennis Russo, Ph.D., ABPP**, recently accepted the award on behalf of the Institute.

When Vincent left our Center at the age of 6, recalls Susan, “he was almost like a new child. He became the first student in his local school system with a diagnosis of autism.”

The Freedoms Foundation National Awards Program recognizes actions that promote responsible citizenship. 🍷

## MID-ATLANTIC @MAY

### TRENTON COLLABORATION SHOWS STRONG RESULTS

New Jersey’s Trenton Public Schools and May Institute are now in the fifth year of a highly effective collaboration between district personnel, school administration and staff, and educational consultants in our Mid-Atlantic region.

Trenton’s Positive Schools initiative has grown to include nine schools over the past four years. The district has been extremely successful in implementing this positive behavior support (PBS) programming, and participating schools continue to realize significant accomplishments.

Some of Trenton’s achievements include:

- Significant reductions in office discipline referrals, suspensions, and violent and non-violent infractions; and
- Significant improvements in student

on-task behavior, teacher rates of instruction, proactive monitoring, and acknowledgement of appropriate student behavior.

The focus for this fifth year of consultation is to provide professional development to general and special education staff on research-based practices in behavior *and* academic support. The district will strengthen its existing initiatives and reinforce them with academic initiatives, using a Response to Intervention (RTI) model (*see page 2 for “Fostering Academic Success” article*).

We applaud the Trenton Public Schools on their initiative and success in improving the academic and behavioral climate for students! 🍷

### MID-ATLANTIC REGION EXPANDS

May Institute now offers school consultation services, as well as intensive in-home and family support, throughout the Mid-Atlantic region (New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware). We also offer a variety of workshops and trainings for parents, teachers, administrators, and other school personnel.

We have recently moved our Mid-Atlantic regional headquarters to Voorhees, New Jersey. 🍷

## MAY SOUTH STAFF COMMENDED

### Providing Quality Care to Ex-Offenders in Georgia

May South staff work hard to provide the highest quality services to participants of the TAPP (Transition and Aftercare for Probationers and Parolees) Program. TAPP provides case management and aftercare services to probationers and parolees as they reintegrate into the community following incarceration. The program serves ex-offenders in the state of Georgia, 18 years of age or older, with mental retardation or mental illness.

TAPP is a joint project sponsored by the Georgia Department of Human Resources, Department of Corrections, and Board of Pardons and Paroles. We recently received a letter from Roger Mayo, the Board's Chief Parole Officer, praising the work of **Sherri Grady**, a coordinator of the TAPP Program.

Excerpts from the letter follow:

*"I am writing to make you aware of the fine employee that you have in Sherri Grady. From the first time I met Ms. Grady I felt very comfortable with her, and felt encouraged that TAPP could be a meaningful program to assist parolees...Ms. Grady has always been helpful. I have received comments from Parole Officers in this unit reflecting the same opinion. We are appreciative of Ms. Grady's efforts in assisting us with TAPP clients."*

The goals of the TAPP Program, which began as a pilot in 1998, are to reduce recidivism, maintain public safety, and improve community reintegration for the individuals served. ●

## SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY A Place to Call Home

May South, May Institute's Southeast division, is working with the Agency for Persons with Disabilities in Florida to develop intensive behavioral group homes for individuals with autism, mental retardation, and mental health issues in the Fort Myers/Cape Coral area. Services will be provided to adults transitioning from a state-operated residential

facility that will be closing its doors.

The first two residences will be home to 10 adults and will be fully operational by year's end. A May South board certified behavior analyst will work one-on-one with the residents, conduct assessments and program planning, and monitor each individual's progress.

Plans are underway to open additional residences in 2007 and 2008. ●

# MIDWEST @ MAY

## BRINGING HOME SERVICES

### Illinois Families Benefit From Expansion

Families of children with autism and other developmental disabilities in Central Illinois are benefiting from our recent expansion to the Midwest. May Institute staff are now providing home-based services and parent training groups to more than a dozen families, as well as consultation services to local school districts.

Midwest services have been developed in partnership with May South, the Institute's Southeast division. "The initial response from families, schools, and agencies has been very positive," said **Brad Bezilla**, M.Ed., BCBA, Director of Home-Based Behavioral Services for May South. "We are excited about expanding our local team of dedicated and experienced staff, and bringing our high quality of services to Central Illinois." ●

## Training Tomorrow's Leaders

Through a new affiliation with The Chicago School of Professional Psychology (CSPP), May Institute will assist in providing graduate students with professional training and supervision in treating children with autism.

"Our affiliation with May Institute will enable us to expand and enhance field placement sites for our graduate program in applied behavior analysis (ABA)," says Charles Merbitz, Ph.D., BCBA, Chairman of the Department

of Applied Behavior Analysis at CSPP.

"There is a critical shortage of these professionals in Illinois and the nation, and training more people to deliver high-quality, effective ABA services requires a substantial amount of hands-on, supervised practice."

CSPP is the nation's largest nonprofit graduate school dedicated to the education and training of professional psychologists. ●

## Building Capacity to Serve California Children

The Bay School (TBS), a May Center for Child Development in Santa Cruz, is helping California school districts increase their capacity to serve students with autism and other special needs. TBS Executive Director **Ethan Long**, Ph.D., BCBA, is conducting a series of workshops for the Monterey County Office of Education to teach professionals how to use applied behavioral analysis (ABA) to develop positive behavioral intervention plans for students with special needs. Dr. Long is providing guidance to 50 teachers, school psychologists, and resource and program specialists. 🍎

## Work Opportunities Lead to Success

“One of the most challenging times for children with autism and their families occurs when they must transition from the security of specialized schools to the uncertainty of adult services,” notes Dr. Long. “Finding and maintaining employment for these young people requires training and flexibility.”



That is why, with help from the May Center for Child Development in Randolph, Mass., The Bay School is developing a prevocational/vocational program to teach students with autism the skills they will need to eventually join the workforce. “Ultimately, our goal is to ‘match’ our students with valuable employment opportunities that will enable them to utilize their skills and become more independent members of society,” said Dr. Long. 🍎

## The Bay School Appoints Director of Education

We are pleased to welcome **Andrea Gold**, Ph.D., who has been named Director of Education for The Bay School in Santa Cruz, Calif., one of May Institute’s schools for children with autism.



“Dr. Gold is recognized for her expertise in developing educational programs for children with autism,” said Dr. Long. “Her knowledge and experience will support the expansion of The Bay School’s curriculum as well as contribute significantly to the program’s research and training in the field of autism.”

Dr. Gold received her doctorate in learning and behavior analysis from Queens College and The Graduate Center of the City University of New York. 🍎

## May Hosts National Experts

We recently welcomed two nationally recognized experts in autism and applied behavior analysis to our corporate headquarters in Randolph, Mass. **Todd R. Risley**, Ph.D., and **Beth Sulzer-Azaroff**, Ph.D., BCBA, addressed staff from across the organization, and were honored for their lifetime contributions to their respective fields.

Dr. Risley, considered to be one of the founders of applied behavior analysis (ABA), discussed its history and evolution. A highly respected researcher, he is the author of three publications that are listed among those most frequently cited by other scientists. One of these publications was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.

Dr. Sulzer-Azaroff, one of the nation’s foremost behavioral psychologists, spoke about effective leadership techniques and their impact on organizational management. She has earned international recognition for her application of behavioral interventions to resolve school problems. 🍎

Dr. Sulzer-Azaroff shared with us a note she wrote to her colleagues after visiting May Institute’s headquarters in October.

*“...The nature and breadth of May’s services, including to those on the autism spectrum, the brain injured and other folks with disabilities, appear state-of-the-art. May’s ongoing support of continuous education of its personnel and its adherence to the policy of choosing its treatment methods on the basis of scientific evidence attest to its prescience. Slowly the rest of the field is moving in the same direction set by **Pete Christian** and his colleagues years ago. Personally, these are features I would hope to see reflected in every human service program.”*

## MAY DIRECTOR ELECTED MADSA PRESIDENT



**Maria Russo**, Director of May Institute's Geri-Day adult day health program in West Roxbury, Mass., has recently been elected President of the Massachusetts Adult Day Services Association

(MADSA). Geri-Day is a certified program that provides mental health, medical, and social services for older individuals with special needs.

"I am honored to be representing a state-wide association that is the leading voice for this vitally important and rapidly growing industry," said Russo. ●

## VP APPOINTED FOR CONSULTATION SERVICES



**Lee Chamberlain**, M.S., LCSW, has been named Vice President of Home-Based and School Consultation Services for May Institute. In her new role, Ms. Chamberlain will be responsible

for the development, operation, and ongoing management of all services related to home-based and school consultation services in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions. Prior to joining the Institute, she was the Director of Operations for the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, where she managed all aspects of operations, quality assurance, and agency programs. A licensed, certified social worker, Ms. Chamberlain received her master's degree in counseling from Suffolk University in Boston. ●

## FLORIDA STAFF AWARDED SCHOLARSHIP



**Patricia Francis**, a house manager for one of the May South Florida group homes, recently won the Glenn Latham Scholarship from the Florida Association for Behavior Analysis (FABA). The

scholarship is presented annually by FABA to honor Glenn Latham and recognize individuals who have exemplified quality behavioral treatment. Dr. Latham was a respected authority in the field of applied behavior analysis (ABA).

"Pat understands behavior analysis and applies it consistently," wrote **William Flood**, M.A., BCBA, in his nomination. "I am proud to be her mentor and delighted that she is enrolling in university classes to become a behavior analyst." ●

## May Institute Welcomes Interns

We are happy to welcome our 2006-2007 Pre-Doctoral Intern class! Joining us this year are **Julie Curran**, **Abby Friedman**, **Nancy Gajee**, **Amy Humenik**, **Laurie Kaufman**, **Mara Ladd**, **Mark Palmieri**, **Amy Shogren**, **Jami Temple**, and **Melissa Zona**. These 10 interns come to us from highly competitive doctoral programs across the country.

Each intern has a major and minor placement site to broaden his or her knowledge base. This model was specifically designed to take advantage of the diverse training opportunities available at May Institute. Our placement sites currently include:

- School Consultation Services (services to private and public schools for students with learning and/or behavior problems, as well as individual, whole classroom, or system-wide consultation);
- The May Center for Education and Neurorehabilitation (applied behavioral services at a school for children and adolescents with brain injury);
- May Counseling Center (out-patient psychological services to children, adolescents, and adults);
- May Behavioral Health Services (outpatient clinical services);
- The Fernandes Center for Children and Families at St. Anne's Hospital (pediatric and child psychological services in a community-based outpatient hospital program);
- Home-Based Services (services in the home to children with developmental disabilities); and
- The National Autism Center and ASD Assessment Clinic (services in diagnosis, assessment, education, intervention, and consultation to children who have autism and related developmental disabilities). ●

*"Our predoctoral internship program strongly supports our mission by providing training to the next generation of clinical psychologists and behavior analysts."*

**Dennis Russo, Ph.D., ABPP**  
Chief Clinical Officer, May Institute

## New Certificate in Human Services Administration

May Institute is teaming up with Lasell College in Newton, Mass., to offer a graduate certificate program in Human Services Administration. This program is designed to provide students with valuable skill-based experience and has been tailored to individuals interested in working in human service administration. Through the five-course

schedule, students will engage in projects and research that apply to the challenges of providing support to individuals with disabilities in a variety of settings. All courses will be offered at our Randolph corporate offices. These five certificate classes directly transfer credits to the Master of Science in Management Program at Lasell. ●

## NATIONAL STANDARDS PROJECT

The National Autism Center has convened a panel of nationally recognized experts to identify universal standards for the treatment of autism. The project was created to address the lack of universally accepted, evidence-based treatment approaches for Autism Spectrum Disorders.

NAC's executive leadership team is currently reviewing initial feedback from the expert panel and conceptual reviewers, and is developing a model that will be used for evaluating research literature.

Once approved, the National Standards will serve as a single, authoritative source of guidance to help families, practitioners, policy-makers and funders make informed decisions and choose effective treatments. Upon completion, the results of the project will be widely disseminated.

The initial development of the National Autism Center, which is located in Randolph, Mass., was sponsored by May Institute. ➤

## SUPPORT FOR PARENTS

The National Autism Center is offering a series of eight interactive parent training classes for families of children newly diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder. The ongoing sessions provide critical information about diagnosis, treatment, and services.

Initial sponsorship of this training series is provided by a grant from the Autism Division of the Massachusetts Department of Mental Retardation. ➤

## CHECK IT OUT...

The National Autism Center's new website is up and running. Please visit [www.nationalautismcenter.org](http://www.nationalautismcenter.org). ➤

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

### ...TOP HONORS

#### Programs Earn National Accreditation

Six May Institute programs recently underwent rigorous peer reviews from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). Five of our special education schools and their affiliated residential programs, as well as HIRE (Helping Individuals Regain Employment) Enterprises, earned national accreditation for "demonstrating services of the highest quality, measurability, and accountability."

May Institute's special education schools are among a select few in New England to achieve full accreditation status.

HIRE Enterprises, a vocational rehabilitation program for individuals with disabilities, is located in Walpole, Mass. The program employs more than 50 adults with disabilities who perform subcontracted work that includes mailing, packaging, and electronic/mechanical assemblies, either on-site or at client locations. HIRE also provides educational assessment and placement support. ➤

### ... JUBILEE

Petty, and others. Students as young as 3 years old played favorites such as "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star," while piano performances such as "Minuet In G" captivated an attentive audience.

The highlight for many was a duet by 15-year-old Bobby and music teacher **Annie Christian** (*shown at right*), who serenaded the audience with their vocal rendition of "A Whole New World." There was not a dry eye in the room! The joy on parents' faces reflected the happiness in their hearts that day.

May Center staff strive to create experiences that reflect those in typical school settings, adapting them to the needs and skills of our students. "It was wonderful to see the students' looks of accomplishment as the audience applauded their performances,"

said Christian.

"I was so very proud and incredibly happy at their success."

Nineteen-year-old classmates Rossi and Derrick gave each other a spontaneous "high 5" slap—a perfect complement to the event. It captured the essence of Jubilee—an occasion of joyful celebration. ➤



# UPCOMING @MAY

## ➤ MAY INSTITUTE "EXPERTS ON AUTISM" SPEAKER SERIES

### - **When and How to Screen for Autism Spectrum Disorders**

On January 23, 2007, a professional from the National Autism Center will outline the practice guidelines for early screening, discuss when and where to refer children for diagnostic evaluation, and provide guidance to families concerning the screening process. The seminar will also include how to screen for high-functioning autism and Asperger's Syndrome, and how to screen older children.

### - **"All He Wants Are French Fries!" How to Address the Often-Challenging Feeding Issues of a Child with Autism**

On March 6, 2007, Colleen O'Leary Zonarich, M.A., BCBA, Senior Educational Consultant at May Institute will address three different types of problematic feeding, the assessment process for

determining appropriate interventions, and the types of interventions available to overcome feeding difficulties.

Jointly sponsored by the May Center for Child Development in Randolph and the National Autism Center, these are the final two presentations of this free series. For more information or to register for one or both presentations, please contact JoAnna French at [jfrench@mayinstitute.org](mailto:jfrench@mayinstitute.org) or 781-437-1398.

## ➤ REGIONAL CONFERENCES

### - **25<sup>th</sup> Annual Western Regional Conference on Behavior Analysis**

The California Association for Behavior Analysis will host the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Western Regional Conference on Behavior Analysis on February 8-10, 2007 at the Hyatt Regency in Burlingame, Calif.

For more information, visit [www.calaba.org](http://www.calaba.org).

## ➤ NATIONAL CONFERENCES

### - **2007 ABA Autism Conference: Progress and Challenges in the Behavioral Treatment of Autism**

On February 2-4, 2007, the Association for Behavior Analysis International will hold its annual conference at the Boston Sheraton Hotel in Boston, Mass.

To view the complete conference program, visit [www.abainternational.org/autconf/program.asp](http://www.abainternational.org/autconf/program.asp).

### - **4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Positive Behavior Support**

*The Expanding World of PBS: Science, Values, and Vision*, will be held from March 8-10, 2007 at Boston's Marriot Copley Place in Boston, Mass.

For more information, visit [www.apbs.org/conference](http://www.apbs.org/conference).

## ABOUT MAY INSTITUTE

*Founded in 1955, May Institute has its roots in a family's vision of enabling children with disabilities to lead the fullest lives possible.*

*Today, May Institute provides educational, rehabilitative, and behavioral healthcare services to individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities, brain injury, mental illness, and behavioral healthcare needs. The Institute also provides training and consultation services to professionals, organizations, and public school systems.*

*Our programs touch the lives of more than 25,000 individuals and their families each year at nearly 200 service locations in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Midwest, Southeast, and on the West Coast.*

*Together with the National Autism Center<sup>sm</sup>, whose initial development has been sponsored by May Institute, we are committed to identifying and applying universal standards for the treatment of autism and to providing care and hope to families throughout the country.*

**MayInstitute**  
*Shaping Futures. Changing Lives.*

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