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Celebrating the people and programs



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New Randolph Site Opens! Houses May Center, corporate offices, and National Autism CenterSM

May Institute has officially relocated its corporate headquarters and two of its schools for children with autism and other special needs to a new, state-of-the-art facility in Randolph, Mass. The facility is also home to the National Autism Center, a new, nonprofit organization that has been established by the Institute (see adjacent article).



The facility, located at 41 Pacella Park Drive, is situated on 10 acres of land and overlooks the Blue Hills Reservation. It hosts one of the region's largest concentrations of doctoral-level and special education expertise.

The newest May Center for Child Development is located at the site, and brings together nearly 100 students from the

Institute's special education schools formerly located in Arlington and Braintree, Mass. The Center offers students many advantages, including:

- 22 extremely large, bright and airy classrooms, each equipped with comprehensive educational training materials and computers and a state-of-the-art audio-visual monitoring system
- an extraordinary playground for children of all abilities, a basketball court, a playing field for soccer or other team sports, a biking area, and a picnic area

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NAC to Establish National Standards

This fall, the National Autism Center hosted a Plenary Session to establish a set of national standards of practice for the education and behavioral treatment of children with autism.

This National Standards Project brings together a network of renowned leaders in the field of autism research and treatment. National standards will help families and parents distinguish between treatments for autism that are anecdotal and experimental and those that are evidence-based and backed by scientific research. The work of the project is expected to be completed in the spring of 2006.

"This project has the potential for great benefit," said Dr. Ann Wagner of the National Institute of Mental Health. "There is a critical and urgent need for dissemination of evidence-based approaches for the treatment of autism." ●

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- a full gymnasium, a gross motor skills acquisition room, and an indoor playroom
- art and music rooms, and a children's library with hundreds of books and other resource materials
- assessment/evaluation rooms with two-way observational capacity
- vocational and transitional training areas
- a comprehensive medical suite

“As we celebrate the accomplishments and milestones of 50 years of service, we are very proud to open the doors of May Institute's impressive, 80,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility in Randolph.”

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

- dedicated space for occupational, physical, and speech therapy
- a distance learning lab, a training center, and numerous conference rooms
- a private family services suite
- a spacious cafeteria

Randolph employees look forward to welcoming staff from the many other May programs and sites when they visit the new facility. ●



This prestigious award recognizes the profound impact of the Institute's training initiatives on the practice of behavior analysis and therapy and the advancement of the field. "Training begins with leadership," said **Dr. Dennis Russo**. "May professionals have a concentration of behavioral, clinical, and scientific expertise that is unmatched in the field."

Guided by a professional advisory board that includes leading experts in behavioral psychology, the Institute's training mission is supported by the expertise of over 60

UNMATCHED TRAINING ABCT Honors May Institute

May Institute received the 2005 Outstanding Training Program Award from the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (ABCT) at a ceremony held recently in Washington, D.C. Dennis Russo, Ph.D., ABPP, Chief Clinical Officer, accepted the award on behalf of the Institute.

licensed and credentialed M.D.- and Ph.D.-level professionals. Several of these individuals serve as examiners for the American Academy of Behavioral and Cognitive Psychology and the American Board of Professional Psychology's Behavioral Psychology Board. These senior-level staff are joined by over 50 Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA) and Board Certified Associate Behavior Analysts (BCABA). Additionally, the Institute and more than 40 affiliated universities, hospitals, and human service

organizations often work in partnership, pooling strengths and resources to train staff in delivering effective behavioral healthcare services.

The Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies is a professional, interdisciplinary organization concerned with the application of behavioral and cognitive sciences to understanding human behavior, developing interventions to enhance the human condition, and promoting the appropriate utilization of these interventions. ●

WEST SPRINGFIELD EARNS DOE APPROVAL

The May Center for Child Development in West Springfield has received full program approval from the Massachusetts Department of Education.

Opened in September 2003 to meet the rising demand for special educational services in western Mass., the May Center is successfully providing highly structured and individualized curricula for 22 children with autism, whose needs exceed the program-

ming offered in a regular public school or collaborative setting.

"This achievement recognizes the Center's commitment to

providing the highest standard of service to students, families, and the community," said **Alan Harchik, Ph.D., BCBA**, Senior Vice President.



May employees from West Springfield walked far for NAAR (National Alliance for Autism Research) during the area's 2005 walk event.

"Teachers and staff have done an outstanding job of getting the school's program off to a successful start. Their attention to consistency

and use of state-of-the-art procedures have enabled our students to make exceptional progress." ●



4 notable achievements

Revolutionizing the Classroom: Brockton Goes Back in Time

The May Center in Brockton was recently transported back to late 18th century New England. Historical re-enactors from Southcoast Historical Associates (SHA) visited the school to demonstrate aspects of what it was like to live in the area 250 years ago.

The visit was arranged by Senior Teacher **Mike Lydon**, whose students are currently studying Colonial America and the American Revolution in their history class.



Dressed as a colonial housewife, Hallie Larkin of SHA introduced May Center students and staff to the clothing, daily life activities, and customs of women and children of the era. She demonstrated spinning wool to yarn on a reproduction spinning wheel. David Jennings, who dressed as a colonial merchant, spoke about the lifestyle of an 18th century "gentleman." Jennings also displayed and

explained period armature and Revolutionary War history and tactics. A highlight of the presentation came when May Center student **Erick** (above right) was outfitted as a colonial soldier, complete with tri-corner hat and musket. ●

Success in Batches! Program Popular with 4-legged Friends

Members of May Institute's Connecticut program have been whipping up batches of homemade dog biscuits that



have become very popular with the local canine community. Program members like Rachael (above left) have participated in community events such as the Stafford Street Fair, where they have sold the treats. Additionally, the biscuits are on display and for sale at the Connecticut Department of Mental Retardation,

in an area designated for private providers to showcase the work of consumers. Members are also giving

back to the community by donating biscuits to the Fidelco Company, the Humane Society, and local animal control programs. "This initiative has been an excellent vocational training opportunity as well as community outreach activity," said Clinical Specialist **Jennifer Schoolnick**. ●

John Leydon Earns Microsoft Certification

John Leydon, Information Systems Specialist, has earned certification as a Microsoft Certified Professional (MCP). Certification required self-study and experience with troubleshooting and implementing Microsoft operating systems, as well as passing a practical examination.

Teacher of the Year Goes to...

Harry Ford, M.D., Director of the inpatient unit at Corrigan Mental Health Center in Fall River, received the *Teacher of the Year* award at the recent graduation celebration for Harvard South Shore's residency training program at Brockton Veterans Administration Hospital.

Communications Team Wins Awards

May Institute received four communications and marketing awards from the New England Society of Healthcare Communications (NESHCo) during its annual multi-state symposium. The Institute received a first place award for its website, and awards of excellence for its map and directory and its successful marketing campaigns on behalf of two of the Institute's schools.

Programs Achieve CARF Accreditation

The May Centers for Adult Services in Mashpee and Revere, Mass., and May Center for Child Development in West Springfield, Mass., have received three-year national accreditations from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities.

Baybridge Travels to Finland

Representing the five May Institute clubhouses, Baybridge staff and clubhouse members attended and presented at the 13th International Seminar for Clubhouses in Helsinki, Finland, joining other representatives from around the globe.



The event drew more than 400 people from 22 countries, with representatives coming together to learn from and inspire one another, and to celebrate the growing international clubhouse community.

Baybridge staff and members presented on: “Developing

Community Advisory Boards;” “Creating a Great Social Program;” and “How to Provide Community Support in the Work Unit.” Additionally, Institute representatives participated in a roundtable discussion about supported education.

Clubhouses began in 1947

when a handful of men and women with major mental illnesses started a quiet revolution – in their own lives, as well as in the field of mental healthcare. Their idea was to join together, rather than to retreat into isolation, and to support one another in finding work and adjusting to life beyond hospital walls. ●

IN THE NEWS

➤ | MAY INSTITUTE AND CHATHAM MAY CENTER

The Cape Cod Chronicle featured May Institute and the Chatham May Center in front page articles, “May Institute Marks Half-century of Education” and “Employment Program Brings Students Into Community.” The articles quoted President and CEO **Walter P. Christian**, Chatham staff **Susan Thibadeau**, **Paul Reedy**, **Sandy Miller**, and **Simone Byrne**.

➤ | DR. LAUREN SOLOTAR

Chief Psychologist **Lauren Solotar** is featured in a recent *TIME* magazine article on dissolved relationships.

➤ | NATIONAL AUTISM CENTER

The establishment of the National Autism Center was featured on the front page of the *Patriot Ledger*. Executive Director of the Center **Joseph Ricciardi** is quoted.

➤ | “MAY I ASK?”

In recent “May I Ask?” columns, May experts **Stephen Currier**, **Alan Harchik**, **Lauren Solotar**, **Maria Russo**, and **Sue Brown** offered advice to *The Republican*, *Fall River Herald News*, *Walpole Times*, *Daily News Transcript* and *West Roxbury Transcript* readers. Topics included treating autism, childhood depression, bipolar disorder, day programs for the elderly, and improving communication skills in children with autism.

ED ACCESS at MAY

TEAMING UP FOR AUTISM

May Institute and Hampstead Hospital collaborated on the 2005 annual fall symposium, “Unraveling the Mystery of Autism: Our Current Understanding and Some Practical Solutions.” The event was held in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. May Institute speakers were:

▪ **Joseph N. Ricciardi, Psy.D., ABPP, BCBA**, who presented, “Children With Autism Deserve Our Best: Addressing the Emerging Challenge for Families and Communities Through Evidence-based Intervention and National Standards.”

▪ **Robert F. Putnam, Ph.D., BCBA**, who presented, “Behavioral Assessment of Individuals with Pervasive Developmental Disorders: Current Practices.”

▪ **James K. Luiselli, Ed.D., ABPP, BCBA**, who presented, “Formulating, Writing, and Implementing Behavior Support Plans: A Guide Toward Effective Intervention.”

BABAT DRAWS HUNDREDS

The 26th annual Berkshire Association for Behavior Analysis and Therapy (BABAT) conference was recently held at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Attendees learned about the latest research findings from May Institute clinical staff and other influential leaders in the field.

The conference has grown significantly over the years, and this year it attracted the most attendees thus far. BABAT continues to be the premier applied behavior analysis conference in the region. ●

MayInstitute
Shaping Futures. Changing Lives.

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