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## Celebrating the people and programs



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

### May Institute President Named ABA Fellow Joins Elite International Group

May Institute President and CEO **Walter P. Christian, Ph.D., ABPP**, has been named a Fellow of the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI). One of only 47 ABA Fellows worldwide, he was honored at the most recent 34th annual ABAI convention in San Diego.

The Association for Behavior Analysis International is a nonprofit professional membership organization that promotes the field of behavior analysis. Fellows are selected based on their outstanding contributions in the areas of research/scholarship, professional practice, or teaching/administration service. They are nominated by their peers, who must provide a documented record of their contributions to the field.

Todd R. Risley, Ph.D., one of the found-

ing fathers of applied behavior analysis (ABA) and May Institute Professional Advisory Board member until his recent passing, actively supported Christian's nomination. Risley was Christian's long-time colleague and supporter, and he emphasized Dr. Christian's unparalleled commitment to developing the next generation of talented practitioners in a strong

endorsement to ABAI.

"Under Christian's leadership, for 30 years the May Institute has been a place of exceptional behavioral talent," wrote Risley. "It has provided the work and intellectual envi-

ronment for a large number of the best applied behavioral scientists and practitioners of our field."

"As it has grown," Risley continued, "the May achieved and maintained a level of excellence in all its programs through adherence to behavioral man-

### Cadence to Fund New Pediatric Center

Dozens of prominent community leaders in California gathered recently for a press conference to announce May Institute's selection as the beneficiary of a unique fundraising effort slated to raise almost \$1 million dollars. The funds will be used



Cadence CEO Mike Fister announces May Institute's selection as beneficiary at the recent press conference.

to create a Pediatric Specialty Center in San Jose dedicated to diagnosing and treating autism and other serious developmental disabilities.

Cadence Design Systems, Inc., a worldwide electronics design solutions company, announced the selection of May

## LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT



**W**e welcomed the new year at May Institute with renewed energy and a commitment to expand our network of programs in order to serve more children and families. In that spirit, these first few months of the year have been busy ones, and I am delighted to share some of the results of that energy and commitment in this latest issue of *@May*.

Our newest ventures include plans to create a state-of-the-art pediatric specialty center in San Jose, Calif., where there is great need for services for children with autism and related disabilities. [See lead story.]

On opposite coasts, two of our schools are in the midst of substantial expansions in order to better meet the needs of our students. The May Center for Child Development (Randolph, Mass.) and The Bay School (Santa Cruz, Calif.) are expanding their vocational programs for adolescents and young adults with autism. The Bay School has just doubled the size of its campus, and the Randolph Center is making plans for a new vocational and “high school” building that will open later this year.

The Southeast Regional Autism Center (Columbus, Ga.) is growing rapidly, and our staff are working diligently to keep up with the demand for services. Recent media coverage in *Exceptional Parent* magazine and in various Georgia outlets has helped get the word out among military families. The Center is now offering screening clinics to help with early detection of autism symptoms in young children, as well as autism training for “first responders” on the Fort Benning military installation.

In Fall River, Mass., the Fernandes Center for Children and Families recently celebrated its 10th anniversary as a provider of integrated outpatient care to children who have special health-care needs. And the National Autism Center has announced plans to expand its screening clinics to Boston and West Springfield, Mass.

On a more personal note, we at May Institute were saddened to lose a dear friend and a leader in the field of applied behavior analysis—Dr. Todd Risley. Through his affiliation with May Institute over the past three decades, and his friendships with those of us fortunate to know him, Todd significantly impacted our work and the lives of the individuals we serve. We will miss him greatly.

I invite you to read on to learn more about our current efforts and successes. As always, thank you for your support, and for being a part of our extended family.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Walter P. Christian".

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

**Pediatric Center... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

Institute as the beneficiary of its 2008 Stars & Strikes® bowling fundraiser. Since 1990, Cadence employees and corporate and community partners have raised more than \$10 million to support Silicon Valley nonprofit organizations that are meeting critical community needs.

The Pediatric Specialty Center will be developed through a unique partnership between May Institute, the Silicon Valley Children's Hospital Foundation (SVCHF), and Good Samaritan Hospital in San Jose. Discussions about the need for local specialized services led to a joint vision for a pediatric center.

Our selection by Cadence as this year's beneficiary brings us one giant step closer to realizing that vision. With a generous donation of clinical space by Good Samaritan

Hospital, and a commitment from the SVCHF to secure operational start-up funds, plans are underway to open this Center.

The Center will serve children with autism and other developmental disabilities, learning and behavior disorders, and special healthcare needs. It will provide expert outpatient evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment, and will bring much-needed care to the region's diverse and underserved citizens.

May Institute initiated its commitment to serving children in California when

The Bay School in Santa Cruz joined our network of programs in 2006. The new Pediatric Center allows us to further expand our West Coast services.

With a decade of experience in providing outpatient care to children with special healthcare needs through the Fernandes Center for Children and Families in Massachusetts (see story on page 4), we are well versed in offering integrated specialty services in one location.

"We are committed to bringing critical autism-related resources directly to communities that need them," said May Institute President and CEO **Walter P.**

**Christian,** Ph.D., ABPP. "We are already invested in serving families in California, and are delighted to develop this much-needed center. The generosity of Cadence Design Systems

will accelerate this effort to meet the pressing needs of families impacted by autism in the Silicon Valley community."

"The need for a pediatric specialty center like this in Santa Clara County is great, and the positive impact it can have on the lives of children with these types of developmental disabilities is even greater," said Cadence CEO Mike Fister. "We at Cadence welcome the opportunity to join with other area companies to raise the money needed to make this center a reality for the many children and families who will use its services." 🍷



*Heidi Howard, M.P.A., May Institute's Chief of Business Development, talks with attendees at the press conference. Howard spearheaded the proposal process for the Institute.*

- May Institute's Chief Psychologist **Lauren Solotar**, Ph.D., addressed "Teen Peer Pressure: Raising a Peer Pressure-Proof Child" on *WebMD*.
- *Exceptional Parent* magazine featured an in-depth article about May Institute in the Military Section of its December 2007 issue. Entitled, "May Institute: Responding to the Critical Need for Autism Services," the article highlighted the Southeast Regional Autism Center.
- At the recent press conference held at Cadence Design Systems headquarters, May Institute's Chief of Business Development **Heidi Howard**, M.P.A., discussed the establishment of the new Pediatric Specialty Center. The event was featured on ABC 7-TV News, KTVU 2 News (FOX), and KCBS News Radio.
- May Institute was highlighted in the fall 2007 *Cape Cod Life* Philanthropic Edition, which celebrated leaders in the philanthropic community on and off Cape Cod. The article included an interview with **Dennis C. Russo**, Ph.D., ABPP, May Institute's Chief Clinical Officer.
- WLTZ 38 NBC News in Columbus, Ga., led a recent newscast by quoting **Susan Wilczynski**, Ph.D., BCBA, Executive Director of the National Autism Center, about the recent study revealing a link between a rare gene and autism. The newscast featured a local military family whose son receives May Institute services, and included Behavior Therapist **Jade Lewis**, B.S., BCABA. The family and Lewis were also featured in *The Bayonet*, Fort Benning's newspaper.
- May Institute services were highlighted in the Columbus, Ga., *Ledger-Enquirer* newspaper article "Tough Mission—Supporting a child with autism even more of a challenge for military families." **Katherine Bray**, B.A., Behavior Therapist and Office Manager at the Southeast Regional Autism Center, is quoted.

### NEW AUTISM BOOK PUBLISHED

According to *Effective Practices for Children with Autism*, “Children who have autism require comprehensive educational and treatment services. There are a myriad of approaches currently recommended to practitioners and parents, but little is known about their efficacy. Which are the most effective in teaching skills, overcoming behavior challenges, and improving quality of life?”



These are the topics addressed in the new 528-page book recently edited by May Institute’s **James K. Luiselli**, Ed.D., ABPP, Senior Vice President of Applied Research, Clinical Training and Peer Review; **Dennis C. Russo**, Ph.D., ABPP, Chief Clinical Officer; **Walter P. Christian**, Ph.D., ABPP, President and CEO; and **Susan M. Wilczynski**, Ph.D., BCBA, Executive Director, the National Autism Center.

By bringing together “multiple and contemporary perspectives on intervention effectiveness for autism education and behavior support... the book is an essential framework for evaluating educational and treatment procedures, selecting those that are most effective, and evaluating outcomes.”

### PROMOTING SOCIAL SKILLS IN YOUTH

Over 400 corporate executives, municipal staff, and legislators gathered in Boston on January 29, 2008, for the United Way’s “Inspire 4 Life: Summit on Youth.” As part of the day-long conference, May Institute’s **Jannette Rey**, Ph.D., Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) Trainer and SWIS Facilitator, led a workshop entitled, “Creating Program Environments that Promote Prosocial Skill Development.”

Among the issues she discussed were survey findings that indicate that some youth see fighting as the only acceptable way to resolve disagreements. Thirty-three percent said when they were really angry there was no way they could control themselves; 41% said they would fight if challenged; and 21% believe that avoiding fights is a sign of weakness.

Dr. Rey shared strategies for reducing challenging behavior, styles of conflict resolution, and devising program-wide Positive Behavior Support (PBS) plans.

## Fernandes Center for Children & Families One-of-a-Kind Center Celebrates 10th Anniversary

There has been much to celebrate at the Fernandes Center for Children and Families (FCCF) in Fall River, Mass., as it marks a decade of providing outpatient care to children who have special healthcare needs with a unique, first-in-the-nation program that integrates specialty services in one location.

Founded in 1997 as a joint partnership between Saint Anne’s Hospital and May Institute, the Center for Children and Families—renamed the Fernandes Center in honor of Sister Joanna Fernandes, OP, in 2004—has been celebrating its 10th anniversary for the past 12 months.

FCCF provides research-based interventions to the community including outpatient diagnostic evaluations, psychological assessments, and treatment groups for children with diverse developmental, behavioral, or special health needs.



“Its flexible model allows for individualized care that addresses patient needs in collaboration with pediatric primary care providers,” says FCCF Director **Deidre Donaldson**, Ph.D. (above), who also serves as Director of Pediatric Psychology Services for May Institute. “Our unique program has four service divisions and is now serving as a model for other healthcare organizations throughout the country that are interested



*Children play in the reception area at the Fernandes Center for Children and Families.*

in building similar programs.”

FCCF’s Special Medical division offers clinics for a variety of needs including autism spectrum disorders, cardiology, genetics, gastrointestinal, growth and nutrition, and neurology. Its Rehabilitation division offers speech/language, physical, and occupational therapy, and the Behavioral Health division focuses on behavioral psychology, social work, and child psychiatry consultation. Group treatments are available to address issues such as bullying, parent training, and social skills.

The Center’s Community Consultation Services provide direct behavior consultation and trainings to educational settings as well as psychological, educational, and functional behavior assessments.

## After-school Social Skills Groups for Adolescents with Asperger's Syndrome



Adolescents who live in western Massachusetts and have Asperger's Syndrome are improving their communication skills and forming new friendships thanks to an innovative after-school skill-building program held at the May Center for Child Development in West Springfield.

The Center's social skills groups meet for about an hour a week for 10 to 12 weeks. The sessions are co-led by an experienced clinical professional and a peer facilitator—an older adolescent with Asperger's. Students enjoy meeting in a comfortable and relaxed setting where they can have fun

while working on the skills they will need to develop meaningful, personal relationships.

Asperger's Syndrome is a neurobiological disorder that some consider a mild form of autism. Both autism and Asperger's are categorized as autism spectrum disorders.

Children with Asperger's,

like those with autism, have difficulty with social interactions, have sensory impairments, and may develop unusual repetitive behaviors. According to the Autism Society of America, what distinguishes Asperger's from autism is the severity of symptoms and differences in linguistic abilities. ●

## TEENS HIT THE SLOPES

Four teens from our Children's Services program in Fall River, Mass., skied the slopes at Wachusett Mountain as part of a unique therapeutic outdoor recreation initiative this past winter.

Developed by **Joseph Weiss**, Service Coordinator of the Children's Services program, this initiative places teens in a small group setting where they can learn how to ski and develop positive social skills, while reducing stress and negative feelings. The ultimate goal of the group is for the members to be able to ski well enough to join a

school, community, or other skiing club, expanding their participation in the local community.

This initiative is made possible through

funding from the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health.

May Institute's Children Services program provides one-on-one support to at-risk adolescents and young adults ages 16-18 through consultation with families,

one-on-one skills training, and community-based opportunities for socialization. ●

*“The ski group is so much fun. We all have a good time. Thank you for having this group for me.”*

Jared, ski team member

## Behavioral Health Services Earn CARF Accreditation

May Institute's behavioral health programs and services for adults in Massachusetts have

received a three-year accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).



Accreditation is a result of a rigorous peer review process and a demonstration of services of the highest quality, measurability, and accountability.

The Institute received special commendation from CARF for providing behavioral healthcare services on a highly professional level. “The organization resembles a teaching hospital,” reviewers noted. “An elaborate system of interns, practicum students, and postdoctoral candidates completes the permanent staff of psychologists, neuropsychologists, nurses, and psychiatrists. Many staff members are hired from the cadre of students. The end result is that persons served have excellent access to professional help.”

“There is a great deal of mutual respect between persons served and individuals providing services, as evidenced by the way they interact with one another,” the report also noted. “Persons served consistently praise the individuals who provide services.”

“Our experienced, professional staff and outstanding clinicians have helped May Institute set a standard for excellence in the behavioral health field that few, if any, organizations can match,” said **Walter P. Christian**, Ph.D., ABPP, May Institute's President and CEO. ●

**TRUSTEES' FUND AWARD WINNERS**

Six May Institute employees were recently honored with Trustees' Fund Awards. Established in 1994 and funded by board members, these awards recognize individuals who exemplify the Institute's ideals of service and professionalism. Each award recipient received a plaque and a gift of \$500.



**Kathleen Barry**, receptionist at the May Center for Child Development in Randolph, Mass.



**Heather Castle**, a behavior specialist in the Institute's Atlanta office



**Antole Ford**, a member of the direct support staff for May Institute's Connecticut Community Services Center



**Marcia Galavotti**, assistant director at the May Center for Adult Services in Raynham, Mass.



**Roger Mumper**, program coordinator for an adult home in North Reading, Mass.



**Margarette St. Martin**, program coordinator for the Summer Street residence in Brockton, Mass.

"The recipients of the Trustees' Fund Award are among the organization's finest role models," said **Walter P. Christian**, Ph.D., ABPP, May's President and CEO. "I salute their hard work and commitment to our mission of providing the highest standard of service." ●

**NJ Partnerships Expand into Home-Based Services**

In recognition of the positive impact our consultation and training services have had on students with autism spectrum disorders in the Ewing Public School district in New Jersey, May Institute has been asked to provide home-based services to pre-school students who will be entering that district's Parker Elementary School.

**Marcie Handler**, Ph.D., licensed psychologist and Director of School-Wide Interventions at May Institute, says the expansion of services is a natural extension of the partnership.

"The school-wide initiatives in both Positive Behavior Support (PBS) and Response to Intervention (RTI) play a crucial role in providing system-wide support for students with behavior problems at one level," she said. "However, nothing replaces science-based early intervention therapy during that window of 18 months to 3 years of age for delivering the greatest chance for successful outcomes."

For those children who are screened and diagnosed at an early age, the home-based therapy model is an excellent option for families. Designed for students with behavior and developmental challenges, this one-on-one therapy provides intensive behavior therapy and consultation to children and families.

Using universally recognized, developmentally appropriate teaching methods, our behavior specialists help children with autism and related disabilities



improve communication, social, and behavior skills, self-help skills, and learning skills such as imitation and attending. The goal of this intensive therapy is to teach children the skills and strategies they will need to transition into private and public schools.

Home-based therapists also provide parent training to ensure that the skills children learn during their therapy sessions are maintained and refined at home.

"When family members reinforce the strategies taught by the therapist, they can definitely affect the success of the therapy," explains Dr. Handler. "In the short time that we've been providing home-based services, we've already experienced a strong level of commitment on the part of parents. It's easy to see how it accelerates the child's progress."

In order to better serve the growing demands of school districts and families for our services, we have relocated our Mid-Atlantic operations to Burlington, N.J. The new office gives staff increased capacity to conduct screenings, family training programs, and evaluations. ●

## Georgia Center Addressing Safety Issues New Services Support Military and Civilian Families



To address the safety of children with autism who live on the Fort Benning military installation in Georgia, staff at May Institute's Southeast Regional Autism Center are providing training sessions for "first responders" (police, fire fighters, and hospital staff) and assisting in the creation of an autism notification registry.

### First Responder Training

Because children with autism sometimes wander away from their homes or caregiving facilities, they are likely to come into contact with law enforcement officers and others who may join the effort to locate them, or care for them after they are found. It is therefore critical to educate those "first responders" about the characteristics and behaviors of individuals with autism.

Center staff **Katherine Bray**, B.A., **Jade Lewis**, B.S., BCABA, and **Gwen Martin**, Ph.D., BCBA, have designed interactive training sessions to help first responders learn ways to recognize individuals with autism; what to expect when approaching someone with autism; and ways they

can work with parents to keep children/adolescents with autism safe.

### Autism Notification Registry

Our Columbus staff are also helping develop a centralized database/registry of children who live on Fort Benning and have been diagnosed with autism and other special needs. Once established, this registry will provide basic information about each child with autism that could be crucial to an officer assisting in a search for that child if s/he is missing.

"By working together, we can continue to take vital steps to keep our children, and those who work to assist them, safe," says Martin, Clinical Director of the Center. ●

## SCREENINGS HELP DETECT AUTISM

In an effort to promote earlier diagnosis of children with autism, screening clinics are being held at the Southeast Regional Autism Center on Friday afternoons. These 30-minute, play-based assessments are conducted by a clinician with expertise in autism diagnosis and treatment services. Based on observations during the screenings, Center staff may refer families for a comprehensive diagnostic evaluation.

The Southeast Regional Autism Center provides a full range of comprehensive services to civilian and military families who have children with autism and other special needs. Additional services include home-based and school consultation; a parent education series; training for day-care, after-school, and respite providers; and social skills development groups. ●

### CONNECTICUT VP APPOINTED



**Tom Stanton, M.A.**, was promoted to Vice President of Connecticut Adult and Community Services for May Institute.

In this expanded role, Stanton is responsible for managing 25 adult residences ranging from semi-independent apartments, to group homes, to shared living arrangements with families or housemates in Connecticut. These programs serve individuals with developmental disabilities and mental health concerns. Stanton joined May Institute in 1999, where he began his career as Center Director for Adult Services in the Springfield, Mass., office. He received his master's degree in management from Lesley University. ●

### CLINICAL DIRECTOR APPOINTED FOR SOUTHEAST CENTER



**Gwen Martin, Ph.D., BCBA**, joined our staff this fall at the Southeast Regional Autism Center in Ga., as Clinical Director.

Dr. Martin's responsibilities include oversight of the Center's clinical services, program development, and supervision of behavioral clinicians. She also provides home-based services to families.

Prior to joining the Center's staff, Dr. Martin was the clinical and administrative supervisor of an autism program in Louisville, Ky., and an independent behavioral consultant. A Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA), Dr. Martin received her bachelor's degree in psychology and master's degree in mental health counseling from Western Kentucky University. She earned education specialist and doctoral degrees in counseling psychology from the University of Kentucky, along with a graduate certificate in developmental disabilities. Dr. Martin is a member of the Association for Behavior Analysis International. ●

## THE BAY SCHOOL INTRODUCES NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITY

The Bay School, one of our specialized schools for children and adolescents with autism and other developmental disabilities, has expanded its campus to include a 6,600-square-foot building to house the school's middle and high school transition programs and vocational/life skills training center. This new facility is located at 2400 Chanticleer Avenue, Suite A, directly across from The Bay School's current site at 5400 Soquel Avenue, Suite F.

According to a recent California Legislative Blue Ribbon Commission on Autism Report, 12 children are newly diagnosed with autism every day in the state, which is one child every two hours. As the population of students with autism continues to age, the demand for services grows.

In addition to his position as First Vice President-Investments at Merrill Lynch, Berkwits is a six-year member of our Board of Trustees, and was recently voted in as May Institute's new Chairman of the Board. Berkwits has served on the Board as Assistant Treasurer and Vice Chair for three years. His leadership and vision have been tremendous assets to the organization during this past decade of growth.

"We are so privileged to have board members like Jory who participate in the



*The new Bay School facility doubles the size of the school's campus and serves middle and high school students.*

"This campus expansion allows us to respond to the rapidly increasing needs of older students. It will enable them to further develop the essential work and life skills necessary to achieve as much independence as possible," said **Ethan Long**, Ph.D., BCBA,

Executive Director of The Bay School and Vice President of May Institute's West Coast region. "Through collaborations with

local businesses, we are providing part-time employment opportunities to our students and building relationships with community members that will bring mutual benefits to both the student and business owner."

For more information about The Bay School, please contact **Ethan Long, Ph.D., BCBA**, at 831-462-9620. 📞

## INSIDE @MAY

### Jory Berkwits Steps Up to Lead Board of Trustees

Readers of @May may recognize **Jory Berkwits** (at right) as the leader of the Merrill Lynch team participating in the Rodman Ride for Kids last fall, cycling 25 miles to support May Institute's programs and services.



overall governance of the organization, bring dedication to its mission, and offer us highly specific professional expertise," said **Walter P. Christian**, Ph.D., ABPP, May Institute President and CEO.

Mr. Berkwits shared his thoughts recently on his time with May Institute, and his goals during his tenure as Chairman: "My experience at the May Institute has been very fulfilling on many levels. My own background has been in investments and financial services, so my affiliation with the May has certainly broadened my knowledge and understanding of nonprofits in general and social service organizations in particular."

"My years with the May have been witness to myriad changes. Looking forward, I want to make it a priority that the Board is truly engaged on a long-term strategic basis as the May grows in the years ahead. I hope that my service has brought some value to others. One thing I know for sure—it has put a new dimension in my life, and has been a wonderful experience for my soul."

Mr. Berkwits also recognized outgoing Chairman John Murphy. "As I assume this new role, I would also like to express our appreciation to John, who has served as Chairman for the past four years. He has done an excellent job leading the

## Berkwits Leads Board... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

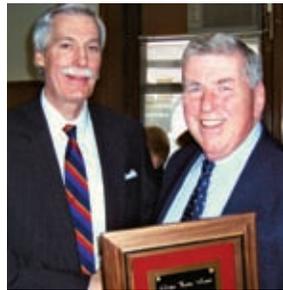
Board as the organization has evolved and grown."

We look forward with excitement and confidence as Jory Berkwits begins his term of Chairman of the Board. And we will be cheering him on during his second bicycle ride later this year in the 2008 Rodman Ride for Kids! 🚲

## Recognizing a Friend and Supporter

Our congratulations to May Institute friend and corporate committee volunteer John "Biff" Jenney, J.D., on his retirement from the Norfolk County Probate and Family Court.

For over 30 years, Biff served as an advocate and guide for children and families. He has a wonderful reputation within the Judiciary and



*John Jenney, J.D., (r) with Trial Court Chief Justice Robert A. Mulligan.*

Bar, and has been a recipient of several awards from the Bar Association.

Biff acknowledged May Institute in his recent retirement letter to members of the Massachusetts Bar: *"I don't want any other commemoration of retirement... but it would be nice to see May Institute's participation in the Ride for Kids be a success, because the many wonderful kids at this organization will benefit."* 🚲

## HAVE FUN WHILE RAISING FUNDS

May Institute welcomes individuals, families, organizations, schools, and businesses to host events on our behalf. Having fun while raising funds for a great cause, transforms an event into a special event.

Benefit events come in all shapes, sizes, and themes. The proceeds from events, large or small, enhance our programs and services. For example, Chatham May Center parent Debby Richard and her friends recently orchestrated their annual dining, dance, and auction event, "Me and My Friend Helping Autism." Proceeds help to support wish lists from May Center classrooms and children's residential programs.



We are grateful to our friends and supporters for their time and dedication in hosting new events on our behalf, or choosing us as a beneficiary for existing events. These efforts have been essential in raising funds as well as bringing our mission to a broader audience. We invite you to consider hosting an event on behalf of May Institute! 🚲

*For more information about hosting an event, or joining/supporting the 2008 Rodman Ride for Kids, please contact Erin Connors at 781-437-1227 or [econnors@mayinstitute.org](mailto:econnors@mayinstitute.org).* 🚲

## The Ride for Kids is Back!

Don Rodman, President of the Rodman Ride for Kids, has invited May Institute back as a beneficiary participant in the 2008 Ride for Kids on September 27! Through everyone's generous efforts, we raised \$115,000 and surpassed our 2007 fundraising goals.

"Don Rodman's leadership enhanced our organization's visibility, bringing value far beyond his generous 15% charitable



*Don Rodman, who joined riders last fall, has spearheaded the Ride for Kids since 1991.*

matching gift," said Heidi Howard, M.P.A., May Institute's Chief of Business Development. "We are grateful to once again be selected as a participating organization of this wonderful event."

Many thanks to all who supported us in 2007, especially our corporate sponsors Stephen H. Peck & Associates, Todson, Inc., Merrill Lynch, McGladrey & Pullen, LLP, EMD Serono, Inc., Roche Bros./Sudbury Farms, The Baker Companies, and W.B. Mason. Thanks also to the board members Jory Berkwits, Neal Todrys, Robert Yelton, and Stephen Young, who participated in our first Ride as cyclists, and to the many board members who supported the event through donations.

As we start to gear up for 2008, we welcome back last year's supporters while continuing to expand our enthusiastic community of riders, support teams, donors, and corporate sponsors. Please join us in making 2008 an even greater success! 🚲

## ABA Fellow...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

agement principles. That this was no accident is shown by the book, *Effective Management in Human Services*, written by Dr. Christian in 1983. That book—efficient, practical and thoroughly behavioral—is arguably the best organizational behavior book in existence.”

According to Maria E. Malott, Ph.D., Executive Director of ABAI, Dr. Christian’s appointment was based on his sustained and excellent contributions to the field

“Your work in and commitment to the field provided clear evidence of your fulfillment of the requirements of an ABA Fellow.”

Maria E. Malott, Ph.D.  
Executive Director of ABAI

of behavior analysis. “Your work in and commitment to the field provided clear evidence of your fulfillment of the requirements of an ABA Fellow,” she wrote in notifying Dr. Christian of his appointment.

“I am very grateful to receive this honor and pleased that it came in the same year that May Institute received the Award for Enduring Programmatic Contributions in Behavior Analysis, one of the nation’s most prestigious awards for behavior analysis,” said Dr. Christian.

[ABA is a methodology, or framework, that applies scientific interventions to address behavioral needs. It is universally recognized as critical for teaching children with a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder or other developmental disabilities.]

## IN MEMORY OF TODD R. RISLEY, PH.D.



Todd R. Risley, Ph.D., a founding father of applied behavior analysis (ABA) and dear friend to May Institute, died on November 2, 2007, at his home at the foot of Risley Mountain in his beloved Alaska.

Dr. Risley completed his doctorate at the University of Washington in 1966. He was a principal faculty member in the Department of Human Development and Family Life at the University of Kansas during the early years of the field of ABA, and in recent years served as Professor Emeritus at the University of Alaska in Anchorage.

Known internationally for his research and writings, Dr. Risley was 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. He wrote a seminal article in 1968 with colleagues Drs. Donald Baer and Montrose Wolf which provided a template for the development of the entire field of ABA. Another of his notable works, co-

authored with Betty Hart, discusses how children acquire language; it continues to be frequently referenced and to generate much discussion. His formulation of time-out procedures has influenced the culture of our country and our approach to parental discipline.

Todd Risley was a long-time friend and advisor to May Institute. Over the past 30 years, his guidance and support have been major factors in the development of the Institute’s programs and services and its rise to national prominence in the field. A member of the Professional Advisory Board of May Institute since 1978, Dr. Risley was instrumental in the actualization of our mission.

May Institute President and CEO **Walter P. Christian**, Ph.D., ABPP, recalls Dr. Risley’s visits to Cape Cod in the early 1970s, when the Institute was comprised of only the Chatham school. “Todd came to Chatham many times in the early days of my tenure. He has had a profound influence on so many people associated with May Institute over the years.”

In addition to his decades-long affiliation with May Institute, Dr. Risley served on the Professional Advisory Board of the National Autism Center in the two years prior to his death.

“Todd always saw the ‘big picture,’” said **Dennis C. Russo**, Ph.D., ABPP, Chief Clinical Officer of May Institute. “His guidance and leadership in our field, his mentorship of colleagues and collaborators, and his support of those of us at the Institute who knew him well will be greatly missed.”

## REACHING OUT THROUGH E-CARDS

The National Autism Center (NAC) welcomed in the new year with its most recent e-card, which was sent to more than 10,000 “friends” of NAC.

Those who received the e-card were treated to some beautiful photographs of students at various May Center schools, with student art that was creatively and playfully integrated with music and the black and white photos.

The e-card is the fourth in an ongoing series sent to a wide variety of constituents including families, educators, groups and organizations, medical and service providers, legislators, and others interested in staying in touch with NAC. As always, the message is that NAC is available to provide information and guidance about effective, evidence-based treatments for autism.

We were pleased to receive lots of positive feedback, including notes and calls from families of students served at our May Center schools.



Keep an eye out for the next e-card!

*If you would like to be added to our email list for the National Autism Center, please drop us a note at [info@nationalautismcenter.org](mailto:info@nationalautismcenter.org).*

## National Autism Center Receives Generous Grants to Support Programs

The National Autism Center recently received \$20,000 in grants to support various programs.

The grants—\$10,000 from the Doug Flutie Jr., Foundation for Autism, and \$10,000 from the Irene E. and George A. Davis Foundation—will help in expanding the reach of the Center, and in providing low-income and underserved families with continued access to services through new and existing programs.

“Families who believe their child has an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) are faced with significant obstacles in obtaining the diagnosis they need in order to begin receiving services,” said **Susan Wilczynski**, Ph.D., BCBA, Executive Director of the National Autism Center. “This new funding will play a critical role in helping families overcome these obstacles by enabling them to obtain the diagnosis and services their children need.”

## NAC CONTINUES REDUCED FEE AUTISM SCREENINGS

The National Autism Center’s (NAC) Assessment Clinic is continuing its highly successful reduced fee autism screening program for children between the ages of 18 months and 5 years suspected of having an autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

The screenings are conducted by **Laura Fisher**, Psy.D., Director of the ASD

Diagnostic Clinic and a child psychologist specializing in autism diagnosis. Screenings are held the first Friday of each month. The cost is only \$25.

“As the number of children with autism continues to rise, it is absolutely critical that we find more ways of reaching families,” said Dr. Fisher. “These children

deserve both a speedy and comprehensive diagnosis as well as access to crucial early intervention services.”

*For more information about the ASD screenings or other NAC programs and services, call 877-313-3833 or visit [www.nationalautismcenter.org](http://www.nationalautismcenter.org).*

# UPCOMING @MAY

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### The Perfect Gift for Any Occasion

Celebrate a special occasion, acknowledge a milestone, remember a loved one, or recognize someone special in your life with an honorary or memorial gift in their name to May Institute. Your charitable donation will honor your friends or loved ones while touching the lives of the special individuals in our care.



We will gratefully acknowledge your donation by notifying the person you designate with a beautiful thank you card. Gifts can be submitted by mail, phone, or online.

For more information or to make a gift, please contact Shira Moffatt at 781-437-1236 or [smoffatt@mayinstitute.org](mailto:smoffatt@mayinstitute.org).

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### National Autism Awareness Month U.S. Senate to Host *Faces and Voices of Autism* Photo Exhibit

To mark Autism Awareness Month in April, May Institute and the National Autism Center are pleased to announce that the *Faces and Voices of Autism* photo exhibition will travel to Washington D.C.

The exhibit will be displayed at the Russell Senate Building Rotunda from April 21-25.

*Faces and Voices of Autism* features individual photographs of children, each accompanied by a short story, or "voice," from the perspective of a person in that child's life. These stories do not focus specifically on the child's diagnosis, but rather on what makes him or her special.

This series of portraits and stories opens a window into the life of these children that is ordinarily closed to the general public.

The exhibit was first displayed at the Massachusetts State

House and the Prudential Center in Boston in 2007.

For more information about the *Faces and Voices of Autism* exhibition, please contact us at 800-778-7601.

In Massachusetts, Autism Awareness Day will be held at the State House in Boston on Tuesday, April 15. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. Attendees are encouraged to visit with their legislators following the morning's agenda.

This event is sponsored by the Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts.

For more Information, please call 781-891-6270.

## 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 more than 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.*

@MAY is published three or four times a year by May Institute's Office of Communications, 41 Pacella Park Drive, Randolph, Massachusetts 02368. © 2008 May Institute, Inc.

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