



# Newsletter

## Fall 2001

### From The Director's Desk

JRC continues its encouraging growth. We now have 128 residential students who live in 21 houses and apartments. Our total staff now numbers more than 600. Because of the unusually strong demand for our residential services, we have placed on hold our plans to offer a day school program. Currently we provide services to students and adults from Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Washington, D.C. and Virginia and we have a waiting list of 20-30 applicants. About half of our students are individuals with developmental disabilities and half have severe behavior problems. We also operate a successful respite program for mentally retarded adults from Massachusetts.

This year we invited 9 members of our staff to attend the annual conference of the association for Behavioral Analysis in New Orleans during the Memorial Day weekend. At this conference I presented data on the effectiveness of our educational and treatment procedures in a symposium chaired by Dr. Ogden Lindsley, a senior consultant to JRC and a member of our Board of Directors. I gave a similar presentation in July of last year at a symposium at the European Experimental Analysis of Behavior conference in Amiens, France.

Throughout the past few years we have developed a central database in which all information and records about our stu-

dents are now deposited. One of the most important parts of this database is the section in which each student's daily educational and behavioral data is deposited. We have also developed unique charting software that enables us to display this data in charted form over our network. The data is updated daily by our residential staff. Any staff member (or parent, if he or she wishes) can now view these charts immediately from any computer in the building. This has made a dramatic improvement in our ability to make rapid, chart-based decisions in our education and treatment program. We have even made the charts available to our students so that they

(continued on next page)



JRC party for Board of Directors and Consultants, May 31, 2001. Top row: Mariachi players and Dr. Ogden Lindsley. Middle row: Harold Drooker, Dr. Henry Slucki, Dr. Israel, and, Dr. Robert Epstein. Bottom row: Dr. Nancy Knaus, Judy Weber, Dr. Bill Knaus, Marcy Davis and Bert Davis.

# Administrators Report the News

can view them each day from their computers in our classrooms. Each student can view both the behaviors that we as a school are working on, as well as the charts for his or her own self-management projects. Samples of these charts are now available on our web site, [www.judgerc.org](http://www.judgerc.org).

In addition to the charting software, we have developed some Basic Skills software that teaches our autistic-like students basic discrimination skills, receptive vocabulary and (most important) how to ask for things by pointing to pictures in a pictorial menu and/or vocalizing their wishes. We are also developing a phonics/typing program to teach beginning reading. And we have developed spelling and mathematics software that all of our students have been using. Many of our students have acquired valuable typing skills through their use of a commercially-available typing program. We now have a total of approximately 100 computers that are devoted to the use of our students, including both those at the residences and those in the classrooms. Use of the internet is a major reward that many of our students work hard to earn. To support all this and to develop new software for the needs of our students and staff, we now employ a computer coordinator, two computer/network support staff members, two in-house software developers, one webmaster, and two outside consulting software developers.

This past June we held graduation/culmination ceremonies at which we honored two students who graduated from JRC with high school diplomas and ten who completed their studies with us and who received a diploma from JRC.

One of the most unusual aspects of JRC is the effort we have made to make our school and residences attractive and inviting environments. We have filled the corridors with colorful prints of modern and classical masters, amusing mannequin sculptures, musical clocks, Coca-Cola and Mickey Mouse items, etc. Walking through our corridors and offices is somewhat like walking through a beautiful art gallery. We want to make attending school and living and working in our residences an enjoyable visual experience for both our students and staff. Photos of some of the beautiful areas of our building can be found on pages 8-12 and more views may be seen on our web site.

**Dr. Matthew Israel,**  
Executive Director



**Big smiles from case managers Mr. Bruno and Ms. Kelley.**

## FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The students continue to work diligently on their academic skills with the use of the computers that are in every classroom. Students have access to the internet, which is a great information resource. Students are also able to email friends and family, as well as staff.

Some students work on self-instructional tasks in addition to their academics. These are work or instructional tasks that the student is capable of doing on his or her own. The goal is to teach the students to work proficiently for longer and longer periods of time and therefore to prepare them to work in a workshop setting or competitive job.

Some examples of self-instructional tasks are assembling jewelry, carding earrings, stuffing envelopes or working on the computer. Each self-instructional task that is assigned to a student is to be completed in rotation according to the student's SI task schedule. A one-minute time sample is taken for each task once per day in the classroom to measure progress.

We have expanded our evening classes with the addition of life skills, basic math and reading classes, and a GED class to prepare students to take the Test of General Educational Development.

The most exciting news is the development of our Transition Programming level.

We have selected four students who are eligible to participate in this program. The



**Dr. Israel with Rosemary Silva and Doris Baron, both of whom received beautiful necklaces at a ceremony honoring their 20 years of outstanding service at JRC.**

program is designed to provide increasingly independent living opportunities. To be eligible, a student must be at least 16 years of age and must have passed a specified number of multi-day contracts.

The students in this program reside in JRC residences that do not have the usual restrictions. There are no cameras or video systems to monitor the students. The staff person is there for support, not supervision. Students are able to go into the community independently for recreation or job opportunities without permission and only need to inform the staff of their destination and plans.

At our graduation/culmination ceremony this year we honored twelve students. We also had a very special guest speaker, Krista C., a 2000 graduate of JRC, and presently a student at Massasoit Community College!

**Alexis Hazard**  
Director of Education



**Michael spends time with his parents in our "Coke" multipurpose room.**



Mike Langford, Joe Assalone and psychologist Melissa Burns at the Board of Directors' party.



A Mariachi Band!!



A clam bake lunch is held for JRC's Board of Directors and staff.

# JRC Annual Board of Director's Meeting May 31, 2001



Marcy Davis, Bert Davis and Matt at the clam bake lunch.



Consultant Dr. Og Lindsley (right) sings along with a Mariachi player.



Julie and Shirley enjoy the margaritas at the Board of Directors' party held at Matt's house.

## Association of Behavior Analysis Conference



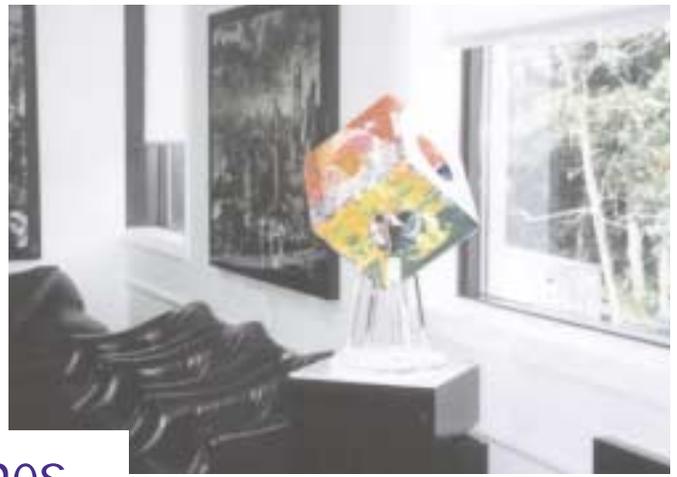
Staff members of JRC and sister school Tobinworld at the Association for Behavioral Analysis (ABA) conference in New Orleans, May, 2001.



Matt presents data on the JRC treatment program at the ABA conference.



Our new gymnasium, supervised by Phys. Ed teacher, Doreen Gilkenson (left, doing stretches with Andrew).



## New Scenes Around JRC

This acrylic sculpture (rotating and lighted) was recently added to Matt's office. When his door is open (which is most of the time), the piece is visible to visitors as they walk down the main corridor.



When the front paws and tails of these two metallic sculpture dogs are set in motion, they continue wagging for up to 45 minutes.



Consultant Judy Weber (foreground) enjoys the new library/conference room which, along with all the other beautiful touches illustrated in these pages, she has so ingeniously designed.



Greg tries out the new skiing arcade game in the Big Reward Store.



Our "Mickey (Mouse)" Conference Room.



Our newest residence, "Old Maple," in Stoughton, MA.



The step-down living room of the Old Maple residence.



The kitchen at Old Maple.



One of the bedrooms at Old Maple.



A collection of antique cars outside of our Chagall Conference Room at JRC.



JRC's Chagall Conference Room. Employment applicants often use this room while they fill out their application forms.



Contemporary couches and Warhol prints in the Warhol Foyer.



Another view of the Warhol Foyer.



An electronic player piano has been added to the left-corner of our Multi-Purpose Room.



The Lichtenstein Corridor is lined on both sides with 29 Lichtenstein prints, of which (arguably) this grouping of four abstracts (middle) is the most beautiful.



Four giant prints of perfume bottles by Andy Warhol dominates the south-east corridor of the lower level at JRC.



The entire East Corridor of the lower level is now lined with 100 prints by Slaughter, Jiang, Klimt, Dufy, Warhol, Matisse and Nespolo. Each group of prints is accompanied by a biographical sketch of the artist to promote art education among our students.



A CD Jukebox has been added to the right corner of the Multi-Purpose Room.



Notice the two shoe-shaped chairs in Classroom 1's Reward Store.

## Our New Classroom Reward Stores

Recently we purchased some bright, colorful, contemporary furniture for our Classroom Reward Stores. We had to go all the way to an offbeat area of Los Angeles to find such funky and fun stuff.



Malcolm relaxes in a hand-shaped chair in Classroom 4.



Cleodell and Andrew relax in Classroom 3's Reward Store.



A touch of California contemporary furniture graces an alcove at the end of one of our downstairs corridors.



Duane relaxes on a chaise lounge in Workshop B, and Wayne (behind him) enjoys the chair.



Elly takes it easy in Workshop A Reward Store.

# Teachers Report the News



Ms. Chiarella helps Johnny trace his hand.

## CLASSROOM 1

Janine C. is learning her letters and numbers with JRC's touch screen computers. Brandon S. enjoys earning goodies and spending time in the Big Reward Store for his hard work. Who do you think is learning to tell time and how to spell words? That would be Caroline B. who is consistently earning her "busy bag." John C. looks forward to his trips on the treadmill. Emily R. likes to use the pennies she earns, through positive behaviors, to purchase time in the Big Reward Store. Quite often you can find Andrew T. walking with preferred staff as his reward. Brendon S. has improved his ability to vocalize his needs.

## CLASSROOM 2

Classroom 2 welcomed the arrival of Christopher L., as well as Andrew G. If you see Dr. Bob von Heyn on a van ride with Terrence E. and Cleodell L., you know they have passed their Special Contracts again! Robert H. has been mastering his mathematics and loves to dance during his breaks in Classroom Reward Store. Steven S. is learning to identify his letters on the computer. He also looks forward to his 10 minute walks around the school.



Ivan enjoys using the computer for his work.

## CLASSROOM 4

Kathleen M. received the "Student of the Week" award, while Irene R. has passed several multi-day contracts consecutively. Nelson T. is improving his ability to work independently on different workshop tasks. Gabe R. is making fine progress with the Basic Skills program on his computer. Darryl H. is steadily moving through the JRC Phonics curriculum. Malcolm H. is passing several multi-day contracts. Steven V. is doing well with his Precision Teaching lessons.



Malcolm earns a tasty snack reward.

## CLASSROOM 5

Willie L. is always happy and smiling. He appears to be very content here at JRC and he loves to be tickled! Robert M.'s smiles rise above all language barriers. He loves reading, especially pictorial dictionaries. Mario D. loves to share his popcorn and candy with his fellow classmates. Adam N. is excellent in sign language and loves to share what he's learned with the class.

## CLASSROOM 6

Samantha B. has just started using Practice Mill and has been excelling in multiplication. Nick V. is working very hard to master his addition and subtraction facts. Jessica N. has been balancing her in-school job and her academics. Brian A. has been moving ahead rapidly on his fractions. Lisa H. has moved ahead to the next level in her repeated reading lessons. Jonathan S. has been working very hard at typing and is passing all of his aims. Jennel C. has been doing an excellent job with all of her academics. Steven G. has been working very hard at both his phonics and reading and is excelling in both! Christopher A. has been passing his phonics decks regularly and is always working hard. Aracelis S. has started several new learning projects, both on the computer and with her books.



What are you playing with, Mario?

## CLASSROOM 7

Jackie G. has worked in the community at Wendy's restaurant while Danny R., Arrie J., and Fawn M. have participated in in-school supervised jobs. Those students who are not able to participate in employment are meeting and beating aims and targets in many Precision Teaching activities. The points that they earn are used towards purchasing rewards. Recently, these students have also been completing extra work to earn "multi-day" contract money that is used for weekend activities. Classroom 7 students have been attending the Big Reward Store twice a week. There they spend time socializing, playing games, listening to music and enjoying snacks.

## CLASSROOM 8

Bernadette C. has earned an in-school job in the nursing department and Christina E., Daphne B. and Danielle R. have all earned various levels of independence at school. We have welcomed Joe B. and Robert P. into the classroom. Joe works hard at mastering his math decks and the Practice Mill program. Robert is making excellent strides in his vocabulary. Danielle R. recently completed a language arts lesson on poetry. Joshua B. creates vocabulary cards from the chapters in the books that he reads. The whole class is enjoying learning about Native American history by the doing the "500 Nations" video series for homework assignments.



What's so funny, everyone?



**Sarah loves beating her Practice Mill score!**

### CLASSROOM 9

Classroom 9 welcomed a new teacher, Ms. Rotenberg, and her assistant, Mr. Pickering. Elijah C. enjoys working on the computer and has become proficient in typing. At 62 words per minute, he is well on his way! Jeffrey E. has been trying very hard to beat his aim and has been successful almost every day. Nathan B. has been steadily improving in science. He completes his work every day and is excited about the solar system and outer space. Shatika W. has been doing well with her writing skills and enjoys writing creative stories. Stephen R. is turning into quite the mathematician! He hopes to one day be a basketball coach or play for the New Jersey Nets!

### CLASSROOM 10

Chad R. enjoys beating his academic aims, thus earning the opportunity to purchase a Nintendo Gameboy. Kidra B. reads and works consistently to earn points towards the purchase of items from the Contract Store. Earning Nintendo is something Modesto S. looks forward to after passing his Less-than-a-Day contracts. Nicasio P. works diligently on his academics all day to earn points and supergoodies. Our 7 year old, David S., is excelling in reading. We are all proud of his accomplishments. William F. is very interested in working on the computer and is willing to help out when needed.



**Ms. Domash looks over Brian's good work.**

### CLASSROOM 11

David S. and Chris N. have both moved to a new "Transitional Apartment." David recently started barber school. Not only are these gentlemen doing a great job with their behavioral programs, they are also keeping their grades up! James C. continues to put secretaries everywhere to shame by typing up to 78 words per minute on his Typing Program! Chase M. and Terence L. are both close behind with typing rates as high as 65 words per minute. Star H. and Marlene J. are working on banking and budgeting skills and are taking advantage of our evening Life Skills classes. Michael V. has been working very hard on his vocabulary decks. He is scoring very high rates and is putting in a super effort.



**Jeffrey is a great typist!**

### WORK ACTIVITIES TRAINING CENTER A

The Work Activities Center (WATC-A) currently has twenty-one individuals working on contract jobs. We have a number of businesses from which we receive contract work and we have been successful in finding and keeping contract jobs. The students work very hard on these jobs and make sure that they deliver the work on time. The students have been earning big checks for their hard work. Students such as Eric L. and Sean W. have completed all of the work that has been assigned to them.

### WORK ACTIVITIES TRAINING CENTER B

The students in WATC-B are learning skills which will enable them to work in a sheltered workshop. There they can begin earning a regular paycheck.

Luigi D. has improved so much on his workshop skills that he moved to WATC-A. Wayne M. has been improving greatly on the computer, and passing so many contracts that he went on a field trip to a seafood restaurant to enjoy some fish and chips.

Matthew S. has been using a typing program to learn how to type without even looking at the keyboard! Ernest P. has continued to work hard at his job, and is working faster than ever. David P., Duane B., and Sharon H. are welcome additions to the classroom and are fast learners!



**William really likes his teacher, Ms. Holland.**



**Elijah is having a good day!**

### CLASSROOM 12

Rick N. has been working diligently on his math text. Each day he tackles a new challenge and works until he has mastered it. Jorge M. is progressing steadily in spelling on the Practice Mill program, and he passes a lesson almost daily. Dominique A. has actually requested that some of her academic aims be raised, so that she can be more challenged. Kevin H. is working to develop the skills that he will need to make a life for himself in the "adult world." Robert P. has been progressing both behaviorally and academically.



**Smile for the camera, Jasmin!**

# News from the Residences



Brian cooks his own dinner.



Case manager Sam Montecalvo visits with Chris and Ivan.



Matty relaxes in his favorite chair at the Moberg residence.



Johann works on his homework at the Norton residence.

## FROM THE RESIDENTIAL DEPARTMENT

We now have 21 residences, including 9 beautiful apartments and twelve houses. The past several months have seen the acquisition of an additional house in suburban Mansfield, MA, and two additional apartments in Canton, MA, only minutes from the school.

There was much preparation for the arrival of summer including BBQ grills, hammocks, volleyball nets, and basketballs for all. The students at JRC love to spend their evenings and weekends outdoors. Students have enjoyed attending Boston Red Sox games at Fenway Park, as well as games of the Pawtucket Red Sox. Fireworks displays were a popular activity for the 4th of July following a day of barbecuing and relaxing outdoors. A trip to Six Flags New England amusement park was one of the most popular field trips of the summer.



Terrence and Keith share a hammock.



Residential Coordinator Yianiss Noel gives Irene a big squeeze!

**Glenda Crookes**  
Director of Residences



The Turnpike residence girls pose for a group picture.



Michael visits the Franklin Park Zoo.



The guys at Brae residence share dinner together.



Elly thinks folding clothes is a blast!



Gabe makes sure his house is always clean.



Nick irons his own pants.



Good job with your chores, Guo.



Shh...it's study time for Johann!

## After School...



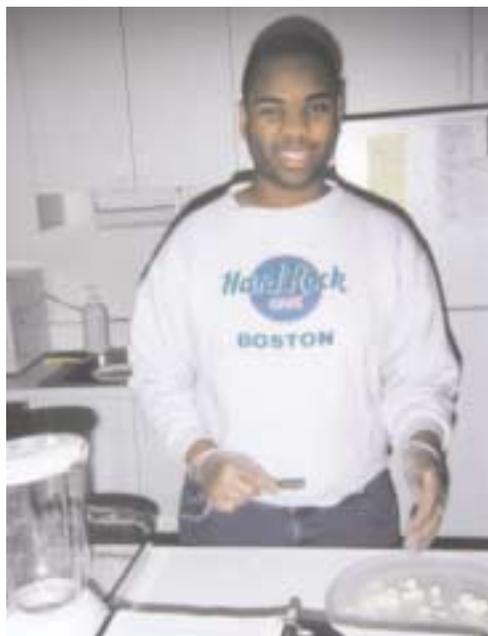
Jennel, can you pass Jessica the salt, please?



So, when's your big break, Greg?



What's for dessert, ladies?



What are you making, Brian?



Phil makes the dishes sparkle.



Who's winning the game, guys?



Elly, you make that look fun!



A mannequin pianist entertains, and a mannequin policeman ("Norm") guards, in JRC's main hall.



This little "flower lady" is our most charming mannequin.

## Mannequin - Mania



Annah (left) is a hard worker. The mannequin (right) just stands around all day.



Head Nurse Doris Baron receives a consultation from our mannequin "proctologist."



A haughty chef (mannequin) stands at the entrance to the Multi-Purpose Room.



Nowadays, every school needs security. Mannequins "Norm" and "Nick" do the job nicely for us.



Psychologists Dr. Bob Worsham (left) and Dr. Bob von Heyn (right) pose with the psychologist mannequin.