

President Bill Corwin Looks to the Future

My wife, Jennifer and I first came to Clarke in the autumn of 2000 with our daughter Sophia, who was an infant at the time. Like every parent who discovers their child has a hearing loss, we were full of questions and uncertainty. What would our daughter's life be like? How would she share her ideas and emotions with us? Would she have the opportunities and experiences that most other children have?

At Clarke, we met caring and knowledgeable professionals who helped us find the answers. I remember a Clarke professional saying with cheerful certainty, "Sophia's going to be OK." Those words of reassurance were difficult to believe after all our worry and concern, but they were true. Sophia just began first grade and is flourishing in a mainstream elementary school. I have little doubt that she will be able to do anything she sets her mind to.

When our second daughter, Juliet, was diagnosed with a more severe hearing loss and we decided she would receive a



President Bill Corwin with his wife Jennifer and daughters Sophia (7) and Juliet (4).

cochlear implant, Clarke helped us navigate the process with confidence. Juliet now has bilateral implants and is thriving at Clarke's Northampton preschool.

Clarke was a godsend for our family. As president, I continue to see the passion, professionalism and dedication that first

impressed me as a parent, and I now have observed it in all of our programs and locations. Every day Clarke is transforming the lives of children and families. Clarke opens up the world for children and helps them be what they want to be. I truly believe there is no work more important than that.

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Clarke Day Celebrates Alumni

See pages 4 & 5



Paul "Chip" Taylor CS '88 of Feeding Hills, MA, Suzanne Cook CS '94 of Atlanta, GA and Mike Kompogiannis CS '93 of Quebec were happy to reunite with friends. See more photos inside...

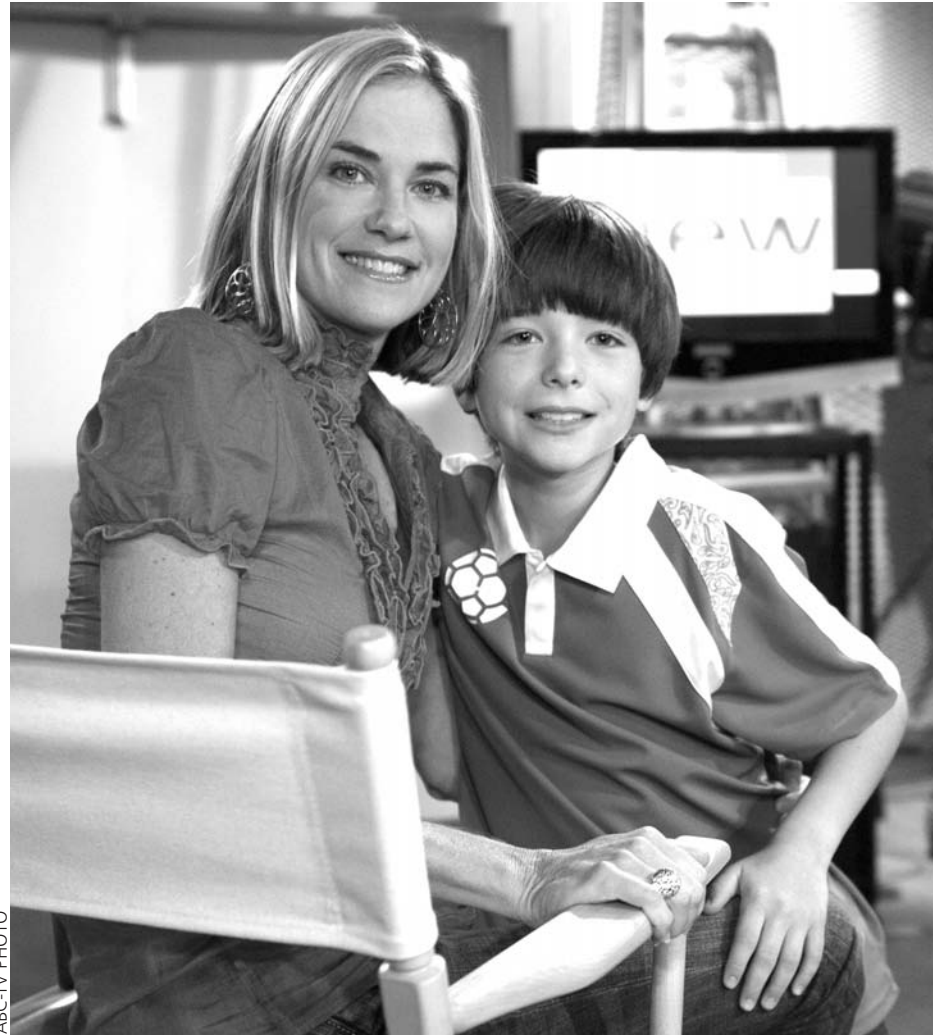
MAINSTREAM CENTER MARKS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Clarke's goal has always been to prepare deaf students with the speech and language skills and self-confidence they need to participate fully in schools with their hearing peers. For 30 years, professionals at the Mainstream Center have assisted schools and families in providing the support and technical assistance needed to make these transitions successful.

In 1977, Dr. David Manning, Director of the Mainstream Center, began visiting schools to offer guidance and strategies to teachers who were struggling to provide deaf students with the extra support they needed. By the fourth year of Manning's mainstream consulting, the number of students he was seeing had quadrupled. The need for these services was obvious, and Manning wanted to create a model that did not just react to dif-

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ABC-TV Cochlear Implant Storyline Features New York Alumnus



ABC-TV PHOTO

Clarke School - New York alumnus JQ DePaiva with his mother, Kassie, on the set of *All My Children*.

JQ DePaiva, son of *One Life to Live* stars Kassie and James DePaiva, was a member of Clarke School – New York’s first class in 1999. Now an energetic 10-year old, JQ recently had the chance to follow in his parents’ footsteps and appear on daytime television. In September, *All My Children* launched a storyline in which the infant son of two characters becomes deaf in an accident. The soap opera follows the family through their journey of researching different treatment options for their son and dealing with the many conflicting emotions they experience.

All My Children cast several deaf actors with cochlear implants to be part of this storyline, including JQ, who

plays a child named Jason in three episodes. Kassie and Jim DePaiva were consultants on the storyline, sharing their experiences with the head writers.

As members of Clarke School - New York’s Advisory Committee, the DePaivas have been active Clarke supporters since the New York campus was founded. They have been vocal advocates for universal infant screening and oral deaf education and have done an extraordinary amount to raise awareness about deafness, including taking the message to Capitol Hill.

JQ has bilateral implants and is thriving in a mainstream school. “He has worked so hard to be where he is and I am so proud of him,” said Kassie DePaiva.

MAINSTREAM CENTER continued from page 1

difficult situations as they arose, but also helped students and teachers prepare in advance for the transition into a new school. The Mainstream Center was created with this model in mind and continues to offer support to students, families and schools through a variety of services and programs.

The Mainstream Center helps prepare students, parents and teachers to make smooth transitions and ensure proper support in a new school. Clarke’s Northampton students participate in a Transition Class which begins in the 7th grade and helps students know themselves, the degree and nature of their hearing loss, their learning style, their academic strengths and weak spots, the meaning of the Individual Education Plan (IEP), and their rights as a person with hearing loss. Workshops educate teachers and parents about hearing loss, available aids and strategies for success. The Mainstream Center has always stressed the importance of advocating for the students and encouraging them to advocate for themselves.

The Mainstream Center also monitors and guides students already in the mainstream (not just Clarke graduates) as well as parents and teachers. Because every child’s mainstream situation is different and always evolving, the Center offers ongoing support through consulting and adjustment counseling. Five mainstreaming consultants currently travel to schools throughout New England and have served over 800 schools to date.

In addition, professional development workshops, oral transliterator trainings and the Annual Mainstream Fall Conference (see sidebar) offer opportunities for professionals to learn new skills and keep up to date with changing technology and techniques. The Mainstream Center also offers educational products including a monthly newsletter, books, audio and videotapes and DVDs.

Manning celebrated his 45th year at Clarke last year, but his passion for helping students succeed is stronger than ever. “We have a vision of what a child with hearing loss can accomplish and we try to communicate it to the schools we work with,” said Manning. “Our focus isn’t just on the student getting an education. It’s also about learning how to live successfully as a hearing impaired person in the world.”

28th Annual Fall Conference on Mainstreaming Students with Hearing Loss

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BEGINS

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Jacksonville Teachers Develop Tools for Mainstream Placement

At all our locations along the East Coast, Clarke prepares young students to enter mainstream schools with their hearing peers. But how do teachers and parents determine when a child is ready to make this transition and what kind of support the child will need in their new school? To help answer these questions, teachers at Clarke Jacksonville have developed two new tools to assist educators and families in making this important decision.

Clarke Jacksonville Lead Teacher Cynthia Robinson created the Mainstream Assessment of Readiness for Children over Five (MARCOF) to help professionals partner with parents and schools to time a child's transition into the mainstream and plan appropriate support in the new setting. Based on her 30 years of experience working with deaf children, Robinson identified 20 unique domains that are evaluated through MARCOF. These include standardized items such as auditory perception, speech, language and vocabulary, as well as subjective items such as listening behaviors, test-taking skills, self advocacy and social/emotional behaviors.

"Mainstream readiness is such a complex issue with so many variables to consider. People have been daunted by quantifying it," Robinson said. "MARCOF doesn't give us concrete yes and no answers, but helps us look at the questions that need to be asked to help us make more insightful decisions."

With the advent of early intervention and the rising use of cochlear implants, it is becoming more common to place children in a mainstream setting, on a full or part-time basis, as early as preschool. *The Picture Perfect Preschool* kit, developed by Clarke Jacksonville teachers Alisa Beard and Patricia Parekh is designed to facilitate parental involvement in all phases of a child's preschool experience and provide the parent with all the tools they need for evaluating potential schools in one convenient kit. The kit includes a list of 20 important questions to ask, parent observation checklists and tips for parents to share with teachers who may not have had prior experience with hearing impaired students. Parents can use this kit to evaluate preschool programs in an objective and organized way and help make the decision-making process less overwhelming.

MARCOF and *The Picture Perfect Preschool* were published by MED-EL as part of their BRIDGE to Better Communication resource series. Robinson, Beard and Parekh have been selected to present their work at the International Cochlear Implant Convention in the Netherlands this spring. "It is very rewarding to know that these tools are not only helping Clarke students, but will be used by professionals and families all over the world to help deaf children succeed in the mainstream," said Parekh.



Clarke Jacksonville Teacher Alisa Beard works one-on-one with Karsen Morris and his mother, Tina. Beard, along with teachers Patricia Parekh and Cynthia Robinson, will present recently published works at the International Cochlear Implant Convention in the Netherlands this spring.

J. SPIRAKIS PHOTO

70s 80s 90s
00s



CLARKE DAY

Celebrates

50s 60s
40s 30s



1. Alumni Association President Rodney Kunath CS '58 jokingly donned a police hat and badge to keep alumni in line. 2. Trustee Tom Fields CS '62 leads alumni from the 60's in the Parade of Classes. 3. Young alumni were well-represented. Row 1: Jasmine Rodriguez, Chris Marchese, Kimberly DeBlase. Row 2: Lindsey Higginbotham, Patrick deHahn, Zack Bates. Row 3: Danny Foley, Michael Vescio, Renee Paul, Anne Marie Dobrowski, Darby Ireland, Christopher Bradley. Back: Nathan Diogo, Kyle Giachelli, Justin Kruczek, Ryan Brown 4. Alumni from the 80's and 90's reunite. Front: Donald Barrios, Danny Tisch, Jonathan McKissick, Ray Price, Martin Stone. Back: Travis Zellner, Jason Dickinson 5. Over 400 alumni gather for the Parade of Classes. 6. Teacher Bob Storm gives alumni a hearty welcome to his teaching demonstration.



Alumni

Over 400 alumni traveled to Clarke's Northampton Campus on June 30, 2007 for Clarke Day, part of the Clarke School Alumni Association Reunion. The CSAA holds a large reunion every five years, alternating the location around the country. Clarke Day was especially significant this year as alumni said goodbye to retiring President Dennis Gjerdingen and welcomed Clarke's new president, Bill Corwin.

In a flurry of hugs, smiles and endless conversation, alumni of all ages and from across the country shared memories and recounted the many ways that Clarke had impacted their lives. Among the returning alumni were teachers, architects, computer programmers and more, but they all had one thing in common – a genuine love for Clarke.

"I came because I am very proud of Clarke School and its alumni," said Cynthia Pierce, CS '55. "I am very happy to see that so many people came. We are a family."

Many current and retired staff members were also present and enjoyed catching up with their former students. Retired teacher Marjorie Magner even proclaimed Clarke Day as "one of the happiest days of my life."

In the traditional Parade of Classes, alumni grouped themselves by decade and proudly marched across campus for

class portraits. "Standing on the steps of Hubbard Hall for the traditional reunion picture, my mind went back to the spring of 1944 when my graduating class posed for a similar rite of passage," said Martha Morrell CS '44. "I'm so grateful to Clarke for the education I received here."

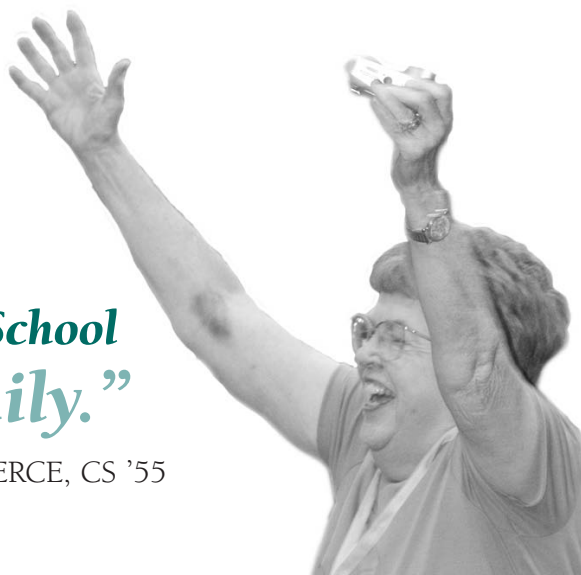
Other highlights of the day included a special luncheon honoring President Gjerdingen, a Young Alumni Drama Club and Friends reception in the new Family Center and a chance to meet Clarke's new President Bill Corwin and his family.

Alumni also viewed teaching demonstrations featuring current Clarke students, and many alumni were amazed at the children's skilled and confident communication. It was a striking illustration of how Clarke has moved forward to embrace changing technology, while maintaining a historic commitment to the success of each child.

"I knew Clarke was a special place when I was a student here," said Lindsey Rentmeester, CS '93 who is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Audiology. "But it was only with age and experience that I truly recognized what a special community Clarke is."

"I came because I am very proud of Clarke School ... We are a family."

CYNTHIA PIERCE, CS '55



To view more Reunion photos and order prints, visit www.pivotmedia.com/clarke_reunion.



UPCOMING DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

Clarke Pennsylvania
Homecoming
Harvest Festival
October 13, 2007

Clarke East
Gala Jazz Brunch
and Silent Auction
October 14, 2007

Parsons House Reception
for Alumni Parents to
meet President Corwin
(Northampton)
October 25, 2007

Clarke Jacksonville
Celebration of
Sound Gala and
Auction
February 9, 2008

WAYS TO GIVE

The following types of gifts are some of the most common methods of making a commitment to future generations of children who need Clarke. These gifts can provide you with the personal satisfaction of making a contribution of lasting significance. Some of them provide you with income during your lifetime, and they offer substantial income and estate tax savings.

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To make a gift using your credit card, call Melanie Gulow in the Development Office at (413) 582-1189 or **give online at www.clarkeschool.org**. Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law.
Thank You!

Clarke Announces New Directors



*Judith Sexton, Director
of Clarke Pennsylvania
Auditory/Oral Center.*

Clarke welcomes Judith Sexton as the new director of Clarke Pennsylvania Auditory/Oral Center in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. Sexton, a long-time educator, has worked for two years at the program as an Early Interventionist and Educational Support Specialist. She began her new position July 1st, replacing Dan Salvucci who is now working in Program Information on the Northampton campus.

“Judith’s many years of experience and her special way with children and parents make this an ideal match. She’s already contributed enormously to our program and we look forward to working with her in this leadership role,” said President Corwin.

Sexton holds a Masters Degree in Education of the Hearing Impaired from Bloomsburg University. Her experiences include being a former principal at the Archbishop Ryan School for the Deaf and working in the public school system as an itinerant hearing therapist. She is a former member and past president of the Quota Club of Philadelphia, a member of the Pennsylvania State Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Intervention, and serves as secretary of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Alexander Graham Bell Association.

“Clarke has always been recognized as a leader in teaching deaf children to listen and talk. Now, to be in a leadership position of an institution as renowned as Clarke School, is a great honor,” said Sexton. “I look forward to working with others in the community and throughout the state to increase our visibility so that all families of children who are deaf or hard of hearing have full access to auditory oral education.”



*Dr. Kathryn Girardin,
former Executive Director
of hear ME now! in
Maine, is Clarke’s new
Director of the Center for
Audiological Services.*

Clarke is pleased to announce Dr. Kathryn Girardin as the new director of the Center for Audiological Services. The Center, newly located in Alexander Graham Bell Hall on the Northampton campus, was established 33 years ago to offer quality hearing health care services to both adults and children in the community.

Girardin brings 13 years of administrative and clinical experience to the Center. “I am pleased to join Clarke’s skilled staff and help increase its capacity to assist more people in the community. As our population grows, older people will be looking for help with hearing issues. Our staff will listen to their concerns, help them adjust to hearing loss, and provide them with the technology and knowledge to empower them in their hearing health care,” she said.

The Center sees more than 700 clients a year, testing for hearing loss, fitting hearing aids and working with individuals with cochlear implants. All audiologists are licensed, ASHA-certified and provide diagnostic and rehabilitative services in a state of the art and supportive environment.

Girardin graduated with a Masters degree in Communication Disorders from the University of Connecticut and received her Doctorate of Audiology from Central Michigan and the Bill Wilkenson Center at Vanderbilt. She has been instrumental in the development of several audiology programs, in addition to owning a private practice industrial hearing company that assisted businesses in measuring and reducing noise exposure.

Thank You!

Individual, corporate and foundation friends play a key role in our success. Clarke impacts the lives of thousands of children and adults annually through our research, curriculum development and through teachers and professionals trained at Clarke. More than 500 children and their families benefit each year from our five schools and educational and support programs. Clarke is deeply grateful to the following individuals, corporations and foundations that have provided support to our schools and programs located in Northampton, Boston, Philadelphia, New York City and Jacksonville:

Leadership Gifts and Pledges made to Clarke from July 1, 2007 – September 30, 2007

\$100,000+

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and **events** and to view
Clarke's DVD,
A Sound Future, visit
www.clarkeschool.org.

Speaking of . . .

The Northampton Chamber of Commerce introduced President Corwin to the Hampshire County business community and recognized Clarke's 140th anniversary at its September breakfast meeting.

Trustees of the Johnson Scholarship Foundation visited Clarke's Northampton campus to see the Family Center, tour the school and spend time talking with students.

Deutsche Bank selected Clarke School East to be part of the "Birdies for Charity" program at its PGA tournament held Labor Day weekend. The public was invited to guess how many birdies would be hit during play and pledge an amount per birdie to go to a participating organization. Not only was \$2,000 raised for Clarke, but out of all the individuals who made pledges, Amy Lichtenstein, a friend of a Clarke East family, guessed the correct number of birdies and won two Red Sox season tickets valued at \$10,000!

Donald McCoy of IBM Outreach and his wife, Gretchen, visited Clarke's Northampton campus to help coordinate the 2nd annual Science and Technology Camp for middle school students.

PRESIDENT *continued from page 1*

Clarke continues to do great work, but we will always strive to serve our families, students and clients better. Right now, after three months in my new role, I am continuing to gather information and beginning to determine a vision for Clarke's future. Although it will take time to fully develop a strategic plan, there are some immediate ways in which we can begin to move forward.

We will refine our programs with an eye toward serving even more families effectively. We will enhance and expand collaboration among our schools and programs. We have a tremendous wealth of skill and expertise on our staff, and we will create better ways for tapping into those and other valuable internal resources.

We also plan to overhaul our website, so that parents, alumni and others can find out

about Clarke easily and we can display more fully to the world the important work we are doing. We will balance our proud history with an innovative, forward-looking attitude to create an adaptive, proactive culture that is ready to meet the changing needs of those we serve.

When I spoke to our entire Northampton staff on their first day back for the new school year, I asked them to think about the individual legacy that they each want to leave at Clarke. That question extends to all of us in the Clarke community. Each staff member, student, parent, alumnus, volunteer and supporter is an important part of this organization and has the ability to impact the lives of many children. I am confident that together, we will lead Clarke to a successful and innovative future.

Published by Clarke School for the Deaf/Center for Oral Education

To learn more, contact the Program Information Office at
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(413) 584-8273 FAX
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www.clarkeschool.org

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CLARKE'S SUMMER 2007

WAS A ROCKIN' SUCCESS!

Students and parents had great things to say after two exciting weeks of music, outdoor activities, field trips, classroom activities and more at Clarke's 25th annual Summer Program:



"I think it's great for the children to see other children outside their normal environment with implants. My son made many new friends."

"I loved my teachers!"

"I liked hanging out with other kids with hearing loss."

"It was so much fun, and everyone helped each other."



"What better way for children to enjoy themselves while learning, becoming more independent and increasing socialization skills. Bravo!"



CHRISTINE DEROSIER PHOTOS

To learn more about Clarke's Summer Program contact the Program Information Office at (413) 582-1171.

Clarke admits students of any race, gender, color, national or ethnic origin to all its programs. Clarke does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration of all its programs.