

# MASSAGE

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### SPECIAL ISSUE

## The Massage Therapy Body of Knowledge

**FREE SAMPLES**  
FROM  
**The Jojoba Company**  
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## The 2010 Teacher of the Year

**W**hen Melissa Wheeler graduated from National Holistic Institute in 1991, she was quickly recruited by the school's founder to be a faculty member. Today, Wheeler oversees the training of 40 teachers across five campuses, is a member of the school's education council and is helping develop 400 hours of a new, advanced curriculum. She is also on the advisory council of Books of Discovery and helped create the new Teaching Research Literacy class offered nationwide by the Massage Therapy Foundation.

Wheeler's many and varied accomplishments led to her being awarded the American Massage Therapy Association's 2010 Jerome Perlinski Teacher of the Year.

Wheeler has spent her teaching career "spreading her passion for massage therapy to students, peers, clients and anyone who would listen," National Holistic Institute Studio City Campus Manager Joe Bob Smith told *MASSAGE Magazine*. "She has touched literally hundreds of lives in the students she's taught."

All the while, she's remained connected to the massage community by attending conventions, taking and teaching continuing education, and volunteering with the Massage Therapy Foundation, Smith added.

**I am a grateful soul to have found this meaningful and satisfying work, and then to be so publicly honored for it.**

think every teacher would agree that an award of this magnitude is as much a part of our students as it is of us. Students challenge us, encourage us, and insist we are our authentic selves.

"This prestigious award gave me the great opportunity to look back over my years of teaching," Wheeler added. "What a great gift it is to be given the chance to remember so many successes and failures, mentors who have deeply influenced me and the hundreds of students who participated with me in the classroom. I am a grateful soul to have found this meaningful and satisfying work, and then to be so publicly honored for it."

—Karen Menehan



Melissa Wheeler, the 2010 Jerome Perlinski Teacher of the Year.

"National Holistic Institute is a great school because of Melissa Wheeler and those who have followed in her footsteps," he said.

Wheeler also maintains a private massage practice. Of receiving the award, she said, "I