

Remembrances from the [Freyd Dynamics Lab](#), University of Oregon

Pam

A lot of memories I have of JQ are in my garden--my birthday parties where everyone else picked berries and he ended up sitting on the ground, as happy as could be, digging up weeds with his penknife. I think our garden was paradise for him and his penchant for digging up dandelions!!

I also remember his infinite patience at many Blackboard Advisory meetings--patience I never would have had--with bureaucracy, people who just wanted to hear the sound of their own voices, and endless complaining! That man was a saint!! I don't know how he put up with it, but he did, with grace, humor and open-heartedness. I truly miss him!

Rachel

JQ's joy, wit, intelligence, and care are so treasured, and have enhanced many of our lives in a multitude of ways. I am grateful for the chance to have known JQ.

In so many of my memories, JQ is smiling. His smile is not just to be polite -- I read it as a genuine grin, reflecting a noble spirit, enjoyment in the day, the strength of being closely connected to other people, well-deserved pride in his home and family, and an exuberant and sparkling humor.

I am overwhelmed by JQ's generosity as reflected in his smile, manner and actions. The tremendous generosity of JQ in welcoming me and other students into your home is truly astounding. You hosted us for Thanksgiving, cookie parties, graduation parties, and countless visits -- and JQ's care and welcome shone in every instance. This sharing of your home made a deep impression, then and now, and provided a sustaining community. This precious care and welcome is far beyond what any student might anticipate, and it was so helpful. I will always cherish JQ's generosity towards me and others.

Another gift that JQ gave was modeling a supportive, effective partnership and a happy, engaged, loving home. His support of his family emanated throughout our community, and helped to bolster the huge amount of support and energy that you, Jennifer, provide to your students. JQ's pleasure in devotion to his family, and his energy in building a fun and productive home provided both a lovely atmosphere and a striking image of what might be possible. I am thankful for being in the Johnson-Freyd home, and it continues to be the pinnacle for me, the very best example of the home and family life that is possible. A family that revels in spending time together, discussing novels, politics, and society together, having adventures, camping, learning, and delighting in pleasures like making wonderful dinners together. All with a sense of respect, care, and joy. This is what I aspire to emulate. What a tremendous gift this is to me.

One of the most ecstatic smiling episodes from JQ in my memory happened the

night we saw Philip perform in *Guys & Dolls*. Philip was, of course, fantastic, and being there was such a pleasure. JQ's excitement and energy radiated in waves of exuberance -- the sense that this moment overflowed with joy, fun, and pride. JQ's fierce happiness in his children's numerous successes seemed to reflect a deep sense of connection and empathy, and the wisdom that there is so very much to celebrate.

I am so thankful for JQ and the Johnson-Freyd family, and my heart is with you.

### Carolyn

When I think about JQ, what I mostly get are flashes and images of brief interactions I have had with him that conjure up feelings of warmth, awe, admiration, intrigue, and respect. He struck me as an extremely, mindbogglingly intelligent person, who I imagined always had something very complex going on in his mind, yet could be present in the moment and give all his attention to whatever was at hand. He always made me feel welcome in his home and with his family. I really enjoyed his sense of humor, genuineness, and how down to earth and nonjudgmental he was.

My strongest and fondest memory of JQ, which I think is representative of him is of when I first met him during my pre-acceptance visit. I had the privilege of spending the whole day with the entire family on a road trip to the coast. I will never forget listening to JQ and Theo on the car ride discussing a "machine" they could invent that would help them solve mathematical problems (or at least that's the most I could make out of their conversation, most of which was way above my head). The next image is that of JQ and Theo working out math problems. He was so clearly enjoying himself. It was a delight to watch.

### Shin Shin

JQ had so many wonderful qualities - intelligence, warmth, sense of humor, playfulness, and compassion being just a few. How he was as a person taught me about how to be in relationships myself. I remember that at one of my first times attending a gathering at the house, I was so impressed with how thoughtful and attentive he was toward Jennifer. He would notice when her cup was empty and ask if she wanted anything more, and he would listen to her with presence, really paying attention to what she was saying. Over the years, I had the opportunity to see and experience that he shared this same warmth with everyone. It was fun to watch him playing with my toddler son. Mason can be selective about whom he chooses to be with, but JQ had a way of engaging with him that immediately won his trust and they were laughing together as JQ helped him walk up and down the stairs in the house. Looking back, I realize that this ability to spread joy and happiness is an incredible and all too rare gift. I will miss JQ very much and am grateful to have these happy memories of him.

Melissa F.

When I think of the many ways in which JQ and Jennifer have touched my life and been an inspiration to me, I fondly remember how wonderfully they modeled a loving and soulful partnership...full of mutual respect, admiration, compassion, fun, and support. Over the years, and in countless ways, they have extended their love and support far beyond their immediate family to me and many other graduate students. By welcoming me into their home, serving as a continuous and solid emotional and physical presence, genuinely celebrating me and my accomplishments alongside me, and demonstrating how to live a meaningful and fulfilling life that is consistent with one's values and passions, they helped nourish me in ways that helped me grow and encouraged me to continue cultivating the life that I wanted. I continue to be inspired by these two very special people and their partnership, and keep them in my thoughts and heart.

Annmarie

When I think of JQ, I remember all the different events at the Johnson-Freyd household – the cookie parties, the defense celebrations, coloring Easter Eggs – and how JQ was so welcoming of us in your home. I remember his smile and his easygoing manner, and how comfortable I felt in his presence. I also remember how helpful he was with \*any\* computer issues we had in the lab – which was invaluable when trying to put together a dissertation study! Most of all, I remember how you all were as a family. It made such an impact on me to hear about your family trips and to be invited to family events – it was clear to me how much of a priority you made your family and this is something I hope to achieve in my own life. I am thinking of all of you and wishing you peace and comfort during this time.

Melissa P.

JQ seemed to relish tinkering with the lab computers and JTD server in order to make sure that everything was just perfect. When his tinkering led to little glitches in the system he would e-proclaim, "That was me!" and return to tinkering with continuous enthusiasm.

During a summer potluck at the Johnson-Freyd house, a large group of labbies sat in a circle on the lawn. During a lull in conversation, JQ jumped in eagerly with a question and a request as follows: "Who here has an avatar?" and "Raise your hand if you are a Mac person." Although at the time most of us had not yet heard of an avatar I quickly became interested in learning more about them, and the party was one I will never forget primarily due to JQ's contagious joy.

What I will remember most about JQ is how he often brightened my day as I ran into him on campus sporting a huge smile. He radiated joy and warmth in his

day-to-day life. He inspires me to live a little more joyfully and with more kindness.

### Christina

I first met JQ in December of 2004. I was an undergraduate, working with you on my honors thesis. You had invited all of your honors students to the Johnson-Freyd holiday cookie party. I was excited, but mostly nervous because I had hardly socialized with graduate students or faculty, let alone my advisor...you! It was as I awkwardly huddled with the other honors students in your kitchen that JQ came over to welcome us. JQ was so sincere in his welcome that he really put my nerves to ease. I did not know JQ well, but to me, JQ was very warm and kind and he always showed a genuine interest in our conversations.

### Carly

One of my fondest memories of JQ is from the Thanksgiving dinner in 2010 that the Johnson-Freyd's hosted. Sam and I both left talking about how Jennifer and JQ's generosity and welcoming home was something that we really appreciated as newcomers to Eugene. Sam was still relatively new to the 'grad student partner' scene and he was curious about whether all professors and their families were so friendly and involved with their students. It was in explaining how our lab is pretty unique in this regard that I began to realize what a wonderful source of quiet encouragement JQ was for our lab members. He was always welcoming and kind as he greeted me at the door even as I dipped into his weekend time with Jennifer for our meetings, he was charming and fun at parties full of nervous interviewees, and most of all, he set the bar for what a supportive and proud spouse of an academic looks like. Eugene, UO, and the lab especially have felt like home from very shortly after I arrived in Eugene and JQ seems to reoccur in many of the lab memories that contributed to this feeling.

### Jenn G.

I was finally on my first graduate school interview after working hard for what seemed like forever. I had spent a day at the Oregon Coast with current and prospective grad students, and another day full of meetings, tours, and interviews. While I was incredibly intimidated by another student who was also applying to work with Jennifer, I felt confident about my interview with her. And even more confident that I'd be able to talk to her more, given that she was having a party for potential graduate students, current graduate students, and faculty members at her house.

However, at the party, I did not speak more than two words to her. I met J.Q. and their daughter, Sasha. J.Q. then became one of the reasons I wanted to come to UO. The three of us laughed and joked; we talked about Sasha trying to choose between attending Harvard or another university; we talked about how I was looking forward to graduate school because I'd finally have time to take elective classes—(boy, was I wrong about that!). We spoke about learning Spanish. We

spoke of the excitement of education—how it was so much fun to uncover new ideas...get to read and learn. We talked about how excited I was that I would hopefully finally get to go to a place where there were many people around me who had that same excitement for learning.

With how engaged and excited I was during this conversation, there is still one other thing that I remember about J.Q.: his smile (in combination with his laugh). His smile lit up his entire face. It produced a feeling of joy and comfort that I cannot describe in words. I feel incredibly fortunate that I got to experience this for myself, with Sasha.

I am so deeply saddened that I will not be able to have another conversation like this with J.Q. Simultaneously, I feel so fortunate that I shared this interaction with him. The fact that this conversation happened during a highly stressful time in my life has cemented the emotional memory for me. I will always be grateful for that. And I will always remember J.Q.

#### Kristen

At interview this past year (2011), I was having trouble opening a bottle of wine at Professors Ablow and Measelle's house, and JQ walked over to me and offered to help. "There you go," he said with a twinkling smile. He then started to ask me about what I like to do and we bonded over loving to hike. He told me all about where he and Jennifer liked to hike, how much he loved Oregon, and then asked me many thoughtful questions about my specific likes and dislikes about hiking. I remember being blown away by how gracious, thoughtful, present, and happy he was. He had a wonderful smile and kind eyes. I feel honored to have had that brief interaction with such a good man.

#### Laura

One of the very first things J.Q. ever said to me was that Jennifer wasn't working me hard enough. I had arrived for a walk-and-talk and J.Q. and I were having a conversation while Jennifer finished something in her office. It was at the beginning of my first year in graduate school and, although I don't remember the exact details, I do remember J.Q. telling me that and then grinning very big. Though a small part of me was terrified I was not being a very good grad student, when J.Q. smiled that smile I (of course) returned it. When I think of J.Q., I cannot picture him without a smile; I've tried.

J.Q. was always very good at making people feel warm and welcomed. One of the things I've always been so grateful for is how inclusive J.Q. and Jennifer are. One year I attended the Johnson-Freyd Thanksgiving dinner. While typically considered a "family" holiday, I felt right at home with them. As I have every time after being with them. It has made being away from home so much easier. I will miss him.