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PUBLICATION OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS INTERNATIONAL

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No 3
DECEMBER
2017

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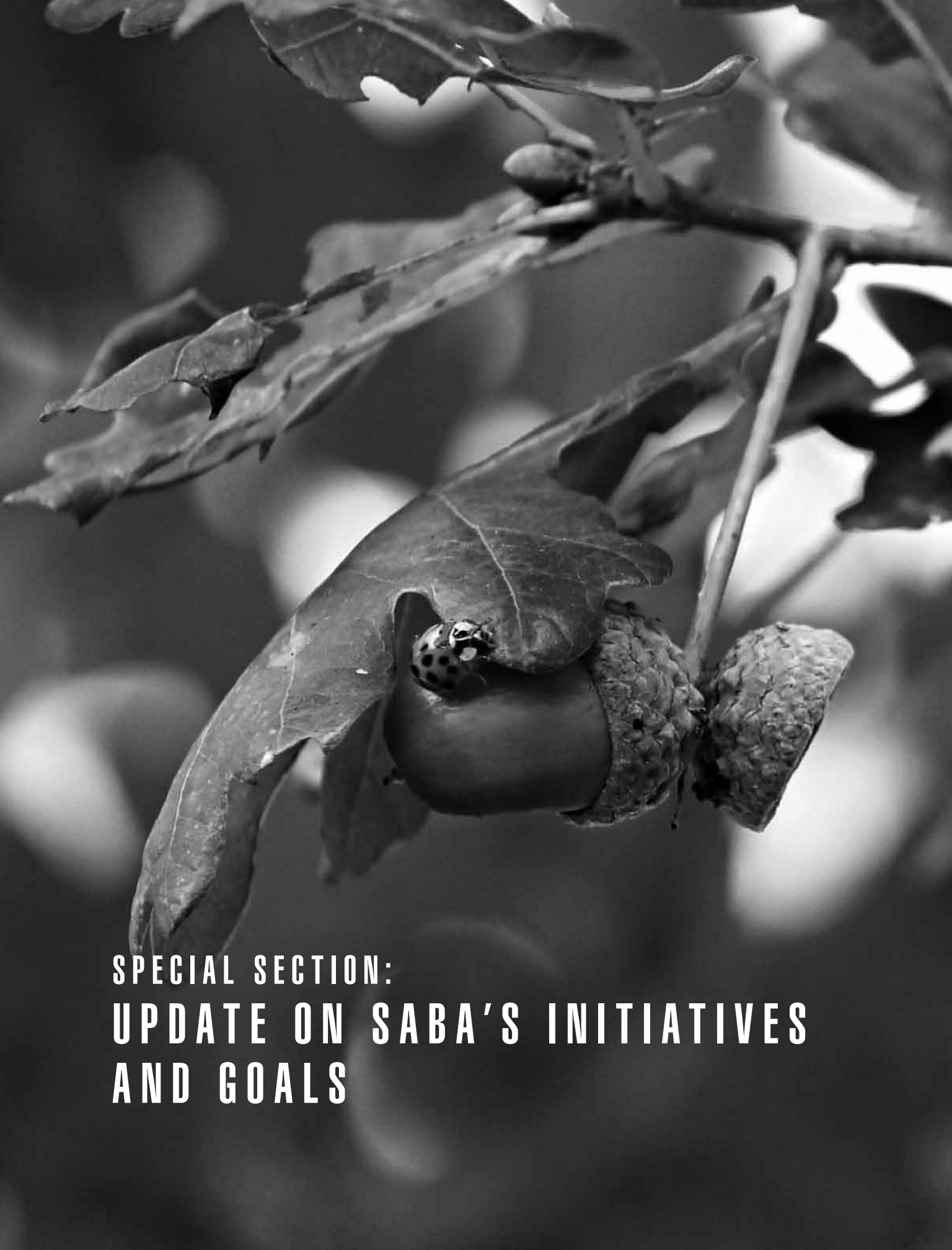
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**SPECIAL SECTION:
UPDATE ON SABA'S INITIATIVES
AND GOALS**

A LETTER *from the* SABA PRESIDENT

BY M. JACKSON MARR

The Society for the Advancement of Behavior Analysis (SABA) provides financial support for the field and has been promoting our science and practices for more than 30 years. This important work is possible solely because of the enthusiastic support of the ABAI community. Private financial gifts have allowed SABA to support talented students, disseminate research and therapies on a global scale, and give scholars and leaders the recognition they merit. SABA's most recent fundraising effort—a capital campaign launched to solidify the society's foundations and support its major initiatives—has strengthened our ability to pursue SABA's mission and has allowed it to expand its scope.

How the Funds Will Be Used

Money raised from the capital campaign will be used to fulfill three major goals: strengthening student support, expanding global outreach, and increasing public awareness.

Student Support

The Society has strengthened its support for students through grants for projects spanning the full range of behavior analysis inquiry. These efforts serve as an investment in the brightest and most promising persons in the field and in the growth and vitality of behavioral science and its applications. However, each year the society has to decline several excellent proposals from deserving students simply because the demand for research support has far exceeded available resources. Capital campaign contributions have moved SABA closer to expanding efforts to support even more emerging applied and basic researchers at both the master's and the doctoral level.

Global Outreach

SABA's international outreach has been truly global, as we have supported projects in Bahrain, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Colombia, Finland, Georgia, Greece, Guyana, Hong Kong, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Mexico, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Tanzania, the UK, and Zimbabwe. However, our funds have allowed for grants of only a few thousand dollars per project. Even with distributing our resources among several projects, the SABA Board is forced to turn down many excellent initiatives simply for lack of funding.

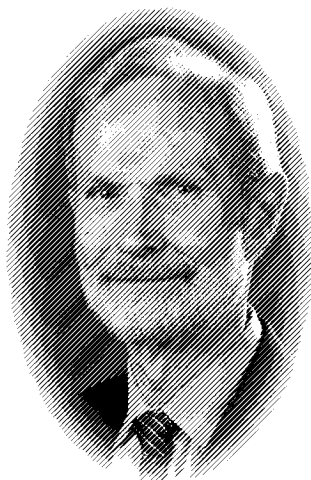
Thanks to the increased support from the capital campaign, the Society is exploring options to fund more ventures around the world that promote behavior analysis education, research, practice, and outreach in regions and organizations that need development and have personnel with the vision to define and pursue achievable outcomes.

Public Awareness

By strengthening the above two goals, we also contribute to our third aim of increasing public awareness of behavior analysis. Supporting student research helps develop new ways for our science to gain relevance among the general public and helps to cultivate the next generation of leaders and advocates. International outreach brings behavior analysis to populations that would otherwise have little or no exposure to the field and creates opportunities for practical demonstrations of what the science can accomplish in a variety of settings. Additionally, SABA contributes a regular award for Effective Presentation of Behavior Analysis in the Mass Media, that is presented to an individual who writes or produces a piece of media that informs the public about a scientific discovery or important application in behavior analysis. The capital campaign effort has allowed the Board to expand our outreach efforts and a portion of the proceeds from this effort has been used to create the Public Awareness of Behavior Science Fund. This fund will support creative dissemination efforts and inform communities all over the world about the contributions behavior analysis can make to education, health, organizations, and more.

Major Donations

The legacy of major capital campaign donors is honored at the ABAI headquarters, where SABA operations are handled. Gold, Silver, and Bronze level donors are recognized on a donor recognition installation titled, "Understanding Behavior, Transforming Lives, Shaping Our Future (2014–2016)." This beautiful monument was crafted from custom architectural glass suspended on a wire cable system. Each major donor has a glass tile etched with his or her name, photo, and year of donation. The piece is currently on display in ABAI's lobby and is open to the public. This "wall" can be disassembled and moved, should the headquarters ever change locations. The members listed on the following pages are recognized on this special installation and on the SABA website (<http://saba.abainternational.org/capital-campaign/>).



RICHARD MALOTT

Behavior Analysis and Training System (BATS) Program Trust

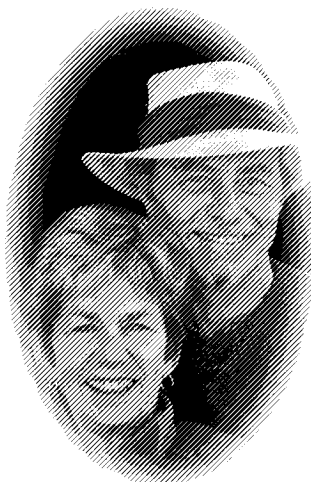
Dr. Richard Malott has made an incredible \$2 million planned bequest—a terrific show of support for SABA's efforts and mission. Dr. Malott has entrusted the society to establish the BATS Trust and act as its trustee. BATS is a lab in the Department of Psychology at Western Michigan University (WMU), currently under Dr. Malott's supervision. Over the years, the BATS program has matriculated outstanding students and has the primary purpose to train behavior analysts at all levels (bachelor's to doctoral) to be practitioners, as there is a need for high-quality training of practitioners, just as there is a need for high-quality training of researchers.

Under the conditions of the bequest, each year SABA will give an amount to the WMU Foundation to be used exclusively by BATS. SABA will determine the maximum amount of annual funding that will keep the principal intact, and will provide oversight to ensure that the use of funds is in keeping with the purpose of BATS and the restrictions of the trust.

SIGRID GLENN

"SABA is the closest thing behavior analysis has to a foundation with a mission to support the growth and well-being of the field. Of particular importance to me is SABA's support of students—who are the future of behavior analysis. Having demonstrated its capacity to build a strong financial base and to develop and fund its outreach programs, SABA tops my list of organizations worthy of significant levels of financial support."

Dr. Sigrid Glenn's passionate commitment to the future of behavior analysis has resulted in numerous contributions to her chosen field and she is widely recognized for her conceptual work on selection at behavioral and cultural levels. We are grateful for her strong support of the field in the form of a Bronze level donation to SABA.



PETER and MARY KILLEEN

"B. F. Skinner was a lighthouse in the murky terrain of psychology. Not always right, but typically brilliant, enlightening what seemed recondite problems to let us, time and again, see that they were mere culs. He called our attention first to the data, and always back to the data. He has passed, and it is now our turn to carry his light."

The promontory on which his lighthouse resides is called ABAI. It provides a footing for the torch, but has no candlepower itself. That will come from the next generations who might find grounding on its reaches, to build new different and more powerful searchlights. But like any outreach, ABAI is exposed to the tides and seasons. It needs to be maintained."

Because Fred said things that gave me new insight, because he changed the world view of so many of my undergraduates, because he gave a direction and challenge to my graduate students, because he showed the way to therapies that worked, I am in his debt. My wife is not a behaviorist, but an academic administrator. She attributes her success to what I have told her about behaviorism: Attend to behavior; attend to its context and consequences; and put data on the table. The best way to show our appreciation is to carry that message forward to each new generation. And when one has finished that phase of his or her life, the next best way to pay down our debt is to help maintain the society of behaviorists, personified in ABAI. That is why she and I gave what, in that context, is not a tithe but a tittle. Perhaps you can do better."

Bronze level contributors to the campaign, the Killeens' eloquent summary of their reasons for donating and the important role SABA plays in the field of behavior analysis is very kind and greatly appreciated.



KENT JOHNSON

Kent Johnson has made a bequest of \$25,000 in his will, for which we are extraordinarily grateful. Dr. Johnson's contributions to the field include his role as founder and executive director of Morningside Academy, a laboratory school for elementary and middle school children that investigates effective curriculum materials and teaching methods. Morningside has boosted behavior analysis's profile in education by providing training and consulting in instruction to more than 125 schools and agencies throughout the USA and Canada.

JACK MICHAEL

Dr. Jack Michael used the royalties from his foundational text *Concepts and Principles of Behavior Analysis* to make a direct donation of \$20,000. We appreciate Dr. Michael's innovation and generosity.



DARNELL and ANDY LATTAL

We are very grateful to Drs. Darnell and Andy Lattal for donating at the Silver level. Darnell is president and chief executive officer of Aubrey Daniels International and a specialist in the design and implementation of behavioral-based business strategies to achieve core initiatives. Kennon Andy Lattal is centennial professor of psychology at West Virginia University and an internationally recognized leader (and the 2016 recipient of SABA's International Dissemination of Behavior Analysis Award) in the experimental analysis of behavior.



RAYMOND PITTS and CHRISTINE HUGHES

We are also grateful for the Bronze level pledge of Raymond Pitts and Christine Hughes—two people who have dedicated their lives to behavior analysis research and education. Dr. Pitts has served on the editorial boards of the *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior* and *The Behavior Analyst* and routinely reviews for several other publications. His work has been supported by grants from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, and has been published in a variety of peer-reviewed journals. Dr. Hughes is currently an associate professor and graduate coordinator in psychology at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and conducts translational research in the areas of punishment, schedules of reinforcement, and behavioral pharmacology, specifically the effects of prescription drugs on impulsive choices and on punished behavior. The importance of the involvement of active, leading scientists like Drs. Pitts and Hughes in SABA's efforts cannot be overstated.





AUBREY DANIELS

"SABA affords us a great opportunity to give back to the science that benefits all behavior analysts and the rest of the world."

Dr. Daniels further built upon the contributions of Aubrey Daniels International with a Bronze level donation of his own. The managerial methods Dr. Daniels has modeled and promoted over the years have a record of rapidly generating positive, significant benefits for every level of an organization, from small segments like management or investors to large corporations.

MARIA E. MALOTT

"Behavior analysis has the potential to change the world. But changing the world takes resources, and I have been so impressed over the decades with the creativity, vision, and passion of both those who have benefited from SABA and those who have supported it. SABA has made scores of student research projects possible, and has allowed our field to make inroads all across the globe. This is an organization that takes its mission seriously, and that operates with the utmost efficiency, and so I am truly proud to contribute to its work."

ABAI CEO, Maria E. Malott, has made SABA the beneficiary of an account totaling \$190,000 to support cultural studies from a behavioral perspective.



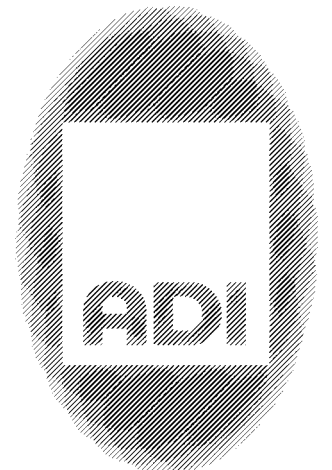
MICHAEL PERONE and DOROTHY VESPER BEQUEST

"My wife Dorothy and I are of modest means, with state-university salaries, a family to support, and many worthy causes that demand our time and resources. But my career is in behavior analysis, and ABAI has been an essential part of it ever since I started graduate school in 1975. In the spirit of "charity begins at home," Dorothy and I are glad to be able to commit to the campaign. This is a lot of money for us, but we can manage it because we are spreading the contribution over five years. I hope others will join me in this opportunity to leave a legacy to our field and continue SABA's support of work to understand behavior, transform lives, and shape our future."

Dr. Michael Perone has made a most generous pledge, plus donations, totalling \$69,000, including a planned gift from a portion of his retirement account.

AUBREY DANIELS INTERNATIONAL

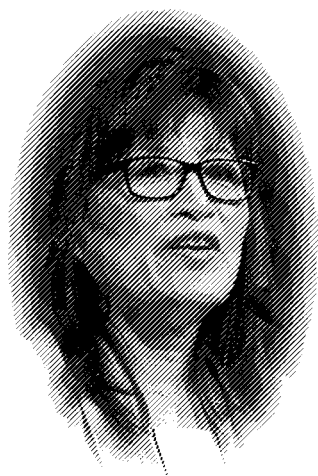
Aubrey Daniels International has made two generous donations for a total of \$25,000 in contributions to the capital campaign. We would like to express our gratitude to Audrey Daniels International for its commitment to and work in the field and for its support of SABA.



JOHN and JAN CONE CHARITABLE FUND

"John and Jan Cone began their teaching careers at West Virginia University in 1970, he in psychology and she in behavioral medicine. Over the years their work was increasingly informed by behavior analysis. Concerned with the usefulness of large service delivery systems in a region of relative under-service, they came to appreciate the contribution the science of behavior could make to improving the quality of peoples' lives. Support for organizations such as SABA is vitally important for these contributions to continue. We are happy to help with this gift."

The John & Jan Cone Charitable Fund made a Bronze level contribution to the Capital Campaign. Dr. John Cone has made notable contributions to the study of behavior assessments and to the application of behavior analysis to large scale problems, in addition to being a co-founder and former editor of the journal *Behavioral Assessment*.

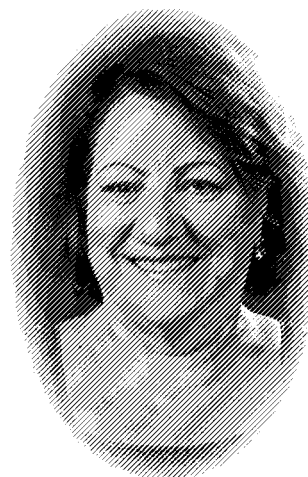


SHARON CHIEN

Sharon Chien, founder and chair of SEEK Education, Inc., has made a \$10,000 donation to the capital campaign. As SEEK is the recipient of the 2013 SABA Award for International Dissemination of Behavior Analysis, Dr. Chien knows first-hand the importance of SABA and her donation is a wonderful example of someone who is paying forward the support she has received.

MARTHA HÜBNER

"Here's what SABA means to me personally: As someone who has been deeply involved with ABAI and SABA for many years, I am committed to promoting the mission of "Behavior Analysis without Borders." Through its work of highlighting the best and brightest of our field, funding student research efforts, and boosting initiatives outside the United States, SABA has shown itself as an organization capable of breaking through not just the physical borders between nations, but also the metaphorical borders between disciplines within behavior analysis itself. For this reason, I am proud to see my name among the other Gold, Silver, and Bronze level sponsors."



I wish to personally thank these contributors and all the others who have generously donated to the goals of SABA and thus to the future of behavior analysis. ❖



Society for the Advancement of Behavior Analysis

**Understanding Behavior
Transforming Lives
Shaping Our Future**

2014–2016

Gold Level

Richard W. Malott
Maria E. Malott
Michael Perone
and Dorothy Vesper

Silver Level

Aubrey Daniels International
Kent Johnson
Darnell and Andy Lattal
Jack Michael

Bronze Level

Sharon Chien
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For more than 30 years the SABA has been promoting the field of behavior analysis by supporting talented students, encouraging global dissemination of the science, and recognizing our most inspiring leaders and giving them a platform to reach an even bigger audience. Your donations have helped make this happen. SABA depends on private financial gifts to do its important work. Thanks to all who have already donated.

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COMBINING ABA & SPEECH

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2016–2017

SABA Donors

On behalf of the SABA Board, we are grateful for all the ABAI members who contributed to SABA in the past year to help build our funds. These donations enable SABA to provide annual grants that support research in and the development of behavior analysis. This list reflects donations from September 1, 2016 through November 7, 2017.

\$500 and above

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Kent Johnson

\$250–\$499

Senior Student Presenters' Fund

Harold and JaNeal Miller

\$100–\$249

Senior Student Presenters' Fund

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Science That Changes Lives: Behavioral Approaches to Assessing and Treating Autism

A Preview of the 12th Annual Autism Conference in Miami, FL

BY RUTH ANNE REHFELDT AND JONATHAN TARBOX



The Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) is gearing up for the most exciting and dynamic ABAI Autism conference to date. Taking place in Miami, February 4-6, 2018, the conference is made up of presentations on a wide range of topics relevant to the assessment and treatment of autism, as well as the understanding of autism from a scientific perspective.

The conference program will feature presentations on a variety of important and innovative research topics, many from speakers who have not been featured at this event before. The program will showcase topics relevant to practitioners and researchers focused on individuals with autism spectrum disorders of all ages, and will highlight research from laboratory, home, clinic, and adult service agency settings.

The first day of the conference will be dedicated to half-day workshops that provide professionals with practical training on real-life skills that will make their practice more effective and of higher quality. Workshops will be presented by two renowned behavior analysts. The first workshop, led by Dr. Carrie Borrero, will provide practical guidance on how to help individuals with autism learn to eat a wider and healthier variety of foods. The second workshop will be conducted by recognized supervision expert Dr. Linda LeBlanc and will provide useful tools for increasing the quality and ethics of providing supervision and mentorship to staff in the context of autism treatment provision.

On the second day of the conference, the needs of adults with ASD will be addressed by leading researchers, with a presentation on meaningful activities for adults by Dr. Dennis Reid and a presentation on teaching job-related problem-solving skills by Dr. Dorothea Lerman. Dr. Peter Sturmey will present recent research and discuss trends in behavioral skills training, the gold-standard methodology for parent and staff training.

In the afternoon of the second day, two presentations will address medical and biological factors related to understanding and treating autism. Dr. Lucina Uddin will

present on the state of the research on brain connectivity in autism and Dr. Al Poling will present on the use of medication in combination with behavioral intervention for producing positive behavior change in individuals with autism. Day two concludes with Julie Kornack, who will present a review and discussion of the latest information regarding insurance legislation and consumer rights in medical insurance and treatment.

The third day of the conference begins with two presentations addressing the role of caregivers in autism treatment. Dr. Nirbhay Singh will present innovative research on mindfulness-based parent training and intervention for individuals with autism. Dr. Patricia Kurtz will then present ground-breaking research on the inclusion of parents in the functional analysis and treatment process.

The conference will conclude with two presentations about how to push autism intervention into new areas of complexity and earlier stages for treatment. Dr. Caio Miguel will present on cutting-edge research on the expansion of language intervention beyond the elementary forms and functions of language, and into equivalence-based instruction. Dr. Martha Pelaez's presentation will cover a state-of-the-art synthesis of behavior analytic research on establishing foundational social communication skills for infants at-risk for autism spectrum disorders.

The mission of the conference is to inspire the implementation of evidence-based assessment and intervention strategies with people with autism spectrum disorders in a variety of settings and from all walks of life. We hope you will join us in Miami! ❖



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2017 SABA Grant Reports

The Society for the Advancement of Behavior Analysis (SABA) awarded nine grants in 2017:

- **Thesis grant winner (applied), \$1,000:**
Kissel Goldman (University of Florida)
- **Thesis grant winner (basic), \$1,000:**
Jeremy Langford (University of North Carolina Wilmington)
- **Dissertation grant winner (applied/translational research), \$2,000:**
Daniel Mitteer (University of Nebraska Medical Center's Munroe-Meyer Institute)
- **Dissertation grant winner (basic), \$2,000:**
Jenny Ozga (West Virginia University)
- **International development grant winner, \$1,000:**
Guy Bruce (Appealing Solutions, LLC)
- **International development grant winner, \$1,000:**
Alison Cox (Ontario Association for Behaviour Analysis)
- **International development grant winner, \$1,000:**
Wendy Machalicek (University of Oregon)
- **International development grant winner, \$1,000:**
Okey Martins Nwokolo (Centre for Autism & Developmental Disabilities)
- **International development grant winner, \$1,000:**
Fernanda Oda (University of Houston-Clear Lake)
- **International development grant winner, \$1,000:**
Thomas Szabo (Florida Institute of Technology; Commit & Act International)
- **Sidney W. & Janet R. Bijou grant winner, \$10,000:**
Yaeun (Joy) Lee (Idaho State University)

The following articles are summaries of the reports submitted by the 2017 awardees.

Master's Thesis Grant (Applied): An Examination of the Effects of Incompatible vs. Inconspicuous Competing Responses on Tics, Conspicuity, and Ongoing Activity



BY KISSEL GOLDMAN

Kissel Goldman is a graduate student studying behavior analysis at the University of Florida under the direction of Dr. Iser DeLeon. One of Kissel's primary research interests is the assessment and treatment of movement disorders and repetitive

behaviors. He is beginning work on a project to compare the effectiveness of two forms of competing responses on treating tic behaviors. Competing-response training is a critical component of habit-reversal therapy in which individuals are taught an alternative response to engage in whenever they become aware of the premonitory urge that precedes a tic. It is suggested commonly that these responses should be (a) incompatible with the tic, (b) compatible with ongoing activity, and (c) inconspicuous; however, scant research exists to suggest the necessity of incompatibility or whether the responses used currently are compatible and inconspicuous.

In the first part of his experiment, Kissel will ask college students to observe video recordings of individuals with tics either engaging in tics, using traditional competing responses, or using competing responses designed to be inconspicuous and compatible with tic behavior, and report whether they believe a person is engaging in a tic or attempting to suppress a tic. These reports will be used to compare the relative conspicuousness of the different forms of competing responses. In the second part of the experiment, two forms of competing responses for treating tics will be compared in a multi-element design. Individuals with tics will be asked to use either a traditional competing response or a competing response reported to be least conspicuous while they complete a signal-detection task. Changes in tic responding and performance on the signal-detection task will be compared between forms of competing responses.

The presence of tics can be stigmatizing socially and is associated with decreased quality of life. Therefore, it is essential that a treatment for tics be inconspicuous and not contribute to social stigmatization. It is expected that the results of the study will contribute to the development of



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more socially significant treatments for individuals with tic disorders as well as a better understanding of the function of competing responses in treating tics.

Master's Thesis Grant (Basic):

The Effects of Methylphenidate on Risky Choice: An Investigation of the Mechanisms by Which Amount and Probability Control Choice



BY JEREMY LANGFORD

Jeremy Langford is working toward his master's degree at the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW) under the mentorship of Dr. Raymond Pitts. His thesis is designed to investigate the behavioral and pharmacological mechanisms

that underlie impulsive (delay discounting) and risky (probability discounting) choices in an animal model with pigeons. Specifically, this line of research is intended to characterize and separate the processes in which behavior comes under control of delayed or probabilistic outcomes under a concurrent-chains procedure. Further, the comparative effects of methylphenidate on sensitivity to different reinforcement parameters under this procedure will elucidate similarities and differences between the mechanisms underlying delay and probability discounting. A greater understanding of the manner in which psychomotor stimulants (e.g., methylphenidate) affect behavior under different conditions has implications for improving our approach to mental health and drug-related issues. Jeremy would like to thank SABA for supporting this research and Raymond Pitts and Christine Hughes for their invaluable role as mentors during his time at UNCW.

Doctoral Dissertation Grant (Applied/Translational):

Using the Super-Resurgence Preparation to Evaluate Caregiver Treatment Adherence With and Without Enhanced Behavioral Skills Training



BY DANIEL MITTEER

Daniel Mitteer is a doctoral candidate at the University of Nebraska Medical Center's Munroe-Meyer Institute under the supervision of Dr. Brian Greer. Daniel's primary research interests are applying the methodology and principles from the behavior

analytic relapse literature (e.g., behavioral momentum, resurgence as choice, contextual theories) to the assessment and treatment of severe destructive behavior. Daniel is interested in understanding and strengthening caregiver treatment adherence to behavior analytic treatments such as functional communication training (FCT). Caregiver treatment adherence to FCT involves high rates of desirable caregiver behavior (e.g., providing reinforcers following a child's mands) and low rates of undesirable caregiver behavior (e.g., providing reinforcers following the child's destructive behavior). The super-resurgence preparation (Kincaid, Lattal, & Spence, 2015) combines renewal and resurgence tests by changing contexts and suspending the reinforcement contingency for desirable behavior simultaneously, which may lead to high rates of undesirable behavior during this treatment-challenge phase. This preparation is analogous to

See MITTEER on page 16



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typical outpatient arrangements in which behavior analysts train caregivers to implement FCT in the clinic before the caregiver returns to the home setting, wherein the child might engage in a bout of destructive behavior despite the caregiver adhering to treatment. Super-resurgence of undesirable caregiver behavior (e.g., providing reinforcers following the child's destructive behavior despite explicit training in FCT procedures) may result in collateral relapse of child destructive behavior.

The 2017 Innovative Student Research Dissertation Grant will assist Daniel in assessing super-resurgence of undesirable caregiver behavior following two caregiver-training approaches. Daniel will recruit groups of caregivers and simulate destructive behavior using adult confederates in a home-like context. In the behavioral skills training (BST) group, caregivers will receive BST in a clinic context and practice FCT with the confederate; then the caregivers will return to the home-like context in which the confederate will appear "inconsolable," which will test for super-resurgence of undesirable caregiver behavior. In the enhanced-BST group, the behavior analyst will implement three refinements that have empirical support in the relapse literature (in-vivo performance feedback, multiple-context training, and treatment signals) to determine if enhanced BST will strengthen treatment adherence. The findings may inform the examination of caregiver treatment adherence with actual caregiver-child dyads.

Doctoral Dissertation Grant (Basic):

Probability Discounting of Lewis and Fischer 344 Rats: Comparisons at Baseline and Following Acute Administration of d-Amphetamine



BY JENNY OZGA

Jenny Ozga earned a BA in psychology at Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC). She was a research assistant in Dr. Michael Hoane's laboratory, where she participated in several studies involving the development of pharmacological therapeutics for behavioral deficits following traumatic brain injury in rats. Jenny went on to West Virginia University, where she is currently working toward her Ph.D. in behavior analysis under the supervision of Dr. Karen G. Anderson. She earned her MS in psychology in May 2016, and her thesis focused on evaluating effects of environmental conditions and nicotine on delay discounting in Lewis and Fischer 344 rats—two genetically distinct strains. She is currently funded by a pre-doctoral training grant (NIGMS T32),

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which has enhanced the diversity of her training through interdisciplinary research opportunities. In addition to her work with Dr. Anderson, Jenny works on human research projects involving tobacco users with Dr. Melissa D. Blank.

Due to Jenny's interest in dissociations between delay and probability discounting, her dissertation grant is for a project investigating potential genetic and pharmacological interactions and their effects on probability discounting. Specifically, probability discounting of Lewis and Fischer 344 rats will be assessed before and after acute administration of d-amphetamine. During delay discounting procedures, Lewis rats are more impulsive than Fischer 344 rats, and d-amphetamine has differential effects on delay discounting between these strains. Specifically, d-amphetamine reduces delay discounting of Lewis rats but increases or has no effect on delay discounting of Fischer 344 rats. However, due to reported dissociations between delay and probability discounting, it is unclear whether similar effects will be observed when assessing probability discounting.

Jenny aspires to finish her Ph.D. and secure a postdoctoral position in behavioral pharmacology. Ultimately, she would like to continue conducting both nonhuman animal and human research as a principal investigator in an academic setting.

International Development Grants: ProgressCharter



BY GUY BRUCE

Think of an agency that provides behavior analysis to children with learning difficulties as a highly adaptive organism with exquisite sensory and motor capacities. It can detect each child's progress every day with respect to every language and social skill, quickly identify causes of inadequate progress, and change how it behaves, so that every child will learn efficiently. All its parts work together, supporting each other for the benefit of the children it serves.

ProgressCharter is an application that will make it easier for agencies providing behavior analytic services throughout the world to better serve children with autism and other learning difficulties. It is designed to record frequent, sensitive measures of child progress and staff performance; identify causes of inadequate child progress and staff performance; and make recommendations to change staff resources, training, and management, in order to ensure that agencies will be effective in helping every child achieve his or her goals.

It will operate on existing smartphone technologies, both Apple and Android, and allow staff to record measures of

child and staff performance, even when users lack Internet access. It will allow users to link the performance of staff and child so that supervisors, staff trainers, program designers, teachers, students, and parents can receive the support they need to ensure that each child makes efficient progress toward learning the language and social skills needed for success.

MishaInfoTech, in Delhi, India, is currently working on the user interface, programming, and database needed for initial pilot testing. We will use data from user testing to ensure that ProgressCharter is both easy to use and useful to agencies that adopt it. I will be offering workshops and consultation to assist those agencies.

For more information on ProgressCharter and to sign up for pilot testing, please contact Guy Bruce, Ed.D., BCBA-D, at guybruce@appealingsolutions.com or 1-309-303-1527.

Guidelines for the Care, Support and Treatment of Individuals With Intellectual Disability and Challenging Behavior



BY ALISON COX

Together with funding from the Ontario Association for Behaviour Analysis, the SABA International Development Grant will assist in the development of best practice guidelines for supporting adults with intellectual disabilities (ID) and challenging behavior in Ontario, Canada. The proposed guidelines would incorporate best practice suggestions from all relevant areas of behavior analytic work, including literature from the field of organizational behavior management, in order to make recommendations at the systems level. This project has a wide scope with an immediate goal of completing the guidelines, while the long-term objective includes encouraging Ministry of Community and Social Services representatives to adopt these guidelines as a way to direct agencies that support clients with ID and challenging behavior. Guidelines completion would provide the basis for initiating a discussion with policy makers, with the terminal goal of enhancing community agencies' infrastructure across the province. This could ultimately serve to improve the climate for behavior analysts working in community settings with adults with challenging behavior and ID.

Alison Cox, Ph.D., is a co-chair of the Ontario Scientific Expert Taskforce for the Treatment of Challenging Behaviour. In this role she will be involved in the oversight and coordination of every aspect of the guidelines project, including developing and liaising with the expert panel, directing graduate research assistants, and dissemination.

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Research in Dissemination of Evidence-Based Practices for ASD to Chinese Parents and Educators



BY WENDY MACHALICEK

Applied behavior analysis (ABA) has very little presence in China, with only 10 BCBA's in Shanghai, a city of more than 25 million people. Intervention options for autism spectrum disorder (ASD) are limited, and the use of complementary and alternative medical therapies

including acupuncture and traditional herbal medicine are common and viewed as effective. Schools often do not accept students with ASD, and teachers have very little knowledge of ASD or evidence-based practices. The majority of parents must either educate their children at home or send them to privately funded treatment centers that may lack research-based practices such as early intensive ABA.

This project will develop 12 culturally responsive ASD “science briefs,” which are translations of published ABA interventions for young children with ASD, and deliver the briefs to Chinese parents and early intervention professionals using China’s most commonly used social network, WeChat. We anticipate increased awareness and knowledge of ABA interventions. The impact of the briefs will be evaluated using a non-randomized mixed strategy intervention including a 2 X 3 design—2 levels of language (English and Mandarin) and 3 types of dissemination methods (science brief with question and answer session with an early intervention professor in Shanghai; science brief with parent-to-parent question and answer session; and science brief only). The briefs will be translated from English to Mandarin and back translated to ensure accuracy.

Wendy Machalicek, Ph.D., BCBA-D, associate professor of special education and researcher at Educational and Community Supports at the University of Oregon, implemented this project with collaborators Christine Drew, BCBA, and Xueyun Su, Ph.D., associate professor of special education at East China Normal University in Shanghai.

ABA Library/Resource Room



BY OKEY MARTINS NWOKOLO

Mazi Okey Martins Nwokolo was awarded an International Development Grant to start an applied behavior analysis library to facilitate access to behavior analysis books and journals in Nigeria. In most rural areas of Africa,

there is an urgent need to promote access to the discipline of ABA by making its books and resources available to parents, students, special education teachers, and others seeking evidence-based interventions for the growing population of persons with autism and related developmental disabilities. The ABA library project is beneficial to parents, students, and professionals, many of whom previously could not access ABA research and reference materials. Additionally, journalists will now have more opportunities to read relevant scientific literature to impact the perspectives they promote in their coverage of behavioral issues. This is important because explanatory fictions based on beliefs in demons and spiritual possession currently dominate treatment options for behavioral and non-physical health-related issues.

Nwokolo is a dedicated advocate for persons with autism in and around Nigeria. In 2006, he organized the historic 5-day Enugu ABA conference featuring Dr. Christina Sullivan, BCBA-D, and other ABA experts from the Blue Ridge Autism and Achievement Center, Virginia. He is the initiator of Lagoswalk4autism, Asabawalk4autism, and later Nigeriawalk4autism. Nwokolo is also the founder of the Centre for Autism & Developmental Disabilities (CADD) based in Asaba, Delta State. CADD donated the room that now serves as the ABA library.

The library is of immense benefit to students working on their thesis projects, as well as parents in the city of Asaba and environs. Asaba is geographically well situated and accessible to other university cities such as Benin, Enugu, Awka, Owerri, Okigwe, and others. Books and journals on applied behavior analysis are either scarce or non-existent in nearly all the libraries at these universities, and this lack functions as an abolishing operation for the dissemination and advancement of the field. The grant has, however, set a new contingency for positive change.

A Fonte e a Ponte



BY FERNANDA ODA

Since F. S. Keller came to Brazil in the 1960s, behavior analysis has been growing there. A Fonte e a Ponte (translated as “the Fountain and the Bridge”) is an initiative focused on building a bridge between the two largest communities of behavior

analysts: Brazil and the fountain of behavior analysis—the US. This personal project started in 2015, when Fernanda S. Oda, born and raised in Brazil, moved to the US. Fernanda received her bachelor’s degree in psychology from the Federal University of Paraná, and she is currently a graduate student in the behavior analysis master’s program at the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

Fernanda has been reporting on her experience in the US

through a website. Contact with behavior analysts and the behavior analytic literature are primary goals, to produce material for publications for the Brazilian community. Materials are selected based on the contributions of ABAI Fellows. After researching their work, Fernanda contacts them via email or in person and asks them two questions: a standard question ("Why are you a behavior analyst?"), and another question related to their work. Each brief interview is published in English and translated to Portuguese.

A Fonte e a Ponte is a personal and nonprofit initiative and has no affiliation with any professional organization or academic program. The SABA grant will allow Fernanda to buy behavior analytic textbooks related to the contributions of ABAI Fellows, and donate them to Brazilian behavior analytic graduate programs. The goal is to benefit as many programs as possible, and to provide resources and updated literature available in the US to researchers in Brazil.

DARE to Connect Couples Behavioral Flexibility Training: A Train-the-Trainer Initiative in Sierra Leone



BY THOMAS SZABO

In December 2016, Tom Szabo, Ph.D., BCBA-D, worked with Commit & Act, an international NGO, to conduct a multiple probe across participants study in Sierra Leone aimed at decreasing intimate partner gender-based violence in couples from three different villages. The independent variable was DARE to Connect, a behavioral flexibility training that is modeled on Acceptance and Commitment Therapy. The dependent variable was within-session microaggression and between

session reports of violence and the use of replacement behaviors that were corroborated by the partners in separate, independent reports. Prior to the intervention, we conducted a within-session analogue precursor functional analysis. After finding that within-session microaggression was related to a particular kind of negative reinforcement, couples were exposed to the DARE protocol, in which they learned to manipulate their environments and use skills for interacting in the presence of unchangeable variables that in the past had occasioned and reinforced violent behavior. Results showed that DARE led to decreasing levels of microaggression in session and aggression between sessions. Also, couples increasingly used replacement behaviors that were functionally equivalent to those behaviors we had targeted for deceleration. The paper that resulted from this intervention is now under review in *JABA*.

Most importantly, the results from the 2016 study have maintained at four separate follow-up sessions. One of the factors that appears to be maintaining the newly learned responses is that family members, neighbors, and tribal elders see the changes in the couples' behavior and are asking for their help. Each of the couples we served has been asked by other couples for help at turning around the conditions that produce their unwanted violent behavior.

Dr. Szabo and his team are currently manualizing the DARE to Connect intervention for use by the pilot couples. The team is giving the couples who worked with them previously the resources to be able to teach other couples in ways that are compatible with Sierra Leonean culture. Over the next year, they will train the original nine couples to deliver these strategies to other couples in their own and surrounding villages and evaluate this as a train-the-trainer dissemination model. They view this as the first step in spreading behavior analytic practices in Sierra Leone to curb intimate partner gender-based violence.

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Sidney W. & Janet R. Bijou Grant:

Characterizing Developmental Differences in Food Discounting With Obese and Healthy-Weight Adolescents and Adults



BY YAEUN (JOY) LEE

Yaeun (Joy) Lee received her master of science in psychology under Dr. John E. Kurtz at Villanova University. She is currently studying under the supervision of Dr. Erin Rasmussen in the Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program at Idaho State University. Joy's

dissertation involves using the delay discounting measure to investigate developmental differences in food discounting among obese and healthy-weight adolescents and adults. Research on delay discounting shows that preferences for immediate monetary outcomes decline with age (e.g., Green, Fry, & Myerson, 1994; Green, Myerson, Litchman, Rosen, & Fry, 1996; Steinberg et al., 2009), but to date there are no

studies that show these developmental changes with other outcomes. Joy will examine the extent to which age predicts delay discounting for hypothetical food and whether obesity status interacts with age-related food discounting, as obesity status predicts stronger preferences for immediate outcomes (Hendrickson & Rasmussen, 2013; Rasmussen et al., 2010). She will recruit 250 participants from five development categories—from pre-pubescent children to older adults—with equal representation of obese and healthy-weight individuals in each group. This study will focus particularly on the potential differences in food choices that accompany the process of puberty. Joy will use the Tanner Stages scale to determine each participant's pubertal stage. Pubertal stage may be superior to age in predicting when eating patterns tend to shift toward more stable adult-like patterns. The participants will also complete delay discounting tasks for hypothetical food and money (as a replication of age-related effects in discounting). Upon completing the proposed research, Joy expects to have determined the extent to which impulsive food choice changes across age, especially puberty, and to have characterized the extent to which obesity plays a role in age-related food discounting. She expects these results to have a positive impact on the advancement of behavioral processes related to obesity and development, thereby improving public health. ❖

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Policy Considerations in Behavior Analysis

BY CHRIS NEWLAND

The understanding behavior's consequences that is provided by basic research in behavior analysis has led naturally and smoothly to the application of behavioral principles in a wide range of areas. It has also reached into public policy. Many examples could be identified, but one that is notable for its breadth and depth lies in substance abuse. Our understanding of substance abuse changed radically when the groundbreaking work of Travis Thompson, Charles Schuster, Roy Pickens, and their colleagues demonstrated, in the mid- to late sixties, that cocaine and morphine participated in behavior as reinforcing stimuli. This brought substance abuse into the laboratory, led to a deep appreciation of it as a behavioral disorder to which all of our scientific study of reinforcing stimuli applied, and it introduced a powerful technique, drug self-administration, that has become the gold standard in the study of this phenomenon. Substance abuse is now seen as a distortion of reinforcement processes, with behavioral and neurobiological implications, a perspective that has broadened our understanding of other addictive disorders as well. Naturally, it led to novel, behaviorally grounded approaches to the treatment of addiction. This story is one of how basic research and application have contributed to an understanding and treatment of a severe social problem and has solidly informed public policy related to the science of addictive disorders.

Similar stories have played out in many arenas and we now have several of these together in a single volume. The journal, *Policy Considerations in the Behavioral and Brain*

Sciences, has devoted its March 2017 issue (Volume 4, issue 1) to behavior and public policy, and behavior analysis is prominently featured. The table of contents, which can be found at <http://journals.sagepub.com/toc/bbsa/4/1>, illustrates the breadth of behavior analysis and shows how our successes has been or might be translated into public policy. Topics in this issue include:

- Applied behavior analysis, including credentialing, problem behavior in young children, persistence and relapse, and language acquisition.
- Incentives, including financial incentives for reducing smoking, for dietary decision-making, and decision-based disorders as a major dysfunction that transcends multiple areas.
- Early intervention and its importance in autism spectrum disorders and psychosis.
- Chemical influences on brain health, including environmental health and the impact of marijuana.
- Biofeedback, including its role in treating chronic stress and other areas.

Behavior analysis has much to contribute because it is specifically, perhaps uniquely, grounded in an appreciation that behavior is a natural science that is of interest in and of itself; is orderly; and can be understood, predicted, and controlled in the laboratory. Application and, now, policy considerations flow naturally from this insight. Behavior analysts will find provocative reading for themselves and their students on this issue. ❖

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Updates From ABAI's U.S.A. Affiliated Chapters

Alaska ABA

BY RACHEL L. WHITE

Greetings from the Land of the Midnight Sun! The Alaska Association for Behavior Analysis (AKABA) was formed in January 2014 and became affiliated with ABAI in March 2016. AKABA is a nonprofit organization with a goal to promote the science and theory of behavior analysis through the support of research, education, and practice. Though small, AKABA is a growing and determined organization.

AKABA membership is open to all persons interested or actively engaged in behavior analysis and consists of Full, Affiliate, and Student members. Full membership is appropriate for any individual holding a graduate degree in a discipline directly related to or involving behavior analysis and whose professional commitment includes teaching, research, and/or practice in behavior analysis. Affiliate membership is appropriate for any individual evidencing interest in the discipline of behavior analysis. Student membership is appropriate for any individual pursuing formal training in the discipline of behavior analysis, but not yet gainfully employed therein on at least a half-time basis.

Membership benefits include low-cost CEUs, discounted registration for the annual Behavioral Sciences Conference of the North at the University of Alaska Anchorage, access to a members-only online forum, and updates on legislation and other events related to the practice and research of behavior analysis in Alaska. Visit the website (www.alaskabehavior.org) for current events, news, and membership information. AKABA holds quarterly membership meetings and offers continuing education opportunities throughout the year.

In 2016, AKABA continued to grow our membership and disseminate information to our members. We updated our bylaws and created three board member positions. Our Executive Board members have been working on creating more participation opportunities for our members.

The focus for AKABA in 2017 is dissemination of behavior analytic information to members of the behavior analytic community and the community at large. AKABA is working on our first conference where we will feature different aspects of behavior analysis in the state of Alaska. We are working on coordinating an article discussion group and a reflective practice group, and providing research updates at meetings. We will also begin to publish a newsletter.

Arizona ABA

BY AARON BLOCHER-RUBIN

In her book, *Nonprofit Lifecycles*, Susan Kenny Stevens presents a model of understanding the predictable challenges an organization faces based on its current “stage of life.” In 2016, the Arizona Association for Behavior Analysis (AzABA) transitioned out of the “startup” phase and into “growth.” We have a way to go before we reach “maturity,” but are hopeful that the changes we’ve made will help get us there.

We began by rewriting our bylaws to better fit our goals and provide flexibility as circumstances change. Our members now elect a new president annually for a 3-year term, and the board elects additional members as needed for 2-year terms. The board also has full discretion to determine what committees are necessary, rather than having these predetermined in the bylaws. The board determines committee goals annually, and all committees are chaired by a board member who can report progress back to the board to enhance accountability. All AzABA members are invited to join any of the following committees: Public Policy, Program, Ethics, and Marketing.

The next thing we recognized was that we could not grow without a strong infrastructure. More members mean more information and communications to manage. Relying entirely on board and committee members to volunteer their time was not a sustainable plan. After doing some research, we found a local firm that specializes in managing business operations of trade associations, so we established a contract to ensure continuity and a smooth member experience as board leaders change over time. Responsibilities such as finances, statutory agent records, legal filings, and member databases are now professionally managed so that board members can focus on the mission-based goals of AzABA. We also set up a new database through the Wild Apricot platform, which is designed for member associations. It provides a wealth of valuable tools including member login, payment processing, automatic reminder emails for annual dues, and event registrations. In the past we had trouble keeping accurate records of members, but now it is all streamlined and allows us to make data-based decisions as well as ensure that every member is given equal opportunity to participate in all things AzABA.

In past years, AzABA dues were incredibly low. At \$25 per year, the assumption was that most BCBAs would join—why not? But that strategy did not yield consistent results, as membership and interest in AzABA waned. Now, we ask ourselves a different (and more important question)—why? Why should BCBAs bother to join AzABA? Our board spent considerable time analyzing this question, to establish our core purpose as an association

that represents the interests of behavior analysts in Arizona. BCBAs may all support our efforts, but what is the hook that ensures they will personally join every year? The answer, we decided, is CEUs: Every BCBA needs them, and every ABA company needs their employees to get them. If we provide enough CEUs every year to help members meet their certification requirements, joining AzABA is suddenly much more reinforcing, and that is our number one priority. We have other important goals and functions as well, but we recognize that all of those depend on an actively engaged member base. Regularly offering CEUs is the critical motivating operation for members to join and stay involved.

To accomplish this goal, we needed to restructure our membership model. We determined that only two classes of individual members are necessary—BCBAs and associates. BCBAs are considered “full” members in the bylaws with voting privileges. Associates is a general category that includes RBTs, BCaBAs, students, and anyone else in the field. We then created four classes of organizational membership, which we refer to as “Sponsor Agencies.” All employees of a sponsor agency get free individual membership—a great benefit for ABA companies to offer and one that makes it much easier for AzABA to grow our member base quickly. We established two simple ways for sponsors to advertise programs or job opportunities, through our website and monthly newsletter. Companies each get their logo, website, and a short blurb of their choice that can be updated any time and is included all year long. Local companies have contacted AzABA many times asking if there is a way to advertise something to our members, and now there is a simple answer—become a sponsor! We established a very affordable fee structure based on the number of BCBAs employed by the company. Of course, the more members we have, the larger our mailing list audience is, which increases the appeal of sponsors who want to gain visibility among BCBAs, so it


becomes a self-reinforcing cycle. We have had great success with this model, and currently have about 25 sponsor agencies registered, which has vastly improved our financial stability as an association. Our individual membership has grown as well; we now have more than 300 members, which is more than double from previous years and includes about 80% of our state’s BCBAs.

Public policy is a critical role for AzABA. Now that we know how well our members represent the population of behavior analysts in Arizona, we are in a much better position to have influence with legislators, policy makers, and funding source decision makers. We have many projects in the works, including a bill to add behavior analysts to our state licensing board, which is currently limited to psychologists.

Communications are key to ongoing member engagement. We always enjoy seeing our members face to face, but realize not everyone can make it to events. We now publish an e-newsletter every month. It includes notes from the president, upcoming events, member opportunities, public policy updates, and sponsor agency information. Our website was redesigned and includes an event calendar that integrates with our member database for simplified registration and tracking. We have filled it with AzABA events as well as other events that may be of interest to members, such as ABAI and other state chapter conferences. Finally, we created a private Facebook group for members with established guidelines to make sure conversations remain ethical, appropriate, and meaningful.

As mentioned previously, a core function for AzABA is to offer frequent CEU opportunities to members. When we decided this was critical, we had to figure out how to provide all these free sessions and make them available around the state. The answer lies in the key to our membership model—Sponsor Agencies. We give

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all sponsors the opportunity to host one event per year, and in return we provide additional exposure for their organization. Since they all have BCBAs, they simply need to put together a presentation (typically one hour) that is CEU worthy. We are now an ACE provider, and our Program Committee coordinates the CEUs (with help from our association management firm). With so many talented BCBAs in our state, it is not hard to find great presenters! Usually the agency will host the event at their location, and then we'll do happy hour or some kind of networking time afterwards. That has been a great mix and very popular for members. We also have members in other parts of Arizona who organize a meet-up location to host a webcast for members, so that they can participate and receive CEUs as well. Additionally, we organize at least one full-day CEU workshop per year with a highly regarded, out-of-state presenter. In 2016, Dr. Mark Dixon trained us on the PEAK assessment, which was fantastic. Finally, if member agencies have their own CEU event and are willing to open it up to AzABA members, we can step in and handle the CEUs. We have already done that once in 2017 for a 2-day focused ACT workshop.

The last thing we are working on is special interest groups (SIGs). In our experience, SIGs often sound great at first, but tend to go nowhere. We have to establish a structure that has ongoing appeal for members: Our idea is to host a free conference for members along with our annual meeting at the end of each year. The content will be presentations by our SIGs. Therefore, the tangible goal for each SIG is to create a presentation for members on that topic.

The last 18 months have been very exciting as AzABA has reinvented itself. We look forward to many great years to come, and hope to collaborate regularly with ABAI and other state chapters! Please contact us any time with ideas.

Behavior Analysis Association of Michigan

BY JAMES T. TODD

We are pleased to announce that through the efforts of BAAM members James Todd (Eastern Michigan University), Wayne Fuqua, Stephanie Peterson (Western Michigan University), and others, Michigan now has a behavior analysis licensing law.

Two behavior analysis licensing bills were passed at the end of the 2015–2016 legislative session, SB1015 and SB1016, and go into effect in April 2017. At that point, the new Michigan Behavior Analysis Licensing Board will write rules for licensing at two levels corresponding to the BCBA and BCaBA. Licensing will officially begin 1 year after the rules are published. Licensing of direct contact technicians (equivalent to RBTs) will begin 2 years after that.

BAAM would especially like to thank Senators Rebekah Warren (D-MI, 18th District) and Margaret O'Brien (R-MI, 20th District) for their sponsorship of the licensing and board-creation bills (respectively), Lt. Governor Brian Calley for his testimony and strong support of our efforts, Colleen Allen of the Autism Alliance of Michigan for continued work on behalf of these bills and behavior analysis in Michigan, our friends in the Michigan Psychological Association for their support of our efforts, Kim Gaedike of LARA for technical advice, and many others too numerous to name individually. We also greatly appreciate the input from our friends in speech pathology, occupational therapy, and physical therapy in our collaboration to make the best law possible.

As it did last year, BAAM can once again report on the growth and vigor of behavior analysis in Michigan. Our members continue to make many positive contributions to the effective, ethical, and science-based treatment of problems associated with autism, traumatic brain injury, addiction, and other conditions. We can add to that the important work of those in organizational behavior management, behavioral medicine, education, behavioral research, university and college instruction, animal training, and other areas. A few years ago, there were about 90 BCBAs and BCaBAs in Michigan. Now, there are more than 500. That number supplements the many behavior analysts already credentialed as master's and doctoral-level clinical psychologists, and those working in other fields.

BAAM's 2017 annual convention was an incredible success. It was held February 16–17, 2017, at the Student Center on the campus of Eastern Michigan University (EMU). We had more than 700 attendees, up by about 100 from 2016. The 700-plus attendees came from more than two dozen universities and colleges, more than a dozen states, and two Canadian provinces. The rising attendance figure is even more impressive when we consider that the Michigan Autism Conference, offered in September by our friends at Western Michigan University, is also growing and attracts about the same number of attendees as BAAM does.

BAAM experimented with a convention format borrowed from New York State ABA, in which many of our sessions were presented twice, usually on different days. This reduced the number of different sessions, but increased availability to more people—also solving the occasional problem of overcrowded rooms. We started using CEU Helper to register CEUs, and it appeared to be successful in reducing lines at session doors. We have started collaborating with our friends in the Michigan Psychological Association on offering our sessions for both APA and BCBA CEU credit when possible. We are once again especially grateful to Dick Malott and his students at Western Michigan University for their many fine poster presentations and enthusiastic participation. This year we had 61 poster presentations, an all-time-record.

Many local and regional agencies sent staff and administrators, reflecting the expansion of behavior analysis opportunities in the state. The growing participation of faculty and students from Central Michigan University, Michigan State University, Oakland University, and Wayne State did not go unnoticed.

BAAM scheduled all regular sessions in meeting rooms overlooking EMU's Lake House area. BAAM extends special thanks to the staff of the EMU event planning office, especially Linda Moore, the catering department, and all the workers in the Student Center for their contributions to making the conference run smoothly. The support of the EMU Psychology Department, BAAM's sponsor, was again essential to our success. Special thanks go to the head of the Psychology Department, Carol (Keti) R. Freedman-Doan. As always, the BAAM staff and volunteers, lead by EMU students Caitlyn Sorensen-Kowalski, Ambreen Shahabuddin, and Holly Haslan, did excellent work planning and managing the convention.

BAAM once again had two keynote addresses. The Thursday keynote, "Society's Uneasy Relationship With Behavior Analysis," was delivered by David H. Freedman, contributing writer to *The Atlantic*. Freedman's presentation centered on why behavior analysis sometimes has as an image problem in the media. The Friday keynote address—delivered by Janet S. Twyman, associate professor of pediatrics at the University of Massachusetts Medical School and director of Innovation & Technology at the Center for Innovations in Learning—described a number of interesting and useful computer-based applications for enhancing education experiences for students.

The many other convention sessions and presenters are too numerous to list fully. Their important and interesting contributions can be seen in the 2017 convention schedule on the BAAM website.

BAAM will hold its annual convention February 15–16, 2018 in the awarding-winning Student Center on the EMU campus. BAAM intends to continue to offer a mix of basic, applied, and theoretical presentations and workshops. Online program submission and registration will again be available, and we anticipate even greater attendance, and will add some new convention features to accommodate the growth. For more information, visit the BAAM website: www.baam.emich.edu.

Behavior Analysis Association of Mississippi

BY DANIEL GADKE

The Behavior Analysis Association of Mississippi (BAAMS) celebrated its second anniversary in February 2017. We have accomplished a lot in 2 years: Our current Executive Council (EC) includes Neelima Duncan (president), Dannell Roberts (president-elect), Dorothy Scattone (secretary), Matthew Davison (treasurer), Kate Kellum (ABAI representative), Keith Radley (APBA representative), Bailey King (Region 1 representative), Sarah Kowalczyk (Region 2 representative), Evan Dart (Region 3 representative), Walt Chamberlain (Region 4 representative), Joy Wimberly (student representative), and Dan Gadke (past president).

As a supporter of the Mississippi House Bill 885, BAAMS was able to help with the push for the licensure of behavior analysts in the state. The Mississippi Autism Board (MAB), the licensure agency, has thus far licensed 33 behavior analysts and 2 associate behavior analysts. A member of the BAAMS EC and a master's-level licensed behavior analyst (LBA), Sarah Kowalczyk has been appointed by the BAAMS EC to serve as a nonvoting

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special advisor and liaison to the MAB. We are looking forward to this partnership!

Other legislative initiatives have included the opposition of House Bill 887 and Senate Bill 2625, which supported the move of the MAB under the direction of the MS Department of Education. Our concerted efforts were received well and changes were made in the bills to reflect our concerns. The MAB's move to the Mississippi Department of Education was removed from House Bill 887 and Senate Bill 2625.

BAAMS is now an Approved Continuing Education (ACE) provider through the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB). The first of our Type 2 continuing education units were provided at the BAAMS Inaugural Conference on March 31. The conference was a 1-day event with two tracks organized by co-chairs Kate Kellum and Keith Radley. Approximately 100 professionals and students from Mississippi and surrounding states attended the conference in Hattiesburg, MS at the University of Southern Mississippi (USM). The keynote presentation was delivered by Steven Hayes, and three additional speakers (Kimberly Zoder-Martell, James W. Moore, and Kyle Rowsey) were invited to present.

BAAMS also offers psychology continuing education units through the USM Department of Psychology Continuing Education Committee, which is approved by the Mississippi Board of Psychology to provide CE credits for the purpose of re-licensure. BAAMS is also an approved provider of CEUs for educators in the state of Mississippi through Mississippi College's continuing education program. The BAAMS conference is expected to become an annual event that provides the opportunity for behavior analysts and associated professions in Mississippi and surrounding states to disseminate the science of behavior analysis, discuss current research, discuss current issues related to the field in the state, and meet other professionals.

BAAMS will be hosting a "Day at the Capitol" at the Mississippi Capitol during the next legislative session on January 16, 2018. This will provide an opportunity for BAAMS to meet with our local legislators, disseminate the tenets of the science of behavior analysis, dispel myths about behavior analysis, advocate for insurance reform and other policies related to the practice of behavior analysis, and provide an opportunity for ABA agencies and service providers to promote the practice.

Delaware ABA

BY KAORI NEPO

The Delaware Association for Behavior Analysis was established in 2011. The purpose of the organization is to promote the science, understanding, and practice of behavior analysis through (1) encouraging cooperation among local behavior analytic organizations; (2) advising

political, legislative, and policy-making bodies with respect to all matters pertaining to behavior analysis in the state of Delaware; (3) arranging an annual meeting to discuss aspects of behavior analysis; (4) maintaining a website containing information about the chapter and behavior analysis in Delaware and elsewhere; and (5) functioning as a contact for and affiliate of ABAI.

Governance

Current executive officers of Delaware ABA consist of a president, Kaori Nepo; a vice-president, Gary Allison; a secretary, Susan Pfadt; a membership director, Marcie Brown; and members-at-large, Cathleen Albertson and Kristine Peters. The treasurer position is vacant.

Membership

There are four categories of Delaware ABA membership:

- Professional member, defined as an individual holding a terminal degree in a discipline directly related to or involving behavior analysis, and whose full- or part-time professional commitment includes teaching, research, and/or practice in behavior analysis.
- Full member, defined as an individual engaged on a full- or part-time basis in any profession or vocation that utilizes the principles or procedures of behavior analysis.
- Affiliate member, defined as any individual evidencing interest in the discipline of behavior analysis, but lacking formal training therein.
- Student member, defined as an individual currently attending undergraduate or graduate school.

The membership fee is \$5 for student members and \$10 for the rest of members annually.

Conferences

In April 2016, Delaware ABA representatives attended seminars and meetings at the Association of Professional Behavior Analysts annual convention in Washington, D.C. to gather updated information regarding licensure and policy.

In May 2016, Delaware ABA presented a poster at the ABAI annual convention to promote the chapter. In addition, representatives attended the chapter leadership training at the convention.

In May 2017, representatives attended the chapter convention training at the ABAI annual convention. Delaware ABA also presented a poster at the convention in order to promote the chapter.

Activities for 2016–2017

To securely manage membership fees and other funds, a bank account was established. Delaware ABA also submitted an application to become an ACE provider. A committee identified future speakers for workshops and discussed potential venues. The committee continued

to discuss the possibility of creating behavior analyst licensure and its need in the state of Delaware. Delaware ABA attempted to hold an election to fill the treasurer position, but it was postponed due to a lack of tasks required for the position. The committee gathered information from members on how to more fully and effectively promote behavior analysis in Delaware. Lastly, a sub-committee was formed to plan future workshops.

Plan for 2017–2018

Delaware ABA will hold a few events to offer CEU for members and to educate the general public regarding the science of behavior analysis. We also continue to work on planning for a conference in the coming year. Additionally, we will continue to gain knowledge and work on tasks to develop behavior analyst licensure in the state of Delaware.

Four Corners ABA

BY AMY KENZER

The mission of Four Corners ABA (4CABA) is to promote the science of behavior and evidence-based technologies derived from the basic science in the Four Corners (Utah, Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico) region. Four Corners ABA had another strong year of providing behavior analysts in the Four Corners region with an intellectual home. Michele Bishop, Ph.D., BCBA-D (Devereux Arizona; director of Autism Services) is the current president of 4CABA.

Annual Convention

The 10th annual convention was held in Flagstaff, Arizona, March 31–April 1, 2017. The convention was hosted at the High Country Conference Center located on the historic north end of the Northern Arizona University campus. Consistent with 4CABA's focus on balancing basic and applied research, we had a strong lineup of speakers from both areas, including Mark Dixon (Southern Illinois University), Jonathan Baker (Western Michigan University), Joel Ringdahl (University of Georgia), Andy Lattal (West Virginia University), Anna Ingeborg Petursdottir (Texas Christian University), Tim Shahan (Utah State University), Becky Penrod (California State University Sacramento), and Alyssa Wilson (Saint Louis University). The convention was attended by nearly 100 members, several exhibitors, and nine amazing presenters.

We always include a speaker from outside the field of behavior analysis to talk about behaviorally relevant subject matter. This year's speaker was James Dugan (Northern Arizona University). For the first time, the schedule also included a post-conference workshop on the PEAK Relational Training System, presented by Alyssa Wilson.

The annual convention schedule also included a poster session on the first night of the conference. The poster session traditionally includes a poster competition for best

student poster. Award recipients receive free membership and conference registration for next year's conference.

Annual Activities

In our ongoing efforts to increase membership and let other behavior analysts know what we've been up to, 4CABA had a poster at the Expo of the ABAI 43rd Annual Convention in Denver, Colorado. 4CABA also published our annual newsletter with relevant updates from around the Four Corners region.

We are also proud of the updates made to our website by a former board member, David Cole (Utah State University). The website is much more user friendly, allowing current and prospective members to stay up to date on 4CABA events and information. Our logo also received a dynamic update. Visit www.4caba.org to see these updates for yourself.

4CABA Membership

Are you interested in being a 4CABA member? 4CABA is open to anyone who is interested in the science and practice of behavior analysis. While most of our membership resides in the Four Corners region, we have numerous members from various parts of the country who have found our organization and annual convention an important part of their professional lives. There are numerous benefits to being a 4CABA member, including being part of a group of individuals who value the science and practice of behavior analysis and enjoy belonging to a strong, productive, and vibrant community of scholars and practitioners. Our members are also invited to our annual convention where they are exposed to cutting-edge knowledge regarding behavior analysis and receive free CEUs! If you think you might be interested in being a part of 4CABA, please take a look at our website for more information (www.4caba.org) and follow us on Facebook.

Heartland ABA

BY KEVIN C. LUCZYNSKI

Heartland ABA (HLABA) held its 11th annual conference, March 16–17 in Omaha, Nebraska. We were excited that Drs. Tom Critchfield and Matt Normand accepted invitations to serve as the keynote speakers, with presentations called “The Double-Entendre Problem of Behavior Analysis Jargon” and “Get Moving! A Programmatic Line of Behavioral Research on Physical Activity With Young Children,” respectively. Dr. Normand and Ms. Sarah Mead conducted workshops called “B. F. Skinner's Analysis of Verbal Behavior: History, Implications, and Applications” and “Treatment ‘Failures’ in ABA: What Are They and How to Remedy Them,” respectively. Both workshops were attended by individuals from a variety of fields, areas of expertise, and surrounding states. In more detail, we welcomed 49 and 37 attendees for

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Dr. Normand's and Dr. Mead's workshops, respectively; we had a total of 96 conference attendees.

We also invited Dr. Dave Jarmolowicz, which allowed our members to see some excellent translational research in an area other than early intervention and severe problem behavior. He presented "Sex, Booze, and Waiting for Mr. Right: A Behavioral Economic Perspective on College Students' Risky Behavior." Ms. Mead also presented translational research with, "Evaluations of Preventive Effects of Established Treatments for Problem Behavior." We accepted two paper submissions from doctoral students in the University of Nebraska Medical Center's Ph.D. Program In Behavior Analysis. Andrew Blowers presented, "Further Analysis of a Web-Based Program for Training Italian-Speaking Parents to Implement Early Intensive Behavioral Intervention," and Megan Vosters presented "Teaching Echoic Rehearsal to Promote First-Trial Performance in Completing Two-Step Instructions via Joint Control." As a new element to our programming, we ended the conference with a panel discussion comprising all the invited speakers, who were asked open-ended questions from the attendees. For instance, they discussed how behavior analysts can improve their public image and be better understood by other disciplines. The panel discussion was engaging, and we will likely retain it in our conference planning for next year.

The invited speakers jointly selected a student winner for the poster session; the monetary award is geared toward providing some financial support in attending ABAT's convention. Jessica Sauter was selected as the winner and presented "Using Rules to Improve the Honest Reports of Children in Environments With Conflicting Reinforcement Contingencies." In addition, Annette Wragge was awarded the Heartland Association for Behavior Analysis Award of Excellence for her contributions to the field of applied behavior analysis in the Heartland area.

The 2017–2018 HLABA executive board includes Drs. Billy Higgins and Kevin Luczynski co-serving as past presidents, Dr. Kevin Luczynski as president, Andrea Clements as vice-president, Dr. Amanda Zangrillo as secretary, Dr. Steven Taylor as treasurer, Jessica Niemeier as representative-at-large, and Jamie Crowley as student representative. HLABA continues to provide ongoing professional development opportunities to behavior analysts in Nebraska and the surrounding states. We offer a monthly speaker series free of charge to HLABA members. The speaker series allows members to obtain continuing education units for BCBA certification, and members can join the speaker series remotely via video conference. In the past year, we were fortunate to have Drs. Eileen Roscoe, Len Green, Wendy Donlin-Washington, Linda LeBlanc, Amanda Karsten, and Tara Fahmie contribute to this series.

Hoosier ABA

BY THE HABA EXECUTIVE BOARD

In 2016, the Hoosier Association for Behavior Analysis (HABA) successfully held its eighth annual state conference and continued to provide its board certified members with access to quality continuing education (CE) opportunities via conference and quarterly meetings. HABA has continued to grow in membership, with a more significant surge in registered behavior technician (RBT) involvement. We have made additional changes to membership types in the bylaws to accommodate and incentivize that growth. We also piloted an RBT specific track at our annual conference, which was well-received by participants, and that we hope to continue at this year's upcoming conference.

HABA members, led by key members of its public policy sub-committee, began the task of seeking a summer study with local government officials. The purpose of the summer study is to assess the benefits of Indiana state licensure for behavior analysts. We also continue to work with Medicaid officials to advocate for and shape payer policies and procedures for coverage of applied behavior analysis (ABA) services. Our communications sub-committee presence on social media and other online communication tools has allowed for timely means to inform our members of progress and solicit support for these endeavors.

In 2017, elections for board positions were held and there was a transfer of leadership responsibilities. The current HABA Executive Board would like to thank Paul McComas, BCBA, for his steadfastness and support of HABA during his term as president; Kim Zoder-Martell, BCBA-D, for her work as member-at-large and continued assistance as sub-committee chairs for public policy and communications; Ashlee Keuneke, BCBA, for her continued role as secretary; and Laura Grant, BCBA, for her work as treasurer. We welcome newly appointed board members Melany Shampo, BCBA; Danyl Epperheimer, BCBA; Bridget Harrison, BCBA-D; Shenley Seabrook, BCBA; and Hannah Duvall, RBT.

Already in motion, and looking forward to the future, HABA has successfully secured a 2017 summer study with government representatives for state licensure. It is our hope that this study will result in a bill for licensure that will add further consumer protections, ensure a competent workforce, and enhance accountability systems for those providing ABA services. We will continue to work with Medicaid officials to confirm sustainable reimbursement levels and coverage for services that adhere to best practices for the delivery of ABA services and the ethical code outlined by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board.

We continue to investigate additional avenues to provide our members with even more continuing education

opportunities. We are also probing additional means to increase motivation for all levels of certified individuals to seek out HABA membership and to provide students in behavior analysis programs with study and development opportunities that may result in long-term commitment to HABA and its mission. Finally, we have begun to plan for our ninth annual conference, the overarching theme of which is collaboration. With this conference, we hope to find new ways to disseminate the science and bridge potential gaps in its application and acceptance within a wider range of individuals and environments. This year will undoubtedly be exciting for HABA and we are ready to embrace all of its challenges.

Illinois ABA

BY AUTUMN N. MCKEEL

The Illinois Association for Behavior Analysis (IL-ABA) is a state organization whose purpose is to promote behavior analysis, primarily through an annual convention. IL-ABA is a state affiliated chapter and also the first state associate chapter of ABAI. The goals of the organization include encouraging collaboration among behavior analysts, fostering relations between practices and universities, and creating a licensure bill for behavior analysts in Illinois.

The sixth annual convention was held in St. Charles, Illinois, April 7-8, 2017. The speakers included university professors, practitioners, and educational leaders in behavior analysis. The agenda included a pre-convention workshop for supervisors, a poster session, and nine symposia speakers who discussed current faculty research agendas, practice agendas, and student research agendas for Illinois and the surrounding areas. As in past conventions, the research agendas included new research developments among universities in and around the state, translational research ideas, and opportunities for students. Practice agendas included discussion of collaboration with universities, the need to disseminate behavior analysis to areas in need, and its place in homes, schools, and universities. The student research agenda discussed student opportunities during and after graduating from behavior analysis programs in the state. In addition, a poster session took place for the third straight year during a social event. Our first annual paper competition brought in student research manuscripts, and one winner was chosen to speak about their research. CEUs were offered, including supervision-specific CEUs. An annual business meeting addressed organizational progress and proposed changes. During the business meeting, board members voted to fill board member, president, and student representative positions and discussed directions to take IL-ABA.

The licensing committee of five members has continued to work closely with national figures knowledgeable about licensure, as well as working with state legislators to make progress on the licensure bill in Illinois. A mid-annual

event will continue to be held to educate professionals on the progress of the licensure bill. Board members continue to advocate for the bill and gain support from other behavior analysts, legislators, and professionals in the state.

Future conferences will maintain a single-track structure that will emphasize science and practices within the state. This organization will serve as a connection and collaborator among behavior analysts across the state to continue effective strategies based on research. Also, by connecting university professionals, students, and practitioners, it will build foundations for contacts, resource management, research opportunities, and professional experience across the state. The IL-ABA annual convention will allow students, practitioners, and researchers to be heard, voice their concerns, and discuss ethical guidelines in practice. Three board members attended the 2017 ABAI chapter training to learn about other states' licensing information and chapter governance improvement strategies.

IL-ABA members are contacted through mass email communication via the IL-ABA email account, Behavior Analyst Certification Board contact lists, ABAI contact lists, the IL-ABA Facebook page, and updates on www.ilaba.org. An annual meeting will continue to be held during the ABAI annual convention.

Kansas ABA

BY EDWARD K. MORRIS

KansABA's mission is to disseminate information about the science and practice of behavior analysis and its education and training; address issues relevant to the science and practice of behavior analysis; maintain disciplinary, professional, and ethical standards; and recruit interest in behavior analysis throughout Kansas and the Kansas City metropolitan area (i.e., Clay, Jackson, and Platte Counties in Missouri).

Governance

KansABA is governed by its Executive Council that consists of a president, Ed Morris; a full member representative, Linda Heitzman-Powell; an affiliate representative yet to be determined; and a student representative, Jessica Juanico. The Council is assisted by a secretary, Alec Bernstein/Jessica Juanico and a treasurer, Sarah Mead. In addition, KansABA has a Legislative Affairs Committee (Nan Perrin, chair), a Legislative Liaison (Kelley Harrison), a Program Committee (Alec Bernstein, Jessica Juanico, and Ed Morris), a Web Site Committee (Kelley Harrison, chair), and a Professional Development Committee (Tyler Re, chair).

Membership

KansABA has four membership categories. Full members meet the requirements for Full membership in ABAI

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(\$60 membership fee). Only Full members have voting rights on KansABA bylaws, policies, and procedures. Affiliate members are citizens of the State of Kansas and the Kansas City metropolitan area who have an interest in behavior analysis (\$50). Adjunct members are citizens in other states and countries who have an interest in behavior analysis in Kansas (\$40). Student members are students who meet the requirements for Student membership in ABAI (\$30). Membership includes registration at the annual KansABA conference; admission to the conference's career and education fair; and snacks, beverages, and lunch during the conference. The membership year runs from conference to conference.

Conference

KansABA's annual conference is our main professional activity. It is built around themes in research, training, and practice in Kansas and generally features Kansan presenters. Our out-of-state presenters are often alumni of the Department of Applied Behavior Science at the University of Kansas. The theme of our 2017 conference was "The Challenges of Everyday Child Behavior." Our presenters, their affiliations, and the titles of their presentations were Raymond G. Miltenberger (University of South Florida), "Lessons Learned From 25 Years of Research on Teaching Safety Skills"; Brian D. Greer (University of Nebraska Medical Center's Munroe-Meyer Institute), "Empirically Supported Strategies to Facilitate Toilet Training: The Intensive-Training Approach"; Kevin C. Luczynski (University of Nebraska Medical Center's Munroe-Meyer Institute), "Some Determinants of and Treatments for Pediatric Sleep Disturbances"; Matthew P. Normand (University of the Pacific), "Get Moving! Behavioral Research on Physical Activity With Young Children"; and Thomas Zane (University of Kansas), "From Code to Conduct: Behaving Ethically in the Real World." Attendance was about 100.

In addition, Michael L. Wasmer (Autism Speaks) presented, "The Role of Behavior Analysts in Transition Policy," and provided a legislative update on ABA in autism in Kansas. We also held a business meeting, had a student poster session, hosted a career and education fair, and closed the conference with an awards ceremony. The awards were for the best student posters and distinguished service to KansABA. This year, the latter went to Jessica Juanico. An evening reception was held at the KansABA president's house.

Legislation and Licensure

For the past 6 years, Kansas and Missouri parents of children with autism, providers of autism services, Autism Speaks, and KansABA have worked to develop licensure for BCBAs in Kansas. Independent of these efforts,

the insurance industry sponsored a bill late in the 2015 legislative session that addressed the licensing of behavior analysts, but it was highly restrictive in defining the roles of BCBAs and funding for services. Before being passed, the bill underwent several revisions and went into effect on July 1, 2016. Although still restrictive, it provides for licensing behavior analysts under the Kansas Behavioral Science Regulatory Board (BSRB), but not as defined by the BACB. Kansas does not allow other entities to define its requirements for licensure. Nonetheless, the BACB Task List defines, in part, who may practice behavior analysis in Kansas. The board established a subcommittee on behavior analysis licensure that includes one KansABA Executive Council member—Linda Heitzman-Powell—and one KansABA member at large—Claudia Dozier. This year, the subcommittee advised the board on trailer legislation that clarified the criteria for licensing behavior analysts. On September 9, 2016, Nan Perrin and Ed Morris attended an open BSRB meeting on behalf of KansABA to advocate that the board adopt the BACB's requirements for licensure. By January 1, the board began licensing behavior analysts using the BCBA requirements. KansABA thanks Gina Green (APBA), Jim Carr (BACB), Mike Wasmer (Autism Speaks), and Max Foster (BSRB chair) for consulting with KansABA about the Kansas legislation and the BSRB's rules and regulations for licensing behavior analytic services for the state's citizens.

New Initiatives

KansABA undertook four new initiatives this year. First, our Professional Development Committee (Tyler Re, chair) began holding mini-conferences, the initial one on Saturday, January 21, 2017. Its title was, "Ethics and Supervision in Behavior Analysis." The speakers were Ali Markowitz (University of Kansas), "Ethical Considerations of Conducting Functional Analyses," and Stephanie Glaze (University of Kansas), "Effective Supervision: Is That the Story Your Data Tell?" Thirty people attended, 18 of whom took CEUs. Another mini-conference will be held in August 2017.

Second, we began inviting KansABA members to develop special interest groups (SIGs). KansABA's members have a range of interests in teaching, research, service, and practice. To support them, KansABA will (a) assist in SIG recruitment, promotion, and dissemination; (b) publish SIG news and announcements on the KansABA website and in its conference program; (c) host SIG business meetings at the KansABA conferences; (d) co-sponsor continuing education events; and (e) maintain links between the SIGs' and KansABA's websites. KansABA's first SIG will be Behavior Analysts for Social Responsibility.

Third, KansABA published its *Code of Ethics* in its 2017 conference program. It reads as follows:

"KansABA expects its members to uphold the highest standards of personal and professional behavior in the conduct of their work and the advancement of behavior analysis (see J. S. Bailey & M. Burch (2016). *Ethics for Behavior Analysts* (3rd ed.). New York: Routledge). KansABA embraces the diversity of professions within its membership, thus KansABA members should adhere to the ethical standards that have been defined for their professions. Examples include, but are not limited to, the American Psychological Association's Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct, the Association for Clinical Researchers' Code of Ethics, the Association for Institutional Research's Code of Ethics, the Behavior Analyst Certification Board's Professional and Ethical Compliance Code, the National Association of School Psychologists' Professional Conduct Manual, the National Association of Social Workers' Code of Ethics, and the National Education Association's Code of Ethics of the Education Profession."

Fourth, KansABA developed a diversity policy, also published in its 2017 conference program. It reads as follows: "KansABA seeks to be an organization comprised of people of different ages, races, nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual orientations, genders, classes, religions, abilities, and educational levels. KansABA opposes unfair discrimination."

Kentucky ABA

BY ERICK M. DUBUQUE

Mission

The Kentucky Association for Behavior Analysis (KYABA) is an Affiliate Chapter of ABAI. Its mission is to advance awareness, development, and access to the science and practice of behavior analysis in the Commonwealth of Kentucky by (1) encouraging the understanding in academic, research, and the natural environments; (2) supporting the design and application of effective behavioral procedures to improve the quality of life of the citizens of Kentucky; (3) serving as a professional reference group for those who identify themselves as scientists or practitioners in disciplines that embrace the principles and practices of behavior analysis; (4) advising political, legislative, and policy-making bodies with respect to all matters pertaining to behavior analysis; (5) organizing colloquia, symposia, and conferences that shall serve as a forum for the presentation of scientific and technological achievements, clinical practice, and discussion of the affairs of the organization; and (6) publishing and distributing information on behavior analysis.

Executive Committee

KYABA is governed by its Executive Committee comprised of a president, past president, president-elect, three representatives, and one student representative. The 2017 Executive Committee is comprised of Erick Dubuque (president), Brandon Franklin (past president), Robert Pennington (president-elect), Molly Dubuque (representative), Becky Nastally (representative), Lauren Elliot (representative), and Amy Hall (student representative). The Executive Committee is assisted by a director of operations; the 2017 director of operations is Cody Carraro.

Committees and Task Forces

In an effort to improve the services offered by the organization, KYABA has re-introduced a committee structure for 2017. Each committee and task force is headed by a representative from the Executive Committee. Other committee members are drawn from the membership and include at least one student member. Lauren Elliot and Amy Hall are this year's co-chairs of the Membership Committee. The mission of the Membership Committee is to increase membership in the association, disseminate information about association activities and opportunities, and develop new initiatives that increase the value of membership in the association. Brandon Franklin is this year's chair of the Events Committee. The mission of the Events Committee is to assist in the planning and implementation of events sponsored by the association. Robert Pennington is this year's chair of the Newsletter Committee. The mission of the Newsletter Committee is to disseminate information relevant to the association's mission in a bi-annual newsletter publication. Erick Dubuque is this year's chair of the Awards Committee. The mission of the Awards Committee is to develop, plan, and implement the nomination, selection, and presentation process for awards given by the association. Molly Dubuque is this year's chair of the Outreach Committee. The mission of the Outreach Committee is to represent the association's interests to external organizations that operate activities relevant to the association's interests. Finally, Becky Nastally is this year's chair of the Billing Task Force. The mission of the Billing Task Force is to develop a resource designed to help the association's membership bill for behavior analytic services.

Membership

KYBA offers three categories of annual membership: Full, Affiliate, and Student membership. Full membership status may be obtained by any individual who holds at least a master's degree in a discipline that is explicitly related to behavior analysis with training or professional experience in behavior-analytic teaching, research, and/or clinical

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applications, or currently holds certification as a BCBA or BCaBA. Only Full members of KYABA are allowed to vote on matters of interest to the organization and hold office. Affiliate membership status may be obtained by any individual who is interested in the field of behavior analysis who does not qualify under the standards of full membership. Affiliate members enjoy all the benefits of voting membership, except for the right to vote on matters of interest to the organization and the right to hold office. Student membership status may be obtained by any individual enrolled at least half-time in a behavior analytic or related degree program. There are multiple benefits to becoming a member of the organization. These benefits include, but are not limited to, reduced annual conference registration and CEU fees, notifications about continuing education opportunities, access to the latest issue of *Bluegrass Behavior* and our newsletter archive, listing of the latest job opportunities in the field, eligibility for Chapter/Adjunct membership in ABAI, subscription to our professional listserv network, access to the latest news in behavior analysis, a vote on issues pertinent to the organization (Full members only), and the opportunity to hold office in the organization (Full members only).

Events

KYABA has hosted events in the state since 2012. For the last few years, the organization has held an annual spring conference and a fall workshop series. These events have consistently sold out and drawn registrants from every corner of Kentucky and surrounding states. In April 2016, KYABA held its annual conference in Louisville, KY. The theme for the conference was behavioral assessment, and our organization was fortunate to play host to Drs. Mark Dixon (PEAK Relational Training System), Mark Sundberg (VB-MAPP), and Patrick McGreevy (Essentials for Living). In October 2016, KYABA held its annual workshop series in Louisville, KY. During this event KYABA was fortunate to host Kathryn Peterson (feeding), Heather McGee (behavioral systems), Ruth Anne Rehfeldt (ACT with adults), and Michele Wallace (functional behavior assessment). In January 2017, KYABA hosted a 2-day acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT) workshop series led by Michael Bordieri in Louisville, KY. In July 2017, KYABA hosted our annual conference. The theme for this year's conference was, "Education Across the Lifespan." The event explored the use of behavior analysis from early childhood, middle childhood, adolescence, and adulthood.

Contact Us

More information about KYABA can be found on the organization's website, www.kentuckyaba.org.

Lone Star ABA

BY GERALD E. HARRIS

The Lone Star Applied Behavior Analysts (LSABA) chapter was established in 2009 to provide community support for professionals and students in the field of ABA. Houston-area members include practitioners as well as educators, and those who work in either the public or private sectors. While a majority of the members are involved in the application of ABA to children with autism, LSABA recognizes and supports those professionals who show the utility of ABA in application to a wide variety of populations and problems.

The regular LSABA meetings continue to be an excellent forum to inform practitioners of ABA-related news, events, and issues. At the beginning of each meeting, different members will present specific information on current issues, followed by a discussion of local relevance.

We are continuing to accommodate professionals around Houston by alternating a north and a south meeting each month throughout the year. Houston covers a large geographical area, and traffic can be difficult. By having meetings that are in a more convenient location, we have greater attendance, even from the outlying communities.

Each LSABA meeting includes a continuing education component, with BACB-approved CEU credits. Current ABA research articles are selected and are presented and discussed in depth. The mix of practitioner and scholar viewpoints involved typically results in a very informative, lively, and interesting educational experience.

Legal issues related to the practice of ABA are of course forefront in professional minds. The LSABA Legal Committee is devoted to monitoring, informing, and (where appropriate) influencing local laws and regulations concerning the practice of ABA. LSABA monitors new or evolving laws and regulations affecting the practice of ABA in the Houston area. LSABA members are informed about opportunities to voice their opinions and concerns to governmental individuals and agencies enacting and implementing those laws and regulations. Information is also given to providers and the community on the practical impact of legislative actions. This past year LSABA has voiced positions on several ongoing Texas legislative and regulatory issues, including definitions of ABA provider for public assistance programs and another attempt at enacting a state licensing law for ABA providers.

Working with third-party payers is ever ongoing. Many local ABA practitioners are particularly interested in third-party insurance issues related to ABA treatment for children with autism. LSABA continues to work with insurance companies as they develop and refine their systems to accommodate ABA services, informing and shaping the evolution of reasonable payments for quality services. LSABA has also provided information to ABA

providers to assist them in complying with and benefiting from the new third-party payment systems.

A new topic of interest this year is awareness and compliance with evolving ethical and professional standards in the practice of ABA. With the increase in ABA providers in the Houston area, LSABA has begun developing resources for increasing awareness of the current best standards for practice. LSABA believes it is in everyone's best interest to maintain the highest professional standards in our field of expertise and is working to make it easier to achieve that goal. The ABA Support Committee (ABASC), whose members are some of the more experienced ABA providers in the Houston area, has accomplished several important goals. ABASC has developed and piloted an on-site support service for ABA providers. Providers can request review and helpful feedback in areas such as policies and procedures, treatment integrity, HIPPA compliance, and treatment or business model. Initial response has been very positive. A repository of sample documents, forms, and other provider materials is being developed and will be available to area providers.

The most exciting activity of ABASC is the upcoming conference. ABASC, with the support of Houston Families for Early Autism Treatment (FEAT), is hosting a 1-day conference for ABA professionals. The focus is on ethics and compliance with professional rules, regulations, and statutory law.

An important goal of LSABA is to inform and support the use of applied behavior analysis in the Houston area. To that end we work closely with the Houston FEAT. An LSABA representative attends and participates in FEAT board meetings in order to facilitate communication between the two groups and help coordinate local ABA support activities. Such activities include LSABA BCBA's providing regular full-day ABA workshops for the community. The "ABCs of ABA" workshops provide a basic foundation in ABA for parents, teachers, and others, while the "123s of ABA" provide more detailed information about specific ABA applications. This past year, LSABA conducted six full-day workshops for the community. These were well attended and feedback was very positive.

LSABA also supports local organizations and participates in local events to promote ABA within the community to both professionals and consumers. For example, LSABA had representatives at many of the Houston-area autism awareness events this year. Information is provided to attendees about the profession of ABA and local services available.

LSABA continues to be very appreciative of support and recognition from the state chapter, TxABA, and works cooperatively with them to further the goals of ABA professionals. There is a good system of information exchange in place, and LSABA and its members

individually participate in and assist with TxABA activities and events, such as the annual TxABA convention.

At the national and international level, LSABA has certainly been well supported and encouraged by ABAI, and expresses gratitude for all the assistance by that organization. As an Affiliate of APBA, LSABA has received welcome support and encouragement from that organization as well.

Overall, for a still young, but maturing, chapter (about 8 years old now), LSABA appears to have a strong foundation and a good track record of accomplishments. LSABA is certainly blessed with having dedicated and caring members, and excellent support from the ABA professional establishment.

Montana ABA

BY KARLYN GIBBS

The Montana Association for Behavior Analysis (MT ABA), founded in 2013, has had an active year that included legislative action, the first annual conference, and new chapter officers. In 2017, 30 members reside and practice across the fourth largest state in the country.

The Montana Board of Psychologists and community members are currently awaiting a House vote on BCBA licensure legislation, supported by MT ABA members. We were fortunate to receive a \$2,500 grant from the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB) to support licensing efforts. Members traveled more than 500 miles to testify before legislative committees. We await final word on passage of SB 193.

MT ABA successfully hosted its first annual conference in October 2016 in Fairmont Springs, MT with featured speakers Dr. Tyra Seller (Utah State University) and Dr. Melissa Nosik (BACB). At the conference, chapter members elected new officers: Jackie Mohler as the new chapter president, Lorri Coulter as vice president, Karlyn Gibbs as treasurer, and Crystal Fisher as secretary.

Earlier in 2016, chapter members Jackie Mohler, BCBA, and Karlyn Gibbs, BCBA, along with Dr. Ann Garfinkle (University of Montana), Jamie Eff, Jenny Vickhammer, and Teri Lilltevedt presented research results on gesturing and behavioral flexibility in Washington, DC, at the APBA conference.

The field of behavior analysis continues to grow in Montana, with 2 BCBA-Ds, 25 BCBA's, and 4 BCaBA's, up from just 4 BCBA's in 2011. Montana State University-Billings continues to support growth in the field by offering an approved applied behavior analysis course sequence. Planning is underway for our chapter's second annual conference, at which Dr. Patrick Friman has tentatively agreed to present. If BCBA licensure receives legislative approval, chapter members will have the opportunity to participate in the development of

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related administrative rules. Additionally, duration of chapter officer terms will be reviewed with consideration for extending terms beyond 1 year.

Nebraska ABA

BY STEVEN TAYLOR

The Nebraska Association for Behavior Analysis (NEABA) held its second conference on November 10, 2016. The theme of this year's conference was "Together, Shaping the Future of ABA in Nebraska." Dr. Wayne Fisher spoke on preventing relapse following treatment of destructive behavior with functional communication training. Annette Wragge reviewed the Nebraska ASD Network's training project for implementing verbal behavior programs in schools. Mike Wasmer (Autism Speaks) discussed public policy related to the transition to adulthood for individuals with autism. Dr. Kevin Luczynski presented on his research in overcoming the geographic barriers to ABA services in remote locations. Cathy Martinez (parent of a child with autism) gave a presentation describing her sometimes-difficult journey in finding and paying for ABA services for her son. Dr. Kate Peterson presented on recent advances in the treatment of feeding disorders. The conference closed with a panel discussion titled, "Expansion of ABA in Nebraska: Education and Services."

At this year's conference, NEABA held its first official election of officers. The officers are Steven Taylor, president; Terri Newton, vice-president; Kate Peterson, secretary-treasurer; and Connie Taylor and Melissa Nissen, representatives-at-large. The board contracted with Colby Coash, former Nebraska State senator. Mr. Coash was the sponsor of LB254, which passed in 2014, that allowed for payment of ABA services to children with autism in Nebraska. Mr. Coash left the legislature at the end of 2016 due to term limits and was available to contract with us. He is not a lobbyist, but is able to help us monitor more than 600 bills filed in the legislature this year, some of which could impact behavior analysts in the state or the people we serve. He also suggests key people we should get to know in the legislature and keep us abreast of relevant committee hearings and more. We have submitted position statements on proposed Medicaid service definitions for ABA services and proposed changes to the Children's Mental Health Services Rules. We also submitted a letter of opposition to sections of the Student Discipline Act that gives very broad powers to teachers and administrators to punish students.

New Jersey ABA

BY ERIC ROZENBLAT

The New Jersey Association for Behavior Analysis (NJABA) enjoyed another successful year in 2016! As the current president of NJABA, it has been an honor

to work alongside so many wonderful individuals.

NJABA continues to advance its mission with the help of our Executive Committee: Sandra Gomes, Ph.D., BCBA-D (president-elect); Kevin J. Brothers, Ph.D., BCBA-D (treasurer); Kate Cerino-Britton, Ed.D., BCBA (secretary, Continuing Education Committee chair); and the rest of the Board of Directors: Suzanne Buchanan, Psy.D., BCBA-D (Government Affairs Committee chair); Elena Garcia-Albea, Ph.D., BCBA-D (representative-at-large); Robert LaRue, Ph.D., BCBA-D (Events Committee chair); Catherine Taylor-Santa, MA, BCBA (representative-at-large); Dennis Machado, MA (Communications Chair); and Emily Gallant, MA (student representative, Membership Committee chair). Our nomination process recently ended, and elections for president-elect, secretary, and representative-at-large concluded Friday, April 7, 2017.

Last year, a large initiative of the organization was to offer opportunities for behavior analysts within the state to join workgroups based upon a particular topic of interest. Dr. Suzanne Buchanan, NJABA's government affairs chairperson and executive director of Autism NJ, spearheaded this initiative. Last year, I reported that we developed the Early Intervention Workgroup, Insurance Workgroup, Public Schools Workgroup, and Adult Services Workgroup. I am happy to report that we have expanded our workgroups to include a Business Practice Workgroup. These workgroups have helped to streamline communication between behavior analysts in New Jersey. As a result, we have continued to engage in effective communication with behavior analysts who work across a number of settings and geographic regions within the state. This has led to greater collegial relationships as well as increases in membership and participation. Upcoming workgroups that have generated interest from others include ABA Services in Spanish, Children's Medicaid Providers, and State Recognition for the Profession.

Since its inception, NJABA has consistently held an annual conference. Our annual conference has attracted more than 300 participants in each the last 2 years (up from 250). This year, the 12th annual conference was held March 31. We were honored to have Dr. Hank Roane, the Gregory S. Liptak MD Professor of Child Development in the Department of Pediatrics at Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, NY, deliver the keynote address, "Application of Behavioral Economics to the Treatment of Problematic Behavior Among Individuals With Developmental Disabilities." In addition to Dr. Roane's presentation, there were several workshops and symposia on topics including, but not limited to, ethics, stimulus control, the evaluation of treatment integrity, addressing social skill deficits in children with autism, and staff training. Additionally, we conducted a poster session that included 10 posters on a wide array of topics. All presentations were required to be

data-based with demonstrations of experimental control. The conference was well received, and we look forward to reading the evaluations.

NJABA continued its advocacy on the professionalization and standards of care for ABA services for individuals with autism. Our efforts have been strategic, collaborative, and focused on (1) the implementation of the autism insurance mandate to cover medically necessary ABA services; (2) school districts' use of the Department of Education (DOE) job code we secured in 2014 that allows districts to hire BCBA's who do not also possess a DOE-recognized certificate; and (3) policy development for required training, provider qualifications, and reimbursement rates for behavioral services for adults with autism; and (4) access to Medicaid-funded ABA services for children with autism per federal guidance. We are also exploring state-regulated professional credentialing and learning from other states' experiences.

In addition to member- and practice-related initiatives, NJABA has engaged in a new professional relationship to enhance its organizational efficiency, sustainability, and impact. NJABA hired Advocacy and Management Group (AMG) to assist with professional association functions including but not limited to membership, conferences, website, and finances. This consultation service enables the board members' limited time to be allocated to the most pressing issues facing the organization and outsources the administrative functions. This first year has been a productive onboarding of AMG's team into our board meetings and the activities mentioned above. Moving forward, we hope to outline specific membership, conference, and other organization goals and to systematically plan for their implementation.

It has been my great honor and privilege to serve as the president of NJABA for the last 2 years. Although my term has come to an end, I will continue to remain involved in the organization. The entire Board of Directors devotes so much time and effort to continue to advance the mission of the organization, and their commitment and dedication deserve recognition. I am encouraged by the future direction of NJABA!

North Carolina ABA

BY R. M. "DUKE" SCHELL

The North Carolina Association for Behavior Analysis held its 28th anniversary conference in Wrightsville Beach, NC, February 22–24, 2017. The conference was a great success thanks to the leadership of Melanie Bachmeyer, president (University of North Carolina-Wilmington), as well the rest of our Executive Council, including Callie Plattner, past president (Access Family Services); Whitney Luffman, president elect (Autism Society-NC); Selene Johnson, vice president (ABC of NC); Leigh Ann Strain, secretary (A New Leaf Therapeutic Services); Nancy Poteet, treasurer

(private consultant); Kristi Toward, member-at-large (Carolina Center for ABA); Erica Brown, member-at-large (Carolina Center for ABA); Chelsi Brosh, student representative (University of North Carolina-Charlotte); Jamie Clary, publications editor (Riddle Developmental Center); Fred Spooner, senior NCABA advisor (University of North Carolina-Charlotte); Duke Schell, liaison to ABAI (Riddle Developmental Center); and a host of other NCABA volunteers.

The 28th anniversary NCABA conference opened with the presentation of awards to honor North Carolinians who have promoted behavior analysis in research and everyday practice. Beth Schmitt (Murdoch Developmental Center) received the Fred S. Keller Excellence in Behavior Analysis Award, Breanna Dutcher (Effective Interventions) received the Technical Utilization Award, Jim Phillips (Autism Society-NC) received the "Do Things" Award, and Kelli Minton (East Carolina University) received the NCABA Student Scholarship Award. You can see descriptions of the NCABA awards and photos of our award recipients at our website, www.nc-aba.com.

Invited speakers at this year's conference included Travis Thompson (University of Minnesota), Carole Van Camp (University of North Carolina-Wilmington), Brenda Bassingthwaite (University Iowa Children's Hospital), Kenneth Silverman (John Hopkins University), Claire St. Peter (West Virginia University), Dennis Reid (Carolina Behavior Analysis and Support Center), Alice Shillingsburg (Marcus Autism Center), Mark Galizio (University of North Carolina-Wilmington) and Patrick Friman (Boys Town, University of Nebraska School of Medicine). Many other speakers participated in workshops, concurrent sessions, and the highlighted student symposium hosted by Chelsi Brosh (University of North Carolina-Charlotte).

There were 21 research posters and 12 vendor posters in the NCABA poster session the first evening of the conference, which was coordinated by Selene Johnson. Several people were recognized for outstanding posters, including Grace Simunek, Laura Brooks, Audrey Ashkins, Laura Chida, and Kerby Shanley (Carolina Center for ABA) in the professional category; Diane Browder, Belva Collins, Kathryn Haughney, Caryn Allison, and Kathy Fallin (University of North Carolina-Charlotte) in the graduate student category; and Adrian Gonzalez and Savannah Knight (University of North Carolina-Wilmington EXS) in the undergraduate student category. Special thanks to our volunteer poster judges, including Travis Thompson (University of Minnesota), Claire St. Peter (West Virginia University), Brenda Bassingthwaite (University Iowa Children's Hospital), Carole Van Camp (University of North Carolina-Wilmington), Christine Hughes (University of North Carolina-Wilmington), Ray Pitts (University

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of North Carolina-Wilmington), Jim Phillips (Autism Society-NC), Fred Spooner (University of North Carolina-Charlotte), Mark Stafford (Stafford Consulting), and Kerin Weingarten (Carolina Center for ABA).

The 28th annual conference had over 300 participants, including attendees and presenters. NCABA offered free registration for the first 20 student members, including several who volunteered in varied activities at the conference. The evening social on the second night of the conference was a wonderful gathering filled with behavior analytic conversations among others, assorted free food and beverages, and a DJ hosting the music and dancing.

Results of the 2017 officer elections announced at the NCABA business meeting at the conference included Kristi Toward (Carolina Center for ABA) as vice president, Nancy Poteet (private consultant) re-elected as Treasurer, Monique Baker (Effective Interventions NC) as member-at-large, and Karla Durig (A New Leaf Therapeutic Services) as student representative.

NCABA provided both certified behavior analyst and NC psychologist continuing education credits. During the conference 132 certified behavior analysts from NC and nine other states earned 1,595 continuing education credits, and 39 NC psychologists earned 465 continuing education credits in workshops and invited addresses co-sponsored by NCABA and the NC Psychological Association. The NCABA conference continues to receive excellent feedback for attendees seeking professional continuing education with 1 ("poor") to 4 ("excellent") on cost of CEs (3.7), breadth of CE topics (3.4), and CE verification process: (3.6).

At the 43rd Annual ABAI Convention in Denver in May, NCABA's president, Whitney Luffman, hosted the NCABA poster at the Expo. For the second year, the NCABA Executive Council approved partial financial assistance in order to send the president or another designated board member to the national conference and annual chapter leadership training. This opportunity for financial assistance to attend the ABAI convention is reviewed annually by the Executive Council.

Please visit our website at www.nc-aba.com and see additional highlights from the 28th anniversary NCABA conference, including photos of the festivities this year and in years past; our newly elected officers; and information on becoming an NCABA member. The NCABA website also provides information about our history since 1989, including the "25 Year History" slide show, links to newsletters, and information about the conference and upcoming events, including NCABA-sponsored workshops and planning for our 29th annual conference to be held February 21–23, 2018, in Winston-Salem, NC.

Ohio ABA

BY JENNIFER SWEENEY AND BRYAN DROESCH

The mission of the Ohio Association for Behavior Analysis (OHABA) is to support the growth and dissemination of applied behavior analysis in the public and private sectors, with special emphasis on application in educational settings. Objectives include providing professional development in the form of a yearly conference; supporting the certification of BCBAs, in Ohio; and providing an informational website as a portal to support behavior analysis for businesses, schools, and clinics. The website will also provide up-to-date information from legislative agencies and advocacy groups related to the practice of behavior analysis in Ohio.

OHABA is primarily an interest group. Our goals are (a) promoting behavior analysis in the educational setting, (b) promoting behavior analysis and university programs that specialize in applied behavior analysis, (c) providing a forum for the discussion of research and conceptual issues in behavior analysis, (d) maintaining a website containing information about the organization and about behavior analysis in Ohio and elsewhere, and (e) functioning as the Ohio contact for and affiliate of ABAI.

The OHABA Executive Board Members as of March 2016 included the past president, Tracy Guiou, Ph.D., BCBA-D, COBA; the president, Bryan Droesch, MEd, BCBA, PC, COBA; president-elect, Nicole Powell, Psy.D., BCBA-D, COBA; secretary, Jennifer Sweeney, Ph.D., BCBA-D, COBA; and treasurer, Elizabeth Henry, MS, BCBA, COBA. The OHABA Board is committed to making the organization a resource to members across the state of Ohio. In 2015, additional board positions and committees were added and continue to strengthen the mission of OHABA. The OHABA Board includes Marketing and Technology Committee chair, Ron DeMuesy, MEd, BCBA, COBA; Membership Committee chair, Janet Hansen, Ph.D., BCBA-D, COBA; Professional Standards Committee chair, Nichole Williams, MA, BCBA, COBA; Education Committee chair, Hal Houseworth, MA, BCBA, COBA; Program Committee co-chairs, Janette Long, MA, BCBA, COBA and Tracy Guiou, Ph.D., BCBA-D, COBA; and student representative, Kayley Sanger, MA, BCBA.

In 2016, the full board and committees worked hard to coordinate opportunities for members. In April 2016, OHABA was proud to offer a 2-day conference at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. Speakers included Dr. Greg Hanley, Dr. Pat Friman, Dr. Amber Valentino, and Dr. Pat McGreevy. In addition, the board continued the town hall meeting series, which includes ethics CEU opportunities for members across the state. Town hall meetings were held in Twinsburg, Ohio, with 11 participants, and Cincinnati, Ohio, with 9 participants.

Membership Information

Increasing membership across the state has been a primary focus for OHABA. The following table shows the growth in membership since April 2013.

Year	Number of Members
April 2013	114
December 2014	127
December 2015	148
December 2016	185

OHABA is intent on continuing to increase its membership by offering CEU opportunities to members across the state. Individuals interested in joining OHABA can find a membership form on our website, www.ohaba.org. Membership fees are \$20 for full members, \$15 for affiliate members, and \$10 for student members. Benefits of membership include a reduced registration fee for OHABA conferences with CEUs included; free CEU opportunities at town hall meetings held in different regions of the state four times per year; the opportunity to exchange ideas, discuss job leads, and share the results of research and practice efforts; upcoming access to various workshops and webinar opportunities; and updates on changes affecting the practice of applied behavior analysis. Individuals interested in becoming members of OHABA, or any members who are interested in serving on the board or a committee, should contact OHABA at ohaba@ohaba.org.

Annual Conference 2016

The 2016 Conference was held April 8–9, 2016 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in partnership with the Hilton Downtown Columbus. Fees for our annual conference were \$90 for full members, \$150 for non-members, and \$65 for student members.

Certification in the State of Ohio

Over the past 3 years, the OHABA board has worked closely with the Ohio State Board of Psychology to educate BCBAs in the state on the process and importance of becoming Certified Ohio Behavior Analysts (COBA). Only COBA individuals can practice behavior analysis in the state, with few exceptions. A requirement for obtaining the certification is for candidates to attend a half-day workshop and pass an exam covering the rules and regulations regarding behavior analytic practice in Ohio. The board has committed to having representation at each of these workshops to answer questions and ensure newly certified members are aware of OHABA as a resource.

Future Direction

The OHABA Board is committed to making the organization a resource to members. In 2015, the board added additional positions and developed committees to assist chairs in completion of their duties. The board continues to promote the town hall series with the goal to reach ABA professionals across the state by regions. By dividing the state into four regions, Cleveland/Akron/Youngstown, Columbus, Toledo, and Dayton/Cincinnati, the board would like to see membership and participation from members in each area.

Pennsylvania ABA

BY JONATHAN IVY

Mission and Vision

The Pennsylvania Association for Behavior Analysis (PennABA) seeks to promote high-quality behavior analysis in the region, maintain the scientific integrity of the discipline, and advocate on behalf of behavior analysts and consumers of behavior analysis. To learn more about PennABA go to www.PennABA.org.

History

PennABA was incorporated in 1998. Richard Foxx and William Helsel saw a need to support behavior analysis in the state of Pennsylvania. In 2000, Richard Kubina chaired a meeting to help elect PennABA's first set of officers. With the creation of PennABA, service providers, teachers, students, and families in Pennsylvania gained a resource, which fosters the application and growth of behavior analysis.

Conference News

The 2017 PennABA Conference was held April 10–12 at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, PA. This conference marked the 19th consecutive meeting of PennABA and featured 2 days of workshops (April 10–11) and the hallmark speaker series (April 12). We offered additional workshops this year, giving PennABA members and conference attendees more options. On the day of the speaker series, during an extended lunch and social time, we hosted the PennABA poster presentation. Moving the poster presentations from the end of day following the workshops to the middle of the speaker series has significantly raised the number of poster submissions and overall interest in the poster presentation. The PennABA poster presentation has historically offered a unique blend of behavior analysis research and practice; this year will be no exception.

As is tradition for the annual PennABA conference, the speakers represent both local and national experts in behavior analysis. Below is just a small glimpse of the events we planned for this conference. Dr. James Carr

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delivered an update on the Behavior Analyst Certification Board. Dr. Rodney Clark conducted a workshop that provided an overview of contemporary human behavioral pharmacology. Mrs. Rita Gardner, president and CEO of Melmark, presented on the use of organizational behavior management to drive and measure outcomes. Dr. James Meindl shared the results of an extensive evaluative review on non-contingent reinforcement. Finally, due to the positive feedback from the year before, Dr. Jonathan Ivy and Mr. Jeffery Garito gave an encore version of their supervision workshop, updated for 2017.

The PennABA conference has become an annual tradition for many behavior analysts in the state and region. We have members in California, Connecticut, Delaware, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Virginia, and of course Pennsylvania all coming together each year for the annual conference. At the time of this update, we have more than 150 registered members.

We are well into planning for next year's conference. The 2018 PennABA Conference will mark our 20th anniversary. Please check www.PennABA.org for updates on this exciting event. If you live or work in the region, we hope to see you at the PennABA conference.

PennABA Updates

In August 2016, the Executive Director (Dr. Richard Foxx) charged the president (Dr. Jonathan Ivy) with improving the functionality and aesthetics of PennABA's presence on the web. In early 2017, we launched a much-improved website. The new website allows PennABA conference planners and members of the Executive Council to more easily update the site. PennABA members will have a much easier time navigating the site and finding new information, whether it be a job posting in the region or upcoming events. Additionally, once PennABA members log in to their accounts, they can view a history of the events attended (starting in 2017), review and update account details, and check membership status. This is just a small list of the helpful features of the new website. Although work on the site continues, we are pleased with the reception and user experience. User feedback has been positive.

Members of the Executive Council have been closely involved in multiple meetings with state officials and local advocacy groups to improve access to quality ABA in Pennsylvania. As many behavior analysts in Pennsylvania are aware, the passage of ACT 62, the Behavior Specialist License, created significant problems for families trying to access ABA and behavior analysts attempting to meet this need. The education and training requirements for the Behavior Specialist License are below the national standard, as codified by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board. As a result, a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and a Licensed Behavior Specialist are viewed as equivalent,

despite significant differences in training, competency assessment, and continuing education requirements. More than ever before, PennABA has been advocating for vast improvements to these systems of service delivery. We believe that behavior analysis should be delivered and overseen by qualified professionals. In the coming months, we will continue to advocate for increased proficiency standards and improved access.

Coda

PennABA will continue to serve behavior analysts and consumers of behavior analysis in the region through continuing education and advocacy. To the membership of PennABA—thank you. Your continued support is integral to all that PennABA has accomplished. We also want to thank all of the individuals who make PennABA and its conference possible. Special thanks to Lacey Bailey and Melinda Desmarais—it is difficult to quantify all that these two do for the chapter. Sincere thanks and gratitude to both of them. Finally, thanks Dr. Foxx for his guidance as PennABA continues to grow in membership, advocacy, and outreach opportunities.

For more information, visit the PennABA website at www.PennABA.org.

Philadelphia Metropolitan ABA

BY AMANDA FISHER

The Philadelphia Metropolitan Association for Behavior Analysis (PMABA) is the regional chapter for Philadelphia and the surrounding area, formerly known as the Delaware Valley Association for Behavior Analysis (DVABA). The objective of PMABA is to provide continuing education and networking for behavior analysts in an informal setting that has the atmosphere of a social gathering. Another primary goal is to increase cohesiveness among local behavior analysts who might otherwise be isolated as a result of working in diverse settings with service providers and researchers who are not behavior analytic, as many of our members are the only behavior analysts at their places of employment. Our email listserv provides announcements on local workshops, conferences, and events, as well as employment opportunities and recent legislative or advocacy issues relevant to local behavior analysts.

PMABA seeks to better serve as a scientific and professional reference and networking group for its members by making a number of changes this year. This year, we held business meetings, continued membership efforts, and are renewing our commitment to the dissemination of information relevant to local behavior analysts as well as providing continuing education. The chapter is led by the following executive council members: Amanda Guld Fisher, president; Donald Hantula, secretary/treasurer; Beth Rosenwasser, information officer; and Arthur Dowdy, website and membership coordinator.

We are always looking for members interested in getting involved in the organization and taking leadership positions. Please contact us if interested!

We have reinvigorated Black Scorpion Society meetings, originally facilitated by Drs. Phil Hineline and Charles Catania. We've held three Black Scorpion meetings over the last year, during which local behavior analysts get together and discuss journal articles at a local watering hole. Drs. Amanda Fisher, Phil Hineline, and Donald Hantula each led an article discussion over the past year. Discussions included topics such as praise and motivation, the inner self, and food as reinforcers.

In addition, PMABA hosted a continuing education event titled, "Addressing Maternal Health Issues With ABA," presented by Dr. Yukiko Washio. Dr. Washio presented on research using contingency management and other behavior analytic interventions to address maternal health issues such as substance abuse and addiction, breastfeeding initiation and continuation, and more. The event was well attended and attendees could receive continuing education units for BCBA maintenance. Refreshments and networking opportunities were also enjoyed by attendees.

Finally, the chapter has developed a website (<http://pmabainfo.wixsite.com/pmaba>) that will act as a resource for local behavior analysts providing membership information, local events, and other important information. We are continuing membership efforts and formalizing internal processes and procedures as well.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of PMABA should visit our website for information and contact Beth Rosenwasser at beth.rosenwasser@gmail.com to be added to our email listserv to receive information about upcoming events, job opportunities, and other local behavior analytic information.

Texas ABA

BY DOROTHEA C. LERMAN

TxABA Executive Council

The 2016–2017 Executive Council consisted of a president Dorothea C. Lerman, president-elect Einar Ingvarsson, secretary Rachel Koelker, treasurer Regina Crone, and council members Sarah A. Lechago, Kate Patagoc-Johnson, and Kathleen Strickland-Cohen. The student representative to council was Taylor Custer. Heather Barahona continued serving as TxABA's executive director. In addition, student members elected Madeline Upthegrove from the University of North Texas as the student representative for 2017–2018.

Committees

TxABA's Public Policy Committee, chaired by Gordon Bourland, plays a very important role in TxABA's

activities, as it monitors legislative activity and other public policy issues that may impact behavior analysts and their consumers in the state of Texas. This year, the Public Policy Committee transformed into an independent TxABA Public Policy Group to better coordinate legislative activities and raise funds to support initiatives like licensure. The Group continued its work with Council and a lobbyist to pursue licensure of behavior analysts in Texas. The Group also organized a 2-day "TxABA Days at the Capitol" event, which brought nearly 100 behavior analysts in contact with legislators to discuss important issues.

The Professional Issues Committee, which focuses on professional development strategies for TxABA membership, was chaired by Jennifer Kaut. This year, the group disseminated a survey to TxABA members requesting that they rank-order a number of professional issues based on importance (e.g., confidentiality, progress monitoring, working with state agencies). This information is being used to guide activities and plans of the committee.

Special Interest Groups

In 2016–2017, TxABA had four active special interest groups (SIGs) arranged around members' common interests and geographical locations. Robin Rumph served as the president of Behaviorists for Social Responsibility. Regina Crone served as the president of the DFW Area Autism SIG. Domonique Randall served as the president of the OBM SIG. Rebecca Morgan served as the president of the Behavior Analysis in Public Education SIG.

Annual Conference and TxABA Awards

The 2017 Regional Conference of the Texas Association for Behavior Analysis (TxABA) was held January 26–29 at the Sheraton Austin Hotel at the Capitol in Austin, TX. This was the sixth year of record-breaking conference attendee numbers (1,150). Attendees included professional behavior analysts, faculty, students, teachers, caregivers of individuals with development disabilities, and service providers from related disciplines. Sponsors included Butterfly Effects, Behavioral Innovations, Central Texas Autism Center, Children's Autism Center, DataFinch Technologies, First Leap Pediatric Therapy, Pathfinder Health Innovations, Therapy & Beyond, and The Shape of Behavior.

The conference hosted five tracks this year. The General Track included speakers Dr. Ron Van Houten (Western Michigan University), Dr. Julie Slowiak (University of Minnesota-Duluth), Dr. Anthony Biglan (Nurture Network, LLC), Dr. Manish Vaidya (University of North Texas), Dr. Jonathan Baker (Western Michigan University), and Dr. Carol Pilgrim (University of North Carolina-Wilmington). Topics discussed in the General Track included stimulus equivalence, performance management, stimulus control, and achieving a more nurturing society.

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Invited speakers in the Autism Track included Drs. Brian Iwata (University of Florida), Valerie Volkert (Marcus Autism Center), Ron Van Houten (Western Michigan University), Peter Gerhardt (The EPIC School), and Dorothea Lerman (University of Houston-Clear Lake). Presentations covered a variety of topics such as data analysis, functional analysis methodology, treatment of feeding problems, sexuality education, Prader-Willi Syndrome, and job-related social skills in adults.

Invited speakers in the Professional Track were Dr. Michael Kelley (Florida Institute of Technology), Jennifer Kaut (Vocational Rehabilitation), Vince LaMarca (Little Star Center), Tim Courtney (Little Star Center), and Dr. Jessica Thomason-Sassi (The New England Center for Children). Presenters provided information on ethics, novel applications of behavior analysis, transition services for teens and adults, supervision of trainees, appealing insurance denials, and a treatment for improving dental visits for individuals with autism.

For the second year in a row, the TxABA SIGs arranged a special conference track. Speakers included Dr. Gordon Bourland (Trinity Behavioral Associates), Dr. Kevin Callahan (University of North Texas), Dr. Brenda Scheuermann (Texas State University), Dr. Robin Rumph (Behaviorists for Social Responsibility SIG), and Dr. Terry McSween (Quality Safety Edge). Topics covered included public policy, social validity, multi-tiered systems of supports for at-risk youth, climate change, and safety in the workplace.

The Basic and Applied Behavioral Research Track consisted of speakers Drs. Wendy Donlin Washington (University of North Carolina Wilmington), Nicole Heal (Margret Murphy Center for Children), Iser DeLeon (University of Florida), Brian Kangas (Harvard Medical School), and Kenneth Silverman (Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine). The presenters delivered talks on contingency management for health-related behaviors, social validity assessments of behavior change procedures, translations research on token reinforcement, preclinical pharmacology of complex behavior, and the application of operant conditioning to address poverty and drug addiction.

TxABA also presented the Enduring Contributions to Behavior Analysis Award to Dr. Brian Iwata. Each year, if revenue permits, TxABA awards James L. Kopp Memorial Scholarships to students of behavior analysis who plan to present their research at the upcoming ABAI annual convention. These competitive scholarships of \$500 each are intended to help defray the cost of attending the annual convention. A student must be listed as the presenting author of an accepted poster or symposium presentation to be eligible to apply for the scholarship. This year there were two recipients of the 2017 James L. Kopp Memorial Scholarship: Abby Hodges (Baylor University) for her

research poster entitled, “Using Shaping to Increase Foods Consumed by Children With Autism,” and Katherine Ledbetter-Cho (Texas State University) for her research entitled, “Effects of Visual Activity Schedules With Embedded Video Modeling on the Academic Skills and Challenging Behaviors of a Child With Autism.”

The poster session featured TxABA’s annual student poster competition. This year’s winners were Abby Hodges and Marilyse Tucker (University of North Texas) for her poster, “Teaching Water Safety Skills to Children with Autism Using Behavioral Skills Training.”

The outstanding 2017 conference committee consisted of conference coordinator Heather Barahona, Staffing Director Rachel Kramer, ACE Provider Richard Smith, and program chairs Jennifer Fritz, Sarah Lechago, Domonique Randall, Jeanne Donaldson, and Karen Toussaint. PowerPoint slides from many of the presentations given at the 2017 convention can be accessed at <http://www.txaba.org/conference/conference.php>.

Upcoming Activity

The upcoming year is an extremely busy one for TxABA. We will continue to work with a lobbyist to pursue licensure for behavior analysts in Texas or to implement licensure if it passes in the current legislative session. In addition, TxABA will remain very active in supporting legislation relevant to behavior analysis and practitioners, including Medicaid coverage of our services. The 2018 conference will be March 8–11 at the Hyatt Regency in Houston, Texas.

Utah ABA

BY JUSTIN NAYLOR

The Utah Association for Behavior Analysis (UtABA) continued with exciting progress this year! Utah has an insurance mandate for treatment for children with ASD, a licensing law for behavior analysts, and Medicaid coverage for ABA for children and youth with ASD under EPSDT, all of which UtABA was highly involved in in the past few years. This year, UtABA’s Public Policy and Executive committees worked with insurers and with the Utah Health Information Network to develop standards within Utah to address inconsistencies in CPT coding for ABA. In addition to standardizing CPT coding for applied behavior analysis in Utah, this provided a forum for UtABA to educate insurers and other partners about the practice of behavior analysis and effective treatment for autism spectrum disorder.

UtABA’s professional development committee has expanded its efforts this year by providing multiple webinars in addition to the association’s annual conference. The webinars provided this year included, “A Behavioral Systems Approach to Ethics Training and Supervision” by Dr. Matthew Brodhead, and “Effective School-Based Consultation” by Dr. Jim Luiselli, with more to come. Our professional development and public relations committees

are also working to make our webinars available for viewing after the events for those unable to attend. Our annual conference, which has traditionally occurred in June, took place August 4–5 this year at the University of Utah. This was our first 2-day conference, with a couple of in-depth workshops on day one, and more traditional presentations on day two. The conference featured Dr. Patrick Friman the keynote speaker, as well as multiple invited presenters and calls for papers and posters for local research. As part of our efforts to encourage collaboration between researchers in academic settings and practitioners in the community, our 2016 conference provided an impressive summary of the research that originated from Utah in behavior analysis and we continued to highlight local research this year.

UtABA continues to develop its public relations and membership recruitment efforts. The UtABA Public Relations Committee has further expanded our website and actively invites behavior analysts to join the association. We regularly post updates and professional development opportunities on our website, via email, and through our Facebook page. Our public relations committee also fields many requests for information from people interested in the association, involved in practice and research in Utah, or seeking information about behavior analysis in general.

The association's executive committee has been working this year to further define and document the roles and responsibilities of board members and association committees, as well as documenting guidelines and processes used within the association. We also conducted a membership survey to identify the activities of the association that members find most valuable, ascertain where we need to improve or provide better communication, and assess our efforts to balance research, professional development, and practice. In general, UtABA members were pleased with the association. Members found the association's professional development opportunities most valuable, followed by its public policy efforts. The survey identified room for improvement in the accessibility of the association's website, and in disseminating information to members. Both of these opportunities are being addressed through multiple initiatives within the association's committees. In addition to these efforts, the executive committee is involved in exploring ways to increase collaboration between the universities and community practitioners, expand our relationships and influence outside of behavior analysis, and pursue opportunities to diversify practice.

UtABA is actively engaged in promoting scientific activity, providing professional development opportunities, and representing behavior analysis and behavior analysts in public policy and other important forums. The association encourages anyone interested in behavior analysis in Utah to join. Anyone interested in membership, information, or collaboration can contact us at www.ut-aba.org.

Vermont ABA

BY EMMA SMITH

As ABA continues to grow and spread in the state of Vermont, the Vermont Association for Behavior Analysis (VtABA) is proud to continue its mission of expanding knowledge and expertise in the area of behavior analysis throughout the state. On April 1, 2016, VtABA hosted its sixth annual conference in Burlington, VT. A total of 113 behavior analysts, allied professionals, and community members attended the event. We had the pleasure of hosting Dr. Peter Gerhardt as the presenter. Dr. Gerhardt gave a two-part presentation, the first of which was entitled, "Sex and Sex Education With Individuals on the Autism Spectrum: What You Need to Know," and the second, "Transition to Adulthood and Life in Community for Young Adults With ASD." He reviewed current research related to the topics of transitioning to adulthood and explored the extent to which our work with school-age learners has resulted in employment and productive life in the community. Additionally, he identified common gaps in the knowledge base and offered recommendations for an understanding of "quality of life" beyond the classroom. In the second part of his lecture, Dr. Gerhardt also gave an overview of the current research on sexuality and sexual intervention in autism spectrum disorder and provided recommendations for assessment and proactive intervention.

On January 20, 2017, VtABA hosted our annual meeting and ethics training, which provided three free ethics CEUs to members. This year, Kim Kelly, Ph.D., BCBA, LBA, LABA, gave the ethics training entitled, "Social Media: Behavior Analysts Behaving Ethically in a Complex Online World." In this interactive and engaging presentation Dr. Kelly discussed the ethical challenges that behavior analysts face in a world where technology and social media are such a prevalent part of life. The training reviewed the features of social media and how compliance with the code of ethical principles translates to this environment. Through Dr. Kelly's training, attendees learned to describe the most common ethical violations reported by behavior analysts and therapists as related to social media, list the ways behavior analysts can manage their social media accounts to influence their digital presence and the exposure of their personal information to others, and identify ways basic ethical principles can be violated on social media and guidelines for reducing the probability or preventing these violations in areas such as confidentiality and privacy, multiple relationships, evidence-based practices, and professional behavior. Following the ethics training on January 20, 2017, VtABA held our annual meeting. Discussions at this year's meeting primarily surrounded insurance funding for ABA programs and ways to further disseminate ABA throughout Vermont.

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On May 5, 2017, we welcomed Dr. Patrick McGreevy to Burlington for our seventh annual conference. Dr. McGreevy presented not only on his publication, *Essential for Living*, but also discussed ways to provide a method of communication to nonverbal learners, and prompts and prompt fading. These topics drew attendees from the field of ABA as well as community members, special educators, and other service providers with whom we collaborate. VtABA is also excited to be officially welcoming our five new members at the annual conference!

The goals for the upcoming year include expanding membership, offering free educational events to the communities we serve, and further building VtABA as a resource for professionals and community members in the state of Vermont.

Virginia ABA

BY CHRISTY EVANKO

The Virginia Association for Behavior Analysis (VABA) serves those who live and/or work in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The mission of VABA is to promote and support the practice, research, and dissemination of behavior analysis throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. In order to meet our mission, VABA has set forth the following goals:

- Be well known in the community.
- Provide quality service to our members.
- Inspire a new generation of behavior analysts.

We have had a very productive year that included hiring a lobbyist, happy hour events, a journal club event, and work behind the scenes on public policy and public schools partnerships. Membership continues to grow and, as of this publication, VABA boasts almost 400 members. In March of this year, our state reached the milestone of 1,000 licensed behavior analysts and assistant behavior analysts.

Our 13th Annual Conference was in April. Keynote addresses were delivered by Dr. Jonathan Tarbox of the University of Southern California and FirstSteps for Kids and Dr. Nic Weatherly of Aubrey Daniels International. We also hosted Dr. Adam Brewer, Dr. Sarah Casella Jones, Dr. Theodore Hoch, and Dr. Megan Miller. Dr. Tarbox held a workshop on the Friday preceding the conference.

West Virginia BAA

BY CLAIRE ST. PETER

The West Virginia Behavior Analysis Association is pleased to be in our first year as an ABAAI-affiliated organization! We partnered with a state autism association (the Mountaineer Autism Project) to build more behavior analytic offerings into the Mountaineer Autism Project conference in April 2017. For our first year, we offered free membership to any interested individual who met the membership requirements set forth in our charter. We also built a list of behavior analytic service providers in the state based on our membership to help rural families access behavior analytic services. We look forward to continuing to disseminate behavior analytic research and practice in West Virginia in 2018. ❖

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Updates From ABAI's Non-U.S.A. Affiliated Chapters

ABA Colombia

BY CAMILO HURTADO-PARRADO, WILSON LÓPEZ-LÓPEZ, AND CONSTANZA AGUILAR

ABA Colombia has been going through a process of renovation during the past year. In November, board members met to discuss and reconfigure the goals of the association, which included adjusting its status to the recent changes in Colombian legislation for nonprofit organizations; restructuring the board, including replacing board members; proposing other sources of revenue that may allow us to take on other projects; and designing new strategies to bring students and recently graduated behavior analysts to work in the association on ongoing and future projects.

One of the major decisions was the redesign of the association's website (www.abacolombia.org.co), which despite having been an important forum for behavior analysis in Colombia and Latin America over the past decade, and thus a trademark of ABA Colombia, required a drastic update to comply with new technological standards. Part of this project included a collaboration with Julián Cifuentes, a promising psychology student at Konrad Lorenz University, and his proposal for a 2017 SABA International Development Grant. The project aims not only to develop a new website for the chapter with new services for members and nonmembers, but also to include a free-access online course system on behavior analysis.

In terms of the advancement of experimental and applied behavior analysis in Colombia during the last year, two important pieces of news are noteworthy. Psychology events in Colombia are characterized by a professional emphasis and major formats, which contrasts with the small basic research community. A group of behavioral researchers, including, but not limited to, behavior analysts, were dissatisfied with the lack of a proper forum for discussing their projects and data and developing collaborative alliances, and thus decided to revive an event—Meeting of Researchers in Behavioral Sciences—that has contributed to the growth of experimental psychology in the country. The success of the seventh edition of the meeting, which was held in April 2016 at Universidad Nacional de Colombia (Bogotá), and was characterized by a rigorous exchange of ideas due to its small format, has resulted in the continuation of this initiative this year at Universidad de San Buenaventura (Bogotá). Some of the members of ABA Colombia will present their ongoing research projects (<http://encuentroinvestigadores.com.co>). We expect that in future versions of the event, ABA Colombia will contribute to the dissemination and organization of behavior analysis information.

Secondly, the national agency that regulates health services in Colombia (Ministerio Nacional de Salud)

recently announced a list of technologies that, according to their analyses, should no longer be subsidized with governmental resources due to their lack of efficacy, safety, and lack of approval by the office that oversees quality and distribution of food and medications in the country—Invima (El Colombiano, March 2017; ABC de TEA y ABA, Ministerio de Salud Nacional). A list of non-behavior analytic interventions for autism was included, such as hyperbaric chambers, gluten-free therapies, cellular therapies, vitamin supplements, transcranial magnetic stimulation, aromatherapy, animal-supported therapies (with dogs, horses, and dolphins), and music-supported therapy. This ruling positively contributes to a long debate in the academic and professional community that in the past has advocated for the recognition of the efficacy of ABA-oriented interventions, and thus their inclusion in the coverage of health plans.

ABA España

BY VIGINIA BEJARANO, KATERINA DOUNAVI, CELIA NOGALES, AND JAVIER VIRUES-ORTEGA

ABA España continues to make efforts toward disseminating behavior analysis in the Spanish-speaking world. A key to this process is our online approved course sequence (ACS) and our distance and on-site network of supervisors. These initiatives have helped to train behavior analysts in many countries over the years. Our ACS is one of the few taught completely in a language other than English. A great challenge of non-English ACS is the development, translation, and update of study materials. As part of this line of work, we have endeavored to translate the Cooper, Heron, and Heward manual, which we hope will be available in Spanish later this year at a very affordable price.

This summer we hosted the II Summer School of the European Association for Behaviour Analysis in Cádiz, Spain. The event featured workshops and keynote talks of distinguished behavior analysts from Europe and the US: Greg Hanley, Chris Podlesnik, Neil Martin, Per Holth, and Ricardo Pellon, to mention just a few. We hope that the event triggered a boost for behavior analysis at the host university. The event was supported by ABA España's Behavior Analysis Program chair at the Universidad de Cádiz. Attendees were able to earn CEUs and ECTS credits (European university credits).

ABA Saudi Arabia

BY MONA AL-HADDAD

ABA Saudi Arabia was accepted as an affiliated chapter of ABAI on May 31, 2013. Four years since the establishment of the chapter, ABA Saudi Arabia is taking responsibility to commit to its mission statement:

“ABA Saudi Arabia was created with the mission to disseminate information about the science of applied behavior analysis and support the development of and access to behavior analytic services for people in need. To accomplish this mission, the chapter seeks to support the development of graduate opportunities for appropriate candidates within Saudi Arabia, plan and support continuing education for practicing behavior analysts, and advocate for the right to community-based access to behavior-analytic services through governmental and regulatory channels in Saudi Arabia”

The founding and current officers are Mona Al-Haddad, MEd, BCBA, president; Faisal Alnermary, Ph.D. candidate at UCLA, BCBA, president-elect; Shumaila Jaffry, MS, BCBA, secretary; Katelyn Craig, MS, BCBA, treasurer; and Amal Abulayiah, BS, BCaBA, publication and marketing officer.

ABA Saudi Arabia currently has around 60 members, consisting of practicing behavior analysts, professionals in behavior analysis, students (graduate and undergraduate), speech pathologists, and community-based individuals interested in the science and service of behavior analysis in Saudi Arabia. The chapter continues to commit to accomplishing its mission through providing workshops to people in the community including parents, practitioners at intervention centers (e.g., Jeddah Autism Center, Saudi Association for Autism, Jeddah institute for Speech and Hearing-JISH), and teachers. All of these workshops started to show great impact of increasing the number of individuals who either want to take more workshops, look for ABA services instead of pseudoscientific methods, or study ABA courses. Due to this fact, the chapter's mission is to keep spreading awareness about ABA and people who are qualified to provide ABA services.

Furthermore, the chapter continued to be committed to its members by involving them in most meetings that involved taking the chapter forward. For example, on March 27, 2017, the chapter held a meeting and invited most available members to participate in making decisions regarding voting for president-elect, including certificants from different regions to be members of the chapter (e.g., Riyadh, Dammam, Jeddah), signing a petition for licensure, providing continuing education credit hours to certified members, and more. This meeting was headed by the chapter's president, Mona Al-Haddad, and all of the officers were there in person except for the nominated president-elect, who attended through FaceTime.

One of the major decisions made in this meeting was filing a petition to legalize the practice of ABA in Saudi Arabia. ABA Saudi Arabia is committed to increasing access for individuals in Saudi Arabia to behavior analytic

services. Therefore, the chapter plans collaborative work with educational, governmental, and regulatory channels (Saudi Health Commission) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Until today, ABA was not recognized as a practice nor as a profession. This lack of recognition started to affect the spread of service and support for families who started to ask for their children's services to be covered through the government. The chapter's main officers managed to get the signatures of 12 certified behavior analysts and eight potential behavior analysts (students or practitioners who are going to sit for the exam soon); all are chapter members. The chapter is seeking any source of support and guidance from ABAI in regard to filing this petition for obtaining ABA licensure. The chapter's president and president-elect are planning to travel to Riyadh (Capital of Saudi Arabia) to meet with the Minister of Health and submit the petition.

Moreover, from the beginning, ABA Saudi Arabia has recruited members throughout the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Middle East, and globally, drawing together individuals living and working in Saudi Arabia and individuals worldwide committed to the dissemination and growth of ABA in the Middle East region. However, the chapter is still struggling to recruit more members and maintain existing ones. As a result, the chapter's president shared with all members the idea of having our chapter become an associate chapter of ABAI. All members attending the meeting agreed to this, and all necessary steps have been taken to complete this task.

Carrying on its mission to disseminate ABA to the Arabic-speaking community, ABA Saudi Arabia is heavily involved in translating ABA-related documents. To date, the following documents have been translated and edited by the chapter's president-elect and president:

- Compliance code
- Glossary version 1
- Glossary version 2
- 4th edition task list
- RBT task list
- RBT competency assessment

We are currently working on translating the experience standards and forms.

ABA Saudi Arabia is committed to an ambitious schedule of continuing education hours for its members free of charge for this year. The main officers of the chapter will run these CEU meetings. In addition, the chapter purchased a URL and is working on the establishment of its website to advance the goal of becoming an associate chapter. Besides the website, many members proposed the idea of being visible on social media, such as having a YouTube channel, Twitter account, and Snapchat, which are going to be carefully discussed and planned.

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Last year's goal of conducting an ABA conference was not accomplished due primarily to financial reasons. However, processing licensure for ABA as a practice and profession will facilitate hosting such a conference.

Finally, the chapter is focusing on continuing education opportunities for practicing behavior analysts and increasing knowledge and learning about ABA for all members in the community.

ABA Saudi Arabia welcomes members at the full, affiliate, and student levels. Membership is open to all individuals interested or actively engaged in behavior analysis. For the time being, until we become an associate chapter, any person wishing to become a member must submit a completed application form and pay annual membership dues. Contact abasaudiarabia@gmail.com or malhaddad@dah.edu.sa for more information.

ABA Switzerland

BY AMANDA REBERT, ERIKA GLAUS, CHARLOTTE ESCANE, MARIE LECLERC, SILJA WIRTH, AND YANNICK SCHENCK

In 2016, ABA Switzerland's committee changed and we welcomed Amanda Rebert as our new president. The committee has also grown; we now have a vice secretary and a student representative! This allows for the delegation of work across board members as well as the incorporation of the various regions of Switzerland and professional levels to be represented. Our main goal is to streamline processes and systems for the committee members for future professionals wishing to become a part of the committee.

In 2016, board members from the German-speaking part of Switzerland engaged in a collaboration with ABA Germany. The goal was the development of a second edition of a German glossary for ABA-specific terms. A common use of terms across borders throughout a whole language area is paramount for the future dissemination of applied behavior analysis and in order to maintain effective communication among professionals and consumers. The glossary has been completed and is currently under review by members of both ABA Switzerland and ABA Germany.

Another activity of our organization has been to provide behavior analytic professionals with opportunities to enrich their practice. In spring of 2016, ABA Switzerland hosted a webinar on parent training with Dr. Eric V. Larsson, Ph.D., LP, BCBA-D, as the presenter. He is the executive director of Clinical Services at the Lovaas Institute for Early Intervention and assistant professor of the Clinical Faculty in the Department of Psychology at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Larsson talked about the history of parent training at the Lovaas Institute and reasons why involving parents in an EIBI program with children with ASD is important. He presented two procedures for successful implementation: the generalization procedure and the program of the week. The webinar also discussed

considerations regarding family life and conflict resolution. At the end participants were able to ask questions, which Dr. Larsson readily answered.

Since mid-2016, ABA Switzerland has had a Facebook page rather than a Facebook group. Our goal is to advertise our actions and to disseminate behavior analysis via this medium. As part of these efforts to help disseminate our wonderful science amongst the autism community, ABA Switzerland also participated in the World Autism Awareness day event organized by the 2nd of April Committee in Lausanne this year. The day was filled with all things blue, the color of autism; blue painted faces, clothes, and pastries were everywhere to help encourage the general public to come in and ask questions about autism. A film funded by the committee was projected along with a video of all the places illuminated in blue across Switzerland, and a comic book targeting adolescents was sold. ABA Switzerland hopes to continue to build bridges with other associations on this day in an effort to get behavior analysis more recognized within the autism community in this country.

Our goals for 2017 are to continue to research and contact professionals abroad in order to offer free webinars as well as CEUs to our members regarding topics of interest. We would also like to establish focus groups to allow for collaboration across the various regions of Switzerland. As the various cantons and regions approve and advance at different stages, this will allow our members to become a closer-knit group as well to spread our news and advances in the field of behavior analysis. We will continue to support neighboring countries in translation projects where appropriate.

ABA Turkey

BY ELIF TEKIN-IFTAR

Behavior analysis is an emerging field in Turkey. Therefore, our first initiative was to translate the *BCBA Task List* and *The Professional and Ethical Compliance Code for Behavior Analysis* developed by Behavior Analyst Certification Board into Turkish to disseminate information about behavior analysis across the nation and establish a groundwork for the professionals and practitioners who deliver behavior analytic services. The translated documents can be found at <https://bacb.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/160101-BCBA-BCaBA-task-list-fourth-edition-english.pdf> and <https://bacb.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/151122-compliance-code-turkish.pdf>, respectively.

Now we are planning to distribute these documents in Turkey through the ABA Turkey website, which will be launching soon. Additionally, we will organize a meeting to discuss effective ways of increasing membership nationwide. Then, ABA Turkey will have a national meeting to introduce the chapter as well as the field of behavior analysis to practitioners and professionals in related fields.

Bermuda ABA

BY ERICA SMITH, THEA FURBERT, EMMA MARTIN, NATASHA PEDRO-PETTY, AND JAHNAE HARVEY

How do we manage to grow the profession of applied behavior analysis on a small island in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean? By continually using international best-practice standards and tirelessly raising the awareness and importance of the profession, that's how.

It was another active and busy year in Bermuda for the ABA profession! Through the continued partnership with Tomorrow's Voices—Bermuda Autism Early Intervention Centre, Bermuda's first and only autism early intervention center, Bermuda ABA (BABA) continues to expand its members' skills, experiences, and numbers.

BABA's membership in 2016 grew to 14. The growth in the awareness and use of ABA in Bermuda continued to be directly linked to the development and continued sustainability of Tomorrow's Voices. Over its 9 years of existence, the clinical center has hired and trained 34 staff in the use of ABA/VB, not to mention the hundreds of parents, volunteers, students, educators, and allied health professionals trained through workshops, seminars, and work shadows. The formation of BABA in fall 2011 was due in part to the ongoing work by Tomorrow's Voices and continues to be sustained through this partnership, as most of those who practice ABA in Bermuda are employed by Tomorrow's Voices. BABA's goals for 2017 are the following:

- To sustain the members we have while growing the profession of ABA/VB in Bermuda.
- To increase BABA membership.
- To lobby the local insurance companies for coverage of ABA/VB services.
- To continue to influence public policy and legislation in Bermuda.
- To provide continuing professional development for educators, allied health professionals, parents, and the wider community.

In 2016, the partnership between Tomorrow's Voices and BABA resulted in the following training workshops, presented by BABA members, Tomorrow's Voices senior VB therapists, and BCBAs Emma Martin and Natasha Pedro-Petty in subjects related to ABA and special needs:

- February 15, 2016—Effective Teaching Procedures
- February 16, 2016—Managing Challenging Behaviours
- February 17, 2016—Skill Generalization: What Does This Really Mean?
- April 22, 2016—Early Learning Skills—facilitated by visiting international BCBAs Liz Cranmer and Megan McCarron
- April 23, 2016—Challenging Behaviours—facilitated by visiting international BCBAs Liz Cranmer and Megan McCarron

- June 15, 2016—Why Play? and Using Technology as an Effective Teaching Tool
- October 19, 2016—Intrinsic Motivation (Part 1): Does It Exist? Exploring History and Theory
- November 23, 2016—Intrinsic Motivation (Part 2): Using What We've Learned Practical Application

2017 planned workshops will focus on the following topics:

- February 2017—More than Just the Two of Us: ABA in Group Settings
- April 2017—Behind the Scenes: A Parent's Perspective of Autism
- June 2017—What's on the Menu? Managing Picky Eaters
- September 2017—Let's Put That on Paper: Data Collection Methods
- November 2017—Let's Talk About It: A Workshop on Communication

Tomorrow's Voices and BABA led the way with regards to growing the ABA profession in Bermuda. BABA members continue to serve on the ASD taskforce. Two BABA members (and Tomorrow's Voices staff) attended the ABAAI convention in Chicago in May 2016. As a result, they returned with new therapy strategies that they thought would benefit clients in Bermuda, and have subsequently provided trainings to other BABA members on what was learned.

In 2016, two BABA members (and Tomorrow's Voices staff), Frances Parkes and Naomi Taylor, submitted research papers on Bermuda subject matter, which were accepted to be presented as posters at the 2017 ABAAI convention in Denver. This was a first for Bermuda, research being submitted and accepted at an international convention, which was a great achievement for the island.

Additionally in 2016, Tomorrow's Voices was nominated for the 2016 Global Health & Pharma (GHP) Social Care Award for Best Autism Treatment & Prevention Centre—Caribbean. This was a direct result of the leadership of BABA members Thea Furbert (Tomorrow's Voices chair and co-founder); Emma Martin, BCBA; and Natasha Pedro-Petty, BCBA, who have been at the forefront of growing Tomorrow's Voices and the ABA profession in Bermuda. Tomorrow's Voices won the award in 2017 and was featured in the GHP 2017 *Social Care Awards Magazine*, which was circulated worldwide to 260,000 subscribers.

Looking forward, we will continue to grow the profession in 2017. Two BABA members (and Tomorrow's Voices staff) took the BACB exam in summer 2017, and we continue to work to increase the number of board certified behavior analysts practicing on the island.

Given the small size and relative isolation of Bermuda, this is by no means a small feat, but we see this continual

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growth as validation of our commitment to advancing ABA in Bermuda. Anyone interested in becoming a member of BABA or finding out more information should contact Erica Smith at (441) 297-4342 or info@tomorrowvoices.bm.

British Columbia ABA

BY HEIDI ST. PIERRE

The British Columbia Association for Behaviour Analysis (BC-ABA) has had quite a productive year! We are excited to share our accomplishments and future directions with other affiliated chapters.

BC-ABA is made up of 13 elected board members who meet 11 times per year to advance behavior analysis in the province. We have a strong and active board with wonderful diversity in our abilities.

Licensure of BCBA's and BCBA-Ds has been an ongoing area of interest for BC-ABA. BC-ABA is working closely with the College of Psychologists of British Columbia and in conjunction with the provincial government's Ministry of Health in regulating the field of behavior analysis in BC. We hope to continue moving this forward after our May 2017 provincial election.

The BC-ABA conference committee sponsored two events over the course of 2016–2017. In October 2016, BC-ABA was happy to bring Dr. Matthew Brodhead to Vancouver for his 1-day workshop, "Strategies for Using Photographic Activity Schedules and Script Training to Promote Independence, Verbal Behavior, and Social Skills in Individuals with Autism." This was a well-attended event and a great success.

BC-ABA's annual conference was March 3–4, 2017 at the University of British Columbia with a fantastic turn-out. This year, we hosted both Dr. James Carr and Dr. Jon Bailey. Dr. Carr presented our March 3 workshop, "Selecting Function-Based Treatments for Socially Maintained Problem Behavior," as well as a presentation on the current happenings of the Behavior Analyst Certification Board. Dr. Bailey presented our keynote address, "The Ethics of Supervision," as well as moderated our end-of-day panel on ethical considerations in the age of cloud technology and social media. The conference continues to be a great success with attendance numbers near our 280-person capacity.

BC-ABA continues to try to improve our conference every year with this year being no exception. We will be offering two scholarships at the undergraduate and graduate levels for students to present their research at next year's conference—please visit our website for more information about the scholarships and how you can apply in the near future: www.BC-ABA.org. The call for papers for the 2018 conference is now open. We welcome anyone to submit and look forward to expanding the variety of presentations we can offer. Next year's events will be posted on our website once details are final.

In addition to hosting our October event and the annual conference, BC-ABA sponsored two separate events to provide continuing education credits to BCBA's, BCBAs, and BCBA-Ds.

For the eighth year in a row, BC-ABA presented an Expo poster at the ABAI convention. This was a wonderful event and a great way to meet BC-ABA board members and find out first-hand about the chapter and its current happenings.

BC-ABA's membership continues to maintain approximately 300 members across full, associate, and student memberships. There are multiple benefits to being a BC-ABA member. Our membership fee has not increased since our inception, but the benefits to being a member improve each year. BC-ABA members are able to access six different behavior analytic journals, gain access to conference presentation slides, review BC-ABA meeting minutes for up-to-date information regarding the chapter, receive current information and news through our monthly emails, and network with other BC-ABA members. All this for only 30 CND per year for a full membership!

BC-ABA is unique in that we have a Student Alliance Committee run by our elected student representatives. It is a five person committee made up of students enrolled in behavior analytic programs in BC. They work at advancing behavior analysis among the student population and host various events throughout the year to facilitate this goal.

BC-ABA is honored to continue to be an active affiliated chapter of ABAI.

Central China ABA

BY DEHUA GUO

Professional Personal Training

Central China ABA has accomplished much in professional personal training, including the following successes:

- 35 CNABAs for services for children with autism
- 12 BCBA's
- 11 SBTs
- 500 person hours to parents for ABA knowledge and skills in Beijing
- 2,500 person hours to parents who attended workshops in 27 provinces of PR China

Authorized by the BACB for Training of BCBAs

In May 2016, CNABA invited Dr. Neil Martin, director of International Development at the BACB, to China. High-ranking leaders from the China Disabled Persons Federation met with Dr. Martin and discussed developing ABA courses with chiefs from different colleges who responded actively to CNABA calling.

CNABA Visited ABAI Office for Further Collaboration

In October 2016, Ms. Hong Wen, chairperson of the China Association of Persons with Psychiatric

Disabilities and their Relatives (CAPPDR) and her main team members visited the ABAl office and had a fruitful meeting with Dr. Maria Malott, CEO of ABAl. Ms. Wen introduced the huge potential for developing ABA in China. Both sides agreed to establish an associate chapter in China.

Establishment of Associate Chapter

In November 2016, all procedures were finished for establishing an ABAl associate chapter in China. Teams were set up under the current system to develop members and a website. The team also kept working closely with colleges on broad ABA courses exchanges.

Promoting ABA in Public Schools by Exerting Influence on the Government

Over the past 4 years, CAPPDR has been making efforts to promote basic ABA concepts in China by training professional teachers. In November 2016, the Haidian Education Committee, in charge of the typical and most advanced educational community, agreed that all resource teachers in public schools would accept systematic ABA training given by CNABA. This is definitely a symbol of acknowledgment and acceptance of ABA by the Chinese educational administration. There is no doubt that it will be a milestone in ABA development in China.

Chinese ABA

BY KARINA CHEUNG MIAO MIAO

In the previous year, the China Association for Behavior Analysis (CABA) focused on promoting the science of behavior analysis in Mainland China by (a) initiating the process of developing an applied behavior analysis professional training course sequence for local therapists, (b) taking part in writing two professional training books for the China Association of Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons, and (c) organizing its third annual conference.

On January 9, 2016, CABA was officially accepted by the China Association of Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons as one of its professional committees, ABA Professional Committee of CARD (ABA-CARDP). We held a 1-day conference in Beijing. On June 25, 2016, CABA held its second conference in Beijing. Scholars, practitioners, and interested individuals from all around the country attended. We invited Dr. Neil Martin from the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB) to give a half-day training: "Updates, Developments and Opportunities Around the World." During Dr. Martin's presentation, he discussed BCBA and BCaBA certification and the registered behavior technician credential. He also presented the numbers of certificants and approved course sequences. Dr. Martin shared with the audience the most recent updates, developments, and changes to standards from the BACB. Finally, he provided a general overview

of certification along with specific aspects of international growth and development, with a focus on the establishment and support of BACB credentials around the world. We also had Dr. Guo Yan Qing share his theory of academic, language, social skills, and occupational skills for helping ASD families by an integration of the four key elements in their everyday lives. Professor Wang Yong Gu from Zhejiang Technology University presented his research on social story training using high-technology systems. Dr. Wang Li Ying presented her research on both adolescent and adult intervention at her center in Jilin, China. Dr. Li Xue presented her research on social skills training for high-functioning ASD teenagers. Ms. Cheung Miao Miao gave a talk on ABA-CARDP's BCBA and BCaBA course sequences and application process. We also invited Dr. Dorothy Zhang Xuan and Ms. Zhu Jing to provide pre-conference workshops on social skills training and behavior management, respectively. The conference ended with further discussion on the future development of ABA in China. Dr. Guo's concepts of professional-elite training series (PETs), professional-general training series (PGTs), and public awareness training series (PATs) were well accepted by the CABA/ABA-CARDP committee members and details were discussed.

In 2017–2018, we will be actively working toward the goal to provide high-quality and professional services to the Chinese public in three ways. These are the PETs, PGTs, and PATs. PETs focused on training ABA specialists for the special education field in mainland China; for this training, we invited Chinese-speaking BCBA-Ds and BCBAAs to provide systematic training programs for local therapists who hold at least a bachelor's degree and have been working in an educational setting for more than 3 years. PGTs programs aimed to invite qualified speakers to provide year-long training programs to both local therapists and parents. PATs training, provided by trained therapists, focused on public awareness of how powerful ABA is, and stressed the fact that the principles of ABA are not only evidence-based training programs for ASDs, but also can be used in school settings as well as any settings that include human behavior.

Icelandic ABA

BY ASA RUN INGIMARSDOTTIR, HOLMFRIDUR OSKARNALDS, AND KRISTIN MARGRET ARNALDSDDOTTIR

The Icelandic Association for Behavior Analysis (ICEABA) continues to promote the development of behavior analysis as a basic and applied science in Iceland and introduce the applications of behavior analysis to professionals and students alike.

We are a small and growing association of 60 members. Part of the association's purpose is to introduce the different behavior analysis master's and doctoral programs

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available to Icelandic students. Applied behavior analysis has a longstanding and well-established footing at the University of Iceland and more recently at the University of Reykjavik. Some students opt to do postgraduate research in behavior analysis in Iceland. Traditionally, Icelandic students have completed their graduate studies in applied behavior analysis abroad, such as in the US, UK, and Norway. Right now two students are studying abroad. The options for Icelandic students have recently expanded as Reykjavik University now offers an MSc program for 20 students each year in clinical psychology with a BACB approved course sequence in applied behavior analysis, with the second group graduating this year.

The association places emphasis on informal meetings where members can share information on research and work in the field. We find this very important for the vitality of our group. Our coffeehouse meetings and our Facebook page have served as great venues for lively discussions.

ICEABA's largest event this past year was a 2-day conference on behavior analysis that was attended by 100 participants. Our keynote speakers were Dr. Bill Ahearn, Dr. Jennifer Austin, and Dr. Einar Ingvarsson. The conference also featured talks by Icelandic researchers, practitioners, and students as well as poster presentations. Other ICEABA events included coffeehouse meetings open to all members and student nights for students of psychology and social pedagogy where we introduced the field of behavior analysis and graduate programs open to them.

The official language of Iceland is Icelandic, a North Germanic language. It is spoken only by the 320,000 people of Iceland. Icelandic behavior analysts and students often run into problems when trying to talk about behavior analysis in Icelandic. Because of this, ICEABA nominated four of its members, G. Adda Ragnarsdóttir, Ingi Jón Hauksson, Kristján Guðmundsson, and Þorlákur Karlsson, to translate and coordinate professional behavior analytic terms, from English to Icelandic. We expect to publish this work this year.

The members of ICEABA are excited for the future. We aim to continue working on promoting the science of behavior in Iceland and being a professional reference group for scientists and practitioners in the field of behavior analysis.

Jordanian ABA

BY MAHMOUD SHEYAB

This chapter is made up of members who are among the first graduates from Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) countries of the master's program at the Jordan University of Science and Technology. The chapter's next conference will be in Irbid, Jordan, in August with the title, "Professional and Service Development of Jor-ABA." There are now six BCBAs in Jordan and five people ready

to sit for the exam. The mission/objectives of Jordanian ABA are the following:

- To allow for communication among behavior analysts and those interested in behavior analysis in Jordan and other MENA countries.
- To advance the science of behavior analysis and disseminate and encourage its application for changing socially relevant behaviors, advocating ethical practices, and providing leadership in the practice of the science in diverse fields like education, developmental disabilities, autism, mental health, organizational behavior management, and research.
- To contribute to the well-being of society by developing, enhancing, and supporting the growth and vitality of the science of behavior analysis in Jordan and the region through research, education, and practice.

Kenya ABA

BY POOJA PANESAR

The Kenya Association for Behaviour Analysis (KABA) was approved in July 2016 after 2 years of finding a way to meet the requirements. There is not much awareness of behavior analysis as a science in this country, and currently there is only one BCBA who lives here full time. This had posed a challenge in the make-up of membership and how dissemination of the science should be done. After many meetings, it was agreed to have various membership categories, including those for parents and organizations.

Since the formation, there have been two chapter events in collaboration with Kaizora Institute (an organization providing ABA services for individuals with developmental disorders). The first event was a workshop in December 2016 on evidence-based approaches and the effectiveness of behavior analysis for a group of parents and professionals seeking clarification on applied behavior analysis. This was successful, and many parents and professionals went home with a better understanding of the vast applications of behavior analysis, as well as some practical tools they can use.

KABA had its first awareness, acceptance, and inclusion event April 1, 2017. It was a free event to the public, and activities involved a fully supervised (150 volunteers) entertainment section for the children. In addition, while the children enjoyed the entertainment, the parents/caregivers were able to attend a full day of workshops by various professionals on numerous topics, and visit stalls by various organizations. This event was held in recognition of World Autism Awareness Day.

Since KABA was formed less than a year ago, there have not been funds to get the chapter moving forward as yet. However, as the executive board plans for an AGM, we hope to delegate duties that would include membership among others. This should lead to a source of income that can then be used to create a website and increase the number of activities by the chapter.

Manitoba ABA

BY MORENA MILJKOVIC

The Manitoba Association for Behaviour Analysis (MABA) is proud to be in its 12th year as an affiliated chapter of ABAI. During our 11th year several objectives were met, including offering CEU events for BCBAs and BCBA-Ds, successfully publishing two newsletters, organizing our Fourth Annual Student Poster Competition, hosting our fifth Volunteer Appreciation Night and our 11th Annual Conference, hosting our first workshop, hosting two journal webinars in collaboration with the Ontario Association for Behavior Analysis, and holding our Annual General Meeting. To promote MABA as an affiliated chapter of ABAI, we presented an Expo poster at the ABAI 42nd Annual Convention in Chicago, IL.

This past year, MABA's Advisory Committee has been working to review licensing and certification options for behavior analysts in our province. Discussions are underway, and our long-term goal is for licensing to be an option for behavior analysts who have received their degree from a distance education ABA program or who have a degree in an applicable field other than psychology.

In October 2016, MABA was successful in partnering with the Department of Psychology at the University of Manitoba to host Dr. Patrick Friman (American Board of Professional Psychologists, Behavioral Health Boys Town, University of Nebraska) for a psychology department colloquium. Dr. Friman was also the keynote speaker at our 11th Annual Conference and delivered a presentation titled, "Anxiety in Persons on the Spectrum: The Psychological Equivalent of Fever." The conference also featured presentations by our invited speakers, Dr. Janine Montgomery (University of Manitoba), who presented on integrating ABA principles into practice and research; Brandon Franklin and Stephen Foreman (Kentucky Association for Behavior Analysis), who presented on navigating crises; and Dr. Genevieve Roy-Wskiaki, who presented on training tasks and learning abilities of children with autism. Our conference also included a panel discussion with Drs. Patrick Friman, Janine Montgomery, Kirsten Wirth, and Mylena Lima on the topic of using ABA principles with adolescents with autism.

We are already looking forward to our 12th Annual Conference, to be held Thursday, September 21 at the University of Manitoba. The conference will feature presentations by our keynote speaker, Dr. William Heward (The Ohio State University). Stay tuned for information about our invited speakers in the coming months!

MABA became a continuing education (CE) provider in 2013, and in 2016 we organized several events that offered affordable or free CEUs to our members who are BCBAs and BCBA-Ds. These included our student poster competition, two web-based journal seminars in collaboration with the Ontario Association for Behavior

Analysis, our annual conference, and our first workshop. We were honored to host Dr. Caio Miguel (California State University), who delivered an exceptional workshop on discrimination training for children with ASD.

MABA also hosted its Fourth Annual Student Poster competition at St. Amant. All psychology students with behaviorally oriented research were invited to submit their research posters, and eight students were accepted into the competition. Our judges, Drs. James Ediger, Carly Chand, and Kerri Walters, evaluated the posters and presentations to select our graduate and undergraduate winners.

In pursuit of our mission to disseminate information on behavior analysis, MABA participated in the Manitoba Psychological Society's annual psychology month event in February 2016. We sponsored a presentation by Dr. Kirsten Wirth (Wirth Behavioral Services, University of Manitoba) titled, "Turn 'No Way' Into Okay: Getting Your Kids to Listen and Follow Instructions." The general public was welcome to attend and there was an excellent turnout of parents and ABA practitioners. Additionally, we sponsored an information booth at St. Amant to promote behavior analysis.

In April 2016, MABA sponsored the Parents for Autistic Children Everywhere (PACE) walk for World Autism Awareness Day. Our Executive Council had a booth at the event and took part in the walk. In May 2016, MABA attended the Annual Convention in Chicago, IL and presented a poster at the Expo. We greatly enjoyed participating in the event and also had the opportunity to meet with fellow Canadian chapter board members to share suggestions and ideas.

Our key objectives for 2017 include advocating for additional ABA faculty at the University of Manitoba, exploring licensing and registration options for behavior analysts in Manitoba, increasing our membership through various recruitment initiatives, providing a variety of presentations for the general public on matters relating to behavior analysis, organizing events that will provide CEUs and promote our membership, partnering with local organizations, colleges, and universities to promote awareness of ABA in Manitoba, and hosting our 12th Annual Conference.

Norwegian ABA

BY ERIK ARNTZEN

In 2016 Norwegian ABA had about 800 members, and this number has been relatively stable for the past 20 years. Most of the members hold a bachelor's degree in social welfare; however, an increasing number of members hold a master's degree or Ph.D. in behavior analysis.

Norwegian ABA arranges an annual conference. The number of attendees at the annual conference was 680. The conference lasted 4 days with five to six parallel tracks.

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At the conference in 2016, we had presentations within all domains of behavior analysis, and there is a growing interest in both experimental and conceptual issues. Also, translational research was presented. Dr. Poling, Western Michigan University, was an invited speaker and he gave a couple of presentations: “Operant Learning and the Motivating Operations Concept: A Skeptical Appraisal,” and, “Using Pouched Rats to Detect Landmines and Tuberculosis: Research Findings and Practical Applications.” A couple of years ago, we included a poster session as part of the program at the annual conference. This session is a welcomed opportunity for students to participate. The number of posters has increased since posters were included in the conference program.

Norwegian ABA publishes two journals: *The Norwegian Journal of Behavior Analysis* and *The European Journal of Behavior Analysis (EJOBA)*. *The Norwegian Journal of Behavior Analysis* is published twice a year. It is a peer-reviewed journal that publishes papers on research, practice, and conceptual issues in behavior analysis mainly in Norwegian. Since 2011, abstracts in English have been included. *EJOBA* (www.ejoba.org) is a peer-reviewed journal published twice a year. *EJOBA* is primarily for the original publication of experimental reports and theoretical or conceptual papers relevant to the analysis of the behavior of individual organisms. *EJOBA* has published several special issues since the first volume in 2000. *EJOBA* has a collaboration with Taylor & Francis.

Polish Society for Behavioral Psychology

BY BARTŁOMIEJ SWEBODZIŃSKI

The most important event for Polish Society for Behavioral Psychology during last months was a general meeting of members. The meeting took place in June 2017 and the main task for the members was to elect new authorities of the Society. The following members were elected to the executive board: Przemysław Bąbel (Jagiellonian University Kraków, Pain Research Group) for the post of the chairman; Paweł Ostaszewski (SWPS University of Social Science and Humanities Warsaw, a dean of Psychology department and a chef of Behavioral Analysis faculty) for the post of the vice chairman; Anna Ziółkowska (SWPS University of Social Science and Humanities Poznań, vice dean for didactics) and Krystyna Pomorska (SWPS University of Social Science and Humanities Warsaw, associate lecturer) for the post of the secretary; and Bartłomiej Swobodziński (SWPS University of Social Science and Humanities Warsaw, associate lecturer) for the post of the treasurer (continuous since 2011). The new executive board consists of people from at least three university centers in Poland (Kraków, Poznań, Warsaw).

The Society continues to work on the development of a Polish behavior analyst certification system that was created and introduced in 2010 in collaboration with our partner organization, the Polish Society for Behavioral Therapy (www.terapeutabehawioralny.pl). Our aim is to improve the quality of service provided by behavior analysts in Poland by establishing professional standards of good work and proper conduct. An executive committee has been formed to oversee the implementation of this system; two Society members regularly attend committee meetings. The executive committee's main responsibilities are:

- Evaluate the applications of candidates for the title of behavioral analyst according to the standards of the certification system.
- Develop standards for training programs and evaluate new courses proposed by supervisors within the system.
- Answering on-going questions concerning certification and provide consistent interpretation of rules.
- Propagate information about the certification system and behavioral therapy in Poland.

One of our major ongoing goals is to establish closer, collaborative relationships with universities (SWPS University in particular). The Society is also working closely with some of the largest Polish psychological associations on an official petition to the government to re-open formal discussions on the status of therapists in the context of the Polish legal system. Right now, this status is unclear and scientific and professional psychology organizations have been calling for an open dialogue and regulations, with the intent of calling public attention to the problems this lack of clarity has created.

The Society usually hosts an international symposium, often in April, that is sometimes informally called the “Skinnerian Symposium.” This year, we took a break from this event, but there are plans to reintroduce it in 2018 (possible locations are Poznań, Warsaw, and Cracow).

Also this year, the Society did not grant an award for the best graduate thesis related to behavioral topics. In the past, the number of applications for this award was disappointing, in part due to the low popularity of behavior analysis among psychology students in Poland. However, the quality of the few applications that were submitted was very high and award winners have gone on to postgraduate programs, scientific careers, and have published articles in top-ranked journals (e.g., Karolina Świder and her article in the *International Association for the Study of Pain*, “The Effect of the Sex of a Model on Nocebo Hyperalgesia Induced by Social Observational Learning”). There are plans to reintroduce this award in 2018 and to broaden the criteria of admission to include students, postgraduate students, and participants in behavioral training programs that end with a written thesis supervised by professional academic researchers.

Philippines ABA

BY MARIA TERESA COJUANGCO

In 2016, Philippines ABA continued to extend its awareness program to health centers at the local government level. It embarked on a nationwide awareness program by launching an autism awareness feature and advertisements through television, radio, print, and social media.

Several members of an advertising company with family members diagnosed on the autism spectrum donated their time to creating an awareness program for Philippines ABA. This was a collaboration in coming up with two feature presentations as an awareness advertisement on autism aiming to target families from the lower income and social level of the community affected by different challenges of having to care for an individual on the spectrum or with special needs.

The campaign material was also prepared in print form and distributed to the different health centers of the local government giving free assistance and health care to underprivileged members of the community. Community health care workers, volunteer members of Philippines ABA, and several medical professionals used the materials in their respective autism awareness and caregiving assistance programs.

Different local television and cable channels ran the awareness ad campaign for a period of 6 months, while several local radio stations carried the feature for a period of 1 year. Likewise, the campaign was used as an avenue to raise funds to support the awareness program through the health care units of the local government. The campaign was widely received as various local government agencies expressed interest to extend the campaign for another year and the possibility of presenting more teacher training programs and providing more training materials.

Several local government health centers coordinated some of their intervention programs with Philippines ABA affiliate centers in providing assessments and behavior treatment plans needed for children with different special needs. A functional skills program was also included in the training program. Several student volunteers and interns from various universities were given basic training in ABA and offered their services for free to the local health community centers. ABA providers were also organized to give assistance to these health care units.

Philippines ABA was given guidelines by the BACB for local practitioners interested to achieve certification as BCaBAs or BCBAAs. This initial approach will assist the Philippines to elevate the level of its practitioners as board certified BCaBA and BCBA professionals. The certification will allow them to observe consistency in their ABA treatment programs and observe the proper standards. Several interested local practitioners started working in April 2016 on their BACB course

requirements. These practitioners are committed to upgrade their practice and follow the standard behavior analytic interventions required. Some centers offering ABA services also started their RBT training courses for their respective in-house therapists. These therapists and practitioners going through their credentials are mentored by BCBA supervisors from the US and Singapore. Independent practitioners are also encouraged to obtain their credentials to provide more consistent ABA services.

Philippines ABA will continue collaborating with several medical professionals, universities, and government agencies in providing updated ABA intervention, awareness, and caregiving programs for local communities having families with special needs children. It is committed to provide and assist local ABA providers with their diverse concerns in improving their knowledge and ABA services. Inviting more certified BCBA professionals from the US and Singapore to give lectures on the current studies in ABA has been coordinated.

Swedish ABA

BY DAG STRÖMBERG

The Swedish Association for Behavior Analysis (SWABA) had 179 members in 2016, an increase of 34 persons. One objective during the year was to increase SWABA's activity in social media, in the form of disseminating research and news concerning behavior analysis, as well as providing opportunities for discussion among members. More than 700 people are currently following SWABA on Facebook, a 37% increase from the year before, and we also have accounts on Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

In 2016, SWABA celebrated its 20th anniversary with a 2-day conference in Stockholm, with 230 attendees. The program contained 15 talks on various topics related to behavior analysis. Six of the speakers were Swedish and nine were international, including Dr. Maria Malott, CEO of ABAI.

In March 2017, the annual meeting was held in Stockholm, with 75 members attending. Topics covered included a panel discussion about OBM and an introduction to verbal behavior. There were also two talks related to autism by Dr. Robert Ross.

Swedish ABA was represented at the ABAI 43rd Annual Convention in Denver. As usual, a poster was presented at the Expo. Also, bids were accepted for a unique SWABA t-shirt, the proceeds of which were donated to the SABA unrestricted fund.

SWABA supports the formation of special interest groups, and information about each group is on our website. During the last year, the Animals SIG and the Certified Behavior Analysts SIG had meetings, while some of the other groups had contacts through social media.

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SWEDEN continued from page 55

SWABA would like to encourage anyone who plans to visit Sweden to contact the board (info@swaba.se) to explore the possibility of meeting and/or lecturing. SWABA holds its annual meeting during the first quarter of each year and a fall meeting/conference in October in Stockholm. Please visit the SWABA website for updates concerning the program.

Taiwan ABA

BY LI-TSUN WANG

The Taiwan Association for Behavior Analysis (TABA), established in 2001, is a nonprofit corporation affiliated in 2005 as a national chapter of ABAI. One of our missions is to spread the knowledge of behavior analysis to professionals and parents. Taiwanese government supports TABA training workshops every year to disseminate the practical use of ABA principles in the education and treatment of those with special needs in schools, private institutions, and homes, and to promote ABA to therapists, teachers, and parents. In 2016, the following objectives were met:

- An introductory series of ABA workshops for parents, teachers, and professionals, and intermediate workshops under the Child Welfare Bureau; the Ministry of the Interior in Taiwan continuously provided funding for the intermediate training. The goal of this intermediate ABA training workshop was to provide parents and practitioners with basic knowledge in ABA principles and prepare them to work more effectively for the long-term well-being of their children. In 2016, nearly 170 people attended workshops focused on school inclusion,

parent teaching skills, play skill training for special kids, behavior interventions, and more.

- The TABA Annual Conference, held in December, focused on the special topics of self-management issues and teaching new intraverbal strategies to promote professional growth. We were glad to see 50 members attending this conference.
- In December, there were two BCaBA course sequences; 17 students completed 180 course hours. Furthermore, TABA will hold the fourth course in 2017 to promote BCaBA certification.
- Finally, the online journal *Taiwan Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis* presented two papers about BST and how to increase response variability of intraverbal verbal behavior.

In 2017, TABA will continue to follow our mission to spread the knowledge of behavior analysis to professionals and parents, and to promote this science through workshops, the annual conference, BCaBA courses, and more. We also plan to increase web functionality to spread information from ABAI and the BACB, translate newsletters to Chinese, increase awareness of ABA in Taiwan, promote the establishment of international exchanges, and allow more people to learn of ABA professional improvement. ❖



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Updates From ABAI's Special Interest Groups

Autism SIG

BY ROBERT ROSS

The Autism SIG has undergone significant changes in structure and function over the past few years. It has refocused its mission and resources away from the creation and publication of a quarterly newsletter and resource website. Instead, it has focused its efforts on developing collaborations with other entities to develop resources and supports for families, practitioners, agencies, and other consumers and providers of ABA-based treatment services.

After successfully completing a time- and labor-intensive revision of the SIG's *Consumer Guidelines for Identifying Qualified Providers of ABA-Based Treatment Services*, the SIG leadership team has worked to re-format this technical document into a more family-friendly resource. The SIG has partnered with Autism Speaks to accomplish this task. The SIG conducted four focus groups of parents of individuals with ASD in New Jersey and California. The feedback obtained during these focus group meetings is being used to re-structure and simplify the document so it can be used more easily by consumers and to determine how to better disseminate the final product. The redesigned/refocused document was discussed at the SIG meeting at ABAI's convention in 2016.

As mentioned earlier, the SIG no longer develops and disseminates a newsletter; however, we have partnered with the Association of Science in Autism Treatment (ASAT) to disseminate their newsletter to our members. We strongly encourage anyone interested in autism treatment to consider subscribing to the ASAT newsletter.

The main project on the SIG's agenda is the development of resources to help identify quality school-based ABA programs. This is a multi-year program with many collaborators. We continue to seek committed volunteers (both on an individual and organizational level) to assist with this endeavor. Anyone interested in participating in the project is encouraged to email Bob Ross at bross@beaconservices.org.

Behavioral Gerontology SIG

BY CLAUDIA DROSSEL

The Behavioral Gerontology SIG (BGSIG) provides a forum for students, practitioners, and researchers who have an interest in applying the science, practice, and philosophy of behavior analysis to problems encountered by adults in later life, which typically refers to ages 65 and older. Our goal is to promote the development, implementation, and evaluation of behavior analytic approaches to a wide variety of topics of high public health significance in the older adult population. Among these topics are, for example, self-management for health promotion and disease prevention, functional assessments of and interventions for behavioral changes commonly associated with neurocognitive disorders (e.g., due to Alzheimer's disease), effective participation in inter- or multi-disciplinary teams, or aging with a disability. Because knowledge of the behavioral, medical, cultural, and social contexts of aging is necessary when working clinically with older adults, the BGSIG's long-term aim is to foster a strong collaborative mentorship model and serve as a hub for aging-related questions within ABAI.

The BGSIG uses its biannual newsletter, its website, and social media (Twitter, Facebook) for dissemination. As the BGSIG's membership and requests for educational support are increasing, we are surveying our membership and creating mechanisms whereby members who self-identify as students or professionals concerned about the behavior analysis of age-related issues will be able to communicate with each other and access mentoring support. The BGSIG invites participation and encourages collaborative endeavors to promote behavior analysis in a fast-growing area with high need.

For further information, including details about membership, go to <http://bgsig.wordpress.com>.



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Behavior Analysis and the Arts SIG

BY TRAVIS THOMPSON AND RUTH ANNE REHFELDT

This previous year's activities are twofold: First, the SIG recruited participants for a cultural event and performance to be held at this year's annual convention in Denver. The lineup included a number of students and faculty with various talents to share, but the performers were not of the caliber as that of previous years' performances, so the decision was made to not proceed with the event. Second, the SIG organized a symposium entitled, "Aesthetics and the Arts," to be presented at the annual convention. Presenters included A. Charles Catania, David Palmer, Phil Hine, and Travis Thompson. The presentations included in the symposium may be targeted for consideration for journal submission as a special section. The membership has grown through these events and the Behavior Analysis and the Arts SIG's Facebook pages readership.

Behavior Analysis for Sustainable Societies SIG

BY JULIA H. FIEBIG

This year the Behavior Analysis for Sustainable Societies Special Interest Group is aiming to identify a complete panel of SIG officers, including a chair, associate chair, communications director, membership coordinator, at-large representative, and student representative. In the last 2 years of the SIG's existence, a number of these positions have remained vacant. At the annual ABAI convention in Denver this year, voting occurred to identify the new officers. There is a need for active participation and sharing of ideas on the listserv, updating of the website and blog, and collaboration of ideas and efforts for increased membership and active participation. Membership is open to everyone.

Behaviorists for Social Responsibility SIG

BY MOLLI LUKE AND MARK MATTAINI

Beginning at our annual meeting during ABAI's 2015 annual convention, Behaviorists for Social Responsibility SIG (BFSR) reorganized using a board of planners structure (drawing on the structure of the Walden Two community in Skinner's book of the same name). SIG decisions are made by this board, currently Kendra Combs, Tara Grant, Molli Luke, Mark Mattaini, Jonathan Melo, Richard Rakos, and Jomella Watson-Thompson, who meet on a monthly basis. A considerable number of other active members and sub-committees are involved in the BFSR activities discussed below. The planner structure, the easy availability of digital communications, and the resulting

increased level of mutual accountability continue to produce a high level of activity by the SIG. The following material summarizes some of those activities.

Behavior and Social Issues

The *Behavior and Social Issues* (BSI) journal has long been the flagship project of the SIG. BSI (as *Behaviorists for Social Action Journal*) began in 1978, essentially concurrent with the origins of BFSR, and was retitled *Behavior Analysis and Social Action* in 1986. Under the present name, the journal has had 25 volumes as of 2016. Currently, Mark Mattaini serves as the editor with Richard Rakos as consulting editor and Jomella Watson-Thompson and Traci Cihon as associate editors. Nominations of qualified scholars as editorial board members are always welcome.

In 2016, Mark Mattaini and Kathryn Roose collected articles from BSI's predecessor journals. The content from these two journals was available only in print and, in few cases, only one or two people were known to own specific volumes. To ensure these articles did not disappear from the literature and to allow a wider audience to access them, the content from both journals was uploaded to BSI's journal page in early 2017. Everyone may now access articles from any of the three versions of BFSR's journals for free.

Social Media

Under the leadership of BFSR's social media committee, our presence on Facebook and Twitter has continued to expand, and the quality and consistency of postings continue to improve. Of particular importance for a group wishing to be international, BFSR's Facebook page currently has more followers from outside the United States than within and, notably, almost equivalent numbers in the US and Brazil. Expansion into the use of videos is being actively explored and pursued, and volunteers to assist in that work are encouraged to contact BFSR.

International Initiatives

The mission of BFSR is global in scope. Consistent with BFSR's intention to expand efforts internationally, the SIG is interested in promoting behavior analytic approaches to solve issues of social justice worldwide. In April 2017, BFSR, in collaboration with the University of Brasilia, hosted a discussion on social policy in Brazil. The event focused on an analysis of conditional relations in governmental programs. In the coming year, the SIG will continue to pursue further initiatives of this type, especially with countries where behavior analysts are active in social and policy change, such as Brazil. Where aligned with BFSR's mission, other international opportunities and initiatives will continue to be explored and pursued.

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Sustainability

Sustainability issues are among the most important that fall within the mission of BFSR. BFSR's approach to this topic is to work collaboratively with other groups that focus on sustainability, universities and training programs, and nonprofit organizations to promote behavior analytic training in this area. In this vein, BFSR is in the early stages of developing a consortium of faculty and nonprofit organizations to identify ways that behavior analysts can help in this effort and get more involved.

The Matrix Project

In our *BSI* editorial in volume 23 (Mattaini & Luke, 2014), several planners introduced the Matrix Project, in which BFSR is exploring practical approaches for expanding attention within behavior analysis to societal and global issues. Since this editorial, BFSR members have fleshed out a behavioral systems analysis of practical steps that might be taken across more than a dozen sectors within the discipline and outside it (see bfsr.org for a full outline of the Matrix Project).

In the last year, the matrix committees focused on using the education and federal government sectors of the Matrix as an action plan to increase behavior analysts addressing social issues. As such, the matrix committees have started working on a number of initiatives, including collecting syllabi and readings related to this topic, developing the infrastructure to start local BFSR groups with student members, and assessing how governments are using scientific groups to form public policy using behavioral strategies. In addition, BFSR organized a workshop at ABAI's annual convention to disseminate the Matrix Project and train other behavior analysts in the use of a systems approach to address social issues. BFSR and the matrix committees will continue to work on the Matrix Project over the coming year and encourage those who want to get involved to contact BFSR.

ABAI Annual Convention

BFSR held our annual business meeting jointly with the editorial board of *BSI* at the ABAI annual convention. BFSR was also represented at the Expo, in a poster presenting further developments of the Matrix Project, and a poster outlining trends in *BSI*.

Clinical SIG

BY EMILY THOMAS JOHNSON AND THOMAS WALTZ

Clinical behavior analysis (CBA) involves the application of behavior analytic principles to the full range of human problems, many of which have traditionally been considered "mental health" issues. Clinical behavior analysts work with the relationship between thoughts, feelings, and other behavior to help people move beyond their problems and toward more fulfilling lives. Clinical behavior analysts work in both research and applied settings. The Clinical SIG of ABAI is for those with an interest in clinical applications of behavior analysis. We are proud to be one of the oldest SIGs affiliated with ABAI. The Clinical SIG was established in 1979 and has maintained active membership since. At the current time, the Clinical SIG does not require dues, though we do accept donations for student-focused support initiatives. We have approximately 225 members on our roll. We are interested in growing in clinician, researcher, and student memberships. Domains in which CBA clinicians work include the following:

- anxiety disorders
- autism spectrum disorder
- behavioral gerontology
- behavioral health
- childhood disorders
- cognitive rehabilitation
- couples therapy
- developmental disabilities
- family therapy
- forensic psychology (assessment and treatment)

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- habit disorders
- health psychology
- intellectual and developmental disabilities
- mood disorders (e.g., depression)
- serious mental illness (e.g., borderline personality disorder, schizophrenia)
- substance abuse
- trauma

The Clinical SIG is dedicated to facilitating collaboration between researchers and clinicians to further the field's ability to apply to clinical populations. This group seeks to promote CBA at ABAI and is interested in maintaining the longstanding relationship between basic research and clinical application. At the 2017 convention, the Clinical SIG met to continue work on several ongoing projects. Our newsletter has an annual edition that focuses on highlighting ABAI convention events of interest to Clinical SIG members. The Clinical SIG is always interested in additional newsletter submissions including brief updates on CBA academic training programs and research labs, promoting workshops and conference events, and coordinating events for the annual ABAI convention.

A new interest is in developing a resource to compile standards related to minimal educational and experience for practitioners implementing CBA interventions. These standards then would be freely disseminated to those new to CBA and those outside the field of CBA to further establish standards of practice. The Clinical SIG is also working to develop opportunities to recognize and support students doing research in this area. Additionally, the SIG maintains a list of university-affiliated training opportunities in CBA that is openly available upon request or membership.

To be kept up to date on Clinical SIG activities and to access copies of the newsletter please check our listserv: http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/Clinical_SIG/.

The SIG maintains a Facebook group as well that may be joined upon request: https://www.facebook.com/groups/abaiclinicalsig/?ref=br_rs.

If you would like to join the Clinical SIG, please contact us using the link at <https://www.abainternational.org/constituents/special-interests/special-interest-groups.aspx>.

Experimental Analysis of Human Behavior SIG

BY J. ADAM BENNETT

The mission of the Experimental Analysis of Human Behavior Special Interest Group (EAHB SIG) is to promote basic experimental and translational research with human participants. The EAHB SIG works toward this mission by the following means:

- **Sponsoring an annual Student Paper Competition.**
The goal of the paper competition is to encourage basic

experimental and translational research by recognizing the best exemplars from the work of students. Student submissions receive journal-style reviews from established researchers in the field. The winners are recognized during the annual meeting of the EAHB SIG, where students are asked to present their experiments to an audience.

- **Sponsoring an annual Distinguished Contributions Award.** The goal of this award is to recognize the contributions of behavioral scientists whose work has helped define EAHB as an interesting and viable area of study. Prior recipients have included Alan Baron, Murray Sidman, Joe Brady, Joe Spradlin, A. Charles Catania, David Schmitt, Grayson Osborne, Travis Thompson, Jack Michael, Howard Rachlin, Nate Azrin, Harry Mackay, Deisy de Souza, and Carol Pilgrim.
- **Sponsoring the *EAHB Bulletin*.** The *EAHB Bulletin* (ISSN 1938-7237) is an online journal (www.eahb.org) dedicated to the publication of original, peer-reviewed empirical articles, notes on research in progress, technical notes, and descriptions of other activities related to human operant research.
- **Sponsoring an annual meeting for interested parties at the ABAI annual convention.** The goal of these meetings is to discuss the business of the EAHB SIG, the *EAHB Bulletin*, and the general state of affairs in EAHB, EAB, behavior analysis, and the world. The meeting is also used to recognize our Student Paper Competition winners and to deliberate and decide upon the next recipient of the EAHB Distinguished Contributions Award.

Report of 2015–2016 activities

The SIG held its annual meeting during the ABAI convention in Chicago, IL. At the meeting, Dr. Kathryn Kestner agreed to continue coordinating the annual student paper competition. The SIG is also grateful for the efforts of Dr. J. Adam Bennett, who continues to serve as chair; Dr. Yusuke Hayashi, who continues to serve as treasurer; Dr. Manish Vaidya, who continues to serve as editor of the *EAHB Bulletin*; and Mr. Zach Voss, who continues to serve as our webmaster.

In October 2015, the SIG selected Dr. Carol Pilgrim to receive the EAHB SIG Distinguished Contributions Award for 2016. Dr. Christy Alligood Rice introduced Dr. Pilgrim, showing a video of fellow colleagues congratulating her and summarizing her many contributions to the experimental analysis of human behavior. Dr. Pilgrim then gave an award address reflecting on her research career with an eye toward the future. The session was chaired by Dr. J. Adam Bennett and was held Monday, May 30, 6–6:50 pm in the Hyatt Regency. The video montage can be viewed at <http://youtu.be/BOpU7ijxf0A>.

In 2016, the SIG recognized the work of one young scholar in the SIG's annual Experimental Analysis of

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Human Behavior Student Paper Competition. Dr. Kathryn Kestner coordinated the competition. The award was presented to Charisse Ann Lantaya for her manuscript titled, "An Evaluation of Successive Matching-to-Sample in the Development of Emergent Visual-Visual Stimulus Relations." Charisse was a student of Caio Miguel at California State University, Sacramento. Charisse was presented with a plaque and received reimbursement for her ABAI registration.

The SIG is also piloting a poster competition for undergraduate students, and details were discussed at the meeting. Undergraduate students who have conducted research in the experimental analysis of human behavior may now submit a brief summary of their research, and one winner will be recognized at the annual ABAI meeting of the EAHB SIG and will receive convention registration reimbursement.

Upcoming plans for 2016–2017

Plans for the upcoming year will remain focused on our three primary goals: promoting the experimental analysis of human behavior and basic behavioral research by encouraging student research and scholarship in the experimental analysis of human behavior, recognizing outstanding career-long contributions to the field, and maintaining an outlet for publishing human operant research.

The 2017 EAHB SIG Distinguished Contributions Award was presented to Dr. Philip N. Hineline, professor at Temple University. Dr. Claudia Drossel introduced Dr. Hineline and provided a summary of his many contributions to understanding human behavior. Subsequently, Dr. Hineline gave an award address reflecting on his research career with an eye toward the future. The session was Monday, May 29, 5–5:50 pm in Centennial Ballroom E in the Hyatt Regency Denver. Many people joined us in celebrating the outstanding contributions of Dr. Hineline.

The EAHB SIG continues to increase the size of its membership (currently 118) by (1) presenting a poster at the ABAI Expo, (2) promoting the annual Distinguished Contributions Award address, and (3) increasing the visibility of the *EAHB Bulletin*.

During this year's meeting, we also discussed business related to the *EAHB Bulletin*, including the election and term limits of its editorial board and strategies for increasing its impact. We also discussed possible nominees for next year's Distinguished Contributions Award.

Additional information on the EAHB SIG, the *EAHB Bulletin*, and membership can be found at <http://www.eahb.org>. Those interested in the student paper competition should consult the website for contest rules and instructions. We are accepting nominations for next year's Distinguished Contributions Award. Submissions to the *EAHB Bulletin* are always welcome.

History of Behavior Analysis SIG

BY EDWARD K. MORRIS

The History of Behavior Analysis SIG (HoBA SIG) was founded in 2011. Our listserv was established in 2012. Our first business meeting was held at the 2013 ABAI annual convention and has been held that event every year since. The attendees at the 2016 meeting were Natalie Badgett, Joao Lucas Bernardy, Darlene Crone-Todd, Kristjan Gudmundsson, Abdul Iman, Eric Larsson, Andy Lattal, Sam Leigland, Yara Lima de Paulo, Todd Mc Kerchar, Ed Morris, Jay Moore, Linda Mucken, Henrique Pompermaier, Ann Rost, Sherry Serdikoff, Karen Wagner, and Michele Williams. As of April 2017, we have approximately 229 members, an increase of 49 members from the previous year.

Aim, Mission, Objectives, Purview, and Audience

Our aim is to advance behavior analysis nationally and internationally through its history and historiography. Our mission is to cultivate and nurture, enrich and improve, and disseminate the field's history and historiography. Our objectives are to enhance teaching (course content and pedagogy; research); presentations, publications, and workshops; and service (leadership, governance, and communications). Our purview is the field's long past, short history, and recent origins. Our audience includes behavior analysts, scientists and humanists, and the public at large.

Reasons and Rationales

In addition to our aim, mission, and objectives, Jack Michael (2004) offers the following reasons and rationales for teaching, researching, and serving the field's history and historiography:

"Students of behavior analysis who know little of its history will be less than optimally effective in acquiring new knowledge. They will also be unaware of relations among various parts of their professional and scientific repertoires. In short, it is important to know where we came from." (p. 93)

More specifically, the history and historiography of behavior analysis place the discipline, its sub-disciplines, and its practices in relation to each other. The field has breadth and depth beyond any one of them. History and historiography reveal the interdependence of the field's system, its sciences, and its practices. The field is more than the sum of its parts. History and historiography address the field's relations with other sciences and the humanities. The field is defined, in part, by its comparisons and contrasts with them.

There are also more general rationales. The Roman philosopher Marcus Tullius Cicero (106–43 BCE) offered among the first: "Those who know only their own generation remain children forever." Perhaps the most common is

attributed to the Spanish philosopher George Santayana (1863–1952): “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to fulfill it.” Another is based on an observation by American writer and humorist Mark Twain (1835–1910) about travel in *The Innocents Abroad*: “[History] is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness....” (1869, p. 243). Farmington (1949) summarizes these and other rationales:

“History is the most fundamental science for there is no human knowledge which cannot lose its scientific character when men forget the conditioning under which it originated, the questions which it answered, and the function it was created to serve. A great part of the mysticism and superstition of educated men consist of knowledge which has broken base from its historical moorings.” (p. 173)

Membership

Our membership is open to anyone interested in the history of behavior analysis. This includes members of (a) ABAA; (b) other behavior analytic organizations, including Division 25 for Behavior Analysis of the American Psychological Association (APA), the Cambridge Center for Behavioral Studies, and the B. F. Skinner Foundation; (c) members of organizations outside of behavior analysis, including APA Division 26 for the Society for the History of Psychology, the International Society for the History of the Behavioral Sciences (aka Cheiron), and the History of Science Society; and (d) independent scholars. The SIG’s members need not be members of ABAA. Joining the HoBA listserv is one and the same as joining the SIG and vice versa. We have no membership dues.

Governance

At present, our governance consists of a president, Edward K. Morris (University of Kansas); a vice-president, Karen Wagner (Behavior Service of Brevard, FL); a secretary-treasurer, Todd McKerchar (Jacksonville State University, AL); and our listserv owner and moderator, Pat Williams (University of Houston-Downtown).

Activities

Our main activities have been establishing and hosting a website (<http://www.historyofbehavioranalysis.org>) and holding annual business meetings. The minutes of the 2016 meeting included the following:

- **The Cummings Center for the History of Psychology.** Andy Lattal (West Virginia University) provided some background on his interests in the history of behavior analysis, in particular his interest in research apparatus. He has more than 600 pieces. Andy is not sure what he will do with these apparatus after he retires, so has contacted Dr. David Baker, the director of the Cummings Center for the History of Psychology

(CCHP) in Akron, OH. According to Andy, Dave has an appreciation and affinity for behavior analysis. He also has a new CCHP building with four floors of about 11,000 square feet each, and is interested in devoting substantial space to the history of behavior analysis. It could include a museum, an area for small group meetings, an area for small conferences, and, of course, an archive. The cost of the space is approximately \$3 million. Dave has been talking with potential donors, primarily behavior analysts. He would prefer one or two large donations as opposed to many small ones.

- **General discussion.** Ed discussed having a historian/archivist for each of the ABAA SIGs and ABAA affiliated chapters. This could be a project for the SIG. The University of Kansas would like to be an archive for the Baer, Wolf, and Risley materials. Currently, its archives have about 90 boxes from Wolf, but none from Baer or Risley. We need senior members of the field to gather their materials and store them where they will be accessible in the future. The HoBA website could be a place for listing where these materials are located and what they contain.
- **Teaching of HoBA.** Ed transitioned the discussion to the teaching of HoBA and course syllabi. Sherry Serdikoff (Savannah State University) said she would contact Erick Dubuque (administrator, ABAA’s Behavior Analysis Accreditation Board) for a list of ABAA’s accredited programs and request syllabi from their history of behavior analysis courses. Making these materials more widely available (e.g., in a HoBA SIG syllabus bank) may result in better teaching and learning about the field’s history than currently occurs (e.g., short sections in textbooks). She may also contact psychology faculty members who teach the history of psychology to review their coverage of behavior analysis.
- **HoBA website.** Todd McKerchar provided an overview and update on the website. He mentioned recent discussions on the need to ensure that the SIG’s site does not simply recreate materials available at other sites. Thus, in addition to providing original content (e.g., syllabi, bibliographies), the HoBA site will begin indexing and cataloging these other sites (e.g., archive locations, interviews with founders) so we can make links to them available on our site. Some discussion arose about adding a “Donate” button to the website to help defray the SIG’s annual expenses (about \$250). Some SIGs collect membership fees, but this might reduce membership. Accepting donations may require nonprofit status.
- **HoBA ABA Expo poster.** Karen Wagner said she recently scanned about 19,000 pictures related to behavior analysis. This year, she had a competition at the HoBA Expo poster for attendees to identify as many people as possible from pictures she posted. Charlie Catania correctly identified the most people. If we do

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this in the future, we would include mention of it in the HoBA ABA Expo abstract (and offer a small prize). Darlene Crone-Todd (Salem State University) noted that we could also identify people in pictures through a social Network game, using something like Facebook.

- **Miscellany.** (1) We should aim to have a HoBA-sponsored symposium every year. (2) Ed arranged for the theoretical, philosophical, and conceptual issues ABAI program area to be renamed the theoretical, philosophical, conceptual, and historical issues area, but at the post-convention Program Committee meeting, it may be renamed again—the philosophical, theoretical, and historical issues area. (3) We might rename the SIG the Society for the History of Behavior Analysis, as APA divisions are doing. It denotes a purview broader than ABAI. We are waiting to hear from ABAI about this.

Volunteers, Membership, and the Listserv

To volunteer for emerging committees and other activities described above, contact Edward K. Morris (University of Kansas) at ekm@ku.edu. To join the SIG and the listserv, go to the HoBA website (<http://www.historyofbehavioranalysis.org>) or contact Pat Williams (University of Houston-Downtown) at WilliamsP@uhd.edu.

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Neuroscience SIG

BY SUZANNE MITCHELL

The Neuroscience SIG brings together researchers, academics, clinicians, and students interested in the intersections of behavior analysis and neuroscience and has four primary missions: (1) to introduce behavior analytic research to the neurosciences and introduce neuroscience research to behavior analysis; (2) to serve as both a meeting place and training environment for students and professionals alike interested in basic and applied neuroscience research; (3) to serve as a forum for

collaborative relationships, funding applications, and the sharing of best practices; and (4) to advocate for and promote high standards in the application of behavior analytic treatments for individuals with neurological dysfunction.

A business meeting and Expo poster were included in 2017 during the ABAI 43rd Annual Convention in Denver.

Over the next 12 months, increasing the profile and relevance of the SIG to ABAI members is a major focus, and anyone who is interested in contributing to this effort or has ideas for additional initiatives is encouraged to join and become involved in the SIG by contacting Suzanne Mitchell at mitchesu@ohsu.edu. Membership is open to all ABAI members, as well as academics, researchers, administrators, clinicians from other organizations, and consumers. We welcome anyone with an interest in the intersection of behavior analysis and neuroscience and look forward to an exciting year further enhancing the SIG and its place in ABAI.

Organizational Behavior Management Network

BY HEATHER M. MCGEE, JONATHAN HOCHMUTH, STEVIE COLLINI, RACHAEL TILKA, AMBER DERTHICK, THOMAS FERRAGUT, JOSHUA TURSKE, JOHN BARNES, DENNIS URIARTE, ELIZABETH GHEZZI, JOVONNIE ESQUIERDO-LEAL, KATHRYN ROOSE, CAROLYN BRAYKO, KYLE DITZIAN, AND BRANDON MARTINEZ-ONSTOTT

It seems like every year brings new excitement to the Organizational Behavior Management (OBM) Network and this year has been a big one so far! The Network held its biennial conference in Miami, Florida! This was a fantastic opportunity to introduce more professionals, academicians, students, and community members to the power of OBM through three conference tracks: OBM in Human Resources, OBM in Health and Human Services, and OBM in Occupational Health and Safety. We'd like to thank the OBM Network membership, board, and officers for making the conference a tremendous success! Additionally, OBM Network was proud to work with Dr. Donald Hantula and the ABAI team to put together a special 1-day OBM conference during workshop day at the ABAI 2017 annual convention in Denver, Colorado. It was a great event that provided an introduction to all that OBM has to offer the rest of the behavioral community, and specifically those individuals and organizations serving individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities. Finally, after 8 years as executive director, Heather McGee has decided to pass the torch in order to focus on other professional responsibilities and opportunities. Her successor, Manny Rodriguez, has the full confidence of Dr. McGee and the Network and we expect he will do great things. This transfer of leadership officially took place at the OBM Network business meeting during the ABAI 2017 convention.

Membership

The Network is proud of the role that OBM played at ABAI's 43rd Annual Convention in Denver, as well as having successfully completed its first standalone conference in 6 years, held earlier this year in Miami, Florida.

Receiving printed versions of the latest *Journal of Organizational Behavior Management (JOBM)* and having full access to the online publication continues to be a great reason to be a member of the OBM Network. However, we are always looking for new opportunities to add to our membership benefits and we are very excited for the monthly webinar series that we recently launched. New projects are in development, and we are working hard to continue adding value to our membership.

We are continuing our efforts to grow throughout 2017 and are involving students and faculty from universities with OBM graduate programs in our effort to recruit and retain members. Those efforts have been effective, and the OBM Network has grown considerably since last year. In 2017, we have approximately 460 members in 22 countries, which is an increase of 100 members since last year. Thank you to those of you who have helped to recruit new members into the Network from around the globe!

Please consider joining the OBM Network and learn how OBM can help improve performance in your organization! Join at www.obmNetwork.com.

Treasury

The Network is in excellent financial health. At the time of writing, the OBM Network funds totaled \$50,248.85 from membership fees and the 2017 conference (this number is expected to change after conference expenses are settled). Most of these funds cover costs related to *JOBM*, website and software costs, professional and legal fees, marketing and copy costs, conference costs, and costs from the business meeting at the annual ABAI convention. The Chris Anderson Research Fund currently totals \$4,514.90. The

General Donations Fund currently totals \$37,620.25, a result of the generous donations from supporters and conference sponsors. Donations can be submitted to:

The OBM Network
c/o Stevie Collini
1903 W Michigan Ave
Western Michigan University
Department of Psychology – Mailstop 5439
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Please make checks payable to OBM Network and specify the purposes you would like the money to be used for (e.g., Chris Anderson Research Fund; General Donation Fund; other). If you prefer, you can join the Network, pay for membership, and donate (through a secure system) online at www.obmNetwork.com.

Event Coordination

The event coordination position was created in 2015. Its purpose has been facilitating conference preparation and increasing clarity of expectations among members. The primary responsibility has focused on the coordination, planning, and scheduling of conference-related and promotional events. Past efforts have also focused on the selection, purchasing, and distribution of promotional materials. More recently this year, flyer design and distribution has become an important role within the position to educate members on upcoming events.

The position has further evolved to facilitate planning around additional promotional events. Specifically, more recent efforts have been directed toward increasing membership benefits, awareness, and education through the provision of monthly webinars available to members, provided by Subject Matter Experts in the field of OBM. These webinars have been arranged, coordinated, and facilitated by Amber Derthick, who is transitioning into the

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role. The event coordinator position will continue to be an important role moving forward to help continue membership education in the field of OBM and offer continuing benefits through valuable human resources in the field.

Social Media

Last fall, Thomas Ferragut took over the position of social media administrator. Since then, the Facebook page for OBM Network has grown from 1,289 followers to 1,540 followers. Weekly, our various posts about OBM and OBM Network content make at least 1000 impressions across posts and have reached as high as 7000 impressions in a single week. Direct OBM Network Facebook page visits by unique users has ranged from 20 to 60 per week.

Increasingly, the role of social media administrator has been intertwined with other officer roles. In preparation for the OBM Network conference in Miami and while producing webinar content, Facebook has become a key member-facing hub of information originating from many content-producing roles in the OBM Network. Moving forward, we hope to maintain and increase the online presence of OBM Network by continuing to produce content that brings value to our members. “Like” us at facebook.com/OBMNetwork!

Content Development

Last spring, Joshua Turske took over the position of content development officer after completing his training with Brandon Martinez-Onstott. In collaboration with the other OBM Network officers, the current administrator has spearheaded the creation of content that is utilized by the group, or viewed by our membership base through social media outlets and membership emails. This content includes, but is not limited to, OBM Network banners, fliers for upcoming webinars, advertisements, and program materials for the SIG conference.

The current president, Dr. Barbara Bucklin, has partnered with content development in creating newer multi-media content in the form of explainer videos advertising what exactly the OBM Network is, as well as benefits that OBM can have for potential organizations. We hope that this initiative not only grows our membership base and increases the exposure of the field of OBM as a whole, but additionally increases attendance of professionals at our conferences.

Liaison Outreach Program

The purpose of the Liaison Outreach Program (LOP) is to increase involvement of our members around the world and to expand the reach of the OBM Network by increasing its presence at conferences and other professional events. The LOP has been up and running for 3 years now and has expanded significantly over the past year to include members from all over the country (and one international member).

Currently, we have liaisons from Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Nevada, Texas, Florida, and Stockholm, Sweden.

Although, many of the goals of the liaison program have remained the same over the last year, the scope and purpose of the program has changed slightly since its inception to focus more on helping the OBM Network president accomplish their goals and to help the Network itself with various tasks, as necessary. The liaisons have continued to create content for the OBM Network to use to disseminate the field, and to educate our membership. Currently, the largest task facing the liaisons is to help the current president, Manny Rodriguez, with his presidential project. As part of this project, the liaisons are currently laying the foundation for a mentorship program for people looking to learn more about OBM. Additionally, we are beginning to work on disseminating OBM practices to additional schools and work places. We are in the process of becoming more acquainted with research and past publications on topics related to OBM. We are striving to disseminate our practice and technology using “plain English” and avoiding jargon.

Our goals for the coming year are to expand both the OBM Network and the number of active liaisons. This means reaching out to new schools and expanding our base not just to graduate students in behavior analysis, but also to undergraduate students and students interested in any business/management field. If you or someone you know would be interested in becoming a liaison, please email either johnbarnes@my.unt.edu or duriarte2013@my.fit.edu.

OBM Network Newsletter

Our newsletter, *Network News*, continues its tradition of disseminating OBM scholarly work and reports and commentary from the field to the Network. Aside from the serial columns, “Leaders in OBM,” brought to us by Jovonnice Leal (University of Nevada, Reno) and, “A Moment in OBM History,” brought to us by OBM Network president Manny Rodriguez (ABA Technologies, Inc), the three newsletters in 2016 featured articles from eight unique authors, with an even split between faculty, practitioners, and students from institutions and organizations in the United States, Brazil, and France.

In addition to spreading information on new research and technology, the newsletter also promotes and celebrates its members. Each spring, *Network News* announces and celebrates the individuals who have won the OBM Network awards, such as the Outstanding Contribution and Lifetime Achievement awards. In efforts to encourage student involvement and continued engagement with the field, the newsletter recognizes recent graduates with a discount on their next year’s membership.

We encourage submissions to the newsletter from new and seasoned members alike! Please see the website for more details, or contact the current newsletter editor, Elizabeth Ghezzi, at Elizabeth.Ghezzi@nevada.unr.edu.

Leaders in OBM Column

To increase overall student membership and activity in the Network, we have developed a “Leaders in OBM” column that has been incorporated into our quarterly newsletter. For this column, targeted leaders in the field are asked to answer a set of questions designed by students and board members of the Network. The questions and completed responses are then included in the quarterly newsletter for members to read. Past interviewees in the featured column include:

- Cloyd Hyten, Ph.D. (Vol 28, Num 2, p. 13)
- Siggi Sigurdsson, Ph.D. (Vol 28, Num 3, p. 13)
- Terry McSween, Ph.D. (Vol 29, Num 2, p. 11)
- Sulzer-Azaroff, Ph.D. (Vol 29, Num 3, p. 11)
- Laura Methot, Ph.D. (Vol 30, Num 1, p. 19)
- Julie Smith, Ph.D. (Vol 30, Num 2, p. 11)
- Mark Alavosius, Ph.D. (Vol 30, Num 3, p. 19)
- John Austin, Ph.D. (Vol 31, Num 1, 2017, p. 13)

Awards

This year, the OBM Network Awards Committee has selected Leif E. Andersson as the recipient for the Outstanding Contribution Award, and Dr. Dale Brethower as the recipient for the Lifetime Achievement Award. Please visit our website for more information about award criteria and a list of past recipients: http://obmNetwork.com/obm_community/distinguished_member_awards.

In addition, the Network introduced several new awards during this year’s business meeting during the ABAI convention in Denver. The awards are still being determined, but will be related to research published in *JOBM*, with the goal of highlighting and encouraging innovative and impactful research in the area of OBM.

Mentor Program

For the past year, the idea for the Mentor Program has developed under the direction of president Manny Rodriguez and Carolyn Brayko (co-chairs). With the invaluable input of Network officers and liaisons, we created the *OBM Network Mentor Program Handbook*, outlining the roles and expectations of participants in the program.

We’ve also created a mentoring agreement form, which will facilitate the initiation of the mentoring relationship between mentor and protégé (hereafter “partners”). The Mentor Program has a cohort model rotating every 6 months starting each January and July. Partners will agree to meet at least 1 hour per month to define, update, and discuss the progress made on the goals set by the protégé. As part of the program, all participants must also agree to produce some final product at the end of the 6-months. The project can vary from videos, to podcasts, to presenting papers at a conference, but it must demonstrate learning outcomes as a result of the Mentor Program. The Mentor Program will archive partner projects online for OBM Network members.

In late 2016, our Facebook page released a form for people to sign up as a mentor, protégé, or both. Eight partners were successfully paired for the January 2017 cohort. Each paired mentor has listed expertise in at least 50% of the protégés’ mentoring requests. Roughly half of the protégé requests (48%) indicated “staff training” as an interest where they would like mentoring. Of the 13 mentoring topics provided on the form, six of them (46%) were selected by at least 29% of the protégés, indicating a breadth of interest.

Going forward, advertising mentoring opportunities will be more widespread, with a more formal application process that will be available on the OBM Network website for members. The Mentor Program will continue to evolve as members provide feedback and mentoring needs become more clear. As such, we will be contacting our partners throughout the program to better understand and improve the mentorship process, including the quality of the partnership, availability of resources, and so on. For example, all submitted surveys revealed that participants agree that their partner and the program meets or exceeds expectations.

The next cohort will begin in July 2017. Questions about the program can be directed to Carolyn Brayko (cabrayko@gmail.com) and Manny Rodriguez (manny@abatechnologies.com).

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Presidential Project

The purpose of the two presidential project co-manager positions is to support the initiatives of the acting president and the president elect. Over the past year, Kyle Ditzian, has worked alongside our current president, Manny Rodriguez, in developing monthly online webinars. The purpose of these webinars is to disseminate current OBM practice and research as well as provide an additional benefit to our members. Brandon Martinez-Onstott has assisted past presidents Siggi Sigurdsson and Ryan Olson in creating the *OBM Innovators* and *OBM in Practice* blogs. In addition, Kyle and Brandon have been helping the executive director in various tasks, from coordinating change initiatives to creating proposals for new membership benefits and the new website that is now up and running!

Pediatric Feeding Disorders SIG

BY TESSA TAYLOR, CATHLEEN C. PIAZZA, SEAN CASEY, KATHRYN PETERSON, KEITH E. WILLIAMS, MICHAEL F. CATALDO, AND PETER A. GIROLAMI

The Pediatric Feeding Disorders SIG now has nearly 150 members, and new queries continue to be received. Individuals interested in the SIG may direct their questions to Cathleen Piazza at cpiazza@unmc.edu. The mission of the Pediatric Feeding Disorders SIG is to generate interest; foster collaborative research; share clinical information; and impact training, practice, and reimbursement for evaluation and treatment of pediatric feeding disorders. As such, the SIG will attempt to tackle some tough issues that face clinicians who treat children with feeding disorders.

At the 2016 business meeting, the SIG discussed insurance reimbursement codes (new diagnostic codes, with an autism diagnosis, via early intervention), standards and training requirements for best practice (training criteria, case severity, interdisciplinary team coordination needs, referrals to intensive behavior analytic hospital programs), international exchange options for training, social media and non-evidence-based practices, and disseminating and promoting empirically supported treatment.

In previous years, steps were taken to form the Pediatric Feeding Disorders Consortium, a multi-site collaborative effort of programs providing feeding treatment services. The initial purpose of this effort is to better understand existing resources associated with the treatment of feeding disorders of young children, including the techniques employed, as well as costs and outcomes. With this information and the existence of a working consortium, the second objective would be for these programs to work together on improving treatment techniques and outcomes, as well as to help both parents and payers navigate the sometimes confusing process of identifying the best combination of treatment modalities for each individual child. More than 100 sites have been

identified. Initial pilot Phase 1 survey data (e.g., program affiliation, setting, disciplines, population, services available, and payment sources) and Phase 2 survey data (assessment/treatment approach/orientation for disciplines including medicine, nutrition, behavior analysis, oral motor/sensory, psychiatry, and child counseling; formal assessments; assessment procedures; and treatment components) were collected. In addition, input was solicited concerning interest in the consortium, feedback on the surveys, and scope of data to collect in future phases. Also, programs were encouraged to send supplemental materials such as program brochures and materials (e.g., intake forms, goal and outcome forms, data collection materials). Based on input from the group, we compiled information to share as resources regarding obtaining reimbursement (e.g., reference list, specific insurance policies on feeding programs, video of legal presentation on the right to treatment and managed care, and documents and practice guidelines pulled together by the ABAI Practice Board that could be used as resources to secure funding or assist in dealing with insurance companies).

We have discussed how the consortium members could collaborate to everyone's benefit. One area identified by many feeding clinics was approval and payment from insurance companies for services. Collaboration across sites would establish a mechanism on a scale that could not otherwise be conducted by a single clinic, as well as data that would be of particular interest to the payers for such services (e.g., insurance companies) as well as consumers. To do so would require knowledge about the range of outcomes of treatments and the variables that correlate with these outcomes, as well as which treatments work for which patients. Important to the further development of this idea would be commonly accepted and economically implemented measures across sites, particularly outcome measures. In light of this, we wish to begin the collection of data across sites on the effectiveness of assessment and treatment of pediatric feeding disorders this year. We have requested input from the group regarding how they are currently collecting information and measuring outcomes.

The SIG has focused on developing a draft of practice guidelines for behavior analysts working in the area of pediatric feeding disorders. A committee of SIG members has begun collaborating on an outline for these guidelines. The guidelines will cover the target population (e.g., age, comorbid conditions, specific feeding targets), severity level and corresponding intensity of treatment warranted, pre-treatment issues, assessment/intervention/implementation guidelines, and treatment follow-up guidelines. The SIG will coordinate with ABAT's Practice Board on these guidelines.

Anyone interested in these issues is encouraged to contact the SIG Consortium Coordinator, Tessa Taylor, at DrTessaTaylor@gmail.com. Members were encouraged to exchange ideas throughout the year via email, telephone, and the Yahoo Group. We also generated a list of the

members with contact information and program affiliation. We will resume discussion of these issues next year. Input is welcome and appreciated from all interested parties.

Rehabilitation and Independent Living SIG

BY CHRIS PERSEL

The Rehabilitation and Independent Living (RAIL) SIG has continued to meet and provide diverse discussions regarding the use of behavior analysis outside of the autism population. Traumatic brain injuries, stroke, and neurological disabilities related to concussion and mild brain injury have gained a great deal more attention recently, including by a major motion picture starring Will Smith. The demand and need for services related to behavior challenges following such injuries continues to be high, but the acknowledgement of this need in healthcare is lacking. Also, the availability of experienced specialty services is limited, placing greater demand on those providing behavior support. Issues related to reimbursement, healthcare coverage, and funding further impact and in some cases limit treatment for this population. Variability amongst the states with regard to legislation supporting the need for rehabilitation services only adds to the confusion and potential discrimination of this population. There is a clear need for post-acute rehabilitation following brain injury, and such services have proven effective; now the appropriate supports must be in place to provide the treatment needed. This SIG continues to be an opportunity for rehabilitation treatment professionals involved in brain injury rehabilitation to gather and compare thoughts, brainstorm ideas, and gather support for the field.

The RAIL SIG has had members from states across the US and from as far away as Germany and Ireland. Discussions have centered around continued communication amongst the members using social media and other techniques such as periodic conference calls. Time constraints have historically interfered with accomplishing goals set at previous meetings; however, renewed energy from the annual convention has always pushed the group forward. Past goals include developing guidelines for the use of behavior analysis with brain-injured survivors (some headway was made with a preliminary outline), reviewing legislation issues related to rehabilitation to provide professional support and acknowledgement of effective staff training techniques or programs (presentations recently have outlined effective training programs). Continued interest in the principles of ABA as they relate to brain injury rehabilitation has fueled interest in better understanding how to train BCBAs in neurological issues. Do we have better information on what factors are essential to understand regarding the brain, the injury, and related health issues for those developing behavior plans? What medications are common and how

do they impact learning? What is the rehabilitation and funding environment? Who are the other staff providing treatment in rehabilitation, including behavior plans?

Programs such as ReMed and Centre for Neuro Skills have been providing such services and can assist with input from many others in the field to outline possible coursework that can be used to augment the current ABA courses.

Several university instructors have participated in the group to shed light on student development challenges. Opportunities for ABA student interns at facilities treating those with brain injuries must be developed to promote the career path for the future. Research collaboration is also essential for this specialized area to gain recognition for the powerful impact it can have on this population. At least one follow-up meeting was held this year to discuss further research opportunities and student internships. The common goals of rehabilitation and behavior analysis make such collaboration seamless and effective. Functional skills development programs, maladaptive behavior reduction plans, and social reintegration outlines are areas clearly in need of strong behavior analysis yet frequently not managed by BCBAs. Once again, the RAIL SIG is positioned to help guide the better integration of behavior and rehabilitation services. Successful behavior analysts can expect daily challenges from this population while experiencing a great sense of pride as they regain their life skills and return to a productive quality of life. Future goals have to focus on furthering the structure of the SIG and growing the membership through consistent communication. Thank you to all members who continue to support the SIG and this population.

Sexual Behavior: Research and Practice SIG

BY WORNER LELAND AND BRIGID MCCORMICK

The Sexual Behavior: Research and Practice SIG (SBRP SIG) of ABAI disseminates empirically verified information regarding sex education and therapy and supports basic and applied research on sexual behavior. Members are professionals, teachers, direct service providers, parents, and consumers who are concerned with issues of sex therapy, sex education, and research. Check out our website: www.sbrpsig.org.

Since 2007, the SBRP SIG has provided a symposium at ABAI's annual convention. Our membership continues to grow, and at the 2017 ABAI annual convention, the SBRP SIG presented two symposia and an ethics panel on best practices for behavior analysts in the realm of sexual behavior. The symposia topics included research on sexual behavior treatment package interventions, the ethics and treatment of problematic sexual behavior procedurally and with a focus on data-based decision making, and

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ethical code applications for the treatment of sexually offending behavior. Symposia topics also covered sexual and relationship health, including research on behavior analytic sexual consent training, research on attraction and self-disclosure on intimacy-related behaviors, and the impact of mindfulness and values clarification on behavior and experiences of gender dysphoria. Additionally, SIG members presented workshops at the 2017 ABAI annual convention on behavior analytic sexual education, gender-affirming clinical skills, and appropriate and effective sexual education for individuals with developmental disabilities.

In the upcoming year, the SBRP SIG plans to continue to disseminate sexual education and research through our website and annual newsletter. We will also continue to work toward growing our organization to meet the needs of our members as they work to promote a behavior analytic framework for sexual behavior, sex education, and research.

SIG Español

BY MAPY CHAVEZ

Artículo en Español

Hace ya 14 años se formó el SIG (Spanish International Group) con el objetivo de crear una comunidad para aquellos miembros de ABAI quienes hablan español, ya fuera como primera lengua o como lengua adicional, así como a la comunidad de habla hispana en general. En estos 14 años nuestra membresía a continuado creciendo, y anticipamos seguirá creciendo. Nuestro planes para el futuro incluyen:

- Traer el TRACK en Español nuevamente a ABAI el cual incluiría presentaciones de renombrados analistas del comportamiento en importantes temas y diversas áreas de interés.
- En un esfuerzo por compartir las importantes actividades que ocurren cada día en nuestros países de habla hispana, que cada vez más miembros de ABAI y del SIG Español traigan sus presentaciones a la citada convención. Es nuestro deseo lograr que dichas presentaciones sean conducidas directamente en español y que en muchos casos sean simposium completos sobre temáticas de actualidad, así como presentaciones extensas de las líneas globales de investigación de algunos grupos (con un resumen de los estudios más relevantes de cada línea). En este sentido, animamos a los miembros hispano hablantes de la ABAI a que presenten comunicaciones específicas o líneas globales de investigación, así como se comuniquen entre ustedes para organizar diferentes simposios.
- Finalmente, continuar la reunión anual del SIG Español durante la Convención de ABAI. Recuerden que todos están invitados (miembros y no miembros)

Si aún no son parte de nuestro SIG, los invitamos a unirse a nosotros este año, y esperamos verlos a todos en ABAI 2018. Si tienen alguna pregunta, o necesitan información adicional, pueden contactar a Mapy Chávez a mapy.chavez@alcanzando.org.pe.

English

SIG Español was formed 14 years ago as the Spanish International Group to create a community for those ABAI members who speak Spanish, as either a first or second language, and the Spanish-speaking community in general. In this time, our membership has continued to grow. Our plans for the future include:

- Bring a Spanish-language track back to the ABAI convention that would include presentations from renowned behavior analysts on important topics and various areas of interest.
- In an effort to share the important activities that occur every day in Spanish-speaking countries, more and more members of ABAI and SIG Español bring their presentations to the aforementioned convention. It is our desire to ensure that these presentations are conducted directly in Spanish. In many cases, there are full symposia on current topics, as well as extensive presentations of the global research lines of some groups (with a summary of the most relevant studies in each line). In this regard, we encourage Spanish-speaking ABAI members to present specific communications or global lines of research, as well as communicate with each other to organize different symposia.
- Finally, to continue holding an annual meeting of SIG Español during the ABAI annual convention. Everyone is invited, members and non-members alike.

If you are not yet part of our SIG, we invite you to join us this year, and we hope to see you all at the 2018 ABAI annual convention. If you have any questions or need additional information, you can contact Mapy Chavez at mapy.chavez@alcanzando.org.pe.

Teaching Behavior Analysis SIG

BY KIRA M. AUSTIN AND CHRISTINE H. BARTHOLD

The Teaching Behavior Analysis SIG (TBA SIG) mission is to improve the teaching and learning of the principles and applications of behavior analysis in any setting. Therefore, the TBA SIG continues to be the prominent place for discussions regarding behavior analysis, both basic and applied. As one of the largest ABAI SIGs, we count as members some of the top behavior analysts in the world. We are also one of the most diverse groups of individuals who represent all facets of behavior analysis, including clinicians, researchers, students, and consumers.

Every behavior analyst teaches behavior analysis, whether that is through staff training, parent education,

client education, or preparing future clinicians. Therefore, this is one SIG that every ABAI member should consider joining. There are no dues to participate in the TBA SIG. As has been the case for several years, the majority of activity in our SIG has been on the listserv (the TBA-L). With year after year growth, more than 900 people subscribe to the TBA-L. Discussions occurring daily are lively and diverse, and encompass all things behavior analytic. The list is a place to interact and collaborate with other behavior analysts from all parts of the globe.

Members often share resources, link to open source tools, or post open positions in academia through the TBA-L. To keep the TBA-L as open and diverse as possible, advertisements for commercial products and books are not permitted. We don't limit our discussion on the TBA-L to university teaching; members discuss basic behavioral principles, behavior analysis research, staff training, and more. Some recent topics covered on the TBA-L include the following:

- Classroom activities for teaching behavior analysis principles
- Dissemination of seminal behavior analytic research
- Staff, family, and client training/education
- Inter-observer agreement and fidelity software
- History of behavior analysis (especially misconceptions of Skinner's work)
- Teaching machines both historical and modern
- Behavior analysis in the popular press
- Clinical behavior analysis
- Verbal behavior
- Basic research

If you are interested in joining the TBA SIG and TBA-L please send an email to Kira Austin at kaustin@whitworth.edu and copy our list manager, Pat Williams, at deadmantest@gmail.com.

We also have a Facebook page boasting more than 3,850 members. This is 450% growth in members from last year. Discussion on the Facebook page includes issues surrounding collaborating with other fields, self-management of behavior, and programs in behavior analysis. Professional development opportunities and clinical positions are often posted on Facebook as well. Students of behavior analysis are encouraged to join. It is a great way to learn about behavior analysis from top researchers, teachers, and clinicians. Discussions are lively, but always professional and respectful. Requests for resources are often followed up by prompt responses both on- and off-list.

Over the past year, the TBA SIG has taken steps to formalize as a SIG through the creation of bylaws that were voted on by membership and reviewed by ABAI. The SIG also held elections in 2016, voting in a new TBA SIG president, Kira Austin, and an inaugural TBA board. The board consists of Shawn Quigley, Ben Witts, Amanda

Fisher, Jacqueline Potter, Brady Phelps, and Carolyn Ryan. Chris Barthold and Pat Williams continue to serve the SIG as past president and webmaster, respectively. The board has established a vision to grow and maintain the activity of the TBA SIG. The board is also in the process of revitalizing our website to provide a more organized structure to the wealth of resources we've accumulated through the TBA-L. Examples include organizing resources by key topic areas such as verbal behavior, assessment, reinforcement, and more. If you are interested in helping to participate as an active member of the TBA SIG, please contact Kira Austin. Students are also encouraged to get involved.

Thank you for your continued interest in the TBA SIG as well as the TBA-L. It continues to be a fantastic resource for behavior analysts and consumers only because of our members. We look forward to seeing you on the TBA-L!

Translational Research SIG

BY MARLENE J. COHEN

Since the inception of our field, several researchers have called for an increase in translational research (Critchfield & Mace, 2011; Lerman, 2003). However, there continues to be a disconnect between basic research and applied research in behavior analysis. This conversation about the need for translational research began in an ABA doctoral course at the Chicago School for Professional Psychology. My students were very interested in supporting translational research and saw the many possibilities as applied to multiple populations. Their interest continued through participation in a panel presentation at the 2016 ABAI convention, when these possibilities were reviewed and meshed with discussion among the attendees. Although time did not allow for extensive discussion, we did come up with the following possibilities for the SIG: to develop a Facebook or similar social media page to communicate with other professionals interested in this topic, to engage in open discussion about the obstacles related to translational research and to determine potential solutions, and to foster connections among professionals in basic and applied behavior analysis (as well as other professions) for the purpose of discussing potential translational research projects and determining appropriate outlets for publishing translational research. These and other potential goals would be discussed at annual convention meetings.

In an email conversation with Dr. Critchfield in the fall of 2015, we discussed the potential of translational research as related to his articles on the topic. It is the belief of the professionals supporting this SIG that an increase in translational research will be useful, if not indispensable, in addressing the many complex problems related to populations outside of individuals with autism as well as within that population. What has been done so far shows great promise.

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Partial focus on the topic of translational research does not allow for much time to discuss this topic specifically. A SIG focused on translational research alone will allow for focus on this topic, without concern for addressing other issues related to foci of existing SIGs.

During our business meeting at the ABAI annual convention, we provided an overview of translational research, a review of some translational research findings, some challenges to the publication of translational research, followed by an open question and answer period. We are extremely grateful to the support of Dr. Thomas Critchfield in supporting the development of this SIG and helping to form meaningful goals. The goals for the Translational Research SIG include holding a conference with invited speakers who have already contributed to the translational research literature. The date and location will be announced at a later date. In addition, we plan to develop a website that will hopefully be the foundation for an open-access online journal focused exclusively on the publication of translational research. We hope initially that the website will encourage thoughtful dialogue about translational research ideas and the formation of potential research partnerships.

We intend for the Translational Research SIG to embody a dynamic and meaningful space for the expansion of research in this area. Anyone with an interest in this topic is welcome to join us!

Verbal Behavior SIG

BY JUDAH B. AXE

The Verbal Behavior Special Interest Group (VB SIG) had a fantastic year accomplishing its mission of advancing the theory, research, and practice of Skinner's (1957) analysis of verbal behavior. We presented awards to support the exemplary work of students and professionals, organized our student group, published two newsletters, disseminated information on the web, and more.

We applaud the students who received plaques and cash awards at our business meeting during the 2016 ABAI Convention. There were three winners of the 2016 VB SIG Student Grant Award: Andrew Kieta, University of North Texas; Careen Meyer, California State University, Sacramento; and Lauren Goodwyn, Caldwell University. We thank the three judges of this award: Ruth Anne Rehfeldt, Mitch Fryling, and Deisy de Souza. In addition, there were three winners of the 2016 VB SIG Student Research Competition: Kelli Hill, California State University, Sacramento; Catherine Taylor-Santa, Caldwell University; and Lauren Schnell, Caldwell University. We thank the judges: Amanda Laprime, Laura Grow, Caitlin Delfs, Kent Johnson, and Amanda Zangrillo.

The VB SIG presented the 2016 Jack Michael Award for enduring contributions of an advanced scholar in the analysis of verbal behavior to Dr. Barry Lowenkron. We

thank the judges: James Carr, Phil Chase, Ruth Anne Rehfeldt, and Anna Petursdottir. As a means of also celebrating practitioners of verbal behavior, we established a new award this year, the Clinical Supervisor in Verbal Behavior Award, to recognize outstanding supervision in clinical and practical applications of verbal behavior.

The VB SIG is thrilled that a group of 10 graduate students from around the country networked as part of the VB SIG Student Group. The group held video conference meetings to discuss articles and their own research, and they included expert researchers in verbal behavior in those video conferences this year. The group contributed to article reviews in our newsletter and on our website, and they volunteered to help with the VB SIG Expo poster and the VB SIG business meeting at the ABAI annual convention. The VB SIG formed an exciting VB SIG Student Group symposium at the 2017 ABAI annual convention. Additionally, members of the VB SIG Student Group are contributing to updating the verbal behavior section of the website for the Cambridge Center for Behavioral Studies. The leader of the group, who also functioned as the student liaison to the VB SIG Council, was Stephanie Phelan, Simmons College. The other members of the VB SIG Student Group were Natalie Arreola, California State University, Fresno; Mary Halbur, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee; Ian McElfish, Western Michigan University; Kristin Albert, Florida Tech University; Lauren Goodwyn, Caldwell University; Wil Root, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale; James Mellor, Texas Christian University; Fernanda Oda, University of Houston-Clear Lake; and Ellie Mellon, Columbia University.

The VB SIG published two outstanding issues of *VB News*, our newsletter. Highlights from our previous two issues include a member profile by Brandon Herscovitch, ABACS; articles by Dave Palmer and Hank Schlinger on how Jack Michael influenced their careers, lab highlights by Anna Petursdottir and Tiffany Kodak; and a student article summary by Catherine Taylor-Santa. We are pleased with how the quality of our newsletters continues to grow.

An additional accomplishment of the VB SIG this year was collaborating with Western Michigan University to support the Jack Michael Endowment Fund. From the VB SIG website:

"The VB SIG is thrilled to provide information regarding the Jack Michael Endowment Fund. Alumni, colleagues, and friends have initiated the Dr. Jack Michael Graduate Student Mentored Scholarship Fund to honor Dr. Jack Michael's legacy in the field of behavior analysis and to ensure that conceptual issues in behavior analysis continue to be a focus of behavior analytic training at Western Michigan University. The fund will support a graduate student scholarship in the Department of Psychology at WMU."

The VB SIG is also collaborating with WMU on determining a location to house Dr. Michael's teaching and research materials.

Disseminating information about verbal behavior is dependent on a strong presence on the web and social media. We were pleased to make important updates to our website this year, including archiving all previous newsletters since 2008, a benefit for our members; providing information about our awards, including our new Clinical Supervisor Award; posting information about the Jack Michael Endowment Fund; and showcasing new photos from conferences. On Facebook, the VB SIG page has 1,950 likes, and the VB SIG group has 1,235 members. We posted important opportunities and events on Facebook to this large community of people interested in verbal behavior.

The VB SIG is confident that offering research and practice awards, publishing high-quality newsletters, offering a forum for graduate students to discuss verbal behavior, and showcasing verbal behavior opportunities and events on the web has led to our strong membership this year. From ABAI 2016 through the following year, we had 85 members of the VB SIG, which shows the tremendous dedication to the study of verbal behavior and the support of the VB SIG. Our members enjoy eight membership benefits: (1) receiving the *VB News* newsletter twice per year and having access (members only) to past issues on the website; (2) receiving emails about SIG-related events and opportunities; (3) joining the VB listserv to engage in discussions about verbal

behavior; (4) becoming eligible to submit to the three VB SIG awards; (5) becoming eligible to be elected to positions on the VB SIG Council; (6) becoming involved in the VB SIG Student Group; (7) gaining professional development; and (8) joining an active community of people passionate about verbal behavior. We are grateful to the 85 members who joined and supported the VB SIG this year.

The work of disseminating and promoting verbal behavior through the VB SIG would not be possible without the diligent efforts of the VB SIG Council, including two newly elected positions this past year (chair-elect and treasurer): Judah Axe, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Simmons College, chair; April Kisamore, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Caldwell University, chair-elect; Tina Sidener, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Caldwell University, secretary; Jason Vladescu, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Caldwell University, treasurer; Rocío Rosales, Ph.D., BCBA-D, University of Massachusetts Lowell, student grant competition coordinator; Alice Shillingsburg, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Marcus Autism Center and Emory University, student research competition coordinator; Amber Valentino, Psy.D., BCBA-D, Trumpet Behavioral Health, newsletter editor; Amanda Laprime, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Center for Children with Special Needs, website coordinator; Stephanie Phelan, MS, BCBA, Simmons College, ABACS, student group liaison; and James Carr, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Behavior Analyst Certification Board, editor, *The Analysis of Verbal Behavior*. ❖

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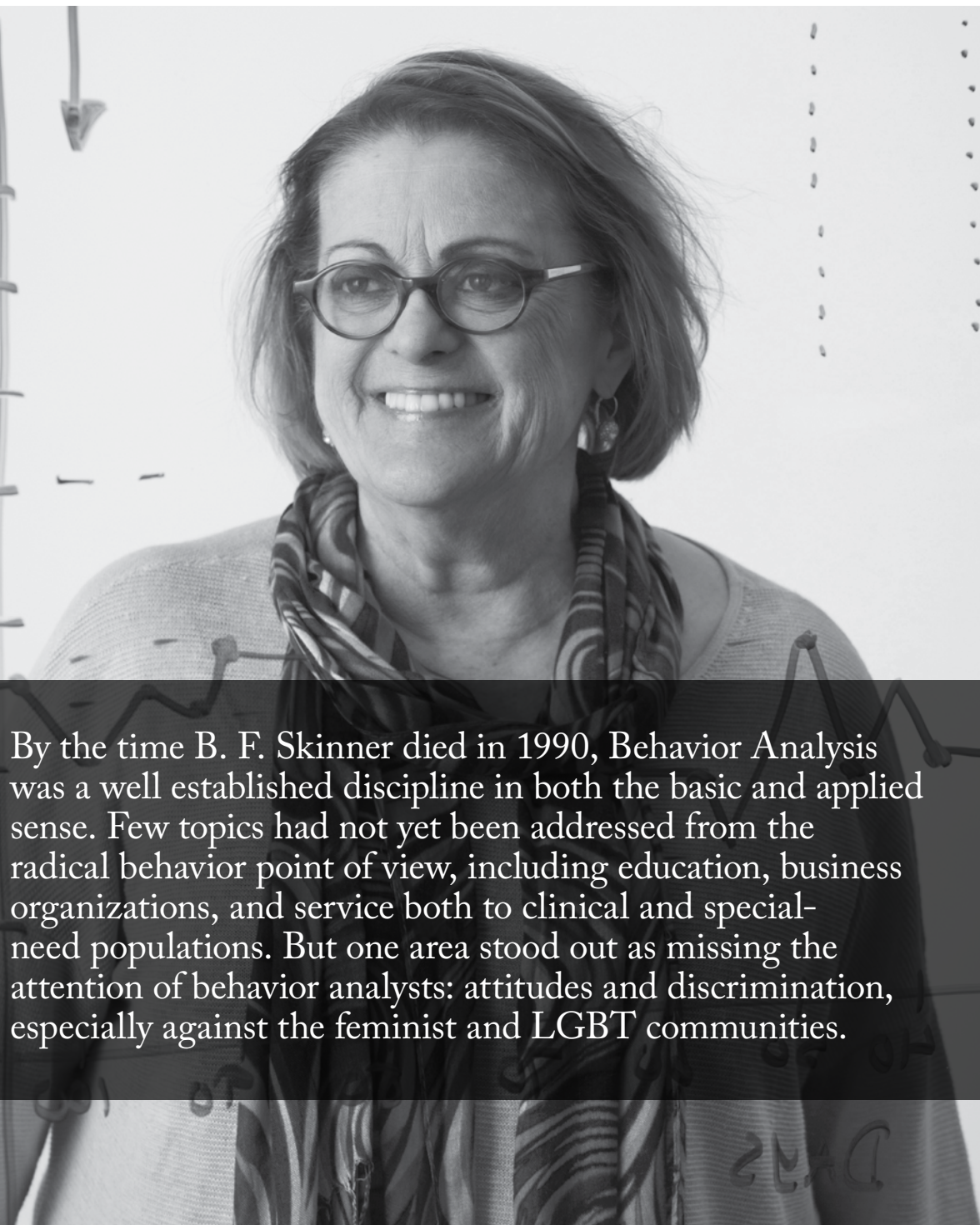


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Maria del Rosario Ruiz, Ph.D., BCBA (1950–2017):

Personal Remembrances of a Friend and Colleague

BY ROGER D. RAY



By the time B. F. Skinner died in 1990, Behavior Analysis was a well established discipline in both the basic and applied sense. Few topics had not yet been addressed from the radical behavior point of view, including education, business organizations, and service both to clinical and special-need populations. But one area stood out as missing the attention of behavior analysts: attitudes and discrimination, especially against the feminist and LGBT communities.

It was this void that especially attracted Maria Ruiz, a staunch behavior analyst and champion of the feminist cause. Her initial call for awareness and investigation was her establishing conceptual article (Ruiz, 1995) "Skinner's radical behaviorism: Historical misconstructions and grounds for feminist reconstructions." Her foray into experimental investigations of contingencies and stimulus control interpretations of more traditional attitude and bias research came only a decade later when she began her long and productive collaborations with Bryan Roche and his colleagues (cf., Roche, Ruiz, O'Riordan, & Hand, 2005; Gavin, Roche, & Ruiz, 2008; Ridgeway, Roche, Gavin, & Ruiz, 2012; Gavin, Roche, Ruiz, Hogan, & O'Reilly, 2012; Roche, Gavin, Ruiz, & Arancibia, 2012; O'Reilly, Roche, Ruiz, Tyndall, & Gavin, 2012).

But Maria didn't get an early start on this publication trajectory. She began with stronger interests and professional applications both with the drug dependency and with the special needs population. But she always had strong interests in teaching diverse populations, including college students. And she always taught with a close eye on behavior analytic guidance for methods, including establishing a long-standing PSI program at Rollins while teaching a companion Sr. Seminar focused on managing and tutoring participating PSI students as clients.

Her undergraduate teaching career began in the Fall of 1980. Earlier that year, as Chair of the Psychology Department at Rollins College, I convinced my Dean of Faculty to experiment with a concept I envisioned as a "Teaching Fellowship" wherein the Department could recruit a new 2/3 time ABD graduate-level faculty member with a promise to his/her graduate department and dissertation committee that we would provide time and supervision of both dissertation research and an internship-type mentoring of teaching. Upon my Dean's approval, I immediately called my friend, Dr. Hank Pennypacker, in the University of Florida's highly respected behavior analysis program to ask if he had any interest in participating in our new program and could he offer any recommended candidate? That conversation quickly resulted in establishing Maria's long and highly productive career as a teacher of undergraduates at Rollins College. Over her 35-year career, she was instrumental in producing more BA/BS graduates who went on to successful Ph.D. degrees and BCBA certifications than likely any other single faculty member in the world, given the size of undergraduate school in which she taught.

Prior to her Ph.D. completion in 1982, Maria had earned both a M.Ed. (1974) in Special Education and a MA (1978) in behavior analysis, both from the University of Florida. She already had, by that time, experienced a full and challenging life. She was born in Havana, Cuba, on July 7, 1950. At age 11 she left Cuba in the refugee movement known as the "Pedro Pan" children, a large

group of children sent to the United States without their parents. Maria lived with a foster family until her physician parents found secret passage through Mexico to the United States. Both parents found medical work for Orange County, Florida. Advocacy for the disenfranchised was one of her many lifelong passions.

Dr. Joe Brady and I were well acquainted through common membership in the Pavlovian Society and personal lab visits. He called me in late summer, 1984, to inquire if perhaps any Rollins faculty might be interested in a last-minute postdoctoral fellowship opportunity in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. The fellowship was to begin in the quickly upcoming fall term. I immediately thought of Maria and, with her enthusiastic consent, I both recommended her and went about recruiting a last-minute visiting replacement for her courses at Rollins, which Dr. Dennis Delprato happily filled by using his upcoming sabbatical. After completing her postdoctoral fellowship and returning to Rollins the next academic year, Maria began a clinical practice under supervision by another licensed clinician colleague in the Rollins Psychology Department, Dr. Martin Farkash. By 1990 Maria was a fully licensed psychologist in Florida. In that same year she also served as a visiting professor at Universidad Autonoma de Yucatan, Merida, Yucatan, Mexico. In 1992, she began service as chair of the Psychology Department at Rollins and continued in that role for 6 years. Her recent battle with cancer led to her retirement in spring of 2017, when she became professor emerita of psychology. She lost her battle with lung cancer on August 15, 2017.

In addition to her remarkable teaching career, Maria was highly active in professional organizations and services as well as being a very productive scholar. In 1997 Maria became a charter certificant BCBA and served on the Florida Behavior Analysis Peer Review Committee, including as chair from 2000–2005. In 2005, she established Behavior Associates of Central Florida and served as both Owner and Clinical Director. After her landmark 1995 feminist article, Maria published 15 additional articles and participated in over 80 professional presentations, many with collaborating undergraduate authors, while teaching a full-time load in our undergraduate program. Near the end of her career she worked tirelessly to help in establishing Rollins' new master's program in applied behavior analysis and clinical science, which has just started its third year. Clearly, she leaves a remarkable legacy—a legacy that grows exponentially through her many professionally active and productive students and tireless gifts to her profession. The entire field of behavior analysis, both basic and applied, is diminished with her passing. Her former students and departmental colleagues will especially miss her. ❖

2017-18 Calendar of Upcoming Conferences

For more details, please visit the websites indicated and the Chapters section of the ABAI website.

2017

December

Maryland ABA 20th Annual Meeting and Pre-Conference Workshop

December 14-15
Baltimore, MD
Hilton Baltimore
www.mdaba.org/annual-conference-workshop

2018

February

ABAI 12th Annual Autism Conference

February 4-6
Miami, FL
Hyatt Regency Miami
www.abainternational.org/events/autism-2018.aspx

Behavior Analysis Association of Michigan Annual Convention

February 15-16
Ypsilanti, MI
Eastern Michigan University
Student Center
www.baam.emich.edu

North Carolina ABA 29th Annual Conference

February 21-23
Winston-Salem, NC
Twin City Quarters
www.nc-aba.com/ncaba-conference

March

Behavior Analysis Association of Mississippi Second Annual Conference

March 1-2
Bay St. Louis, MS
Hollywood Casino
www.baams.org/events

Connecticut ABA 14th Annual Conference

March 2
Hartford, CT
Marriot Hartford Downtown
www.ctaba.org/events/2018_conference

March (cont.)

British Columbia ABA 10th Annual Conference

March 2-3
Vancouver, BC
University of British Columbia
<https://bc-aba.org>

Texas ABA Regional Conference on Behavior Analysis

March 8-11
Houston, TX
Hyatt Regency Houston
www.txaba.org/conference/conference

California ABA 36th Annual Western Regional Conference

March 9-11
Santa Clara, CA
Hyatt Regency Santa Clara and Santa Clara Convention Center
<https://calaba.org/conference-2017>

New Jersey ABA 13th Annual Conference

March 23
Somerset, NJ
www.njaba.org/conferences

Swedish ABA Annual Meeting

March 24
Stockholm, Sweden
www.swaba.se

April

Pennsylvania ABA Annual Conference

April 2-5
Hershey, PA
Hershey Lodge
www.pennaba.org

Four Corners ABA 11th Annual Conference

April 6-7
Park City, UT
The Yarrow at DoubleTree by Hilton
Hotel Park City
www.4caba.org/conference

April (cont.)

Ohio ABA Annual Conference

April 6-7
Columbus, OH
Hyatt Regency
<http://ohaba.org>

Virginia ABA 14th Annual Conference

April 6-7
Roanoke, VA
Hotel Roanoke
<https://virginiaaba.org/conference>

Illinois ABA Annual Conference

April 12-13
Oak Lawn, IL
Hilton in Oak Lawn
www.ilaba.org/conference

Norwegian ABA Annual Seminar

April 25-29
Gol, Norway
Storefjell høyfjellshotell
www.atferd.no

Heartland ABA Annual Conference

April 26-27
Omaha, NE
Scott Conference Center
www.hlaba.org/annual-conference

May

ABAI 44th Annual Convention

May 26-28
San Diego, CA
Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego and
Marriott Marquis San Diego & Marina
www.abainternational.org/events/annual-2018

Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for Applied Behavior Analysis Seminar

May 29
San Diego, CA
Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego
www.abainternational.org/events/act-2018



autism

12th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

2018

MIAMI, FLORIDA

february 4–6
hyatt regency miami

www.abainternational.org/events/autism-2018

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