

**INSIDE BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS**

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*Boyd*





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Illustration: MARTIN C. BURCH

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**President's Column**

# Getting to Know the Elephant

BY CAROL PILGRIM

An ancient Indian parable tells of a group of blind men encountering an elephant for the first time. To better understand this new animal, each man examines the beast tactually and then reports his findings to the others. The elephant is characterized variously as a thick snake, a leaf, a pillar, a wall, a rope, and a spear, depending on the speaker's point of contact with the animal.



In some versions of the story, the men, each convinced of his own truth, begin to argue and to doubt the integrity of the others, even coming to blows. By emphasizing the limitations of any single perspective, and the necessity of multiple vantage points for a more complete understanding, the parable provides an effective metaphor for many human endeavors, including, in the present case, ABAl.

Let's consider our elephant. Having returned to the ABAl Council after a number of years away, I admit to being awed, again, by the enormity of what one organization manages to make happen. Indeed, it is revealing to reflect on the whole of our enterprise, instead of responding on the basis of a particular individual experience, as we all have a wont to do. I'll take this opportunity then to follow from our parable by briefly outlining the assorted pieces that comprise and define ABAl.

Many of us interact with ABAl most directly through the annual convention in May. In truth, the convention approaches pachyderm status in its own right. Even with a second consecutive virtual meeting, the 2021 convention offered more than 1,200 individual presentations, 397 research posters, and 58 workshops in 15 program areas to over 3,000 attendees, with more than 16,000 CE credits produced so far. Thanks to the outstanding efforts of the Program Board Coordinator, Program Committee Chair, and 30 Area Coordinators—and the heroic planning, training, and technical support provided by 19 ABAl staff—the 2021 convention was a tremendous success, with 91% of survey respondents rating the overall convention as “very good” or “excellent.”

But don't forget that the annual convention is but one of multiple events arranged by ABAl each year. Since May 2020, online offerings also included the Culturo-Behavior Science for a Better World Conference (October 2020) and the 15th Annual Autism Conference (February 2021). Planning is already well underway for in-person events in 2022: the 16th Annual Autism Conference (March 5–7; Seattle, WA), the 48th Annual Convention (May 28–30; Boston, MA), and the 11th International Conference in Dublin, Ireland (Sept. 1–3). Each of these exciting events will provide another feel of the elephant.

Further touches of ABAl take place via our publications, which reach an increasing number of readers every year. In addition to this member publication, ABAl now is the proud home to a new book series, and six—count 'em six—behavior-analytic journals: *Perspectives on Behavior Science* (editor: Chris Newland), *The Psychological Record* (editor: Mitch Fryling), *The Analysis of Verbal Behavior* (editor: Tiffany Kodak), *Behavior Analysis in Practice* (editor: Stephanie Peterson), *Behavior and Social Issues* (editor: Traci Cihon), and *Education and Treatment of Children* (editor: Claire St. Peter). Collectively, these journals account for 19 issues per year, thanks to the hard work of our six editors, 26 associate editors, and a grand

total of 224 Editorial Board members.

Of course, education in behavior analysis is the focus of other critical points of contact with ABAl for students, instructors, and program administrators alike. The ABAl Accreditation Board oversees rigorous standards and processes for on-site visits and materials review of training programs at three levels. Currently, nine universities can boast of offering an ABAl-accredited behavior analysis program at the Doctoral level, 23 at the Master's level, and two at the Bachelor's level. As of May 2021, this distinction carries even greater weight given the confirmation of official recognition by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, a national coordinating body that provides quality assurance for groups that accredit institutions and programs. Considerable thanks are due to Mike Perone and the Accreditation Board for skillfully negotiating this involved approval process, the outcome of which is a landmark that benefits all of ABAl.

In addition to program accreditation, ABAl provides an independent mechanism for verifying coursework requirements, content hours, and faculty standards in two education categories. With oversight by ABAl's Verified Course Sequence (VCS) Board, this process currently supports 548 approved BACB VCSs in 41 different countries, and an additional 7 VCSs from three different countries in the recently established Culturo-Behavior Science program.

A related initiative will begin soon for verifying international training programs that fall outside of BACB locales, where the development of appropriate standards for coursework represents another major collaborative effort on the part of ABAl and its international members. Special kudos go to Peter Killeen, Jenna Mrljak, and the International Task Force on Education for their unfailing direction in this initiative. Task Force members are Smita Awasthi (India), Michael Dorsey (VCS Board Coordinator), Ilana Gerschlowitz (South Africa), Agustín Daniel Gómez (Mexico), Martha Hübner (Brazil), Wilson López (Colombia), Maria Malott (ABAl), Kanako Otsui (Japan), Mike Perone (Accreditation Board Coordinator), Ingunn Sandaker (Norway), Fabio Tosolin (Italy), and Gladys Williams (Spain). To parallel the coursework standards, a separate Experiential Learning Committee—spearheaded by Michael Dorsey, Maria Malott, and Katie Mahaffy—was assembled to identify standards of practice for training programs. The coursework and experiential learning standards are now integrated in the ABAl tiered model for education, soon to be released to the membership for commentary.

Further pieces of our organizational whole are evidenced by our membership, which is robust in number and vigorous in action despite two years of virtual existence. At present, there are 1,559 Full, 1,512 Student, 109 Student Transition, 230 First Time, 1,708 Affiliate,

415 Chapter Adjunct, and 1,703 Associate Chapter members. Members interact with ABAI through its eight Boards (88 members), four standing committees (26 individuals), 39 Special Interest Groups, 97 affiliated chapters (52 U.S. and 45 international), its Fellows program (123 individuals so recognized), and through the work of liaisons to each of eight external organizations with aligned interests. Notably, the vast bulk of the work described here is accomplished on a purely volunteer and non-compensated basis (only the journal editors and continuing associate editors receive a small stipend), making success all the more impressive.

Other critical contributors to the feel of ABAI are the 18 talented and dedicated staff who, under the masterful leadership of our CEO, Maria Malott, manage to support with skill and good humor all of the functions outlined above and more (e.g., continuing education, the ABAI bookstore, the Career Center and job placement listings), even while meeting the 2,080 deadlines set for their collective work across the course of the year.

The final part of this anatomy review is the ABAI Council, the nine-member decision-making body elected to provide guidance and direction across the organization's endeavors. It is the responsibility of the ABAI Council to avoid the plight of the blind men. The Council composition reflects a breadth of experience by design, with applied, at-large, experimental, international, and student representatives. Further, required reading prior to each of the biannual Council meetings includes hundreds of pages of documents and data relevant to each of the many pieces of ABAI, in order to inform the issues under consideration as fully as possible. The pace of this deliberative process can be frustrating at times, but it is essential to provide appropriate context and opportunity to design steps most likely to be meaningful, sustainable, and of benefit to the entirety of the organization.

One important case in point, which itself emphasizes the power and necessity of multiple perspectives, involves foundational steps taken over the past year for progress in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). Collaborative work between the DEI Board, the ABAI Council, and ABAI members produced results in a number of formative directions (please see the DEI webpage for further detail). Three different award categories were created and funded to encourage, recognize, and support exemplary efforts in DEI. Inaugural winners of the SABA Innovative Student Research Grant and the ABAI Scholarly Contributions to DEI paper competition were recognized at the May convention. The grant program proved so successful that SABA allocated additional funding going forward for up to four research grants of up to \$5,000 each. Nominations are currently being solicited for the third award category—the Award for Distinguished Contributions to DEI—to recognize documented achievements as models of, and

inspiration for, effective DEI approaches. The first awardee will be honored at a dedicated event at the annual convention in Boston next year. Another advance for DEI this year was the creation of the SABA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Fund, which was created to allow for member contributions specifically in support of DEI work, including ongoing support for the Innovative Student Research Grant.

As a next milestone, the Council approved at its May meeting a position statement that makes explicit ABAI's opposition to conversion therapy and practices, as well as our acknowledgement of having played a role in such practices. The statement was crafted by an all-star Task Force of members appointed by the ABAI Council (Sarah Campau, Shawn Capell, Daniel Conine, Kent Johnson, Fernanda Oda, and one additional member who prefers to remain anonymous), then reviewed and approved unanimously by the DEI Board and the ABAI Council. It now appears as a Council statement on the ABAI "Policies and Positions" webpage. A period for member comments will be announced this summer, to be followed by a vote of the membership for possible endorsement as an organization-level policy.

Important building blocks put in place this year also include posting preliminary data on diversity in ABAI membership and convention registrants. These postings will be expanded in the fall to include multiple measures from ABAI's strategic plan, which features DEI goals throughout.

Several approaches to creating a more welcoming and inclusive environment have been initiated. As one key example, and with an eye toward informing subsequent proposals for action, the Education Committee of the DEI Board has initiated a series of participatory small-group sessions to explore challenges, root causes, and possible solutions with individuals who have been traditionally underrepresented and marginalized within our field. In another important case, Landria Seals Green and Vanessa Bethea-Miller of the ABA Task Force contributed a rubric that served as a basis for the ABAI Program Board's review of convention submissions with respect to inclusivity and cultural humility.

Additional decisions from the May Council meeting include waiving convention registration for all 50-minute invited convention presentations beginning in 2022, and scheduling a special Council meeting later this summer to focus exclusively on planning for more direct support of our BIPOC members and others from marginalized communities.

To echo our opening parable, the critical necessity of involving and learning from all perspectives has never been clearer, for our field or for our society. ABAI is committed to the goals of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and the groundwork described here represents early, but important, steps toward advancing those goals. ❖



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September 1, 2021

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**D**R. NADINE BURKE HARRIS is an award-winning physician, researcher, and advocate dedicated to changing the way society responds to one of the most serious, expensive, and widespread public health crises of our time: childhood trauma. She was appointed California's first-ever Surgeon General by Governor Gavin Newsom in January 2019, and her career has been dedicated to serving vulnerable communities and combating the root causes of health disparities.

**ABAI Presidential Scholar Essay Contest:**

# Nadine Burke Harris

BY RACHEL L. METRAS, KARA LACROIX, AND MATTHEW J. CARBONE

Her work has been profiled in best-selling books including *How Children Succeed* by Paul Tough and *Hillbilly Elegy* by J. D. Vance, as well as in Jamie Redford's feature film *Resilience*. It has also been featured on NPR, CNN, and Fox News, and in *USA Today* and *The New York Times*.

*NOTE: Ms. Liz Neeley presented the 2021 Presidential Scholar Address on May 28 during the convention. Ms. Neeley graciously stepped in to deliver the Presidential Scholar Address, which was vacated by Dr. Nadine Burke Harris, who had to cancel due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and her role as California Surgeon General. We wish to acknowledge the winners of the ABAI Presidential Scholar Essay Contest, who wrote their essay before the change in speaker was made. We are deeply grateful to Ms. Neeley for providing a thought-provoking talk on science communication and sensemaking during crisis, and we hope to host Dr. Burke Harris at a future ABAI event.*



Dr. Burke Harris's TED Talk, "How Childhood Trauma Affects Health Across a Lifetime," has been viewed more than 7 million times. Her book *The Deepest Well: Healing the Long-Term Effects of Childhood Adversity* was called "indispensable" by *The New York Times*.

Reports by the Center for Youth Wellness (2017) show that 34.8 million children in the United States experience toxic stress or Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs; i.e., traumatic events) before they turn 17. This is concerning because children with high numbers of ACEs are 32.6 times more likely to have learning or behavioral disorders (Burke et al., 2011) and as adults, they are more prone to chronic health issues (e.g., sleep disturbances, depression) than their peers without ACEs (Felitti et al., 1998). Although there are behavioral treatments for children displaying signs of high ACE levels in schools (e.g., hyperactivity) and medical treatments for those same individuals as adults, behavioral and medical services are often disconnected from one another. In practice, this means that children with high ACE scores may not receive medical attention for their ACEs beyond being referred out to mental health services by their primary care physician, and children displaying behavioral problems may not always receive complementary medical services (Burke Harris, 2015).

To overcome this disparity, Nadine Burke Harris, the first Surgeon General of the State of California, has advocated for the treatment of toxic stress and ACEs through individualized, multi-disciplinary intervention teams for children. These intervention teams treat both behavioral and biological symptoms as a function of the child's environment, which allows the team to address current behavioral challenges and future health concerns using the same comprehensive treatment method. The intervention team works together to develop treatment plans designed to prevent and mitigate the current and future effects of toxic stress. The treatment plans apply evidence-based interventions across a variety of domains that influence children, including child and family psychological needs, sleep health, nutritional deficits, educational progress, and physical activity (Burke Harris, 2019).

Burke Harris's treatment model was successfully applied in clinical settings in California and New England (Bhushan et al., 2020), but ACEs are still prevalent throughout the United States. There is a clear need for dissemination of intervention strategies that will produce these same outcomes and prevent the development of ACEs. Due the similarities between Burke Harris's approach and behavior analytic practice, behavior analysts may be uniquely poised to contribute to this intervention effort by creating programs that teach children to engage in healthful behaviors under target environmental conditions. However, there are also many implications of Burke Harris's work that apply to behavior analytic practice. Two of these implications are described below.

One implication of Burke Harris's work is that children may benefit more from one coordinated, multi-disciplinary intervention effort than many isolated intervention teams. In other words, although both psychological and medical interventions contribute to the wellbeing of a child with high ACEs, the best treatment outcomes can only be achieved when care is integrated. With an integrated care system, the same healthful behaviors, such as exercise, are goals that all members of the intervention team strive to achieve. This allows repeated practice opportunities for the same skills across different settings. Similar to behavior analytic practice, a client's newly learned skill cannot be expected to maintain or transfer to new contexts if instruction is limited to one setting. Young children might not learn to enjoy exercising outside, for example, if expectations to do so differ across that child's home, school, and afterschool settings.

Behavior analysts will likely benefit from this same collaborative approach when working with their own clients. Regardless of a client's previous experience with toxic stress or ACEs, collaborating with other service providers to provide consistent learning opportunities across settings will only help client skills maintain and transfer across a variety of contexts. These outcomes may be especially relevant to behavior analysts working in schools, group homes, or early intervention settings, as they are often teaching their clients to interact with several different aspects of their communities. Consulting with community members when designing behavior intervention programs may give behavior analysts new insights on which skills will produce the broadest benefits for their clients. For example, when providing services to a child with a family history of heart disease, consulting with a doctor may reveal that it is more beneficial to spend 20 minutes a day teaching that child to enjoy different forms of cardiovascular exercise than practicing academic skills, because teaching the child to enjoy exercising will reduce long-term health risks and condition additional reinforcers.

Another implication of Burke Harris's work is that children with high ACE scores may be more sensitive to certain types of reinforcers than others. Escape from work, for example, may be a particularly potent reinforcer because children with high ACE scores have more frequent activation of their fight-flight-or-freeze responses than children with low or no ACEs (Bhushan et al., 2020). For these children, stimuli associated with the everyday experiences of speaking in front of the class or trying to overcome a new challenge may activate their fight-flight-or-freeze response and enhance the value of escape. Once their fight-flight-or-freeze response is active, children may engage in challenging behaviors to avoid being in the circumstance that elicited that biological response.

If a child's trauma history can change their susceptibility to particular reinforcers, behavior analysts

may be interested in assessing ACEs prior to writing interventions for challenging behavior. Children with high ACE scores may need additional instruction aimed at increasing their tolerance of delays to reinforcement because their fight-flight-or-freeze response may be more active than children without low ACE scores. Clients with high ACE scores may also benefit from instruction that is provided in small achievable steps and from being able to make choices about how they learn. Programming these additional sources of reinforcement into intervention plans may contribute to create teaching contexts that motivate children to work through new challenges.

Toxic stress and ACEs are a public health issue that impact learning and wellness over the lifetime. Burke Harris's recent work illustrates that multidisciplinary intervention teams can be mobilized to create positive outcomes in the lives of children. These same techniques can be leveraged by behavior analysts to create long lasting changes in our clients' lives regardless of their ACE levels.



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## INTRODUCING A NEW ABAI BOOK SERIES

# Behavior Analysis: Theory, Research, and Practice

## Volume 1: *Behavior Science Perspectives on Culture and Community*

Edited by Traci M. Cihon and Mark A. Mattaini

All science proceeds by progressively building on the work of others while remaining open to new discoveries and challenging existing conceptual frameworks. The same is true of culturo-behavior science. This textbook presents the scientifically rigorous work of the last several decades that has taken a behavior-analytic view of social and cultural processes, with an eye for contributions that address social and cultural issues. Learn more at [link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-45421-0](http://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-45421-0)



# Liz Neeley: Science Communication and Sensemaking Amidst Crisis



Liz Neeley is the founder of Liminal Creations, a design and consulting firm focused on sense-making and science engagement. She is also a lecturer at Yale, where she collaborates with the National Neuroscience Curriculum Initiative. Her career began in ocean conservation and is inspired by more than a decade of work in storytelling and science communication. Neeley currently sits on the AAAS Committee on Science and Technology Engagement with the Public (CoSTEP) and the advisory board for the Aspen Institute Science & Society Program. From 2015 to 2020, she was the executive director of The Story Collider. She has an ongoing fascination with personal knowledge management systems and would love to hear about your favorite tools and practices. Find her on twitter at @LizNeeley.

**Abstract:** The attendees of the 2021 ABAI share a professional identity as behavioral analysts. Yet we simultaneously inhabit a diversity of overlapping identities and social roles. Partners and parents, patients and caregivers, we are all community-members and survivors of an ongoing global pandemic. COVID-19 continues to raise deeply personal challenges in interpreting, navigating, and guiding our communities through what has been titled an "omni-crisis." In short, how do we make sense of this past year? Where do we go from here? How do we cope with the profound inequities exacerbated by this particular event, much less those to come? This keynote will draw from literatures on uncertainty and risk communication, misinformation, psychology, narrative identity, and sensemaking to explore the communication challenges and responsibilities of experts and educators.

Those who participated in the Presidential Scholar Address learned how to discuss the limitations of the information deficit model of science communication; identify the components of a sensemaking approach to crisis communications; and develop an initial formulation of how to apply a sensemaking perspective in their own work.



# 2021 OUTSTANDING MENTOR AWARDS



**Florence DiGennaro Reed**

**Dr. Florence DiGennaro Reed**, a board certified behavior analyst, received a doctorate in school psychology from Syracuse University. She also completed a clinical post-doctoral fellowship at the Institute for Child Development and a pre-doctoral internship in clinical psychology at the May Center for Education and Neurorehabilitation and the May Center for Child Development. Presently, Florence is an associate professor in and chairperson of the Department of Applied Behavioral Science at the University of Kansas where she directs the Performance Management Laboratory. Her research examines effective and efficient staff training and performance improvement practices. Florence has published nearly 95 articles and book chapters and two edited books on a variety of topics including training, performance management, assessment, and intervention. With co-authors Drs. Gregory Madden and Derek Reed, Florence recently published a textbook titled *An Introduction to Behavior Analysis*. Moreover, Florence has been an associate editor for *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, *Journal of Behavioral Education*, and *Behavior Analysis in Practice*.



**Blair Lloyd**

**Dr. Blair Lloyd** is an assistant professor in the Department of Special Education at Vanderbilt University and a Vanderbilt Kennedy Center Investigator. Her research focuses on individualized assessments and interventions for students with persistent challenging behavior in schools, with a growing emphasis on collaboration across disciplines (behavior analysis, mental health, psychiatry) to support these students and their educators. She is a co-investigator on the Tennessee Behavior Supports Project, a technical assistance grant supporting multi-tiered systems of behavior support in Tennessee schools. Dr. Lloyd teaches courses in

single case design, observational methods, and experimental analysis of behavior. She works closely with masters and doctoral students in her research and teaching roles, and considers student mentorship the best part of her job.

**Dr. Claire St. Peter** is a professor of psychology, the coordinator of the behavior analysis program area, and the director of Graduate Training for Psychology at West Virginia University (WVU). Dr. St. Peter has been the fortunate recipient of excellent mentorship throughout her professional life, including from luminaries like Drs. Henry Pennypacker and Timothy Vollmer (while in graduate school), and Drs. Andy Lattal and Michael Perone (since arriving at WVU). She attempts to incorporate individualized, constructional mentorship practices into her interactions with undergraduate and graduate students and, more recently, with junior faculty and other emerging professionals. Her mentorship spans activities in research (primarily in the areas of challenging behavior, treatment integrity, extinction, and school-based applications of behavioral principles), teaching (in and out of the classroom), and service (including clinical, editorial, and leadership domains), and is among the most enjoyable of her professional activities.



**Claire St. Peter**

**Dr. Benjamin N. Witts** is an associate professor at St. Cloud State University where he has worked since graduating from the University of Nevada, Reno in 2013. His approach to teaching and mentoring rests on two ideas: students should lead and students love what they are good at. To that extent, he works hard to help his students succeed in the pursuit of their interests, resulting in fun and interesting thesis projects like using custom-made books

to encourage the emergence verbal relations in autistic children, creating programmed instruction modules to supplement staff training, bridging the principles of ABA to Phelan-McDermid Syndrome, and a time-series analysis of voter turnout across many countries over several decades, to name a few. But as much as he loves teaching, he spends the most time with his wife and six-year-old twins, Lincoln and Lucy..

**Special Note: Dr. Darwin Shane Koch**

*Dr. Darwin Shane Koch also won an Outstanding Mentor Award in 2021. Sadly, Dr. Koch passed away in May, before he could receive the award. There is a special section honoring Dr. Koch on pages 54–55 of this issue.*



Benjamin Witts



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# 2021

## **Scholarly Contributions to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

The Scholarly Contributions to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Paper Competition was designed to encourage, promote, and reward behavior analytic scholarship on topics and issues in DEI, both in the field of behavior analysis and more broadly. Students (graduate or undergraduate) and post-graduate professionals who have completed empirical or conceptual papers relevant to DEI that are informed, at least in part, by a behavior analytic perspective are invited to submit. The 2022 competition will begin accepting applications on September 1, 2021. Additional details may be found on the DEI Board website.

The 2021 inaugural year of the competition received 11 applications. The three winning papers (one in the student category and two in the professional category) are listed below.


### **Student Category**

#### **A Behavioral Approach to Analyzing Bias-Based Behaviors in Public Schools**

BY NICOLE HOLLINS, DAPHNE SNYDER, AND SYDNEY HARMON (WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY)

**Abstract:** Students of color are more likely to receive negative teacher-student interactions compared to their peers. Some have attributed the inequalities of teacher-student interactions to implicit bias or bias-based behaviors. Given the impact of bias-based behaviors on student academic and social outcomes, it is critical for school-based practitioners to objectively measure bias-based behaviors to assist in providing culturally relevant and socially significant treatments. The most commonly cited procedure for assessing bias is the Implicit Bias Relational Assessment Procedure (IRAP). While the IRAP assessment has produced socially significant results, the utility and acceptability of the IRAP in school-based settings may be limited due to several factors. Moreover, there is limited research that extends the assessment of bias-based





behaviors to treatment in primary educational settings. Practitioners must have an efficient data collection system to measure interactions and use the data collection system when providing feedback to school personnel. Thus, the purpose of this paper is to discuss considerations to current procedures being used to assess bias-based behaviors and propose the Teacher Student Interaction Tool (T-SIT) for school-based practitioners. The utility and considerations of the T-SIT will be discussed.

## Professional Category

### **Cultural Competence in Behavior Analysis: Current Status and Future Directions**

BY LAUREN BEAULIEU (NEWTON, MA, PUBLIC SCHOOLS) AND CORINA JIMENEZ-GOMEZ (UNIVERSITY OF AUBURN)

**Abstract:** The need for those in the field of applied behavior analysis (ABA) to incorporate culturally competent research and practice is underscored by the increased diversity found in the US census report and the prediction that the US will continue to become more diverse over the coming decade (Frey, 2019; Vespa et al., 2018). In addition, the recent update to the Ethics Code for Behavior Analysts by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB) requires certificants obtain training in the area of cultural diversity (BACB, 2020). Considering the field of behavior analysis relies on evidence-based practice, it is important for researchers and practitioners to evaluate best practices for working with diverse populations. The purpose of this paper is two-fold: a) to describe the relevant research and current practices in and outside of the field of behavior analysis regarding culturally responsive assessment and treatment procedures and b) to inspire research in the area of cultural competence in ABA by identifying current research questions in behavioral assessment

and treatment to address to ensure culturally responsive practices are evidence-based.

### **One Size Fits One: A Comparison Between Standard and Culturally Adapted Telehealth Caregiver Training in India**

BY MAITHRI SIVARAMAN (GHENT UNIVERSITY), TARA FAHMIE (MUNROE-MEYER INSTITUTE), AMANDA GARCIA (FAMILY MODEL BEHAVIOR THERAPY), AND RIMA HAMAWA (FAMILY MODEL BEHAVIOR THERAPY)

**Abstract:** Telehealth is increasingly considered a viable service delivery option for functional assessments and function-based treatment for problem behavior. However, few applications have occurred with participants outside the United States and little research exists evaluating the role that culture plays in service delivery. In the current study, we compared standard and culturally-adapted functional analyses and functional communication training delivered via telehealth to six participants in India. We measured the effectiveness using a multiple baseline design and also collected supplemental measures of sessions to criterion, cancellations, treatment fidelity, and social validity. We directly assessed preference for each training modality using a concurrent chains arrangement. Both modalities were effective in reducing problem behavior and increasing functional verbal requests for participating children, and treatment fidelity was high across training modalities. There were no major differences in sessions-to-criterion or social validity across training modalities. However, all six caregivers demonstrated fewer cancellations and greater preference for culturally-adapted training compared to standard training. The implications of our findings and avenues for future research are discussed.



2021

ABAI is proud to announce the 2021 Fellows of  
the Association for Behavior Analysis International.

## FELLOWS OF ABAI



**Michael F. Dorsey**

**Michael F. Dorsey** is currently Vice President of Psychological Services at Amego Inc. and Lecturer in the Applied Behavior Analysis Programs/Bouve' College of Health Science in the Department of Applied Psychology, Northeastern University. He received his Ph.D. from Western Michigan University in 1979 and has served the discipline of applied behavior analysis with distinction for decades. Few individuals have made more of a service contribution to ABAI and the field of behavior analysis than Dr. Dorsey. His contributions to public policy and law and to professional standards and training plus his leadership in addressing issues of practice are legion. He helped found organizations and programs in behavior analysis (e.g., the Massachusetts Association for Behavior Analysis, the Institute for Behavior Studies at Endicott College), and he has taken on vital roles at ABAI, including founding member and coordinator of the Practice Board. He was coordinator of ABAI's Affiliated Chapters Board, chair of its Licensing Committee, chair of the Verified Course Sequences Board, and is leading the Experiential Learning Committee, which will define standards of practice for all educational programs in behavior analysis. His significant, impassioned, and long-standing contributions to public policy and law include drafting an amicus curiae brief submitted to the United States Supreme Court that challenged the conditions of residents at the Mansfield Training School, an institution for those with intellectual disabilities, being a gubernatorial appointee to the Developmental Disabilities Councils (DDCs) of both Florida and Massachusetts, chairing the Massachusetts DDC Governmental Affairs Committee, and representing the National DDC at the First Papal Congress on Developmental Disabilities, hosted by Pope John Paul II at the Vatican. He co-authored bills related to the protection of ABA

consumers and the practice of ABA, including the ABA Licensing Bill in Massachusetts (the first such bill filed in the United States), and was appointed to serve as one of the original members of the Massachusetts Licensing Board for Applied Behavior Analysts. Dr. Dorsey has been selfless, generous, and effective in his long service as an advocate for individuals diagnosed with developmental disabilities.

**Ramona A. Houmanfar** is professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Nevada, Reno, from which she received her Ph.D. in 1998. She has been director of the Behavior Analysis Program at Reno for the past 10 years and is director of the Performance System Technologies Laboratory. Dr. Houmanfar's scholarship includes conceptual analyses of socio-cultural phenomena and the role of leadership in cultural change. Her research focuses on behavioral systems analysis with an emphasis on rule governance, cooperation, implicit bias and communication. Among her numerous contributions to behavior analysis, Dr. Houmanfar served as editor of the *Journal of Organizational Behavior Management* for 7 years, co-chair of the ABAI Program Committee for 11 years, director of Organizational Behavior Management Network, and president of the Nevada Association for Behavior Analysis, and is a trustee of the Cambridge Center for Behavioral Studies. She is also a recipient of the OBM Network Outstanding Contributions Award for Research and Leadership.

**Martha Pelaez** is currently the Frost Professor of Developmental Psychology at Florida International University, School of Education and Human Development. Dr. Pelaez has become an influential and important leader in behavior analysis through her innovative basic-applied research with infants and her



**Ramona A. Houmanfar**



**Martha Pelaez**

### Designation as Fellow of ABAI

The purpose of the ABAI Fellow designation is to recognize outstanding contributors to behavior analysis in one of the primary areas of (a) scholarly research, (b) professional practice, or (c) teaching/administration/service or any combination of (a), (b), and (c).

- Only full members of ABAI are eligible to be named Fellows.
- The nominee must have a documented record of sustained and excellent contributions in one or more primary areas. An aggregate of contributions across the three areas may also make an individual eligible.
- Nominations are only accepted from current Fellows of ABAI, each of whom may make a single nomination per year, and the nominator will solicit a second letter of support from another Fellow.

dedicated service to the field. She is one of very few researchers to successfully bring a behavior analytic perspective to child development. Her co-authored textbook with Gary Novak, *Child and Adolescent Development: A Behavioral Systems Approach*, is considered to be the best work on child development from a behavioral perspective since Bijou and Baer's seminal *Child Development*. In addition, Professor Pelaez was a founding editor of the *Behavioral Development Bulletin* (editor for 25 years) now an APA journal. A noteworthy feature of Dr. Pelaez's research record is her ability to take the findings from relevant research domains, refine them, and apply them to developmental issues.

Martha Pelaez's most important research and theoretical analyses include experiments on attachment and acquisition of fear (with Gewirtz); the development of a taxonomy of rules and rule governance and moral development; basic experiments on stimulus equivalence with infants; the establishment of eye contact (orienting), infant vocalizations and vocal imitation, joint attention, and social referencing behavioral cusps, as foundational precursors of derived relational framing and precursors of naming. She examined together with O'Hara and Barnes-Holmes how relational-frame theory connects to human intelligence. Most recently, Professor Pelaez has applied her behavioral expertise to address a relatively new problem of considerable social significance: the stress and anxiety associated with returning to school in the age of the COVID-19 Pandemic. In addition to Professor Pelaez's outstanding research accomplishments, she is recognized for her long-standing, excellent service to behavior analysis through her many positions on editorial boards, her service on a number of important special committees and task forces, and her critical role in the international development of behavior analysis.

**Alliston K. Reid** is the Reeves Family Professor of Psychology, Emeritus, at Wofford College in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Dr. Reid received his Ph.D. in 1981 from Duke University, where he studied under the mentorship of John Staddon. Dr. Reid served as chair of the Departments of Mathematics & Computer Science and later, Psychology, at Eastern Oregon University before joining the faculty of Wofford College in 1996. At Wofford, he served as chair of the Department of Psychology and was recognized for his outstanding teaching contributions, being named Carnegie/CASE South Carolina Professor of the Year, and receiving the Governor's Distinguished Professor Award. Among his notable professional contributions, Dr. Reid served as president of the Society for the Quantitative Analyses of Behavior. In addition to excellence in teaching and service, Dr. Reid is recognized for his influential and sustained contributions focusing on basic questions concerning the definition of operant response units and response chains; skills acquisition; variation and selection; stimulus control, especially response-generated stimuli; resurgence; and timing. His research on functional units, their demarcation by stimuli, and the role of knowledge of results is notable both for its scholarship and its sophisticated quantitative analysis. Moreover, in what has been referred to as a triumph of operant conditioning, Dr. Reid demonstrated the ability of a border collie, Chaser, to acquire receptive language skills. Specifically, it "learned and retained, over a three-year period of intensive training, the proper-noun names of 1,022 objects," and the findings indicate that "Chaser acquired referential understanding of nouns, an ability normally attributed to children."



Alliston K. Reid





**Richard G. Smith**

**Richard G. Smith**, Emeritus Associate Professor of Behavior Analysis at the University of North Texas (UNT), is recognized for his impact on teaching, administration, and service to the discipline. Dr. Smith received his doctorate from the University of Florida in 1994. During his career, Dr. Smith mentored hundreds of students, helped to create one of the first online programs in behavior analysis, and served as chair of the UNT Behavior Analysis Department for more than a decade. His career at UNT has been recognized through the Hiram J. Friedsam Award for Outstanding Faculty Service from UNT's College of Public Affairs and Community Service, as well as The President's Special Recognition Award. In 1999, he worked with Gerald Shook to administer the first behavior analysis testing and certification in Texas. He was awarded the 2019 Michael Hemingway Award from the Behavior Analyst Certification Board as well as the 2014 Career Contributions to Behavior Analysis in Texas Award from the Texas Association for Behavior Analysis (TxABA) for his enduring support of behavior analysis. Dr. Smith served on the board of SEAB, was associate editor of *JABA*, and served TxABA as both a long-term board member and as president. He has been one of the most sought-after discussants at conferences because he takes the same amount of time and energy to discuss the work of others as he does to create

and supervise research in his own laboratory. Dr. Smith has obtained over \$5 million in grants and contracts to support his and his students' research and to provide greatly needed services and supports to individuals with intellectual disabilities throughout the North Texas region.


**Dean Williams**, Senior Scientist Emeritus at the Schiefelbusch Institute for Life Span Studies at the University of Kansas, received his Ph.D. from the University of Florida in 1989. His work is a model of bi-directional translational research in which his parallel animal and human studies have contributed to the design of treatment programs for clinical populations as well as to the analysis of basic principles of behavior. For more than 25 years, Dr. Williams' research has been continuously funded by the NIH for his innovative research in stimulus control, behavioral pharmacology, schedule change-over effects, and issues of broad interest in the behavioral, social, and biological sciences. His creative synthesis and integrative approach to research have built connections between behavior analysis and a number of scientific disciplines. Through his publications in a wide array of leading journals and numerous conference presentations, Dr. Williams has made his work visible to a broad community and served as an effective ambassador for behavior analysis.



**Dean Williams**

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# BEHAVIOR SCIENCE BLOGS



## **BEHAVIOR SCIENCE DISSEMINATION.**

The *Behavior Science Blogs* feature posts by renowned scholars in the field on such timely topics as addiction, education, health, and autism. Six different blogs provide readers with updates on newsworthy items relevant to the science of behavior. Included are news stories, scholarly articles, commentaries, and the occasional post from a guest blogger with perspectives on our field's links to both practice and current events and the need-to-know content on how behavior science is changing, or could be changing, local and global communities.

We hope you will join the hundreds of readers from around the world who regularly enjoy these blogs.

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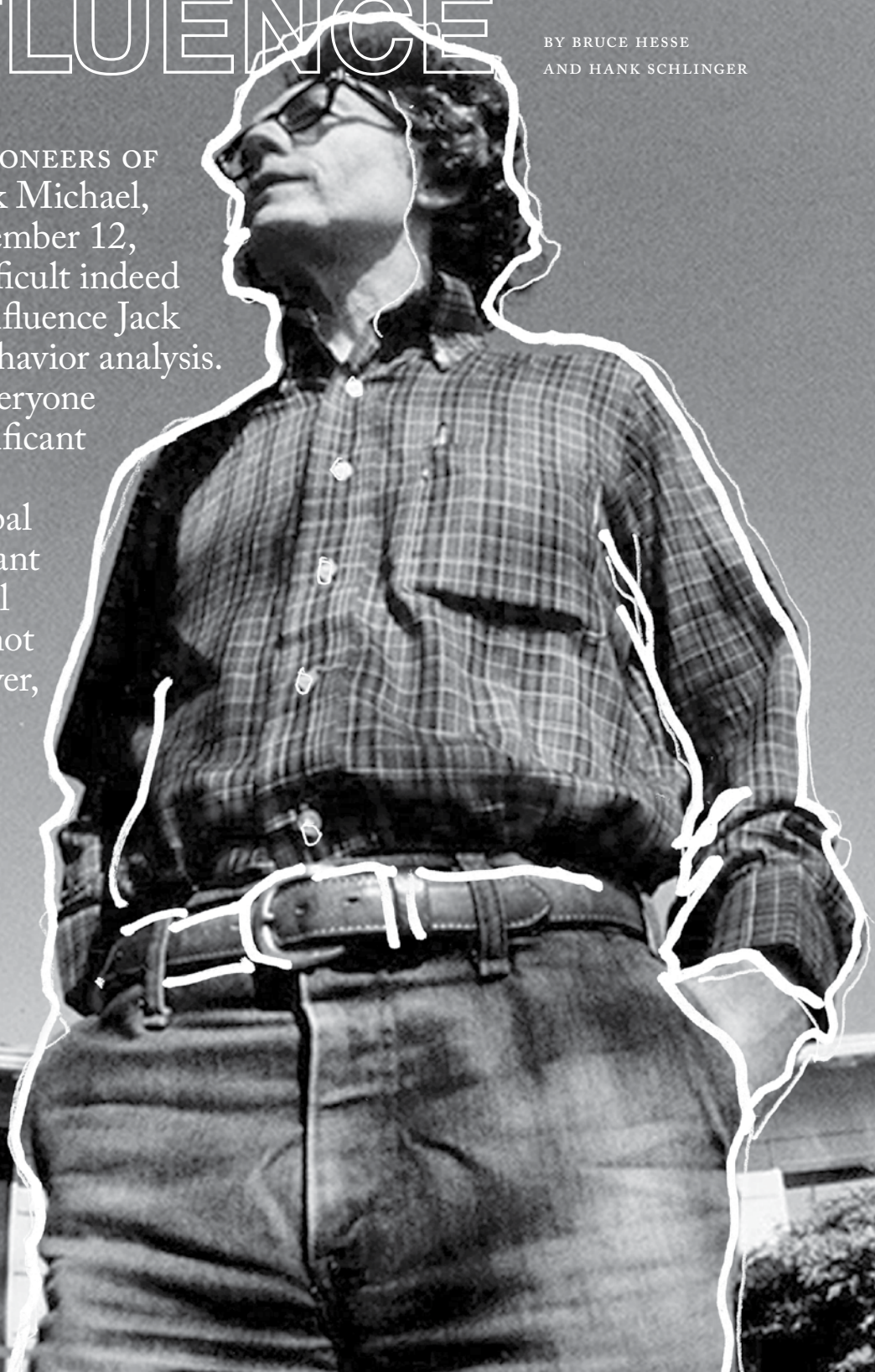


# A Personal Tribute to JACK MICHAEL'S INFLUENCE

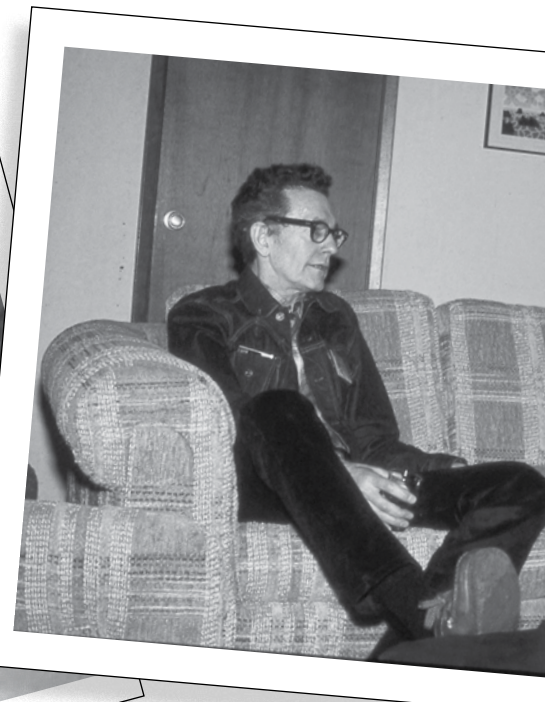
BY BRUCE HESSE

AND HANK SCHLINGER

ONE OF THE PIONEERS OF our field, Jack Michael, died on November 12, 2020. It would be difficult indeed to overestimate the influence Jack had on the field of behavior analysis. For example, most everyone knows about his significant contributions to our understanding of verbal behavior and his elegant analyses of conceptual issues. It is probably not widely known, however, that Jack could be considered the father of applied behavior analysis (ABA).







His article with his student Ted Allyon, “The psychiatric nurse as a behavioral engineer” (1959), is arguably the first published article in applied behavior analysis, and epitomized what Jack and his friend and colleague at the University of Houston and Arizona State University, Lee Meyerson, referred to as rehabilitation. Today, of course, what Jack and Lee and their colleagues did would be called applied behavior analysis (ABA).

It would also be difficult to overestimate the influence Jack had on the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI). Jack was there from the beginning when the Midwestern Association for Behavior Analysis (MABA) was founded, and he proceeded to play a role as a member of the Organizational Committee that established the first meeting of MABA (Peterson, 1978). Of course, MABA later became the Association for Behavior Analysis and then the Association for Behavior Analysis International. In addition to his many contributions to ABAI, Jack served as its president in 1979.

In addition to his contributions to the experimental, theoretical, and applied analysis of behavior, Jack mentored and advised numerous students beginning in the late 1950s and continuing until his retirement in 2003. Many of his students themselves have become luminaries in the field and have contributed significantly to the three branches of behavior analysis in their own

right, mentoring and advising students, thus keeping the behavior analytic lineage passed on by Jack alive.

Interestingly, befitting a pioneer in any field, tributes to Jack appeared long before his death. For example, Mark Sundberg published an appreciation of Jack’s contributions to the analysis of verbal behavior (Sundberg, 2017), and John Mabry offered his reflections as one of Jack’s first students on Jack’s faculty positions at the Universities of Houston and Arizona (Mabry, 2016). Barb and John Esch (2016) published an extensive bibliographic tribute to Jack in terms of the influence his work had had up to that point. Hank Schlinger and Dave Palmer (two of the recipients of the Jack Michael Outstanding Contributions in Verbal Behavior Award) offered their own tributes to Jack and his influence on their lives and careers as behavior analysts in the 2016 edition of the *VB News* (Palmer, 2016; Schlinger, 2016).

Upon his death, Hank Schlinger and Mark Sundberg were asked to be action editors for tributes to Jack that will appear in upcoming issues of *The Analysis of Verbal Behavior*. The first issue will include tributes by some of Jack’s early students, and the second issue will contain tributes from some of his more recent students and colleagues. Moreover, both the *Operants* and *VB News* are planning their own tributes.

In this tribute for *Inside Behavior Analysis*, we, who were two of Jack’s many students and mentees, talk about our personal experiences with Jack as our advisor and mentor and how he influenced and changed our lives and careers.

Before either of us even thought about pursuing graduate study in behavior analysis, we had read books



by Skinner, which convinced us that there was a way to a better future. At that time, the Psychology Department at Western Michigan University (WMU) was one of the programs that offered a wide variety of courses and practical experiences in behavior analysis. It provided a unique environment for students to study and experience Skinner's radical behaviorism in action. At WMU, graduate students were aligned with various faculty members who worked to advance and refine the details of behavior analysis. We were lucky enough to be aligned with Jack.

Jack was well known for the quality and rigor of his classes and for his understanding not only of Skinner's analysis of verbal behavior, but the whole range of behavior-analytic research and theory. Jack's courses included an EAB class in which students read articles from the *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior (JEAB)* on topics in basic research with nonhumans, his famous verbal behavior class, a class on the philosophy of radical behaviorism, and a class on the application of behavior principles to college instruction. As new students with no formal academic training in the complexities of behavior analysis, coming into this environment evoked a lot of self-doubt. Studying with Jack changed all of that. He had spent most of his academic life immersed in behavior analysis. Following in the footsteps of Skinner (1968) and Keller (1968), he recognized the value of applying behavior analysis to teaching at the college level. It was clear that the philosophy that guided his teaching was the philosophy

that brought us to this graduate program. After one successful semester of Jack's classes, we knew we made the right choice.

Jack arranged the contingencies in his classes as if he were conducting a thematic line of research on complex human verbal behavior in a behavioral science laboratory; and the learning went both ways because over the years the students' performances shaped Jack's behavior of tweaking the courses. A course plan was developed, and the specific assignments were given. The students' developing verbal repertoires were frequently sampled, adjustments were made based on weekly student outcomes, and the cycle continued throughout the semester. Jack never stopped refining his methods based on outcomes. Study objectives were improved with each iteration of a class. Exams were almost always short answer with answer keys provided before the next class period. Exam questions were different each semester and usually constructed during the instructional week they were used. With the help of his TA, Jack also did most of the grading. His doctoral teaching assistants were apprentices, picking up tasks that matched their developing skills. Having experienced these classes first as a student and then as a teaching assistant, it is no surprise that we, and many of Jack's students, were drawn to university teaching. Those years with Jack taught us the value of good teaching, how much work goes into creating a productive learning environment, and how long-lasting the effects of that environment can be.

Following Skinner's example, Jack sought to clarify





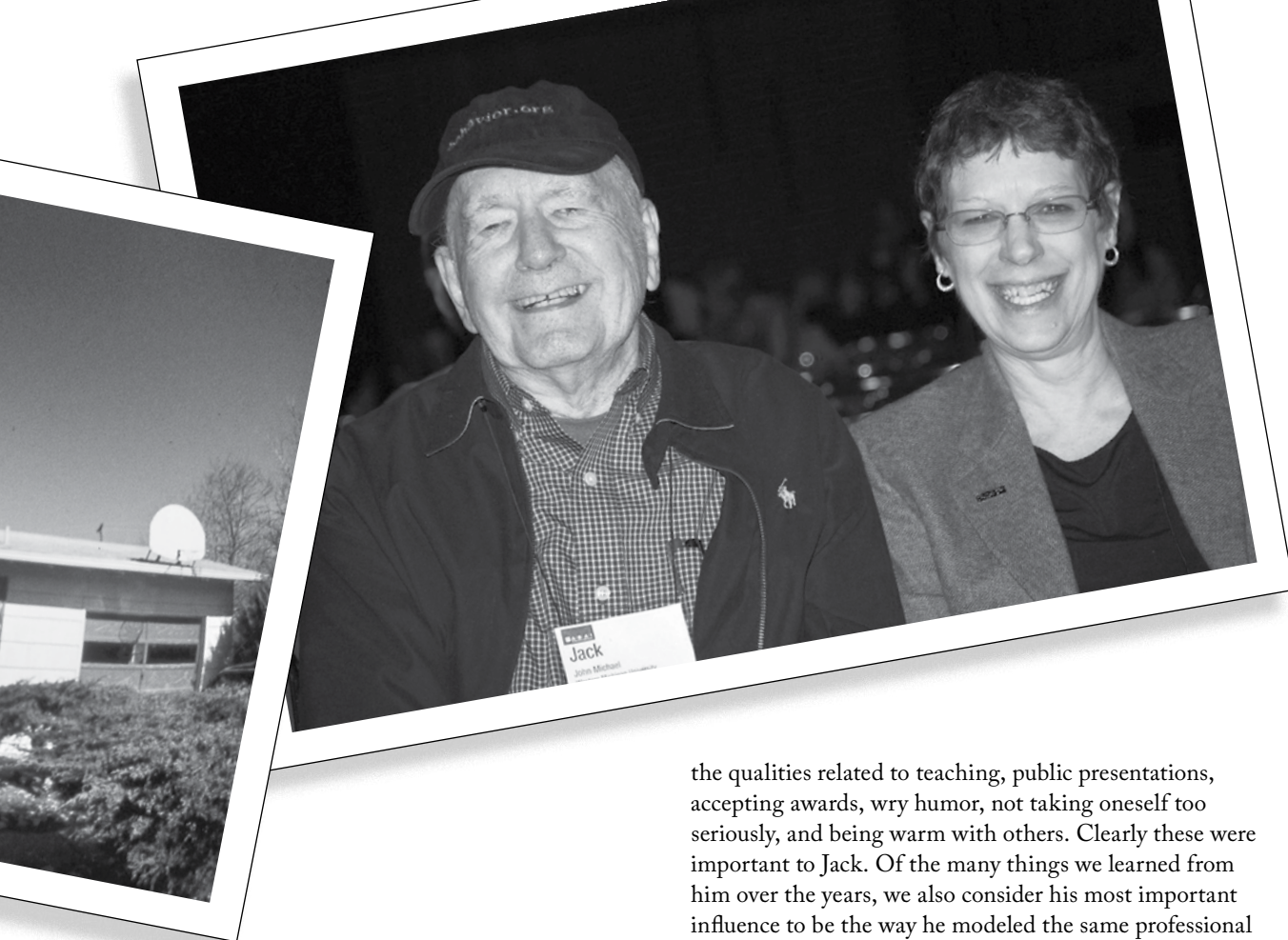
how we talk about some complex topics using our behavioral terminology and methodology. During the period when researchers were debating the linguistic competence of nonhumans (apes and parrots), Jack started using more pigeon analogues as thought experiments in his Verbal Behavior class. These thought experiments soon became the impetus for creating a prototype pigeon lab where students used minimal equipment (a pigeon on a table with some handheld stimuli) to investigate some of Skinner's verbal operants (Michael, Whitley & Hesse, 1983). It was a great, low-cost teaching tool to get students actively involved in problem solving using behavioral principles and terminology. Later, we built a more traditional pigeon lab involving computer-controlled operant chambers to investigate some of the topics Jack talked about in his classes.

Currently, at California State University, Stanislaus, students in the experimental analysis of behavior classes can learn shaping skills with a pigeon on a table, modeling what was done in Jack's lab. This class is one of the most popular undergraduate teaching labs in the psychology major that attracts students to graduate study in behavior analysis. It also is used to investigate master's-level thesis research questions using computer-controlled equipment. During the time that one of us directed the graduate ABA program at California State University, Los Angeles, there was an experimental analysis of behavior course in which students read JEAB articles, a radical behaviorism course, and, naturally, a course on Skinner's *Verbal Behavior*.

For those of us who were inspired by Skinner's views on how a science of behavior could be applied to everything in the human and nonhuman animal world, Jack was our

example. When he taught graduate classes in the early evenings, students were sometimes less alert in class. Rather than blaming the students, Jack considered the contingencies. Every class had an exam over the week's material. If the exams were given after the lecture, students spent less time participating in the lecture and more time reviewing their notes for the upcoming exam. When Jack moved the exam to the beginning of class, students still did not participate in the lecture because they were checking their notes with what they remembered writing on the exam. The problem was solved with a simple environmental adjustment. As the students finished writing their exams, they would meet outside Jack's office. The teaching assistant was there with a cart containing hot water for instant coffee (there was no Starbucks then) and tea plus some healthy snacks and the exam answer key. Students snacked together and talked about their study experiences and what they thought of the exam; this became part of the learning environment. At the end of this break, they returned to class refreshed, and primed (with a little coaching from the teaching assistant) to participate in lecture. Often what this meant was asking Jack to clarify things they thought they understood but did not based on his answer key. The behavior change plan worked, and Jack got what he wanted, an evening class with students actively participating each week.



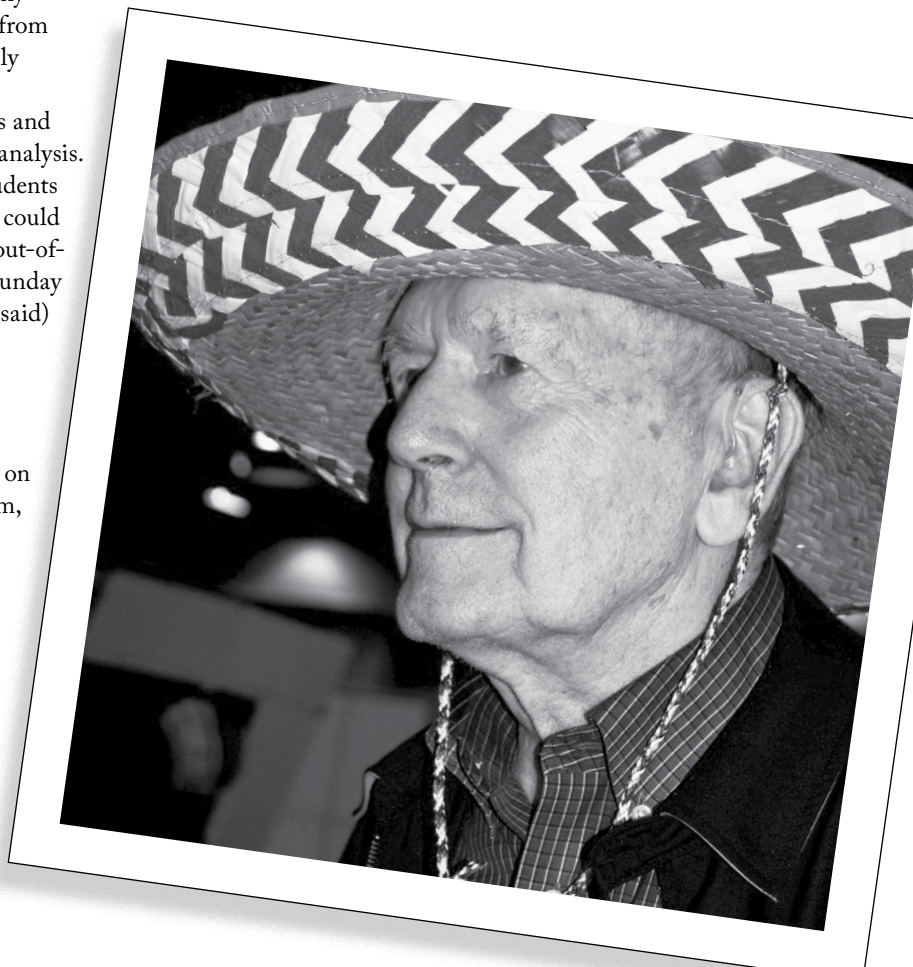


the qualities related to teaching, public presentations, accepting awards, wry humor, not taking oneself too seriously, and being warm with others. Clearly these were important to Jack. Of the many things we learned from him over the years, we also consider his most important influence to be the way he modeled the same professional and personal qualities. ❖

Jack was a modest person. He explained his many contributions in terms of the verbal environments from which they evolved. Jack attracted bright and highly motivated students through his teaching. He was genuinely interested in their developing repertoires and how they would contribute to advancing behavior analysis. He also recognized the positive influence these students had on his own theoretical work and writing. This could come from student comments in class, individual out-of-class conversations, topic-based group meetings (Sunday mornings with Father Jack as Mark Sundberg has said) or social events.

Jack always noted interesting observations of complex human behavior and offered plausible radical behavioral explanations. He supported his explanations with carefully crafted examples based on research data and/or convincing metaphors. For him, behavior analysis was more than the data reported in a behavioral research journal; it was a way to approach everything having to do with behavior.

When Fred Keller died in 1996, Jack remembered him as follows: "Fred had still another kind of influence, perhaps for many his most important. He was a model for many essential professional and personal qualities" (Michael, 1996, p. 5). He went on to list



## Alabama ABA

BY PAIGE MCKERCHAR

The Alabama Association for Behavior Analysis (ALABA) serves as a scientific and professional organization that embraces the principles and practices of behavior analysis. Their goal is to promote research that will advance the understanding of behavior, and to identify and promote the use of effective and humane behavioral procedures that meet individuals' educational and habilitative needs. In addition, ALABA strives to serve as a resource for political, legislative, and policy-making bodies in Alabama in ways that support the scientific and professional interests of behavior analysts.

One of the most important tasks ALABA's Executive Committee takes on is hosting an annual convention offering workshops, keynote addresses, and paper presentations from behavior analysts across the nation as well as active researchers and practitioners within their state and region. Unfortunately, they weren't able to hold the 2020 convention due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Also due to COVID-19, ALABA's membership agreed to keep the same Executive Committee for an extra year because the Committee wasn't able to carry out its typical duties. Jennifer Bruzek, past-president, is working with the Committee to plan this year's convention scheduled for October 13-15. The goal is to have in-person events with some virtual components, if necessary. The president-elect, Sarah Richling, will present her presidential address at the convention. There are also several outstanding invited speakers lined up who will speak to the breadth of behavior analysis, which seems especially important with the globe's everchanging landscape.

The past-president, president-elect, and other Executive Committee members including president, John Rapp; members-at-large, Mary-Kate Carey, Sarah Bedell, Makenzie Bayles, and Matthew Busick; and student representatives, Ashley Anderson and BreeAnna Dalton have been working hard to learn new ways they can provide meaningful benefits to ALABA members. They've added two resources that have been well-received by members: website advertising (discounted for members) and a new Practice Committee. The Practice Committee is designed to serve as a resource for helping practitioners implement best practices and protect their professional interests.

All in all, 2020 was an unusual, but eventful, year for ALABA and 2021 is proving to be no less exciting so far. The Executive Committee welcomed the opportunity to adapt to a new professional landscape, and they look forward to continuing to evolve to meet member's needs.

## Arizona ABA

BY JESSICA PAINTER

Like so many around the world, the behavior analytic community in Arizona was faced with novel challenges and environmental variables we had not prepared for. The beauty was found in how our community and Arizona ABA (AzABA) responded with strength, connection, innovation, and support. Specifically, AzABA hosted several Leadership Roundtables to provide guidance on navigating services within the context of COVID-19, a Town Hall on Equity and Inclusion, and established the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee.

Our annual conference was held in October, offering a hybrid format where both in-person and virtual attendance options were available to members throughout the state and beyond. Additionally, AzABA maintained a trajectory of growth amongst its five special interest groups and added a sixth group. The special interest group topics are feeding, RFT/ACT, expanding the scope of ABA, ABA in schools, coordination of care, and growing greatness.

While the year was challenging, it also provided an opportunity for our chapter to live our values:

- **Be a Community Resource.** We strive to present learning opportunities and professional development across a wide variety of interests and will seek to maintain a pulse on the needs of those we serve.
- **Advance our Ability to Practice.** We will fight for the integrity of behavior analysis in political and legal doings within Arizona.
- **Purposeful Governance.** We commit to process-driven and data-supported decision making, and careful and considerate financial planning.
- **Connection.** We are working to create a place where the behavior-analytic community can come together with each other, with other professionals, and with community stakeholders. We value the inclusion of our entire membership and the recognition of every voice.

As AzABA moves into a new year, the organization looks forward to continuing to bring these values to life. Membership can look forward to new and improved opportunities to grow as professionals, and specific avenues for the growth of quality service providers in our state.

## Connecticut ABA

BY MARIS K. PELKEY

Connecticut ABA (CTABA) has had a productive year despite the challenges that came along with a global pandemic. Our Continuing Education, Membership, Organizational Members/Sponsorship, Family & Consumer Outreach, Home Services, Public Policy & Legislative Outreach (PPLO), Technology, Student and

Early Career Support, Public Schools and Professional Issues committees have remained active and have allowed for robust member participation across this past year. We added an exciting new Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice committee in response to the need we saw both nationally and in our local member community. Our Board of Directors (BOD) has worked over the past year to refine roles and responsibilities across the directors to support the efficient completion of association business. With the support of our Technology Committee, we transitioned to a new membership platform and website. Both of these platforms allow for a smoother interface for members and organizational sponsors.

Legislative Activity in CT slowed to a halt during the 2020 pandemic. The governor passed a number of executive orders, two of which were helpful for BCBAs. First, he enacted telehealth through March 31, 2021, and included BCBAs in the executive order. Second, he waived the licensure requirement allowing newly certified BCBAs to practice in CT without a license during the pandemic. With the new year, most legislative activity focuses on renewing telehealth options as well as ensuring that students with disabilities have access to in person learning at school. The PPLO has continued meeting to discuss areas of need and a Legislative Needs survey has been sent out to membership. The PPLO committee has also met with the Office of the Healthcare Advocate and the Office of the Child Advocate to ensure appropriate access to ABA through health insurance.

CTABA Professional Issues Committee is in the process of establishing a mentorship initiative with the goal of having a means to connect less experienced behavior analysts with experienced mentors. The program is in the development stage with a needs assessment to be available for members and registrants to complete at the 2021 annual conference.

In addition to a mentorship program, the Student Support Committee has recently been modified to include those early career BCBAs. The newly expanded Student and Early Career Support Committee aims to provide educational, employment, networking and research support opportunities to students and early career BCBAs in the state of Connecticut. Through data gathered via survey responses, the Committee will work to expand its agenda this year to better support the given needs of its target population in the state.

Our 17th annual state conference was a great success. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's conference was held virtually. This year's conference attendance included over 300 attendees and our sponsors represented over 20 organizations. We are greatly appreciative for our conference chair, Heather Teichman, M.Ed., BCBA, LABA (MA), LBA (CT) and the committee members, who managed to put on an excellent and well-rounded

conference. Our speakers this year included a morning keynote by Lorri Unumb, followed by sessions with Dr. Judah Axe, Dr. Claudia Dozier, Dr. SungWoo Kahng, Dr. Paul Gavoni, Dr. Peter Gerhardt, Dr. Laura Grow, Dr. Brandi Simonsen, Janet Vasquez, Dr. Nicholas Weatherly, and Dr. Merrill Winston. We also hosted pre-conference workshops with Dr. Judah Axe, Dr. Justin Leaf, Dr. Melissa Olive, and Dr. Ravit Stein. We were excited to offer our attendees talks on a variety of topics within the field, including OBM, school-based services, self-care, and behavior assessment.

CTABA continues to offer several CE events throughout the year for our members. We held our 2020 Fall Workshop Series with talks by Dr. Bridget Taylor on Compassionate Care and Dr. Shahla Ala'i-Rosales on Culturally Responsive Supervision.

Since 2013, CT ABA recognizes an outstanding student in behavior analysis each year in memory of Rachel D'Avino, a Connecticut student of behavior analysis who was killed in the Newtown school shooting. This year, Samantha King received the award. Congratulations Samantha!

Our state continues to see dramatic growth in the numbers of BACB credentialed practitioners including 1,118 licensed behavior analysts registered with the CT Department of Public Health, 935 board certified behavior analysts live in CT, 878 registered behavior technicians reside in CT, all of whom must be supervised for 5% of their work in ABA. CTABA moved to a new membership portal and we are in the process of shifting members to the new platform. Our last membership reporting is 365. Please note this may not be reflective of accurate accounting until the transition is complete.

We are pleased with our continued growth and efforts to support and promote behavior analysis, and we look forward to our continued role as the voice of behavior analysis in Connecticut. Please go to [www.ctaba.org](http://www.ctaba.org) for a list of our current Board of Directors and other information regarding CT ABA.

## Delaware ABA

BY KAORI G. NEPO

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 an affiliate of ABAI.

## Governance

Current executive officers of Delaware ABA consist of president, Kaori Nepo; vice president, Gary Allison; treasurer, Corey Bowen; secretary, Victoria Hetrick; and members at large, Susan Pfadt and Regan Root. The membership director is currently vacant, and the duties are covered by committee members.

Due to recent resignations for multiple positions, currently the election is in process.

## Membership

There are four categories for Delaware ABA membership:

- Professional member which is 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 in a full or part-time basis in any profession or vocation that utilized the principles or procedures of behavior analysis.
- Affiliate member which is defined as any individual evidencing interest in the discipline of behavior analysis but lacking formal training therein; and
- Student member who currently attends undergraduate or graduate school. The membership fee is \$5 for student members and \$10 for the rest of members annually.

## Conferences

In May 2021, a representative attended the chapter training at ABAI annual convention. In April 2020, representatives attended the chapter and licensure meetings at APBA. In 2020, Delaware ABA representatives attended the bi-monthly chapter meetings to collaborate with other state chapters. In May 2020, representatives attended the chapter training at ABAI annual convention. Delaware ABA also presented a poster at the convention in order to promote the chapter.

Also in 2020, Delaware ABA began sponsoring the monthly all member meetings. In these meetings, the future directions, Medicaid reimbursement, CE events, and future conferences were discussed. Additionally, Delaware ABA representatives attended and supported monthly providers' meeting to address Medicaid reimbursement issues.

## Activities for 2019-2020

In addition to 2020-21 activities, Delaware ABA participated in several events in 2019-20, including:

- Delaware ABA representatives participated in meetings to collaborate with other state chapters.
- Delaware ABA continued to update the website to make the membership application process and conference registration easier.
- Delaware ABA supported the sub-committee to address

concerns regarding behavioral services provided in Delaware. The committee continues to explore the effective ways to promote behavior analysis as well as improve the quality of such services in Delaware.

- The executive committee continued to learn the licensure process through attending training and collaborating with other state chapters.
- Executive committee continue to explore the ways to increase the number of members through social media, conferences, and workshops.
- The sub-committee developed the options of the organization logo collaborating with the local university.

## Plan for 2020-2021

Delaware ABA will continue to hold a few events to offer CEs for members and to educate the public regarding the science of behavior analysis. We will prepare for the third conference in fall 2021. Additionally, we will continue to gain knowledge and work on tasks to develop behavior analyst licensure in the state of Delaware through attending the meetings and workshops at the ABAI and APBA conventions.

## Florida ABA

BY AMY POLICK

It was an interesting and unprecedented 2020 for all of us last year. As the pandemic began, many associations were working with their membership to help navigate changes in applied behavioral clinical practice due to COVID-19 restrictions and continue to provide education and networking opportunities through our annual conference. Like many other associations, the Florida Association for Behavior Analysis (FABA) went virtual for 2020 and hosted our 40th Annual Meeting September 17th and 18th of last year. FABA 2020 was the first ever virtual conference of the association, and our program committee did an amazing job pivoting the annual meeting to a virtual one. We owe a huge thanks to our presenters and members who attended the successful meeting, which included 1,026 participants. While the number of attendees was lower than what FABA usually sees in our in-person annual conference (normally between 1,500–1,800), we appreciated the ability to still serve our members and provide a single-track conference amidst the pandemic.

For this year, we are planning a mixed event for our 41st Annual Meeting in September 2021. FABA 2021 will consist of both in-person events at the JW Marriott Miami Turnberry Resort and Spa (limited number of seats will be available for the in-person attendance) and online access to events for participants who would rather participate in FABA from home or their regular office without travel. Additional information about FABA 2021 will be



forthcoming on our website and Facebook page. We are looking forward to catching up with members, celebrating our 40th anniversary which got pushed back last year, and providing ultimate flexibility for our membership for their educational and networking needs.

Outside of conference activities, FABA's Board of Directors and its Legislative and Public Policy Committee continued to have the good fortune of being guided by lobbyist and attorney Eric Prutsman, and our Public Policy Director, Steve Coleman, to serve the organization for state-related legislative and policy matters. The legislative committee, Steve, and Eric have been extra busy monitoring issues in the legislature related to funding and insurance coverage of ABA services, expansion of ABA services, access to ABA services in school systems, and policies regarding restraint and seclusion in public schools. FABA has also established a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee to complement the existing Multicultural Special Interest Group of FABA. We look forward to these groups of behavior analysts working together for enhancing FABA's outreach across the state and in a variety of new directions.

Looking forward, FABA plans to continue their advocacy efforts for practitioners of behavior analysis services in Florida. FABA's Board of Directors and Legislative committee work throughout the year to maintain our right to provide behavior analysis services in Florida and we continually work to fulfill our mission of promoting the "ethical, humane, and effective application of behavior principles in all segments of society." By doing so, we plan to continue to disseminate our science throughout the state and alleviate barriers that practitioners face across Florida.

To learn more about FABA, view pictures of our recent conferences, review information about our upcoming 41st annual meeting in Miami, shop the FABA store, or become a FABA member, you can find us at [www.fabaworld.org](http://www.fabaworld.org).

## Hawai'i ABA

BY ASHLEY HOGAN

Hawai'i ABA's (HABA) mission is to educate, advocate for, and support both providers and consumers of applied behavior analysis.

### Chapter Accomplishments During 2020

It was a challenging year for many of our HABA members. The board of directors decided that it was in the best interest of the community to cancel the 2020 in-person convention. HABA supported their members by providing resources to help navigate the shift from in-person ABA services to telehealth as well as free CE events and educational resources that could be used with consumers. In addition, HABA hosted a 3-hour webinar with Dr. Tom Szabo

and Vanessa Bethea-Miller addressing the topic of police brutality through a RFT lens.

Additionally, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the legislation session was modified and only a small portion of bills were being heard. Therefore, legislative efforts supported by HABA were temporarily paused and there was no need to hold legislative committee meetings.

Lastly, the board of directors focused on improving the general upkeep of the organization. The board recognized a need for updating the systems that were in place for new board members as well as general organization of important documents and files. The board was able to update the chapter bylaws, improve website and other processes where the technology was outdated, and created committee applications and conflict of interest documents. The board is confident that these internal improvements will facilitate a more successful 2021 year!

### Chapter Plans for 2021

The board of directors have been actively planning for the 2021 year and have a lot of exciting events scheduled. The annual convention will be virtual this year with one speaker each month. HABA would also like to support underrepresented individuals in the field of behavior analysis by inviting speakers from these communities to participate in our online events. Additionally, HABA would like to highlight behavior analysts and students of behavior analysis in our state. We plan to incorporate student discussion panels as well as a poster session. Our schedule of events in 2021 are as follows:

- February 19, 2021: Dr. Evelyn Gould BCBA-D
- April 18, 2021: Manuel "Manny" Rodriguez DBA, BCBA
- June 18, 2021: Dr. Siri Ming BCBA-D (workshop added)
- August 18, 2021: Dr. Shahla Ala'i BCBA-D
- September 18, 2021: Dr. Evelyn Gould BCBA-D

Members and nonmembers will be offered continuing education credits for these events. Typical cost per CE is \$10, with a discount of \$5 for a 3-hour webinar. Events can be purchased separately, or a bundle will be available for those who are interested in the entire series. The price of this bundle has not been determined because HABA is still securing speakers. However, there will be discounts for HABA members.

The legislative committee along with HABA's president and vice president have been very active in this year's legislation session. HABA is tracking four bills related to the licensing of behavior analysts as well as two telehealth bills. The focus of this session is to ensure that our licensure law becomes permanent. HABA is currently working with community stakeholders to collect testimony and attend online hearings to achieve this goal.

Three issues important to this chapter: (1) licensure

of behavior analyst in our state, (2) CE/professional development for professionals in our state, (3) collaboration with other providers and professions to work towards building capacity in our state so that those who are in need of ABA services can access those services by competent, trained (and licensed) providers.

### Chapter Membership

To become a HABA member, please visit our website at [hawaiiaba.org](http://hawaiiaba.org). Select which membership level best fits your needs and pay dues.

Full Member status shall be granted to individuals who apply for membership in the Corporation and are certified by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board. Full members will have voting privileges. Cost at this level is \$25/year.

Student Members shall be granted to individuals who apply for membership in the Corporation and are enrolled in an academic degree program, internship, or resident program relevant to a career in behavior analysis. Applications for Student Member status must be accompanied by proof of enrollment in an academic degree program, or internship, or residency program. Student Members shall have the right to vote only for a student representative to the Board of Directors. Cost at this level is \$15/year.

Affiliate/Community Member status shall be granted to individuals who apply for membership in the Corporation and do not meet the criteria for Full or Student Member status. This includes registered behavior technicians who maintain active status, parents, Interested community members or Honorary Members. Members at this level will have voting privileges. Cost at this level is \$25/year.

Benefits of membership include reduced rates for continuing education (CE); verbal community, extending to neighbor islands; access to world-renown experts and speakers; and reduced rates for HABA events. General membership information includes the following:

- Total HABA Members (as of February 3, 2021): 392
- Total Full Members: 216
- Total Student Members: 77
- Total Affiliate Members: 77
- Board Members: 8
- Honorary Members: 14

### Chapter Officers

- President: Roxanne Bristol MA., LBA, BCBA
- Vice President: Ashley Hogan MA., LBA, BCBA
- Treasurer: Debi Ho'ohuli, RBT
- Secretary: Sally McKeever, BCaBA
- Legislative Chair: Debbie Krekel MSCP., LBA, BCBA
- Marketing Chair: Alexandra Sagastume BA., BCaBA
- Events Chair: Kahalenoe "Noe" Kamalani M.Ed., LBA, BCBA

## Illinois ABA

BY BRIGID MCCORMICK

The Illinois Association for Behavior Analysis (ILABA) is a state organization whose purpose is to promote behavior analysis through education and advocacy of the science and practice. The goals of the organization include encouraging collaboration among behavior analysts in Illinois, fostering relations between practices and universities in Illinois, and keeping behavior analysts informed about licensure and certification, being responsive to changes to insurance provision, continuing education opportunities, and public policy.

The 2021 Board of Directors for ILABA is comprised of Brigid McCormick (president); Nasiah Cirincione-Ulezi (president-elect); Rocco Catrone (secretary); Brad Zelinger (treasurer); Leannah Sheahan (student representative); and Sara Baillie, Alison Carris, Melinda Miller, and Natalia Baires (members-at-large).

In an effort to impact greater change in the state of Illinois, ILABA has four sub-committees and/or task forces. These include (1) Legislative Affairs, (2) Academic Affairs, (3) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and (4) Practitioner Affairs.

ILABA's tenth annual, and first all-virtual, convention was held on February 18–19, 2021. Presentations covered a broad band of issues related to both practice and theory, along with diverse settings and populations (e.g., behavior management, working with adult populations, ACT, race, and building leadership pipelines). The conference was preceded by a poster session, social, and a workshop by Dr. Greg Hanley entitled, "What is Today's ABA for addressing Problem Behavior, and What Changes When You Practice Today's ABA?" Five conference presentations are available now on-demand through Behavior Live. Conference attendees attain continuing education credit at no additional cost.

The chapter's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee has continued to develop a community for members, and offers a book club, a Conference Presentation Mentoring Program, and Dissemination efforts to extend into Illinois's communities beyond behavior analysis.

ILABA's Academic Affairs Committee supports Verified Course sequence representatives and students in universities across the state. While their Practitioner Affairs Committee works to host events throughout the year.

Finally, ILABA's Legislative Affairs Committee has continued to work closely with state legislators to make progress on the Behavior Analyst Licensing Act in Illinois. All board members continue to advocate for the bill and gain support from other behavior analysts, legislators, and professionals in the state; ongoing updates on this topic can be found via ILABA's website and social media outlets.

ILABA members are contacted by the board via email, and can also access regular updates through the ILABA Facebook page and updates on <https://ilaba.org> or by contacting the ILABA President, Brigid McCormick, at [president@ilaba.org](mailto:president@ilaba.org).

Annual meetings will continue to be held both at the ILABA conference and the ABAI annual convention.

## Louisiana BAA

BY SCOTT WILLIAMSON

The Louisiana Behavior Analysis Association (LaBAA) is a nonprofit organization that promotes ABAI's mission to contribute to the well-being of society by developing, enhancing, and supporting the growth and vitality of the science of behavior analysis through research, education, and practice. LaBAA serves as a scientific, professional, and networking group for its members and promotes access to behavior analysis services in the state of Louisiana. LaBAA was established in April 2012 as a 501(c)(4) and became the ABAI affiliate state chapter in the fall of 2012. LaBAA is also an Affiliate of APBA and a BACB Ace provider.

### Officers

LaBAA is governed by an Executive Committee comprised of a president, past president, president-elect, treasurer, and secretary. For 2020-21, officers are: Scott Williamson, BCBA, LBA, president; Tricia Clement, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA, president-elect; Megan Matherne Perkins, BCBA, LBA, treasurer; and Janice Huber, BCBA, LBA, past-president. The LaBAA Board of Directors is comprised of regional representatives from across the state, a parent representative, and a student representative. For 2020-2022, regional representatives are Chad Favre, BCBA, LBA; Laura Kennard, BCBA, LBA;

Channing Langlinais, BCBA, LBA, Phyllis Rash, BCBA, LBA, Amber Myers, BCBA, LBA, and Julie Mendes, BCBA, LBA. Heidi Lester is the student representative and Shannon D'Aquila is the parent representative. The legislative chair is Grant Gautreaux, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA. Elections for all officers and representatives are conducted in May/June every other year.

### Membership

There are three classes of membership: Full, Affiliate, and Student. Benefits of membership include:

- Professional representation: LaBAA is committed to protecting the interests of Licensed Behavior Analysts in the Louisiana state legislature.
- Consumer/Affiliate representation: LaBAA is committed to protecting the interests of consumers of ABA in the Louisiana state legislature.
- Full members have the right to vote in all matters brought before LaBAA.
- Full members have the option to be listed as a service provider on the web site.
- Full and Affiliate members have the option to post employment opportunities on the web site.
- Advocacy and professional networking provided for all levels of membership LaBAA has grown from 339 members in the spring of 2019 to 370 members at the time of writing.

### 2020 Conference

In lieu of an in-person conference in the fall of 2020, LaBAA hosted the LaBAA Learning Series—a series of online webinars conducted August through December. The 2021 conference is tentatively being planned for the fall of 2021. Please check [labaa.net](http://labaa.net) for updates.





### Other Activities and Initiatives

LaBAA has partnered with Louisiana Coalition for Access to Autism Services (LCAAS) to secure professional legislative services. As the state of behavior analysis continues to take shape within Louisiana, LaBAA has been very active in further developing the science of behavior analysis, the practice of behavior analysts, the mentoring of students, and, most importantly, advocating for consumers of services. In addition, the coalition has worked with LaBAA to educate the public and raise awareness about the science of behavior, ABA services, and legislative advocacy. Current initiatives include advocacy for permanent telehealth coverage and expanded access to ABA in school settings.

## Mid-American ABA

BY JULIE A. ACKERLUND BRANDT

The Mid-American Association for Behavior Analysis (MABA) is a regional affiliate of the Association for Behavior Analysis International. MABA is a membership organization devoted to promoting scholarly interchange in behavior analysis through its annual convention. The annual convention also allows for dissemination of the science of behavior analysis to the public and to professional behavior analysts residing in the Midwestern United States.

As was the case with so many events in 2020, MABA was unable to hold its annual conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we are optimistic that this year will be different, and we will be able to resume our typical schedule and hold our 20th annual conference in Detroit, October 28-20, 2021. As such, we have decided to "Supersize" our conference from the normal day-and-a-half to two full days, October 29-30. Also, we will be adding an ethics conference Thursday, October 28. More information on the ethics conference will be announced this summer!

Our Supersized 2021 line-up of speakers will include two keynote addresses by Dr. Bridget Taylor and Dr. Amy Odum; invited addresses by Dr. Jon Austin, Dr. Claudia Dozier, Dr. Jonathan Pinkston, Dr. Karen Toussaint, Dr. Sacha Pence, Dr. Sarah Lechago, Dr. Matt Locey, Dr. Jonathan Miller, Dr. Claudia Drossel, Dr. Jeff Stein, Dr. Suzan Mitchell, and Dr. Kathryn Kalafut; opening and closing addresses by Dr. Amanda Karsten and Dr. Stephen Walker; and workshop presented by Dr. Matthew Brodhead.

We will be adding an exciting new opportunity for students to get additional presenting practice! The MABA Data Blitz will occur on Thursday, October 28, 2021 and all student members (or interested student members) may submit! Also, in the coming months, we will be sending out calls for poster submissions and submissions for our student and recant graduate paper competition.

We were able to hold our 2020 Forrest J. Files student paper competition. We had many wonderful submissions

this year and are happy to announce our winners! Ms. Fernanda Oda (University of Kansas) is the winner in the Basic Research category and will join us in Detroit to present her paper "An Experimental Analysis of Gender-Biased Verbal Behavior and Self-Editing Using an Online Analog." Dr. Alec Bernstein (Marcus Autism Center), is the winner in the Applied Research category and will join us in Detroit to present his paper "Response Blocking to Identify Skill and Motivation Deficits for Inappropriate Self-Feeding." Please join us in congratulating both our winners!

Starting in 2019, MABA began to recognize an individual who made significant contributions to the science of behavior analysis through research, teaching, and/or professional service with our Distinguished Contributions to Behavioral Science Award. Our 2020 recipient was Dr. Alyce Dickinson (Western Michigan University). Dr. Dickinson's extensive research in management reward systems and organizational systems analysis, including focuses on individual and small group monetary incentives, performance feedback, and goal setting, made her an ideal recipient for this honor. We will announce our 2021 recipient in the weeks prior to the 2021 conference.

Again, we are very excited for the upcoming 2021 convention, which is slated to be held October 28-30 in Detroit, MI at the Crowne Plaza. Membership dues are currently available for Professional Full (\$50), Professional Affiliate (\$35), and Student (\$15). One of the many benefits of membership will include decreased registration for the annual conference and continuing education (CE). Please see our website ([www.mid-aba.com](http://www.mid-aba.com)) for more information on membership benefits.

Additional discounts on conference registration and CEs will be available online until October 8, 2021. After that date, full-priced registration and CE fees must be paid on-site. We will offer 14 Type II CEs over the course of the conference, and an additional 3 Type II Ethics CEs will be available by attending the workshop.

The current president of MABA is Dr. Amanda Karsten (Western Michigan University) and the president-elect is Dr. Steven Walker (Aurora University). More information about MABA, membership options, the annual convention, lodging accommodations, student presentations and awards, and registration information may be found at the organization's website ([www.mid-aba.com](http://www.mid-aba.com)) or by contacting the MABA Operations Coordinator: Dr. Julie A. Ackerlund Brandt (The Chicago School of Professional Psychology) at [jbrandt@thechicagoschool.edu](mailto:jbrandt@thechicagoschool.edu).

## New Hampshire ABA

BY ALISON DUBE

The New Hampshire Association for Behavior Analysis (NHABA) is an Affiliate Chapter of the ABAI. Its mission is to promote the development and awareness

of behavioral services in the state of New Hampshire by (1) supporting the development of standards of practice for behavior analysis; (2) promoting and supporting the conduct of behavior analytic research; (3) promoting research, education, and practice-based principles in behavior analysis; (4) promoting and supporting professional development of behavior analysts; and (5) raising awareness of the association and its services.

### Executive Committee

NHABA is governed by an Executive Committee comprised of a president, past vice-president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. The 2021 Executive Committee is comprised of Ally Dube (president), Peg Chaffee (past vice-president), Amy Rheame (vice-president), Jennilee Hogancamp (secretary), and Amanda Schoenberg (treasurer).

### Membership

NHABA offers three categories of annual membership: Full Membership, Affiliate Membership, and Student Membership. Membership is open to all persons interested in or actively engaged in behavior analysis. Memberships start on the first day of the calendar year and remain in effect until the last day of the calendar year. Full Member status may be obtained by any individual holding a terminal degree in a discipline directly related to or involving behavior analysis and whose full-time professional commitment includes teaching, research, and/or practice in behavior analysis. An Affiliate Member status may be obtained by any member evidencing interest in the discipline of behavior analysis who does not qualify under the standards of full membership. Affiliate members enjoy all the benefits of Full Membership and are able to vote on decisions of the chapter. A Student Member status may be any individual pursuing formal training in the discipline of behavior analysis on at least a half-time basis but not yet gainfully employed therein may apply for membership in this category. Student Membership requires documentation to verify the applicant's student status. Student members may also vote on membership decisions of the chapter.

There are multiple benefits to becoming a member of the organization. These benefits include, but are not limited to, reduced conference registration, free CEs at NHABA meetings, mentorship networking platform to connect behavior analysts with others to share expertise, notifications about continuing education opportunities, to the latest news in behavior analysis, a vote on issues pertinent to the organization, and the opportunity to hold office in the organization (Full Members only).

### Events

NHABA has actively hosted events in the state since 2016. For the last five years, the organization has held an annual

conference. Last year, the annual conference was held virtually on Zoom. The speakers we hosted were as follows: Camille Koli, Alyssa Wilson, Bridget Taylor, Deborah Grossett, Emily Sandoz, and Solandy Forte.

The three previous years the conference sold out and continues to be a sought-after event for professional development in the state of New Hampshire and surrounding areas. The location of the conference is rotated each year to extend the association's reach in the state. In November 2019, NHABA held a conference in Manchester, NH. The organization had the pleasure to host Mark Dixon, Sorah Stein, Jason Simmons, Evelyn Gould, Sandy Jin, and Sarah Campau. In March 2020, NHABA hosted a community workshop on the topic of ABA Treatment for Adults with I/DD.

In September 2021, NHABA will hold its annual conference in Concord, New Hampshire and virtually.

NHABA currently hosts quarterly chapter meetings with each offering a CE in either supervision or ethics. The association continues to determine the most effective platform to offer these meetings as to reach the most members across the state. Currently, the meetings are hosted virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic with hopes to return to in person meetings when it is safe to do so. In February, NHABA had the pleasure to host an information session on the regulation of our practice by Dr. Gina Green with a time for questions and answers. The next quarterly meeting will be held in May 2021.

Currently, NHABA membership stands at 108 members and continues to grow. Membership grows exponentially before the conference. The association continues to seek effective ways to engage in outreach and disseminate information about the association activities and opportunities.

In this year, NHABA has plans to create a mentorship directory, create resources for areas of sub-specialty, explore licensure, hold social meet ups, dissemination, community outreach, develop task forces and expand training. NHABA continues to seek to have a stronger and active presence as a resource for individuals in the state of New Hampshire interested in behavior analytic services. Through the work of NHABA, the aim will remain to work towards the mission of the association as a whole and expand its reach and impact.

### Contact Us

More information about New Hampshire Association for Behavior Analysis can be found on the organization's website: <https://nhaba.net>.

## New York State ABA

BY TRICIA MOSS-LOURENCO

I am excited to be writing my first ABAAI chapter update for the New York State Association for Behavior Analysis

(NYSABA). We have been busy with association projects, communicating with our membership, and advocating for the field of behavior analysis throughout New York State. Despite 2020 being a challenging year for everyone, NYSABA has been able to make progress in several areas. The need to move to a virtual format has provided an effective and efficient means to communicate, meet, and stay connected.

We have several accomplishments to share this year. NYSABA's Representative At Large, Elizabeth Drago, began an initiative to create a World Behavior Analysis Day. Several ABA organizations, including ABAI, have come together to collaborate on this project and we will be celebrating our first World Behavior Analysis Day on March 20, 2021. We have created a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee for NYSABA. We have an amazing committee and we have had several meetings to work on our goals and initiatives. These include, but are not limited to, an assessment and training of the NYSABA Board to ensure that diversity, equity, and inclusion is embedded within the Board and the organization. In addition, we have created a new website for NYSABA, while increasing our presence on social media.

NYSABA continues to be a voice for the behavior analytic community in New York. Although NYSABA membership continues to grow, we need to focus on increasing the number of members to push forward with important legislative issues happening in the state. Unfortunately, the number of licensed and certified behavior analysts in the state significantly outnumber the number of members in NYSABA. All behavior analysts in the state are urged to join NYSABA so that our collective voice can be heard by the state legislature. If you are not a member of NYSABA, become one. If you are already a member of NYSABA, get a colleague to join. If you and your colleagues are already members, we thank you and encourage you to become active in the association.

New York State licensing laws governing the practice of behavior analysis have been in effect since 2016. NYSABA has been doing important work educating behavior analysts about the licensing process and how to practice legally in New York State. We provide regular updates on our website and Facebook page, hold events at our annual conference, and disseminate information at various events in New York. NYSABA continues to stay up to date with information coming from the New York State Office of Professions so that we can update our members about any issues affecting the practice of behavior analysis.

One of the biggest issues that severely impacts the practice of behavior analysts in New York State is the restriction on the scope of practice of behavior analysts to only working with individuals with autism or related disorders with a prescription for ABA. New York State is the only state in the country that restricts the practice

of behavior analysts to individuals with autism. New York has the lowest number of behavior analysts per 100 individuals with autism in the Northeast. In addition, the number of behavior analysts is growing slowly in New York. NYSABA is actively campaigning to address this restriction of scope, including lobbying to pass bills to lift the restriction on the scope of practice of behavior analysts. While we have not been able to hold in-person advocacy days and meet with legislators due to COVID-19, we have been able to continue our legislative work virtually. Throughout the last year, we have increased support for our bills to remove the restriction on the scope of practice of behavior analysts. We have new bill numbers in the senate and the assembly this year: S1662 (Skoufis), A-3523 (Peoples-Stokes). For our voices to be heard, we need numbers. Therefore, we are asking that behavior analysts, family members, or anyone else that is affected by this restriction on the scope of practice contact their legislators to inform them of this issue. Please email [NYSABAlegislative@gmail.com](mailto:NYSABAlegislative@gmail.com) for information about how to help.

In October, we held our 31st annual conference, but our first virtual conference. We were honored to hear keynote addresses from Dr. Linda LeBlanc and Dr. Shahla Ala'i. Additionally, we welcomed 6 invited speakers, including Anthony Cammilleri, Tracey Walsh, Stephen Cook, John Borrero, Art Dowdy, and Adithyan Rajaram. Topics included supervising aspiring behavior analysts, individualized curricula, advocating for students with disabilities, legislative issues in New York, social justice, and cultural responsiveness, addressing obesity in children and adults, preference for single outcomes and event sequences, delivering culturally sound behavior analytic services when working with an interpreter, and practical functional assessment and skill-based treatment. We also had excellent poster presentations. Although we were not able to be in person, the chats and various other conversations through the message boards helped to create a sense of togetherness.

Board members this year included Tricia Moss-Lourenco (president), Nancy Dib (president-elect), Nicole DeRosa (past president and conference chair), Linda Matey (treasurer), Vicki Knapp (secretary and marketing co-chair), Vanessa Patrone (representative at large and marketing co-chair), Joshua Jessel (representative at large and student activities chair), Elizabeth Drago (representative at large), Kenneth Shamlian (representative at large and membership chair), Fernande Ikomb-Deguenon (finance chair), Noor Syed (education chair), Bobbi Rogers (consumer representative and chair of the Parent and Family Committee), Deborah Napolitano and Maureen O'Grady (legislative co-chairs), and Bobby Newman (fundraising chair). In 2020, Nancy Dib was elected as president-elect, Vicki Knapp was re-



elected as secretary, and Bobbi Rogers was re-elected as consumer representative. In addition, we welcomed Noor Syed as the education chair in 2021. This year will bring a new election and we will be seeking nominations for important roles of two representatives at large.

We are now planning for our 32nd annual conference to be held in Albany on October 27–29, 2021, which will include great keynote and invited speakers. We will be accepting presentation and poster submissions from members. Also, check out our new and improved NYSABA website. Finally, take a look at the NYSABA Parent & Family website at [www.nysabaparent.org](http://www.nysabaparent.org), which includes free resources for parents and family members of consumers of behavior analysis services. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy 2021 from New York!

## Tennessee ABA

BY ANNIE CORNELIUS AND LINDSEY BRADY

The Tennessee Association for Behavior Analysis (TABA) was established in 1997 and continues to focus on increasing awareness, supporting various state ABA programs, and ensuring the availability of applied behavior analysis services across the state. During the COVID-19 pandemic, TABA pivoted their focus to ensuring members were able to access information concerning the necessary switch to providing behavior services through telehealth platforms.

Currently, TABA has approximately 204 members. This is a decrease in members, but TABA feels this is likely in part due to COVID-19 and the economic issues many are facing. Funds and actions to support the 2020 initiatives were made available, but with many of these initiatives having a focus on social engagement and networking efforts had to be minimized. There is one state conference, and three regional meetings hosted each year—the annual conference held in Middle Tennessee as well as one in each of the three grand regions of the state—West, Middle, and East. The annual conference provides a central forum to discuss all aspects of researching and delivering applied behavior analysis services that are affecting Behavior Analysts across the state, while the regional meetings allow for those needs of local Behavior Analysts to be addressed. All but the west regional meeting was held online to ensure the safety of TABA members.

The 23rd Annual Conference was held virtually using the VirBELA platform on October 29–30. During this conference, approximately 227 Behavior Analysts attended to hear the following qualified invited speakers: Dr. Linda LeBlanc from LeBlanc Behavioral Consulting, Dr. Jim Carr from the BACB, and Dr. Megan Miller from LifeTribe. There were additional Noted Speakers, including: Mahshid Ghaemmaghami, Ph.D., BCBA-D, FTF Behavioral Consulting. Dr. LeBlanc focused on best practices in regards to supervision and spoke about

designing clinical systems within our practices as well as how to identify the presence of quality. Dr. Carr provided updates from the BACB and also spoke on the importance of the existence of experimental applied behavior analysis to applied behavior analysis. Dr. Miller focused on supervision in addition to discussing how to compassionately address challenging behavior issues. Dr. Ghaemmaghami focused on Avoiding Delay-Induced Resurgence of Severe Problem Behavior. While this is a decrease in attendance, 2020 was a difficult year for many chapters. TABA is focusing on returning to typical membership and conference attendee numbers next year.

While the shift to an online conference format did cause changes within the conference components typically offered, Behaviorlympics, which showcased the knowledge of students from various ABA programs within the state, was still able to occur. Those students who were able to shape a behavior most efficiently, rapidly identify terminology, and display other clinical skills were awarded for their efforts by TABA member donations. This is a forum for students to interact with each other and demonstrate their ABA skill set.

Our Executive Committee is made up of the following individuals: Annie Cornelius as President, Komal Noordin as President-Elect, Tiffany Denton as Past President, Rachel Joyner as West TN Regional Representative, Loren Eighmie as Middle TN Regional Representative, Deanna Purslow as East TN Regional Representative, Anna-Kathryn Dacus as West TN Student Officer, Kamryn Quackenbush as Middle TN Student Officer, and Emma Vola as East TN Student Officer. Our committee chairs include Cady Branch and Michelle Hopton (co-chairs, Continuing Education), Erin Szarka (Publications), Logan York and Elizabeth West (co-chairs, Social Media), Clinton Smith (Professional Standards), and Zachary Stevens (Membership). Lindsey Brady continues as the Director of Operations. Collectively, this group is dedicated to advancing the presence of TABA across the state by focusing on both 2020 and 2021 initiatives; providing engaging opportunities for both the conference and regional meetings, and newly identified initiatives such as a mentorship program in additions to the 2020 initiatives halted by COVID-19.

## Vermont ABA

BY JOY BREWSTER

Vermont Association for Behavior Analysis (VtABA) continues to fulfill its mission of establishing a cohesive group of professionals and practitioners supporting the growth of behavior analysis in the state of Vermont. The science of behavior analysis guides our mission, practice, and professional development. We are dedicated to the dissemination and promotion of the theoretical,

experimental, and applied analysis of behavior.

At the annual meeting on January 22, 2021, the current 13 board members were introduced. Over the course of the previous year, the board revised the bylaws, added to the timelines, and clarified responsibilities for board positions. The changes will provide additional support to our mission, assist in allocating existing resources more effectively, and allow us to plan events to better serve the needs of our members. An additional benefit is transitioning new board members during months with fewer board obligations and outreach events. The board discussed the addition of vice secretary.

### **Upcoming Board Vacancies and Nomination Process**

The four upcoming open board positions were shared with the attendees. One board member vacancy is for a vice chair; this is a three-year commitment. The second board member vacancy is for a vice treasurer, and this is a two-year commitment. The two additional vacancies are for student members, and these are one-year commitments. Additional information will be forthcoming. The nomination process was modified in 2019. The board will begin accepting nominations, and the nominees will be announced at the conference in April 2021. The board will complete the voting process in May 2021. The new board members will commence their terms in June 2021.

### **Membership Update**

Our membership has declined. Precipitating factors include the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to cancel the annual conference in 2020. Many of our new members and membership renewals occur at the annual conference. Current membership is 95 members.

### **Event Updates**

The Events Committee hosted two webinars. One occurred on February 18, 2020. Dr. Bethany Contreras presented information on the VB-MAPP. Attendees had the opportunity to earn one CE. The content covered practice, theory, and methodology. A second webinar was a joint effort with the Insurance Committee. The webinar took place on December 6, 2020. The content covered several aspects of insurance coverage for those with an autism spectrum diagnosis.

The focus and future direction for the Website Committee includes the following: simplifying the process for membership renewal and event registration, gathering ideas for a new logo, and adding an employment section to the website. They are compiling a more comprehensive resources list for providers and practitioners of applied behavior analysis and updating registration processes.

The VtABA chapter is planning for the annual conference on April 30, 2021. The conference will be a virtual, full-day event offering CEs. We look forward to

presentations from Dr. Manny Rodriguez. There may be a second speaker. The focus will be topics related to organizational behavior management (OBM).

The Insurance Advocacy Committee was formed in 2019. As noted above, they partnered with the Events Committee to present a webinar about insurance issues on December 9, 2021. Community members with whom they collaborate are Mary-Graham McDowell from the Community Care Network of Rutland Mental Health Services and Cortney Keene, BCBA, LBA from Keene Perspectives, PLLC.

The Social Media Committee is prioritizing free CE resources for members, establishing a greater presence on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

### **Yearly Progress**

As evinced above, the Events Committee, Insurance Advocacy Committee, Social Media Committee, Website Committee, Annual Meeting Committee, And Annual Conference Committee provided outreach and professional development for the current members and those new to the field of behavior analysis.

Gains in record keeping, financial documentation, organizational structure, enumeration of responsibilities for officers, governance policies, specificity in roles, and delineation of timelines continue.

### **Finances**

Historically, the annual conference has been both the biggest expenditure and greatest source of income. The fees for the annual conference have been reduced this year. An allocation for a certified public account was included as a line item in this year's budget. Monies were allocated to the website committee, and budget procedures were revised. In addition to the monthly fee for budgeted for website management, additional specificity for fees outside the monthly website management fee are accounted for in more detail. The 2020 budget has been reconciled, and all accounts in good standing. VtABA had minimal additional spending in 2020. New spending included the following: the purchase of the Zoom webinar feature and items to raffle at events. Exploring a new venue to host the annual conference was postponed. The board proposed and approved a balanced 2021 budget. Monthly expenses include website management, Google expenses, and maintenance of the VtABA domain. Annual expenses include the annual meeting, annual conference, ACE expenses through the BACB, the post office box, ABAI membership, filing taxes, subcommittee funds, and the biennial report. Our potential future spending and plans for 2021 include the following:

- Events Committee continuing to work on webinars,
- adding a CPA to the budget,
- sponsoring trainings and events consistent with our

- mission,
- continuing to bring in speakers from outside New England,
- hosting conferences at venues (COVID-19 restrictions allowing),
- looking at changes to website, and
- allocating website committee funds for website upkeep and maintenance.

### Future Directions

The board solicited input from members on their behavior analytic topics and interests for future professional development. Future directions for the board include planning quarterly events, creating efficacious processes for hosting webinars, increasing CE opportunities, and holding networking events. Ease with navigating the website and improving the member management platform are additional objectives. Another priority for the committee is continuing the dissemination of behavior analytic content, information, and information via social media.

### COVID-19

The most significant impact of COVID-19 is the postponed events and associated fees. Rather than accept

the refunds offered from venues, the board opted to support the businesses and have them hold the deposits to use at future events.

The impact of COVID-19 had a deleterious effect on VtABA's finances. The negative influences were experienced in postponed events resulting in refunds of monies to attendees and funds paid to other businesses to use for future events. The annual conference is our largest source of income and the cancellation of the 2020 conference affected the board's finances. As a result of the pandemic, fewer monies are budgeted for the 2021 annual conference because the board is not incurring the cost of a venue. The board voted to change the fee for the annual conference for 2021.

## Wisconsin ABA

BY LISA KRANK

The Wisconsin Association for Behavior Analysis (WisABA) is in its 17th year of supporting behavior analysts in the state of Wisconsin through networking and professional development opportunities. WisABA continues to promote awareness of behavior analysis and advocates for behavior analysts in the state of Wisconsin and the clients they serve. WisABA continues to



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collaborate with the Department of Health Services (DHS) in their stakeholder meetings that are held twice a year. Through this collaboration, information as well as any updates regarding the behavioral treatment benefit through the State of Wisconsin is disseminated to practicing behavior analysts that are members of WisABA.

With the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, WisABA decided to cancel their yearly conference in an effort to keep everyone safe during very uncertain times. While this limited the opportunity for continuing education through the WisABA conference, it did not limit the opportunity for networking and resource sharing that occurred during our general membership meetings. Many practicing behavior analysts brought resources to share and collaborated to implement telehealth services for clients across Wisconsin during the pandemic. In addition, WisABA's website and marketing committee worked to update our website to better meet the needs of our members. These efforts will continue in 2021 as we work to serve as a valuable resource for our members. WisABA's public relations committee is hard at work to grow awareness of WisABA by increasing access to information via social media as well as other outlets.

In addition, the public relations committee has identified areas to increase WisABA's membership through outreach

to students of behavior analysis and practicing registered behavior technicians (RBT). In 2021, WisABA will continue to collaborate with DHS to encourage and facilitate communication between this funding source and those providing services in an effort to increase access to behavior analytic services for clients in the state of Wisconsin. WisABA's conference committee is busy planning the annual conference for 2021. WisABA's 13th annual conference will take place August 13-14. At this conference WisABA will award two recipients the WisABA Award for Contributions to Behavior Analysis in the State of Wisconsin, one for 2020 and one for 2021. We hope to have many of you join us as we welcome a wide range of speakers and poster presentations. For information on becoming a member and our conference, please visit [www.wisaba.org](http://www.wisaba.org).



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## ABA Australia

BY ALEXANDRA BROWN

ABA Australia continues to develop. During this challenging year, our membership base has remained stable, but we are pleased that BCBA numbers continue to increase.

Our fifth annual 2-day conference in Sydney (July 2020) was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. For the first time ever, we offered a virtual conference for 2021. Some members made up for the lack of social contact by running and attending social reading nights. These have been via telehealth platforms or face-to-face, depending on the restrictions at the time. We are looking forward to the time when our members can come together again.

As always, our various committees have continued to work toward increased recognition of behaviour analytic services and BCBAs; however, our priorities have now shifted toward the development of an Australian Regulatory Board. Examples of tasks involved in this include developing a business plan, standards of practice, and a code of ethics.

After a long and nervous wait, we were ecstatic to find out that our application to continue to use the BACB exam in Australia had been approved. This means that Australians can continue to sit the BACB exam after 31 December, 2022. This takes a monumental weight from our list of self-regulation tasks.

ABA Australia had a poster at ABAI's second Virtual Expo in May 2021. We loved connecting, in an albeit different way, with behaviour analysts from around the world. As always, ABAI's support for international chapters at the Affiliate Chapter Training was also very much appreciated by our attending board members. Self-regulation was a hot topic.

As we look forward to the next year, we will continue to work toward our enormous, but exciting, goals.

## ABA España

BY JAVIER VIRUES-ORTEGA

This year we have engaged in various important activities for the field and the profession. As we get close to 40 BCBA and BCaBA certificants in the country with a certification lapse rate below 3.5%, the professional field in Spain seems to be finally gaining some traction. Most of these new professionals are former students of ABA España's VCS which has been and continues to be a key resource allowing the steady albeit modest growth of the field in Spain and elsewhere—less than a third of certificants from our VCS are Spanish residents.

In an effort to expand training opportunities further for Spanish-speakers the year we have established a collaboration with Valentian International University (VIU) that will help students obtain a master's degree in psychology or education before undertaking our VCS.

ABA España has also engaged in other key activities to support the field including in Spain. For example, we provided a grant to SAVEEC (Society for the Advancement of Behavioral Studies), which hosted a national conference in Madrid gathering most professionals in the field. We have also supported editorial efforts leading to the adaptation into Spanish of three new key behavior analysis handbooks: Miltenberger's *Behavior Modification* (6th ed.), Copper Heron and Heward's *Applied Behavior Analysis* (3rd ed.), and Bailey's *Research Methods in Applied Behavior Analysis* (2nd ed.), all of which are expected to be published later this year.

In addition, ABA España has been the driving force in the process of establishing a consortium with the largest behavior analysis organizations in the country. This collaboration has been established with the purposes of supporting professional certification in Spain. As part of these efforts, we have conducted an ample survey to identify the needs and challenges of the field in Spain.

## ABA Switzerland

BY SILJA WIRTH, CHARLOTTE ESCANÉ, AND ERIKA GLAUS

At the start of 2020, the BACB's news about withdrawing from international certification shook the field of behavior analysis in Switzerland. In our country ABA is not very widely disseminated and enjoys no recognition as a profession, thus the news about losing our international standing came as a shock to our members. ABA Switzerland organized a member meeting and brainstormed ideas on how to move forward. We wrote a position paper on the future of behavior analysis in Switzerland and discussed our ideas with Dr. Neil Martin from the BACB on two occasions. We are also seeking the collaboration with our neighbouring countries Italy, France, and Germany. Many of our members work in border regions, thus we must find ways to ensure future professional recognition of certificates across borders and find common standards of practice. Developing those ideas further, establishing contact with EABA and staying in close connection with the chapters in our neighbouring countries will be major goals for the year to come as well. Indeed, one of our board members joined the French organization ONPAC in their "International Committee" to discuss potential collaborations opportunities. This ongoing process of collaborating with border countries will also help us on other issues, as Switzerland is a small country with relatively few behavior analysts so far.

In 2020, we also continued to provide opportunities for continuing education to our members by hosting different webinars. The goal for the webinars of 2020 was to broaden our perspective as to how behavior analysis can be applied outside the field of autism. Our members like the idea of having an overview of other domains of the application

of behavior analysis. We started by having Shane Spiker present on the use of behavior analysis in the field of sexual disorders. Nicole Pfaller-Sadovsky talked about her work using ABA to work with dogs and dog owners. Next was Claudia Drossel, who presented a two-part webinar on her work with patients suffering from dementia and how ABA can be used to treat their symptoms as well as how it can support caregivers. These webinars were very interesting and eye opening for practitioners mainly working with people with autism or other developmental disorders. As we always aim to provide CEs for supervision and ethics, we finished the year with Michael Cameron talking about a minimum clinical dataset for evaluating autism treatment and Lisa Britton presenting on utilizing behavioral skills training in a remote supervision setting, thus also addressing the major challenges we all faced this year when being forced to rely more on telehealth.

Last, but not least, 2020 was a year of total redesign and reorganization of our website, thanks to our student representative board member. Our goal is to have more visibility online and to create easier and more efficient administration processes. We also started to be more active on social media platforms such as Facebook to welcome more members and advertise for our webinars. We try to select webinars with specific interests, but still are plagued with low enrollment, despite the affordable cost. One of our 2021 goals is to better advertise and generate bigger audiences for our events!

In 2021, the ABA Switzerland Committee will re-elect its board members. Also, ABA Switzerland aims to continue providing quality webinars with CE opportunities to its members. Therefore, we welcomed Shane Spiker in April. Shane returned to present how ABA is used in the work with adult clients. In June Kimberly March and Carmen Hall dove deeper into this topic by elaborating how discrete trial instruction can be used with adults. Later this year, Francesca degli Espinoza will provide a webinar on ethics and telemedicine and provide us with the opportunity to earn ethics CE. We listened to a great podcast Francesca degli Espinoza presented with *ABA Inside Track* and cannot wait to have her discuss how she managed to review her entire practice during the pandemic and the lockdown in order to continue providing high quality services to parents despite the change in setting. We all must learn from this crisis and how to overcome such barriers in our daily practice. In the fall, Eric Larsson will return to present a webinar as well. Our members will get to choose the topic for the webinar at our annual meeting. We will close the year with a webinar by a representative of Greg Hanley's company FTF Consulting presenting on their Balance Program.

This will also be a year of big decisions regarding the future of our field here in Europe. ABA Switzerland will continue to work on this great challenge.

## Atlantic Provinces ABA

BY KIMBERLY MAICH, MONICA PETERS, MICHAEL PALMER, ARIANA CHOQUETTE, MELISSA MACDONALD, LAURA WLASH-MARTINO, AND AMANDA SAULNIER

### Chapter Updates

The Atlantic Provinces Association for Behaviour Analysis (APABA) has recently marked our sixth anniversary as an affiliated chapter of ABAI. We are amazed by the growth in membership that we have experienced since our inception in 2014, from 44 members in our first year to a large increase in membership of 118 at the end of APABA's fiscal year (October). We have 91 full members, 24 student members, 2 affiliate members, and 1 honorary member. Although the wide geographical region served by APABA poses some unique challenges, we also recognize the benefits and opportunities we are afforded by drawing together behaviour analysts, educators, interventionists, partner professionals, and others interested in behavioural science and its application in the four Atlantic Canadian provinces of New Brunswick, Newfoundland & Labrador, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. We've also seen a continued increase in the number of members and partner professionals completing the requirements to become certified by the BACB since the inception of APABA. While there were 16 board certified behaviour analysts or board certified assistant behaviour analysts in Atlantic Canada in 2014, and 26 in 2017, we now have 63 (NB=36; NL=3; NS=17; PEI=7; [www.bacb.com](http://www.bacb.com)).

Our biggest update is the creation of our 2020-2022 strategic plan outlining APABA's goals and actions over the next two years. Goals outlined in the strategic plan include: To increase the number of active members by 30%, to increase the yearly number of professional learning opportunities offered from 5 to 9, and to fulfill the needs of each committee with needed number of members. APABA committees have been updated to include: Research & Advocacy, Education, Engagement and Acknowledgement. Each committee has goals, expectations and priorities outlined based on the goals in the strategic plan.

A primary goal of APABA is to promote and encourage the development and awareness of the science of behaviour analysis through research, education, and practice within our region. We also seek to facilitate networking and expand opportunities for professional connection and collaboration among and between our members and others in the field. To that end, APABA has participated in multiple ABAI Annual Conventions, presenting posters at the conventions in San Antonio (2015), Chicago (2016), Denver (2017), San Diego (2018), Chicago (2019), and online (2020). Our members have also presented at ABAI conferences in Puerto Rico and Paris. Our members are delivering training throughout and beyond the Atlantic

Provinces and, at times, internationally, such as in Switzerland and Paris, in order to support the professional learning needs of our members. To that end, three member benefits need mentioning:

First, we dedicate a portion of our Annual General Meeting each fall to continuing education, focusing on areas of emerging need and interest among members. Past keynote presenters have included: Drs. Robyn Catagnus and Elizabeth Fong who shared their work on increasing cultural competence in behaviour analysts, supporting APABA members to engage in more culturally-proficient professional practice, Drs. Kelly Schieltz, Matthew O'Briend, and Todd Kopelman, who trained attendees on the use of telehealth to train and coach interventionists supporting learners with ASD and Dr. Patrick McGreevy who trained attendees on in how to select a curriculum for children with autism and children with developmental disabilities. Our 2020 AGM professional development was led by Dr. Gregory Hanley who presented on the latest iteration of the practical functional assessment process (PFA) that allows for the development of skill based treatments (SBTs) capable of producing socially valid outcomes.

Second, as a new professional learning initiative, started in July 2020, APABA also holds continuing education events bi-monthly for the members. Dr. Thomas Szabo and Bethea Miller presented virtually on how verbal behaviour can promote meaningful change in systemic racism.

Third, as an additional new professional learning initiative, APABA members are offered a 37% discount to ABAClive's webinars and a 20% discount off their bundles and courses. This allows members to enjoy these high-quality webinar opportunities at a reduced cost.

Finally, as another new professional learning initiative, APABA members are offered a 15% discount to the Atlantic Provinces Autism Conference held virtually in November.

Since APABA serves such a broad geographical region spanning Canada's four Atlantic Provinces, it is essential that we make effective and efficient use of electronic media and web based platforms as we seek to support current members and reach prospective new members. The APABA Executive, along with the Communications and Public Education committees release newsletters each year to share information about recent and upcoming events. The ABAPA website ([www.atlanticprovincesaba.com](http://www.atlanticprovincesaba.com)), which continues to evolve, is also an integral tool for communicating with members. Not only does it provide a central location for sharing information and resources, but it has also been expanded to allow for online registration and payment for APABA events (as well as online donations to our local awards) and to provide a gateway to APABA's social media presence through our Facebook page and Twitter account. In 2017, APABA began "Behaviour Bits," an online blog featuring submissions from members on

topics highlighting the application of behavioural science to everyday situations (<https://behaviourbits.com>).

APABA continues to provide awards to its members, including the Verna O'Coin Memorial Bursary, the Marlene Breitenbach Award, and the William L. Heward Behaviour Change Award for a Sustainable Future. A new scholarship was also established to support Black, Indigenous, People of Colour (BIPOC) students in the field of applied behaviour analysis in the Atlantic Provinces. This scholarship will be awarded on a bi-annual basis to the successful applicants.

Between 2018 and end of 2020, all the goals outlined in the 2018–2020 strategic plan were met. A new strategic plan was developed by the executive in June 2020.

Finally, we continue to be an ACE provider to be able to provide CEs to our members.

### Looking Ahead

APABA has been the beneficiary of a host of gracious gestures and an abundance of support from behaviour analysts and partner professionals since we first set out on this journey four years ago. We continue to extend our sincere appreciation to all who have helped us along the way. As our membership continues to grow and as we extend our reach across Atlantic Canada, our goal is to continue and build upon the initiatives that we have begun and to create new opportunities and pathways to share the value of behavioural science throughout our region. As part of this movement, we have been encouraging social get-togethers in our varied geographic regions. We also look forward to, and welcome, opportunities to connect with other ABAI-affiliated chapters across Canada and beyond to expand opportunities for professional learning, networking, and collaboration.

## Bermuda ABA

BY THEA FURBERT AND ERICA SMITH

The 2020 year was a shock for Bermuda and the rest of the world having come face-to-face with a global pandemic. COVID-19 took its toll on the world and Bermuda was not spared, but through the challenges behavior analysts in Bermuda persevered, pivoted, and adapted all with the goal of finding a way to continue to provide the necessary services and therapy to clients and families who needed it.

Members of the Bermuda Association of Behavior Analysis (BABA) and generally the behavior analyst profession in Bermuda proved how to be resilient in 2020!

BABA continues to be comprised of Behavior Analysts, Verbal Behavior Therapists, Junior Therapists, Non-profit Leaders, and Parents. Its close partnership continues with Tomorrow's Voices—Bermuda Autism Early Intervention Centre, Bermuda's first and only autism early intervention center, and this enables the majority of its members to come through that relationship.



BABA's membership contracted slightly due to the impact of the pandemic, notwithstanding the growth in the awareness and use of ABA in Bermuda continues to be directly linked to the development and continued sustainability of Tomorrow's Voices Autism Centre.

In 2020, Tomorrow's Voices celebrated its 13th year of existence in Bermuda, validating the need for an international center providing services dedicated to those with autism spectrum disorders and developmental disabilities. Since its inception, the clinical center has hired and trained 50 professionals (Bermudian and Non-Bermudian) in the use of applied behavior analysis and verbal behavior, not to mention the thousands of parents, volunteers, students, educators, medical and allied health professionals trained and engaged through workshops, seminars, consultancies, internships, and work shadows.

The formation of BABA in fall 2011 was due mostly to the ongoing work by Tomorrow's Voices Autism Center and continues to be sustained through this synergistic partnership, as most of the professionals who practice ABA in Bermuda are employed with Tomorrow's Voices.

Currently there are 10 professionals in Bermuda registered with the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB), from Registered Behavior Therapists through to board certified behavior analysts which bodes well for the growth of the profession in our Island. The partnership between Tomorrow's Voices and Bermuda Association of Behavior Analysis has directly contributed to the ability of 80% of these professionals to gain the necessary professional development and skills required to become registered.

Although the Coronavirus Pandemic essentially shut Bermuda down for a substantial period of time in 2020, behavior analyst professionals pivoted to telehealth as a way to assist families. Through the partnership with Tomorrow's Voices, the following seminars and training workshops were presented by BABA members—Tomorrow's Voices' senior verbal behavior therapist Jahnae Harvey, BCBA, as well as verbal behavior therapists Melissa Myers and Vurnell Ball—on subjects related to ABA and special needs:

- Training Institute: 93 attendees
  - February 19, 2020: Discovering Autism and the Triumphs That Are Possible
  - June 17, 2020: It's More Than Just a Theory
  - September 16, 2020: Coming into The 21st Century — It Is All About Technology
  - November 18, 2020: Keep Calm and Carry On— Looking at the Whole Picture—Anxiety and Autism
- Preschool Training Institute: 52 attendees
  - Staying on the Yellow Brick Road—Creating Strategies for Challenging Behaviors
  - The Power of Reinforcement
  - Finding the Balance Between Work and Play— Natural Environment Teaching

- Lending a Helping Hand—A Workshop on How to Assist Using Prompting
- In Touch With Autism

In 2020, a total of 145 persons attended the 9 workshops (8 virtually), consisting of parents, teachers, college students, health professionals, government officials, and others in the community resulting on 290 hours of professional development hours.

BABA members committed to their own professional development and growth in behavior analysis through participating virtually in the following international seminars, workshops, and events:

- 46th Annual Convention hosted by the Association for Behavior Analysis International
- 2020 Autism Law Summit
- Living with Autism Conference
- Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA) certification
- Registered Behavior Technicians (RBT) Training
- BABA members, through Tomorrow's Voices, also became members of the Council of Autism Service Providers (CASP)

The coronavirus pandemic's onset allowed BABA members to adapt to unusual situations and telehealth ABA therapy was embraced as the only way to continue to support families and clients. Virtual meeting platforms, phone calls, and emails were used as tools when face-to-face therapy could not be provided.

BABA and thereby Tomorrow's Voices, are honored to continue to lead the way with regards to growing the ABA profession in Bermuda. BABA members continue to serve on the Bermuda government's ASD Taskforce providing a behavior lens to addressing the issues facing our Island's students and adults with ASD and related disorders.

But we continue to have grave concerns over BACB's decision to no longer certify international BCBA's, as this will have a direct impact on our Island's current BCBA's and those currently and in the future striving towards certification by BACB. As such, we will need to work closer with ABAI and our international partners to develop solutions to this real-world professional challenge.

BABA desires to tangibly grow its membership and more specifically to expand its Executive Board with Behavior professionals. In 2020, it was all about survival and having resilience to do so. In 2021, our goal is to grow our outreach and membership base and as such, we are actively seeking persons, especially those beyond Tomorrow's Voices, interested in the ABA field to join. Anyone interested in becoming a member of BABA or finding out more information should contact Erica Smith at [bermudaaba@gmail.com](mailto:bermudaaba@gmail.com).

## Icelandic ABA

BY BERGLIND SVEINBJORNSDOTTIR

The Icelandic Association of 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 66 members. A part of the association's purpose is to introduce the different behavior analysis master's and doctoral programs available to Icelandic students. Applied behavior analysis has a longstanding and well established footing at the University of Iceland and in the University of Reykjavik. Because there has not been a MSc program in behavior analysis in Iceland, Icelandic students have completed their graduate studies in ABA/BA abroad, such as in the US, UK, and Norway. Right now, two students are studying abroad. However, recently there has been an exciting development in Iceland where both Reykjavik University and University of Iceland started a MSc program in applied behavior analysis.

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 coffee house meetings and our Facebook have served as great venues for lively discussions. Due to COVID-19 the biggest event, the ICEABA's conference, had to be cancelled. The conference was moved to November 2021, and we are excited to welcome invited speakers Dr. Rebecca MacDonald and Dr. Janet Twyman.

In 2020, ICEABA elected a new secretary, Hanna Steinunn Steingrimsdóttir, Ph.D.. Berglind Sveinbjörnsdóttir remains the president and Steinunn Hafsteinsdóttir remains the treasurer. In addition, IceABA welcomed two students representatives, one from the University of Iceland and one from Reykjavik University. These are MSc students in applied behavior analysis and will make sure that the Icelandic students have a voice and help IceABA to disseminate the science of ABA in Iceland. For the past year a group of IceABA members have met to work towards an Icelandic certification in applied behavior analysis. This work is in it's early stages and will be continued for the next years to come.

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.

## Ontario ABA

BY KENDRA THOMSON

The Ontario Association for Behaviour Analysis (ONTABA) continues to expand its capacity, grow membership, and increase visibility among other

professionals and levels of government in Ontario and Canada. Although 2020 was a very unpredictable year with pandemic-related challenges, the organization accomplished many goals related to our 2020-2022 strategic plan. We have outlined some of the highlights here.

### Member Services & Educational Opportunities

For the first time ever, ONTABA received funding from the provincial government to provide a service to the community.

The Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services commissioned ONTABA to produce free educational materials in both English and French based on our newly released *Jurisprudence & Ethics Standards* (<https://ontaba.org/je.php>).

Under the leadership of Dr. Julie Koudys (technical lead) and Dr. Rosemary Condillac (administrative lead), a dedicated working group created key resources for behaviour analysts, those interested in ABA, and other professionals.

The working group also developed comprehensive online training modules, "The Ethical Behaviour Analyst", which cover the new *Jurisprudence & Ethics Standards*.

A series of live and interactive virtual training sessions that built on the training modules were also offered in both English and French. All materials are now hosted on our training website (<https://training.ontaba.org/>).

The Education Task Force disseminated a white paper titled, "Applied Behaviour Analysis: Applications in Schools" to educators and policy makers (<https://www.ontaba.org/pdf/ONTABA%202020%20ABA%20in%20Schools%20White%20Paper.pdf>).

The Membership and Member Services Committee released three issues of the newsletter, *The ONTABA Analyst*, in April, August, and October (<https://ontaba.org/newsletters.php>).

We held our first virtual conference on December 10–11, 2020, with over 600 attendees. Guest speakers were Drs. Stelios Georgiades, Marc Lanovaz, Linda LeBlanc, and Janet Twyman, as well as many local behaviour analysts and trainees.

We also hosted our annual Evening of Behavior Analysis virtually. The focus of the event was on diversity and inclusion in behaviour analysis: "Culture and Race as Variables in Behaviour Analysis: An Exploration of the Contingencies" Speakers were Kade-Ann Henry, and Dr. Sonia Levy with Dr. Val Saini as the discussant.

We offered other two CE events in partnership with the Ontario Behavior Analytic Community of Practice and the Manitoba Association for Behaviour Analysis.

We partnered with Autism Ontario to provide a series of webinars for professionals and caregivers (some related to pandemic related responses and legal implications for service providers).

We offered a virtual town hall for members to receive guidance from clinicians about pandemic related reopening

guidelines. We also offered weekly “Physically Distanced, but Socially Connected” virtual social hours for members for several weeks at the beginning of the pandemic.

### Advocacy

The Advocacy & Communications Committee formed a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Working Group and will finalize the terms of reference in 2021.

We developed a Public Relations Road Map with our PR consultant to be enacted in 2021. The focus will be on elevating the voices of people who have benefitted from behaviour analytic services and clarifying misconceptions about the field.

The Education and Advancement Committee prepared a comprehensive report with responses to questions about professional regulation of behaviour analysts for the relevant provincial ministries.

We continued to work closely with the provincial government and the College of Psychologists on the process of professional regulation of behavior analysts in Ontario.

We also continued to meet with ministry representatives about changes to the Ontario Autism Program and offer consultation.

### Governance & Operations

In 2020, we finalized the terms of reference for a new committee structure and hired an association management company to help with day-to-day tasks and accounting.

### Board Transition and Eye on 2021

In 2020, we finalized the strategic objectives for 2020-2022: (1) provide leadership and advocate for ethical, effective, and safe behavioural services in Ontario; (2) enhance services and supports for all ONTABA members, in all parts of the province; and (3) build the capacity of ONTABA to achieve its mission and goals. We will continue to strive to meet these objectives in 2021.

## Polish Society for Behavioral Psychology

BY BARTŁOMIEJ J. SWEBOZINSKI

During 2020, the Polish Society for Behavioral Psychology continuously worked on development of Polish certification system (license) for behavior analysts. Polish certification system was created and introduced in 2010 together with partner organization Polish Society for Behavioral Therapy ([www.terapeutabehavioralny.pl](http://www.terapeutabehavioralny.pl)). Its aim was to improve the quality of work of behavior analysts in Poland by establishing professional standards of good work and proper conduct for behavioral analysts. Two members of PSBP participate on regular basis in meetings of the executive committee of the system. The main responsibilities are:

- evaluating applications of candidates to the title of behavioral analyst according to standards of Polish certification system,
- developing standards for training programs and evaluating new training courses proposed by supervisors within the system,
- answering on-going questions concerning certification system and providing consistent interpretation of its rules,
- propagating knowledge about certification system and behavioral therapy in Poland as well.

PSBP took patronage over the event Evenings With Behaviorism (I'm Learning ACT, by Bartosz Kleszcz).

PSBP also took patronage over the book, *A Liberated Mind* by Steven C. Hayes, with substantive editing and a foreword by Joanna Dudek and Paweł Ostaszewski—members of our association.

In 2020, PSBP and School Rehabilitation and Education Center for Children and Youth with Autism in Gdańsk organized the 13th International Scientific Symposium "Applied Behavior Analysis Towards Problem

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Behaviors of Contemporary People". The uniqueness of the symposium was the way it was organized. Due to numerous restrictions introduced in the circumstances of the pandemic, the event was held completely online. The symposium lasted two days: the first day was filled with lectures with the participation of a special guest—Dr. Robert Mellon, BCBA, from the Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences in Athens (Greece); the second day was filled with workshops that were very popular among the participants of the symposium.

## Swedish ABA

BY DAG STRÖMBERG

The Swedish Association for Behavior Analysis (SWABA) had 156 members at the end of 2020, which was three less than in 2019. Considering the COVID-19 pandemic, which hindered physical reunions, this was a smaller decrease in members than what might have been expected. One objective this year was for the chapter to continue increasing its activity on social media, in the form of disseminating research and news concerning behavior analysis, as well as providing opportunities for discussion among members. At the end of the year, 1,280 people were following SWABA on Facebook, a 12% increase from 2019. The association also has accounts on Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, and Instagram, all with an increasing number of followers.

SWABA's fall meeting in September 2020, in Stockholm, included a presentation on how to stop ruminating and brooding, by Olle Wadström, and an introduction to Acceptance and Commitment Therapy and rehabilitation medicine by Dr. Graciela Rovner. An invited international speaker was Dr. Francesca degli Espinosa, who gave an inspiring talk entitled "A Behavioural View of Theory of Mind."

In March 2021, the annual meeting took place, as an online event. Two talks were held by Swedish presenters; one about climate change and OBM by Kata Nylén; another one on how to communicate with other professionals and media about evidence-based

psychological treatment, by Dan Katz. We were also happy to welcome Dr. Jesús Rosales-Ruiz and Mary Hunter, who presented on the Portable Operant Research and Teaching Lab (PORTL). It was a pleasure to present the second recipient of the annual "SWABA-prize." Peter Karlsson, licensed psychologist, and author of a number of books in Swedish about ABA and Positive Behavior Support, was awarded the prize as a recognition of his work to disseminate behavior analysis.

SWABA was represented at the 2021 ABAI Annual Convention. As usual, a poster was presented at the ABAI Expo, which took place between 2–4 am Swedish time. A number of convention visitors joined us in the poster's chat room.

During the year, contacts have also been taken with the Behavior Analysis Certification Board (BACB) as well as with representatives of the other Nordic countries, concerning the question about quality assurance for behavior analysts when BACB certification will no longer be available for behaviour analysts in Sweden. In the fall of 2020, SWABA became an affiliated chapter of the European Association for Behaviour Analysis.

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

SWABA would like to encourage anyone who plans to visit Sweden or other countries in Scandinavia to contact the board ([info@swaba.se](mailto: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 September or October. Our fall meeting of 2021 will take place in September. Depending upon the development of pandemic situation it will be either online or a physical event. In any case, this will be an occasion to celebrate SWABA's 25th anniversary since its foundation in September 1996. At the same time, it is SWABA's 20th anniversary as an affiliated chapter of the ABAI. Please visit the SWABA website for updates concerning the program. ❖

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# ABAI Journals

ABAI publishes six behavior analysis journals: *The Analysis of Verbal Behavior*, *Behavior Analysis in Practice*, *Behavior and Social Issues*, *Perspectives on Behavior Science*, *Education and the Treatment of Children*, and *The Psychological Record*, which are overseen by the Publication Board.



## ***Perspectives on Behavior Science***

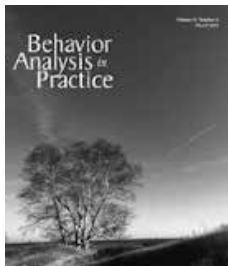
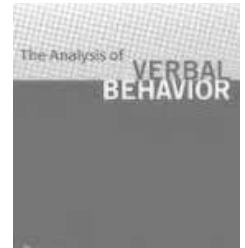
The official publication of ABAI. In addition to articles on theoretical, experimental, and applied topics in behavior analysis, it included literature reviews, re-interpretations of published data, and articles on behaviorism as a philosophy.  
[www.abainternational.org/journals/pobs](http://www.abainternational.org/journals/pobs)

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## ***The Analysis of Verbal Behavior***

Supports the dissemination of innovative empirical research, theoretical conceptualizations, and real-world applications of the behavioral science of language. The journal embraces diverse perspectives of human language, its conceptual underpinnings, and the utility such diversity affords.

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## ***Behavior Analysis in Practice***

Designed to provide science-based, best-practice information relevant to service delivery in behavior analysis, the mission of this journal is to promote empirically validated best practices in an accessible format.

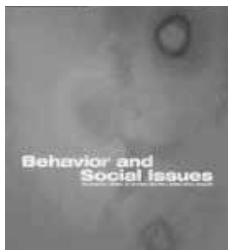
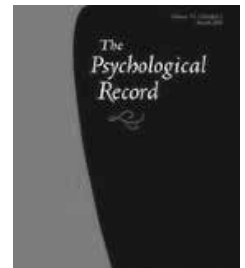
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## ***The Psychological Record***

Founded in 1937 by renowned interbehaviorist J. R. Kantor, this journal welcomes investigations of basic behavioral processes, translational studies that bridge experimental and applied analyses of behavior and conceptual articles pertinent to the theory and philosophy of behaviorism.

[www.abainternational.org/journals/tpr](http://www.abainternational.org/journals/tpr)



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## ***Behavior and Social Issues***

Affiliated with the Behaviorists for Social Responsibility SIG, this journal serves as a primary scholarly outlet for articles that advance the analysis of human social behavior, particularly with regard to understanding and influencing significant social problems.

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## ***Education and Treatment of Children***

This journal disseminates information about behavioral assessments or interventions for children and youth who are at-risk for or experiencing emotional or behavioral problems.

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## Behavioral Analysis SIG on Supervision

BY LINA SLIM

The topic of supervision within the field of behavior analysis is one that has been discussed in detail by many leaders in the field over the course of the past decade. The concept and process of supervision continues to be refined and developed to ensure that the future of behavior analysis and those that practice it are acting within the confines of their scope of competence, with ethical considerations, in a manner that will continue to be in line with B. F. Skinner's conviction of "saving the world." The Behavior Analysis Special Interest Group on Supervision (BASIGS) is a newly minted Special Interest Group within ABAI. Obtaining approval in November of 2020, the SIG's mission and vision are in pursuant of accomplishing several goals over the course of the next few years that will align with the voices of the leaders in our field regarding developing, promoting and advocating for exemplary training standards of behavior analysts as supervisors.

Since its approval, BASIGS has endeavored to obtain membership (currently 33), establish an Executive Committee (10 members), and develop task forces with task force leads. The Executive Committee consists of the following behavior analysts: co-chair, Kasey Gerhart; co-chair, Susan Ansleigh; secretary, Jane Carlson; treasurer, Cheryl Davis; Membership coordinator, Karrie Lindeman; Student Membership coordinator, Laura Rojeski; Communications coordinator, Jen Klapatch; Research and Grant Competition coordinator, Lillith Reuter-Yuill; Social Media coordinator, Nathania Wong; and ABAI Chief Communication liaison, Lina Slim. Additionally, the following task forces have been established to address developing goals within BASIGS: Resource Repository, Curriculum and Task List, Mentor and Supervisor Directory, Surveys and Research, ABAI Convention Supervision Theme Track, and Collaborative and International Dissemination Initiatives. These Task Forces are directly in line with BASIGS mission and vision. BASIGS is within its first year of development, however goals for the future include becoming a resource for Behavior Analysts to access information on the process of supervision and core competencies on being an effective supervisor. Additionally, we wish to serve as a resource for students to seek assistance to gain professional development in the supervision process, support students conducting a thesis on supervision, and the ultimate goal of developing a gold standard of supervisory practices for the field of behavior analysis.

At this time membership of the SIG will include access to empirical research and resources for supervision and the opportunity to participate in research and surveys. Future benefits of membership will include a vetted list of

supervisors across distinct domains of the field of Behavior Analysis, access to a Supervision Curriculum and Task List which will be a supplement to the current BACB Supervision Curriculum 2.0, access to continuing education units on supervision, availability of a grant for research and dissemination purposes, and the opportunity to collaborate with other organizations to continue to improve upon the supervision process across the breadth of the field.

The current Executive Committee and Task Forces of BASIGS are excited to begin this journey and work together to ensure that we can transform the provision of supervision through education, mentorship, and coaching to promote the professional development of behavior analysts and trainees by achieving elevated standards of performance and execution in the field.

## Behaviorists for Social Responsibility SIG

BY HOLLY SENIUK, MARK MATTAINI, RICHARD RAKOS, TRACI CIHON, JOSE ARDILA, & KENDRA COMBS

The Behaviorists for Social Responsibility (BFSR) SIG is composed of dedicated volunteers and a board of Planners (drawing on Skinner's *Walden Two*). The Planners, who meet monthly, currently consist of Jose Ardila, Kendra Combs, Traci Cihon, Sarah Richling, Mark Mattaini, Richard Rakos, and Holly Seniuk. The Planner structure, active volunteers, the easy availability of digital communications, and the resulting mutual accountability continues to produce a high level of activity by the SIG. The following report summarizes only some of the SIG's activities for 2020.

Many members of the BFSR Planners supported the completion of Behavioral Perspectives on Culture and Community, the first of a new series of books to be published through ABAI. The book contains 17 chapters from leading behavior scientists engaged in research and applications of culture-behavior science and was published in January 2021.

### Matrix

BFSR has continued to focus on the Matrix Project (see BFSR's website at <https://bfsr.abainternational.org/> for more information) which was first introduced in the 2014 *Behavior and Social Issues* editorial (Mattaini & Luke, 2014). The Matrix Project is focused on increasing the number of behavior analysts working on social issues (e.g., social justice, poverty, sustainability, public health) using behavioral systems analysis to identify interrelations and practical steps that may be taken across more than a dozen sectors/players (e.g., behavior-analytic education programs, journals, students) who might have an impact on this goal. A significant amount of activity has continued to occur in the last year, so we will highlight a few of the recent activities.

- **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Education Group:** The goal for this group is to develop materials to increase the inclusion of cultural/behavioral systems level content, particularly with emphasis on social issues, in university coursework. The Course Unit Group previously created multiple sample course units in the area of environmental sustainability. These units are freely available on the BFSR website and include links to the Behavior Analyst Certification Board®'s BCBA®/BcaBA® Task List (5th ed.) items, student learning objectives, activities, assessments, and relevant readings. In 2020 the group created a survey that generated approximately 470 responses from behavior analysts. The purpose of the survey was to better understand how individuals are currently contacting behavior analytic content on social issues and what resources would be most beneficial. The group is currently working on analyzing the results of the survey for dissemination.
- **Regional BFSR Groups:** The goal for the regional groups is to create a network of BFSR SIGs in affiliated chapters of ABAI. To date, two affiliated state chapters of the BFSR SIG have been formed (TxABA in 2016 and KansABA in 2017). Another state level chapter (Alabama or ALABA) and a non-US affiliated chapter (Brazil or ABPMZ) are in development.
- **BFSR SIG members** through blog posting, descriptions of member activities, and so on, and (3) to work with the program coordinator for the education and social issues tracks for the TxABA conference). In the upcoming year, one focus of the Regional BFSR groups will be to develop a stronger infrastructure that connects the regional BFSR groups with each other and the ABAI BFSR Planners.
- **Sustainability Group:** In 2019, the Sustainability Group published an article in a special section on Cultural and Behavioral Systems Science in Perspectives on Behavior Science on how the Matrix Project has been used in the development of resources for behavior analysts interested in the area of sustainability. It also serves as a guide for how behavior analysts can become more involved in the area of sustainability in a variety of ways. The group is currently working on using the matrix analysis to identify feasible practices that state chapters could engage in to increase behavior analytic activity in the area of sustainability.
- **Community resilience Group:** This working group was recently created in late 2020 and focuses on understanding how individuals as cultural collectivities respond and recover from systemic issues related to climate change such as hurricanes, fires, earthquakes, among others. The goal of this group is to develop measurement tools with a behavior systems orientation for assessing the practices involved in community resilience seen as adaptive outcomes. The group is currently collecting relevant literature from within and outside behavior analysis that discusses resilience as a concept.

In 2019, the TxABA BFSR SIG council proposed a new set of bylaws that shifted the leadership from the traditional council model to that of a Planners Board. The TxABA BFSR SIG Planners have focused discussions in the following areas: (1) developing opportunities for engaging community members and organizations in the TxABA conference (e.g., scholarship support for students and faculty at local universities, partnerships with local NGOs to introduce TxABA attendees in issues affecting the community, etc.), (2) increasing engagement with TxABA

BFSR will continue to work on the Matrix Project over the coming year, updating the activities and outcomes of active sectors and coordinating the activities of the less developed sectors. Those who want to get involved can contact BFSR at [bfsr@abainternational.org](mailto:bfsr@abainternational.org).

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### Infrastructure Improvements

To ensure that the SIG continues to make progress toward the SIG's mission, several infrastructure improvements were made in the last year. Since becoming an ABAI Associated SIG, BFSR has continued to develop infrastructure to provide members with valuable resources. The membership structure includes student members (\$5), full members (\$20), supporting members (\$50), and sustaining members (\$100). The SIG has also developed a process for getting volunteers involved with SIG activities (email [bfsr@abainternational.org](mailto:bfsr@abainternational.org) if you are interested in volunteering). The SIG has been actively working on developing our website to house resources, disseminate information, and provide members with a way to connect with the SIG.

### Volunteer Opportunities

BFSR has steadily received the help of hundreds of volunteers throughout the years and, in recent times, the influx of individuals applying to volunteer their time for our projects has increased. The trend observed in volunteer participation in this SIG is a representation of the increased interest of behavior analysts to seriously discuss how to participate in the solution of social issues. Given the increased interest in working with us, primarily in the development of the Matrix project outlined above, the BFSR planners created a role to coordinate volunteer participation. Currently, aspiring volunteers can reach the group via our webpage, and based on their interests and skills we provide one or more working groups within the Matrix where they may participate. Defining the main activities of volunteers and allocation of volunteer time within the Matrix are the current focus of the volunteer coordinator and will serve as a basis for the construction of tools to support volunteer actions within BFSR.

### Social Media

BFSR remains active on various social media platforms; even more so now with so many people turning to social media as they are mostly in their homes due to COVID-19. BFSR continues to disseminate socially relevant articles, videos, and news stories to bring the impact of more abstract concepts to a relatable level. Important social events were also highlighted in ways that generated discussion among behavior scientists and connected like-minded practitioners and researchers.

### ABAI Culturo-Behavior Science Conference

The BFSR Planners were heavily involved in planning for, presenting at, and participating in the first culturo-behavior science (CBS) conference sponsored by ABAI, "Culturo-Behavior Science for a Better World" held virtually in October 2020. Papers from the conference will be published as special section in the journal *Behavior and*

*Social Issues* (with which BFSR is affiliated) in 2021.

### ABAI Annual Convention

BFSR held our annual business meeting at the ABAI Annual Convention. BFSR was also represented at the convention through presentations and posters. In addition, BFSR held three networking opportunities ("side zooms") where individuals interested in getting involved or learning more could network with the BFSR Planners to learn more about the SIG and opportunities for involvement. BFSR will be showcasing our activities through posters and a symposium at the 2021 Annual Convention.

## History of Behavior Analysis

BY EDWARD K. MORRIS

The History of Behavior Analysis (HoBA) Special Interest Group (SIG) of the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) was founded in 2011. Our listserv was established in 2012. Our first business meeting was held at the 2013 ABAI convention and has been held there annually since then, except during the confluence of the COVID-19 pandemic and ABA's virtual meetings. As of April 2021, we have 272 members, an increase of 11 members from 2019. Our membership is stable. To join the SIG, log onto the HoBA website ([www.historyofbehavioranalysis.org](http://www.historyofbehavioranalysis.org)) or contact Pat Williams (University of Houston-Downtown) at [WilliamsP@uhd.edu](mailto:WilliamsP@uhd.edu).

### 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, other scientists and humanists, and the public at large.

### Reasons and Rationales

Jack Michael (2004) offered 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. Its 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. Its history and historiography also address the field's relation to other sciences and the humanities. The field is defined, in part, by its comparisons and contrasts with them.

History and historiography also have 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-American philosopher, George Santayana (1863–1952): "Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it" (Santayana, 1905). Another is based on an observation by the American writer and humorist, Mark Twain (1835–1910), about travel—but here "History"—in *The Innocents Abroad*:

"[History] is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime." (Twain, 1869, p. 243).

Farrington (1949) summarizes these and other rationales in almost a behavior-analytic idiom:

"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; see also Coleman, 1995)

### Membership

Our membership is open to anyone interested in the history and historiography of behavior analysis. This includes members of (a) ABAI; (b) members of 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 ABAI. Joining the HoBA listserv is the same as joining the SIG and vice versa. We have no membership fees.

### Governance

At present, our governance consists of a founding president, Edward K. Morris (University of Kansas); vice-president, Karen Wagner (Behavior Service of Brevard, FL); secretary-treasurer, Todd Mc KERCHAR (Jacksonville State University, AL); and listserv owner and moderator, Pat Williams (University of Houston-Downtown). The near-future of the HoBA SIG is to broaden its leadership and governance (see below).

### Business Meeting

Our main activities have been hosting a ListServ for our members (n ~ 272), a website ([www.historyofbehavioranalysis.org](http://www.historyofbehavioranalysis.org)), and an annual business meeting at the ABAI conference. To summarize the minutes of the 2019 meeting:

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**Proud Moments ABA**

- Despite the size of the SIG's membership, attendance at the business meetings has been modest the last several years (e.g., Crone-Todd, Morris, McKerchar, Wagner, and n ~8 members), compared to earlier years (n ~20-25).
- The low attendance probably reflects the SIG's lack of engagement with its members other than through its Listserv. The SIG's activities have not changed since its founding – and neither has its leadership.

The SIG leadership and the audience have discussed changes in the SIG's structure and functions, the most fundamental of which would be to establish by-laws. This would:

- Formalize the SIG's structure (e.g., governance, Executive Council)
- Expand the SIG's purview (e.g., committees, positions)
- Set a calendar for elections and the succession of leadership (e.g., positions, voting, terms)

In expanding the SIG's purview, the leadership and audience considered, further, the functions the SIG could address, in part, through a committee structure. This might include a membership committee (e.g., growth, diversity), finance committee (e.g., dues, donations, IRS status), website committee (e.g., management, communications), publications committee (e.g., a newsletter), program committee (e.g., conference posters, papers, symposia), education committee (e.g., syllabus bank), dissemination committee (e.g., bibliographies, a YouTube directory), archival committee (e.g., listing and promoting archives), and an awards committee (e.g., for the best annual HoBA presentation or publication).

### Goals 2021

The SIG's goals this year are to establish By-Laws and a committee structure. Drafts of the By-Laws will be developed, circulated, and revised by the current EC before the May 2022 Business Meeting at ABAI. At the Business Meeting, the members present will vote on it. If approved, the EC will establish an election cycle and begin assigning HoBA members as committee chairs and members. The future of history in ABAI looks bright.

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## Standard Celeration Society

BY THE SCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Standard Celeration Society (SCS) became an ABAI special interest group (SIG) in 1995. The mission of the SCS aims to uphold and advance the defining features and conventions of the Standard Celeration Chart. The SCS strives to be a friendly and enduring forum, supporting application and dissemination of standard celeration charting across an expanding range of practitioners and other stakeholders. The values of the SCS that guide behavior in fulfilling the mission include acknowledgement and appreciation of the founding principles and applications of our science (e.g., “standing on the shoulders of giants”), generosity in our interactions with others, driving and embracing change, social beneficence, commitment to evidence-based practice, and having fun. Since 2015, the SCS has employed an organizational structure composed of a board of directors and volunteer leadership teams that actively work toward implementing new and maintaining current initiatives designed to further the organization's mission.

We have an active board of directors consisting of five members on 3-yr terms, an executive director, vice presidents, associate vice presidents, and committee members. The board of directors provide guidance and decision making for the SCS executive director, who carries out board initiatives with vice presidents, associate vice presidents, and volunteers. Current leadership teams include finance, programs, membership, scientific and academic relations, non-conference programs, operations, marketing, communications, international relations, diversity, and website services. Our leadership teams have actively developed the underlying systems to support the SIG's structure and facilitated institutional memory as individuals' transition into leadership roles, an important component for voluntary leadership teams to maintain productivity.

Currently, the SCS has several active priority initiatives underway. First, the SCS is currently redesigning the central website for the SIG ([www.celeration.org](http://www.celeration.org)). While some components of the new website are already in place, we are completing the development of several other features, including a redesigned member gateway, free continuing education opportunities for members, publication resources, training program locations for students interested in academic training, and digital chart share. Membership in the SCS also offers additional benefits not available to nonmembers including discounted rates to the conference each year, access to the historical publication database of the Journal of Precision Teaching and Celeration, and soon to be announced web-based continuing education events. The fees range from sustaining membership for \$100, full membership for \$50, and student membership for \$25.

The second initiative focuses on highlighting our organization's entrepreneurial members such that their skills, insights, and strategies developed over decades of business development in the area of precision teaching can be made available to others looking to start their own businesses. This is an exciting time to become involved with the SCS, as this organization has a long history of entrepreneurs creating successful operations that provide clinical/educational services outside the mainstream of applied behavior analysis.

Third, the SCS has developed strategic alliances with both the Cambridge Center for Behavior Studies (CCBS), the OBM Network, and most recently, Black Applied Behavior Analysts (BABA). We also have partnered with The Applied Behavior Analysis Center (ABAC) to produce webinars related to the application and use of the Standard Celeration Chart and Precision Teaching.

Fourth, the SCS is introducing two new conferences in addition to our annual fall conference. We will offer a virtual one-day conference in the summer and each year the event will focus on a different concentration in our field. This year's presentations are related to autism and are scheduled for July 23. We also are hosting an international conference. The event is scheduled for February 18-19, 2022 in Galway, Ireland at the Galway Bay Hotel. The keynote speakers will be Dr. Richard Kubina and Dr. Kent Johnson.

Finally, our 34th Annual Conference of the Standard Celeration Society will be held November 11-13 in St. Petersburg, Florida at the Tradewinds Hotel. The conference spans three days, with the first day offering interactive workshops for practitioners and scientists of

all kinds. The last two days feature invited and submitted symposium, panel, and paper presentations. We continue to monitor the COVID-19 data and are simultaneously planning for both in person and virtual options. The safety of our attendees is our priority, and we will make a decision accordingly.

Please visit [www.celeration.org](http://www.celeration.org) for more information regarding all of our upcoming conferences. The SCS eagerly welcomes new charters and members into our community. This nurturing group is full of brilliant and seasoned professionals who are always willing to offer advice or mentorship. Simply become a member and see the opportunities accelerate! ❖

## PREPARE FOR A CAREER IN BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS



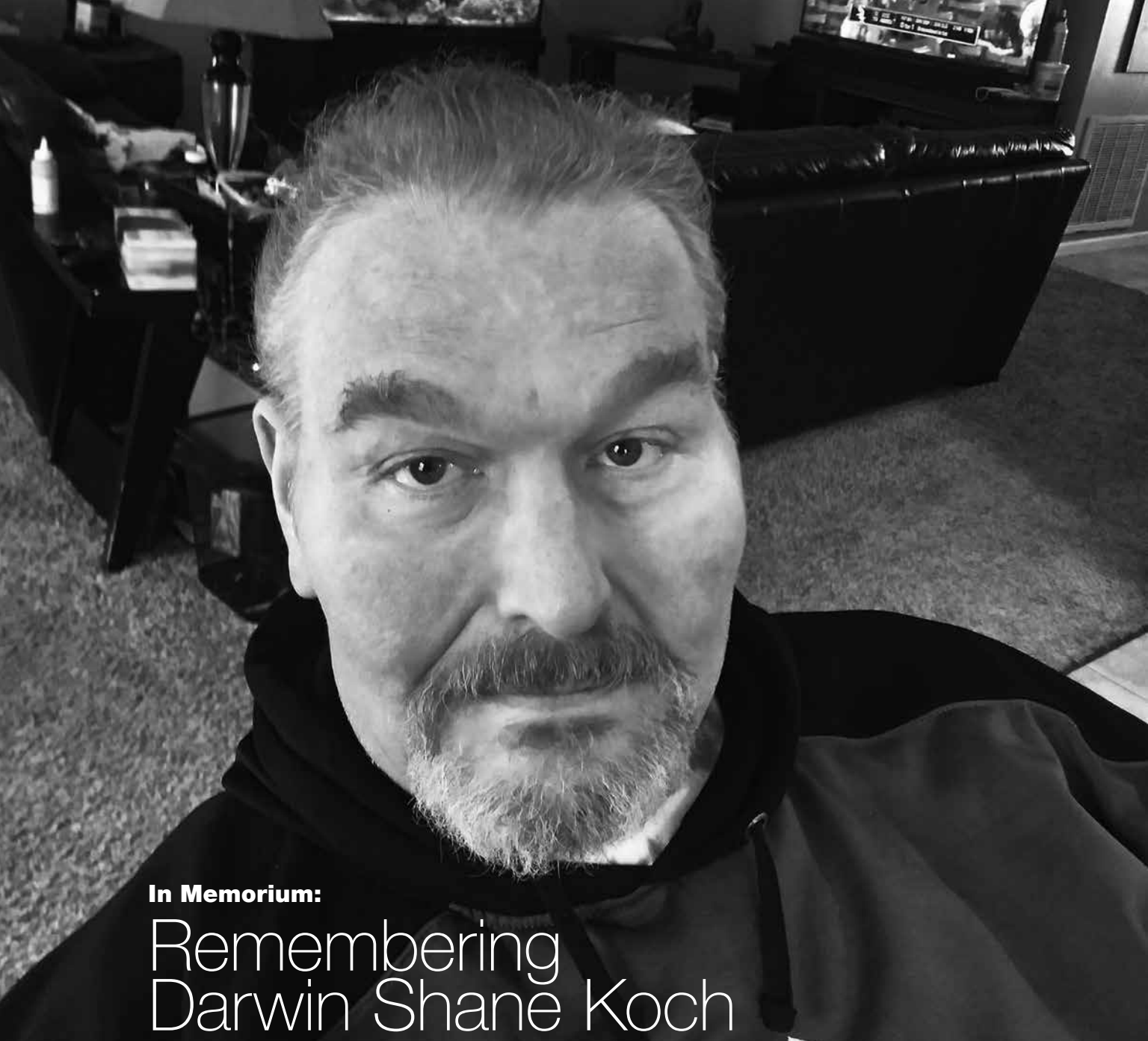
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## **In Memorium:**

# Remembering Darwin Shane Koch

Dr. Darwin Shane Koch, who won the 2021 Mentor Award, passed away after a battle with cancer on May 14th, 2021. This passing, however, did not define the life and legacy that lives on. Through his professional work, he was able to secure several grants and created projects that supported hundreds of individuals over his tenure. Although his academic career spanned decades, serving in many roles within and outside of behavior analysis, his true impact was felt in how he supported his students and clients.

Dr. Koch taught us to treat difficult situations “as an opportunity for spiritual growth” fostering an openness to obstacles and adversities that came with trying to change the world. In doing so, he encouraged us to examine

systems that didn’t work and figure out ways to, with the resources we had, best support the people we served in the way that they wanted to be supported – not the way we “thought” they should be supported, based on our own unique experiences. In encouraging this approach, Dr. Koch shaped the heuristic problem solving behavior necessary to foster creativity, genuine empathy, and positive regard for others values. These lessons taught us that (1) there are many possible avenues of success, (2) success is contextual and should be defined by those we serve, (3) it is OK to be frustrated along the process of change but that (4) we need to keep striving for excellence in order to create environments of success for everyone.



Following are some words from those who worked closely with him, and shared many of these wonderful memories:

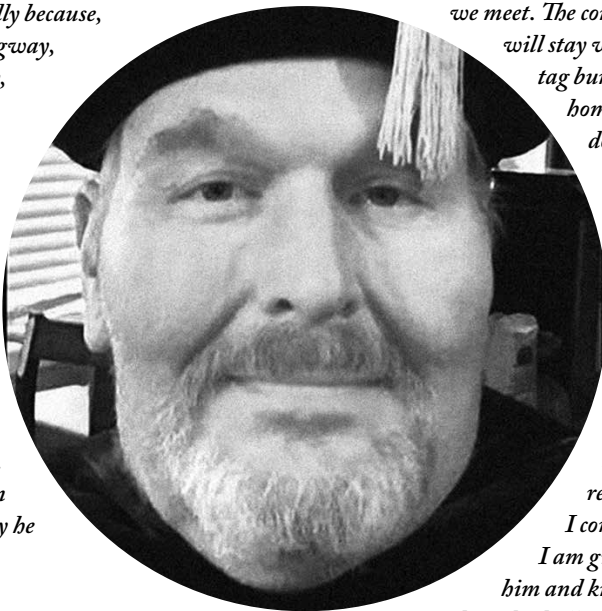
*Dr. Koch shared with me some of my darkest hours. Through our heart to hearts (some easier than others) he gently put his hand on my shoulder, smile, and in his booming voice say, "Manish, you're fine my friend. I'm here for you." Losing Dr. Koch has been poignantly surreal, especially because, in the words of Ernest Hemmingway, "he possessed a feeling for beauty, the courage to take risks, and the discipline to tell the truth, and most importantly, the capacity for sacrifice." He listened, was never quick to judge, always gave everyone a chance, and believed in the most absolute sense, in the goodness and beauty of others. Dr. Koch, until his last breath, epitomizes the values of compassion, love, and servitude. It would be an honour to walk in his path and serve others the way he showed us how.*

— **Manish**

*Dr. Koch was a compassionate professor that guided my family to overcome the obstacles for international students in the U.S. Laurent and I will remember him as a person open to provide the support we need to succeed both in academia and in our personal lives. I loved how we shared our time to help others and grow spiritually! I feel so fortunate to learn from him about philosophy, Buddhism, compassion, and the importance of helping others.*

— **Sebastian**

Dr. Koch challenged everything we thought we "knew", asking us to defend positions that were not our own at first, sharing stories about folks he had met in his lifetime, and teaching us how to be compassionate, thoughtful, and genuine people. These lessons, his jokes, the laughs we shared, the tears, his impressions, and his care for the well-being of everyone around him are precious moments that hold great value in all of our hearts. ❖



*"Dr. Koch's effortless style of support was second to none. I miss his impressions, the random check-in calls, and his ceaseless curiosity. His passing was a hurt that will weigh not only in sadness for this loss, but for the privilege of sharing his values with all we meet. The compassion he showed to everyone will stay with me forever. He took a rag-tag bunch of doc students without a home and created a family that will do great things."*

— **Rocco**

*It is difficult to describe the impact Dr. Koch had, and continues to have, on my personal and professional lives. He truly built a supportive and nurturing research lab with colleagues that I consider my academic brothers. I am grateful to have learned from him and know that my time with him has shaped who I am as a behavior analyst. I am hopeful that his legacy of compassion, curiosity, and yearning to learn will live on through the work of his former students, including myself.*

— **Natalia**

*Dr. Koch was a true pragmatist, and a very "cool" human. He was very particular in how he supported students in their various roles as professionals, researchers, parents, and spouses. Dr. Koch demonstrated a caring and sincere interest in what his students shared and welcomed diverse perspectives on how to manage difficult situations. In many ways, he modeled the flexibility necessary to address the difficulties plaguing human existence today. Dr. Koch taught us to value open communication, group values on wellbeing, and genuine humility, and flexibility in our approach to life, friendships, and all other important professional relationships. His presence will definitely be missed by me and my "family", but his ideas will live on through the bright lives he has touched.*

— **Kwadwo**

## 2021 Calendar of Upcoming Conferences

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

# 2021

## October

### **Southeastern ABA 37th Conference**

October 14–16

The Courtyard Columbia Downtown  
Columbia, SC

[www.seabaonline.org](http://www.seabaonline.org)

### **Oregon ABA Conference**

October 15–16

<https://oraba.org>

### **New York State ABA 32nd Annual Conference**

October 27–29

Albany Convention Center  
Albany, NY

[www.nysaba.org](http://www.nysaba.org)

### **Australian Association for Cognitive and Behaviour Therapy 41st National Conference**

October 28–30

Esplanade Hotel Fremantle by Rydges  
Fremantle, Western Australia, Australia

[www.aacbt.org.au](http://www.aacbt.org.au)

### **Mid-American ABA Conference**

October 28–30

Crowne Plaza Detroit Downtown  
Riverfront  
Detroit, MI

[www.mid-aba.com](http://www.mid-aba.com)

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I R E L A N D

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1– SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

## SPEAKERS SCHEDULE REGISTRATION AND MORE AT

[www.abainternational.org/events/international-2022.aspx](http://www.abainternational.org/events/international-2022.aspx)



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