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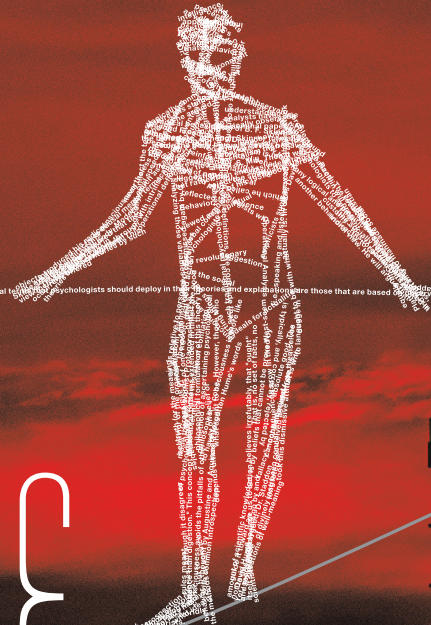


Association for Behavior Analysis International

**INSIDE BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS**  
NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS INTERNATIONAL

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prescriptive orientation to psychological science. The principal feature of methodological behaviorism concerns verbal processes and the meaning of "psychological" terms and concepts. According to this feature, the only psychological terms and concepts that psychologists should employ in their theories and explanations are those that are based on observable stimuli and behavior. Throughout the years, the ph

# Theory &

# PHILOSOPHY CONFERENCE



28–29 October 2024  
The Drake Hotel  
Chicago, Illinois

## ON THE COVER

Built as the Pennsylvania State House in 1753, Independence Hall served as the meeting place of the Second Continental Congress from 1775 to 1781, and was the site of the Constitutional Convention. Photo: MARTIN C. BURCH

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### Inside Behavior Analysis

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President's  
Column

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN: CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS



# 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention

BY KENT JOHNSON

## WHAT A NIGHT!

WHAT A WHIRLWIND OF A CONVENTION WE experienced in the great city of Philadelphia this past May! So many presentations were superlative, and the celebrations of our 50th anniversary on Sunday night hit the spot. Let me recount for you some of the highlights.

Many members came early to learn from each other about their areas of expertise. On Thursday afternoon and all-day Friday, 70 workshops presented procedures, analyses and tips about important aspects of the basic,

applied, and conceptual work in our field. Topics ranged from supervision and ethics to practice and laboratory techniques, all across our 14 areas of inquiry: Applied Animal Behavior; Behavioral Pharmacology and Neuroscience; the Experimental Analysis of Behavior; Philosophical, Conceptual and Historical Issues; Education; Teaching Behavior Analysis; Community, Social and Sustainability Issues; Organizational Behavior Management; Clinical, Family, and Behavioral

Photography: MARTIN G. BURCH



# WHAT A WEEKEND!

Medicine; Behavioral Development; Verbal Behavior; Developmental Disabilities; Autism; and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. And as usual, the Society for the Quantitative Analysis of Behavior (SQAB), offered more workshops, tutorials, and paper presentations as well from Thursday through Monday.

On Friday evening our Student Committee hosted a trivia contest, with questions and prizes testing knowledge about the history of behavior analysis. They also hosted an

International Reception, chaired this year by Dr. Deisy De Souza from the Universidade Federal de Sao Carlos in Brazil. Our ABAI Student Committee also hosted a Professional Development Series throughout the convention that included 17 events pertinent to our science and services.

The convention launched on Saturday morning as usual with one of my favorite events: the awards given by our not-for-profit arm, the Society for the Association of Behavior Analysis, SABA for short. Each year SABA celebrates our



William Heward speaks with presenters from The Ohio State University Saturday evening.



members' accomplishments in five areas. SABA President Dr. Ruth Anne Rehfeldt presided over the awards and speeches, making very thoughtful and encouraging comments to each speaker in turn. Dr. Jay Moore from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee was this year's recipient for the award for Distinguished Service to Behavior Analysis. He described the importance of operant contingencies in understanding both verbal and non-verbal behavior and described Skinner's parallel between natural selection in biology and selection by consequences in a science of behavior. Dr. Jomella Thompson from the University of Kansas was this year's recipient for our award for Scientific Translation. Her presentation focused on the importance of fostering broader application and adoption of our science through a collective commitment to multi-sector collaboration and engagement with diverse scholars, practitioners and communities. She cited her work in youth violence prevention to illustrate such work.

Dr. Demot Barnes-Holmes from Ulster University in Northern Ireland received our award for International Dissemination. He urged behavior analysts of different persuasions to curtail our divisions, cooperate and communicate better together, and develop new ways to collaborate. He illustrated such a process by recounting

the exchanges between Willard Day and Murray Sidman, published in Sidman's, *Equivalence Relations: A Research Story*. Drs. "Doug" Greer and Jessica Singer-Dudek accepted the Enduring Programmatic Contribution award for their acclaimed program at Columbia Teacher's College. Dr. Greer described their Comprehensive Application of Behavior Analysis to Schooling (CABAS) model of education which has spawned hundreds of dissertations and theses and has trained educators in many countries around the world. And finally, Dr. Stuart Vyse received the award for Effective Presentation of Behavior Analysis in the Mass Media. He described how he learned to be a better writer, and what inspired him to write about behavioral science to a general audience.

Saturday continued with symposia, panels, paper sessions, B.F. Skinner lectures from non-member professionals, and tutorials. For two hours, members also presented 202 posters in clusters representing 14 subareas of behavior analysis. Each year the 2-hour poster sessions provide me with the most efficient and effective way to keep abreast of all the fine work that currently engages we behavior analysts. I'd like to see more and more posters in the future. I find them as important and entertaining as the other types of presentations we offer.



Poster presenters share a light moment Saturday evening.



I attended a very informative and entertaining Special Event called *The Story of ABAI*, with 4 presentations by ABAI veterans. Humor, inspiration, and many fine points characterized each one. Dr. Maria Malott, CEO and Executive Director of ABAI began with An Inside Perspective on ABAI. She described the growing pains, conflicts and successes in the development of ABAI over her 30 years as Executive Director. Dr. Carol Pilgrim from the University of North Carolina—Wilmington then described The ABAI Mission. She stated the mission, “to contribute to the well-being of society by supporting, developing, and enhancing the growth and vitality of the science of behavior analysis,” then analyzed it point by point, emphasizing the importance of each facet for our continued success and impact.

Next, Dr. Linda Hayes from the University of Nevada—Reno gave a retrospective on our conventions over the past 50 years, titled simply, The Program. She examined the identity of our science of behavior and how it has changed over time, as revealed by the progression of convention programs we published over the past 50 years: their changes in topical areas, submission procedures, speaker invitations, and other administrative actions. Dr. Michael Perone from West Virginia University concluded

the symposium with his perspective on Higher Education and the Future of Behavior Analysis. He described our accreditation system, the challenges it faces today, and the importance of accreditation for our future.

Saturday presentations ended with my Presidential Address, entitled, Designing Effective Instruction to Teach Micro-credentials ... Or Any Instructional Objective. I described a new vehicle for recognizing skill expertise in behavior analysis: the micro-credential. I also described many procedures from the field of instructional design that would be useful in teaching an instructional objective leading to a micro-credential.

A micro-credential is an award based on proof that an individual has mastered a specific observable and measurable skill, and can demonstrate competent, mastery-level performance of that skill on demand. Proof could be demonstrated by a short video of the individual demonstrating the performance, a written document, a recorded audio presentation, or other performance-based demonstration depending on the micro-credential. A micro-credential is represented as a digital image or badge that includes the earner's name, the mastered skill, the assessment method, the date of the achievement, and the awarding entity.



Janet Sanchez Enriquez (University of North Carolina at Charlotte) speaks with the new ABAI president in the bookstore.



Convention goers pose in the photo booth at the 50th Annual Reception.



I also announced that members of an ABAI-accredited academic program in Tier 1 of our Model of Education are eligible to apply for the first round of grants of up to \$10,000 to design micro-credential programs for foundational skills in the science and practice of behavior analysis. Subsequent rounds of grants will occur as we get our bearings with the first one.

To get you thinking about possibilities, our ABAI Task Force on Micro-credentials has cooked up 5 examples from applied behavior analysis: (1) conduct a reinforcement preference assessment, (2) modify contingencies to reduce consumption of non-renewable energy, (3) design a Precision Teaching program for a specific skill, (4) conduct an organizational training needs assessment, and (5) conduct an Acceptance & Commitment Therapy (ACT) interview with an adult client. Here are 2 examples from the Experimental Analysis of Behavior: (1) shape behavior of a non-human animal, and (2) fit a curve using equation from quantitative theories of behavior to appropriate data sets. Here are 2 examples about research behavior: (1) measure behavior using X software system, and (2) modify possible confounding variables related to a given experiment designed to answer a question about behavior. And here are 2 examples of philosophical and conceptual micro-credentials: (1) compare and contrast radical behaviorism, methodological behaviorism, and teleological behaviorism and (2) identify antecedents & consequences

in naturally occurring streams of behavior in written scenarios, natural observations, videos and films.

Grant proposals could describe either an assessment process, or an instruction-plus-assessment process. Instructional proposals should include (a) an asynchronous skill assessment, (b) a learning module, and (c) optional additional practice-with-feedback activities. Instructional programs must take a mastery learning approach, with an option for an individual to “test out” without participating in the learning program. The designer of the micro-credential will always be its sole owner. Even if ABAI provides grant funding, ABAI will never claim any ownership. To apply, go to our application form at on-line application form at [saba.abainternational.org/development/micro-credential-grant-application/](https://saba.abainternational.org/development/micro-credential-grant-application/)

Applications will be accepted until August 16th.

Fourteen business meetings followed my address, where Special Interest Groups, affiliated chapters, and journal editors convened to discuss important specific functions within ABAI. The evening concluded with our annual Expo Session, where university programs, state and national associations, and other formal professional groups provided literature about their programs and activities.

Sunday continued in Saturday's format, with symposia, panels, paper sessions, B.F. Skinner lectures, and tutorials.

Of special note to me was a symposium called The Development of Behavior Science, hosted by Dr. Linda





Michael Perone accepts recognition as the Accreditation Board Chair from outgoing President Chris Newland.



Lindsey Cicalese and Bronte Reidinger exchange information at the Poster Presentation on Saturday.



Courtney Peterson (second from left) celebrates with friends Sunday at the 50th Annual Reception. Peterson would later win the grand prize in the Passport Drawing on Monday.

Hayes. Three leaders in our science described three areas of theory, research and application that have flourished in behavior analysis. Dr. William “Billy” Baum described a revolutionary, molar view of behavior and its development, explaining how environmental inputs interact with evolution to produce behavioral outcomes, and how evolutionary theory can be used to explain verbal, social, and cultural behavioral phenomena. His molar view questions the adequacy of understanding behavior in terms of discrete responses, contiguity and reinforcement.

Dr. Sigrid Glenn then discussed the development of culturo-behavior science. She began by describing Skinner’s operant interpretations of real-world phenomena in which he parallels the evolution of species through natural selection with the evolution of cultural environments through selection by consequences. Inquiries based on Skinner’s interpretation have either focused on straightforward applications of behavior principles to everyday phenomena, or on more philosophical refinement of the framework. She suggested that we could profit by more integrations of these two types of inquiries.

Finally, Dr. Dermot Barnes-Holmes described how the study of derived stimulus relations has given us better footing in understanding complex human behavior functionally, particularly human language and cognition. He traced this development from Skinner’s analysis in his book, *Verbal Behavior*, to Skinner’s concept of instructional

control, to Sidman’s research on stimulus equivalence, to relational frame theory and its current conceptual and empirical refinements. He called for building more bridges across different theoretical perspectives within broader behavior science. Following the symposium an enlightening panel discussion of the presentations, hosted by Dr. Mitch Fryling, ensued, with Dr. Claudia Drossel from Eastern Michigan University, Dr. Matthew Lewon from the University of Nevada—Reno, and Dr. Rocio Rosales from the University of Massachusetts—Lowell.

Another symposium that caught my attention showcased scholarly contributions to diversity, equity and inclusion. The winners of a DEI paper competition presented their works. Menaka Kumari De Alwis from the University of Oregon described how BIPOC can apply behavior systems analysis to identify areas of need that can have the greatest impact on a university. Changzhi Wu from the University of Nevada—Reno offered a radical behavior analysis of the formation and maintenance of racism, and possible solutions that can be implemented to reduce it. Finally, Sarah Hayes from Durham Public Schools and Dr. Jeannie Golden from East Carolina University described their work in applying behavior analysis to improve equity for students of color by reducing diagnoses of behavior disorders.

Sunday afternoon proceeded with two hours devoted to 198 more posters presenting important work across all our areas of inquiry, and 4 hours devoted to more symposia,



**TOP: Members dance late into the night at the 50th Annual Reception**  
**ABOVE: The winning table in the trivia contest at the 50th Gala Dinner**

panels, paper sessions, B.F. Skinner lectures from non-member professionals, and tutorials.

On Sunday evening we celebrated ABAT's 50th anniversary. Many veteran ABAT members enjoyed a Gala Dinner with speakers. Members also attended our traditional reunions. This year they were all stationed in the Grand Hall, and featured music, drinks, and snacks. People then flowed from the reunions to a larger, exciting social gathering MC'ed by Dr. Ruth Anne Rehfeldt (ABAT Past-President) and me. We kicked off the celebration with a slideshow on the history of ABAT presented by Dr. Richard Malott. Then Ruth Anne and I engaged the audience with music trivia questions about songs that topped the charts in each decade of our 50-year history. Participants guessed the titles, artists, and other facts about the songs, and danced to the hits!

Monday continued in Saturday's format, with more symposia, panels, paper sessions, B.F. Skinner lectures, and tutorials. For two hours we were also treated to 194 more posters.

In addition to 13 events throughout the convention that focused on sustainability issues, the highlight of Monday for me was an invited symposium followed by the Presidential Scholar Address on climate change.

The symposium, titled *Increasing the Impact of Behavior*

*Science on Climate Change*, was hosted by President Dr. Chris Newland from Auburn University. He described how research by behavior scientists culminated in the clean air act of 1970 and showed how this work of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides a model for how governmental policies and procedures can be guided by science to work for the greatest good for its citizens. Dr. Brett Gelino from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine then described how two areas of research by behavior analysts concerned with sustainability can impact and extend our effects in local communities: discounting and operant demand. He also offered suggestions to better integrate small-sample and behavioral economic designs to impact community policies.

Dr. Anthony "Tony" Biglan from the Oregon Research Institute then described his work with Andrew Bonner from Florida State University on the development of community Action Circles. Tony's organization, Values to Action, provides a networking function to support individuals who are interested in working on projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Specifically, individuals develop Action Circles of people with the same interests to carry out their projects. Join in! Dr. Susan Schneider from Western Michigan University concluded the symposium by discussing the problem of scaling behavioral solutions to climate change. Having a successful intervention is only the first step in large-scale change. She enlightened us with best practices in the field of

implementation science that analyze both the contingencies and meta-contingencies involved in scaling.

Following the symposium, Mr. Bill McKibben provided an inspiring and enlightening Presidential Scholar's Address on efforts to reverse the damage we are doing to our climate. Bill is an author, educator and environmentalist who helped found the infamous 350.org. He discussed the depths of the crisis surrounding global warming, the comparative role of individual versus group solutions to that crisis, and the roles of different demographics involved in achieving solutions. McKibben recently helped found Third Act to build a progressive organizing movement for people over the age of 60. He inspired me to join both 350 and Third Act!

Such a good convention! Especially important to me in addition to the fine presentations were the personal exchanges that I experienced with other members. Having attended 49 of the 50 conventions, beginning as a graduate student, I have grown up as a person and a professional with many other members, and really look forward to my annual face-to-face contacts. I encourage each of you to attend as many conventions in a row as you can to experience this important aspect of career development and wisdom. I always return home each year with renewed vim and vigor.

I want to give my very special thanks to the extraordinary efforts of our Program Board Coordinator, Dr. Mitch Fryling, and Program Committee Chair, Dr. Linda Hayes. Coordinating hundreds of volunteers is no small matter! And how could we omit the Program and Convention Manager, Dr. Maria Malott! Nothing we enjoyed would have occurred without their fine creative and organizational prowess.

I also want to announce our new Executive Council members, President-Elect: Dr. Mark Galizio of the University of North Carolina—Wilmington, Applied Representative: Dr. Alice Shillingsburg of the Munroe-Meyer Institute—UNMC, and At-Large Representative: Dr. Mitch Fryling of California State University—Los Angeles.

I also hope you can join us for the Theory & Philosophy Conference (Perspectives on Behavioral Complexity) in October! The conference will be held at The Drake Hotel in Chicago, Illinois on October 28th and 29th. There will be four clusters of invited presentations in Evolution & Neuroscience, Cultural Systems, Symbolic Processes, and Computational Modeling. There will also be posters submitted by ABAI members that address a variety of topics in the theory and philosophy of behavior analysis.

See you all in Chicago in October and Washington, D. C. next spring! ❖

***Thank you to our amazing Program Board for arranging such an exceptional lineup of speakers for the 2024 Annual Convention.***

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Program Board Coordinator

**Linda Hayes, Ph.D.**

Program Committee Chair

**Kent Johnson**

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**Mindy Waite**

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**Zonneveld,**

**and Yanerys Leon**

Autism (AUT)

**Kieva Hranchuk and**

**Jennifer Bruzek**

Behavioral Development (DEV)

**August Holtyn**

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**Amanda Munoz-Martinez**

**and Alison Cox**

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Medicine (CBM)

**Kathryn Roose**

**and Brett Gelino**

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**Patrick Romani**

**and Adam Briggs**

Developmental Disabilities (DDA)

**Elizabeth Fong and**

**Jovonnie Esquiedo-Leal**

Diversity, Equity,

and Inclusion (DEI)

**Samantha Riggleman and**

**Jessica Van Stratton**

Education (EDC)

**Marco Vasconcelos and**

**Darlene Crone-Todd**

Experimental Analysis

of Behavior (EAB)

**Sharlet Rafacz**

**and Denys Brand**

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**Claudia Drossel**

Practice (PRA)

**Jonathan Pinkston**

Science (SCI)

**Daniel Fienup and Kerry**

**Milyko**

Teaching Behavior Analysis (TBA)

**Rocio Rosales**

**and Alice Shillingsburg**

Verbal Behavior (VRB)

***Thank you to our invited speakers for their insightful presentations that greatly enriched our conference experience.***

**Applied Animal Behavior**

Niwako Ogata

Mindy Waite

**Autism**

Mohammed Aldosari

Amy Lutz

Aoife McTiernan

Tim Vollmer

**Behavioral Pharmacology and Neuroscience**

Sally Huskinson

David Jentsch

**Clinical, Family, Behavioral Medicine**

T V Joe Layng

Robert Nicolson

Mavis Tsai

**See ANNUAL on page 12**

*Mentors play a critical role in career trajectories. To recognize those who have gone above and beyond for their students, the Student Committee created the Outstanding Mentor Awards. Student members submit a nomination letter and the Student Committee makes the selections. Awardees were recognized during the Presidential Address at the 50th ABAI Annual Convention in Philadelphia.*



Dr. Dermot Barnes-Holmes



PHOTO: Indigo Bird Photography

Dr. Samantha Bergmann

# *Meet ABAI's 2024* **OUTSTANDING MENTORS**

**Dr. Dermot Barnes-Holmes** graduated from the University of Ulster in 1985 with a B.Sc. in Psychology and in 1990 with a D.Phil. in behavior analysis. His first tenured position was in the Department of Applied Psychology at University College Cork, where he founded and led the Behavior Analysis and Cognitive Science unit. In 1999 he accepted the foundation professorship in psychology and head-of-department position at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth. In 2015 he accepted a life-time senior professorship at Ghent University in Belgium. In 2020 he returned to his alma mater as a full professor at Ulster University. Dr. Barnes-Holmes is known internationally for the analysis of human language and cognition through the development of Relational Frame Theory with Steven C. Hayes, and its application in various psychological settings. He was the

world's most prolific author in the experimental analysis of human behaviour between the years 1980 and 1999. He was awarded the Don Hake Translational Research Award in 2012 by the American Psychological Association, is a past president and fellow of the Association for Contextual Behavioral Science, and a fellow of the Association for Behavior Analysis, International. He is also a recipient of the Quad-L Lecture Award from the University of New Mexico and became an Odysseus laureate in 2015 when he received an Odysseus Type 1 award from the Flemish Science Foundation in Belgium.

**Dr. Samantha (Sam) Bergmann** earned her bachelor's degree in Psychology and Spanish Studies from University of Minnesota, master's degree in Behavior Analysis from Western Michigan University, and doctoral degree in



Dr. Matthew Brodhead



Dr. Jesse Dallery



Dr. Aoife Mc Tiernan

Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Throughout her university education, Sam was fortunate to have several outstanding mentors including Dr. Brighid Fronapfel at Western Michigan and Dr. Tiffany Kodak at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee who were always generous with their time, support, and problem solving. Sam is currently an assistant professor in the Department of Behavior Analysis at the University of North Texas where she co-directs the Training and Research: Autism Intervention Laboratory with Dr. Karen Rader Toussaint at the UNT Kristin Farmer Autism Center and conducts research related to skill acquisition, procedural fidelity, and verbal behavior. As an assistant professor, Sam teaches several undergraduate and graduate classes, advises graduate theses and dissertations, and mentors students in their supervision and provision of applied behavior analytic interventions with children with autism. Of all of her responsibilities in her tenure-track position, helping students achieve their goals is her favorite. Along with her mentors and students, Sam has published peer-reviewed articles in several behavior-analytic journals including *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior*, *Education and Treatment of Children*, *Behavior Analysis in Practice*, and *The Analysis of Verbal Behavior*.

**Dr. Matthew Brodhead** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Counseling, Educational Psychology, and Special Education at Michigan State University. Dr.

Brodhead has received exceptional mentorship throughout his career, and he continues to seek advice from those around him as he understands, firsthand, the value of ongoing mentorship. He has made student and peer support a key pillar of his professional work, recognizing that individualized and engaging mentorship can help students and peers become the best versions of themselves. After all, effective mentorship is critical to maintaining and advancing the science of behavior analysis through research, teaching, and service.

**Dr. Jesse Dallery** is a UF Term Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Florida and a Licensed Psychologist in the state of Florida. Jesse received his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at Emory University and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Behavioral Pharmacology. Jesse's research focuses on integrating digital technologies with behavioral interventions for cigarette smoking and other health-related behavior (e.g., physical activity, medication adherence). Jesse also conducts translational research on choice and decision-making in the human laboratory, with a special emphasis on quantitative models of operant behavior. He has published over 125 articles in a diverse range of peer-reviewed journals. His research has been funded by the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute. He is co-editor of the book *Behavioral Health Care and Technology: Using Science-Based*

*Innovations to Transform Practice*. Jesse is a former Associate Editor for *Perspectives on Behavior Science*, *The Behavior Analyst*, *Behavioural Processes*, and Special Topics Associate Editor (substance abuse) for the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*. In 2014, he was named a Teacher of the Year in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. He is a fellow in Division 25 of the American Psychological Association and in the Association for Behavior Analysis International.

**Dr. Aoife Mc Tiernan** is a Board Certified Behaviour Analyst—Doctoral and Chartered Psychologist. She is

the President of the European Association for Behaviour Analysis, current Director of the MSc and PhD in ABA at the University of Galway, and has worked with educational settings and disability services for over fifteen years. Dr. Mc Tiernan has an interest in the dissemination and integration of behaviour analytic and evidence-based approaches into educational settings. She has a special interest in Precision Teaching and accelerating learning for students at risk and in areas of socio-economic disadvantage, and has a number of publications in this area, including large group studies conducted in educational settings. ❖

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## **ANNUAL continued from page 9**

### **Community, Social, and Sustainability Issues**

Roberto Aspholm  
Maria Malott  
Marco Tagliabue

### **Developmental Disabilities**

Stephanie Augustin  
Matthew Goodwin  
Daniele Rizzi

### **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

Yors Garcia Olaya  
Táhcita Mizael  
Matthew Skinta

### **Experimental Analysis of Behavior**

Wendy Donlin Washington  
Christoffer Eilifsen  
Martin Giurfa

### **Education**

Nancy Marchand-Martella  
Phillip Strain  
Asthanasios Vostanis

### **Organizational Behavior Management**

Lori Ludwig  
Lisa Toenniges

### **Philosophical, Conceptual, and Historical Issues**

Maria Andery  
William Baum

### **Practice**

Shahla Ala'i-Rosales  
Jannette Berkley-Patton  
Paula Braga-Kenyon  
Nasiah Cirincione Ulezi  
Evan Forman  
Ilene Schwartz  
Trina Spencer  
Elif Tekin-Iftar

### **Science**

Warren Bickel  
David Cox  
Art Dowdy  
John Michael Falligant  
Shawn Gilroy  
Brian Greer  
Stephen Higgins  
Christine Hughes  
Jon Katz  
Jack McDowell  
Sam Morris  
Jonathan Pinkston  
Ray Pitts  
Derek Reed  
Tracey Shors  
Timothy Slocum  
Paul Soto  
Matthew Tincani  
Michael Tomasello  
Jason Travers  
Jim Withers

### **Society for the Quantitative Analysis of Behavior**

Rogello Escobar  
John Michael Falligant  
Mark Rzeszutek

### **Teaching Behavior Analysis**

Nipa Bhuptani  
Jessica Jackson  
Anita Li

### **Verbal Behavior**

Mariéle Diniz Cortez  
Martha Pelaez  
Pamela Rollins

### **History and Future of ABAI**

Linda Hayes  
Carol Pilgrim  
Maria Malott  
Michael Perone

### **History and Future of Behavior Analysis**

William Baum  
Dermot Barnes-Holmes  
Sigrid Glenn  
Matthew Lewon  
Rocio Rosales  
Mitch Fryling  
Claudia Drossel ❖



Dr. Tahcita M. Mizael

*Tahcita M. Mizael is a Brazilian researcher and lecturer in the fields of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. She holds a BA, a MA, and a PhD. in Psychology and has carried out research internships at Maynooth University, in Ireland, and at the University of South Australia. Her main research topics are stimulus equivalence, Relational Frame Theory, race relations, gender and sexuality, and autism.*

*The Distinguished Contributions to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award seeks to recognize, reward, and promote achievements with documented impact on diversity, equity, and inclusion. The award highlights creative DEI programming and the central role of diversity, equity, and inclusion in individual and institutional success. The goal is to emphasize effective models of action in DEI. The Award for Distinguished Contributions to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is presented at each year's ABAI Annual Convention in a DEI event to honor the awardee(s).*

# DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION AWARD

## **An Investigation of Racial Microaggressions Experienced by Black Brazilian Women Living in Australia**

### *An Abstract of Dr. Mizael's Presentation to the 50th Annual Convention*

**R**ACIAL MICROAGGRESSIONS ARE CHRONIC INSULTS and slurs committed against non-White individuals based on their race/ethnicity. This study aimed to expand this literature by interviewing Black Brazilian women living in Australia. Eight participants were interviewed three times each. The prompts inquired about their experiences of racial microaggressions, the contexts they occurred, and how they reacted and dealt with them. All participants declared having experienced racial microaggressions by White Australians on multiple occasions. The most common categories found were “not being a real citizen”, “assumptions about intelligence, competency, or status”, “second-class citizen/ignored and invisible”, “avoiding and distancing”, and “environmental

exclusion”. Most microaggressions happened in the work environment, followed by daily interactions with strangers, acquaintances, and/or friends. All participants tended to respond to those in a non-confrontational manner (refraining from replying or pointing out that the person was being racist) to avoid conflict, especially in the work environment. Two participants also responded in a confrontational manner at times by telling the perpetrator that their behavior was racist. To deal with the situation, participants: a) do not share those experiences with anyone to avoid making them worry about them, b) share those occurrences with their family and some Black friends, and/or c) avoid going out with people who are perpetrators. ❖

# 2024

ABAI is proud to announce the 2024 Fellows of the Association for Behavior Analysis International.

# FELLOWS OF ABAI



**Dr. William H. Ahearn**

**Dr. William H. Ahearn** serves as the Director of Research at the New England Center for Children and as Adjunct Faculty for the Western New England University's master's and doctoral programs in behavior analysis. Dr. Ahearn's research interests are varied and include peer reviewed publications on treating pediatric feeding disorders, teaching verbal and social skills, examining implications of the Behavioral Momentum metaphor, and exploring aspects of autistic behavior. Nonetheless, his most cited work is on assessing and treating automatically reinforced behavior, specifically, repetitive behavior and restricted interests. He has published over 100 papers in a variety of outlets. Dr. Ahearn has provided extensive service throughout his career. He has provided service for BABAT (Board member, President, chair of Professional Practice, ACE); APBA (Board member, President); BACB (Subject Matter Expert, Exam Reviewer); ABAI (autism track coordinator); CASP (various workgroups); ONTABA; and Autism Speaks (training workgroup leader for the development of the challenging behavior toolkit). As BABAT's chair of Professional Practice, Dr. Ahearn organized BABAT's efforts relative to licensure in Massachusetts. After licensure was signed into law, he was appointed as an Applied Behavior Analyst member of the Allied Mental Health and Human Services Professions board in 2013. Subsequently, Dr. Ahearn was appointed chair of this omnibus board by both a Democratic and Republican Governor and continues to serve as the Acting Chair of this board.



**Julio de Rose**

**Julio de Rose** obtained a doctoral degree at Universidade de Sao Paulo and has been a postdoctoral fellow at the Shriver Center for Mental Retardation. He is a professor of psychology at Universidade Federal de Sao Carlos, Brazil, and has published articles in the main behavioral journals, such as the *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior*, the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, *The Psychological*



**Dr. Claudia Dozier**

*Record*, and *The Analysis of Verbal Behavior*. He has served on the editorial board of JABA, the editorial board of *The Psychological Record*, and has served as a co-editor of the Brazilian multidisciplinary journal *Olhar*. Dr. de Rose is currently the Research Director of the Brazilian National Institute for Science and Technology on Behavior, Cognition, and Teaching (INCT/ECCE), which is a network of researchers from several Brazilian institutions. He is also the leader of the research group on Culture, Language, and Symbolic Behavior.

**Dr. Claudia Dozier** is a Professor and Chair of the department of Applied Behavioral Science at the University of Kansas and a doctoral level Board Certified Behavior Analyst. Dr. Dozier's areas of research include assessment, treatment, and prevention of behavior disorders, as well schedules of reinforcement, and preference for and reinforcer efficacy of social interaction. Dr. Dozier has served as faculty supervisor and Co-Director of the Edna A. Hill Child Development Center at the University of Kansas. In addition, she and her graduate students provide consultation services to a large residential program serving adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She has served as an associate editor for the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis* and serves on the editorial boards of several other behavioral journals. In 2020, Dr. Dozier received the Steeples Service to Kansas Award for her service to the people of Kansas as a purposeful extension of her teaching and research. Furthermore, she and her colleagues received a \$2.5 million federal grant to provide telehealth services to families with children with autism who engage in disruptive, restrictive and repetitive behavior.

**Mitch Fryling** received his BS and MA in psychology (behavior analysis) from Western Michigan University, and his PhD in psychology (behavior analysis) from the University of Nevada, Reno. Mitch's scholarly interests are



## 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.

diverse, including both applied/clinical and theoretical/philosophical areas. The majority of this work centers on interbehaviorism and interbehavioral psychology and involves efforts to incorporate interbehavioral thinking in behavior analysis. Mitch has provided service to the field in various ways and works at California State University, Los Angeles.

**Dr. Gregory Hanley** has been applying the principles of learning to improve outcomes for children and adults with and without disabilities for 35 years. He worked and trained at the Kennedy Krieger Institute, was degreed at the University of Florida, was tenured at the University of Kansas, and directed the Behavior Analysis Doctoral Program and Life Skills Clinic at Western New England University (WNEU).

Dr. Hanley has published over 100 book chapters and articles in peer-reviewed journals in areas such as the assessment and prevention of problem behavior, skill development, and evidence-based values. Dr. Hanley is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association (Div. 25), past Associate Editor of *The Behavior Analyst*, and past Editor of the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis* and of *Behavior Analysis in Practice*.

He currently serves as a Research Professor at WNEU, an Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, and CEO of FTF Behavioral, an international training and consulting group based in Worcester Massachusetts.

**Dr. SungWoo Kahng** is Chair of the Department of Applied Psychology, Director of Academic Programs in Autism and ABA, and Professor at Rutgers University. Prior to his current position, he was an associate professor at the University of Missouri (MU) where he was also the chair of the Department of Health Psychology, the Founding Director the MU Graduate Programs in Applied Behavior Analysis, and Director of the Applied Behavioral Intervention Service of the MU Thompson

Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders. He was also a faculty member in the Department of Behavioral Psychology and a senior behavior analyst on the Neurobehavioral Unit at the Kennedy Krieger Institute as well as an associate professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Dr. Kahng graduated from Kalamazoo College with a Bachelor of Arts in psychology and received his Ph.D. in behavior analysis from the University of Florida. He was an Associate Editor for the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis* where he also served on the Board of Editors. Additionally, he is on the Board of Editors for *Behavioral Intervention* and *Review Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*. He is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst. Dr. Kahng is the President of the Board of Directors of the Behavior Analyst Certification Board, a member of the Scientific Council of the Organization for Autism Research, Past President of the New Jersey Association for Behavior Analysis, and a member of several advisory boards including the AutismMVP Foundation. He is the recipient of the 2003 B.F. Skinner New Researcher Award given by Division 25 of the American Psychological Association. Dr. Kahng has co-authored over 100 peer reviewed articles and chapters. Finally, he has mentored numerous undergraduate, master's level, and predoctoral students as well as post-doctoral fellows.

**Dr. Federico Sanabria** obtained his Ph.D. from Stony Brook University under the mentorship of the late Howard Rachlin, and was a postdoctoral researcher at Arizona State University (ASU) under the supervision of Peter Killeen and Janet Neisewander. He is the Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging at the Department of Psychology at ASU. Dr. Sanabria was an associate editor of the *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior* and of *Learning & Behavior*. He was the Program



Mitch Fryling



Dr. Gregory Hanley



Dr. SungWoo Kahng



See FELLOWS on page 35 Federico Sanabria

## Updates from ABAI's U.S.A. Affiliated Chapters

### 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.

The ALABA Executive Committee's most important task is hosting an annual convention that offers members an opportunity to learn from nationally recognized behavior analysts and other knowledgeable professionals. Members look forward to gathering with former schoolmates, colleagues, and friends while networking with new professionals who often become colleagues and collaborators. The annual convention is also vital because it offers Board Certified Behavior Analysts and Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analysts a way to earn high-quality continuing education credits in their own backyard, so to speak.

Last year's convention was held October 12–13 at the Hilton Birmingham at UAB. Attendance at the two-day, one-track convention was the highest it's been in over a decade with 232 people participating. At the convention, 123 attendees earned almost a thousand CEUs.

The convention kicked off with President-Elect, Ms. Sheridan O'Brien's Presidential Address, *Play the Long Game: The Responsibility of the Supervising BCBA to Bridge the Gap Between Buzz Words and Action*. Again this year, all other presentations were Invited Speaker addresses, which included topics in diversity and inclusion, collaboration, ethics, and applied research: Dr. Debra Napolitano's *Interprofessional Collaboration: What it is, What we can Learn From Other Professions, and How Behavior Analysts can Benefit From This in Their Practice*; Dr. Nadia Bhuiyan's *Comprehensive Assessment for Autism Spectrum Disorder Within a Clinical Psychology Doctoral Training Program*; Dr. Tyra Seller's *Compassionate Leadership and Supervision—A Must for our Profession and It's Not Black & White, My Friends*; Dr. Traci Cihon's *Challenges and Opportunities for Research and Practice in an Emerging Culturo-Behavior Science*; Dr. Sarah Slocum Freeman's *Assessment and Treatment of Challenging Behavior Maintained by Social Avoidance*; Dr. John Rapp's *Recent Developments in Conjugate Reinforcement*; and the *Auburn Graduate Student Symposium Further Development of Behavior Services for Justice-Involved Adolescents*. The line-up also included a panel discussion on Updates on ABA in Alabama, which included the licensing board chairperson (Mr. Kenneth Atkins), the

Director of Psychological and Behavioral Services at the AL Department of Mental Health (Dr. Eliza Belle), and the AL State Autism Coordinator (Ms. Anna McConnell).

Congratulations to the new ALABA President-Elect: Laura Senn (University of Alabama in Huntsville); Member-at-Large: Tara Cook (ABA Associates); and Student Representative: Shane Phillips (Auburn University). The 2024 Executive Committee, which also includes Mary-Kate Carey, Sheridan O'Brien, Lauren Elliott, Amanda Niedfeld, Jodi Robeson, and Donna Perez is working on plans for the 2024 convention scheduled for October 17–18 in Birmingham, AL.

Please visit [www.AlabamaABA.com](http://www.AlabamaABA.com) for more information and to become a member.

### Alaska ABA

BY EMILY ICE

The Alaska Association for Behavior Analysis (AKABA) was formed in January 2014 and became affiliated with ABAI in March of 2016. Alaska Association for Behavior Analysis is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with a goal to promote the science and theory of behavior analysis through the support of research, education and practice. Alaska Association for Behavior Analysis membership is open to everyone interested in behavior analysis in Alaska.

Membership benefits include low cost CEUs, discounted registration for AKABA Mini-Conference events, access to private members-only online forum, and updates on legislation and other events related to the practice and research of behavior analysis in Alaska. Please visit our website ([www.alaskabehavior.org](http://www.alaskabehavior.org)) for current events, news, and membership information.

#### Membership Survey

During 2023, AKABA continued to work on rebuilding and reconnection. Our executive board has focused on re-engagement with our members through a survey and exploration of ideas for change in the future.

#### Continued Advocacy

Our main direction for advocacy was to facilitate communication amongst members who are helping each other to work directly with the State of Alaska on correcting Medicaid billing issues that have affected providers in the state.

#### Professional Development/CEUs

This year, AKABA took extra time in planning our first in-person conference in 5 years. We did not hold any specific events this year but are planning for a conference in April 2024. Going forward, AKABA will be focusing on online or hybrid events to better reach behavior analysts.

#### Annual or Recurring Events

AKABA will hold meetings semi-quarterly in the months

of January, March, April, June, July, September, October, and December.

### Newsletters/Publications

AKABA maintains a members only discussion board through its member management system

WildApricot and maintains a Facebook group for disseminating information.

### Why is the Chapter Specifically of Interest to Behavior Analysts?

Behavior analysts in Alaska face unique challenges. AKABA aims to bridge geographical distances and unique challenges within our great state.

## Arizona ABA

BY JESSICA PAINTER AND JESSICA BELOKAS

AzABA had a great 2023. The organization prioritized several strategic objectives designed to improve internal functioning and external stakeholder engagement. All efforts to these ends were grounded in our mission and values. AZABA's values form the organizing principle of this report.

### Be a Community Resource

AzABA will strive to present learning opportunities and professional development across a wide variety of interests and seeks to maintain a pulse on the needs of those it serves.

In 2023, AzABA recorded 889 individual members and 53 member agencies. We proudly offered 16 CEU opportunities plus our annual conference. We increased funds allocated to empower all Special Interest Groups and Committees to seek content for AzABA membership and continued efforts to create transparency in speaker fees and to provide generous honorariums to all speakers irrespective of other factors. This aligned with AzABA's commitment to treating all speakers equitably and captured the spirit of promoting diversity and inclusion.

AzABA also revamped our website to become more user friendly and aligned with our current branding.

Advance our ability to practice: AzABA will fight for the integrity of behavior analysis in political and legal doings within our state.

Since its founding in 2011, the AzABA has been a national leader in promoting the ethical expansion of the behavior analytic scope. The Public Policy Committee engages in regular stakeholder meetings with representatives from government and state health plans to address barriers to care and preserve the ability to practice transdiagnostically. In 2023, AzABA grew its participation and support of the Behavior Analysis Subcommittee under the Board of Psychologist Examiners. We have also made steps to advocate for better efficiencies within our licensing board.

### Purposeful Governance

AzABA commits to process-driven, data-supported

decision making and careful financial planning.

The organization maintained a strong financial position, due largely to stable membership, high conference attendance, and sponsorships. We were able to hire an Executive Director, Jessica Painter, and increase administrative support through our management company.

As is the case with any expanding volunteer-run organization, governance is critical. In 2023, we took previously defined policies and drafted into a full policies and procedures manual. In addition, we have created new policies to better onboard new board members.

We also focused on diversifying revenue streams, adding in opportunities for members to make contributions directly to the association and restructuring our CE program fees.

### Connection

AzABA works to create a place where the behavior analytic community can come together to connect with each other, other professionals and/or community stakeholders. AzABA values the inclusion of its entire membership and the recognition of every voice.

AzABA continued to connect inside and outside of Arizona. Inside of the state the organization supported Arizona's Interprofessional Behavioral Health Collaborative which includes all other medical and allied health professional associations in the state to promote interprofessional collaboration. AzABA continued its meaningful collaboration and reciprocity efforts with the Black Association for Behavior Analysis (BABA) and Latino Association for Behavior Analysis (LABA). In collaboration with other ABAI affiliates, AzABA continued the previous year's commitment to host culturally responsive events. The organization is grateful for its connection to BABA and was very proud that BABA supported 52 student and RBT scholarships to AzABA's Annual Conference!

AzABA's Annual Conference on October 13–14 had a total attendance of 511 participants, both in person and virtually.

### Integrity of Action

We evaluate all AzABA work through the lens of equity, diversity, and inclusion and ensure our actions represent our values in every objective.

Integrity in Action is a new value that was adopted in 2022 in an effort to perpetuate the organization's legacy with respect to DEI. In 2023 this value was continued through an ongoing DEI assessment conducted by the Board of Directors.

2023 was very active and successful year for AzABA. The Board of Directors, staff, members, and volunteers expect a similarly busy, strategic and values-driven 2024.

## Arkansas ABA

BY ELIZABETH R. LORAH

The Arkansas Association for Behavior Analysts

is dedicated to the advancement of the science and application of behavior analysis and committed to promoting research, education, and practice based on the principles of behavior analysis. ArkABA strives to disseminate knowledge from the science of behavior analysis to the public and to professional behavior analysts. ArkABA currently has 200 members, comprised of practitioners, academics, students, and affiliates from across the state of Arkansas. ArkABA members benefit from discounted rates for our annual conference, as well as free CEU opportunities throughout the year.

ArkABA achieved two major accomplishments in 2021. First, ArkABA hosted an in-person conference on the topic of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Bentonville, AR. We welcomed presters Sarah Campau, Drs. Corina Jimenez-Gomez and Nasiah Cirincione-Ulezi, and a panel of local practitioners. The event was attended by 124 persons from across the state and neighboring states.

Secondly, as a primary focus of ArkABA's endeavors this year has been the establishment licensure for behavior analysts in the state of Arkansas. We began working with a house representative, in April of 2022 and presented the benefits of licensure to the Mental and Behavior Health workgroup in the fall of 2022. We worked with Arkansas Bill Drafters to draft a bill for licensure with guidance from professional associations. Our licensure bill was filed in January 2023. The licensure successfully passed the house and senate committees and floors; but was ultimately vetoed by Governor Sarah Sanders.

In the coming year, ArkABA will continue to focus time and energy on the establishment of licensure for behavior analysts, working with legislators across the state and the behavior analyst in the state. We plan to host smaller CEU events across the state to foster more community and grow ArkABA leadership. We are also working to collaborate with neighboring state to co-host a events. ArkABA was thrilled to have the opportunity to present on our efforts, membership growth, and the benefits of membership at the 2024 Annual Association for Behavior Analysis International conference.

## Association for Maine Behavior Analysis

BY REBECCA WATSON

Over the past year, the Association for Maine Behavior Analysis' (AMeBA) has concentrated on implementation of our strategic plan in an effort to continue evolving our organization. Utilizing a process improvement strategy to establish and achieve goals, we have been able to increase member engagement through virtual networking and continuing education events. Other goals identified by our Board of Directors include further developing our website to be a more robust resource for AMeBA members,

community members or other stakeholders, strengthening our partnerships with local universities, and improving our transition process for onboarding new board members.

AMeBA's membership committee has offered several virtual events. These events have been open to members and non-members in order to increase participation, provide opportunities to connect with other behavior analysts in the state and disseminate information to interested persons.

AMeBA's public policy committee has continued to educate AMeBA's members on legislative initiatives occurring throughout the state which impact consumers and providers of behavior analysis. The committee worked diligently to share current events in policy and professional issues, and advocated for policies and practices that are consistent with the science of behavior analysis.

AMeBA held an in-person conference this year in Portland, Maine. We welcomed esteemed speakers Dr. Shahla Alai-Rosales and Dr. Peter Gerhardt. The conference was an invigorating day of connection for our members and topics presented were insightful and highly relevant to our community and state.

## Behavior Analysis Association of Mississippi

BY STEPHANIE MATTSON

### Mission and History

The Behavior Analysis Association of Mississippi (BAAMS) is a non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Mississippi, promoting 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. Our mission is to promote and support the practice, research, education, and dissemination of behavior analysis throughout the state of Mississippi. BAAMS serves as a scientific and professional reference group for all in the State of Mississippi who identify themselves as scientists or practitioners in disciplines which embrace the principles and practices of behavior analysis. BAAMS works to identify and promote the use of effective, humane, and ethical behavioral procedures in meeting the educational and habilitative needs of persons that are typically developing and persons with developmental disabilities within the State of Mississippi. Additionally, BAAMS advises political, legislative, and policy-making bodies with respect to all matters pertaining to behavior analysis in the State of Mississippi and organizes and sponsors an Annual Convention, which serves as a forum for presentation of scientific progress, technological advancements, and clinical practice, as well as discussion of the affairs of the organization. BAAMS was founded on February 7, 2015 and became an affiliate state chapter of ABAI in 2015.

## Officers

BAAMS is governed by an Executive Committee comprised of a president, past president, president-elect, treasurer, secretary, ABAI & APBA Representatives, the ad hoc student representative, and four members of the duly designated regions of the State.

President	Garret Yeager, BCBA, LBA
Past President	Hallie Smith, Ph.D., BCBA-D
President Elect	Kayla Bates-Brantley, Ph.D., BCBA-D
Treasurer	Robyn Brewer, BCBA, LBA
Secretary	Hailey Ripple, Ph.D., BCBA-D
ABAI Representative	Stephanie Mattson, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA
APBA Representative	Kayla Crook, Ph.D., BCBA-D
Region I Representative	Anna Claire Waldrup, BCBA, LBA
Region II Representative	Mary Autlman Weldon, BCBA, LBA
Region III Representative	Amanda Kirck, BCBA, LBA
Region IV Representative	Greg Stanford, BCBA, LBA
Student Representative	Ryleigh Sampey

Elections for all officers and representatives are conducted near the Annual BAAMS Conference each year, which occurs annually in November. Present, past president, president-elect and student representative serve terms lasting January-December for each year. Treasurer and secretary serve 2-year terms. ABAI, APBA 3 and region representative serve 3-year terms.

## Membership

There are three types of membership with BAAMS: Full Members, Affiliate Member, and Student Member. The criteria and benefits of membership include:

- **Full Member** (including original Founding Member of BAAMS): Any individual holding (a) at least a bachelor's degree in behavior analysis, psychology, education, or related field, with training or professional experience in behavior analysis and whose full time professional commitment includes teaching, research, and/or practice in behavior analysis or (b) BACB certification (i.e., BCBA-D, BCBA, or BCaBA). Full members may vote and hold office.
- **Affiliate Member:** Any member evidencing interest in the discipline of behavior analysis, but lacking formal training therein, may apply for this class of membership. Affiliate members are entitled to all benefits except for (a) the right to vote on matters of interest to the organization, and (b) the right to hold office. Affiliate members may serve as members on BAAMS committees.
- **Student Member** (including original Founding Student Member of BAAMS): Any individual pursuing formal training in the discipline of behavior analysis, which may include programs in behavior analysis, psychology, education, or a related field but not yet gainfully employed therein on at least a half-time basis may apply

for membership in this category. Such application must be accompanied by an endorsement on letterhead by a program coordinator or program official certifying the applicant's student status. This application will be reviewed in a manner similar to the review of those candidates for Full Member status. Student members may neither vote nor hold office, though they may serve as members on BAAMS committees.

BAAMS currently has 77 active full members with 112 student members. Member meetings occurred as part of the annual meeting held at the BAAMS conference on October 26th and 27th, 2023.

## Meeting Activity

The 2023 Annual BAAMS Conference took place in-person at The Mill in Starkville, MS on October 26th and 27th. Conference attendees could acquire 6 general CEUs, 2 supervision CEUs, 1 Ethics CEU, and 1 CEU in DEI for a total of 10 CEUs available. With 206 participants; speakers included:

- 1 **Jolin Jackson**, MS, BCBA (Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network for the Autism Initiative)—Social Skills
- 2 **Linda LeBlanc**, PhD, BCBA-D, LP (LeBlanc Behavioral Consulting)—Supervision Practices and Perspective Taking
- 3 **Jordan Belisle**, PhD, BCBA (Missouri State University)—Relational Frame Theory and ACT for Behavior Analysts
- 4 **Colin Muehthing**, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LP (Emory University School of Medicine, Marcus Autism Center.)—Considerations for Relapse when Treating Behaviors Targeted for Reduction
- 5 **Elissa Johnson**, BCBA (Elissa Johnson Consulting)—ABA in Schools: Perspectives and Lessons Learned
- 6 **Elizabeth Hughes Fong**, PhD, BCBA (Pepperdine University)—Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: An Update from ABAI
- 7 **Aaron Fischer**, PhD, BCBA-D, LP (University of Utah)—Best Practices for Supporting Parents and Caregivers
- 8 **Zachary LaBrot**, PHD, LP (University of Southern Mississippi)—Navigating Sweet Dreams: Assessing Four Key Sleep Areas and Tailoring Interventions for Children
- 9 **Student Research Symposium**

The 2024 BAAMS Conference is currently scheduled for October 24th and 25th and will be held at the Riley Center in Meridian, MS.

## Other Activity

The BAAMS Executive Committee for 2022/2023 made it a priority to further clarify the primary mission and direction of the organization by drafting and finalizing

a diversity statement to highlight the organization's commitment to inclusive practice.

The BAAMS Executive Committee for the 2022/2023 year also made it a priority to set goals and objectives that would be prioritized for the organization within the year. A progress report across our five goals and supporting objectives can be found below:

**GOAL 1: Increase membership of full members by 10% across the calendar year. Comparison points will be enrollment on December 31, 2022 and December 31, 2023.**

*Goal 1 Met: Membership increased from 70 to 77 active full members.*

**Objective 1:** Increase social media posting to twice per week and maintain frequency across the calendar year.

*Objective Met: BAAMS organization posted twice per week and maintained frequency of postings across the calendar year.*

**Objective 2:** Send targeted emails to LBAs across the state who are not current members of BAAMS to encourage participation

*Progress Towards Objective: BAAMS organization will send targeted emails to LBAs who are not current members of BAAMS by December 2023.*

**Objective 3:** Send Qualtrics survey to current members to collect data on current level of commitment to BAAMS and solicit feedback and ideas for what they would like to see BAAMS provide/offer members.

*Progress Towards Objective: BAAMS organization will send Qualtrics survey to current BAAMS members by December 2023.*

**GOAL 2: Solidify the BAAMS organization's commitment to providing culturally responsive care by drafting and adopting an official Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement**

*Goal Met: Diversity statement developed and voted as the official Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion statement for the BAAMS organization.*

**Objective 1:** Draft a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion statement and review with the Executive Council Team

*Objective Met: Statement drafted and reviewed by the Executive Council in May 2023*

**Objective 2:** Send out the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion statement to BAAMS full members for a vote to include it as the organization's official statement

*Objective Met: Vote passed and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion statement became the organization's official statement in beginning Fall 2023.*

**GOAL 3: Increase member involvement throughout the year instead of just conference attendance.**

**Objective 1:** Each region will host two meet-ups during the course of the calendar year (outside of the meet-up to take place at the annual conference). One meet-up should take place in March and the second should take place in July. Data on attendance will be taken at both meet-ups.

Region 1: Scheduled and attempted to host one meet-up event

*Progress Towards Objective: BAAMS Executive Council discussed strategies for increasing interest in region events including incorporating additional opportunities for meet-ups at the annual conference and virtual options.*

**Objective 2:** Host one virtual CEU event outside of the annual conference.

*Progress Towards Objective: BAAMS organization hosted one in-person CEU event outside of the annual conference and has a virtual CEU event scheduled for March 22nd, 2024. The organization is currently advertising for the event.*

**GOAL 4: Complete new website renovation and change systems/platforms for membership enrollment and conference registration.**

*Goal Met: Website is functional and BAAMS is making minor tweaks and changes*

**Objective 1:** Continue to provide Montana Banana with information and feedback per their request

*Objective Met: Completed throughout the year*

**GOAL 5: Increase conference attendance by 10%.**

*Progress Towards Goal: Met all objectives and increased conference attendance by 2%*

**Objective 1:** Send targeted emails to members starting three months leading up to the conference and send one monthly leading up to the conference.

*Objective Met: BAAMS sent targeted emails starting 3 months leading up to the conference.*

**Objective 2:** Maintain current number of sponsors, speakers, and CEU's offered from the 2022 conference.

*Objective Met: BAAMS offered the same number of sponsors, speakers, and CEUs during the 2023 conference*

**Objective 3:** Develop a conference planning committee in March 2023 of EC members, or members at large who may be interested in planning and execution of conference-related tasks.

*Objective Met: Conference planning committee successfully planned and executed conference-related tasks for the 2023 conference.*

**Contact Information**

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Twitter: [twitter.com/baamsinfo](https://twitter.com/baamsinfo)

## Berkshire Association for Behavior Analysis and Therapy

BY STACIE BANCROFT

**Babat 2024: A Strong Community for MA Behavior Analysts**

Babat continues to grow as like-minded MA behavior analysts, connected as much by their drive to bring good through science as their geographic proximity, band together to strengthen their profession.

## Who We Are

Babat is led by the Babat Board of Directors and the Executive Director. BABAT's current President is Dr. Jill Harper. Her vision for Babat, as outlined in her opening address at last year's conference, is focused on creating a connection between MA behavior analysts where we not only have the opportunity be supported by our state professional organization, but we also have the opportunity to serve in a variety of ways to be a part of this large support system for each other. She has worked to streamline Babat systems, advance Babat initiatives, and inspire both the board and members to serve intentionally. She works in conjunction with Babat Executive Director, Dr. Stacie Bancroft, the Babat Board of Directors (with 18 Directors and Asst. Directors from over 14 distinct affiliations) and over 25 Committee Members (from over 18 distinct affiliations), Babat CEU Coordinator, Kathy Clark, our DEI advisory group, and our environmental sustainability advisory group. Our over 3100 members are practitioners working within and outside of autism services, university faculty, conceptualists, researchers, undergraduates, graduate students, and more.

## What We Do

The Babat Conference is held in October of each year, and last year's conference was a great success. Our hybrid event brought behavior analyst attendees from all across the state, as well as many other states. Over 35 invited speakers traveled from across the US and beyond to join with a wide variety of submitted speakers. We added a new mixer event as well as exercise classes and new networking opportunities. We are striving to meet the needs of today's conference attendee which is just as much about developing professional relationships as it is continuing education. Our attendees want to hear about the social issues and ethical considerations shaping the culture of our profession, but also value access to strong research, expert speakers, and data-based presentations.

But our conference is just a part of what we offer. We provide over 20 events across the year including a series of webinars, monthly all-member professional practice roundtables, The Babat Social (an in-person evening of talks and networking), and adult services event, a faculty reception, The Small Business Summit (a gathering of ABA Small Business owners, leaders, and employees), and more.

We also prioritize professional recognition of Babat Members and beyond, with a variety of professional awards and student awards. Our newest addition this past year was the Beth Sulzer-Azaroff Award (founder of BABAT) for Distinguished Teaching (an award for faculty making a difference in inspiring and teaching future behavior analysts). We have also increased efforts to support students in MA, launched a contest to encourage behavior analytic

research in environmental sustainability, and expanded our communications to members.

One of our most exciting advancements over the past year has been the growth in our Professional Practice Committee (the PPC). This committee has provided multiple testimonies at the state house, connected with other advocacy groups, enhanced our efforts with payers, tracked more bills of interest than ever before, and increased involvement with ongoing advocacy efforts across the state that benefit the profession of behavior analysis in Massachusetts.

## What We Are Working On

Babat is currently working on some major system changes. We have just completed a transfer from our previous event management firm to joining the Behavior Live platform for all BABAT events. We have also initiated the shift to a new Membership platform which will improve Babat communications, member tracking, and member experience. As part of this effort we are also developing a new Babat website.

We are continuing to explore methods to increase student involvement and support, including increasing Babat scholarships for students and doing direct outreach at universities. We want students to learn early the benefits of professional organization membership and understand the responsibility we all bear to participate in something larger than ourselves that works to lift us all to a better place.

## California ABA

BY LIZ HERRERA KNAPP

The California Association for Behavior Analysis (CalABA) continues its commitment to actively serving our membership, stakeholders, community, and consumers of applied behavior analysis. CalABA continues to remain the largest state association representing over 28,788 certified professionals (BCBA-D, BCBA, BCaBA, and RBT).

CalABA held its 42nd Annual and 1st hybrid (in-person and livestreamed) Conference February 8th–10th in Pasadena, Ca with over 2,545 attendees. CalABA also hosted the 2nd Annual Technology Summit at the conference on February 8th, 2024. CalABA worked with BehaviorLive to host its first-ever hybrid annual conference, which provided nearly 80 CEUs, which are available asynchronously to attendees for up to a year after the conference.

On December 8th, CalABA hosted its first summit on social justice which focused on how applying our science of behavior analysis can make a difference. This conference took place at an intimate venue in Preservation Park in the heart of downtown Oakland. CalABA hosted 150 attendees in person, and hosted the summit virtually on BehaviorLive.

CalABA continued to bring additional virtual events to

its membership, which included, “Demystifying Behavior Analytic Consultation to Schools-Reviewing the BACS Model” with Michael Mueller, Ph.D, BCBA-D, IBA; two Invited Presentations with the Adult Service Provider SIG given by Dr. Shane Spiker, Ph.D, BCBA, IBA, LBA, and Lindsay Hauer, BCBA; and a free CEU event hosted by the Adult Service Provider SIG with our former President, Jose Rios, MS, BCBA on “The Evolution of Behavior Intervention Plans for Problem Behavior.”

The CalABA Board of Directors convened in-person for their Annual Board of Directors retreat October 8–9, 2023. At the retreat the Board engaged in a strategic planning overview, toured the Convention Center for the 42nd and 43rd Annual Conferences, discussed membership benefits, and reviewed public policy updates and planning.

Additionally, in February of 2024 CalABA released a Request for Proposals for an Equity Diversity and Inclusion consultant to provide consultation services for the development of an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy for the Association. CalABA is seeking support to design and develop an integrated EDI strategy, roadmap, communication, and implementation plan. CalABA is looking for a consultant to create a vision of EDI work as a collective responsibility and shared journey, create alignment across teams on our EDI work and approach, ensuring that it is grounded in consistent values. and share resources and develop policies for consistent messaging across the organization. More information can be found at: [calaba.org/news-and-events/2024/calaba-is-looking-for-support-to-design-and-develop-an-integrated-edi-strategy-roadmap-communication-and-implementation-plan](https://calaba.org/news-and-events/2024/calaba-is-looking-for-support-to-design-and-develop-an-integrated-edi-strategy-roadmap-communication-and-implementation-plan)

CalABA has a continued commitment to serving the interests and needs of our membership, and this year continued to support the four CalABA Special Interest Groups: Adult Service Provider SIG (ASPSIG), Behavior Analysts in Education (BAESIG), Bay Area Behavior Analysis Collective (BABAC), and Behavior Analysts in Business (BIBA). This year the SIG Leaders came together to host two CalABA SIG mixers: Meet the SIGs: Virtual Happy Hour on November 14, 2023, and the CalABA SIG Hospitality Suite at the 42nd Annual Conference.

CalABA continues to be actively involved in public policy matters that are related to the practice of applied behavior analysis in California and we are excited to share that we hired Gina Green and Michelle Heid as Public Policy Consultants last year. Our Public Policy Consultants and Public Policy Committee are working to address challenges in our field and to move behavior analysis forward, as well as working to codify BCBA in statute, where appropriate.

On February 29, 2024, CalABA partnered with CASP to host, “Better Together: Advocacy Efforts to Support ABA and Autism Service Providers in Ca” which was a virtual meeting to update agency leaders and owners,

C-Suite professionals, and BCBA. CalABA provided an alert to its membership on January 29th, 2024, for Individuals, Organizations, and Regulatory Entities Involved in Delivery of Applied Behavior Analysis Services on companies promoting a model in which parents are paid to work as Registered Behavior Technicians with their own children. Additionally, CalABA provided frequent public policy updates to its membership including updates on the Medi-Cal Managed Care Health Plan Transitions for 2024, the instruction from Congress to the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) to conduct an independent analysis of the effectiveness of the TRICARE Autism Care Demonstration (ACD) program, in which an hoc committee has been assembled to conduct the analysis and provide a report to Congress, the Department of Managed Healthcare’s Division of Plan Surveys and the DMHC request for Assistance with Investigations, and a Summary of Bills passed in California including, but not limited to, the following:

**SB 525 Health Care Worker Minimum Wage**—Applies to “covered health care facilities” and sets out 5 wage schedules affecting the 20 facility types that are defined in the law. Some behavior analysts or behavior technicians may be employed by some of those facility types, but as defined they do not include facilities or settings in which ABA services are typically provided (e.g., homes, clinics, centers). SB 525 also increases wages for employees of covered health care facilities beginning June 1, 2024 to \$18–\$23/hour depending on the facility type. If you are concerned that this law may affect your organization, you are encouraged to seek legal advice.

**AB 1228 Fast Food Worker Minimum Wage**—AB 1228 increases the minimum wage for fast food workers to \$20/hour effective April 1, 2024 and establishes a council to determine the minimum wage for such workers in future years. It may affect ABA businesses’ recruitment efforts.

**SB 616 Annual Paid Sick Leave**—Increases the minimum number of paid sick days an employer must provide to employees who work for them for 30 or more days within a year from 24 hours (3 days) to 40 hours (5 days) per year. This law goes into effect January 1, 2024. It includes provisions regarding various ways employers may implement the law. ABA business owners should make sure their employment policies incorporate the relevant provisions.

**Regional Center Rate Increases**—Effective January 1, 2024, the minimum wage in California will increase to \$16.00 per hour. Regional center service providers that are currently paying a wage below that amount may be entitled to a rate increase. Vendors are encouraged to reach out to their regional centers to determine if they are eligible for a rate increase and if so, how to apply.

**Reinstatement of Annual Medi-Cal Redetermination**—Throughout the COVID–19 public health emergency,



California postponed disenrollments from Medi-Cal based on guidance from the federal government. That meant that those enrolled in Medi-Cal did not have to complete annual redeterminations to keep their coverage, which allowed millions to stay on Medi-Cal. The continuous coverage provision ended on March 31, 2023, so Medi-Cal members now need to renew their coverage. It behooves Medi-Cal providers to help them do that.

Additionally, CalABA supported the following bills: **AB 438** (Rubio) Pupils with exceptional needs: individualized education programs: postsecondary goals and transition services, **AB 611** (Weber) Special education: nonpublic, nonsectarian schools or agencies: change in certification status: parental notification, **AB 649** (Wilson) Developmental Services, **AB 751** (Schiavo) Elder Abuse, **AB 1466** (Weber) Pupil discipline: restraint and seclusion: reporting, **SB 323** (Portantino) Comprehensive school safety plans: individualized safety plans, **SB 483** (Cortese) Pupil rights: prone restraint, **SB 509** (Portantino) School employee and pupil training: youth mental and behavioral health: mental health education, and **SB 525** (Durazo) Minimum wage: health care workers.

## Colorado ABA

BY REBECCA URBANO POWELL

As we reflect on the past year's achievements and look ahead to the future, it is with great pleasure that we share with you the remarkable progress and initiatives undertaken by our local ABAI chapter, COABA. Our collective efforts have not only strengthened our community but have also significantly contributed to the advancement of behavior analysis.

### Chapter Accomplishments in 2023

Throughout the past year, our chapters have been relentless in their pursuit of promoting excellence in behavior analysis. Here are some highlights of our collective accomplishments:

- 1 **COABA Recognized for Exceptional Advocacy:** We are thrilled to announce that COABA was awarded the "Advocacy Group of the Year" award by the Autism Law Summit for our exceptional advocacy on behalf of individuals with autism. This recognition underscores our commitment to advocating for the rights and needs of individuals within our community.
- 2 **Successful Advocacy Efforts with Colorado Medicaid:** COABA successfully advocated with Colorado Medicaid to remove the Electronic Visit Verification requirement for telehealth services. This achievement demonstrates our chapter's dedication to removing barriers and improving access to essential services for individuals in need.
- 3 **Fundraising Success:** COABA raised almost \$42,000 in donations towards funding a lobbyist, Emma

Hudson, and our attorney, Dan Unumb, to assist in much-needed Medicaid provision enhancement and the removal of barriers. These funds will enable us to continue our advocacy efforts and drive positive change in our community.

- 4 **Education and Training Initiatives:** COABA successfully presented monthly continuing education webinars and two workshops, as well as hosting the most successful and well-attended COABA conference to date. These educational initiatives have provided valuable opportunities for professional development and knowledge sharing within our community.
- 5 **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) Committee:** In 2023, we established a DEIA committee to promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility within our chapter and the broader behavior analysis community. This committee has been instrumental in guiding our efforts to create a more welcoming and inclusive environment for all members.

### Plans for the Upcoming Year (2024)

Looking forward, we are excited to build upon the momentum gained in the past year and further elevate the impact of behavior analysis in our communities. Here are some of our key initiatives for the upcoming year:

- 1 **Ongoing Public Policy Action:** We will continue our public policy action targeting Medicaid provision enhancement and the removal of barriers. Our recent success includes getting an emergency supplement approved in February 2024, increasing rates by 25%.
- 2 **Participation in Medicaid Workgroups:** We will actively participate in Medicaid workgroups focusing on removing issues related to benefits criteria, provider types, treatment plan requirements, and coding limitations.
- 3 **Continued Education and Training:** We will continue to offer monthly continuing education webinars and biannual workshops, as well as our annual conference, to provide valuable learning opportunities for our members. We will be adding events for behavior technicians.
- 4 **Introduction of New Membership Type:** We will propose the addition of a new membership type, "sustaining members," aimed at increasing donations towards public policy efforts. This initiative will be put to vote to further support our advocacy endeavors.
- 5 **Student and Technician Committee:** We have added a "student representative" to our board as a non-voting member who will be instrumental in forming a student and technician committee, providing support and resources tailored to their needs.
- 6 **Development of Standard Operating Policies:** We will create standard operating policies and procedures into a handbook for future officers of the board to improve

transitions and ensure continuity in our chapter’s operations.

- 7 Formation of a Political Action Committee (PAC): We will establish a Political Action Committee to advocate for policies and legislation that support behavior analysis and the needs of our community.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all our members, volunteers, and supporters for their dedication and contributions to our chapters. Together, we will continue to push the boundaries of behavior analysis and create a brighter future for all.

## Connecticut ABA

BY ELIZABETH SMITH

The Connecticut Association of Behavior Analysts (CTABA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the development and advancement of the field of behavior analysis within the state of Connecticut through research, education, and dissemination of information. We recently celebrated our 20th annual conference, held at the Omni Hotel in New Haven, Connecticut. CTABA is pleased to share our work from last year and plans for the next. Our current Board of Directors consists of 12 Directors with officers elected to the following roles: President (Elizabeth Smith), Secretary (Amy Lavoie), and Treasurer (Ruel Dixon). Our Executive Director, Dr. Melissa Hunsinger-Harris, is entering her third year of a three-year term. In order to effectively continue the work of CTABA, we identified several goals (1) Create standard operating procedures (SOP) to collect annual data on CTABA’s key performance indicators; (2) Implement SOPs for communications with members, potential members, and/or consumers; (3) create and ensure systems to ensure committee/SIG/Task Force objectives are met for completion of objectives, and (4) Ensure all BOD has awareness, access, and agreement to the above SOPs by identifying the current acting permanent products.

Our 19th annual conference, held at the CT Convention Center (Hartford) on March 3 and 4, 2023, was a sold out event, with 557 attendees participating in the full conference and 174 attendees in workshops. We received positive feedback regarding the content of our invited speakers, Dr. Jon Bailey, Dr. Patrick Friman, and Dr. Greg Hanley. Our Conference Committee strives to ensure that our events are successful and provides continuing education opportunities for members, associate members (including RBTs, students, consumers, and direct care staff) and non-members to access our events, and the content of our speakers is diverse and offers relevant information to all attendees. Our Organizational Members & Sponsorship Committee helps ensure that our local agencies and supporters are represented and able to access networking opportunities.

Our Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice Committee has been tremendously supportive in its mission to increase the representation and diversity of our practitioners, as well as provide increased access for consumers of services with high quality, equitable and inclusivity. CTABA held our first annual diversity training for the Board of Directors over the summer of 2023, which was an extremely beneficial and constructive workshop.

Our Public Policy and Legislative Outreach (PPLO) Committee continues to increase awareness of behavior analysis in the state. During the 2023 legislative session, testimony from PPLO was submitted on behalf of the CTABA Board of Directors on a number of issues related to the provision of behavior analysis within the state of CT. Most notably, we were able to get Senate Bill-320 on the table regarding the coverage of ABA services to children with diagnoses other than autism spectrum disorder. CTABA also contributed on a document with the CT Department of Education on BCBA Guidelines for Work in Public School. The CTABA PPLO committee has also advocated on issues with the Department of Insurance and Department of Social Services, as well as the states’ Medicaid plans, with positive results.

CTABA’s Membership committee has also demonstrated commitment to our mission in representing behavior analysts in our state. Our current membership has grown to 742 members (709 Full, 333 Associate), which is a 52% increase from membership at this time last year. We seek to ensure we are representing the interests of practicing behavior analysts in our state. According to the BACB, there are currently 1,330 BCBA-D and BCBA’s living in Connecticut. According to the Department of Public Health, the state of Connecticut has awarded licenses to 1,457 behavior analysts at this time. CTABA also has 19 Organizational Members renewed for this year. We are pleased with our growth in membership and will continue to seek ways to support our Professional and Associate Members in 2024!

CTABA has had a productive and successful year, and we look forward to continuing our growth in collaboration with our affiliate partners in 2024.

## Delaware ABA

BY MELISSA TICE MARTIN

The Delaware Association for Behavior Analysis (DEABA) was established as an affiliate chapter of ABAI in 2011. The Delaware Association for Behavior Analysis was created with the mission to promote the science, understanding, and practice of behavior analysis. Specifically, the organization shall:

- (a) *Serve as a scientific and professional reference and networking group for its members.*
- (b) *Disseminate information to promote its mission to a wider audience.*

(c) *Organize an annual business meeting to provide a forum for discussion of the affairs of the chapter.*

## Governance

Current Board Members of DEABA consist of:

President	Melissa Tice Martin, M.S., BCBA
Vice-President	Dilliana Henry, M.S., BCBA, MPA
Treasurer	Victoria Hetrick, M.A., BCBA, LPCMH
Secretary	Sarah D'Amico, M.S., BCBA
Membership Director	Dafne Carnright, M.S., BCBA, LPCMH
Member-at-Large	Alia Bonner El, M.Ed., BCBA, LBS, LBA
Member-at-Large	Josefien O'Regan, M.A., BCBA

## Membership

Membership is open to all persons interested in or actively engaged in behavior analysis. Being a DEABA member ensures timely access to news about upcoming events, CEs, and initiatives. DEABA offers an opportunity for connection and collaboration with behavior analytic colleagues across the state. Our members bring a wide range of experience and expertise to the ABA community and work as a collective voice for the profession of behavior analysis.

As an affiliate chapter of ABAI, DEABA members are able to obtain discounts on ABAI annual conference registration by requesting a letter from the chapter verifying proof of membership.

Membership is annual by the calendar year starting September 1st. Anyone wishing to become a member must submit a completed application form and pay the annual membership dues:

### Full Member

Those certified as a BCBA-D, BCBA, BCaBA, RBT, Licensed Behavior Analysts, or a professional in a discipline directly related to behavior analysis whose professional commitment includes teaching, research, and/or practice in behavior analysis may apply for membership in this category. Full members may vote on membership decisions of the chapter. Annual dues are \$35.

### Affiliate Member

Individuals evidencing an interest in the discipline of behavior analysis, but without formal training, licensure, or credential (e.g., students, parents, community providers, educators, etc.) may apply for membership in this category. Affiliate members may not vote on membership decisions of the chapter. Annual dues are \$20.

## Conferences

In 2024, DEABA board representatives participated in ABAI chapter training opportunities online. DEABA board representatives and members attended the ABAI Annual Convention in Philadelphia. A poster session and a social gathering was held to promote the chapter and to build interest in the organization. Planning for a conference to be held in Delaware is ongoing. In 2023,

board representatives attended chapter trainings online in March and attended the ABAI Annual Convention in Denver, Colorado in May.

## Activities for 2023–2024

The DEABA board members met quarterly during 2023–2024 to conduct business and plan for events and activities.

In March 2023, DEABA hosted a virtual continuing education event, “Practical Functional Assessment and Skill-Based Treatment”, presented by Lindsay Anderson, BCBA, Level 5 PFASBT.

DEABA board representatives also acknowledged the World Behavior Analysis Day celebrations on the DEABA Facebook page in 2023 and 2024. Ideas on ways to celebrate the science and profession were posted, including spreading awareness, attending conferences and workshops, and participating in graphing self-monitoring data for a day.

In July of 2023, DEABA board members issued a Call to Action to membership and provided input to the Delaware Department of Education’s (DEDOE) Professional Standards Board during a public comment period regarding the creation of a mechanism to regulate the credentials of BCBA, QBAs, BCaBAs, and QASP-S who are employed in Delaware schools. Beginning in the 2023–2024 school year, behavior analytic providers will be required by DEDOE to possess a “Standard Certificate” as an Educational Specialist, obtained through, and monitored by DE DOE’s Professional Standards Board, in order to ensure that those representing themselves as BCBA, QBAs, BCaBAs, and QASP-S have active and verifiable certificant status with the BACB and/or QABA.

DEABA maintained the [DEABA.org](http://DEABA.org) website and made enhancements to ensure a smooth application and payment process for new and renewing members.

DEABA’s by-laws were revised over 2023–2024 to better align with the ABAI suggested template, including changes to officer composition, officer duties, member categories, and election procedures. The board also established standing committees and voted to adopt ABAI’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion policy statement.

Elections were held in the Fall of 2023 and the transition process was supported by outgoing members Kaori Nepo, M.S., BCBA-D, Shannon Kazmerick, M.S., BCBA, and Nicole Gouge, M.S., BCBA, who were each acknowledged for their commitment and service. Kaori Nepo, BCBA-D, received special recognition for her leadership and contribution to the DEABA community from 2011–2023.

DEABA continues to explore effective ways to promote behavior analysis and to increase the number of active members, as well as the benefits offered to our membership, through social media, meetings, social opportunities, interest surveys, and CE events.

## District of Columbia ABA

BY SAUNDRA BISHOP AND LERA JOHNSON

While the District of Columbia is geographically small, its metropolitan area extends to near the states of Maryland and Virginia (often referred to as the DMV or DC-Metro Area). As a result, there is often overlap between where Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs) live and work. Many BCBAs live and work in multiple locations throughout the DMV and often qualify for the benefits of more than one affiliate chapter association. DCABA commits to serving as primary or complimentary affiliate chapter association to any BCBA living or working in the DMV area. In addition to the traditional needs that affiliate chapter associations can meet, DCABA is able to focus on the unique features that one experiences being a BCBA in Washington, DC (it not being a state, DC being the seat of the Federal government, having a unique transient population, etc.).

DCABA's mission is to promote the professional practice, ethics, research, and dissemination of behavior analysis, and to provide its members with support and continuing education opportunities within the field of behavior analysis. DCABA is committed to promoting diversity and inclusiveness in our organization and within the field of behavior analysis.

After some slowing down as a result of the pandemic, the board is happy to share that we are back at near full capacity and working diligently to fulfill our mission. Our current board members meet on a monthly basis and include:

President	Saundra Bishop, MS, BCBA, LBA VA, CCTP
Past-President	Mary Caruso-Anders, PhD, BCBA-D, LBA VA & MD
Secretary	Amber Travers, MEd, BCBA, LBA VA
Treasurer	Andrea Jones, Graduate Student in Behavior Analysis
Communications	
Coordinator	Lorena Trujillo, BCBA, LBA VA
DEI Coordinator	Gabrielle Torres, BCBA, IBA
Members-at-Large	Lera Johnson, PhD, BCBA-D, LBA VA & MD Chrystal Foster, BCBA, LBA VA & MD

We also have four active committees supporting the goals and initiatives of the organization:

- **Membership Committee**—focuses on supporting members of DCABA (i.e. resources, socializing) and growing the number of members, which includes behavior analysts, other professionals, RBTs, parents, allies, etc.
- **The Program/Continuing Education Committee** focuses on our professional development and training opportunities.
- **The Public Policy Committee** focuses on furthering the regulated practice of behavior analysis in Washington, D.C., including research of licensure initiatives across

the country, drafting ABA licensure laws for D.C. and working for their ratification.

- **The Diversity and Inclusion Committee** ensures that the events, actions and activities of the DCABA Board and its Committees take into account and promote diversity, equity and inclusion.

As our committees continue their work, we are always looking for new members. If you are interested in joining a committee, email us at [districtaba@gmail.com](mailto:districtaba@gmail.com).

Our primary focus in 2023 was to grow membership by enhancing our membership value and provide our members with more professional development and networking opportunities. We offered several exciting CEU workshops as Lunch and Learns. We also offered a free renewal for all members this year.

Our most exciting achievement was an initial submission of a BCBA licensing proposal with the District of Columbia Council. Our primary focus in 2024 is to continue to enhance our membership value and provide our members with more professional development and networking opportunities in order to increase membership size and also create a pathway to board leadership. We will continue to work on the licensing legislation with the DC Council. Other goals include establishing mentoring for young professionals and resources for parents.

Visit us online! DC ABA has established a social presence through: Website: [districtaba.org](http://districtaba.org)  
 Facebook: **DC ABA** Twitter: **@districtaba**  
 Become a member: [districtaba.org/membership](http://districtaba.org/membership)

## Florida ABA

BY MELISSA OLIVE AND KIM LUCKER GREENE

Like many state associations, the Florida Association for Behavior Analysis (FABA) has undergone change over the past year. In the middle of 2022, FABA hired two part-time Co-Directors of Public Policy: Kevin Murdock and Melissa “Missy” Olive. In May of 2023, FABA moved Missy from Public Policy over to serve as FABA’s Executive Director on a part-time basis. Also in 2023, FABA entered into a contractual agreement with Behavior Live to manage the annual FABA Conference and the Co-FABA Conference.

With the help of Behavior Live, FABAs Annual Conference continues to be one of the strengths of the organization. In 2023, we hosted our conference in Orlando, Florida. We had approximately 1,800 people in attendance in person and another 400 attending online through Behavior Live. Additionally, Behavior Live allows access to our sessions and workshops for 12 months post conference. As a result, all registrants can return to view material that they didn’t access during the conference. Moreover, people who did not attend the conference can

also purchase content as a package or item by item. Our 2024 conference will be held in Miami and we are pleased to be offering a keynote and several sessions in Spanish. And finally, as a way of engaging the many RBTs in Florida, FABAs will be offering an RBT Track on the Saturday of the Annual Conference, along with a track for Spanish speaking attendees.

FABA also regularly holds a conference every Spring for FABAs local chapters. The conference is called CoFABA for the “Chapters of FABA.” The entire conference is coordinated and organized by the leaders of the local chapters.

Outside of conference activities, FABA’s Board of Directors (BOD) and its Legislative and Public

Policy Committee continue to be guided by our lobbyist and general counsel, Eric Prutsman. We are excited to begin the important task of strategic planning. The BOD has selected Peter Dams of Dams and Associates to guide the Board and Committee Chairs through this important process.

The Public Policy Committee, likely the most active FABA committee, thanks to its Director, Kevin Murdock, and Chairs, Mary Riordan, Matt Potak, and Nicki Postma, has been exceptionally busy. The committee developed policies and procedures to guide its work. That process resulted in several areas of advocacy that are led by each of the chairs. These include Education, Insurance/Medicaid, Professional and Ethical Issues, Adult Services, and Juvenile Justice. Across the workgroups, FABA has hosted multiple Town Halls with the assistance of Behavior Live. These Town Halls served to support our members and the community on important issues such as the iConnect from the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) and training on the new Department of Labor Law regarding Independent Contractors.

The Education Workgroup has been working with local and state departments to improve access to ABA within the school setting. With the passage of the amendments to the RBT bill in 2023, more students can access their medically necessary services with an RBT in school. This is not without headaches, however. Thus, the workgroup will continue to educate and advocate to ensure that the processes are appropriate across all Florida counties and schools.

The Insurance/Medicaid workgroup has been busy trying to support members who had to adjust to new Medicaid requirements that launched in October. We are most excited about an increase to two service rates within Medicaid. However, the rates were small. Thus, FABA continues to meet with staff from AHCA as a process of collaboration that should ultimately result in improved access to care as well as a hope for increased rates for providers.

The Ethical and Professional workgroup has the

daunting task of addressing all the issues around the massive amounts of fraud in Florida. Miami/Dade County area of Florida now has more RBTs than the entire state of California. This will no doubt be an inter-agency effort as the fraud not only impacts Federal and State Medicaid funds, but multiple state departments are also affected such as the Department of Labor, Unemployment, the IRS, and Workers’ Compensation Program.

Last, but not least, is the adult services workgroup, also called APD. The workgroup has collaborated with the APD program regularly to improve the rollout of the iConnect program. FABA is so grateful that Mary lives in Tallahassee and can attend hearings and workshops on behalf of FABA.

FABAs Membership Committee is focused on increasing FABAs membership, increasing member engagement, and improving benefits for members. We want our members to know that FABA is more than just an annual conference. Additionally, and based on the member survey, the Membership Committee would like to revise the FABA Constitution to allow for RBTs to serve as non-voting members on the BOD. Additionally, with the new RBT requirements announced by the BACB, FABA would love to offer continuing education for RBTs which includes a new RBT track on Saturday at the annual conference.

FABA also has a very active Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, which complements our existing Multicultural Special Interest Group of FABA. The DEI Committee developed a DEI Mission Statement last year and identified a DEI award to begin at the 2024 Annual Conference.

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.

## Four Corners ABA

BY NICOLE L BANK

The Four Corners ABA (4CABA) mission is to promote the science of behavior and evidence-based technologies derived from the basic science in the Four Corners region of the U.S. (Utah, Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico), providing behavior analysts with an intellectual home. Chapter membership is open to anyone who is interested in the science and practice of behavior analysis. Most of our members have physical and/or academic roots in the Four Corners region. There are numerous benefits to being

a 4CABA member, including being a part of a group of individuals who value the science and practice of behavior analysis and enjoy being part of a strong, productive and vibrant community of scholars and practitioners. If you are interested in being a part of 4CABA, please take a look at our website for more information ([www.4caba.org](http://www.4caba.org)). In our ongoing efforts to increase membership and let other behavior analysts know what we've been up to, 4CABA also hosts an expo booth at the ABAI annual conventions. Make sure to stop by and say hello if you're attending the next Annual ABAI Convention—we'll be there!

In 2024, our 17th Annual 4CABA Conference was held at the Santa Ana Hotel and Casino in Albuquerque, New Mexico (April 5–6), organized by President, Travis Blevins. Nine individuals representing applied and experimental behavior analysis fields were invited to speak at the conference, Justin Leaf (Autism Partnership Foundation), Steven Mehran (Child Insights), Bob Ross (Bob Ross Consulting), Ashley Prichard (Georgia Institute of Technology), Al Poling (Western Michigan University), Shahla Ala'i Rosales (University of North Texas), Patrick Friman (Boystown), Christina Alligood (University of Kansas), and William Heward (Ohio State University). We also hosted a post-conference workshop with Jill Dardig (Ohio Dominican University) and William Heward (Ohio State University). We would like to thank our speakers, the Conference Coordinator, Nicole Bank, and Travis Blevins once again for such a wonderful and intellectually stimulating event!

The 18th Annual Four Corners ABA Conference will be held in April of 2025 in Colorado. Visit our website for updates. We hope to see you in 2025!

## Georgia ABA

BY CASSY GAYMAN AND VIDESHA MARYA

We are proud to continue to support the behavior analytic community in the state of Georgia through an annual conference, virtual DEI speaker series, mentoring program, social media, and networking as an affiliated chapter of the Association for Behavior Analysis International.

In 2023, we continued to expand our membership, update the functionality of our website, continued to increase our social media presence, and continued with our annual DEI series. In summer 2023, in collaboration with BehaviorLive, we hosted three virtual CEU events via our "Growing with the Seasons" DEI series. Two out of three of our speakers were Georgia-based behavior analysts. Speakers for the 2023 DEI series were Daniel Conine, Gereen Francis, and Nasiah Cirincione-Ulezi. We hosted 35 registrants for this virtual series in 2023.

In 2023, we held our 15th annual GABA conference on November 11th, 2023 with two pre-convention workshops on November 10th, 2023. The conference and pre-conference workshops were held via a hybrid model of

in person as well as virtual access through BehaviorLive. We had an exceptional lineup of speakers including Linda LeBlanc, Claire St Peter, Landria Seals Green, Karen Toussiant, Chris Manente, and Julia Iannacone. We also had pre-conference workshops from Linda LeBlanc, Landria Seals Green, and Andrew Bulla. Additionally, Jesse Dallery was invited to speak on Friday November 10th as our first annual student invited speaker. We had 400 individuals attend the conference in person and 53 attended virtually. A poster session was also held at the annual conference with more than 33 presentations. Poster awards were provided for Undergraduate Poster, Graduate Poster, and Innovative Application in Behavior Analysis.

Two new board positions went into effect in 2023. The GABA board voted to create a standing Public Policy board position as well as a standing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) position in 2022 and GABA members nominated and elected two members to each of those positions.

In Spring 2024, we plan to offer three CEU events with a focus on diversity and inclusion in collaboration with BehaviorLive so that members can view the presentations online. We also plan to introduce a new mentorship program that will provide mentoring opportunities for up to 10 mentees throughout 2024.

GABA has plans to form an ad-hoc public policy committee in spring of 2024 to assist the board and its members in maintaining the integrity of licensure for behavior analysts in our state. We will also introduce sponsorship and fundraising opportunities to continue to support GABA's licensure efforts in the state.

In 2024, we plan to hold our 16th annual GABA conference on November 9th, 2024 with three to four pre-convention workshops on November 8th, 2024. The board will continue to offer our conference as a hybrid model to help provide access to our conference to more rural areas of Georgia. We are working to develop our schedule of presenters and content of the conference as a board currently. Information about this year's conference can be found on our website in upcoming months:

[www.georgia-aba.org](http://www.georgia-aba.org).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all board members for their hard work and dedication to the organization. This year we welcome back returning board members Cassondra Gayman, MS, BCBA (President); Videsha Marya, Ph.D., BCBA-D (President Elect); Alexis Pavlov, Ph.D., BCBA-D (Events); Ashley Carrigan, MS, BCBA (Membership and Finance); Jennifer Austin, Ph.D., BCBA-D (Student Affairs); Miguel Ampuero, Ph.D., BCBA-D (Student Affairs); Mandip Kaur, MA, BCBA (Marketing and Communications); Kayla Greene, MS, BCBA (DEI), and Adam Spencer, MA, BCBA (Public Policy). We also welcome our new board members Meara McMahon, Ph.D., BCBA-D (Events); Lyndsy

Macri, Ph.D., BCBA-D (Membership and Finance); Jennifer Donnley, M.Ed., BCBA (Marketing and Communications); Summer Bottini, Ph.D., BCBA-D (DEI); and Kristen Vaughn, MA, BCBA (Public Policy). For more information about GABA visit: [www.georgia-aba.org](http://www.georgia-aba.org).

## Hawai'i ABA

BY DEBORAH HO'OHULI-MCKINNEY

### *Chapter Accomplishments 2023: A Year of Growth and Support*

#### **HABA Board**

The 2023 HABA Board was predominantly composed of new members, each bringing with them a wealth of fresh perspectives and a diverse array of viewpoints. Their presence infused dynamism into board discussions and enhanced support for all members.

#### **2023 HABA BOD Chapter Officers**

President	Debi Ho'ohuli-McKinney, MA, BCBA, LBA
Vice President	Jenifer Olin, MA, BCBA, LBA
Past President	Roxanne Bristol, MA, BCBA, LBA
Treasurer	Amanda Bolgren, MS, BCBA, LBA
Secretary	Bill Roth Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA

#### **ABAI Annual Convention**

In 2023, HABA's President, Ms. Debi Ho'ohuli-McKinney, and Secretary, Dr. Bill Roth, journeyed to Denver for the 49th Annual ABAI Convention. Highlights included presenting a poster session, forging connections within the ABA community, and distributing Ho'okupu (offering), symbolizing our culture's warmth and generosity. We convened for our annual business meeting, hosted by ABAI, and participated in the ABA Affiliate Chapters Training, enriching our network.

#### **Maui**

##### *Provider Resources: Community*

Amidst the aftermath of the Lahaina Fire, HABA swiftly aided those affected. Led by Acting Legislative Chair, Ms. Kristen Koba-Burdt, and the organization she works with, we compiled disaster recovery resources. These resources empowered ABA providers to continue support during challenging times.

##### *Maui Relief Webinar Series: Uniting in Support*

In response to the outpouring of solidarity, HABA launched the Maui Relief Webinar Series from September 2023 to April 2024. Esteemed speakers shared expertise, courtesy of Behavior University's platform, offering complimentary registration. Attendees also earned continuing education credits through donations to local Maui Organizations, showcasing unity and support for the community in need.

#### **Annual HABA Convention**

In September 2023, amidst the uncertainties sparked by

the Maui fire, the Annual HABA Convention unfolded in Waikiki, a testament to our resilience and commitment to advancing behavior analysis. Despite initial concerns, the convention proceeded smoothly, bringing together a diverse array of local and national speakers to delve into pressing topics such as cultural humility and the intersection of behavior analysis with ancient indigenous practices.

#### **Advocacy and Legislative Efforts**

In 2023, HABA's legislative endeavors centered on actively supporting the advocacy for the state's governing department to conduct a comprehensive rate study on Medicaid (QUEST) ABA provider reimbursement rates. Our members and their affiliated agencies rallied to participate in this crucial effort, anticipating the release of the study results in January 2024.

#### **Bylaw Amendments**

The 2023 Board implemented significant Bylaw amendments, including a diversity statement and policies addressing multiple relationships and conflict of interest.

#### **Chapter Plans for the 2024 Year**

##### *Announcing the 2024 Annual HABA Convention*

The HABA Events Committee has been hard at work planning for the upcoming year. Mark your calendars for September 5th and 6th, 2024, as we host a dynamic two-day hybrid convention in the vibrant heart of Waikiki, located on the enchanting island of O'ahu, famously known as "The Gathering Place."

#### **Speaker Line-up**

Prepare to be inspired by our stellar line-up of speakers, each bringing their unique expertise and insights to the forefront. With careful consideration of our diverse membership base, topics have been thoughtfully curated based on poll results, covering areas of keen interest such as sexuality and ethics. Get ready for engaging discussions and invaluable knowledge-sharing sessions that promise to enrich and inspire all attendees.

#### **Promoting Collaboration and Unity**

At HABA, we recognize the importance of promoting collaboration and unity within our community. In line with this vision, we are committed to building bridges across disciplines and encouraging partnerships among related service providers. We are actively reaching out to the Department of Education, the Department of Health, and insurance funders to forge stronger alliances and support the growing number of behavior analysts, ©RBTs, ©BCaBAs, ©BCBAs and ©BCBA-Ds working within these settings. By working together, we can better serve our consumers and advocate for the advancement of behavior analysis in Hawaii.

#### **Advocacy and Legislative Efforts**

Our legislative committee remains dedicated to advocating

for behavior analysts and our clients.

Currently, we're focused on increasing Med-Quest rates for ABA providers. Through our efforts, we aim to drive positive change in behavior analysis.

**Focal Points**

- Fostering collaboration with other providers and professions to enhance capacity-building within our state, ensuring individuals in need of ABA services can access them from competent, trained (and licensed) providers.
- Facilitating continuing education (CE) and professional development opportunities for professionals across our state.
- Undertaking a rebranding initiative to align the organization's identity with the values upheld by the HABA membership.

In summary, 2023 was marked by resilience, solidarity, and progress for HABA. Guided by principles of excellence and community, we remain steadfast in our mission to elevate behavior analysis practice and enrich lives across Hawaii and beyond.

## Hoosier ABA

BY ANN DORLET AND AMANDA JONES

Overall, 2023 was an amazing year for HABA. Throughout the year, we continued to focus on building funds, provided our members with continuing education opportunities, assisted providers through Medicaid pay rate cuts and continued with licensure efforts. Our monthly Hoosier Happy Hours continuing education events continue to be a success. These events allow our members access to various topics in the areas of behavior analysis. Topics this year included parent training, collaboration with schools, motivational interviewing, working with adults, self-care for BCBAs, OBM topics, and training in the PFA and SBT.

In October 2023, we hosted an in-person conference in Bloomington, Indiana. Speakers included Jonathon Tarbox, John Guercio, Becca Tagg, Nick Green, and Megan DeLeon. The conference was a two-day event with 226 people in attendance. Our poster session was a success with a total of 13 posters being presented and one winner receiving a \$500 scholarship for the best overall poster presentation. Our 6th Annual Bridget Harrison Award was presented to Dr. Carl Sundberg for his continued commitment to HABA's mission and the autism population.

In regard to licensure, the rules were presented and approved by the board in December 2023.

**2024 Strategic Plan Goals**

- Finalize licensure in the state of Indiana
- Provide Monthly Hoosier Happy Hour CE events
- Hold an in-person conference in Fort Wayne, IN

- Continue to stabilize and build finances
- Continue to organize and simplify
- Set up a public policy fund

## Idaho Association of Behavior Analysis

BY AUDREY KENNEDY

The Idaho Association of Behavior Analysis (IdABA) is the Idaho affiliate chapter of ABAI. We became an affiliate chapter in 2022. IdABA closed out its 2023 membership with a total of 86 members. IdABA continues to do great things for behavior analysis in Idaho. IdABA has hosted an annual conference since 2021. In 2023, we hosted our first in-person conference, which was a great success. We had over 101 attendees come together from across the state to benefit from the great content and skills of our speaker, Dr. Frank Cicero.

IdABA's committee membership and activity continue to grow. Our CEU committee continues to offer free quarterly CEUs to our members. Our mentorship committee meets regularly to support the growing BCBA population in Idaho. Being a rural state with a high percentage of newly certified behavior analysts, some of our practitioners can feel isolated and alone. Through the dedicated work of our mentorship committee, the association has supported and grown the capacity and skills of our newer analysts.

IdABA continues to work hard to disseminate behavior analysis and remove barriers to practicing applied behavior analysis in the state. This coming year, one of the association's key objectives and goals is to work with insurers to ease the credentialing and billing processes of private insurance and continue to grow membership and participation in the association.

## Illinois ABA

BY NATALIA BAIRES

The Illinois Association for Behavior Analysis (ILABA) is an organization that strives to serve Illinois behavior analysts and their consumers through education and advocacy for the science and practice of behavior analysis. In alignment with the organizational values of curating an inclusive community, providing service and support, promoting learning, and embracing openness, ILABA encourages collaboration among behavior analysts in Illinois; fosters relations between practices and universities in Illinois; and maintains behavior analysts informed about licensure and certification, changes to insurance provision, continuing education opportunities, and public policy.

In 2024, the Board of Directors included Dr. Natalia Baires (president), Zhihui Yi (president-elect), Kelly Russell (secretary), Bridget Muñoz (communications



coordinator), Marla Root (treasurer), Stephanie Howard (conference coordinator), Melinda Miller (past conference coordinator), Jasmine Dettmering (member at large; chair of legislative affairs), Ruchi Sharma (member at large; chair of the diversity, equity, and inclusion committee), Manish Goyal (member at large; chair of practitioner affairs), Dr. Lesley Shawler (member at large; chair of academic affairs), and Catrina Barber (student representative).

During the previous year, ILABA hosted an exhibitor table at the 74th Annual State Fall Convention for the Council for Exceptional Children, which is a professional association of educators dedicated to advancing the success of children with exceptionalities. Moreover, ILABA engaged in numerous efforts towards pursuing licensure in Illinois (a history of ILABA's legislative efforts can be read here). ILABA also released a board position statement on the Middle East and North East Central African Conflict.

To prepare for our first hybrid annual conference, which was held on April 4–5, 2024 in Naperville, IL, ILABA formed a conference workgroup, which created a space for ILABA members to network with one another and lead various initiatives related to conference planning. Finally, ILABA created a new Instagram page (@ILABAofficial), which frequently posts updates from the organization.

To become an ILABA member, interested parties can become a Full member (must hold a minimum of a master's degree in psychology, behavior analysis, or a related discipline), Student/Technician member (must be 1] currently enrolled in a college degree program or in a post-graduate training program in behavior analysis or a related discipline and/or 2] working full or part time in the delivery of behavior analytic services under the supervision of a behavior analyst), or Affiliate member (i.e., individuals who do not qualify as Full or Student/Technician Member) by visiting the ILABA website.

Finally, there are several ways to connect with ILABA including the ILABA website, ILABA Facebook page, ILABA Instagram, ILABA LinkedIn, and by emailing the ILABA President.

## Iowa ABA

BY SEAN SAITO

The Iowa Association for Behavior Analysis annual member's meeting was held in-person at Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston IA, on Friday, October 13th in conjunction with the 11th annual conference. There were a number of newly elected board members. Sara Jeglum was elected president-elect (3-year term), Meghan Faria was elected secretary (2-year term), Autumn McKeel was elected Member At-Large (2-year term), and Amanda Weaver elected as Student Member.

In 2023, Iowa ABA offered 14 CEUs to members through conference and workshop opportunities. In the summer of 2023, a 4-hour supervision workshop was held

for members. Dr. Elizabeth Hughes Fong was invited to present (virtually) which included supervision CEUs on the topic of Supervision and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. In the fall of 2023, Iowa ABA held a pre-conference workshop offering four CEUs led by Dr. Kelly Vinquist from The University of Iowa on Interdisciplinary Teams and the Use of Applied Behavior Analysts within a Hospital Setting. At our annual conference, six CEUs were offered and presenters included Dr. Kelly Vinquist, Dr. Janelle Aussenhus, Dr. Nicole Hendrix, and Dr. Rocco Catrone. Monetary support for the conference was provided by local, state, and regional organizations with an interest in behavior analysis. Presentation topics varied and were shared with a total of 80 conference attendees.

The 12th annual conference is currently being planned and is scheduled for October 11th, 2024 at the State Historical Museum of Iowa.

The board conducts open meetings on the second Thursday of each quarter and invites members to participate in meetings and on committees.

The Legislative Action Committee continues to advocate for increased funding for ABA services through funders such as Hawki insurance. In 2023, the committee worked to eliminate caps on age and dollar amounts, supported mental health worker repayment programs, and advocating for another master's degree and certification program in Iowa.

The membership and publications committee have combined this past year with the goal of working towards finding ways to increase membership of licensed behavior analysts in the state. One of the main efforts was increased social media presence and improved communication to current membership. Our membership and publications committee also proposed options for a new Iowa ABA logo which was voted on and accepted by current board members.

According to the BACB, there are 226 BCBAAs, 3 BCaBAAs, and 18 BCBA-Ds currently listed as active in the state of Iowa. Iowa ABA currently has 75 members which is shy of 33% of the licensed behavior analysts in the state.

## Kansas ABA

BY KELLEY L. HARRISON

KansABA's mission is to (a) advance the science and practice of behavior analysis, as well as its education and training; (b) address issues relevant to the science, practice, education, and training in behavior analysis; (c) maintain disciplinary, professional, and ethical standards in the science, practice, education, and training in behavior analysis; and (d) recruit and enhance interest in behavior analysis throughout the State of Kansas and the Kansas City metropolitan area — Clay, Jackson, and Platte counties.

### Governance

KansABA is governed by an Executive Council that

consists of a president: Kelley Harrison; a full member representative: Marren Leon-Barajas; an adjunct representative: Allyson Bell, and a student representative: Lisa Ambrosek. The Council is assisted by a secretary: Stacha Leslie; and a treasurer: Brittany Mitchelson Vaughn. In addition, KansABA has a Legislative Affairs Committee: Nicole Kanaman, chair; Legislative Liaison: Lisa Popelka, Sara Diaz de Villegas, Laura Camafreita, and Karen Fry; an IT Committee: Bryan Simmons, chair; IT Liaison Matt Laske; a Professional Development committee: Christie Stiehl & Megan Schmidt, chair; and a historian: Ed Morris.

KansABA is excited to announce the following individuals were elected for incoming positions in 2023: Student member representative-elect: Lauratu Bah; Secretary-elect: Breanna Roberts; and President-elect: Allyson Bell.

Finally, KansABA would like to thank Kelley Harrison, who finished her term of service in 2022 as the chair of the Professional Development committee.

### Membership

KansABA updated their bylaws in 2023 to expand membership options. Specifically, membership includes not only those who reside in the Kansas or Kansas City Metropolitan area, but also those who practice within these locations as well as those who are enrolled in educational programs that reside within these locations. Additionally, requirements to become a full member or an adjunct member were clarified to include individuals whose degrees are from both accredited and nonaccredited programs (full member), to not require a thesis component to be accepted (full member), and to not require higher education (adjunct member). Finally, a new membership category was added—Stakeholders—to expand KansABA’s representation to individuals who have a stake in behavior analysis, but do not practice behavior analysis as a professional. This may include but is not limited to caregivers, parents, or guardians of individuals consuming or affected by behavior analytic services, individual consumers of services, teachers, or paraprofessionals.

Moving forward, KansABA offers membership to individuals who reside, practice, or are enrolled in an educational program that resides in Kansas or the Kansas City Metropolitan area—including Clay, Jackson, and Platte counties. KansABA has membership categories for Full Members: for individuals that possess the minimum of a master’s degree in behavior analysis, psychology, or a related discipline; Adjunct Members: for any practicing professional in the field of behavior analysis, psychology, or related discipline who possesses any degree below a master’s degree or who has not completed higher education; Student members: for individuals who are currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate academic degree program,

internship, certification program, or resident program relevant to a career in behavior analysis, psychology, or other related discipline; Stakeholders: for any individual who has a state in the field of behavior analysis but is not practicing behavior analysis as a professional; and Lifetime Members: for individuals who provide considerable support for KansABA for above the required amount (lifetime members receive free membership and conference registration indefinitely).

Membership includes registration at the annual April KansABA conference, which in turn includes admission to the conference’s Career and Education Fair, snacks and drinks throughout the conference, lunch, and an evening reception. The membership year is conference to conference.

### Conferences & Workshops

In 2023, we hosted our annual conference in a hybrid format. Our conference’s theme was “Clinical Services Across the Lifespan: From Research to Practice.” Featured presenters included Dorothea Lerman (University of Houston, Clear Lake), “Current Research and Practice on Improving Job-Related Social and Problem-Solving Skills”; Jon Baker (Western Michigan University), “Promoting Successful Aging Through the Lifespan for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities”; Katrina Ostmeyer (Beyond the Individual, LLC), “A Guide Through the Maze: Meeting Clinical Needs of Diverse Populations in Behaviorally-Oriented Private Practice”; Byron Wine (The Faison Center & University of Virginia), “Decreasing Employee Injuries in Human Services”; and Ilene Schwartz (University of Washington), “Project DATA 25 Years Later: What We Have Learned From a Quality of Life Influenced EIBI Program.” We also held a business meeting, a Behaviorists for Social Responsibility SIG meeting, and a student poster session during the annual conference. Finally, we presented the 2023 KansABA Service Award to Matt Laske for his outstanding contributions to the KansABA organization and the 2023 Outstanding Contributions to Behavior Analysis in Kansas to Max Foster, former Executive Director of the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board.

In 2023, we hosted two virtual workshops. Our first workshop’s theme was “Enhancing the Maintenance and Generalization of Staff’s Implementation of Healthy Behavioral Practices” and was presented by Nicole Kanaman (Goodlife Innovations). Our second workshop’s theme was “A Behavioral Crisis in Education: The Behavior Analyst as the School Consultant” and was presented by Anika Kosta (The Operant Teacher).

Both workshops and the annual conference provide our members with professional development opportunities, networking opportunities, and general, supervision, and ethical continuing education credits. Upcoming workshop

and annual conference information can be found on KansABA's website.

### Special Interest Groups

KansABA's members have a range of interests in teaching, research, service, and practice. To support them, KansABA encourages the development of special interest groups (SIGs). In this, KansABA will (a) assist them with recruitment, promotion, and dissemination; (b) publish SIG news and announcements on the KansABA website and in its conference program; (c) host SIG business meetings at the KansABA conferences; (d) co-sponsor continuing education events; and (e) maintain links between the SIGs and KansABA's websites.

KansABA currently has one SIG called "Behaviorists for Social Responsibility" (BFSR). Their mission is to promote and advance the application of the science of behavior to address social issues, particularly those with social justice, human rights, and environmental implications. All are welcome to join the SIG. Benefits of membership include professional development, network opportunities, research and service opportunities, access to resources, and topics of interest. This year, the BFSR continued regular meetings and advocacy efforts.

### Legislation and Licensure

Our Legislation Committee continues to monitor and inform KansABA members of matters related to licensure requirements and related information through the quarterly KansABA newsletter and throughout the website legislation page. This year, there were no reported changes with respect to Kansas or Missouri licensure. However, the committee continued to work with the Kansas Grassroots ABA group. Together, these teams are identifying ways to better reach and support individuals across the state of Kansas. Their current initiatives include identifying and disseminating resources to help practitioners secure funding for services in the state of Kansas, bringing practitioners from across the state (and especially in rural areas) together for networking and support opportunities through virtual quarterly meetings, and working with state legislators to increase funding opportunities for individuals with diagnoses other than autism and for adults with disabilities.

### KansABA Web Site & Online Presence

KansABA is excited to announce a new website in 2024! Our IT chair, Bryan Simmons, transitioned our previous website to a new platform that will allow for easier and expanded access to member resources. Please visit us at [www.Kansaba.org](http://www.Kansaba.org). In fact, if you type "KansABA" into Google's search engine, you will see that KansABA has six of the first seven listings. We will continue to update and expand the site as we continue to grow.

KansABA is also excited to announce an active Facebook and LinkedIn profile in 2024! Our IT chair,

Bryan Simmons, manages our presence on both platforms to engage our members year-round. Please follow us on both platforms under the name "Kansas Association for Behavior Analysis" for the most up-to-date information on KansABA activities.

### Initiatives in 2023–2024

KansABA hopes to continue to grow as a professional organization and as a valuable resource for practicing and aspiring behavior analysts in the state of Kansas. As such, we have several initiatives this year. This includes (1) electing a Stakeholder Member Representative and engaging members who join our new membership category—stakeholders, (2) reformatting educational events to ensure we support individuals across the state of Kansas practicing in a variety of settings, and (3) increasing KansABA's presence in state legislative activity.

## Lone Star ABA

BY GERALD E. HARRIS

LSABA has been in existence for 15 years now. We have accomplished a lot in that time but the Covid-19 pandemic temporarily interrupted our activities and started a re-examination of our activities and procedures. The Lone Star Applied Behavior Analysts (LSABA) chapter was established in 2009 to provide community support for professionals and students in the field of applied behavior analysis. Houston area members include practitioners as well as educators, and those who work in either the public or private sectors or both. While a majority of the members are involved in the application of ABA to children with autism, LSABA recognizes and supports those professionals who demonstrate the utility of ABA in application to a variety of populations and needs.

The past year went well, and also saw the continuing recovery of our group. The regular LSABA meetings were used to plan and work on activities to support and increase cohesiveness of local practitioners of ABA.

We hosted an exciting educational conference featuring Dr. Hanley to area ABA practitioners. One of the most exciting activities of LSABA previously was the conducting conferences focusing on important aspects of ABA. This conference occurred in the summer and was very well attended. The feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive and continuing education credits were provided for attendance. We are now working on a workshop/conference tentatively scheduled for June which should be very well received by the ABA community.

LSABA is now mostly recovered from the pandemic and continues to be very appreciative of support and recognition from the state chapter, TxABA. There remains a good system of information exchange in place with TxABA, and LSABA and its members individually participate in and assist with TxABA activities and events, such as the annual TxABA convention.

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

Overall, for a now maturing organization of 15 years LSABA appears to have a strong foundation and a good track record of accomplishments. LSABA is certainly blessed with having dedicated and caring members, and excellent support from the ABA professional establishment. We will continue to promote the field of applied behavior analysis and serve the local community.

## Louisiana Behavior Analysis Association

BY TRICIA CLEMENT-JAMES

### *Mission and History*

The mission of the Louisiana Behavior Analysis Association (LaBAA) is to promote 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 (BA) through research, education, and practice, and to promote access to responsible BA services by professionals sufficiently trained in the discipline of BA and compliance with relevant ethics standards.

LaBAA was established in April of 2012 as a 501c(4) and became an ABAI affiliate state chapter in the fall of 2012. LaBAA is also an affiliate of APBA and a BACB ACE provider. LaBAA serves as a scientific, professional, and networking group for its members. LaBAA also promotes access to behavior analysis services in the state of Louisiana.

### **Officers**

LaBAA is governed by an Executive Committee comprised of a president, past president, president-elect, treasurer, and secretary. 2023–2024 officers are: Tricia Clement-James, PhD, BCBA-D, LBA, president; Savannah Joseph, M.Ed., BCBA, LBA, president-elect; Megan Matherne Perkins, MA, BCBA, LBA, treasurer; Tara Williamson, MA, BCBA, LBA, secretary; and Scott Williamson, MA, 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. 2022–2023 regional representatives are Chad Favre, BCBA, LBA; Jenny Cronier, BCBA, LBA; Katie Jenkins, BCBA, LBA; Danica Savoie, BCBA, LBA; and Danielle Bratton, BCBA, LBA. Loretta Bateman is the student representative and Sara McCumsey is the parent representative. The legislative chair is Grant Gautreaux, PhD, 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 Full/Affiliate Membership*

- Professional representation: LaBAA is committed to protecting the interests of LaBAA
- BCBA's in the Louisiana state legislature
- Consumer/affiliate representation: LaBAA is committed to protecting the interests of consumers of ABA
- The right of Full Members to vote in all matters brought before LaBAA
- The option for Full and Affiliate Members to post employment opportunities on the LaBAA website
- Professional, advocacy, and networking opportunities for all levels of membership
- Benefits of Student Membership
- Opportunities to network with other students and professionals in the field
- Opportunities to assist with planning and hosting of annual LaBAA conference
- Opportunities to serve on LaBAA committees

LaBAA currently has 369 members.

### **2023 Conference**

LaBAA celebrated 10 years of hosting the Gulf Coast ABA Conference in the fall of 2023. This past conference was the first return to an in-person conference since the fall of 2019. Conference co-chairs were Katie Jenkins and Janice Huber. Presenters included Dr. Megan DeLeon, Dr. T.V. Joe Layng, Dr. Pat Friman, Dr. Mary Jane Weiss, Dr. Denise Ross-Page, Dr. James Moore, and local LaBAA member presentations.

### **Other Activities and Initiatives**

#### *2024 Conference*

LaBAA is currently planning the 2024 Gulf Coast ABA conference. Conference co-chairs are Katie Jenkins and Daniel NoackLeSage. The Gulf Coast ABA Conference will be held October 4–5, 2023, in New Orleans, Louisiana. Conference highlights include a keynote and invited presenters, a workshop, poster session, student poster competition, and will provide a venue for local and regional behavior analysts researchers to share their research. To learn more about LaBAA and the conference, visit: [www.labaa.net](http://www.labaa.net).

#### *Louisiana Coalition for Access to Autism Services (LCASS):*

LaBAA has partnered with LCAAS to secure professional legislative services. As the state of behavior analysis continues to take shape within Louisiana, LaBAA has been very active in ensuring that the development and growth of behavior analysis remains beneficial to further developing the science of behavior analysis, the practice of behavior analysts, the mentoring of students of behavior

analysis, and most importantly advocating for consumers of behavior analytic 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.

#### Louisiana Behavior Analyst Board (LBAB) Appointments

LaBAA collaborated with LBAB to conduct an election for open board positions. LaBAA submitted four nominees to the governor's office, all of which were LaBAA members. ❖

#### FELLOWS continued from page 15

Board Coordinator for the annual meeting of ABAI and currently serves on the ABAI Science Board. Dr. Sanabria also serves as program chair and president-elect of the Society for the Quantitative Analysis of Behavior (SQAB), on the Executive Boards of SEAB and APA Division 25. He has also been a member of the editorial board of the Journal of Experimental Psychology: Animal Learning and Cognition; the Journal of Neuroscience, Psychology, and Economics; and Behavioral Neuroscience; among others. He has published over 70 empirical and theoretical papers and chapters on basic behavioral processes, as well as the entry on Pavlovian and instrumental conditioning for the Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Psychology and a textbook on learning and conditioning. Dr. Sanabria's research has been funded by NIH and NSF. ❖



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### QABA Credentialing Board

*The future of international ABA credentialing*



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[www.abainternational.org/learning-center.aspx](http://www.abainternational.org/learning-center.aspx)

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

### AARBA Association for the Advancement of Radical Behavior Analysis

BY CARLA LASAGNA DEL VAL

Throughout 2023–24 AARBA has been actively involved in various initiatives, specifically regarding the BA community and the growth and strengthening of our discipline in the educational, political, research and organizational fields. We are glad to share what we have done to date, hoping to inspire other Chapters and to accomplish even more satisfactory results in the future.

#### DISSEMINATION & BA COMMUNITY

As tradition, even for this year we will be holding the 20th edition of our Scientific European Congress on Applied Behavior Analysis. As every year the event will be formed by two different parallel sessions: one focusing on the implementation of the science in the field of autism and clinical field and the second one in BBS and PM projects. The exact day of the event still has not been officially presented, since we are still evaluating the availability of the international speakers that will be presenting at the event and the possibility of organizing a lecture directed to the Italian Health Ministry, with the aim of presenting the specific guidelines on the application of ABA, mainly connected to the clinical application.

During the month of October (11th–12th), we renewed our commitment to Ambiente-Lavoro, the biggest Italian fair about environment and safety at work. Even for such an event we had the opportunity to participate in person, by holding two presentations. The first presentation was held by one of the AARBA researchers, focusing on the importance of the role of a supervisor in the context of working environments, mainly explaining how the new Italian law follows the principles of the science of behavior analysis. More specifically, the Italian new law has declared that all supervisors have the role and obligation to support their own colleagues through the measurement of behavior and when necessary, even applying specific techniques to modify them. Being able to finally present all the work that the AARBA organization, specifically the President, has been doing for more than 20 years on spreading the knowledge and importance of the science, connected to the Italian law is immensely rewarding. Through this specific presentation we have been able to not only show and explain the effectiveness of behavior analysis, more into details when talking about the results of behavior based safety protocols, the tool that the government is finally asking for. The second presentation was conducted by our President, aiming to explain how observations and measurements based on behaviors are what makes a process in terms of security succeed. Having the

opportunity to participate in person this year helped us with the continued promotion and divulgation of the science of behavior analysis, specifically in Italy. We prepared a stand where people had the possibility to find information (articles, research, fliers of the courses we provide and data to provide real life examples) regarding the science of behavior analysis and specifically its application in the field of BBS.

The President of the association, for various years, has been collaborating with dentists in the application and creation of seminars and protocols focusing on the implementation of behavior analysis strategies in the dentistry field. Through the creation of presentations and specific courses, that focus on various arguments, such as the patience compliance, motivation of the team, motivation to improve the quality of the treatment given to the patient, clinical risk reduction, support for people with specific diagnosis, developing a behavioral system analysis and more. All of them have been created through the use and adoption of evidence proven systems that allows individuals to measure theirs and others' behaviors.

One of the most recent activities that has been done in relation to the dissemination and continued spreading of the BA community is the renovation of the Autism SIG of AARBA, by determining a new president and new scientific committee formed by five professionals, all of them directly involved in the field of behavior analysis. The special interest group is composed of members who share interest in a particular field, in this case, in the field of behavior analysis in relation to individuals diagnosed with autism or developmental disabilities. Its component members are professionals in the field, behavior technicians, students, family members, caregivers or stakeholders. The mission of the SIG is:

- To promote evidence-based practices regarding the treatment of individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder.
- To promote best practices in relation to procedures/interventions based on the principles of applied behavior analysis in relation to individuals diagnosed with autism.
- To help individuals diagnosed with autism, their families identify components of evidence-based practices, quality behavioral interventions, and effective treatments.
- Help protect individuals diagnosed with autism and their families from ineffective, non-evidence-based and/or potentially harmful treatments.
- Serve as a scientific and professional reference and networking group for its members.
- Activities.
- Promote the sharing of research worldwide and have contacts with the most accredited professionals in the field.

## HIGHER EDUCATION

During the past years one of the most important aims of the association is to continue with the dissemination of the science of behavior analysis, specifically providing the adequate education and training for professionals in the field. For this reason, the AARBA team has been working on the development of the third edition of the educational course on behavior analysis, following the requirements and standards that ABAI has determined with the Tiered Model of Education. The course represents valuable training for all inspiring future behavior analysts in its various fields of application (autism, OBM, CBA, etc.). In addition to current and future professionals in the BA field, the course is also intended and available for all individuals who simply want to learn more about the principles of the science by following a highly structured course.

The main goal is to offer quality training to future behavior analysts in accordance with international standards. By the end of the program participants will be able to:

- Recognize and implement on a practical side, the theoretical concepts learned during the training, following and being aware of the possible ethical and professional implications.
- Implement objective and thorough preliminary assessments to accurately determine the user's real needs.
- Design intervention schemes aimed at meeting the user's needs in a sustainable and lasting manner.
- Build from scratch and adapt pre-existing tools needed for behavioral interventions.
- Structure reliable and replicable measurement systems suitable for accounting for the effectiveness of its interventions.
- Monitor and support the progress of interventions run by others under one's own leadership and responsibility.
- Recognize the philosophical references underlying one's discipline.

In addition, based on previous feedback provided by students in the last courses, an additional module focusing entirely on the practical side of the learning has been adopted. This module focuses on the "laboratories." Ninety-six hours from the entire course are entirely dedicated to the laboratories, divided between four professors, all of them focusing on different topics, but connected between each other. Students will be conducting various practical exercises, both in group and individually, through the supervision and feedback of the professor.

With this continued education we really hope to continue to bring a change in our country, Italy, not only in terms of the knowledge of ABA, but most importantly, on the correct and specific implementation that needs to be adopted, in all the field, from the one related to BBS

process to the ABA in schools and home environments. The project of developing specific courses in behavior analysis is something AARBA is willing to continue working on, not only to support the people that need a behavior analysis base treatment, but even for the behavior analysts themselves.

As every year, we continued with the specific 80-hours B-BS post-graduate course, with the launch of the 50th edition. The course focuses not only on the theoretical background of behavior analysis and its implementation on the OBM field, but even on the practical aspects (creating a checklist, presentation of data analysis, conducting safety meetings, etc.) of a process. With the start of 2023 the course, that was initially conducted entirely online, it now includes two practical sessions entirely in person, therefore giving people the possibility to know each other and therefore make contacts.

During the last years, safety has started to become always a more important and discussed argument in Italy. There is still a big misconception and lack of knowledge on the importance of behavior in relation to safety culture. AIAS (Associazione Italiana Ambiente e Sicurezza) and Assolombarda are two important organizations in Italy. AIAS represents safety related issues in the working environment and Assolombarda is the association of companies (7.078 Associated companies) operating in the Metropolitan City of Milan and in the provinces of Lodi, Monza and Brianza, Pavia. In 2023 a collaboration between AARBA and these two entities has been established, with the main objective of organizing specific training courses, both theory and practice, on the application of behavior analysis through BBS protocols. Through these courses, the objective is to spread the knowledge on the importance of behavior and the effectiveness of BBS, specifically for small and medium organizations, where little support is being provided.

## COMPANIES CONSULTING

As far as major Italian and multinational companies support, we followed up our commitment in the territory and even in outside, such as in Spain, Germany, France, and Holand with interventions based on training and OBM principles. Through the years the President of the association has been invited to participate at Safety Day events, organized by organizations that are willing to implement and adopt a BBS protocol, or expand the knowledge to all levels.

As you can see, we are working hard on several fronts to promote applied behavior analysis knowledge and technologies in public and private institutions, with the hope of achieving further and greater results.

See you next year!

## ABA Colombia

BY CAMILO HURTADO-PARRADO

ABA Colombia's strategic plan 2021–2025 aims for growth and positioning of behavior analysis in the region. During the past years, the association continued to focus on four related areas of interest, namely: (a) continuous-education events, (b) memberships and affiliations, (c) a system for recognition of credentials and training of behavior analysts in Colombia, and (d) dissemination-communication.

As per ABA Colombia's bylaws, a new board was elected last year, with incoming Chair (President) Laura Suarez, Vice-President Arturo Clavijo, Secretary Karen Henao, Treasurer Yors Garcia, and Members-at-Large Camilo Hurtado-Parrado, Diana Vergara, Diego Rozo, and Maria Isabel Munoz.

An important motion approved by the board was ABA Colombia's partnering with another behavior-analytic Colombian organization CIIAC—Centro de Investigación e Innovación en Análisis de la Conducta (Center for Research and Innovation in Behavior Analysis). The plan includes sharing resources and initiatives to maximize impact in Colombia and the region. Some members of ABA Colombia's board also serve on CIIAC's board, which is expected to facilitate integration. Aligned with the main areas of interest for ABA Colombia and CIIAC (events, education, dissemination) is the programming of behavior analytic events and increasing social media presence. With this in mind, the two organizations will be hosting an academic and professional event in the week of September 16–20, 2024 in Bogota, Colombia. National and international guest speakers will present and discuss conceptual, experimental, and applied areas of behavior analysis, with an emphasis on contributions from Latin America. An invited panel in which the present and past presidents of ABA Colombia will discuss the history and future of ABA Colombia is one of the main events to be scheduled.

One of the main challenges ABA Colombia continues facing is maintaining its non-profit academic organization status under constant changes in increasingly complex legal and taxation requirements and associated operational costs. This is another area that is expected to be strengthened with the CIIAC partnership.

Lastly, ABA Colombia collaborated with ABA Spain in the development of a counter-misinformation hub in Spanish using funds from a SABA Public Awareness Grant 2022 titled “No es cierto! Countering Misinformation about Behavior Analysis in Spanish: Creation and Dissemination of Materials Based on an Evidence-Based Template by Paynter et al. (2019)”. The hub is available at [www.infoaba.com/](http://www.infoaba.com/) and includes free access to translations of strategic behavior analytic articles to Spanish and infographics expected to aid in the education, dissemination, and advocacy of behavior-analytic science and practice across target populations

(parents and caregivers, educators, students, policymakers, and health-services providers). The design of these materials was guided by research on effective procedures to reduce misinformation about behavioral interventions (Paynter et al., 2019, 2021). This “template for countering misinformation” includes manipulations related to increasing source credibility, alignment with values of the target population, using strategic types of rules (e.g., descriptive or injunctive), using warning stimuli that guard against engaging with misinformation sources, increasing salience of relevant stimuli, and designing graphics tailored to boost corrective impact, increase attention and retention, and reduce counterarguing behavior.

## ABA España/ Universidad de Cádiz

BY AIDA TARIFA-RODRÍGUEZ

AND JAVIER VIRUÉS-ORTEGA

During the 2023–2024 period, ABA España has consolidated and expanded its impact in behavior analysis through several initiatives. A significant milestone has been continuing its partnership with the University of Cadiz (Spain), strengthening a consortium intended to provide university-based training to aspiring behavior analysts across the Spanish-speaking world. This institutional collaboration has also created opportunities for research, editorial, and graduate training initiatives.

On the publishing side, ABA España has added three critical titles to its collection this past year: Malott and Kohler's “Principles of Behavior,” Susan Schneider's “The Science of Consequences,” and Skinner's “Beyond Freedom and Dignity.” These additions reflect our commitment to the dissemination of critical literature in behavior analysis. The forthcoming publication of new projects within the next few months, such as a new edition of Skinner's “Verbal Behavior” and the latest edition of “Behavior Analysis for Teachers” by Alberto et al., anticipates further contributions to the academic and professional community. Also, we have donated and sold books at cost at various events this year, such as OMPAC-Oaxaca 2023 (Mexico), ABAI 2023 in Denver, and PsicoFest 2023 in Granada (Spain), in addition to specialized webinars of the Latino Association for Behavior Analysis, Behavior University, and others. Overall, more than 3000 books from our collection now populate the shelves of a growing community. This line of work has been recently recognized in a special issue of Behavior Analysis in Practice:

*“[H]aving books, articles, and other resources translated to other languages is a pressing issue in our field. Translations available of books published by ABA España ... include some of the most important work in the field ...”* (Arroyave Tefel, 2024, p. 4)

With the support of an ABAI international grant, we have initiated a multi-year project focusing on the



publication of monographs on current topics in behavior analysis. The first monograph focuses on professional ethics and is co-edited by Dr. Sarah Mead Jasperse. This new title promises to contribute to the discussion and understanding of ethical issues in professional practice for the Spanish-speaking professional community. We have also partnered with an ABAAI grantee, our long-term collaborator, Dr. Camilo Hurtado Parrado, to develop the InfoABA platform. Among other content, the platform features infographic materials intended to demystify common misconceptions about ABA-based intervention for autism, broadening access to reliable, evidence-based, and consumer-friendly information.

In addition, ABA España has established this year a pioneering agreement with the Journal for the Experimental Analysis of Behavior for the translation into Spanish and publication of selected JEAB articles. This effort will improve the accessibility of fundamental research in behavior analysis for Spanish speakers.

In summary, ABA España's activity during the 2023–2024 period reflects a continued commitment to education, research, advocacy, and outreach in behavior analysis.

#### Reference

Arroyave Tefel, J. (2024). *The Waxing and Waning of Establishing Behavior Analysis in a Latin American Country*. Behavior Analysis in Practice. doi.org/10.1007/s40617-024-00923-3

## ABA Australia

BY ALEXANDRA BROWN

ABA Australia continues to grow and develop. Since we began taking memberships for Certified Behaviour Analysts in August 2022, our numbers have steadily increased and re-certification rates are stable. In November 2023, members of our executive board published an article in Behavior Analysis in Practice (Haberlin et al., 2023) which documents our journey to self-regulation.

In 2023, we began our Ethics Discussion Groups. These groups are for members to enhance their knowledge about ABA Australia's Code of Ethical Practice. Topics so far have been on cultural humility, supervisor competence, responsible business practice, and self-care. We look forward to hosting these groups into 2025 and beyond.

Behind the scenes, we continue to have a number of working groups who are tackling our long-term goals of dissemination of behaviour analysis and recognition of behaviour analysts within our government, insurance, and allied health systems. We thank all of our board members and active volunteers for their efforts.

Our annual conference in Brisbane in July 2023 was our biggest yet. It was a pleasure to host our keynote speakers, Dr. Louis Hagopian and Drs. Jill Dardig and Bill Heward, along with many invited speakers and local presenters. We are confident 2024 will be just as successful.

ABA Australia representatives attended the conference in Philadelphia in May 2024. As always, ABAAIs support for international chapters at the Affiliate Chapter Training was also very much appreciated by our attending board members. As we look forward to the next year, we will continue to work toward our ever-growing goals, with pride for our profession.

#### Reference

Haberlin, A.T., Furrminger, M.A., Brown, A.L., & Connolly, C. M. (2023). Regulation Down Under. Behavior Analysis In Practice. https://doi.org/10.1007/s40617-023-00879-w

## ABA Germany

BY NIKKI CONDIT

The Association for Behavior Analysis Deutschland (ABA-D) is devoted to representing and communicating ABA to the German public as a socially, ethically viable and scientifically-based therapeutic intervention in various settings.

2023 was a notable year for ABA-D. Our first online conference held on April 22, 2023, was a great success and consisted of four exciting presentations and a very interesting exchange of experiences. More than 70 people took part in the conference. Due to its success, we will now be hosting annual conferences. In 2024, we will be hosting our second online conference, with Gregory Hanley giving the keynote address.

ABA-D is now a CEU provider and we offer our association members to collect continuing education credits through regular lectures. The first lecture of our lecture series took place on September 25, 2023 with Nicholas Maio-Aether (MAMFT, MSPSY, LBA, CSC, BCBA). The topic focused on sexuality and autism. Our next guest speaker was Gregory Hanley (Ph.D., BCBA, LBA) who presented on: An Effective and Humane Approach for Addressing Problem Behavior. Throughout 2023, we have had over 230 individuals attend our various online events. We will continue to hold these online presentations with the option to earn continuing education credits. Additionally, we have an ABA-D Journal Club, which is held online at regular intervals. We remain committed to our mission to spread knowledge of behavior analysis to professionals and parents, promote the science in Germany, and invite more members and professionals join us. For further information or to join the chapter, please visit:

[www.aba-d.de](http://www.aba-d.de)

## ABA India

BY TEJASHREE GAMBHIR AND SMITA AWASTHI

#### MISSION STATEMENT

*“Our mission is to promote excellence in the field of applied behavior analysis through collaboration, education, and advocacy.”*

Applied Behavior Analysis Association of India has had

an eventful year. We are immensely happy to jot down the happenings of past as ABAI affiliated chapter A team of behavior analysts residing in India came together in July 2022 and formed a core group. The main purpose of this group was to reframe the bylaws, discuss and add most relevant ethical guidelines, include cultural perspectives and recreate a nationwide platform for the benefit of the field of ABA in India to protect the clients and the professionals working in India.

On 7 April 2024, an election meeting was conducted where all the behavior analysts working in India were invited. These professionals were addressed by the core team and were briefed about the recent developments. An election was conducted to form the executive council and regional executive council members.

Applied Behavior Analysis Association of India was registered under Section 10 of the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975 (Tamil Nadu Act 27 of 1975) in February 2024.

ABAAI held its 1st Annual Professional Conference on 2nd and 3rd March, 2024 in Chennai where certified professionals and students of ABA presented their work via paper and poster presentations. The conference was well attended and people travelled from across the country and met face to face. International invited speaker Dr Manish Vaidya and Dr Smita Awasthi from India were the keynote speakers who addressed the audience with their valuable knowledge and experience in the field.

A General Body Meeting was conducted on 3rd March 2024 where various committees were formed to delegate different work agendas for the association. The Membership Committee, Training and Education Committee, Ethics Committee, Events Committee, Advocacy and Outreach Committee, Research and Collaboration and Social Media Committee.

## ABA in Nigeria

BY BOSEDE E ASIKHIA

ABAN was established and approved by ABAI 2017.

**Vision:** *The advancement of the science of ABA by partnering with WBADA to increase understanding, recognition, acceptance, and the use.*

**Value:** *To ensure standardization through monitoring and ethical guideline adherence.*

**Mission of ABAN:** *To promote the competent practice of applied behavior analysis, education and training, appropriate services, advocacy, and the globalization of ABA. It is meant to promote international cooperation and to sensitize Nigerians in diaspora about the need for collaboration with ABAN.*

### ABAN EXCO MEMBERS

Bosede Asikhia	President, ABAN
Francis Mohie	Vice President
Helen Oshikoya	Secretary
Tinuola Olaiya	Treasurer
Dr. Edward Usifo Asikhia	Ethic Committee Chair

### ABAN REGIONAL COORDINATORS

West Coordinators	Temitope Osoba, QBA Monisola Olorunfemi, BCaBA Bello Olushola, QASP-S
North Coordinators	Angela Ikomola, QBA Danjuma Manjil, ABA-T
East Coordinator	Dr. Tina Irimoren, QBA Gift Dikio, ABA-T

### ABAN VIRTUAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

#### March 18, 2023

ABAN/WBADA/ITC: Bridging the Gap through training. Free CEU for active members. In commemoration of the World Behavior Analysis Day Celebration

#### August 31, 2023

ABAN encourages diversity and inclusiveness in the field of behavior analysis broadly, and within the organization specifically [Exco members and regional coordinators meetings].

#### February 10, 2024

ITC-ABA/ABAN: Edo State College of Education & International Training Center for Applied Behavior Analysis: The Science of Behavior Analysis Initiatives in Nigerian Tertiary Institutions [Inception Ceremony].

#### March 3, 2024

ABAN Connects stakeholders to raise awareness about the Science of Behavior Analysis and ABAN's mission through collaboration.

#### March 23, 2024

ABAN &WBAD Connect the dots [Harmony in Diversity] Free 4 CEUs and 7 discounted CEUs training @ \$1 for ABAN Active Members. In commemoration of the World Behavior Analysis Day Celebration.

WBADA and ABAN partnership agreement was approved in April 2024.

ABAN Commemorates World Autism Awareness Day Celebration through:

- TVC News talks [Abuja Studio] Nigeria and YouTube by ABAN Vice President and the Director of IKE Foundation for Autism Francis Mohie talked about the diagnosis, assessment, red flags of autism, and ABA as an effective intervention while the First
- Lady of the Federal republic of Nigeria Her Excellency Senator Oluremi Tinubu urges early diagnosis, intervention crucial to ensuring individuals reach full potential.

- ABAN members engage in Autism Awareness Month and World Behavior Analysis Day celebrations via social media, TV, radio, and visits to schools, churches, mosques, NGOs and governmental agencies.

#### FUTURE PLAN AND ONGOING PROGRAMS

- 1 ABAN capacity building initiative [liaising with approved course sequence providers, agencies, NGOs, governmental institutions]
- 2 ABAN mentorship initiative [Involves collaboration, mentorship, consultation, and supervision]
- 3 ABAN outreach programs to raise awareness, recognition, and acceptance of the science of behavior analysis [ World Behavior Analysis Day Celebration March 14th–20th, Autism Awareness Month celebration, ABAN conference, talks, and presentations]
- 4 ABAN connects stakeholders as an annual event to promote collaboration and social networking to enhance understanding, recognition, acceptance, and use of the science of behavior analysis.
- 5 ABAN intends to develop questionnaires to generate information for improving services provision to promote acceptance and use of the science of behavior analysis.
- 6 ABAN is creating opportunities for paper presentations and talks by active members during autism events, WBAD celebrations, and various outreach programs across settings.
- 7 ABAN examines and manipulates various contingencies to increase motivation and enhance service provision through monitoring to ensure adherence to ethical guidelines.
- 8 ABAN Program: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion DEI: ABAN is examining DEI at the micro and macro levels, within and outside the ABA system and the connectivity and impact within the community [ABAN, home, school, community. [Talks on DEI during EXCO and Regional Team Leaders Meetings; Area of focus for ABAN conference/event 2025].

#### ABAN MEMBERSHIP DRIVE: ONGOING

- Free registration for ABAN webinars /workshops/ conferences.
- Access to information for other free C.E.U available locally and internationally.
- Access to ABAN/others' Career Centers' job opportunities by providing list of service providers.
- Creating opportunities for participation in ABAI/ QABA conferences in-person/virtually by facilitating access to supporting documents for traveling, and more!
- Motivating ABAN active members by providing incentives, in the form of free and discounted CEU; discounted renewal registration fees intermittently

during ABA conventions/events and information about other free C.E.U available locally and internationally; posting of case scenarios for discussion through WhatsApp ABAN group platform; posting valuable professional information, and resources; providing collaborative supports and social networking within and outside the profession and creating access to mentorship/supervision/consultancy opportunities.

- Attracts potential new members by organizing annual ABAN-Connects Stakeholders meeting event for ABA professionals, parents, non-ABA professionals providing ABA services for individual with developmental disabilities.
- The Purpose of ABAN-Connects Stakeholders event:
- To share information /ideas about ABAN's mission, the science of behavior analysis, and World Behavior Analysis Day's Annual Celebration [March 14th–20th].
- To raise awareness about ABAN's benefits to members, consumers, and the community at large; the benefit of the science of behavior analysis to the consumers, professionals, and the community at large.
- To increase membership registration, and understanding, recognition, acceptance, and use of the science of behavior analysis.

## ABA Lebanon

BY SOUSAN RAZZOUK

As the tumultuous year of 2023–2024 unfolded, the Association of Behavior Analysis in Lebanon (ABAL) made several accomplishments. Some of the latter include, but are not limited to, how ABAL: expanded to include approximately 80 members, navigated significant changes to its mission/vision/bylaws, re-created its online presence, became ACE provider for BACB and CEU provider for IBAO, reinforced its commitment to ethical behavior analysis, and demonstrated unwavering support for its community during a period of regional turmoil. Below are some detailed highlights:

### I. New Leadership and Vision

ABAL initiated the year with a transformative overhaul, redefining its purpose and electing new office members. The dynamic changes were encapsulated in the reimagined mission and vision statements. These statements underscore ABAL's dedication to upholding the science of applied behavior analysis (ABA) while ensuring culturally responsive and trauma-informed support services.

#### **Mission Statement:**

*ABAL's mission is committed to uphold the science of applied behavior analysis by establishing, promoting, disseminating and maintaining high ethical, professional standards. We strive to deliver socially significant and meaningful changes celebrating the diverse and vibrant Lebanese community. Through culturally responsive and trauma-informed*

*support services, we aim to protect the rights and dignity of the communities we serve, while providing science-based effective support that promotes compassion, humility, and is accessible to all.*

**Vision Statement:**

*We aim to nurture a network that is culturally responsive, trauma-informed, and resilient, where the contingencies shaping behaviors are understood and addressed effectively. By providing evidence-based interventions and support services, we aspire to create a space of scientific dialogue that perpetually improves the delivery of ABA and promotes the well-being, rights, and dignity of all communities we serve. Together, we strive to create socially significant and meaningful changes that protect and uplift the community-cultural fabric, leaving a lasting positive impact. ABAL is dedicated to providing our members with access to the latest research and insights, allowing them to make informed decisions and contribute to the advancement of their fields. We strive to uphold scientific mindedness by analyzing the functional relationship between the interventions selected and the environmental variables and contingencies to provide effective meaningful and culturally responsive services that best meet the needs of those we serve. Compassion is at the core of our vision. We believe in growing a community that encourages empathy, kindness, and support for one another. By embracing compassion, we aspire to create a safe and nurturing space where members can connect, collaborate, and build meaningful relationships. Empowerment is a key value we uphold. We aim to equip our members with the tools, resources, and support necessary to navigate challenges and thrive in their personal and professional lives. Through resilience-building initiatives, we envision ABAL as a catalyst for empowering individuals to overcome obstacles, adapt to change, and achieve their full potential.*

**II. Public Statement and Task Force Creation**

ABAL publicly addressed the local and regional conflict, via social media and our website. The statement included importance of fostering safe relationships, applying the four principles to guide our approach (i.e., benefit others; treat others with compassion, dignity, and respect; behave with integrity; and ensure one’s own competence), and upholding standards such as non-discrimination (BACB code 1.08) and avoiding coercive behavior (BACB code 1.09). We also prioritize awareness of personal biases (BACB code 1.10) to ensure respectful and positive engagement, irrespective of cultural or religious differences. Furthermore, the statement mentioned that our communication should steer clear of inflammatory language and subjective interpretations, especially when addressing traumatic events. Aligned with our foundational principles and ethical codes, we unequivocally denounced any brutal attacks on innocent civilians. In solidarity

with global organizations, ABAL denounced violence, acknowledging the collective trauma stemming from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The association condemned human rights violations and the severe humanitarian consequences, prioritizing the mental health and well-being of all affected individuals.

Then, a task force was swiftly established to support the community during these challenging times.

**Behavioral and Psycho-Educational Support Task Force**

*The Behavioral and Psycho-Educational Support Task Force, hosted by ABAL, comprises 35+ dedicated members. The mission is to provide trauma-informed, culturally responsive, and evidence-based practices to address the unique needs of individuals and the community during crises. The task force operates as a unified team, bringing together psychology, education, and behavioral science.*

*Three sub-groups were formed, each focusing on supporting children and adolescents, individuals with special needs and their families, and adults. Guided by evidence-based practices, trauma-informed approaches, and cultural responsiveness, the task force disseminates tailor-made behavioral and psycho-educational resources through various channels, including virtual discussions, social media, and the ABAL website.*

**III. Conference and Collaboration**

ABAL continued its dedication to education and professional development by hosting the Behavior Analysis Across the Lifespan conference in September 2023. Renowned speakers presented on diverse topics, contributing to the ongoing dialogue within the ABA and SLP communities.

Additionally, collaborating with Notre Dame University, ABAL extended its reach, engaging in a lecture about ABA and its applications in the treatment of autism.

In March 2024, ABAL was hosted by the Lebanese Psychological Association to deliver a lecture on ABA to the psychologists.

In October 2024, ABAL will host its 3rd Annual Conference to further our journey of dissemination of ABA as a practice and empowering the consumers of ABA in Lebanon.

**IV. Interdisciplinary/Intersectional Conversations:**

To bridge the gap between practice, science, and other fields, we organized a series of interviews and webinars. These included:

- 1) 1) A conversation with Trauma Specialist Dr. Rana Tayara and ACT Practitioner and Behavior Analyst Ms. Sousan Razzouk, MA, BCBA, IBA, discussing the current crisis and violent conflict. The focus was on using behavior analytic language to comprehend trauma.

- 2 A conversation with Bosnian Genocide Survivor and Trauma Therapist Ms. Selma and Palestinian-American and Autism Mom Ms. Lila Ayad Al Harsha, MEd, BCBA, IBA, exploring Intergenerational Trauma and its intersection with behavior analysis.
- 3 A two-part webinar series on self-awareness for therapists featuring Canadian-Lebanese Psychologist Dr. Noor and educational psychologist, and renowned social media figure, Dr. Jana Bou Reslan. These webinars were hosted by ABAL and representing the ABA lens were board members Sousan Razzouk, BCBA, IBA and Rola El Anan, MEd, BCBA.

#### IV. Step towards regulating ABA practice in Lebanon

We have officially become legally registered as a non-profit association in Lebanon. Additionally, in an effort to begin regulating ABA practice in Lebanon, ABAL established a virtual ABA community by creating a WhatsApp network and the publication of a dedicated page on practicing ABA in Lebanon on the ABAL website. A dedicated ABAL committee has been formed to continue with this important task.

As ABAL looks towards the future, the chapter remains steadfast in its commitment to ethical behavior analysis, compassionate community building, and empowering its members to create positive, lasting impacts. The journey of 2023–2024 serves as a testament to ABAL's resilience, adaptability, and unwavering dedication to advancing the science and practice of behavior analysis in Lebanon.

## ABA Saudi Arabia

BY SARA SILSILAH

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

ABA Saudi Arabia was established with the mission to disseminate information about the science of behavior analysis and support the development of and access to behavior analytic services for people in need. To accomplish this mission, the chapter seeks to support the development of graduate opportunities for appropriate candidates in Saudi Arabia, plan and support continuing education (CE) for practicing behavior analysts, and advocate for the right to community-based access to behavior analytic services through governmental and regulatory channels. The current officers are Sara Silsilah, Ph.D, BCBA, President and Shahad Alsharif, PhD, BCBA, LBA, Vice President.

In the following section, we list several activities that have been carried out by the members of the chapter to continue our effort to disseminate behavior analysis across Saudi Arabia.

First, the chapter has established an Executive Committee to help organize activities that will be carried

out within the chapter. The committee includes 10 members with doctorate degrees in ABA and/or special education, who are based in Saudi Arabia and work within the field. The Executive Committee played an important role in organizing the first Professional Certificate in ABA commissioned by the Riyadh Second Health Cluster in collaboration with The Saudi Health Commission. The professional certificate was designed to be the first level of ABA certification to be received by practitioners in Saudi Arabia, which may be considered equivalent to the Registered Behavior Technician certification offered by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board. Practitioners eligible for certification included health practitioners that are certified by The Saudi Commission for Health Specialties. The components of the professional certificate included 64 hours of ABA course work and a competency-based assessment which covered eight content areas, including but not limited to ABA principles, assessment, measurement, skill acquisition, and ethical considerations. This development in ABA certification is a promising first step towards establishing a more formal framework for certifying ABA practitioners in Saudi Arabia. The ABAI Saudi Chapter will continue to support efforts in regulating the practice of ABA in the country.

Second, the Executive Committee is working towards establishing a mentorship program to help support newly minted behavior analyst supervisors. The mentorship program will act as a sounding board for behavior analyst supervisors and a source for support with clinical decision making and resources. The program will involve mentorship groups which will include a senior behavior analyst and five behavior analyst mentees, who will meet once a month to discuss current affairs, issues, and/or successes.

Finally, we are planning to establish a registered nonprofit professional association for ABA in the country to help organize our efforts towards creating a field that strives for excellence and growth.

ABA Saudi Arabia welcomes membership to all individuals interested or actively engaged in behavior analysis. For the time being until we become an associate chapter, any person wishing to become a member must submit a completed application form. Contact [ssilsilah@theseedsofknowledge.com](mailto:ssilsilah@theseedsofknowledge.com) for membership information.

## ABA Switzerland

BY CHARLOTTE ESCANÉ, CLAUDIA GRANT,  
AND FEDERICA CECERE

In 2023, our new website was launched, making it easier to become a member and register for our webinars. We also introduced our registry of qualified professionals. Indeed, the goal of ABA Switzerland registry is to highlight professionals with sufficient behavior analytic education and practice. Our registry criteria can be found on our website.

Four webinars were provided during the year. In May,

Tyra Sellers held a very informative talk regarding the considerations which we should all be mindful of when providing our services as a supervisor, in order to do so in the most ethical manner possible, whether for the person being supervised or for the client.

In June, Barbara Gross presented different strategies to identify when and how to address sexual behaviors and to seek help. The third webinar was held by Dithu Rajaraman. Dr. Rajaraman presented to us, in an ethical and compassionate way, the Trauma-informed Care in Applied Behavior Analytic Practice and Research. The final webinar was presented by Katrina Roberts about the use of Behavioral Skills Training to Prepare Young Adults with Autism for the Transition to Adulthood.

These interesting and varied webinars allowed ABA Switzerland to provide attractive CEU opportunities for its members and interested people. ABA Switzerland's goal remains to show the diversity of behavior analysis.

Unfortunately, the ABA masters program project in Geneva has been put on hold. We are looking at other options to host courses in behavior analysis at a university level. Our aim is to offer courses in French, German and in English to begin with. We hope to disseminate behavior analysis not only applied to people with ASD but also to a full range of other professionals and fields.

As in the previous years we continued our work in collaborating with other European countries such as France, Germany and Italy. We submitted our affiliation to EABA.

We have also consulted with influential key opinion leaders of another clinical profession (optometry) that has only been recently accredited in Switzerland, to gain insights into their experience and steps needed. Indeed, the profession of behavior analysts remains unrecognized here in Switzerland. Our clients mostly have to pay for the therapy.

We are currently developing our chapter's ethics code, guided by the BACB and FSP (Swiss Federation of Psychologists) ones.

In 2024, ABA Switzerland will continue to provide different webinars. In March, Shannon Biagi will present an Introduction to Human Performance Technology for Behavior Analysts. In May, Kate Fiske and Jim Christy will hold a webinar about being a parent of someone with an ASD ("Love and Communication and The Social Impact of Raising a Child with Autism"). Then, in June, Maithri Sivaraman will provide a webinar about telehealth.

We will also translate our webpage in the three of the four different Swiss languages (German, Italian and French) in order to continue to spread behavior analysis in Switzerland. Indeed, we would like to offer information in all official languages to serve more professionals and encourage ethical and professional conduct.

## ABA Turkey

BY ELIF TEKIN İFTAR

ABA Turkey conducted three webinars during 2023. The first one was conducted to introduce the International Behavior Analysis Organization in Turkey. Dr. Mike Mueller was the speaker in this webinar. The second one was delivered by Dr. Serife Yucesoy Ozkan. The topic was about the evidence-based practices for teaching individuals with intellectual disabilities. The third one was a summit for parents of children with developmental disabilities. Drs. Elif Tekin-İftar, Serife Sahin, Esin Pektas Karabekir, Seray Olcay, & H. Deniz Degirmenci were the presenters. The number of attendants in these webinars were between 30-60.

As proposed, we completed the development of our web page in Turkish ([www.udader.org](http://www.udader.org)) however, it is still in progress. It will be published very soon.

## ABA United Arab Emirates

BY MICHELLE P. KELLY

The Association for Behavior Analysis—United Arab Emirates (ABA-UAE) was officially affiliated with the ABAI on November 18, 2020. ABA-UAE registered with the Dubai Association Center (DAC) in September 2020 and was licensed on February 28, 2022.

ABA-UAE's Executive Committee includes: Dr. Michelle P. Kelly, BCBA-D (President), Ms. Sharifa Yateem, BCBA (President-Elect), Ms. Linda Bailey, BCBA (Secretary), Ms. Nipa Bhuptani, BCaBA (Treasurer), and Adel Wahdain (Student Representative). The Board consists of the Executive Committee and the following members: Dr. Ebrahim Alhajri (Chair), Ms. Khawla Barley (Vice-Chair), and our member-at-large, Mr. Nicholas Orland, BCBA.

The chapter's activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Support a national licensing authority to test, license and renew licenses for behavior analysts in the UAE.
- Organize educational activities including seminars, workshops, presentations and conferences, either alone or jointly with other professional organizations.
- Organize networking opportunities for its members.
- Serve the professional needs of behavior analysts in the UAE by working with relevant bodies.
- Disseminate information to promote its mission to a wider audience by publishing bi-annual, bilingual, online newsletters.
- Disseminate information to promote its mission to a wider audience by creating a bilingual chapter website.
- Attend and present at conferences/events outside the field of behavior analysis with a mission to disseminate the science.
- Organize an annual business meeting to provide a forum for discussion of the affairs of the chapter.

ABA-UAE has been very active, aiming to achieve the goals outlined above. We would like to outline two of our biggest achievements to date this year. The first success is the continuation of the development of our chapter website: [www.abauae.org](http://www.abauae.org) The second success is the organization of online continuing education events for behavior analysts, in collaboration with Emirates College for Advanced Education (ECAE; [www.ecae.ac.ae](http://www.ecae.ac.ae)), a higher education institute which has previously offered the only Verified Course Sequences in the UAE.

Since May 2023, ABA-UAE has hosted 5 events, in collaboration with ECAE.

**JUNE 6, 2023**, *Burnout: Protecting the Supervisor & the Supervisee*, **Aline Atallah**, BCBA, Health and Wellness Specialist, Mohamed bin Rashid Center for Special Education (Operated by The New England Center for Children)

**JUNE 6, 2023**, *Supporting Adults with Autism: Recommendations for Behavior Analysts*, **Sousan Razzouk**, MA, BCBA, IBA

**OCTOBER 24, 2023**, *Amplifying Clients' Voices in our Work: An Ethics Sampler*, **Sarah C. Mead Jasperse**, PhD, BCBA-D; **Cody Morris**, PhD, BCBA-D, LBA; **Alice Shillingsburg**, PhD, BCBA-D, LP; **Jennifer L. Austin**, PhD, BCBA-D; **Tara Fahmie**, PhD, BCBA-D

**MARCH 5, 2024**, *Amplifying Children's Voices: Towards a Better Understanding of Assent*, **Shannon N. Ward**, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Clinical Director at the Mohamed bin Rashid Center for Special Education Operated by The New England Center for Children

**MARCH 5, 2024**, *Assessing Preference for Social Interaction in Children with Autism*, **Hiba Ghrair**, MA PBA, BCBA, Lead—ABA Therapy, CognitiveBotics

To find and follow ABA-UAE on social media:

**Twitter:**

[@ABA\\_UAE\\_](https://twitter.com/ABA_UAE_)

**Instagram:**

[www.instagram.com/aba\\_uae\\_association/](https://www.instagram.com/aba_uae_association/)

## Alberta ABA

BY ERIN GLUCKIE

The Alberta Association for Behaviour Analysis (AltaABA) is in its eighth year as an affiliated chapter of ABAI. In March 2024 nominations for open Board member positions were put forth. These positions included the Student member, President-Elect, Public Relations Officer and Secretary.

The 2024 AGM was held virtually on April 27th. Following the AGM two notable Canadian BCBA's, Dr. Pat Mirenda and Richard Stock, presented on ethically managing controversies regarding the field of ABA. The current total number of active BACB certificants in Alberta decreased by 1 certificant this past year, to a

current total of 2 BCBA-Ds, 67 BCBA's, 0 BCaBA's, and 7 RBT's province-wide. Overall, the province saw a decrease in BCaBA's and RBT's, and a slight increase in BCBA's.

AltaABA created our second 3-year Strategic Plan which was released in April 2024 to the membership. This new plan has three long-term goal sections that consist of seven short term actions. As the AltaABA board continues to struggle with new board members and overall engagement from the Alberta membership, the board decided to streamline efforts and focus on the top priorities for the next three years: creating a positive public image and perception of ABA in Alberta, resource and technology expansion, and enriching member benefits.

This past year the board also became an ACE provider to help its membership receive CEUs from AltaABA events. This was a huge milestone for our board, and is intended to help with low attendance at annual events. The board intends to provide as many CEU events as possible to help increase engagement and secure future board members for the province.

For further information, to view AltaABA's Strategic Plan, or to join the chapter, please visit: [www.altaaba.ca](http://www.altaaba.ca) or follow us on Facebook or Instagram.

## Association Française— Les Professionnels de l'Analyse du Comportement

BY HÉLÈNE ABDELNOUR AND MÉLODIE GENESTE  
AF-LPA is one of the French chapters in France.

This year, we continued our work with the Education Nationale, the local governmental entity in charge of managing the schools.

Thanks to this collaboration, we can train the shadow teachers of students living with a handicap and going to public schools through an initial training, then we supervise the shadow teacher by going inside of the schools and giving her tools to help the student. We can also propose a person to be hired as a shadow teacher and we work closely with the governmental entity to help advance each situation.

The professionals that are part of the association can now ask to be part of this contract in order to help their own clients.

In addition, our team is currently working on developing an online repertoire of certified behavior analysts in order for clients to find good services more efficiently and for students to find supervisors more easily.

Also, in June 2023, we participated in the organization of an annual event in collaboration with ABA Online to bring internationally recognized ABA professionals here in France to present the most up-to-date scientific knowledge and to create a yearly meeting where French ABA professionals can meet.

# Atlantic Provinces ABA

BY NICOLE ROBINSON AND LAURA WALSH MARTINO

The Atlantic Provinces Association for Behaviour Analysis (APABA) has had a productive and eventful year. Some of our main accomplishments have included:

**Website Overhaul for Enhanced Accessibility:** One of our significant accomplishments was the complete overhaul of our website. We dedicated efforts to improve its accessibility, making it more user-friendly for all visitors. This update ensures that members and the public can easily access the valuable resources and information we provide.

**Member Engagement and Understanding of Neurodiversity:** We took strides in promoting awareness of neurodiversity among our members. To achieve this, we actively collected feedback on their perspectives and understanding of neurodiversity. This initiative has allowed us to foster a more inclusive and empathetic community within our organization.

**Creation of Informative Infographic:** In line with our mission to educate and inform, we created an engaging infographic that succinctly presents key insights and information on neurodiversity. This resource serves as an accessible tool for spreading awareness and knowledge on this important topic.

**Educational Initiatives:** APABA continued to offer valuable educational opportunities for our members. We hosted a trauma series that delved into critical aspects of trauma and its impact. These educational events are essential for the professional development of our members, enabling them to provide even better services in their respective practice areas.

**Community Building Through Social Events:** We believe in fostering a sense of community among our members. To this end, we organized various social events throughout the year. These events provided members with opportunities to network, collaborate, and build relationships with their peers.

**Elections and Incoming Executive Members:** Our democratic process remained active as we held elections for incoming Executive members. These dedicated individuals will play a crucial role in shaping the direction of APABA in the coming year, ensuring that our organization continues to thrive.

**In-Person Annual General Meeting and Conference:** One of the most exciting moments of the year was our in-person annual general meeting and conference. Despite the geographical challenges posed by our vast region, we successfully brought our members together for this important event. It was a valuable opportunity for networking, knowledge sharing, and collaboration.

**Spotlight on Local Talent:** For our conference, we proudly showcased the talent within our region. Our panelists and research presentations featured local experts, highlighting the wealth of knowledge and expertise that exists within the Atlantic Provinces.

## Committee Updates

The Research and Advocacy Committee has some big plans that we have been chipping away at this year! Our priorities are continuing to produce content that disseminates the best application of ABA principles.

- 1 Creating a proposed billing structure for clinicians that practice ABA for those both certified through the BACB and those who are not. This will serve as a document that practitioners can use to advocate for a fair living wage and billable rates commensurate with our training, expertise, and experience.
- 2 Creating core values of practice for members of the APABA that align with “Today’s ABA.” This will also include a pledge members can sign and an infographic you can add to email signatures, etc. demonstrating that you are committed to the best application of ABA out there!

The Special Interest Group Committee consists of entities formed by APABA members who share a desire to be involved in activities related to a common topic within behaviour science, theory, education, or application. These groups allow opportunities for members with similar interests to share information and collaborate on shared interests within the field for ABA.

With the “drop-in” model adopted by APABA’s current SIGs, these groups also allow opportunities for members to learn more about different scopes of practice from other members of the association. SIGs provide an avenue for members’ information exchange, engagement, and advancement, thereby increasing the value of APABA membership. The APABA encourages the formation of groups that pursue goals consistent with APABA’s mission:

To be a source of leadership and support in the sharing and practice of the science of applied behaviour analysis across the Atlantic provinces, through the provision of professional development, networking, and advocacy.

The Engagement Committee’s focus on outreach reached 112 members through our members only Facebook page reaching a point where members are sharing regularly on the page. This allows our members to connect with one another, creating a community of professionals. We currently have 134 members subscribed to our email distribution list to ensure that members who are not on social media have access to all APABA updates. We continue to use Instagram and LinkedIn to advertise APABA and statements. We have 39 followers on Instagram and 95 on LinkedIn. Our goal for 2023–2024 is to advertise more on these pages.

We have created a membership email where new and returning members will receive a welcome package advising what APABA can offer them as a member. Throughout the year we will continue to have giveaways including APABA swag, discounts on memberships and CEU opportunities!

The Education Committee has focused on education



from members regarding different scopes of practice in addition to CEU webinars from outside our membership. Some topics have included: achieving work life balance, OBM and AAC. We provided access to Dr. Camille Kolu's course on Trauma Sensitivity for Behavioural Supervision with a life Q&A for members. Future planning consists of expanding our trauma series with another presenter and offering additional resources around sexuality.

### Member Acknowledgement, Recognition and Award Recipients

*Recognition for our 2023 Continuing Education providers and Conference Speakers, provincially, nationally, and internationally!*

**Nicole Turnbull:** Achieving a Work-Life Balance, Atlantic Provinces Association for Behaviour Analysis Webinar and the Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority Conference.

**Monica Peters:** Speaker at the Association for Behaviour Analysis International Conference 2023 and APABA Conference 2023

**Nicole Robinson, Laura Walsh Martino,**

**Dr. Michael Palmer:** Speakers at the 2023 Atlantic Provinces Autism Conference

**Amanda Saulnier, Daniel Blanchfield,**

**Rachel Platt, Sarah McCarthy:** Compassion in ABA Throughout the Lifespan Panel Discussion, APABA Conference 2023

**Danielle Pelletier,** SLP and BCBA, of VIVA Therapeutic Services in New Brunswick was recognized by Atlantic Business Magazine as a top 50 CEO within the Atlantic Provinces!

### 2023 Verna O'Coin Memorial Bursary Recipient:

#### Shelly Collins

*Verna O'Coin was a much loved and respected member of the education community in New Brunswick. She will be fondly remembered for her many years of dedicated work in special needs education, and particularly for her work with those living with autism. She had a true gift for caring for learners and their families, and for developing programs that would improve the lives of those children with whom she worked. She had enthusiasm for helping other professionals gain new skills to empower them to make a difference in children's lives.*

*In honor of Verna's contribution to special education, and the promotion and dissemination of evidence-based interventions, the education community, along with the Atlantic Provinces Association for Behaviour Analysis have established the Verna O'Coin Memorial Bursary. The bursary, up to \$250 per membership year, may be granted to members seeking funding in order to pursue continuing education in the field of behaviour analysis. The applicant should be able to demonstrate the need that will be addressed by this training and how it will directly impact community members.*

Shelly is a lead staff in a residential placement that provides care for a young man with autism and an

intellectual disability. She joined as a front-line child and youth care worker and has an extensive background in social work.

Shelly's nominator shared that Shelly has taken on the responsibilities of providing relational and therapeutic care within the lifespan, and adapted practical functional assessment and skills-based treatment to meet the unique needs of individuals. Shelly has been an instrumental member of her team and participated in educational opportunities that have come her way. She has been an asset in the reduction of challenging behaviour by developing trust and rapport, which has improved this young man's ability to learn essential and functional skills and enhance quality of life.

Shelly exemplifies the intention of this award. She will use the funding toward attending the "Contemporary & Compassionate Approaches to Supporting People with IDD" in Utica, NY.

This experience will enhance Shelly's capacity and peer mentorship potential in the ongoing goal of providing trauma informed care and support to learners who require it the most.

## Australian Association for Cognitive Behaviour Therapy

BY PETER POHLMAN

The President of AACBT is Professor Ross G Menzies, University of Technology Sydney.

Overall, Australia has been slow to return to pre-COVID levels for face-to-face event attendance, particularly for locally organised events. Our national conference has returned to historic levels of participation, and we look forward to re-growing our broader community throughout 2024. We will continue to pursue our vision of improving the quality of practice of behavioural and cognitive therapies in Australasia, by providing high quality professional development in behavioural and cognitive therapies based on scientific evaluation.

Throughout 2023, we hosted a mixture of local and international presenters, plus webinar recordings continued to be made available for free to members. These recordings represent over 20 hours of high-quality content, plus associated readings, and materials. Examples of some of the topics added to our on-line catalogue include ADHD, OCD, alexithymia, iCBT and social anxiety disorder. The local, face-to-face events saw over 800 people booked to attend, covering a broad range of topics, including gender diversity, coercive control, BPD, grief, schema therapy, ACT, self-compassion, PTSD, digital mental health, and death anxiety.

Our 43rd National Conference featured a wide range of keynote and invited speakers for AACBT, all of whom were being featured in this role for the first time. We had

strong bookings and attendance, and our feedback was very positive—an average star rating of 4.3 out of 5 stars. We had 93.86% respond with agree or strongly agree that the professional development provided was valuable to their needs, and 88.6% responded that they acquired new knowledge/skills. The National Board thanks our Branch Chairs for their on-going efforts and the National Conference Committee for their conference work.

We continued to offer three awards in our National Award program, and each recipient presented at the 2023 national conference, highlighting their scientific output and contemporary research. The 2023 award winners were Dr Jemma Todd (early career), Professor Angela Nickerson (mid-career), and Matthew Flinders Distinguished Professor Tracey Wade (distinguished career).

Our 44th conference is scheduled for 17–19 October 2023 in Brisbane, Meeanjin, Qld. The Board thanks our National Conferences Director for their service in supervising our largest annual event, and we are excited to be featuring core presenters such as Emily Holmes, Tim Dalglish, Mark Dadds, and others.

In the interests of promoting equity of access, the AACBT Board has continued the free 12-month trial for all AACBT student memberships—the initial period of offering saw a rise of over 400% on historic levels of membership.

Improvements to our web portal are a key goal for this year, with AACBT planning for a move to a new platform. Our members will enjoy easier access to exclusive areas of the website, which includes our annual reports, historic access to our journal (*Behaviour Change*), webinar recordings, and the growing e-library (with over 40 titles). Visitors to the web page will also enjoy a smoother experience. The Board recognises and thanks the outstanding efforts of our editor (Professor Genevieve Dingle), her editorial team, and the overall editorial board for our journal

*Behaviour Change*. Our journal began in 1984 and the final edition was published in December 2023.

AACBT would like to acknowledge our Fellows: Professor Peter Lovibond, Professor Michael Kyrios, Professor Matthew Sanders, Professor Colin MacLeod, Professor Tracey Wade, Professor Ross Young, Professor Mark Dadds, Professor Mark Creamer, Professor Kim Halford, Professor Nicole Lee, Associate Professor Sarah Egan, Professor Louise Sharpe, Associate Professor Neville King, Professor Leanne Hides, and Professor Ross G Menzies. We thank them for their continuing contributions to the CBT community in Australia, and assisting AACBT throughout the year. The Board would especially like to thank Professor Matthew Sanders for participating as our World CBT Ambassador for 2023 with his presentation on evidence-based parenting support.

## Bermuda ABA

BY ERICA SMITH

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.

BABA continues to be comprised of behaviour analysts, verbal behaviour therapists, junior therapists, non-profit leaders, and parents. The chapter continues to remain in close partnership 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 the relationship with that organization.

2023 was a great year for members of Bermuda Association of Behavior Analysis (BABA). In 2023, Tomorrow's Voices celebrated its 16th 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 72 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.

Currently there are five 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 on our island.

Unfortunately, members' ability to obtain their BCBA credential has been drastically impacted heavily due to external factors beyond their control with the transition of the BACB no longer facilitating international participants. However, there are members who have completed the necessary coursework and accrued the prerequisite practical experience hours during their pursuit of a master's degree in applied behavior analysis. BABA members are in the process of developing alternative credentials, on par with becoming a BCBA. In reviewing these alternatives credentials, BABA has concerns with insurance coverage and recognition, or lack of, that alternative credentials may hold and how that lack of support may cause a domino effect in access to services.

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 Dr. Jahnae Harvey, BCBA- as well as Verbal Behavior Therapists: Destiny Stamp and Dayla Trott—on subjects related to ABA and developmental disabilities needs: *Language is a Behavior* (a workshop

on Verbal Behavior), Natural Environment Teaching, Managing Challenging Behaviors, Restrictive and Avoidant Eating.

Community Training Institute—118 attendees

- February 15, 2023: There is more to language than what you say- “Language is a Behavior”
- April 19, 2023: Natural Environment Teaching (Play, daily living, and leisure skills- “We can’t have all work and no play!”
- June 14, 2023: Challenging Behaviors: “It’s A Two Way Street”
- September 20, 2023: Food Fights?- “How to handle picky eaters”

Training Workshops: Through scheduled, free and requested private workshops Tomorrow’s Voices provided 118 attendees with 312 hours of Professional Development and two Wellness workshops to the community via zoom.

Private Group Training Institute

In partnership with Tomorrow’s Voices the following private group training institutes were facilitated: 2 to the Bermuda College (for the Intellectual Disabilities PACE Program), Onion Patch Nursery School, Perform to Learn Nursery School, and The Bermuda Scouts. Through these privately scheduled workshops, we had 38 attendances and provided two hours of professional development per attendance. In addition, we provided two Wellness Wednesday workshops (one through a partnership with EAP and the other with BF&M) open to the community via Zoom with access to replays.

The impact of these workshops goes beyond the participants. By sharing practical tools and insights, these workshops help create a more understanding and supportive community. People gain the knowledge they need to engage with individuals with autism and developmental disabilities, making our community more inclusive and compassionate. The two Wellness Wednesday workshops, accessible via Zoom, make this knowledge available to a wider audience, ensuring everyone can benefit from the insights shared during these sessions.

BABA members, through Tomorrow’s Voices, have maintained their membership with the Council of Autism Service Providers (CASP). A goal as BABA enters a new year is to actively expand its Executive Board with behaviour analyst professionals and continue to work on growing its membership, BABA members are honored to continue to lead the way with regard to growing the ABA profession in Bermuda and are actively involved in national policy and legislative projects in Bermuda. Tomorrow’s Voices Board Chair, Ms. Thea Furbert, is a member of the team working on the Bermuda National Intellectual Disability Plan. This involvement provides a behaviour-lens to addressing the issues facing our Island’s students and adults with Intellectual Disabilities, ASD and related disorders.

In 2023 a parent support group was established to serve

as an initiative group for families of those who have autism and other developmental disabilities. The parent support meeting topics rotate across three main areas: information webinars (where a clinician of a related field- ABA, SLP, nursing, dietitian, personal care support specialist), social gatherings (where parents can get together for a social outing such as bowling or a nature walk...), and a chat and chew umbrella (where parents can meet virtually to catch up and ask any questions on one another’s journey across parents who have dependents of various ages).

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).

## British Columbia ABA

BY SARAH PASTRANA

The last year has been another busy one for the British Columbia Association for Behaviour Analysis!

The board continues to work with a number of professional and advocacy groups on a variety of wide-ranging initiatives. We are a founding member of the BC Disability Collaborative, a first-of-its-kind group comprised of organizations from across the disability sector to advocate for increased funding and access to services for underserved groups. We are excited to be involved in this important work! We are participating in a number of additional groups to address issues such as expanded access to pediatric therapy services, create educational resources related to self-injury, and promote collaboration between professional organizations. This year, we also began quarterly meetings with all other Canadian chapters of ABAAI.

We hosted our highest ever number of events ever this year, including workshops on sensory processing differences and neurodiversity-affirming practices, supervision, skills-based treatment, and a co-hosted workshop on collaborative client care with the BC Psychological Association. A commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) remains a guiding value of our organization, and we hosted both monthly DEI meetings and a workshop on ableism, neurodiversity, and applied behaviour analysis.

We are continuing to work on streamlining our organizational and governance systems. This year we finalized our vision, mission, and values, and developed our first formal annual goals. Next year we plan on continuing this work, with the goal of improving board efficiency and efficacy, streamlining inter-committee collaboration, and strengthening communication and engagement with our membership.

Last year, the Licensure Committee resumed regular meetings. British Columbia’s college licensing system is undergoing major changes. We are working with several partners to seek inclusion in the new college system and

advocate for licensure for behaviour analysts practicing in our province.

Finally, BC-ABA will hold our 16th annual conference March 1st and 2nd. This will be the first year we will be offering a hybrid option. We are thrilled to be able to offer a wide range of topics and speakers and look forward to connecting with our membership!

## Caribbean ABA

BY GABRIELLE TORRES, SLOANE PHARR-STRANG,  
AND JESSICA DERRICK

The Caribbean Association for Behaviour Analysis continues to grow its membership and reach more island nations across the Caribbean region. We remain dedicated to the mission of supporting ethical, effective and humane use of behaviour analysis across our region. The Caribbean has limited regulations and standards for the practice of behaviour analysis, so we also continue to disseminate information about behaviour analysis, advocate for high standards of practice, and funding for services.

Our Board of Directors includes members from the Cayman Islands, Curacao, Jamaica, St. Croix and the Turks and Caicos Islands. Board members range from credentialed behaviour analysts, to behaviour technicians/therapists and a parent of an autistic child offering a broad range of perspectives as we navigate fulfilling our objectives in the Caribbean.

In 2023 we offered multiple continuing education opportunities, parent support groups, and we disseminated information related to the Caribbean at multiple conferences. We are continuing this work in 2024.

This year we also started our committees, each focused on supporting the goals and initiatives of the organization. Our committees have members from Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Cayman Islands, Curacao, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Croix, Trinidad & Tobago, the Turks & Caicos Islands and the US. Our committees include:

- Membership Committee—focused on supporting our members’ needs
- Marketing & Communications—keeping you informed of our activities
- Training & Development—providing professional development opportunities
- Advocacy—supporting the dissemination of our science, and supporting our region’s parents and caregivers
- Public Policy—advocating for, and provides resources to those promoting high standards of practice in our region

If you would like to join a committee, let us know [HERE](#).

Become a member: [www.caribbeanba.org/join-us](http://www.caribbeanba.org/join-us)

Contact us: [info@caribbeanba.org](mailto:info@caribbeanba.org)

Visit us online: [www.caribbeanba.org](http://www.caribbeanba.org)

## Central China ABA

BY XUEYI DENG

*Continuing Promotion of Behavioral Analysis in China*

In 2023, CCABA will continue to promote the comprehensive development of behavior analysis in China.

### Certification Training

As of now, 211 people have received CNABA Fundamental level training, and none of them have obtained CCaBA qualification yet (China Certified Assistant Behavioral Analyst); 498 people received Advanced level training from CNABA, and 35 people obtained CCBA qualification (China Certified Behavioral Analyst); 44 people received SBT training, and 20 people obtained CCBSA certification (China Certified Supervisory Behavior Analyst); 73 people received CNABA High Level training, and 9 people obtained CCBSA-B qualification (China Certified Supervisory Behavior Analyst—Bachelor level); 3 people received CNABA Supreme Level training and obtained CCBSA-M qualification (China Certified Supervisory Behavior Analyst—Master level).

At the same time, CCABA has newly launched the “CNABA—Integration Resource Teacher Certification Training,” focusing on cultivating behavior analysis teachers with integration practical skills.

### Continuing Education

In 2023, CCABA invited multiple BCBA and BCBA-D to carry out continuing education credit courses, with the following course themes:

**January 31, 2023** Use embedded instruction to support children with disability in inclusive preschool classes:

Meiju Zhao

**February 15, 2023** Operational Application of RFT in Interventions for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders: HuiLin Li

**February 28, 2023** Using peer-mediated intervention to support children with disability in inclusive preschools:

Meiju Zhao

**April 14, 2023** Project DATA: Data-based Decision Making: Meiju Zhao

**May 18, 2023** How to Develop IEP Goals After Assessment: Xiaofang Lou

**May 28, 2023** DATA Module 7: DATA-Based Decision Making and Cooperation with Families and Other Professionals: Meng Lyu

**June 24, 2023** Project DATA Module 8: Cooperation with Families and Other Professionals and Implementation of DATA Model: Meng Lyu

**July 18, 2023** Reducing barriers and improving transition ability—Rethinking our intervention goals: HuiLin Li

**August 27, 2023** Rule-governed behavior control: HuiLin Li

**September 27, 2023** Psychological Flexibility Training in Early Intensive Intervention: HuiLin Li

**December 22, 2023** How to improve the learning motivation of the students with autism spectrum disorder  
Part 1: Meng Lyu

### Membership development

As of now, CCABA has grown to 401 members, including 314 individual members and 73 institutional members.

### Meetings and workshops

**Lou, XiaoFang** BCBA, VB-MAPP Evaluation Demonstration Course, online workshop.

**Deng, Xueyi** BCBA, ABLLS-R workshop. Beijing, Nanning, Xuzhou, Hohhot, Chifeng.

## Chinese ABA

BY KARINA CHEUNG

The establishment of the Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Professional Committee of the China Association of Disabled Persons Rehabilitation (CABA) on January 9, 2016, marked a significant turning point for disability rehabilitation in China. Notably, CABA is the first professional committee within this organization to be based on a specific technical specialty.

### Interdisciplinary Approach to Rehabilitation

The committee's inauguration at the prestigious Sixth Hospital of Peking University underscored its commitment to an interdisciplinary approach. This strategy integrates expertise from rehabilitation, child welfare, and developmental behaviour to provide holistic care for individuals with disabilities.

### Leadership and Vision

Under the leadership of Professor Guo Yanqing, Deputy Director of the Sixth Hospital of Peking University, CABA has assembled a team of prominent figures from various relevant fields. Our shared vision, "bridging gaps, dissolving differences, and living harmoniously," emphasizes social integration for individuals with special needs through evidence-based behaviour modification techniques.

### Mission and Achievements

CABA's mission statement, "to commit to behaviour change technology, serve children with special needs, lay a foundation for individuals, and promote social integration," succinctly captures their dedication. The committee has demonstrably achieved significant progress in promoting public and professional understanding of ABA principles and methods. We have also actively strived to enhance the capabilities of practitioners in the field.

### Highlights of CABA's Work:

- **Professional Skills Certification:** CABA has convened meetings to discuss and establish an ethical framework for professional skills certification of behaviour analysts in China.
- **Public Awareness:** CABA actively raises public

awareness of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) by participating in events like World Autism Awareness Day.

- **Academic Conferences:** CABA's 9th academic conference explored the current state of ABA in China, focusing on challenges faced by institutions, effective solutions, and fostering collaboration between medical professionals, educators, and families.
- **Science Popularization:** CABA co-hosted a highly successful online lecture series on child and adolescent mental health, reaching over 220,000 participants.
- **Collaboration and Training:** CABA collaborates with various organizations, including the China Maternal and Child Health Association, to deliver online training programs on standardized ASD diagnosis and treatment, reaching a vast audience of healthcare professionals (120,000 participants).
- **Cultivating Professionals:** CABA is dedicated to nurturing a qualified workforce of ABA professionals in China through large-scale public lectures, collaborating with foundations to train teachers, and providing technical support for training programs that meet international standards.

### Conclusion

CABA's dedication and achievements have significantly advanced the field of ABA in China. Our commitment to collaboration, professional development, and public education paves the way for a future where individuals with disabilities receive the support they need to thrive and achieve their full potential. ❖



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Doesn't  
Fit All

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more about our  
treatment options

## Updates From ABAI's Special Interest Groups

### Addiction SIG

BY JESSE DALLERY

The Addiction SIG was founded to expand training, research, and employment opportunities for behavior analysts. The SIG provides a forum for all persons who have an interest in studying and applying behavior analysis to understand, prevent, and treat addiction. This may include addiction to drugs and other commodities (e.g., alcohol, nicotine, stimulants, opioids, internet, smartphones, food, gambling) and associated psychosocial problems (e.g., psychiatric comorbidities, unemployment, poverty).

In the past year, the Addiction SIG focused on maintaining the necessary infrastructure to support SIG activities. Our current membership consists of 214 members. This represents an increase of 57 members since last year.

In the coming year, the Addiction SIG will continue to focus on several goals. The SIG will: (1) serve as a professional and scientific networking group for its members; (2) focus on growing its presence and interaction on social media; (3) continue to recruit new members; (4) promote submission of addiction-related symposia, panel sessions, posters, and papers for ABAI and highlight upcoming relevant presentations; and (5) expand the resources available to its members. In sum, the SIG aims to pursue several activities that will make membership in the Addiction SIG as beneficial as possible.

Membership in the Addiction SIG is open to all individuals who are interested in the SIG's aim, mission, or objectives. The SIG's members need not be members of ABAI. Membership is currently free. If you would like to become a member, please join via our Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/AddictionSIG](https://www.facebook.com/AddictionSIG)

### Applied Animal Behavior SIG

BY LINDSAY MEHRKAM, ERICA FEUERBACHER, LAURA PERKINS, KIMBERLY TRUONG, JOANNA PLATZER

The mission of the Applied Animal Behavior (AAB) SIG is to promote applied animal behavior analytic research, set high standards in methods and techniques of animal training, support those in the applied animal behavior field, and promote the well-being of animals in applied settings wherever they are found. This year, the AAB SIG celebrates its 31st year!

Throughout 2023, the AAB SIG, as an approved ACE provider for BACB CEUs, worked to continue providing virtual continuing education opportunities in the form of a virtual journal club for members. The journal club features researchers who have published work that extends behavior analytic approaches to applied animal behavior issues.

Throughout the year we also hosted several virtual chats, open to members and non-members, to connect with each other and exchange ideas.

The AAB SIG is developing a new Experts Directory for members. This directory will serve to connect members who are new to applied animal behavior or new to a specialty within AAB with experts in that specialty. In addition, the SIG provided its members with a comprehensive listing of undergraduate and graduate programs offering applied animal behavior analysis opportunities, as well as a resource listing of publications and CE opportunities in applied animal behavior analysis.

Each year the SIG offers an annual student research award in honor of Marian Breland Bailey. This year, we also offered our new Diversity Award (established in 2022) for the second year in a row. Both of these awards were presented at the SIG business meeting at the ABAI Convention in Denver. The 2023 winners for the Marian Breland Bailey award were Kiki Yablon for her presentation on "Signaled Differential Reinforcement of Other Behavior to Address Excessive Vocalization in Dogs" and Hannah McGee for her presentation "Alternative Contingencies and Assent in Positive Reinforcement Rat Training." The recipient for the Diversity Award was Tejashree Mujumdar for her study titled, "Training a Wild Squirrel to Approach and Accept Food From the Hand of Humans Using Shaping Procedures."

Our B. F. Skinner Lecture Series invited speaker was Niwako Ogata with the paper session "Bench to Bedside of Behavior Problems in Dogs."

The Invited Paper Session speaker was Mindy Waite with her paper titled, "Development and Validation of Owner-Implemented Protocols for Companion Dogs."

Finally, the SIG features a website as well as a Facebook page titled, "Applied Animal Behavior Special Interest Group" with over 2,000 members.

We look forward to continuing to serve our members and pursue our mission through the 2024–2025 year.

### Autism SIG

BY JUSTIN LEAF

The Autism SIG has been very busy this year meeting our goals of promoting evidence-based treatment, promoting best practice as it relates to procedures/interventions based upon the principals of applied behavior analysis (ABA), helping consumers identify components of ABA, help protect autistic individuals from non-evidenced based procedures; and being a scientific resource for our members. The Autism SIG has continued to ensure that autistic voices are part of our professional conferences, and we were instrumental in having Eileen Lamb be a keynote speaker at this year's ABAI Annual Autism Conference. Additionally, members of the Autism SIG Executive Council have been advocating for other regional, national, and international conferences to start having autistic adults present at their conferences. This has resulted in numerous

conferences including more and more autistic voices. The second major endeavor that we have undertaken this year has been submitting response papers to misinformation about behavioral intervention as it applies to intervention for autistic individuals. The purpose of these papers has been to help consumers better navigate various concerns about ABA and how to still implement quality ABA.

## Behavior Analysis and Selectionist Robotics SIG

BY RICHARD WEISSMAN

The last SIG report for the Behavior Analysis and Selectionist Robotics (BASR) SIG was published in the September 2019 issue of *Inside Behavior Analysis* by the then (and still) current president, Richard Weissman.

In that time, the annual count (i.e., per inter-ABAI convention intervals (post-conference May to pre-conference May) of posts to the BASR Facebook page suggest an extinction process for the SIG's major influencer:

- 2019–20 28 posts—24 by Joseph Cautilli, 4 by Richard Weissman
- 2020–21 57 posts—56 by Joseph Cautilli, 1 by Richard Weissman. In addition, Joseph posted the news that the page reached 400 subscribers on 7/25/2020.
- 2021–22 45 posts—44 by Joseph Cautilli, 1 by Richard Weissman
- 2022–23 57 posts—56 by Joseph Cautilli, 1 by Richard Weissman
- 2023–24 2 posts both by Joseph Cautilli.

While it appears that Cautilli might have had a mild extinction burst in 2023 (predictable for the dearth of comments and other posters), there's a larger alternative explanation: positive behavior contrast. On January 1st, 2023, a new group was formed by Joseph Cautilli called The Online Society for Digital Behavior Analysis (TOSFDBA). Its About Statement of its mission suggests a substantial but broader overlap with the mission of BASR with a greater emphasis on social media and less on robotics: "Digital Behavior Analysis is a subfield of applied behavior analysis and organizational behavior analysis concerned with using behavioral principles within technology. [It is] an online group... [that] exists to help increase interdisciplinary communication and funding for the use of behavior analytic principles and behaviorism as a philosophical approach in digital areas and media. We are interested in both behavioral principles in content and process. This society has a range of concerns, from the use of behavioral principles in developing Ai to the building of behavior analytic apps to the use of behavior analysis in telehealth, to the use of behavior analysis to manage social media to the use of behavioral economic factors in internet purchases to the use of behavioral principles in media like streaming services to

train. Hopefully, this society will serve as a bridge between behavior analysts and engineers in creating a better future." Currently it has 224 members with more posters and comments than can be found in BASR. From January to late May of 2023, there were approximately 720 posts while between then and 4/29/24, there were approximately 212. The dramatic jump up and then down (though still over 4X recent BASR years) was due to much cross posting from the BASR site at the outset of TOSFDBA.

So, after a 5-year hiatus in meeting the SIG requirement for annual reports, a complete lack of meetings at ABAI, online SIG-specific discussions, or group projects (including fund raising), we could disband. Alternatively, we could follow Skinner's 1st principle of the scientific method: "If you come onto something interesting, drop everything else and study it." What's recently become interesting was the newer focus on online culture-cusp design with digital apps. So we have enough interested people and interesting articles to form a group which, through the online and offline responses of its members, can have aggregate behavioral outcomes "consistent with 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" (ABAI, 2022, p. 3). Some good next steps for the growth of our SIG would be to collaboratively crowd-source the creation of a file in which references in both the BASR and TOSFDBA Facebook pages are given hyperlink tags comprised of date posted, actor class, target behavior, and goals. Following that, it would be interesting to create a SIG membership form that queries members' interests, abilities, and contact information. Following that, it would be helpful to create digital Ai tools for continuing this work and assisting in the writing of future SIG reports. Finally, it would be good to have periodic Zoom meetings, organize for meetings and presentations at next year's ABAI conference, create and fill leadership positions, and consider having Membership dues and bylaws.

## Behavior Analysis and Technology SIG

BY VICTOR RAMIREZ

The Behavior Analysis and Technology SIG was created with the mission to advance the science of behavior through the development, dissemination, and application of technology in basic and applied settings. Technology can refer to developments in behavioral science, as well as developments in computer science, information technology, and related fields. Technology may be defined as "...the use and knowledge of tools, techniques, systems or methods in order to solve a problem or serve some purpose" (Twyman, 2011).

This SIG aims to (1) serve as a scientific and professional reference and networking group for its members, (2)

disseminate information to inform its membership and promote its mission to a wider audience, and (3) organize an annual meeting to provide a forum for discussion of the affairs of the SIG. In pursuit of the first aim, over the past year we have updated our website ([batechsig.wordpress.com](http://batechsig.wordpress.com)) and created a Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/groups/TheBATechSIG](https://www.facebook.com/groups/TheBATechSIG)) with more than 900 members. In service of aim two, we maintain a blog on our website and encourage Facebook members to post BA- and technology-related content and comment on posts.

Membership is free. Fill out a membership application, found here: [batechsig.wordpress.com/membership/](http://batechsig.wordpress.com/membership/)

## Behavior Analysis and the Arts SIG

BY ADAM HOCKMAN

Behavior Analysis in the Arts (BAART) is a SIG that promotes the relationship between behavior analysis and the arts—literature, music, performing arts, and visual arts. BAART’s Facebook page has 351 members. In 2023 there were 23 posts to the group, most of which were from APA Division 25. In that year, Facebook membership grew 1% from 318 to 351.

At ABAI 2024, BAART will hold scheduled meetings as well as an arts exhibition night that features visual arts, music, spoken word, and other art forms from members of the Association.

In 2024 BAART plans will continue to focus its activities in the following ways:

- Establish a database of publications on behavior analysis and the arts.
- Establish a database of past presentations on behavior analysis and the arts.
- Establish a registry of behavior analysts who are published or juried authors, artists, and musicians.
- Encourage researchers and practitioners to present at ABAI and other behavior analytic conferences.
- Develop and deploy regularly scheduled Facebook content to boost engagement and awareness of BAART.

BAART welcomes behavior analysts interested in this application of behavior analysis, whether they are artists or aficionados of the arts. To become a member or learn more about BAART, contact Adam Hockman at [hockman.adams@gmail.com](mailto:hockman.adams@gmail.com). Membership is free.

## Behavior Analysis for Sustainable Societies SIG

BY BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS FOR SUSTAINABLE SOCIETIES BOARD

Since the last Behavior Analysis for Sustainable Societies

Special Interest Group (BASS SIG) meeting during the 2023 ABAI convention in Denver, CO there have been a number of new developments for the SIG. The SIG has a new leadership team composed of Elizabeth Meshes, Jessica Ghai, Nikol Antoniono, and Jasmine Young. The board meets monthly and has continued to facilitate monthly community meetings. Monthly community meetings are open to all BASS SIG members via a Zoom meeting.

In each monthly community meeting, BASS board and community members share announcements of opportunities for grant and external funding, dissemination of scholarly work and ongoing projects, continuing education, scholarships and studentships, and upcoming events both within and outside ABAI. At the end of every community meeting, BASS members commit to an action they intend to take in the month until the next community meeting. The SIG has been keeping a cumulative record of actions completed by members over the past year. Members have contributed to the dissemination of behavior analysis by joining professional and community boards focused on sustainability, conducting presentations on the role of behavior analysis in green initiatives, furthering their education by starting a monthly reading club, and contributing to their community by establishing a community composting and zero-waste programs. There is truly an international collaboration with members joining from as far away as New Zealand.

At the 2023 ABAI convention, the BASS SIG in collaboration with the BFSR SIG hosted a Picnic in the Park at a local urban public park in downtown Denver. This recruitment and networking event allowed attendees to meet fellow SIG members and discuss issues of sustainability and climate change and how the field of behavior analysis can contribute to meaningful solutions. All attendees were afforded annual memberships to both SIGs.

Future goals for the SIG continue to include establishing resources to award financial support to practitioners and researchers working on community interventions related to sustainability. The SIG is also exploring the potential of establishing membership dues. It is hoped that the SIG will be able to create CE opportunities for members.

Agenda items for the 2023 SIG meeting at ABAI included recruiting help from one or two members to facilitate a more active social media presence with the SIG’s social media pages. Plans for the upcoming year are to increase activity and engagement among members, continue monthly community meetings as a forum for collaboration, connection, and sharing of research and application, and provide opportunities for CEs for members by members. Membership in the SIG is open to all, and participation in the SIG offers professional connections to others interested in and working on behavior change related to sustainability and climate change issues.



# Behavior Analysis in Health, Sport, and Fitness SIG

BY JULIE M. SLOWIAK

The mission of the Behavior Analysis in Health, Sport, and Fitness Special Interest Group (HSF SIG) is to educate, coordinate, and provide resources to behavior analysts and other members of society seeking to promote desirable behavior change in health, sport, and fitness through the application of the science of behavior analysis.

We strive to fulfill our mission through: (a) Educating behavior analysts and other members of society and increasing awareness, visibility, and understanding of the application of the science of behavior analysis to health, sport, and fitness; (b) Disseminating information about the practice of behavior analysis and educational and training opportunities relevant to practice of behavior analysis in the areas of health, sport, and fitness; (c) Providing a professional network and access to educational and training resources (e.g., continuing education events, mentorship opportunities) for its members; (d) Obtaining financial resources to support research grants for behavior analysts who seek to conduct research with the objective to develop or evaluate behavior analytic interventions to resolve human challenges in health, sport, and fitness; and (e) Collaborating with other non-profit organizations, healthcare agencies, and health, sport, and fitness professionals to maximize our impact on current efforts.

The HSF SIG became affiliated with ABAI in 1997 and organized as a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization in April 2019. The HSF SIG's annual strategic plan supports the continued growth of the application of behavior analysis in the areas of health, sport, and fitness (HSF) by setting goals that aim to improve visibility and awareness, increase member outreach, encourage practitioner skill development and competence, and support research and dissemination efforts. In 2022, the HSF SIG Board of Directors evaluated the organization's structure and made the decision to restructure the HSF SIG in order to better support its mission. In doing so, a variety of Volunteer Support roles were created to enhance engagement through member outreach, increase visibility and awareness of the HSF SIG and of the application of behavior analysis to HSF through internal and external communications, support practitioners seeking guidance on branching out into this area of specialization, promote awareness of HSF research, and provide financial support to graduate student researchers. Adding these roles has offered new opportunities for student and professional members to be actively involved in work of the organization.

The HSF SIG's small research grant program is now

in its fifth year. The purpose of this grant is to support graduate students who engage in experimental research to demonstrate the application of behavior analysis to address human behavior in the areas of health, sport, or fitness. Additional goals of this program are to disseminate behavior analytic research and practice and to expand research opportunities for graduate students of behavior analysis. With available donations received through fundraising and co-hosting continuing education events, the HSF SIG was able to award three \$750 grants in 2023. Recipients included: Erin Herndon, The Chicago School (Faculty Supervisor: Cameron Mittelman, Ph.D., BCBA), Janet Dai, The Chicago School (Faculty Supervisor: Tyler Ré, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA), and Maddie Duke, Florida Institute of Technology (Faculty Supervisor: Jonathan K. Fernand, Ph.D., BCBA-D). Two grant recipients presented their research at the 2024 ABAI Annual Convention as part of a symposium titled, Health, Sport and Fitness SIG Grant Recipients: Exciting New Areas of Research. One grant recipient presented their research at the 2024 Nevada ABA conference. Recipients of the 2024 HSF SIG Small Research Grant program were announced at the ABAI annual convention. The call for applications for the 2025 HSF SIG Small Research Grant program will be announced in late 2024, and applications will be due in February 2025.

Our Annual Business Meeting was held virtually in June 2023. At this year's meeting, we introduced members of the Board of Directors who joined us over the past year. We presented the HSF SIG's mission, strategy areas, major goals, and opportunities for members to get involved. We also provided an overview of our accomplishments over the past year.

One of our ongoing goals is to continue to increase visibility of the HSF SIG at the ABAI annual convention, as well as at state and regional conferences, through organizing fun activities for attendees that focus on maintaining healthy habits during travel and combating sedentary behavior while attending conferences. If conference organizers are interested in collaborating with us to organize a health and fitness-related event (whether in person or virtually), please email our Member Outreach Manager at [membership@hsfsig.org](mailto:membership@hsfsig.org).

Conversations among members continue to support the contention that several barriers and ethical considerations exist for those who desire to practice in the areas of health, sport, and fitness. In addition, opportunities to secure research and supervised fieldwork experiences in academic programs are limited by the small number of ABA faculty with expertise or interest in health, sport, and fitness, as well as limited course offerings. Our focus will be to continue to support those who are interested in practicing and conducting behavior-analytic research within the areas of health, sport, and fitness.

HSF SIG Board Members include:

- **Julie Slowiak**, Ph.D., BCBA-D,  
University of Minnesota Duluth & InJewel LLC  
(Executive Director)
- **Raymond Miltenberger**, Ph.D., BCBA-D,  
University of South Florida (President)
- **Jesse DePaolo**, Ph.D., BCBA-D,  
University of South Florida (Treasurer/Secretary)
- **Bryon Miller**, Ph.D., BCBA-D,  
University of South Florida  
(Communications Director)
- Member Outreach Direct: (vacant at time of writing)

We would like to give special thanks to those members who have volunteered their time over the past year:

- **Julie Ackerlund Brandt**, Ph.D., BCBA-D,  
The Chicago School
- **Sarah Burby**, M.A., BCBA; Mind Body Behavior LLC
- **Lucas Capobianco-Hogan**, B.A., RBT,  
Great Strides Rehabilitation
- **Erin Herndon**, M.A., BCBA, The Chicago School
- **Linh Huynh**, M.S., BCBA, University of Toledo
- **Shariq Khan**, M.S., Endicott College
- **Amber Lampert**, M.S., BCBA,  
Florida Institute of Technology & Acorn Health
- **Ben Lowe**, M.A., BCBA, Kent ISD & Compass  
Behavior Solutions
- **Andrea Murray**, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Capella University
- **Rocky Perez**, M.A., Western Michigan University
- **Sharlet Rafacz**, Ph.D., BCBA-D,  
Western Michigan University
- **Natalie Salazar**, M.A., BCBA, Behavioral Innovations  
& The Chicago School
- **Samantha Thomas**, M.A., RBT,  
Positive Behavior Supports Corp.
- **Carole Van Camp**, Ph.D., BCBA-D, University of  
North Carolina, Wilmington

For more information, please go to our website ([www.hsf.org](http://www.hsf.org)), Facebook Page ([www.facebook.com/groups/hsf.sig](https://www.facebook.com/groups/hsf.sig)), or follow us on Instagram (@hsf.sig). If you're interested in joining the HSF SIG, you will find details on our website ([www.hsf.org/join-the-sig/](http://www.hsf.org/join-the-sig/)). Membership is \$10/ year for students and \$20/year for professionals (we also offer a 2-year option at \$30/year for professionals). If you have any questions, want to contribute to our blog, or would like to take a more active role in the Behavior Analysis in Health, Sport, & Fitness SIG, please email us at [director@hsfsig.org](mailto:director@hsfsig.org).

## Behavior Analysis SIG on Supervision

BY LINA SLIM, KARRIE LINDEMAN,  
AND SUSAN AINSLEIGH

ABAI approved the Behavior Analysis SIG on Supervision (BASIGS) on November 23, 2020.

The mission of the Behavior Analysis SIG on Supervision (BASIGS) is to support our members by developing, promoting, and advocating for exemplary training of behavior analysts as supervisors. We promote best practices in the supervision of behavior analysts to ensure effective and ethical service provision by developing systems and disseminating standards of supervision practices. We seek to uphold supervisory competence in cultural humility and responsiveness.

BASIGS vision is to transform the provision of supervision through education, mentorship, and coaching to promote the professional and personal development of behavior analysts achieving elevated standards of performance and execution in the field.

BASIGS' current executive committee includes:

- 1 **Lina Slim**, PhD, BCBA-D, CCC-SLP  
(Chief Communication Officer Liaison to ABAI SIG)
- 2 **Karrie Lindeman**, Ed.D. SDL, BCBA-D, LBA  
(Co-Chair1)
- 3 **Susan Ainsleigh**, Ed.D., BCBA-D (Co-Chair2)
- 4 **Jane Carlson**, Secretary
- 5 **Cheryl Davis**, Treasurer
- 6 **Laura Rojeski**, Student Membership Coordinator
- 7 **Jen Klapatch**, Communications Coordinator
- 8 **Lillith Reuter-Yuill**, Research and  
Grant Competition Coordinator
- 9 **Nathania Wong**, Social Media Coordinator

BASIGS has been meeting virtually monthly throughout the year. We have increased our membership from 16 to 40 members. Our membership and executive and Task Force leaders have been actively involved on several initiatives developing a pathway to seek and achieve the highest standards and competency in supervision and supervisory behaviors, and systems for supervisory/ supervision quality oversight and maintenance.

### Activities—Achieved and Ongoing

- 1 Developed by-laws—Achieved
- 2 Developed membership guidelines, fees, and processes—Achieved
- 3 Developing a supervision task list & curriculum: Goals are to develop and design a standardized curriculum for supervision and collaborate with other SIGs and behavior analytic organizations for integrity measures and dissemination efforts—Ongoing
- 4 Developing a survey regarding supervisory practices, analyzing outcome data, and engaging in dissemination for best practices—Ongoing

- 5 Established Social Media presence:  
Achieved—Created a BASIGS Logo (design by Albert Topdjian)—Achieved

BASIGS Executive Committee has assigned SIG Officer positions roles and responsibilities as follows:

- 1 Co-Chairs—Co-chairs shall preside at all SIG and member meetings. Co-chairs are also responsible for counting ballots in any referenda submitted to the voting membership and shall exercise general supervision over the affairs of the SIG.
- 2 Chief Communication Officer Liaison to ABAI: Responsible for communicating, collaborating with and disseminating to ABAI SIGs, Chapters and Boards on issues pertaining to advancing the standards for supervisory practices. Building partnerships with behavior analytic networks within and outside ABAI, and ABA organizations that share values and ethical principles for achieving the highest standards and competency in supervision and supervisory behavior.
- 3 Secretary—Responsible for maintaining minutes of meetings and other responsibilities
- 4 Treasurer—Responsible for maintaining minutes of meetings and distributing to the Communications Coordinator. This person is also responsible for maintaining the SIG calendar of events and coordinating with others in the Executive Committee and all Task Force leaders for dates and other needed information.
- 5 Communications Coordinator—This person will work directly with the Membership Coordinators and the Secretary. This person is responsible for collecting information from the Secretary, creating newsletters and other promotional items, and dispersing to members as needed. This person is additionally responsible for receiving incoming emails and distributing to the appropriate Task Force lead or Executive Committee member.
- 6 Membership Coordinator—Responsible for maintaining and organizing the membership directory. This person will work directly with the Treasurer (membership fees) and Communications Coordinator (distribution of notices) on a regular basis. The Membership Coordinator is also responsible for aiding in the recruitment process of members of the SIG through partnerships with other organizations or outreach via a virtual platform.
- 7 Student Membership Coordinator: Responsible for organizing, maintaining, and recruiting current trainees in the field who are accruing their hours towards certification. This person should connect with university VCS coordinators as outreach or other organizations. This person is additionally responsible for providing the student members connections to the Mentor and Supervisor Directory Task Force or

Resource Repository Task Force as needed.

- 8 Research and Grant Competition Coordinator—Responsible for sending out announcements for grant applications, accepting applications, and providing the detailed lists of people to the Executive Committee for review. This person will also be responsible for coordinating appropriate dates for dissemination and review, notifying winners, and notifying others.
- 9 Student Member Representative—This person should be an active trainee in the field of ABA accruing their hours towards certification. They are responsible for representing the climate of trainees in the field. This should be done through outreach and working in conjunction with the Research and Surveys Task Force, social media, and other dissemination projects.
- 10 Social Media Coordinator: Responsible for maintaining social media networks via Facebook and other social media platforms. Additionally, this person will be responsible for developing ethical and professional conduct for social media, and monitoring conversations to meet communication guidelines. The Social Media Coordinator will have an interest and skill set to design communication posts and “blurbs.”

BASIGS Executive Committee is currently working on several projects:

- 1 Updating By-Laws
- 2 Membership guidelines, fees (no fees currently) and processes—Completed
- 3 Task Force Initiatives:
  - a. Resource Repository—Continuously updated
  - b. Task List and Curriculum—in progress
  - c. Mentor and Supervisor Directory—Continuously updated
  - d. Surveys and Research
  - e. ABAI Supervision Theme Track for ABAI Conference
  - f. Collaborative and Dissemination Efforts
  - g. Social Media Dissemination

In our 2023–2024 membership cycle, we will be increasing our membership to 80 members. Discussion regarding dissemination, practice and research grants will take place in the next year cycle, when we will discuss ways to seek grant funding to support dissemination efforts and fund BASIGS grants.

The SIG, and our members, are committed to actively engage in the coming year in conducting research, disseminating information regarding evidence-based practice in supervision, publishing scholarly articles, speaking, and conducting workshops at professional conventions, presenting posters at professional conferences and teaching and/or mentoring students, and creating a social media presence.

BASIGS will plan to offer at least one grant annually

contingent on grant funding and membership fees received (voluntary at this time), in empirical research and/or in application or dissemination. The grant is available to ABAI members who, as students or practicing clinicians, conduct empirical research or raise awareness about behavior analysis on supervision. Research projects should advance the evidence base for behavior analytic conceptualization or application of supervisory skills. Application or dissemination projects should involve effective application of the science-based principles of behavior on supervision across trainees and environments.

The BASIGS executive committee is looking forward to expanding our membership through various initiatives and increasing member participation on the executive and within our committees and task forces. We continue our efforts to complete several projects over the year to support our members through the following task Forces, and welcome new members to participate.

BASIGS Executive Committee developed active Task Forces addressing several initiatives relevant to supervision:

- 1 Resource Repository (articles AND materials)
- 2 Task List and Curriculum Development (in progress)
- 3 Mentor and Supervisor Directory (updated on an ongoing basis)
- 4 ABAI Supervision Theme Track—Approved by ABAI for 2022 ABAI Convention (February 3, 2021)
- 5 Publications—Survey for Research/research papers/white papers and resources documents
- 6 Collaboration—OBM SIG and TBA SIG on joint programs and initiatives
- 7 Dissemination efforts through social media platforms, networking activities and email

The identified initiatives are successfully achieved and disseminated with increased commitment, volunteerism, and financial support from our members. Please consider donating your expertise/services in-kind, making financial contributions, or providing committee support so that we may meet the needs of our membership and complete our mission and goals.

For additional information about BASIGS, please contact:

**Lina Slim**, PhD, BCBA-D, CCC-SLP  
(Chief Communication Officer Liaison to ABAI SIG):  
linalsimtop@gmail.com

**Karrie Lindeman**, Ed.D. SDL, BCBA-D, LBA  
(Co-Chair1)

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**Susan Ainsleigh**, Ed.D., BCBA-D (Co-Chair2)  
sainsleigh@baypath.edu

## Behavioral Development SIG

BY GLADYS WILLIAMS

The DEV SIG displayed a poster at the ABAI Expo and held its business meeting on May 25, 2024.

The main mission of the Behavioral Development (DEV) SIG is to promote a behavioral developmental thrust within behavior analysis. We strive to bring behavior analysis to the broader world of child psychology and learning, comparative psychology, adult development and gerontology, sociobiology, education, behavioral economics, developmental disabilities and autism, and language development, among other fields. We do so by a) incorporating theories and findings from other areas into our research and b) by bringing professionals from outside traditional behavior analysis, including developmental psychology, to ABAI events and forming collaborations.

The Human Development Special Interest Group (DEV SIG) is a community of faculty, students, and practitioners who share an interest in human development along the life span. Many of our members are also part of other SIGs, such as Autism and Verbal Behavior. Currently, we have 112 members, and our membership is international, with representation from countries like Norway, Germany, Mexico, Italy, Spain, China, Korea, UK, Bosnia, Canada, and France. We welcome students from affiliated programs and those who share our mission to join the SIG. Our Facebook page is up and running, and we are actively trying to increase our membership and reach a wider audience: [www.facebook.com/groups/behavioraldevelopmentSIG/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/behavioraldevelopmentSIG/) and our web page: [devsig.abainternational.org](http://devsig.abainternational.org). We are always looking to grow our membership.

The DEV SIG is represented in the ABAI annual convention program in Human Development (DEV). DEV SIG members consistently serve as DEV program area coordinators who help bring exciting presentations on a variety of topics related to behavioral development to the annual convention.

### ABAI activities and participation

The 2024 annual convention hosted one panel, 11 symposia, seven papers, and four workshops.

### The Jack Gewirtz Student Research Award

During the 2021 annual meeting, we recognized Dr. Jack Gewirtz's contributions and decided to rename a student award as the Jack Gewirtz Student Research Award. In the 2023/2024 academic year, three students received the award, each of whom had made significant contributions to the field of behavior analysis:

- **Ellis Smith**, from Teachers College, Columbia University
- **Kenya Velasquez**, from the University of Almeria, Spain
- **Lilian Morales**, from Teachers College, Columbia University

In 2024, the DEV SIG organization hosted a symposium to allow award winners to present their studies. The title of the symposium was “The Shaping of Behavior Analysts as Scientist Practitioners.”

In 2024, we sent letters to psychology department chairs at universities with behavioral programs, requesting they encourage students to submit research papers to participate in the Jack Gewirtz student research award.

### **The DEV SIG—Prominent Invited Speakers**

In 2024, the DEV SIG organized a series of events that featured well-known speakers. One of the highlights was the B.F. Skinner Lecture presented by Dr. Karen Adolph from New York University. The lecture was titled “How Behavior Develops.” Another important presentation was the International Talk by Dr. Carmen Luciano from the University of Almeria. The talk was titled “The Scientist Behavior, Behavior Analysis, Relational Framing” and used a tree metaphor to explain how we can keep functional sap alive in our practices. Jessica Dudek from Teachers College, Columbia University and the Fred S. Keller School presented an Invited Tutorial titled “Humans Learn Language Through Observation: A Verbal Behavior Development Account of Language Acquisition.”

The activities mentioned above demonstrate the wide range of research interests held by members of the DEV SIG. Their focus spans across populations with and without developmental disabilities, both children and adults. Additionally, the group focuses on verbal, academic, and behavioral development throughout one’s lifespan. We greatly appreciate the contributions of all the session chairs, presenters, and discussants.

### **The Launching of the Behavior and Development Journal**

In March of 2024, we were thrilled to announce the launch of the online Behavioral and Development Journal. We invited all members of the DEV SIG to submit papers.

### **Treasure Department**

We informed our members that our treasurer, Vicci Tucci, passed away in January of 2024. Vicci Tucci was a remarkable individual, highly regarded in the field of behavior analysis, and a leading pioneer in the development of tools such as the Comprehensive Competent Learner Model, which was used to teach children and train professionals. Vicci was also known for her generosity and thoughtfulness towards others. She provided both her participation and financial support to our Special Interest Group. Her loss is deeply felt, and she will be greatly missed.

In the absence of a treasurer, our reconciler, Yseif Sun, temporarily assumed the responsibilities of the treasury department. She did an excellent job.

### **Membership for 2023–2024**

We encouraged members to renew their membership and devoted energy to increasing our membership. Currently,

we have 112 members. As an interdisciplinary group with diverse interests and approaches, we have always been friendly and relatively informal. You can find us at our presentations, invited talks, business meetings, or the Expo. We warmly welcome new members and look forward to meeting you!

## **Behavioral Gerontology SIG**

BY ZOE LUCOCK

### **About the BG SIG**

Behavioral gerontology, the application and philosophy of behavior analysis to the problems of adults age 65 and older, has a long tradition, from Ogden Lindsley’s (1964) chapter on the design of geriatric behavioral prosthetics, and Skinner and Vaughan’s (1983) practical advice on how to compensate for physical decline and enjoy old age, to recent Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis publications on teaching internet skills to older adults and reinforcer selection for individuals with neurocognitive disorders (e.g., Pachis & Zonneveld, 2019; Lucock, Sharp & Jones, 2020). Indeed, behavior analysts across specialties work with older adults.

The Behavioral Gerontology SIG (BGSIG) provides a forum for students, practitioners, and researchers with interests in applying the science, practice, and philosophy of behavior analysis to the problems encountered by adults in later life. Our goal is to promote the development, implementation, and evaluation of behavior analytic solutions to a wide variety of topics of high public health significance in the older adult population. Among these are the self-management for health promotion and disease prevention, functional assessments of and interventions for behavioral changes commonly associated with neurocognitive disorders (e.g., Alzheimer’s disease), aging with a disability, and effective healthcare navigation, including participation in inter- or multidisciplinary teams.

### **Committee Development**

The BGSIG committee meets every other month to continue to work towards our goals. The 2024 annual business meeting was held in a hybrid format allowing both members and non-members to attend in person, and BGSIG members to attend remotely if they are unable to attend the conference in person.

This year the BGSIG has continued to expand its committee, with 11 members now serving on the committee in a number of established and new roles. Of note this year, the committee has recruited a member of the older adult community to sit on the committee as a consumer representative. We have also welcomed a new training and education coordinator and honorary secretary. We have also made a number of changes internally to improve the functioning of the committee such as creating separate email addresses for each member, generating role descriptions and ensuring everyone has access to the BGSIG SharePoint drive.

### Dissemination

During the past year, the BGSIG has made continued efforts to disseminate behavior-analytic research and clinical practice related to the problems of older adults through our social media channels. As of February 2024, the BGSIG Twitter account had 580 followers, the BGSIG Facebook page had 2600 likes (+300), and the closed Facebook group moderated by the BGSIG committee members had 796 members (11 members). We have also included new features such as “A day in the life of” videos from behavioral gerontologists and anecdotes from their work and “Meet the team” features about our committee members.

The BGSIG website is hosted through ABAI and features a variety of content including blog articles from behavioral gerontologists, lists of relevant resources and journals and details about the SIG. In addition, the website has a “members only” section where BG SIG members can access training resources and videos of previous ABAI conference talks on behavioral gerontology.

The BGSIG has created a mailing list and plans to begin working on disseminating more information via email to people who are interested in behavioral gerontology. Anyone can sign up to the mailing list via the BGSIG website.

### Learning Opportunities

This year the BGSIG held its first event: a live webinar hosted through Zoom provided by ABAI. Attendees heard the discussion between our training coordinator and Johanna Gildottir discussing how to remain conceptually systematic while working in nursing homes for older adults. This was well received, and further events are in the pipeline. The recording from this webinar is now available for members to watch by logging into their accounts on the BGSIG website.

The BGSIG continues to offer case consultation groups to practitioners in the field on an as-needed basis to BGSIG members—any member can request a peer consultation group by emailing [bsig.training@gmail.com](mailto:bsig.training@gmail.com). The BGSIG has published two newsletters over the past year featuring articles from behavioral gerontologists, details of CEU opportunities related to behavioral gerontology and information about our social media videos from behavioral gerontologists.

Finally, the BGSIG has developed a journal club for committee members where we share articles and lead discussions about behavioral gerontology. We will continue to keep this journal club for committee members only at this time, but will consider offering it to all members in the future.

### Task Force Development

This year we have also created a new Insurance Funding Sub-committee. We have recruited a number of prominent and experienced behavioral gerontologists, behavior analysts

with expertise in insurance funding and other allied professionals to work together on establishing an understanding of the current routes for funding in behavioral gerontology. Beyond this, we are looking to develop recommendations for behavior analysts to work towards creating clearer and simpler routes to generating funding for behavioral gerontology services in the USA through insurance.

### Membership

The BGSIG currently has 31 members consisting of six affiliate members, 0 early career/transitional members, 0 retired/emeritus members, 17 full members and 8 student members. Over the next year, the BGSIG intends to continue its focus on increasing membership numbers through offering more learning opportunities.

Over the following year, the BGSIG intends to focus on developing more events and resources for members such as hosting live educational events that can then be accessed through the member’s only section of the website after the fact. The BGSIG also is developing a provider list on our website that lists behavioral gerontology practitioners that are available to contact regarding services for older adults.

The BGSIG also reintroduced a financial payment as part of our student award this year and the winner gave a five-minute explanation of their research at the BG SIG business meeting in Philadelphia. We encourage all student members to submit their behavioral gerontology related research to the annual conference next year to be in with a chance of winning!

We welcome all new members to join us at the BGSIG, whether you are working with older adults or just interested in learning more and supporting our work. You can join via the ABAI website through your portal or click the link on our website: [bsig.abainternational.org](http://bsig.abainternational.org)

## Behavioral Medicine SIG

BY GRETCHEN DITTRICH

Within the science of behavior analysis, we recognize that all behavior is susceptible to conditioning, regardless of the complexity. Therefore, the field of behavior analysis is perfectly suited to identify and change behaviors related to health and disease states. The field of behavioral medicine focuses on utilizing behavior analytic principles and procedures to identify and manipulate variables influencing behaviors associated with health and disease states. By changing specific behaviors (i.e., increasing behaviors associated with improved health and decreasing behaviors associated with disease states or decreased health), we can improve overall health status for individuals.

Behavioral medicine is an interdisciplinary field, which integrates behavioral science with biomedical science to improve overall health, increase adherence to medical regimes, and modify behaviors associated with the prevention of chronic illness. The role of behavior analysis

is important in the field of behavioral medicine. It is the mission of the Behavioral Medicine Special Interest Group (SIG) to encourage interdisciplinary research in the areas of behavioral health promotion and the prevention of chronic illness, emphasizing the need for function-based and empirically validated treatments for chronic health disorders.

The Behavioral Medicine SIG offers students, researchers, practitioners, and consumers opportunities to discuss issues related to public health promotion and disease prevention. All are welcome to join the Behavioral Medicine SIG. We hope that the SIG will help consumers and practitioners better understand the role of behavior analysis in the medical and health care industry, including public health, health sciences, mental health and wellness, and lifestyle change. The Behavioral Medicine SIG provides an outlet for dissemination of behavioral medicine research and practice, offers opportunities for discussions on current and developing research within the field, and sponsors continuing education events for SIG members.

The Behavioral Medicine SIG is committed to growing the field and supporting student research in the area of behavioral medicine. The SIG issues an annual student research award for outstanding master's-level or doctoral-level research in behavioral medicine. In 2023, the SIG introduced an annual student research proposal grant. To learn more about the Behavioral Medicine SIG, including membership and the annual Student Research Award and Student Research Proposal Grant, visit our new website ([www.behavioralmedicinesig.org/](http://www.behavioralmedicinesig.org/)) or contact us via email at [bxmedsig@gmail.com](mailto:bxmedsig@gmail.com). You can also follow us on social media (Facebook page: **Behavioral Medicine SIG of ABA-I**).

The Behavioral Medicine SIG will begin offering synchronous and asynchronous webinars on the SIG website, covering various topics in behavioral medicine. We will offer CEUs (whenever possible) for purchase for SIG members. The Behavioral Medicine SIG is currently welcoming SIG members to submit suggestions for webinar topics (contact [bxmedsig@gmail.com](mailto:bxmedsig@gmail.com) for suggestions). Suggestions may include topics for brief webinars, summits, tutorials, or workshops.

The 2024 Call for Papers is still open for the Behavioral Medicine SIG annual Student Research Award and the Student Research Proposal grant. The Call for Papers will close on 12/31/24. The award recipients will be announced on the Behavioral Medicine website, on the SIG social media, and at the annual business meeting, held during the ABA-I annual convention next year. Applications and nominations for the Student Research Award and the Student Research Proposal grant may be submitted via email to [bxmedsig@gmail.com](mailto:bxmedsig@gmail.com). We encourage all students to apply for these awards.

#### **Student Research Award Submission Guidelines:**

Applicants must submit an original research paper in the

area of behavioral medicine. Papers should be formatted according to APA Publication Manual 7th edition guidelines. Research should be complete at the time of submission.

The student's research advisor should submit a brief statement via email to [bxmedsig@gmail.com](mailto:bxmedsig@gmail.com) indicating that the student was responsible for the majority of the research submitted.

#### **Student Research Proposal Grant Submission Guidelines:**

Applicants must submit an original research proposal in the area of behavioral medicine. Papers should be formatted according to APA Publication Manual 7th edition guidelines. Submissions should include a brief literature review supporting the research question, clear and technological method section outlining the proposed participants and recruitment methods, the experimental design and plan for data analysis, the protocol, and a brief summary of expected outcomes, based on the literature. Students must also submit a letter of approval from the university Institutional Review Board. The award recipient will be expected to provide progress updates on the research.

The student's research advisor should submit a brief statement via email to [bxmedsig@gmail.com](mailto:bxmedsig@gmail.com) indicating that the student was responsible for developing the proposal, and is expected to complete the research.

#### **Questions**

Questions regarding eligibility criteria, submissions, or general questions about the student research award should be directed to:

**Gretchen A. Dittrich**, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LABA Chair, Behavioral Medicine SIG of ABA-I [bxmedsig@gmail.com](mailto:bxmedsig@gmail.com)

## Behaviorists for Social Responsibility SIG

BY BFSR SIG BOARD OF PLANNERS

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 on a monthly basis, currently include Jose Ardila, Amanda Chastain Traci Cihon, Kendra Combs, Jovonnie Esquierdo-Leal, Brett Gelino, Albert Malkin, Camila de Melo, Richard Rakos, and Kathryn Roose. The Planner structure, active volunteers, 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 some of the SIG's activities for 2023 and upcoming plans for 2024.

#### **The Matrix Project**

BFSR has continued to focus on the Matrix Project (see BFSR's website at [bfsr.abainternational.org/](http://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 two dozen sectors/players (e.g., behavior-analytic education programs, faculty, 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 (DEIE)**—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 group is currently finalizing a manuscript that reports the results of a 2020 survey they developed to better understand how individuals were contacting behavior analytic content on social issues and what resources would be most beneficial. Additionally, the group will begin to develop measures to assess the impact of DEI events at ABAI, beginning with a count of events offered by year to identify trends. Last, the group will be collaborating with the ABAI DEI Board. The DEIE working group is currently recruiting new members to support strategic planning and pragmatic action based on the results of the survey. Persons who are interested should contact us at [bfsr@abainternational.org](mailto:bfsr@abainternational.org).

**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 (TxABA in 2016 and KansABA in 2017) and one regional chapter (O-BFSR in 2022) have been formed. The ABAI BFSR Planners are continually working with state/regional/international affiliated chapters interested in developing BFSR SIGs that extend the reach of the Matrix Project to local action.

In 2023, the KansABA BFSR SIG invested time and energy towards community-engaged projects. Members engaged in community outreach activities and collaborated with community partners to disseminate behavior analysis applications to issues of social importance.

Established in 2022, the O-BFSR has been active in connecting the Ontario-based group with the ABAI BFSR SIG regarding collaboration efforts and social media. The O-BFSR has also set up important infrastructure including an email address ([bfsr.sig@gmail.com](mailto:bfsr.sig@gmail.com)), a Twitter account (@OntarioBFSR), and website ([www.obfsr.org/](http://www.obfsr.org/)). In addition, O-BFSR developed and hosted a webinar in collaboration with the A. Britton Smith Center for Behavioral Studies (St. Lawrence College) on the topic of cultural responsiveness. The SIG hosted a monthly reading group, which was free to attend and provided free CEUs. SIG members also developed a “Wild Yard” task force group that held monthly meetings, open to all community members. The SIG participated in Ontario’s

annual ONTABA conference by handing out an O-BFSR Poster Award and presented the activities of the group at an Exposition Table. The group also published newsletter updates via the ONTABA quarterly newsletter. Finally, the O-BFSR plans to continue the above activities annually and to continue outreach and recruitment activities with O-BFSR members and the broader community.

**Sustainability Group**—The group continues to apply the matrix analysis to identify feasible practices that ABAI affiliate chapters could engage in to increase behavior analytic activity in the area of sustainability. The group is working on developing a structure to facilitate community meetings of affiliate chapter sustainability liaisons. In addition, the group has developed a questionnaire that conference planners can use to evaluate areas in which they may be able to reduce the environmental impact of their conferences. The group is currently collaborating with BASS and the Center for Behavior and Climate to disseminate resources to behavior analysts attending conferences.

**Community Resilience Group**—This working group was created in late 2020 with an initial focus 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 overall 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 has collected relevant literature from within and outside behavior analysis that discusses resilience as a concept. The outcomes of this first step were presented at ABAI 2021 during a BFSR symposium. Following the completion of literature review, a measurement tool that identifies the multiple contingencies constituting a community’s recovery efforts is the next goal. Currently all the group members are Spanish speaking behavior analysts working in Bogotá, Colombia. Consequently, the object of analysis has been adapted to the cultural context, that being, resilient actions of individuals living in armed conflict. Persons who are interested should contact us at [bfsr@abainternational.org](mailto:bfsr@abainternational.org).

**Public Health Group**—This working group was established in 2020 and has been actively working toward increasing connections between behavior science and public health. In 2022, members of this working group developed a fact sheet that briefly summarized public health as an ABA subspecialty area and is now included in the “ABA Subspecialty Resources” section on the BACB website. Potential opportunities for interdisciplinary work in these areas were presented at the 2022 and 2023 ABAI convention. Further examples will be highlighted in a panel discussion at the 2024 ABAI convention. Currently, members of this group are working with the senior editorial team of Behavior and Social Issues and Springer to develop a special section on Human Behavior and Public



Health. Members of this working group are also working on manuscripts for submission to both behavior analytic and public health journals to further foster interdisciplinary collaboration between the disciplines.

BFSR will continue to work on the Matrix Project over the coming year with a particular focus on increasing access to opportunities to learn about the matrix methodology. Members of the ABAI BFSR SIG Planners will provide a 3-hour workshop (W13: The Matrix Project: Using Behavior Analysis to Promote Social Change) at the annual ABAI convention in 2024, scheduled for Thursday May 23, 2024 from 4 pm to 7 pm EST. For folks who may not be attending the ABAI convention but still want to learn more about the matrix project and methodology, we are also revamping an online training program. Workshop attendees and those who complete the online training will both be introduced to the matrix methodology and how to analyze the systems that promote and hinder behavioral approaches to understanding and addressing societal issues.

For those who are seeking a more in-depth experience, they might consider joining the Culturo-Behavior Science Innovation Network (CBSIN), a recently developed initiative, co-facilitated by Drs. Traci Cihon, Kyosuke Kazaoka, and Albert Malkin. The mission of the CBSIN is to create a community of faculty, scholars, and practitioners interested in learning more about CBS and advancing the corresponding research and practice (cf. Cihon, 2023). We aim to foster mentorship and collaboration in CBS research and practice. Members of the CBSIN will engage in critical analyses of the existing literature (behavioral analytic and from related natural and social sciences) on CBS, develop basic and translational experiments that extend this literature base; and apply cultural level and contingency analyses to problems of social importance. This lab meets virtually on the first and third Mondays of each month (starting March 4, 2024) from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm CST. Persons who are interested in joining are encouraged to reach out for more details.

We will also continue our efforts to develop measures to track our progress with the Matrix Project, to update the activities and outcomes of active sectors, and to coordinate the activities of the less developed sectors. Those who want to get involved can contact BFSR at [bfsr@abainternational.org](mailto:bfsr@abainternational.org).

### Membership Options and Benefits

The BFSR 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. In fact, much of what has been and can be achieved through the Matrix Project is through the support of BFSR members and volunteers. Currently, aspiring volunteers can reach the group via our webpage, and based on their interests and skills, we can suggest one or more working groups within the Matrix with which they may participate. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out at [bfsr@abainternational.org](mailto:bfsr@abainternational.org).

### Social Media

BFSR remains active on various social media platforms but like many other people and groups, the changing landscape of the social media platforms themselves has presented new challenges. BFSR is committed to finding the most effective way to communicate with its members and others on social media in a way that fits with our values. Creating and disseminating our own content is another aspect of our social media goal that we hope to focus more on in the coming months. Any interested people can volunteer at [bfsr@abainternational.org](mailto:bfsr@abainternational.org) and mention that they are hoping to get involved with social media.

### Behavior and Social Issues Journal

The BFSR Planners also maintain a collaboration with the journal, Behavior and Social Issues (BSI). Working with the support of our continuing (Rich Rakos and Sarah Richling) and newly appointed Associate Editors (Denise Ross-Page and Laercia Vasconcelos), we published two issues of the journal in 2023. The spring issue (June, 2023) included 18 total articles including those published as part of a special section focused on culturally responsive pedagogy (Guest Editors: Lenwood Gibson, Lefki Kourea, and Temple Lovelace). The fall issue (December, 2023) included 14 total articles including those featured in Part II of our special sections on Climate and Behavior (Guest Editors: Mark Alavosius, Brett Gelino, and Cindy Pietras). Both issues also included several manuscripts featured in our ongoing special sections (i.e., the Forum on Diversity and Inclusion, and Activism, Advocacy, and Accompaniment). BSI also received its first impact factor of 1.6 in 2023.

Efforts are already underway for what we hope to bring to our readers in 2024 and 2025. First, we are currently reviewing papers submitted to our special section on Literacy and Social Justice (Guest Editors: Denise Ross-Page, Shannon Hammond, Gwendolyn Cartledge, Jane Howard) and for a special section focused on Human Behavior and Public Health (Guest Editors: Drs. Elizabeth Schieber, Jonathan Schulz, Crystal Slanzi, and Sarah Weinsztok) that we plan to include in the spring 2024

and fall 2024 issues, respectively. Second, we look forward to a forthcoming call for papers for a special section on Interprofessional Collaboration (Guest Editors: Holly

Brown, Louis Busch, Kim Crosland, Deborah Napolitano, Tziporah Rosenberg, and Adrienne Jennings) that we anticipate will be featured in the spring 2025 issue of BSI. Third, we are preparing for a special section focused on papers prepared for and resulting from the 8th Think Tank in Cultural Analysis held in Reno, NV in November, 2023 (Guest Editors: Drs. Aecio Borba, Angelo Sampaio, and Laercia Vasconcelos). Finally, BSI is currently recruiting papers for its ongoing special sections in the Forum on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; and Activism, Advocacy, and Accompaniment.

More details about the journal, including the calls for papers regarding these special sections can be found here: [www.springer.com/journal/42822/](http://www.springer.com/journal/42822/). Please stay tuned for future journal updates; we anticipate there will be even more featured collections of papers to come that we have yet to develop!

**Mark Mattaini Student Engagement Award**

In 2021 the BFSR Planners created an annual award to recognize the significant contributions that Dr. Mark Mattaini has made to BFSR, and culturo-behavior science. Dr. Mattaini was passionate about motivating students of behavior science to be actively engaged in work pertaining to social issues. More information on the award and how to apply can be found on the BFSR website: [bfsr.abainternational.org/student-award/](http://bfsr.abainternational.org/student-award/).

**ABAI Annual Convention**

BFSR held our annual business meeting at the ABAI Annual Convention. BFSR was also represented at the convention through presentations, panel discussions, and posters. Please join us at our next annual business meeting, held in conjunction with the BSI annual business meeting, at the 2024 Annual Convention where we will also be showcasing our activities through posters, panel discussions, symposia, and a workshop.

Challenging Behavior SIG

BY AMANDA ZANGRILLO

Challenging behaviors exist along a continuum and may be conceptualized as externalizing behaviors producing significant impact on the individual, others, or the environment that can impact participation in home, school, and/or community activities. The Challenging Behavior Special Interest Group (CB-SIG), developed in 2023, is the first of its kind housed within ABAI. The mission of the CB-SIG is to support the advancement of clinical, research, training, and advocacy endeavors pertaining to the assessment and treatment of challenging behavior across the lifespan. In our inaugural year our strategic aims included building a board and membership with shared goals to:

- Support and encourage research efforts to improve our understanding of assessment and treatment of challenging behavior, as well as the needs of

professionals engaged in provision of these services.

- Develop best practice supports for clinicians and educators across areas of assessment, treatment, documentation, reimbursement, outcome measures, and advocacy
- Support undergraduate and graduate training as it pertains to the specialized assessment and treatment of challenging behavior
- Develop relationships and communicate with other organizations treating challenging behavior both within and outside of the discipline of applied behavior analysis
- Disseminate information and resources regarding best-practice, culturally-informed, and family-centered behavioral approaches to assessing and treating challenging behavior
- Engage in community outreach and advocacy work to facilitate meaningful advancement for individuals with challenging behavior (e.g., access to funding, adults w/ IDD, parent advocacy)

In 2023–2024, our first goal was to conduct our inaugural business meeting at ABAI and form an inaugural board and membership. We are proud to introduce the 2023–2024 CB-SIG board:

President	Amanda Zangrillo
Vice President	Joanna Lomas Mevers
Secretary	Nicole Kanaman
Treasurer	Sarah Slocum
Technology Chair	Tracy Kettering
Membership	Nicole DeRosa
Membership at large	Nadi Nuhu

In May 2023, the CB-SIG held its first business meeting at the 49th ABAI Annual Convention. We developed technology enhanced application and membership recruitment materials, garnering the interest of 100 new SIG members at that Convention. In May 2024 the CB-SIG held its second business meeting at the 50th ABAI Annual Convention, voting in members for Representative at large, Student membership Chair, and Advocacy Chair board positions.

Our second goal was to develop and disseminate a survey for membership, practitioners, and stakeholders in care serving individuals with challenging behaviors to better understand assessment, treatment, implementation trends/preferences and needs for addressing gaps in care. At the 2023 ABAI Business Meeting the board conducted an open discussion gathering thematic priorities from the membership. The CB-SIG held a listening session in November 2023 for the membership. From this discussion, the membership identified insurance reimbursement priorities as a key focus area for the membership. The CB-SIG hosted a CE event in January 2024 titled “Dealing

with Insurance: Your worst nightmare” presented by Christy Williams at the Munroe-Meyer Institute. The CB-SIG held a second listening session in March 2024 and the next thematic discussion will be announced soon!

Over the next year, the CB-SIG will continue to focus on increasing membership numbers. In addition, the Board is working with Member Relations at the Association for Behavior Analysis International to develop a website. Last, the CB-SIG aims to develop a funding mechanism and structure to facilitate an annual student research scholarship/award.

Our CB-SIG is a unique opportunity for researchers, practitioners, parents, academicians, students, and others with a vested interest in the assessment and treatment of challenging behavior to support the advancement of clinical, research, training, and advocacy endeavors. Come join the discussion! If interested please contact the CB-SIG at [challengingbehaviorsig@gmail.com](mailto:challengingbehaviorsig@gmail.com).

## Clinical SIG

BY TOM WALTZ

Clinical Behavior Analysis (CBA) involves the application of behavior analytic principles to the full range of human problems, many of which have traditionally been considered “mental health” issues. CBA clinicians work with the relationship between thoughts, feelings, and other behavior to help people move beyond their problems and toward living more fulfilling lives. The Clinical Special Interest Group of ABAAI is for those interested in clinical applications of behavior analysis. Clinical behavior analysts work in both research and applied settings. A sample of clinical domains in which CBA clinicians work includes:

- Anxiety disorders
- Behavioral gerontology
- Behavioral health
- Childhood disorders
- Cognitive rehabilitation
- Couples therapy
- Family therapy
- Forensic psychology (assessment and treatment)
- Habit disorders
- Intellectual and developmental disabilities
- Health psychology
- Mood disorders (e.g., depression)
- Serious mental illness (e.g., Borderline Personality Disorder, Schizophrenia)
- Substance abuse
- Trauma

The Clinical SIG is dedicated to facilitating collaboration between researchers and clinicians to further the field’s ability to apply clinical populations. This group seeks to promote Clinical Behavior Analysis (CBA) at ABAAI and is interested in maintaining the longstanding

relationship between basic research and clinical application. At the 2024 convention, the Clinical SIG met to make progress on the SIG transitioning to an ABAAI Associate SIG and to help current ABAAI membership understand the breadth of CBA applications beyond early intervention. This includes developing a SIG website that hosts member-exclusive content (e.g., videos, practice resources, training directory, syllabus bank). Please look for the Clinical SIG in the ABAAI Associate SIG roster to become a SIG member ([www.abainternational.org/constituents/special-interests/associate-sigs.aspx](http://www.abainternational.org/constituents/special-interests/associate-sigs.aspx)).

To be kept up to date on Clinical SIG activities and to interact with current members, sign up for the listserv at [groups.io/g/ClinicalSIG](http://groups.io/g/ClinicalSIG) or join our Facebook Group at [www.facebook.com/groups/abaiclinicalsig/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/abaiclinicalsig/).

## Culture and Diversity SIG

BY YORS GARCIA

As we embark on the 2024–2025 term, our Special Interest Group (SIG) is proud to continue under the guidance of our esteemed board:

President	Yors Garcia
Vice-President	Kade-Ann Henry
Secretary	Noor Syed

This past year, we’ve witnessed an extraordinary growth in our membership numbers, reflecting the magnetic appeal of our mission to professionals and students eager to join our cause in nurturing a diverse and inclusive behavior analysis community.

We have bold aspirations for 2024–2025, including:

- **Membership Expansion:** We will intensify our recruitment efforts to attract an even wider audience. Our ambition is to cultivate a multifaceted community where every member can both contribute to and reap the benefits from our collective wisdom and fervor for behavior analysis.
- **Research Project Support:** Central to our agenda is the endorsement of research endeavors that resonate with our mission. We are committed to supplying resources, offering mentorship, and providing platforms for researchers passionate about investigating the interplay between diversity and cultural factors in the advancement of behavior analysis and the enhancement of outcomes for diverse groups.

The potential of these initiatives to profoundly elevate our profession and positively affect the communities we serve fills us with vitality. We extend an open invitation to all members of the behavior analysis community to partake in these pursuits. United, we endeavor to carve out a future that is more inclusive, diverse, and impactful. ❖



## Marilyn's Obituary

BY ROBBIE GILBERT

Marilyn Ruth Bender Gilbert passed peacefully early in evening of May 23, 2023. She was in no pain, and was surrounded with love. She was quite a character.

Marilyn received her Master's Degree from Columbia University in the 1950's, a relatively rare thing for a woman during that time. She was in many respects, atypical. For those with whom I have not conversed in a while, Marilyn taught online for the University of North Texas until she was 93. She was an editor on several seminal works, including "Schedules of Reinforcement" By Charles Ferster and B.F. Skinner, and wrote several textbooks.

Marilyn was of that generation who lived through the Great Depression, World War II, and all that followed up until the present. She skipped school to see Frank Sinatra, and recalled her past vividly.

She birthed six children, Bill Ferster (Sue Ferster), Andrea Ferster, Sam Ferster, Warren Ferster, Robby Gilbert, and Eve Gilbert. She has six grandchildren, and was a proud great-grandmother.

REMEMBERING

# Marilyn Gilbert

1926-2023

## A Tribute to Marilyn Gilbert

BY KENT JOHNSON

Marilyn Gilbert was a long-time member of ABAl. She died on May 23rd, 2023. She was 97 years young. Beginning in 1997, Marilyn gave presentations at ABAl each year, ranging from talks about behavioral engineering and instructional design to talks about technical writing. She initially attended ABAl with her husband, Tom Gilbert, whose list of accomplishments included the instructional method, mathematics, as well as his behavioral engineering model, which has been applied in untold

numbers of businesses and industrial work settings. Many ABAl-ites have read his book Human Competence. Marilyn had a big hand in writing and editing that book.

I truly miss Marilyn. She was smart, funny, caring, friendly, and wise. I know many of you miss her, so I want to share two essays about her with you. First is an obituary that Marilyn and Tom's son, Robbie Gilbert, composed. Following his obituary, I have included an autobiography that Marilyn used to share with her students each semester.

**A Note From Kent Johnson:**

*Marilyn's crowning academic achievement was her technical writing course design. She taught the course many times online at the University of North Texas at Denton. Morningside Press hopes to publish it as a book later this year so that you, too, can learn how to write as well as she did. Behavior Analyst, Adam Hockman took her course, and will be using her book and syllabus*

*to teach writing just the way Marilyn did, for the Psychology Department at Western Michigan University this fall, 2024.*

*Marilyn would begin each semester by asking her students to read an essay about herself, and asked each student to write a similar essay about themselves. She gained a good sense of her students' writing skills this way. To get a good sense of Marilyn Gilbert, here's the essay she wrote to her students. Enjoy!*

**Marilyn Gilbert's Autobiography****About Me**

I'm a "Jersey Girl," born and raised. New Jersey has always had a sleazy reputation, even before the Sopranos, and then the folks from the Jersey Shore; but New Jersey is actually quite nice. "That's why so many people live here," as my husband used to say. I've lived in several other places on the East Coast besides New Jersey, and I've also lived in Indiana and Mexico City. For the past 16 years, I've been living on beautiful Bainbridge Island, in Washington State. But although I've been a widow for some years now, I didn't live alone; I lived with my granddaughter, Georgia, who was studying history at the University of Washington. But last year, Georgia graduated and went to live with her husband in Sweden. I do miss her.

As for me, I wasn't an English major, although I probably had enough English credits to qualify as a Garrison Keillor "ultimate English major." (If you listen to NPR, you've probably heard Garrison's jokes about people like me.) But did you know that B.F. Skinner was an English major as an undergraduate, at Hamilton College in New York?

Although I've always loved to read, especially novels, I went to Montclair State College in New Jersey, and I majored in mathematics and Latin instead. It wasn't until graduate school, at Columbia University, that I finally became an English major. My M.A. was in English and Comparative Literature, and I wrote my thesis about the work of an Irish story writer, Sean O'Faolain.

My obsession with psychology, though, started very early; and I'll confess it was through marriage, not scholarship. I hadn't enjoyed my undergraduate courses in psychology. But at Columbia, I audited Professor Fred S. Keller's course on B.F. Skinner's keystone book, *The Behavior of Organisms*. It was tough sledding, as you might know; but the concepts of behavior analysis hooked me. I spent many hours in the Psychology Department animal labs, and I would have signed up for a Ph. D. program in psychology, too, except that I was afraid of the rats. Later, as a Harvard faculty wife, I was lucky to get to know Dr. Skinner and many other behavior analysts. I began to learn more about behavior, too; and three of my

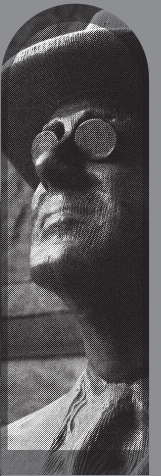
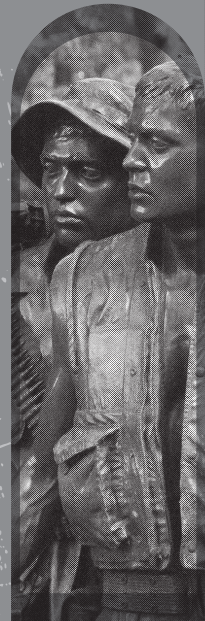
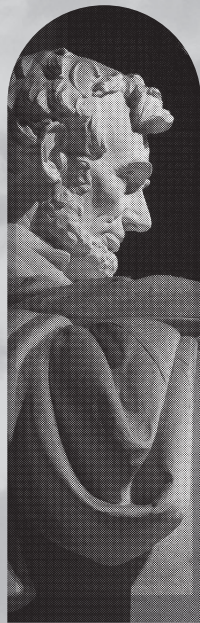
babies spent their first months sleeping in a homemade Skinnarian baby box. But I learned most by actually working with my late husband, Tom Gilbert, and reading his book and other writings.

**My Work Life**

I had many different jobs as I went through school. After graduating from Columbia, I hoped to find a writing job—and I finally got one! It was with a Boston engineering company, writing manuals on electronics and physics for naval reservists. For a military client, I wrote procedures for operating the first nuclear submarine. Nowadays, I live just a few miles from a large naval base that is home to the Trident, a nuclear submarine; on rare days, I've watched the Trident suddenly surface here on Puget Sound.

With my first husband, Charles Ferster, I helped start JEAB, and I was the first associate editor for JEAB and held the title for 5 years. I also edited the first edition of *Schedules of Reinforcement*, by Ferster and Skinner. Some years later, I worked with my second husband, Thomas Gilbert. Tom developed a body of work that is used now to diagnose performance problems in business and in schools; he solved these problems by combining his performance analysis with principles of behavior. His seminal book is *Human Competence*, which I edited. We also wrote the book *Thinking Metric* together. Most recently, Aubrey Daniels International published Tom's unfinished autobiography, *Human Incompetence*. Tom and I developed several workshops and were consultants to major corporations and government agencies. One key client was the Department of Agriculture's Meat and Poultry Division—which used to be in the sleepy little Texas town of Denton. Today, of course, that little town is hardly recognizable.

But in reviewing all those years, I see that my work life centered around writing—either teaching it, editing it, or doing the writing myself. I taught English Composition 101 at Indiana University and technical writing at Penn State. In Indianapolis, I wrote children's books for a small publisher. I also authored five other books, including one for English Composition 101. In 2016, I hope to publish a book that will accompany this course. ❖



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Dr. Aoife Mc Tiernan (National University of Ireland, Galway) poses with her Outstanding Mentor award by the ABAI History Wall featuring past event posters.  
Photo: MARTIN C. BURCH