

SEPTEMBER, 2009

North Carolina Association for Behavior Analysis

Volume 20, Issue 1

2010 Call for Posters! - submit online now at www.nc-aba.com

2010 Conference Announcement

The Executive Board of the North Carolina Association for Behavior Analysis is pleased to announce that the 21st Annual Conference is to be held at the [Twin City Quarter in the heart of downtown Winston-Salem, NC, Wednesday, February 17th - 19th, 2010](#). The Twin City Quarter consists of Winston-Salem's Benton Convention Center with an adjoining Embassy Suites and Marriott Hotel. In addition to its central location within the state, some of the additional amenities include complimentary cooked-to-order breakfast, complimentary manager's reception each evening and large two- or three-room suites should you choose to stay at the Embassy Suites. A variety of restaurants and shops are within walking distance of both hotels.

Speakers from within North Carolina and across the country will present research and practice pertaining to applied and basic problems that are currently being addressed within the field of behavior analysis and in related fields such as developmental disabilities, autism, education, and animal training. We are also very fortunate to have a number of extremely talented behavior analysis professionals, researchers, and students who have agreed to present. A partial listing of invited speakers can be found on page four.

Pre- and/or Post-Conference Workshops will be offered by Tim Ludwig, Ray Miltenberger, Jim Bodfish, Ruth Hurst, Duke Schell (Ethics), Kristie Thompson, and Julie Grimes. More will be announced soon. A Silent Auction will once again be held to raise funds to offset conference expenses and to support student participation. A Vendor/Poster Session with cash awards for best posters in the undergraduate student, graduate student, and professional categories and a Social with refreshments, music, and dancing will round out the conference events.

BCBA credits will be available for approved conference and workshop sessions and an application will be made to provide NCPA credits for psychologists for each of the workshops. A general certificate of credit will be provided to all attendees. Please mark your calendar for this upcoming event.

Additional information will be available at www.nc-aba.com and in the newsletter sent to all members as the details for the conference are finalized.

~WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN WINSTON SALEM! ~Jennifer Deacon, President~

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NCABA 2009 Elected Officials

- **President**
Jennifer Deacon
- **Past President**
Ruth Hurst
- **President Elect**
Ya-yu Lo
- **Vice President**
Mark Stafford
- **Secretary**
Beth Schmitt
- **Treasurer**
Nancy Poteet
- **Members-at-Large**
Kelly Sutton,
Julie Grimes,
Vicki Harper
- **Student Representative**
Jason Boye

2009 Conference Summary

The NCABA 20th Annual Conference was held at the Wrightsville Beach Sunspree Holiday Inn, February 18 – 20, 2009. The meeting was a celebration of the twenty successful years of NCABA and included pre- and post-conference workshops, invited addresses, and concurrent sessions devoted to the topic of behavior analysis as well as our annual poster session, social, and silent auction events.

People who helped develop and shape NCABA over the years were in attendance including Dennis Reid, Director of the Carolina Behavior Analysis and Support

Center, who was instrumental in the founding of the organization, and a number of NCABA past presidents. The past presidents participated in a panel discussion of the organization's past, present, and future, that left us with a memorable description of the development/history of the organization. Past presidents sharing their remembrances, including their pictures, were Duke Schell, Jamie Clary, and Martin Ivancic from the J. Iverson Riddle Developmental Center, Frank Wells from Caswell Developmental Center, Maureen Schepis

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Visit us at:
www.nc-aba.com

Nominations Sought

NCABA is seeking nominations for **Vice President, Member at Large, and Student Representative** to serve on the executive committee. Nominations are also being taken for the Fred S. Keller Excellence in Behavior Analysis Award, the Technical Utilization Award and the Student Scholarship Award to be presented at the conference. All nominations for executive committee members and for the awards must be postmarked by January 7, 2010.

Please submit nominations to Vicki Harper at:
 J. Iverson Riddle Developmental Center
 300 Enola Rd
 Morganton, NC 28655
 vicki.harper@dhhs.nc.gov
 Phone: (828) 438-6470

~Executive Committee Positions~

Nominations for these positions are open to all NCABA full members, and may be made by self-nomination or nomination by another person. A description of each of the positions can be found on our website at www.nc-aba.com

~Fred Keller Excellence in Behavior Analysis Award~

The purpose of this award is to recognize a person who has made an outstanding contribution to the field of behavior analysis in North Carolina and whose work demonstrates the highest quality in the application of behavior analytic principles.

~Technical Utilization Award~

The recipient will receive complimentary conference registration to the NCABA conference in February, 2010, and a monetary stipend toward conference expenses. To qualify, the candidate must not have received formal, graduate level training in behavior analysis, but have demonstrated proficiency in applying behavioral technology in his or her work.

~Student Scholarship Award~

The Student Scholarship is a complimentary conference registration to the 2010 NCABA Annual conference and a \$100 stipend to defray costs. The award will be granted to a student who has advanced course work and practical experience in behavior analysis, and who would benefit from attending the conference. The sponsor who nominates the student should be a faculty member or internship supervisor who can briefly indicate how the student's work demonstrates potential for behavior analysis application in North Carolina.

2009 Award Recipients

Fred Keller Excellence in Behavior Analysis Award
 Jim Bodfish, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

Technical Utilization Award
 Rosanna Lecaros, J Iverson Riddle Developmental Center

“Do Things” Award
 Fred Spooner, University of North Carolina Charlotte

Student Scholarship Award
 Jason Cone, East Carolina University

Best Poster Award
 Kelly Sutton & Tim Crawford, J. Iverson Riddle Developmental Center
Repetitive Behaviors or SIB: A Case Study

Graduate Student Poster Award
 April Mustian, University of North Carolina Charlotte
Effects of Computer-assisted Reciprocal Peer Tutoring on Phonemic Awareness of Kindergarteners at Risk in Reading

Undergraduate Student Poster Awards
 Maggie Ivancic, Freedom High School & Alison Ivancic, Appalachian State University
Conducting My Cat's Conduct to a Click
 Kateri Norton, East Carolina University
The Increase of On-task Behavior through the Use of Reinforcement

NCABA Membership & Conference Attendance

Membership 2009		
Full Members	Paraprofessional	Student
148	12	37

Conference 2009			
Full Member	Paraprofessional	Student	Non-Member
96	11	35	15

NCABA Officials Elected in 2009

- **Mark Stafford**, Murdoch Developmental Center, Vice President
- **Nancy Poteet**, J. Iverson Riddle Developmental Center, Treasurer
- **Vicki Harper**, J. Iverson Riddle Developmental Center, Member at Large
- **Julie Grimes**, NC Zoo & Davidson Community College, Member at Large
- **Jason Boye**, University of North Carolina Greensboro, Student Representative

NCABA Financial Report

Cash 01-01-09	\$21,209.24
Total Revenue	\$18,603.19
Total Cash 2009	\$39,812.43
2009 Expenses	\$20,357.67
Balance July 31, 2009	\$19,454.76

2009 Conference (Continued)

from the Center for Early Communication and Learning, Rod Realon, Tom Thompson and Jim Phillips from Murdoch Developmental Center, Jeannie Golden from East Carolina University, Fred Spooner from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Jim Bodfish from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Bill Helsel.

The array of topics presented at eight pre- and post-conference workshops was varied, consistent with the impact that behavior analysis is having across a wide number of disciplines and clinical problems. These CEU events were well received by the 114 people attending. Topics ranged from behavioral assessment and intervention for attachment disorders (Jeannie Golden from East Carolina University), to the Picture Exchange Communication System of training for individuals with autism and developmental disorders (Andy Bondy, Pyramid Educational Consultants, Inc.), to training companion animals and animals with behavior problems (Julie Grimes, NC Zoological Park and Davidson County Community College). Other well-received workshop topics were behavioral marriage and family therapy (Bryan Crisp, Private Practice and Instructor at East Carolina University), an examination of how to improve teaching (William Heward, Professor Emeritus, The Ohio State University), and providing supervision in accord with the NC Psychology Practice Act (Tom Thompson, Murdoch Developmental Center).

One hundred fifty seven people attended the NCABA conference. We were extremely fortunate to have a number of individuals pre-eminent in the field in attendance, and several provided invited addresses. While we appreciated and learned much from all, of special mention is the address presented by Dr. Murray Sidman, who attended the conference with his wife, Rita. We were grateful for their presence with us throughout the conference and for sharing memories, research, and insights. Other invited addresses were presented by Dennis Reid, William Heward, Andy Bondy, Judy Favell, Chief Executive Officer of AdvoServ, Dennis Russo, Chief Clinical Officer of the May Institute, and Julie Grimes. As with the workshops, these presentations covered a variety of topics and were reacted to very positively by all in attendance. Our members strongly indicated that they very much appreciated the opportunity to hear first hand from this group of prominent professionals. I would like to extend my special thanks to Duke Schell for heading up the recording of these presentations; because of this, the presentations are preserved for our future reference.

This year, we were also fortunate to have a wonderful array of topics presented during nine concurrent sessions. Maureen Schepis, Pam Mims and Fred Spooner from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and Lori Stuart started off the sessions followed by presentations from Julianne Gold-Brunson from Journey Mental Health for Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Charlotte, Carol Pilgrim and Rachel Kolb from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, and Anne Hoffman with Pyramid Educational Consultants. The final three concurrent sessions were presented by Jeannie Golden, Ya-yu Lo and April Mustian from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and Martin Ivancic and Kimberly Willis from the J. Iverson Riddle Developmental Center. Again, the response of attendees to these talks was overwhelmingly positive.

Our student representative, April Mustian, did a wonderful job of organizing and chairing our student panel of presenters. Jason Boye, currently in the clinical psychology Ph.D. program at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro presented his undergraduate honors thesis research from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Notably, Jason's honors thesis was the student paper winner this year for the Experimental Analysis of Human Behavior Special Interest Group of ABAI. Jason Cone from East Carolina University and Dawn Patterson from University of North Carolina at Charlotte rounded out the student presentations.

The poster session included 11 posters from undergraduate and graduate student researchers as well as practicing professionals. Posters were judged by Andy Bondy, Julie Grimes, Bill Heward, Jim Phillips, Raymond Pitts, and Fred Spooner. Congratulations to the worthy award recipients listed in this newsletter on page three.

Our silent auction, t-shirt sales, and raffle were successful. Altogether, these events raised just under \$1,000. This money will be used for future conference expenses. Thanks to all who donated or purchased an auction item and to those who purchased t-shirts and raffle tickets (especially Jeannie Golden, who hit the jackpot again this year!!!!).

Worthy of special mention is that a group of interested BCBAs met for the first time to discuss the independent practice of behavior analysis in North Carolina. Mark Stafford organized the agenda and Judy Favell shared ideas and recommendations about changing rules about the conditions under which behavior analysis may be practiced in the state. The group shared email addresses and several indicated a willingness to continue working on this important issue.

During our annual NCABA Business Meeting, newly elected officers were announced. The newly elected officers, as well as past officers that continued on the board are listed in this newsletter. Welcome to all the new members and thanks to all those who will continue on with the executive council. Jamie Clary and Duke Schell will remain as non-voting board members and serve as our NCABA webmaster and ABAI liaison, respectively. Fred Spooner will continue to support NCABA as a non-voting board member as well. I would like to send a special thanks to all of the members of the executive council who worked so hard to make the 20th Anniversary of NCABA a special event for all. I would also like to thank the graduate student helpers for their help throughout the conference: Rachel Kolb, Melissa Livermore, and Ashley McCuiston. See you next year for the 21st Annual NCABA Conference in Winston-Salem!!!

~Ruth Hurst, Past President

2010 Conference Speakers*

*A complete list of speakers/topics will be made available in the December newsletter and at www.nc-aba.com when the agenda is complete.

Tim Vollmer , Ph.D., Professor, University of Florida	Kerry McIver , M.A., Research Associate, University of South Carolina
Julie Grimes , Ph.D., Davidson County Community College and Behavioral Consultant to the NC ZOO, Asheboro, NC	Jerry Shook , Ph.D., BCBA, Chief Executive Officer for the Behavior Analysis Certification Board
Ray Miltenberger , Ph.D., Professor, University of South Florida	Timothy Ludwig , Ph.D., Editor, <i>Journal of Organizational Behavior Management</i> & Professor, Appalachian State University
Jim Bodfish , Ph.D., Director, Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities & Professor, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill	Duke Schell , Ph.D., BCBA, Director of Psychology, J. Iverson Riddle Developmental Center
Jeannie Golden , Ph.D., BCBA, Professor, East Carolina University	Kristie Thompson , Ph.D., BCBA
Ruth Hurst , Ph.D., BCBA, Professor, University of North Carolina Wilmington	Dennis Reid , Ph.D., BCBA, Carolina Behavior Analysis & Support Center, Morganton, NC

Where is the Profession of Behavior Analysis Heading?

Over the past few years there has been much debate over the future of the profession of applied behavior analysis. The two primary voices in that debate appear to be the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) (www.abainternational.org) and the Association of Professional Behavior Analysts (APBA) (www.apbahome.net). ABAI describes itself as “a nonprofit professional membership organization with the 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”. APBA describes itself as “a new organization with the primary mission of serving the needs of professional behavior analyst practitioners credentialed by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB)”. In addition the APBA website notes, “The increasing number of BACB-credentialed practitioners, together with recognition of and demand for their services, has both highlighted longstanding needs associated with professional practice in this field and created new ones. Perhaps the central issue is assuring the right of credentialed behavior analysts to practice independently of other professions”.

Both groups have placed information about the potential licensing of behavior analysts including the risks and benefits of doing so and the general guidelines for establishing and implementing licensure. For interested readers, the differing viewpoints of these two groups can be explored on their websites.

*ABAI at www.abainternational.org/BA/practice_FAQLicen.asp

*ABPA/BACB at www.apbahome.net/comparisons.pdf.

At the ABAI conference in Phoenix in May, 2009, there were two closed workshops that discussed licensing and/or credentialing behavior analysts. The first workshop by ABAI included discussions of legislative activity by states, such as the passing of state autism insurance bills that behavior analysts were not involved with or were unaware of. The workshop also included a presentation by former APA President and CEO, Dr. Raymond Fowler, who was directly involved in drafting language for the licensing of psychologists and for states’ model psychology practice acts. He cautioned that the development of a national license in behavior analysis would be long and costly but that it could be done. He also said that just one proposed model licensing act would be preferable to differing ones that might confuse people who would review the licensing process. The second closed workshop by APBA on “legislation and credentialing” focused on how legislation is developed and how the BACB and APBA have been directly involved in supporting legislation, particularly in the area of autism insurance bills and insurance payments for behavior analyst services in other areas.

At the ABAI Business meeting, Linda Hayes, chair of the Practice Board, which is leading the organization on issues related to licensing behavior analysis with their Governmental Affairs Committee chaired by Mike Dorsey, indicated that a follow-up meeting to the business meeting was going to yield some promising information about the current differences of opinion by the varied factions within the field. Unfortunately, to date, there has been no new information at either the ABAI or APBA websites.

In summary, our dilemma regarding the profession of behavior analysis in NC is unresolved. There are currently 52 certified behavior analysts in NC and 18 of them were present in the 2009 NCABA conference meeting with Judy Favell. NCABA supports the appropriate and competent practice of behavior analysis and will continue to provide a forum for discussions of the licensing and certification of behavior analysts as this important topic develops.

~Duke Schell, NCABA Liaison to ABAI (Thanks to NCABA Board members for their feedback on this article.)

Tribute to Ted Carr

Edward Gary Carr, professor of psychology at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, died 20 June 2009 in an automobile accident. Professor Carr, who was known as “Ted” to friends and colleagues, conducted foundational studies about the functions that self-injurious behaviors served and contributed substantially to the development and refinement of methods known as “positive behavioral supports.” In addition, he assessed the benefits of teaching sign language to children with serious language problems such as Autism.

Professor Carr completed a doctoral degree at the University of California San Diego in 1973, worked briefly at the University of California Los Angeles, and then joined the faculty at Stony Brook where, in 2000, he was accorded the honor of an appointment as Leading Professor. During his tenure at Stony Brook he authored or co-authored scores of articles, chapters, monographs, and books; mentored many students; worked with organizations in the US and abroad; and founded and directed the Research & Training Center on Positive Behavior Support for Autism & Developmental Disabilities. His many publications include the books *Communication-Based Intervention for Problem Behavior* and *How to Teach Sign Language to Developmentally Disabled Children*.

Early in his career, Professor Carr began examining alternative explanations for self-injurious behavior among individuals with Autism, publishing “The Motivation of Self-injurious Behavior: A Review of Some Hypotheses” in the prestigious journal, *Psychological Bulletin* in 1977. Over the ensuing years he and colleagues increased the understanding of how self-injurious and other problem behavior might operate on the children’s environments, in effect serving a communicative function. He and others used this knowledge to develop and refine the procedures of functional behavior assessment. The work on humane means of reducing problem behaviors led Professor Carr and others to promote the methods of positive behavioral supports.

Ted Carr was an invited speaker at our NCABA conference in 2004 and participated in a spirited panel with Jon Bailey that was moderated by Denny Reid. On a personal note, Carr’s “Motivation of Self Injurious Behavior” article noted above may have been the first non-JABA article I read when I worked at Western Carolina Center as a Research Associate with Jim and Judy Favell in 1978. It had a profound impact on me in my newly chosen field of behavior analysis and developmental disabilities.

~Contributed by Duke Schell, NCABA Liaison to ABAI This tribute was largely taken from a web-based article linked to the APBA website at www.apbahome.net. The last paragraph is based on my personal experience.

Behavior Analysis in Practice

ABA International® is pleased to announce a peer-reviewed translational publication designed to provide science-based, best-practices information relevant to service delivery in behavior analysis. The target audience includes front-line service workers and their supervisors, scientist-practitioners, and school personnel. The mission of *Behavior Analysis in Practice* is to promote empirically validated best practices in an accessible format that describes not only what works, but also the challenges of implementation in practical settings. The inaugural issue of *Behavior Analysis in Practice* was published in Spring of 2008 with Dr. Dorothea Lerman as the current Editor of the journal.

Behavior Analysis in Practice (BAP) is accepting manuscripts for future issues. Types of articles and topics published in BAP will include empirical reports describing the application and evaluation of behavior-analytic procedures and programs; discussion papers on professional and practice issues; technical articles on methods, data analysis, or instrumentation in the practice of behavior analysis; tutorials on terms, procedures, and theories relevant to best practices in behavior analysis; and critical reviews of books and products that are aimed at practitioners or consumers of behavior analysis. Authors should use language that is easily accessible to practitioners, clearly define all technical terms, and link research findings directly to practice.

Orders for *Behavior Analysis in Practice* (ISSN 1998-1929) may be made on-line at <https://apps.abainternational.org/store/> or by telephoning (269) 492-9310.



NCABA is going Green!

We will begin sending the NCABA newsletters to the email address we have on file for you starting with the December newsletter. If you would like to continue receiving your newsletter in the mail, or if you would like to change the email address we have on file for you, please go to:

http://www.nc-aba.com/index_files/Comments.htm

Membership Rate increases for 2010

After much discussion the board decided to increase the yearly membership rate from \$15 to \$20 per year and the 3-year rate from \$40 to \$50. Our membership dues remain among the lowest for professional organizations and the board is committed to maintaining a low fee organization and a cost efficient annual conference for its members. This fee increase will be applied to the 2010 membership year.



Check out our
website at:
www.nc-aba.com

Continuing Education Credit Opportunities

A certificate will be provided to all participants indicating the number of hours for conference attendance and conference workshops. Category A Continuing Education Credit for NC psychologists is currently being sought for all pre and post-workshops including a workshop focusing on Ethics. In addition, Behavior Analyst Certification Approved Continuing Education Credits will be available for approved sessions which typically results in 10 to 16 obtainable credits. Information on the number of credits available will be included in the December newsletter and will be posted at www.nc-aba.com when the application process is complete.

Join us for the
2010 Conference
in
Winston Salem

Posters are being solicited

for the conference. Monetary awards for Best Student, Best Professional and Best Overall Poster will be given. Anyone interested should contact Mark Stafford at:
markstaff@earthlink.net

Editor's Notes: the NCABA Newsletter is published twice a year by the North Carolina Association for Behavior Analysis. The primary function of the Summer newsletter is to summarize events and announce the annual conference. The primary function of the Winter mailing is to provide information for the upcoming conference, including an agenda and summary of conference events. Each mailing will include membership information, a *Comments & Notes* section to provide a public forum for elected officers and the membership, and announcements.

Send all submissions to:
NCABA
Psychology Services
Murdoch Developmental Center
PO Box 3000
Butner, NC 27509
help@nc-aba.com

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