



Rowan Reinforcement Record

Center for Behavior Analysis Newsletter



Volume 6, Issue 1
Fall 2011

Welcome to the sixth volume of the newsletter for the Center of Behavior Analysis. In this edition, you will read about recent graduate student research, spring courses, ABA Club, internship opportunities, and the ABAI 2012 Autism Conference in Philadelphia! All of us have been busy continuing to improve and expand our programs, research, and service. In June, we hosted the first program review of the graduate coursework in applied behavior analysis. As a result of this meeting, our students will be engaging in more active learning using response devices (i.e., "clickers") in all of their classes. We are also excited by our search for another full-time faculty member to join Drs. Kerwin & Soreth in Fall 2012. On the research front, several projects are underway including the exploration of similarities and differences between Applied Behavior Analysis and Relationship Development Intervention™, evaluating a mentoring program for 3rd to 5th graders in a Camden school, and continuing a program of research on the role of variability on schedule preference using pigeons. We continue to expand our support of professionals in the field. This summer we hosted the one-day NJABA workshop featuring Dr. Pat Friman. This Fall we are pleased to welcome Dr. Donald Hantula on October 21 who will speak about behavioral economics and performance management, as well as John Wilson and Steve Trout of Interactive Kids, LLC who will share their expertise on direct instruction and functional communication training. Finally, through a partnership with St. Joseph's Children's Hospital Center for Feeding and Swallowing, Dr. Kerwin has begun providing assessment and treatment of feeding problems. We hope you enjoy reading the newsletter!

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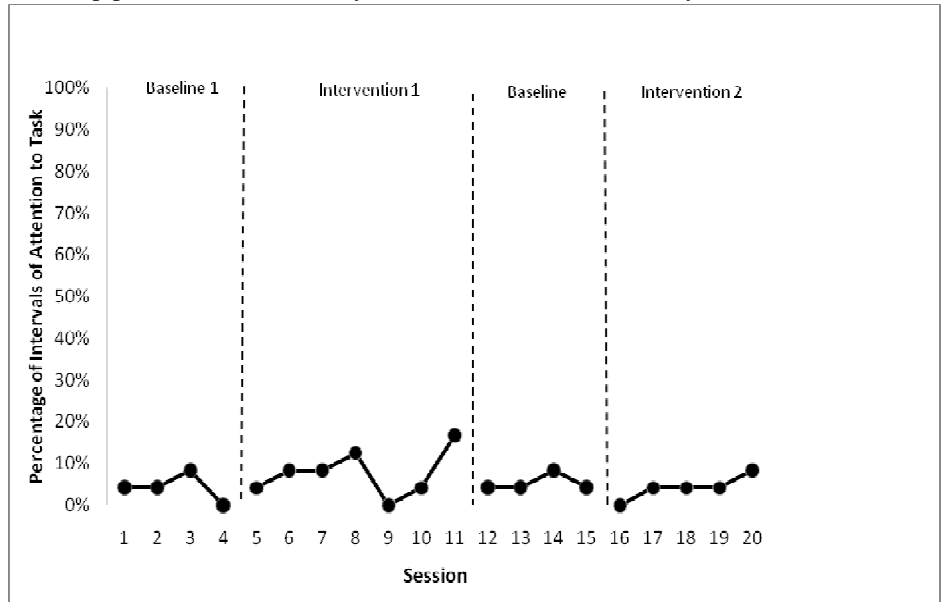
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Graduate Student Research

Leslie Lewis

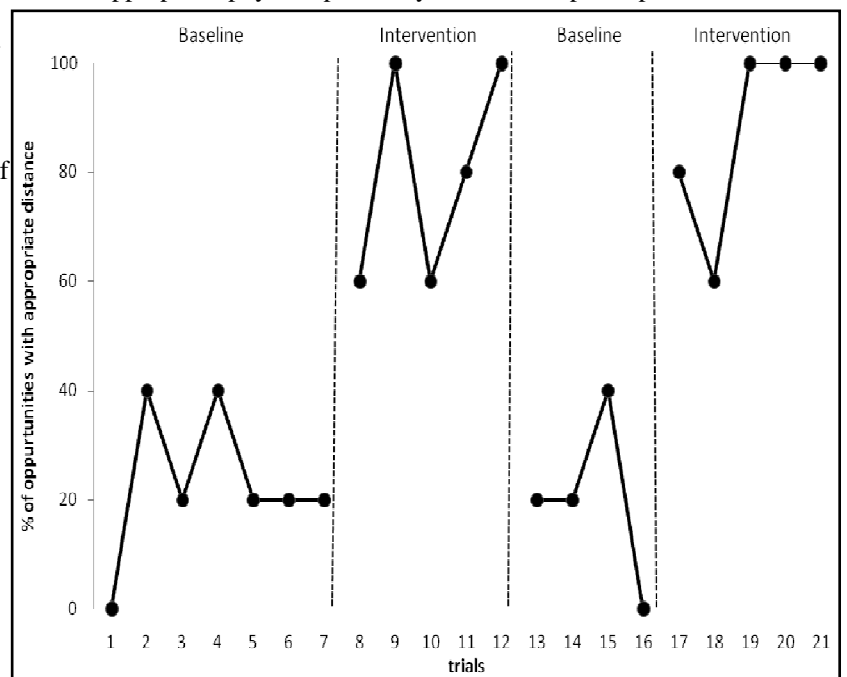
Occupational therapists have advocated the use of deep pressure for years. Based on sensory integration principles, deep pressure techniques deliver sensory input that is believed to achieve a homeostatic balance of the nervous system. Deep pressure is used primarily for calming the body – which is purported to lead to increased focus and attention to task. School based occupational therapists frequently rely on the use of pressure vests to simulate this therapeutic technique. Although widely used, the use of pressure vests as an intervention to administer deep pressure is theoretically based. Previous research has yielded inconsistent outcomes.

This study continues the line of research on the effects of pressure vests on attention. A reversal design was used to examine effects of a pressure vest on a preschooler with autism. Outcomes of this study indicate that pressure vests have little effect on attention. Results of this study support the need for more extensive research in specific areas of this intervention such as: participant criteria, and protocol guidelines for use of the pressure vest.



Stephanie Jaggard

The present study examined the physical proximity of three adults diagnosed with mental retardation within a residential facility. A vibrating watch was used as a tactile prompt to increase appropriate physical proximity between the participants and the individuals they were engaged with in conversation. Prior to intervention, the participants were taught to respond to the vibrating watch by raising their arm directly in front of them as a guideline of what was considered appropriate physical proximity. During intervention, sessions were presented at random for five minutes in which the watch vibrated on a VT60 second schedule. When the watch vibrated, the participant would increase their distance if they were within an arm's length of another person. An ABAB reversal design was used in which experimental control was demonstrated during each reversal phase.



Graduate Student Advising

GRADUATE COURSES Spring 2012		
MA & CAG ABA	Research Methods PSY 02510-1 CRN 21789 (Kerwin) PSY 02510-2 Bancroft (Vorndran)	Monday 4:45-7:15
MA & CAG ABA	Practicum in ABA I PSY 01660 CRN 21544 (Kerwin)	Monday 7:25-9:55
MA & CAG ABA	Advanced Practice PSY 02680 CRN 22994 (Concors)	Tuesday 4:45-7:15
MA & CAG ABA	Applied Behavior Analysis PSY 02610 CRN 22703 (Soreth) PSY 02610 Bancroft (Perrin)	Tuesday 4:45-7:15
MA	Psychopathology of Childhood & Adolescence PSY 03624 CRN 20593 (Dihoff)	Wednesday 4:45-7:25
MA	Special Topics in Behavior Analysis (Curriculum-based Assessment) PSY02661 CRN 22258 (Concors)	Thursday 4:45-7:15

Registration: Spring 2012 Both Graduates & Undergraduate

October 17 – 23	All Seniors and Graduate Students	90 or more
October 24 – 30	All Juniors and Seniors	58 or more
October 31 – November 6	All Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors	24 or more
November 7 – 13	All Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors	Any

USE THE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS & ADVISING DATABASE (GRAD)

Registration for Spring 2012 starts October 17. Registration is based on the number of credits you have (including credits you are currently taking). To determine how many credits you have access your transcript on Self Service or use GRAD. Graduation Requirements and Advising Database (GRAD) is the online graduation requirements tracking tool available via Banner Self Service that allows students and advisors to view academic progress at any time. GRAD interactively matches courses completed by students with their degree requirements. It provides students and advisors with an important tool for tracking student progress towards degree or award completion.

INSTRUCTIONS ON ACCESSING GRAD

http://www.rowan.edu/toolbox/training/resources/Banner/files/Faculty_Student/GRADstudent.pdf

SEEING YOUR ADVISOR

All declared Psychology majors (this includes the Child Behavior Specialization) have a faculty advisor. If you do not know who your advisor is you can find out by either going online to GRAD (your advisor will be listed on your worksheet) or you can stop into the Psych Dept and ask the student worker to look it up for you. While you are in the office you can also find out when his/her office hours are. Please keep in mind that your advisor is a faculty member who is also teaching classes, conducting research, serving on university committees, etc. so he/she may not be available to see you immediately – this is why faculty have office hours. Your advisor may prefer to meet with groups of advisees together or with each advisee individually.

Undergraduate Student Advising

Registration Dates for Spring 2012

Seniors (90+ credits).....October 17
 Juniors (58+ credits).....October 24
 Sophomores (24+ credits).....October 31
 Freshman (Under 24 credits).....November 7

Becoming a BCaBA

Upon graduation from Rowan, Psychology majors with the *Specialization in Behavioral Services for Children & their Families* will have completed the coursework requirements for eligibility to become a Board Certified assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA), a nationally recognized certification. In addition to the coursework and a completed bachelor's degree, students are also required to collect 1000 clinical experience hours in Applied Behavior Analysis under the supervision of a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). Finally, after the degree, coursework, and experience hours are completed students are eligible to sit for the board exam, administered at an independent testing center. Once passing the exam, the student becomes a BCaBA in good standing.

Obtaining the BCaBA allows for increased marketability and employment opportunities. The BCaBA conducts descriptive assessments and is able to interpret the results and design ethical and effective behavior analytic interventions for clients. The BCaBA also designs and oversees interventions in familiar cases (e.g., similar to those encountered during their training) that are consistent with the dimensions of ABA. It is mandatory that each BCaBA practice under the supervision of a BCBA. Governmental entities, third-party insurance plans and others utilizing BCaBAs must require this supervision. For more information see www.bacb.com

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES	
Behavioral Assessment & Measurement CRN 22702 (Fetherston)	M 4:45-7:15
Applied Behavior Analysis CRN 20591 (Barnard)	W 4:45-7:15
Developmental Psychopathology (Specialization Students Only) CRN 21414 CRN 20617	R 7:25-9:55 W 6:30-9:00
Learning and Behavior CRN 21000 (Soreth) CRN 21685 (Pisacreta)	T/R 3:15-4:30 W 4:45-7:15
Professional Issues in ABA CRN 22993 (Soreth)	R 4:45-7:15

Are you in the Specialization? Were you anticipating taking Field Experience in Spring 2012?

As you know, Professional Issues in ABA is now required instead of Field Experience. If you are still interested in being placed in an agency or organization that uses behavior analysis, please complete the Field Experience application form found on the Center's Website under Students/Alumni in the Forms subpage. After completing the application, submit it to Dr. Soreth. Please realize that there is no guarantee that all applicants will be placed.

Students in the CAGS in ABA need to formally apply for Completion of the Certificate Program using the Application for Completion of Graduate Certificate Program form on Registrar's website.

<http://www.rowan.edu/provost/registrar/forms/Cert%20Completion%20Form.doc>

Please note if you want a formal certificate for framing, you will need to pay additional money.

2011 Graduates!

Undergraduate Psychology Majors with a Specialization in Behavioral Services for Children & their Families

Laura Agudelo	Jordain Holst
Ashley Archambo	Alexandra Iliescu
Michelle Brooks	Megan MacDonald
Eric Carrera	Jessica McDaniel
Amanda Cathcart	Jessica Mclaughlin
Brittany Clark	Jillian Ruth Mills
Jacligza DeJesus	Tatiana Mitchell
Jenny DeLorme	Jessica Parkell
Amanda Demarest	Kia Simmons
Natalie DiPietro	Stephanie Smith
Amanda Hesington	Julie Weiss
Ayana Hicks	Alexandra Zwahl

Master of Arts in Applied Behavior Analysis

Carla Benson
Joseph Dumas
Therese Dursch
Stephanie Jaggard
Sandra Kokolis
Leslie Lewis
Kim Montagano
Angela Stewart
Caroline Tomlinson
Katie Wark
Karen Zeltman

Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies (CAGS) in Applied Behavior Analysis

Sharon Briles
Janet Burdsall
Patricia Hickey
Cynthia Mellitz
Robbyn Scott

Congratulations!



RU Ready to Graduate?

Attention Seniors!

Graduation applications are being accepted in the Registrar's office beginning October 1, 2011 for **Spring 2012** graduation. The deadline for submitting your application is December 31, 2011. If you will have completed all of your degree requirements by May 2012 your application does not require your advisor's signature. If you would like to walk in the May 2012 commencement ceremony but will be finishing your degree in Summer 2012, please fill out an application and see your advisor (Dr. Soreth) to sign the form. Graduation applications can be found in the registrar's office or on the registrar's website (under the "Graduation, Diplomas, & Academic Honors" section): www.rowan.edu/registrar. If you have further questions please contact Dr. Soreth at soreth@rowan.edu.

All Bachelor, Master, and Doctoral candidates must complete an Application for Graduation

Spring 2012 graduation applications will be accepted until: Sat., December 31, 2011
(the non-refundable application fee will be added to your Rowan account)

Eligible students must apply for graduation through Self-Service Banner - select "Apply to Graduate."
For more information please visit www.rowan.edu/registrar or e-mail graduation@rowan.edu.

ABA Club

ABA Club Update

By Danielle Smith ('13)

In the last year, the undergraduate ABA Club has undergone a major transformation. It has become a Student Government Association (SGA) chartered organization, membership has increased 7 times over, and the club has made many connections in the community while working with several outside organizations.

The spring semester's primary service project will be a continuation of a partnership with Supports to Achieve Independent Living (SAIL). SAIL is a local organization that helps individuals with learning and developmental disabilities live independently in the community through provision of supports and services. The program is designed for young adults age 21 and over who have a strong desire to live on their own and are able to work competitively in the community. The annual event was first initiated by former ABA Club President Jessica McDaniel. Last year, young adults from the SAIL program came to Rowan's campus and teamed up with the ABA Club for an afternoon of fun. We tie-dyed t-shirts, enjoyed pizza and refreshments, and worked in small groups on a scavenger hunt. The event was a huge success, and we look forward to working with SAIL again this academic year.

In an attempt to increase membership as well as educate current members on career paths, services opportunities, and the field of ABA in general, speakers have become a staple of our meetings. Last semester our own Dr. Michelle Soreth presented on the field of ABA in general and why ABA is so often used when working with individuals diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders. This semester we look forward to a beginner's lesson in American Sign Language and a talk by a school psychologist and director of special education.

In general, ABA Club is becoming a larger presence in the Psychology Department with both professors and students. For up to the minute information on the club, please visit our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/RowanABA>



ABA Club represented Rowan University at the Walk Now for Autism Speaks- Philadelphia on September 24 at Citizen's Bank Park.

ABA Club Meeting/ School Psychology Presentation!!

Join us for a presentation on School Psychology by Dr. Richard Doughty, School Psychologist and Director of Special Education at Freedom Academy Charter School, and adjunct professor at Rowan!

Tuesday, 10/18 at 8:00 pm in Robinson 201A

Our normal October meeting will be after. We'll be discussing an upcoming service project and other fun ABA opportunities.

Are you looking for a job?

For internship and employment opportunities in Applied Behavior Analysis, please see the Employment subpage under "Students & Alumni" section of Rowan's Center for Behavior Analysis website.

www.rowan.edu/abacenter

ABA Club Executive Board 2011-2012

Advisor: Dr. Michelle Soreth

President: Danielle Smith (Junior)

Vice President: Katelyn DeVane (Senior)

Secretary: Jennifer Hackney (Senior)

Senator: Brian Smith (Senior)

Treasurer: Melissa Charfadi (Junior)

Public Relations Coordinator: Rachel Kirschner (Senior)

Professional Organizations

ABAI 2012 Autism Conference in Philadelphia!



Friday, January 27–Sunday, January 29, 2012
Philadelphia Marriott Downtown; Philadelphia, PA
Call for Posters through October 26, 2011.
Early registration through December 14, 2011

Save the dates now for ABAI's 6th Annual Autism Conference, which will again feature research and best practices of relevance to the treatment of children and adults on the autism spectrum. In addition to invited presentations by distinguished scholars, attendees will have the opportunity to review current research at two poster sessions. Conference attendees will also be able to browse a bookstore and exhibit booths.

Additional Information: <http://www.abainternational.org/events/autconf2012/index.asp>
(269) 492-9310 or convention@abainternational.org.

Profile of a Placement



CNNH
The Center for Neurological and
Neurodevelopmental Health

Helping To Achieve What The Mind Can Conceive

CNNH brings together experts in neurological, neuropsychological, and neuropsychiatric services, with social development, creative arts and behavior therapists under one roof to provide *comprehensive evaluations, evidence-based diagnostics and individualized outcome based treatment plans* for children and adults with: ADHD, Learning Disorders, Autism, Concussion and Brain Injury, Epilepsy/Seizures, Headache & Migraine and more. Our team of experts, working together, offers targeted and accurate treatment plans for individuals with neurologically-based disorders, incorporating behavior services with other successful methodologies. Functional behavior assessments, analysis and behavior therapy are provided to children with a variety of disorders as part of this overall treatment approach in school, at home or as an out-patient. CNNH welcomes students to participate, under the leadership of Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA), in team meetings, care-giver trainings and direct service. Internships are offered to students experienced with conducting ABA and interested in providing behavior therapy to children with a variety of neurological disorders. For more information on our behavior services, please visit our website at www.thecnnh.org.

