



# Rowan Reinforcement Record

## Center for Behavior Analysis Newsletter

### Faculty Spotlight

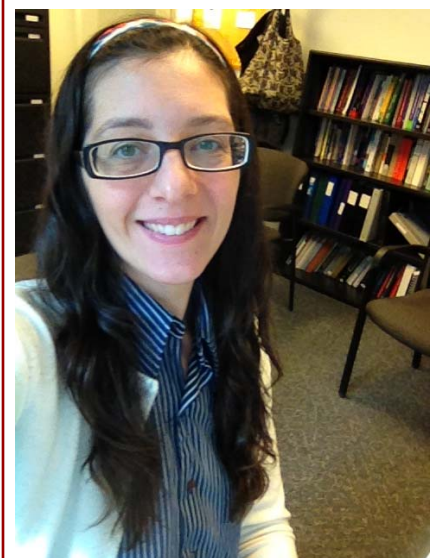
#### Welcoming our new faculty member, Dr. Bethany Raiff...

Bethany R. Raiff, PhD received her PhD in Psychology, with an emphasis in Behavioral Pharmacology, from the University of Florida in 2008. Dr. Raiff's primary research activities involve developing and testing the integration of technological innovations with behavioral interventions for promoting drug abstinence and other health behavior. Currently, Dr. Raiff is refining and testing an Internet-based intervention that involves delivering incentives contingent on objective evidence of smoking abstinence in adult smokers. In addition to her work on smoking cessation, Dr. Raiff received an NIH grant to apply the same Internet-based monitoring system used with smokers to a novel behavior and population - to increase adherence with blood glucose testing recommendations among non-adherent teens diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes. Although incentive-based interventions can be very effective at promoting healthy behavior, they can be expensive to implement. To address this concern, Dr. Raiff recently received a promising priority score on an NIH grant that will involve developing and testing a video game that will be used to deliver game-based incentives (in place of monetary incentives) contingent on smoking abstinence. Dr. Raiff hopes to continue to explore this, and other methods, for making the intervention more cost-effective and sustainable at Rowan University. In addition to conducting research, Dr. Raiff has been actively involved in teaching and mentoring graduate and undergraduate students who are interested in learning and applying the principles of behavior analysis to real-world behavioral problems.



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### In This Issue...

Congratulations Alex Ward!.....Pg. 2  
Graduate Student Research!.....Pg. 3  
Graduate Student Advising!.....Pg. 4  
Psych Department News!.....Pg. 5  
Undergrad Student Advising!.....Pg. 6  
ABA Club!.....Pg. 7  
Upcoming Conferences.....Pg. 8  
Profile of a Placement..... Pg. 10

### Center for Behavior Analysis Advisory Board

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# Graduate Student Corner

We are pleased to announce that Alex Ward, a current student in the MA in ABA program, was recently accepted into two Doctoral programs: West Virginia University's PhD in Behavior Analysis Program, and Auburn University's PhD in Cognitive and Behavior Sciences program. We interviewed Alex to find out more about the application process and his road to success.



## **How many doctoral programs did you apply to, and what was your top choice?**

Alex: I applied to West Virginia, Auburn, Queen's College, and Auckland in New Zealand. West Virginia was my first choice, and I interviewed there and at Auburn. There was a mix up with my application at Queen's, and I'm not "officially" an applicant at Auckland yet since the process is much longer. You have to obtain a passport before completing the application process.

## **What other type of preparation was needed in the application process?**

Alex: Each program required an application, personal statement, letters of recommendation, GRE scores, and transcripts.

## **Were you able to apply prior to finishing the MA program?**

Alex: I am in my last semester here. I applied before I was finished the program, but will graduate prior to the Doctoral program starting.

## **Do you have any advice regarding the application process?**

Alex: Know your professor of interest and their research! You study under a specific faculty member, and they decide if you're a good fit for their research. You should know their past and current work. You can also contact them to have some interaction. I e-mailed professors just to ask questions about their research articles and to see if they still had their data. It shows interest and that you can interact with them on a professional level. Also, there's a significant cost in the whole process between application fees, travel for interviews, etc. so be prepared for that.

## **What did you like about West Virginia University?**

Alex: Their program is specifically in Behavior Analysis unlike some other programs. I also really like the research of one of their faculty members, Liz Kyonka, so I was interested in studying under her. She actually got her PhD from Auckland which is why I thought that would also be a good choice. The town WVU is in, Morgantown, is also nice. It's a much different terrain than I'm used to; very hilly and tends to get icy at in the winter. The campus is segmented a little like Rowan's, but in more of a city-type setting. Some of the buildings are so far apart that there's a monorail service to get you around campus. It's a combination of new and older buildings. Their library has the original front entrance on it, which is covered up by a larger, newer library placed right in front of it. There's also a huge abundance of school spirit on campus and throughout the surrounding areas. You can find WVU colors and apparel in almost every store you go to in that town.

## **What was the interview process like? Were you nervous?**

Alex: I was very nervous, and probably a little awkward, but apparently they were able to see past that and liked me. They were fairly quick. I would interview with five faculty members, see the labs and talk with current students, and the whole process was from about 9am to 2pm. They asked me mostly about my thesis and my familiarity with the faculty members' work. They're really into finding out if you're a good "fit" for the faculty and students, since you'll be working with them for several years and they want to have a cohesive group. They were very accommodating, offering "hosts" or information about hotels in the area. They'd also provide dinner meet-and-greet with students, and faculty. That night, after interviews, there was a department party. WVU had a limbo competition which is apparently infamous since someone at Auburn referenced it during my interviews there. I walked in late and didn't participate but it was pretty entertaining.

## **Do you have any other advice for students looking toward a Doctoral program in their future?**

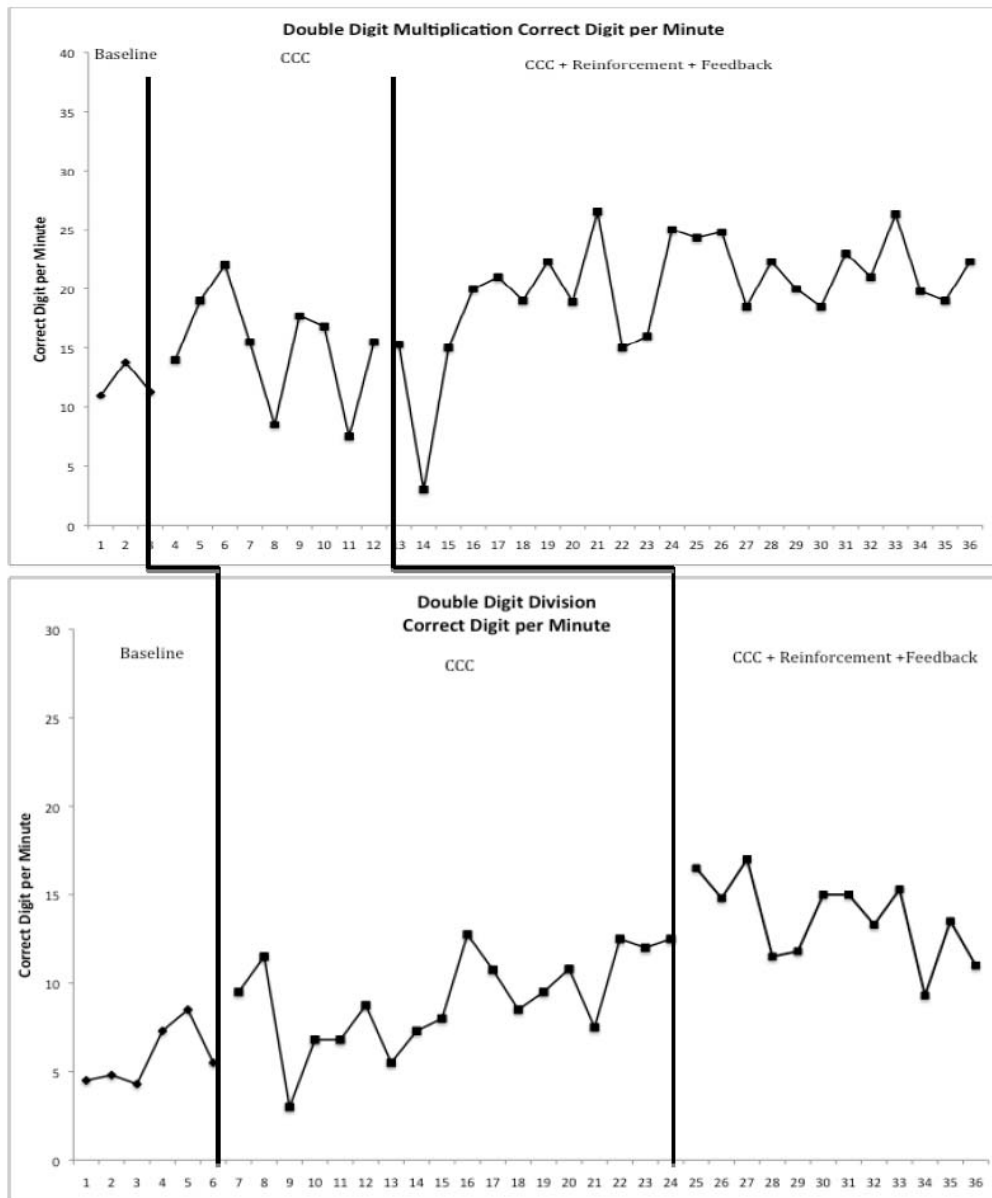
Alex: Just do you best and be yourself. Programs and faculty members will know if you're genuine or not. And ask your advisors for tips or programs to check out, depending on what your interests are. They've been through it before, and can offer a wealth of information.

# Graduate Student Research

**Karen Zeltman**

In the last decade, the percentage of students qualifying for special education services has risen dramatically (Shapiro, 2004). According to the U.S. Department of Education, nearly 66 million children in the United States between the ages of 6 and 17 years of age are eligible for special education services. Research has begun to focus on Curriculum-based assessment measures (CBA) as an evaluation tool to assess academic performance in children across mathematics, reading, spelling, and written expression (Hintze, Christ, & Methe, 2006) instead of utilizing more standardized tests such as the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

This research utilized a Cover, Copy, and Compare (CCC) procedure to increase math facts in the home setting. A single subject multiple baseline across mathematics skills (Kazdin, 1982) was utilized to show the effects of the Cover, Copy, Compare procedure on skill acquisition of a 12 year old male with a history of learning difficulties. An additional phase, CCC+Feedback+Positive Reinforcement, was added when rate of skill acquisition was found to be inadequate and variable. This study proved to be a simple technique for a parent with no prior experience in academic interventions. The student exceeded rate of improvement set by the researcher for multiplication and slightly below rate of improvement set by the researcher for division.



# Graduate Student Advising

SUMMER 2012

CRN	Course	Title	Instructor	Day & Time	Location	Program
30257	PSY 03624	Psychopathology of Childhood	Kerwin	May 21-Jun 22 TR 5—9:15 pm	Savitz 217	MA in ABA
30287	SELN 10590	Introduction to Autism	Sebastian	Jun 25-Jul 27 4:30—8:30 pm	Educ 2103	MA in ABA
30638	PSY 02670	Ethics & Legal Issues in ABA	Kerwin	Jun 25-Jul 27 TR 5-9:15 pm	Bunce 109	CAGS & MA
30259	PSY 02660-1	Research Project in ABA	Soreth	Jun 25-Jul 27 MW 5-9:15 pm	Educ 2094	MA in ABA
30265	PSY 02660-2	Research Project in ABA	Kerwin	Jun 25-Jul 27 MW 5—9:15 pm	Rob 121	MA in ABA

## FALL 2012

Course Number	Title	Instructor	Day & Time	Program
PSY 02600	ABCs of ABA	West	M 4:45—7:15	COGS in ASD
PSY 02600	ABCs of ABA	Kettering	W 3:30-6 at Bancroft	COGS in ASD
PSY 02500	Basic Principles of Behavior	Soreth	T 4:45—7:15	CAGS & MA in ABA
PSY 02500	Basic Principles of Behavior	Raiff	T 4:45—7:15	CAGS & MA in ABA
PSY 02620	Behavioral Assessment & FA	Kerwin	W 4:45—7:15	CAGS & MA in ABA
PSY 02620	Behavioral Assessment & FA	Vorndran	R 3:30-6 at Bancroft	CAGS & MA in ABA
PSY 02680	Advanced Practice in ABA	Soreth	M 4:45—7:15	CAGS & MA in ABA
PSY 02661	Special Topics: Verbal Behavior	Barnard	W 4:45-7:15	MA in ABA
PSY 02661	Special Topics: Interventions for Challenging Behaviors	Perrin	M 3:30-6 at Bancroft	MA in ABA
PSY 02661	Special Topics: Behavioral Medicine	Niemann	T 4:45-7:15 at CNNH	MA in ABA

**\*Special Topics in ABA: Applied Behavior Analysis in Behavioral Medical Practice:**

**Behavioral Medicine** is an interdisciplinary field concerned with the development and integration of knowledge in the medical, biological, behavioral, psychological, and social sciences relevant to health and illness. Practitioners of behavioral medicine include appropriately qualified physicians, nurses, psychologists, various types of therapists and board certified behavior analysts. This course will explore the biological causes and contributors to maladaptive behavior patterns and how the principles of ABA can assist in medical management and decision-making. The integration of behavior analysts into an interdisciplinary medical/neurological/neuropsychological team, and the impact on comprehensive interdisciplinary assessments on patient outcomes will be reviewed utilizing actual case studies.

# Psychology Department News



38<sup>th</sup> Annual Psychology Research Conference

Thursday, April 12, 2012



**This year the ABA Programs will honor the students in the ABA Undergraduate & Graduate Programs on April 12 in the evening at Eynon Ballroom. Please plan to attend the festivities!!!**

The Rowan University Psychology Department's Annual Research Conference has been an ongoing tradition for over 30 years. Its intent is to allow students from both our undergraduate and graduate programs the opportunity to present their research findings in a professional context. This conference offers students an excellent opportunity to develop their skills and gain experiences that will foster their professional development. Most importantly, the conference allows students to showcase the results of the psychological research they have been doing over the course of the past academic year.

For students who attend the conference, they are able to witness the level of accomplishment that fellow students have achieved and to support fellow students through what can be a very anxiety provoking situation. Additionally, students are able to see first hand the breadth and depth of Psychology as a science and to understand more concretely what being "a science of human behavior" really means. Topics of the conference closely follow the research interests of faculty members and, as such, also highlight the breadth and depth of the Psychology Department faculty.

In recent years, we have also included a recognition ceremony. On this day, we come together as a department to celebrate the many accomplishments of Psychology Majors. We induct students into Psi Chi, the National Honor Society in Psychology. We also recognize students that have participated in research over the previous year and those students who have stepped up into leadership positions in our two student run clubs-The Psychology Alliance and the Applied Behavior Analysis Club. Finally, we recognize a few students each year who are awarded the Medallion Award and the Dean's Senior Recognition Award (formerly the "Dean's Tea").

For more information please visit <http://users.rowan.edu/~sledjeski/researchconference.html>

## BACB News

The BACB clarified detailed regarding supervision in their most recent newsletter. The clarification is in reference to *Guideline 5.06* of the *BACB Guidelines for Responsible Conduct of Behavior Analysts*. This guideline states that "The behavior analyst provides feedback regarding the performance of a student or supervisee at least once per two weeks or consistent with BACB requirements." The BACB states that the guideline applies to instructors, supervisors of students obtaining experience requirements, as well as certificants who are supervising others during their course of service delivery. They provide an example of a BCBA who supervises a group of in-home therapists. The BCBA would need to provide performance feedback to the in-home therapists at least every two weeks. You are encouraged to contact the BACB if you have any questions regarding the clarification.



# Undergraduate Student Advising

## Registration Dates

### Summer 2012

Registration is now open

### Fall 2012

Course registration begins March 26:

**March 26 for Seniors (90+ credits)**

**April 2 for Juniors (58+ credits)**

**April 9 for Sophomores (24+ credits)**

**April 16 for Freshman (All credit levels)**

## UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

### Summer 2012

Learning & Behavior (CRN: 30378) Soreth	MW 5:00-9:15 May 21-June 22
*Field Experience in Psychology (Specialization Students only) Soreth	TR 5:00-9:15 May 21-June 22
*By application only—please email Dr. Soreth for an application and additional details: <a href="mailto:soreth@rowan.edu">soreth@rowan.edu</a>	

## UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

### Fall 2012

Learning & Behavior Raiff	TR 3:15pm-4:30pm
Learning & Behavior Raiff	R 4:45-7:15pm
Applied Behavior Analysis Instructor TBA	T 4:45-7:15pm
Behavioral Assessment & Measurement Soreth	W 4:45-7:15pm
Professional Issues in Applied Behavior Analysis Kerwin	M 4:45-7:15pm

## News!

Beginning **Fall 2012**, all students in the Specialization in Behavioral Services for Children and their Families should now enroll in the “Professional Issues in Applied Behavior Analysis” course instead of the Field Experience course in order to fulfill the requirements for the Specialization and the BACB-approved course sequence. The professional issues course should be taken after completing Learning & Behavior, Applied Behavior Analysis, and Behavioral Assessment & Measurement. The Field Experience course will now count as a free elective course. If you have any questions please contact Dr. Soreth at [soreth@rowan.edu](mailto:soreth@rowan.edu).

## Advising for CAGS in ABA

**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.

# ABA Club

The ABA club is an SGA chartered undergraduate club for students interested in using Applied Behavior Analysis to solve problems of human concern, including improving the lives of children with special needs. The ABA club has a variety of great events in the planning stages for the spring 2012 semester. First, the club will be partnering with the Academic Success Center and the Student Council for Exceptional Children on a series of “**Light it up Blue**” events on Rowan’s campus. Light it up Blue is a world-wide event through Autism Speaks that serves to spread autism awareness by lighting up large, important buildings with blue light. Autism Speaks is dedicated to funding research examining the causes, prevention, and treatments for autism, increasing awareness of autism spectrum disorders, and advocating for the needs of individuals with autism and their families. Events on Rowan’s campus will include:

**Monday April 2:** A panel discussion on living with disabilities

**Monday April 2:** The movie *Temple Grandin* will be presented on campus

**Sunday April 22:** An on-campus walk and resource fair

In addition, ABA Club will be holding a **fundraiser at Adelphia’s in Deptford, NJ on Monday April 9**. Details on ticket sales will be released soon.

ABA Club will be **holding executive board elections** for the 2012-2013 academic year at the March meeting. All positions are up for election. For more information on each executive board members jobs or to sign up to run, please contact President Danielle Smith at [smithd61@students.rowan.edu](mailto:smithd61@students.rowan.edu)

In an attempt to increase membership as well as educate current members on career paths, service opportunities, and the field of ABA in general, speakers have become a staple of our meetings. Last semester we had presentations by a school psychologist and the State Director of Behavioral Services at Devereux, NJ. This semester we look forward to presentations from the Owner and Director of Partners in Learning, an interactive lesson in the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS), and a presentation research in Applied Behavior Analysis.

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 @

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/RowanABA/>

## 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](http://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 & Upcoming Conferences

## Seventh Annual NJABA Conference

The 7th Annual NJABA Conference will be held on Friday, March 23, 2012 at Bridgewater Manor in Bridgewater New Jersey.



### *Keynote Presentation*

*On Being an Applied Behavior Analyst:  
Behavior is the Limit*

**Alicia M. Alvero, Ph.D.**

**Anthony Cammilleri, Ph.D., BCBA-D**

**Michael Himle, Ph.D.**

**ABOUT JAAC**  
JAAC IS A NON PROFIT AGENCY SERVICING THE AUTISTIC COMMUNITY.

Our Mission to improve the lives of individuals with autism and their families by creating a one stop autism center focusing on research; education and providing culturally sensitive care. Our comprehensive programs include therapy services, support groups, social skill groups, case management, mainstreaming assistance and an afterschool program. We empower parents and professionals in the greater autism community thru continuing education courses and comprehensive outreach.

**is proud to host**  
**DR. RICHARD SOLOMON**  
**AUTISM CONFERENCE**

**Parent and Educator Workshop:**  
Monday, March 12 &  
Tuesday, March 13, 2012

**4 day Professional Training:**  
Monday - Thursday  
March 12 - 15, 2012

**AFTER THIS WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ABLE TO:**

- Summarize the latest information on the science of autism and recent research supporting intensive developmental/ play-based intervention models.
- Understand, in-depth, the characteristics of Greenspan's 6 Functional Developmental Levels
- Apply the P.L.A.Y. Project's Skill Sequence to video cases, small group discussion, and expert assessment, by Solomon and Dr. Swink.
- Prescribe activities, methods, and techniques to help young children with autistic spectrum disorders (ASD's)
- Gain a better understanding of how The P.L.A.Y. Project intervention Model impacts children and families through a parent/professional Q and A panel.
- Return to your community to put the program into practice by developing a case load of children on the spectrum.
- Proceed with 12-18 months of long-distance support and supervision where you refine your learning; the P.L.A.Y. Project faculty review 20 videos of your home visits and provide specific feedback.

**Location: Circa | 415 Cedar Bridge Ave  
Lakewood, NJ 08701**

Richard Solomon, MD, Medical Director of the Play Project is board certified in both general Pediatrics and Developmental/Behavioral Pediatrics. He has diagnosed and supported children with Autism for over fifteen years. Dr. Solomon was a colleague of Stanley Greenspan, and he is a board member of the ICDL.

**For More Information:**  
(732) 534 - 5342  
[www.JAACfoundation.com](http://www.JAACfoundation.com)

ABAI will host the 38th Annual Convention in Seattle, Washington, May 25-29, 2012, at the Washington State Convention Center.

For detailed information on the convention and registration, visit

<http://www.abainternational.org/events/convention2012/index.asp>



# NJABA 1-Day Workshop at Rowan University

## July 13, 2012

### Calling Exhibitors!

Would you like to advertise your company and market your services and products?  
Consider becoming an exhibitor for the NJABA Summer Conference to be held at Rowan University on July 13, 2013

#### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Timothy R. Vollmer, Ph.D.**



Dr. Vollmer is Professor of Psychology at University of Florida. He has received two prestigious awards from American Psychology Association: B.F. Skinner New Researcher award (1996) & for significant contributions to applied behavior analysis (2004). His primary area of research are developmental disabilities, reinforcement schedules, and parenting. The title of his talk is: A Cheat Sheet for the Treatment of Severe Behavior Disorders & Behavioral Parenting.

#### **BACB, ASHA and NJ DOE CEU Credits Available**

Information about registration and cost will be available in early April.

**For More Information:**

[www.njaba.org](http://www.njaba.org) or  
[abacenter@rowan.edu](mailto:abacenter@rowan.edu)

#### Exhibit Space

Rowan's Center for Behavior Analysis is offering exhibit space to both commercial and nonprofit agencies.

A single exhibit space is 100 square feet (10' x 10') and includes one (1) draped 6-ft table with two chairs. Each exhibit space will have a one-line identification sign plus booth number. Additional equipment and services are the responsibility of the exhibiting organization.

#### Additional Benefits

- Your organization listed in the NJABA Summer Conference Program Book and on the Rowan Center for Behavior Analysis website.

#### Exhibit Space Pricing

Single Exhibit Space (10' x 10')                      \$125

Payment may be made by money order or check made payable to Rowan University Center for Behavior Analysis, c/o MaryLou Kerwin, Ph.D., Robinson Hall, 201 Mullica Hill Rd, Glassboro, NJ 08028.

**Exhibit space will be allocated on a first-come, first served basis so reserve your space now.**

For questions or to apply for space, please contact Allison Parker at [abacenter@rowan.edu](mailto:abacenter@rowan.edu)

# Profile of a Placement



## ABA Graduate and Undergraduate Student Placement Opportunities in Bancroft's Pediatric Residential Programs

### POSITIONS AVAILABLE AT BANCROFT

Bancroft's mission is to ensure that every person is given opportunities for lifelong learning and fulfillment. Our treatment philosophy is based on the principles of applied behavior analysis.

Bancroft's Pediatric Residential Programs are seeking highly motivated individuals who are interested in supporting children and adolescents with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities. The programs are located in Haddonfield, N.J., and surrounding communities.

#### The Lindens

The Lindens program is uniquely designed to serve individuals with high rates of severely challenging behaviors. We use applied behavior analysis assessment and treatment methods to identify the function of the challenging behaviors and to develop effective individualized treatment plans.

Monday - Friday 8am - 4 pm only

#### Campus Transitional

The campus transitional program serves individuals with low to moderate rates of challenging behavior who are developing greater independence with adaptive living skills. We use applied behavior analysis to increase communication skills and adaptive living skills while decreasing or maintaining low rates of challenging behavior.

Afternoon and evening hours (M-F)

#### Community Group Homes

The community group home program serves individuals with low levels of challenging behaviors. We use applied behavior analysis to increase and maintain communication and adaptive living skills. Individuals residing in this program benefit from increased community participation, more typical living and learning environments, and preparation for life as adults.

Afternoon and evening hours (M-F)

#### Opportunities may include:

- Participate in data collection
- Enter and graph data
- Participate in treatment planning discussions for individual cases
- Participate in reading groups and clinical seminars
- Receive supervision hours towards BCaBA / BCBA certification

#### Limited opportunities available each semester.

For more information or for instructions for applying, please contact

Frances Perrin at (856) 524-7455 / [fperrin@bnh.org](mailto:fperrin@bnh.org) (Lindens & Campus) or

Pierre Louis at (856) 524-7506 / [plouis@bnh.org](mailto:plouis@bnh.org) (Community)