



Rowan Reinforcement Record

Center for Behavioral Analysis Newsletter

Rowan's Inaugural Conference on Autism

On March 15th, Rowan hosted its first conference on Autism. With tracks in Education and Behavior Analysis, over 10 experts in the field spoke on issues including inclusion, social skills, self-advocacy, curriculum sequencing, functional behavioral assessment, and verbal behavior. Scott Robertson, a Ph.D. candidate at Penn State University and an adult on the autism spectrum gave the keynote address. Over 150 professionals from the community attended the conference, including a large group of ABA graduate students and undergraduate volunteers who took time from their spring break to assist at the conference. The Center for Behavior Analysis provided BACB continuing education credits for the workshops on the behavior analytic track of the conference.



Students in the MA in ABA & COGS in ABA Program attending the Autism Conference



Volume 4, Issue 2

Spring 2010

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Spring 2010

Calendar at a Glance

| | |
|----------------|--|
| March 4-7 | Eastern Psychological Association Conference |
| March 15 | Rowan Conference on Autism |
| March 29 | Registration Fall 2010 Opens |
| April | Autism Awareness Month |
| April 15 | Psychology Research Conference |
| April 28 | End of the Year ABA Reception and Awards |
| May 3-8 | Finals Week |
| May 7 | ABA Workshop at Rowan |
| May 13 | Graduate Commencement |
| May 14 | Undergraduate Commencement |
| May 22 | Autism Speaks Walk—South Jersey |
| May 28- June 1 | Association for Behavior Analysis International Conference |



SAVE THE DATE!

April 28th 4-7pm

Hollybush Mansion at Rowan University



Please join us for an end of the year reception and recognition ceremony for all of Rowan's ABA programs. Please invite your family and friends to help us celebrate a year of your hard work!

Graduate Student Corner

GRADUATE COURSES

Summer 2010

| | | | |
|--------------------|---|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| MA & COG ASD | Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorders (CRN 30667) | June 21- July 22 | MW 4:30-8:30p |
| MA (Required) | Psychopathology of Children and Adolescents (CRN 30710) Kerwin (CRN 30558) Dihoff | May 17- June 17 | TR 4:30-8:45p 5:00-9:15p |
| MA (Required) | Research Project in Applied Behavior Analysis (CRN 30560) Soreth (CRN 30582) Kerwin | June 07- July 29 | MW 5:00-9:15p |

MA in ABA Class Entering Fall 2010

We are pleased to welcome our new class of students for the MA in ABA Program. We received 47 applications and accepted 21 applicants. We hope to welcome some of the newly admitted class at the April 28 Center for Behavior Analysis end of year event.

The COGS in ABA is changing to the Certificate of Advanced Studies in ABA (CAGS). Students will need a master's degree to be admitted to the program.

GRADUATE COURSES

Fall 2010

| | | |
|------------------|--|----------------|
| MA & COG ABA | Basic Principles of Behavior CRN 42291 | T 4:45-7:15 |
| MA & COG ABA | Applied Behavior Analysis CRN 41827 | W 4:45-7:15 |
| MA & COG ABA | Practicum in ABA I CRN 22077 | T 4:45-7:15 |
| MA & COG ASD | Communication Skills for Students with Disabilities CRN 42779 | M 4:45-7:15 |
| MA & COG ASD | Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorders CRN 42458 | R 4:45-7:15 |
| MA (Elective) | Special Topics in Behavior Analysis (Verbal Behavior) CRN 43007 | R 4:45-7:15 |
| MA (Required) | Practicum in ABA II CRN 43004 | T 4:45-7:15 |
| MA (Elective) | Education & Psychology of Exceptional Learners CRN 42520 | W 4:45-7:15 |

New Graduation Requirements

The faculty of the MA and COGS in ABA have proposed new requirements for graduation. In addition to earning at least a B in all courses, students will be required to pass an oral examination and a written, 150 item multiple choice test that resembles the Behavior Analyst Certification Board test. The process for the oral exam is:

- Students will be given complete background and assessment information on at least four different learners
- The student chooses one case and is given an hour to prepare the outline of a behavioral intervention plan
- The student will then be questioned by a panel consisting of at least two faculty members.

Undergraduate Student Corner

Registration Dates for Fall 2010

Seniors (90+ credits).....March 29
 Juniors (58+ credits).....April 5
 Sophomores (24+ credits).....April 12
 Freshman (Under 24 credits).....April 19

Please set up an appointment with Dr. Soreth if you have any questions concerning registration: soreth@rowan.edu

| UNDERGRADUATE COURSES Fall 2010 | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Learning & Behavior (CRN 42286) | TR 3:15-4:30 |
| Behavioral Assessment & Measurement (CRN 40522) | R 4:45-7:15 |
| Developmental Psychopathology (CRNs 42285 or 42288) | MW 3:15-4:30 TR 1:45-3:00 |
| Field Experience (CRN 42289) | T 4:45-7:15 |

Student Spotlight: Iysha Abed

by Marisa Schleimer ('10)



Iysha Abed is an undergraduate senior at Rowan University. She is a psychology major with a specialization in child behavioral services, and she also minors in Spanish and has a concentration in international studies. Among her coursework here at Rowan, Iysha is also involved in an intern program at Interactive Kids. The company specializes in behavior consultation and social skills training. Iysha is also currently working with the Rowan-Camden campus's

preschool. At the preschool, Iysha teaches social skills to a child at Lanning Square Elementary in Camden. In addition, Iysha is also working on a school-wide behavior plan for an alternative school in Camden, NJ. Iysha also completed a study abroad program in Spain during the Summer of 2009 (see photo above).

Iysha plans to attend graduate school for psychology and eventually be certified as a BCBA. Iysha's dream job is to be a behavior analyst, school psychologist, or anything else that she would be happy doing while being able to travel at the same time. Her goals for right now are to finish up her last semester at Rowan University, travel abroad, get into graduate school and eventually find a stable career. Iysha is one of the many students who are doing what they love and is accomplishing great things during her schooling and will accomplish great things in her future career.

Field Experience Fall 2010

If you are an undergraduate student in the Specialization in Behavioral Services interested in **Field Experience** for Fall 2010 and have not already applied for this course, please contact Dr. Kerwin as soon as possible to obtain the application at kerwin@rowan.edu.

Interested in Getting Involved with Research for Fall 2010?

Talk to Dr. Kerwin or Dr. Soreth about available research opportunities including the possibility of taking an Independent Study course or volunteering with a behavior analytic laboratory. Basic and applied research opportunities are available.

soreth@rowan.edu
 or
kerwin@rowan.edu

The Applied Behavior Analysis Club Page

ABA Club Update

By Lauren Dunn ('09)

The Applied Behavior Analysis Club is a new petitioning club under the Student Government Association (SGA). SGA membership is a way for the students to voice their ideas, opinions and to communicate on campus with others and to administrators. The SGA also promotes leadership by allowing students to use their skills and to provide and create opportunities to develop those leadership and organizational skills.

The purpose of the Applied Behavior Analysis Club is to give Rowan University students (undergraduate and graduate) information about the field of ABA through presentations, guest speakers, and hands-on service projects. The club seeks to serve the community by giving back and allowing anyone interested in the field and a chance to learn more about what it can offer. Affiliations include but are not limited to: The Rowan University Psychology Department, The Center for Behavior Analysis and Autism Speaks.

Although the ABA club is a newly chartered club, it has already organized, has members and fundraised several charitable causes. Having a large team supporting the Autism Speaks Walk in Philadelphia last September, Team Rowan ABA raised over \$1500; all proceeds went towards future funding autism research. Autism Speaks is the Nation's largest autism science and advocacy organization, dedicated to funding research into causes, prevention, treatments, and cures for autism. The club has also hosted a "movie night" on campus, which allowed interested students to come together to socialize and to learn by watching a movie pertaining to Psychology/ABA.

Because the ABA club is a new petitioning club there are no funds provided from SGA for the first year as a petitioning club. Any events or service projects that require funding rely on fundraising from the ABA club. So far, this school year the ABA club held a lunch fundraiser at Samurai restaurant in Glassboro.

To those that want to become more involved and participate in a serious role in running the ABA club, we are looking for new undergraduate executive board members due to the graduation of the founding e-board members of the club. Within the next few general meetings there will be explanation of the election process.

For more information please contact the President, Heather McCusker at McCusk32@students.rowan.edu or Vice President, Lauren Dunn at DunnL15@students.rowan.edu

Spring 2010 Events

Organized by the ABA Club

By Iysha Abed ('10)

The ABA club is enthusiastic about the upcoming events and plans for this semester:

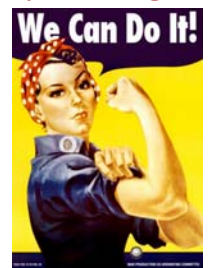
- The ABA club held a bake sale in early March for Rowan Relief where all proceeds will be directly for those in need in Haiti.
- In March, Psychology students and faculty will travel to Brooklyn, New York to the Eastern Psychological Association (EPA) Conference where they presented their applied and basic research.
- Autism awareness month is in April. The ABA club plans to host a fundraiser to raise money and awareness for research and advocacy involving the autism spectrum disorders.
- ABA club plans to attend the South Jersey, Walk Now for Autism event in May 2010.

Attention all undergraduate students interested in ABA:

The ABA Club Needs



YOU



to become an Executive Board Member of the ABA Club!

We are currently seeking e-board positions for the 2010-2011 school year including President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer, and Senator! Please contact Heather McCusker if you are interested in running for an e-board position mccusk32@students.rowan.edu

Behavior Analytic Research at Rowan

A Firsthand Look at Student Research in ABA

by Amanda Mason



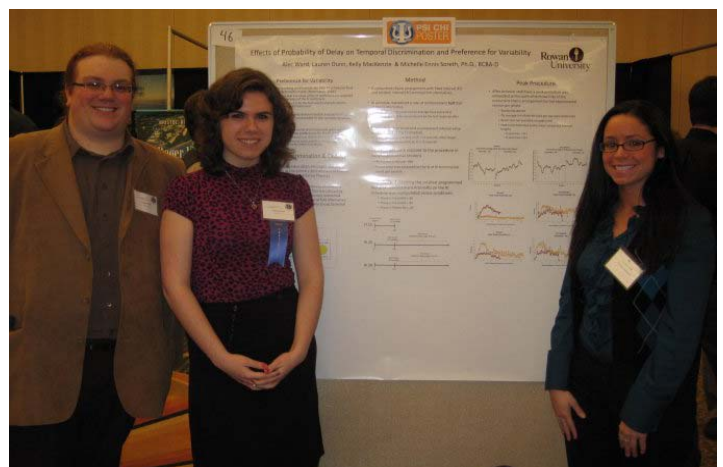
As a senior in the ABA specialization and I honestly love my research. During field experience, I was placed with Behavior Counts Therapy, a company that performs ABA therapy in home and school settings. My internship turned into a job as a direct instructor and I was placed in a home program with a three year old autistic child. When I first met GC he often spun around in circles, counting in American Sign Language. The behavior appeared self-stimulatory however I noticed that GC would count more often when his mother would say, "No, No" or "Stop counting!"

With the help of Dr. Soreth, I developed a reversal design study in order to determine if GC counting was maintained by social attention during therapy sessions. Once the baseline data stabilized, I ignored the behavior for two weeks and then implemented "No, No" or "Stop" as the consequence for inappropriate counting for two weeks. I completing both conditions again and the frequency of counting behaviors increased with negative social attention and decreased when ignored consistently. I have been able to use this information to reduce GC's counting behaviors and increase his language development dramatically. I presented my research at the Eastern Psychological Association Conference in March, the ABA International Conference in San Antonio and Rowan University's Psychology Conference in 2010. I encourage everyone to use the knowledge we gain in our classes to systematically question the world we live in and improve the lives of others.

How to Get Involved: An Overview of Dr. Kerwin's Research

By Nicole Paterno

- Dr. Kerwin is currently working on four different research programs that are open to interested students. If interested in any of these incredible research opportunities, one should contact Dr. Kerwin at kerwin@rowan.edu.
- The first and newest program pertains to the assessment and treatment of pediatric feeding problems. This research program focuses on eating refusal, eating selectivity and many other meal time problems.
- The second research program is based out of the Treatment Research Institute in Philadelphia and involves the development of behavioral interventions for individuals with drug addiction and their families.
- The third research program relates to developing and investigating the efficacy of behavioral parent training for mothers in drug treatment and other vulnerable populations. Called "Project Support," this research may help mothers be better parents and may help their children develop healthier and happier lives.
- The fourth research program is called "Project BOAST." This program involves the development of a simulated environments to facilitate the practice of critical job skills, money management, and work-related behaviors such as dress code and conflict.

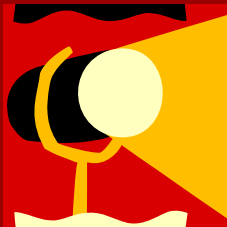


Specialization Undergraduates **Alec Ward** ('09), **Kelly MacKenzie** ('10) and **Lauren Dunn** ('09) present their research from the Pigeon Lab at the Eastern Psychological Association conference in New York City on March 6th, 2010.



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Spotlight on ABA Faculty

John C. Barnard

Adjunct Professor of Psychology

Course(s): Applied Behavior Analysis (Undergraduate)



Professor Barnard is currently co-director of ABC Consultants, LLC (Association of Behavior and Curriculum Consultants), a consulting firm providing a variety of ABA and educational services for children, adolescents, and young adults with special needs including developmental disabilities, emotional/behavioral disorders, and pediatric conditions. Professor Barnard earned a *Masters of Science in Education* in Curriculum, Instruction

and Technology in Education/Applied Behavior Analysis from Temple University and is certified by the NJ Department of Education as a Teacher of the Handicapped. He has more than 15 years' experience working with individuals with autism in both home-based and center-based instructional environments. Professor Barnard has studied with and worked alongside many respected professionals in the field and has also provided ongoing training and consultation to instructional teams and families in many areas of the country. His primary clinical interests are in the areas of individualized and comprehensive curriculum development and the continued development of principled and analytic protocols to guide early intensive behavioral intervention for autism. Professor Barnard is a frequent presenter at professional conferences, including the Rowan Inaugural Conference that took place in March 2010 and is familiar with many different approaches to skill-building and behavioral interventions.

Rowan Reinforcement Record Student Writers Spring 2010 Issue

- Iysha Abed, Senior '10
- Lauren Dunn, Graduated Dec '09
- Amanda Mason Senior '10
- Nicole Paterno, Graduated Dec '09
- Marisa Schleimer, Senior '10

The Newly Proposed Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis

A current proposal being considered by the university would establish a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate Program in Applied Behavior Analysis. This program would allow individuals already possessing a bachelor's degree to complete the coursework required by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board, Inc. for certification as a Board Certified assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA). Currently, these 9 credits are part of the 15 credit Specialization in Behavioral Services for Children and Their Families.

If the program is approved, an application will be required along with at least a 2.5 undergraduate GPA, a completed bachelor's degree, completion of at least one introductory level psychology class, and letters of recommendation. The program would begin enrolling students to begin the program during the Spring 2011 semester.

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| Proposed Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in ABA |
| PSY 02.310 Learning & Behavior Offered in Fall & Spring |
| PSY 01.316 Behavioral Assessment & Measurement Offered in Fall |
| PSY 02.305 Applied Behavior Analysis Offered in Spring |