



Rowan Reinforcement Record

Center for Behavioral Research & Services Newsletter

ABA has new Center at Rowan



Volume 3, Issue 1

Fall 2008

We are pleased to announce the opening of the Rowan University Center for Behavioral Research and Services on September 1, 2008. The mission of the Center is to promote the science of applied behavior analysis through education, research, and service to individuals, families, and organizations at a local, regional, and national level. The Center, which is located on the first floor of Robinson Hall, has sponsored two events this Fall for the community.

On October 10, the Center co-sponsored a workshop with Brett DiNovi & Associates, LLC. titled "Analogue Functional Assessment in Natural Settings." The approximately 70 participants consisted of both professionals and students. The workshop provided didactic, modeling and role play instruction in conducting experimental functional analysis of behaviors in a variety of settings..

The Center's second event was on October 22 which was the inaugural meeting of the South Jersey ABA Network. This was a great opportunity for professionals from the region to interact and network with each other. In addition, Dr. Don Hantula from Temple University spoke about "A Behavioral Approach to Performance and Leadership in Human Services."

Contact Us

Phone: 856-256-5470

E-Mail: abacenter@rowan.edu

Webpage: <http://www.rowan.edu/abacenter>



Inside this issue:

MA in ABA Program 2

Graduation Spring 2008 2

Pigeon Lab Opens! 2

Important update regarding BCABA 3

Placement Profile 4

Anticipatory Advisement: Spring 2009

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES	
Research in Learning & Behavior	TR 10:50-1:30
Learning & Behavior	W 4:45-7:15
Applied Behavior Analysis	T 7:25-9:55
Developmental Psychopathology	MW 1:45-3:00 & TR 4:45-6:00
Field Experience	R 4:45-7:15

GRADUATE COURSES	
Basic Principles of Behavior	T 4:45-7:15
Behavioral Assessment & Functional Analysis	M 4:45-7:15
Practicum in ABA	R 4:45-7:15

Proposed Master Degree in ABA Program

Last Spring, Drs. Kerwin and Ennis Soreth submitted a proposal for the establishment of a MA in ABA at Rowan. This MA will allow students who do not possess a graduate degree to gain the necessary coursework to be eligible for the BCBA credential assuming they complete the required supervised hours.

We anticipate that the proposal, which is in the final stages of review, will be voted on in mid-December. If approved, we anticipate enrolling students in Summer 2009.



The proposed MA consists of 36 credit hours divided among the following:

- Behavior Analytic Knowledge and Skill (9)
- Understanding Populations and Context (9)
- Research Methodology (6)
- Practice and Supervised Experience (6)
- Electives (6)

The Rowan Learning Lab Opens!

Working primarily with pigeons and rats as subjects, B.F. Skinner originally founded behavior analysis in the non-human laboratory. We are pleased to announce that the tradition of studying basic behavior-environment relations

now continues at Rowan with the opening of Dr. Soreth's Pigeon Learning Laboratory! In the lab, students work directly with the unique methodology and scientific sophistication of the experimental analysis of behavior. Currently, the research team is examining choice behavior using operant methodology to better understand why organisms engage in "risk-taking" behavior, and plan to present their work at the ABA conference in Phoenix in May. To learn more about our feathered friends or get involved in the lab, please contact Dr. Ennis Soreth at ennism@rowan.edu.



Great Graduates: Spring 2008

Last spring at the Psychology Department's Awards Ceremony, two graduating seniors in the Specialization in Behavioral Services were honored for outstanding achievement. **Ryan Bockmann** was given the Specialization in Behavioral Services Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement and **Caroline Gleeson** was awarded a Distinction in Behavioral Research & Service. In addition, many of the specialization students were recognized for their research, academic achievement, and field experience. Congratulations to these outstanding students!

Check out the new website!

www.rowan.edu/abacenter

In our quest to provide current information to our students and alumni, we have added several new features to our website:

- **Research:** Drs. Kerwin and Soreth have provided more detailed information on their research. If you are a student interested in gaining valuable experience, we encourage you to look at these pages.
- **Student & Alumni** Under the navigation links we provide information on employment opportunities, we summarize information from the Behavior Analyst Certification Board, Inc. ® as well as our newsletters.
- **Resource Page:** We provide a page listing interesting resources in the field of ABA.

Update from Behavior Analyst Certification Board, Inc.

The practice of certifying behavior analysts at two different levels grew out of the pioneering State of Florida behavior analyst certification program. The BACB followed this example when it began its certification program, using the term "Associate" to identify the lower-level certification. Over the years, we have found this term to be troublesome when dealing with individuals outside of the field of behavior analysis. We feel it is necessary to ensure that consumers, legislators and funding agencies all are able to easily comprehend the role that both BCABAs and BCABAs play in the lives of their clients. To

that end, we are preparing to clarify these roles by ceasing the use of the confusing "Associate" term and replacing it with "Assistant." This change will go into effect January 1, 2009. At that time, BCABAs will begin representing themselves as "Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analysts" or "BCaBAs." Over the next year and a half, certificants will begin to see announcements about the new title on www.BACB.com, as well as renewal and recertification forms and exam application forms. We believe this will be a positive change that allows anyone interacting with a BCaBA to quickly understand the individual's level of certification and

role in service delivery.

"Effective January 1, 2009... BCABAs will begin representing themselves as "Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analysts" or "BCaBAs."

Who is Dr. Soreth?!?



We are pleased to announce that Dr. Michelle Ennis married Mr. Craig Soreth on April 26, 2008 at The Cescaphe Ballroom in Philadelphia. Mr. & Dr. Soreth honeymooned in northern Europe this past summer. Best wishes and congratulations! We wish you many years of happiness and health.

Dr. Soreth's e-mail is still ennism@rowan.edu.



URGENT!

New Course Format Starting Spring 2009

Beginning Spring 2009, we will be combining the Practicum in ABA course for graduate students with the Field Experience course for undergraduate students in the Specialization who are interested in accruing hours towards certification as a BCaBA. If you are an undergraduate student interested in Field Experience OR a graduate student interested in Practicum in ABA for Spring 2009, please contact

Dr. Ennis Soreth as soon as possible at ennism@rowan.edu.

If you previously applied for Field Experience with Dr. LaMastro, please let Dr. Soreth know so that she can work with Dr. LaMastro to appropriately address your training needs.



MaryLouise E. Kerwin, Ph.D., BCBA
Director
Michelle Soreth, Ph.D., Assistant
Director
Center for Behavioral Research &
Services
201 Mullica Hill Road
Phone: 856-256-5470
Fax: 856-256-4892
E-mail: abacenter@rowan.edu
http://www.rowan.edu/abacenter



Changes to the Psychology Major!

The Psychology Department recently adopted a "new model" of the curriculum for all majors, including students in the Specialization in Behavioral Services. Some highlights of the new curriculum include:

- The new "Psychology of Scientific Thinking" course that all students are required to complete
- Two, 4 credit courses in Research Methods and Statistics
- The course in Advanced Research now required in place of the Research in xxxx courses. After Spring 2008, Research in Learning & Behavior will no longer be offered (so long to *Sniffy* the virtual rat!)
- The new "Psychology as a Profession and Practice" course

If you have any questions about the "New Model," please see Drs. Kerwin or Soreth.



Profile of a Placement: Behavior Counts Therapy, LLC

Behavior Counts Therapy, LLC is a unique organization providing services to children with special needs and their families primarily through contracts with public school districts. We are constantly searching for ways to wraparound these districts and provide the best practice with high quality services to these children and their families through the Individual with Disabilities Act. One of the challenges in Applied Behavior Analysis today is using our technology in an ever-changing environment with many variables often out of our control. The exciting part of our science is watching our principles in action and the success that can come from being focused and tenacious in their application. We work every day in schools and homes to see ABA assist children in learning new skills, overcome challenging behaviors, and connect with people in the world

around them. We shadow children in both special education and general education classrooms, provide one-on-one instruction to children using ABA principles and provide classroom consultation. We do this through observation and data collection, consultation, direct intervention, training, graphing and visual analysis of data, clinic meetings, and most importantly collaboration with a variety of team members. It is an amazing and rewarding endeavor. Come and join us!

If interested, please contact Jennifer Snow at 856-489-7464 or jsnow@behaviorcounts.com. We have opportunities available for interns both during the day, in the evening and on the weekends.

Crystal A. Harms, M.Ed., BCaBA
Executive Director