

President's Corner

The "Family" Business

By Nikki Dickens, FABA President and Program Chair

As Immediate Past-President, at the 37th Annual Presidential Address, Corey Robertson coined the great term, "FABA is Family." I have often thought of that statement over the past three months while working on FABA tasks. If "FABA is family," then the "family business" lately has been the planning of the next "reunion" also known as the upcoming 38th annual conference. FABA 2018 will include not one, but two *Inside Behavior Analysis* interview events. The first will feature this year's Keynote Speaker, Dr. Mark Sundberg. A special bonus installment will have Andrew Houvouras also interviewing Erik Lovaas. Erik is the son of Dr. O. Ivar Lovaas and the president of the Lovaas Institute. For his keynote address, Dr. Sundberg will present *The Untapped Wealth of Skinner's Analysis of Verbal Behavior*. In addition to the keynote, we will proudly feature the following Invited Speakers: Claire St. Peter, Coby Lund, Janet Lund, Wayne Fuqua, Ansley Hodges, Bill Heward, and Haydee Toro!

Speaking of presenters, small revisions and improvements to the submission website/software began immediately after the 2017 conference to fine tune the information collected and build upon the presenter database amassed during last year's submission period. Our abstract management company, One World Presentation Management, has worked with us to make the site more user-friendlier and overhaul the peer review portion. This year, the Call for Papers (abstracts) will be sent to members much earlier than in previous years. This means if you plan to present, note the deadline to submit is April 15, 2018.

FABA 2018 will still feature members' favorites including new FABA store products, *Ignites at Nite*, the Wednesday Night Hospitality Suite, Thursday's Poster Session and photo booth, and a Friday Night social hosted by DJ Tim Courtney! Set in Bonita Springs amidst the paradise that is the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point resort, FABA members will have the luxury to choose between one of the numerous on-site dining options such as *Tanglewood*, where the Florida inspired comfort food



Nikki Dickens

ranges from fresh seafood to artisan brick oven pizzas. Along with Raptor Bay golf course, the Lazy River Complex, Stillwater Spa, and a new 140-foot corkscrew slide ending in the 5,000-square foot Adventure Pool, it is extremely fortunate the lineup of Invited Speakers is so appealing. Regardless of how you choose to spend your extra time, FABA 2018 will definitely have something for every member of the "family."

Our 2018 Mascot

The Florida Scrub Jay: An Endangered Species

The Florida scrub jay is the only species of bird that is unique to Florida. This blue and gray bird reaches lengths of 12 inches with a wing span of 13.5 inches.

Endangered as of the early 1990s, scrub jays live in areas of scrubby oaks growing in the sandy soils of Florida's mid-peninsula. It is estimated that about 4,000 pairs exist, a reduction of more than 90% from original numbers. The primary threat is habitat loss.

Female scrub jays lay about 3 to 4 eggs once or twice a year. During incubation, the males feed the females. Both parents and "helpers", often, previous offspring, feed the hatchlings. Young scrub jays leave the nest about 18 days after hatching. Diet consists largely of insects, berries, and acorns which are buried and retrieved for later consumption.

***A special thanks is due to Dr. Al Murphy who has been identifying FABA's endangered species for more than 20 years.*

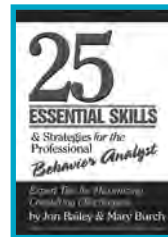
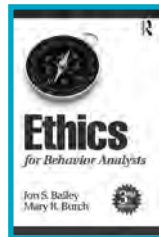


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Ethics Anyone?

By Authors Jon Bailey and Mary Burch



Jon Bailey, PhD



Mary Burch, PhD

Potential Multiple Relationship: Neighbor Variety

NOTE TO READERS: This is the 35th in a series of articles on ethics where we answer questions from behavior analysts. This question came from a query through the internet.

QUESTION: “I am emailing you with an ethics dilemma – I have my M.S. in ABA and Autism and I am preparing to sit for the exam in February. I work for an agency that provides insurance-reimbursed, in-home ABA services for clients in the autism spectrum. There are two other provider agencies in my town who have extensive waiting lists. Our agency currently does not have a waiting list. Our program has a BCBA who has taken this position for the interim, but does not plan to stay much longer.



So, my question to you is this... I work with a family who needs services for their severely aggressive son. The problem is that I have just moved into a new neighborhood and this family (with the son) are my neighbors. They live directly across the street from my new home. They do not realize this yet, and I only know because I saw their address on the intake packet. I don't know them yet, but I am thinking of many potential dual relationships that may come up. I must add that I live in a fairly small town, where everyone knows everyone else (especially in the ASD community). The population is less than 40,000, and all

other provider agencies have waiting lists or are over an hour away. Thank you in advance for your time... Please advise.”

ANSWER: Yes, you are correct, this could clearly be problematic for you. The complications arising from you taking the case should be a major deterrent. If the family was unhappy with what you were doing for their child, it would not take much for this to spread throughout the

neighborhood. On the other hand, if everything goes well, with them living right across the street, asking a favor would be quite natural. “Knock, knock, 'Hi, I was wondering if I could borrow a cup of sugar for Brian's birthday cake, and of course you are invited...by the way could you stop over on your way to work to help us with getting him up in the morning...” Either way, situations like this could plague you. The best thing would be if your colleague takes the case so there is no conflict. You could also help the family get on the waiting list for one or both of the other agencies.

Updates from CABA (Capitol Association for Behavior Analysis)

By Jordyn Elliott

In December, CABA invited Dr. Baker Wright to discuss The Ethics of Opening and Closing Cases. Dr. Wright is the COO and co-owner of Behavior Management Consultants, an Applied Behavior Analysis group based in Tallahassee. In his presentation, he shared with CABA the ethical concerns and how to approach them when opening or closing cases with individual clients.

CABA also invited Gianna Fernandez from Engage Behavioral Health to present on the good and the bad about starting an Applied Behavior Analytic company. She explained



Jordyn Elliott

the various parts of entrepreneurship, tips on how to handle some aspects of owning a business without having to take business courses to learn, and the perks of having your own business.

CABA is very grateful to have had two guest speakers share their knowledge with the Tallahassee community of behavior analysts, and send a huge thank you to both Dr. Wright and Gianna for everything they do!

We also participated in community outreach programs during the winter. We sponsored two children for the Angel Tree program through the Salvation Army as well as Red Kettle Bell Ringing. Stay tuned for upcoming events this Spring!

Updates from ABAB

(The Association for Behavior Analysis of Brevard)

By Shaelyn Harris, ABAB Vice President

The Association for Behavior Analysis of Brevard (ABAB) is the local chapter of FABAA serving Brevard County. Our mission is to promote ethical and effective delivery of services in the field of behavior analysis. Here on the space coast we have the pleasure of being surrounded by many wonderful behavior analysts who are excited to share their knowledge through CEU events.



Shaelyn Harris

The nominated and elected officers are Amber Carty, President; Marta "Tiki" Fiol, Vice-President; Kirstin Uran, Secretary; Rohini Torres, Treasurer; and Michelle Treffinger, Fundraising and Marketing Coordinator. ABAB is preparing for nominations and elections of new officers.

In 2017, we held CEU events covering traumatic brain

injury, organizational behavior management (OBM), and ethics. We participated in our community by volunteering at local events such as Surfers for Autism and Brevard Pals Autism Walk. ABAB encourages professional development not only through CEU events but also through social events where practitioners are able to discuss current research and implementation within our various interests.

In 2018, we are continuing to provide opportunities to learn about behavior analysis being implemented in a variety of fields. This year's CEU events will focus on behavior analysis being utilized in health, geriatrics, supervision, and OBM. ABAB aims to provide an environment where practitioners can network with other professionals while learning best practices in our field and ensuring families are provided with accurate information on this impactful science.

Updates from ECABA

(Emerald Coast Association for Behavior Analysis)

By Chrissy Misco

ECABA has been very busy since starting the new year! We held a Schlotsky's Dine and Donate Event that was very successful.



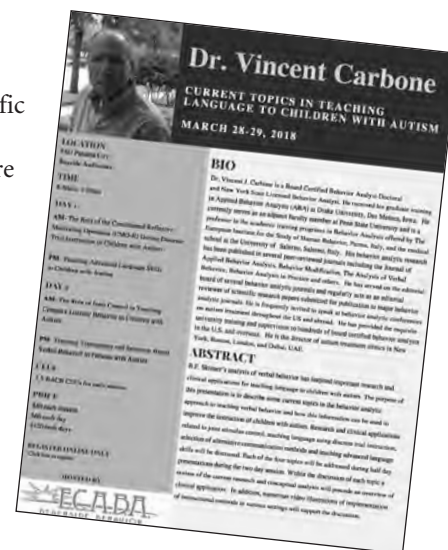
Chrissy Misco

Dr. Ryan Zayac who is a BCBA-D was a guest presenter for ECABA and he was gracious enough to do two presentations for us. His first presentation was, "To Graduate School and Beyond: Preparing for Graduate School and Life as a Behavior Analyst." Making the decision to apply for graduate school, or to continue further in graduate school, is a commitment in time, money and effort. How do you know if it is the best decision for you? This presentation provided current undergraduate students with information about the advantages and disadvantages of pursuing graduate studies in applied behavior analysis, as well as strategies for making becoming a competitive candidate. Additional information was provided discussing how to succeed once you are admitted into a graduate program (master's or doctoral) and how to program for success once you transition into your new career.

The second event we did with Dr. Zayac focused on his talk, "Preparing the Next Generation of Behavior Analysts: Essential Readings for Undergraduates and How to Shape High-Quality Practitioners." A growing need for individuals with behavior analytic training at the undergraduate level has led to an increase in baccalaureate programs with a strong behavior analytic focus. Although research has been conducted examining

essential and assigned readings at the graduate level, no research to date has focused on identifying suggested readings that should be a focal point of undergraduate training programs. The purpose of the first study was to identify what individuals from across the behavior analytic field believe are essential readings for undergraduate students as they prepare for employment in the field or admission into graduate programs. In a second, related study, experts in the field of applied behavior analysis identified and described the qualities of master behavior analysts and operationalized these qualities through specific behaviors. The preliminary results were presented along with initial suggestions on how to teach other individuals – or yourself – to acquire these skills.

ECABA also welcomed Dr. Vincent J. Carbone back to FSU-PC for another 2-day workshop.





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Readers are invited to submit articles and information of general interest to FABA members. Preference is given to submissions that are e-mailed to the address below. Other submissions should be typed, double-spaced and not exceed two pages. The Editor reserves the right to edit copy to conform with newsletter style and with space limitations. Please submit to Mary Burch at the email address given below.

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Newsletter Submissions

The FABA Observer is published 3 times per year. Articles and accompanying high resolution photos should be sent to Editor Mary Burch: dogs@nettally.com

Submission/Publication Dates

Rates for camera-ready 1/4 page ad (3.5 " wide x 4.75 " tall) is \$50 per issue; 1/2 page ad (7 " wide x 4.75 " tall) is \$100 per issue. Contact the FABA Business Manager for 3-issue special rates. We reserve the right to refuse any advertising.

Submit ad materials to:

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