

# Center for Applied Behavior Analysis (CABA)

Sage Graduate School

Newsletter

January 2011

## Krystina Gilhuly-Elected! ABAI Student Representative



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### What interested you in being the ABAI student rep for Sage's ABA program?

I was interested in becoming a student representative for ABAI because I wanted to be a part of this great organization, work with others in the field, and offer my skills and talents.

### What is your current role with ABAI? What tasks are you working on?

I will be getting more information about my specific role in the next few days. I am on a committee that works with the different awards that will be given by ABAI. I am a representative from Sage for ABAI. ABAI may contact me with information for others in the Sage program and I will relay the message to the Sage students.

### What do you think CABA can bring to ABAI in the future?

Students at Sage can submit any research projects that are completed to ABAI for the student research projects. They might be able to at least do a poster presentation at some of the different conferences. Right now there is a conference in Chicago that is taking place March 25-27. The poster submission deadline has been extended to February 1. There is also an international conference held this year in Spain on November 24-26. The deadline for papers is March 7.

### What role do you think CABA students can play in ABAI now and in the future?

CABA students can submit research projects to the various conferences that ABAI offers. CABA students can become members. This will allow students to be part of ABAI and receive reduced rates at conferences. Sage students can continue to be part of ABAI even after graduation. ABAI has thousands of presenters for the conferences. Research that is conducted can be presented at these conferences. ABAI conferences are also a great place to get continuing education.

### What area of ABA are you most interested in right now?

I am most interested in working with students with autism that are primarily non-verbal. I love to see the progress that a student can make over time and to teach alternative ways to communicate in order to reach the child's highest potential.

### Is there any way that other students could help you in your role as the ABAI student rep?

For now, I am open to any questions or suggestions that Sage students have for me to bring to ABAI. I will be contacting the students as situations come up. I am also interested in connecting with any students who will be attending the conference in Denver.

## In the News!

1<sup>st</sup> year student, Sarah Handy has been celebrated in her state, for her exceptional classroom for children with autism. Here is an excerpt from the Denver post:

"Several years ago when Sarah Handy began teaching students with autism at Mortensen Elementary in Littleton, she found her students were rarely allowed to mix with other pupils in the Jefferson County school.

That has changed.

Mortensen (Sarah's school) last week was named to be a model site for the Denver metro area in how to teach students with autism — providing the school with a \$1,000 grant, training for teachers and an on-site coach.

The school has good inclusion practices, an anti-bullying program and an effective "Response to Intervention" model to give early assistance to children having difficulty learning"  
[http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci\\_16359094?source=rss](http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_16359094?source=rss)

Sarah — our sincerest congratulations to you and your colleagues at Mortensen!!

## Professional Development

### Upcoming Events

#### 2011 Autism Conference: New Tools for Translating Science to Practice

January 28–30, 2011  
Grand Hyatt, Washington, DC  
**Early Registration**  
**Deadline:** December 13,  
2010

#### Pre-Registration

**Deadline:** January 10, 2011

#### Behavioral Research & Translation: Behavioral Economics: From Demand Curves to Public Policy

March 25–27, 2011  
Hyatt Regency, Chicago  
**Early Registration**  
**Deadline:** February 14, 2011

#### 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention

May 27–31, 2011  
Colorado Convention Center,  
Denver, Colorado  
**Early Registration**  
**Deadline:** February 23, 2011

#### 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference

November 24–26, 2011  
The Palacio de Exposiciones y  
Congresos de Granada,  
Granada, Spain  
**Early Registration**  
**Deadline:** September 2, 2011  
**Pre-Registration**  
**Deadline:** October 21, 2011

## Baby News

Congratulations to Desiree Johnston and family on the birth of her beautiful baby *girl Stella Rae Braxton* born October 12, 2010 @ 4:40am 7lbs 8oz 19in

We wish you well Desiree in those sleepless nights (not due to studying☺).



## Student Publications!!

**Congratulations to Tamara Lazoff (and her team) on her recent publication in the Canadian Journal of Psychiatry!!**

**“Objectives:** The prevalence of pervasive developmental disorders (PDDs) has increased. There has been speculation regarding a role of thimerosal-containing vaccines (TCVs) in this trend. Our objectives were to determine prevalence rates of PDDs among school-aged children, and to evaluate the impact of discontinuation of thimerosal use in 1996 in routine childhood vaccines on PDD rates.” (Lazoff, Zhong, Piperni & Fombonne, 2010)

Check out the entire article found here....

<http://publications.cpa-apc.org/browse/documents/2>

## Did you know?

...that some Behavior Analysts are *teaching rats to locate landmines?*

See <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9IRv3TOjE1I>

...that a recent issue of The Behavior Analyst was dedicated to environmental issues and the impact that behavior analysis can have on sustainability...

See here: [http://www.abainternational.org/Journals/tba\\_contents.asp](http://www.abainternational.org/Journals/tba_contents.asp)

....that behaviorism and Buddhism are comparable...

See <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2591756/>

Please submit your news, events, student spotlight and publication announcements to the editorial team of Sage Newsletter...

Michelle Turan  
turam@sage.edu  
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lid@sage.edu

Also we are recruiting more members for the newsletter team. Please email your interest to turam@sage.edu

REMEMBER!! It looks good on your resume!

### CONTEST!!

We are looking for a newsletter name! Something creative that reflects our profession. Please email your suggestions to turam@sage.edu. The winner will get a spotlight in an upcoming newsletter!

## Spotlight on: Dr. Ben Mauro



*"I hope to give back to CABA students what I have been given in my professional and personal life"*

### What do you consider to be your "area of passion" in behavior analysis?

I have been fortunate within my professional career to gain experience in both the experimental analysis of behavior (EAB) and applied behavior analysis (ABA). Consequently, I have developed a passion toward the basic-applied connection within behavior analysis. I am concerned about the schism that has occurred between EAB and ABA and hope to promote its reconnection through research and teaching. I have advanced published work in various areas of translational research including behavioral momentum, the matching law, self-control, and conditioned reinforcement.

### Was there ever an area of behaviour analysis with which you struggled? What was it and how did you overcome?

Hmmm... I think it is a substantial intellectual struggle whenever one endeavors a new area of behavior analysis! There were though a few areas of behavior analysis that proved particularly challenging for me (e.g., behavioral momentum and the matching law). I suspect these areas were especially daunting due to my limited familiarity with physics and mathematics. I assimilated these areas into my behavior analysis by doing extra readings on these topics. I owe my behavioral persistence to my academic mentors—they did not lavish me with false praise for every minor accomplishment. Rather, they brought me into contact with the natural reinforcing consequences of experimentally studying behavior!

### The CABA Lab looks very exciting. Can you tell us some more about that?

I am excited about the CabaLab, too! Our motto is, "...a virtual laboratory with a *real* focus on the study of behavior!" I think it is a remarkable opportunity for CABA students to participate in the process of generating publishable-quality data! Full-time CABA faculty will mentor CABA students as volunteer ABA research assistants. Each faculty member will advance their own line of research. I plan to advance studies largely in the area of translational research. Moreover, I hope students likewise come into contact with the natural reinforcing value of experimentally studying behavior. We plan to launch the CabaLab in early January, 2011. Please stay tuned!

### What would you most like your students to know about you?

I have been involved in behavior analysis for over thirty years and have never lost my penchant for the study of behavior. I dropped out of high school at fifteen years of age (1963) to help my mother after my father passed away. I got my high school equivalency diploma in the Army after a tour of combat duty in South Vietnam back in the sixties. I went on to obtain my associate's degree from Community College of Philadelphia and my bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree from Temple University. As mentioned before, I have had some great mentors along the way. I hope to give back to CABA students what I have been given in my professional and personal life.

### At an ABA conference, who would be on your list of "must-see" speakers?

I sometimes deviate away from applied behavior analysis toward the experimental analysis of behavior and the philosophy of behavior analysis at ABAAI. I enjoy listening to Phil Heline, Howard Rachlin, Willie Baum, Peter Killeen, Brian Iwata, Richard Mallott, Mark Sundberg, Gina Green, Tim Vollmer, Bill Ahearn, Nancy Neef, and Alan Neuringer.

### What do you listen to when driving in your car?

I listen to Classic Vinyl (crazy about the Rolling Stones) and various political pundits on XM Radio.

### What do you consider to be a fun evening out?

I spend my evenings out in a variety of ways. I regularly play pool at the local sports bar on Thursday nights with my best buddy, Charlie. My wife (Karin) and I usually go out for dinner about three or four times per month. We live near Washington DC, so we enjoy going into town for theatre and concert performances. We recently saw "Hair" at the Kennedy Center—it was a blast! We also enjoy the various neighborhood venues for plays and concerts—we went to the Takoma Park Community Center last week to hear a tribute to Van Morrison. We had a lot of fun singing "Brown Eyed Girl!" During the summer, Karin and I will play miniature golf and have ice cream as an evening out! We also get together throughout the year with friends and neighbors for dinner or a party!

### What would you order at a Starbucks?

A tall Verona and sometimes an apple fritter!

### What do you consider to be one of the most important world issues at this present moment?

The cessation of War and achieving a more harmonious and cooperative world.

## Workshop Review: Language for Living by Dr. Patrick McGreevy

Dr. Patrick McGreevy, PhD, BCBA, is a renowned author and researcher in the field of Applied Behavior Analysis and more specifically Verbal Behavior. He has over 30 years of experience working with individuals of all ages with developmental disabilities.

Dr. McGreevy is also the author of Teaching and Learning in Plain English, and founded the Journal of Precision Teaching. He is currently working on a new publication labeled, Language for Learning that is expected to be published in February 2011.

Language for Living is a functional curriculum and language assessment tool designed to meet the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities with limited communication repertoires.

This instrument is based upon Skinner's analysis of Verbal Behavior, but is unique in that it emphasizes functional communication and language skills that are necessary for independent functional and effective living as an adult.



While it can be used for all ages, this instrument is especially beneficial for those with limited communication skills or for those with whom communication and language are no longer expected.

This tool complements a developmental curriculum, such as the VB-MAPP or ABLLS-R and can be implemented at the same time.

Learn more about Dr. McGreevy by checking out his website at:

[www.behaviorchange.com](http://www.behaviorchange.com)

## EYE ON IT Current Trends in Behavior Analysis or Autism

### VB-MAPP

"The VB-MAPP is a criterion-referenced assessment tool, curriculum guide, and skill tracking system that is designed for children with autism, and other individuals who demonstrate language delays." (Sundberg, 2010)

Sundberg, M. L. (2008). Verbal behavior milestones assessment and placement program: The VB-MAPP. Concord, CA: AVB Press.

<http://www.marksundberg.com/vb-mapp.htm>

## SOFTWARE Monthly Picks

EndNote

Endnote is a program that will allow you to track all of your research articles, and it will even format your paper, with proper APA citation. [www.endnote.com](http://www.endnote.com)



## Monthly School Tips

**Q: I feel like I will never understand APA style.**

**A: Check out this great site which offers quick tips, without the purchase of the full text (although still recommended).**

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

### Tips

#### Reference lists

Italicize the journal name when it's an article, or the book name when it's a book  
*Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis About Behaviorism*

Create hanging indents to ensure your 2<sup>nd</sup> line of your references is indented, but not the first. Hanging indents can be created in word by: Paragraph-indentation-special, select "hanging" from dropdown.