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EABA Newsletter

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President's message EABA Newsletter

By Erik Arntzen

The EABA board is very excited about the conference in Lisbon September 5–9 later this year. The venue for the conference is CCB – Centro Cultural de Belém in Lisbon. All the information about the conference can be found on the EABA website (www.europeanaba.org). I would like to mention a couple of issues regarding this upcoming event. First, I hope the number of delegates from Portugal will be high. One of the important functions of the EABA conference is to disseminate behavior analysis in Europe. Thus, we hope the choice of Lisbon as a venue will have provide a 'kick-start' for the growth and dissemination of behavior analysis in Portugal. Second, it is important for behavior analysis as a coherent science that we have all the

dimensions of behavior analysis represented at the conference.

Therefore, I hope we will have equal numbers of experimental and conceptual papers at the conference and I would encourage researchers to collaborate and put together symposia related to the dimensions of experimental and conceptual behavior analysis. Finally, I hope that RFT researchers and practitioners this year will find their way to the EABA conference. I know that they have their own conferences, but even so, I hope it is possible to stick together as a behavior analytic community.

Nos vemos em Lisboa or see you in Lisbon!

EABA Newsletter

January 2011

Contents

- President's Message
- EABA Conference 2012
- Featured member: Anna Budzinska
- EABA Membership
- The Interview: Paolo Moderato
- Invited article: How "EDUS" brought ABA to Bosnia and Herzegovina
- News
- Upcoming Events
- Kudos

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Sixth EABA Annual Convention 2012 Lisbon, Portugal

By Reut Peleg

After a great conference in Crete, two years ago, Centro EABA eagerly awaits the next bi-annual convention to take place in Lisbon, on the 6th to the 9th of September this year. The convention will be held in the CCB – Centro Cultural de Belém, a unique construction designed by the architects Vittorio Gregotti (Italy) and Manuel Salgado (Portugal). Since June 2007, the Exhibition Centre also houses the Foundation of Modern and Contemporary Art - Museum Collection Berardo. Located between Jerónimos Monastery and Belém Tower, the CCB Conference Centre is the ideal structure to host this kind scientific and social event.

Be sure to get here early on the 6th, so that you benefit from all we have in store for you. To begin with, we invite you all to participate in our opening event on that same Thursday evening. Keep updated on EABA's site to discover the location, where we will have Portuguese music and wine tasting, socializing on a beautiful Portuguese summer night.

Next, check out our invited events, which include leading names in our area. These include William L. Heward from Ohio State University; Jennifer Austin from University of Glamorgan; Gabriela Siguroardóttir from the University of Iceland; Robert Mellon from Hellenic Republic University; Peter Killeen from Arizona State University; Paulo Moderato from the University of Parma; and Chris Bradshaw from University of Nottingham. The auditorium is



surrounded by a spacious hall that leads to a patio overlooking the river and monuments, where we can all enjoy the poster presentations, combining learning and leisure.

Finally, we are counting on your presence at our conference dinner, on Saturday, the 8th of September, which will provide us all with the opportunity to socialize while enjoying typical Portuguese food and beverages.

During the convention, we hope all will enjoy the wonders that Lisbon has to offer. The convention's location – Belém, is Lisbon's most monumental and historical area. It was from here that many of the great Portuguese explorers embarked on their voyages of discovery. It features great monuments like the Belém Palace and its gardens; Belém Tower; Ajuda palace; and Jeronimos Monastery, which are just a few of the places you can visit, taking a short break in cafe Antiga Confeitaria de Belém which has been serving delicious custard tarts in its rooms adorned with tiles since 1841.

For Portugal, hosting EABA's convention is definitely a major event! My Portuguese ABA journey began in late 2005, through to co-founding Centro ABA in 2008, proudly now EABA's local partner. Today, seven years later, behavior analysis is more recognized as an applied science; we are relying on a team of about twenty great professionals, as well as partnerships with many leading institutions of the Portuguese community, who kindly helped with ABA dissemination through the organization of three international conferences; and we are now about to begin the first Portuguese approved BACB sequence. There is still, however, a great deal to be done, which hopefully will be enhanced with this very significant convention. Portugal, as other parts of Europe, has much to gain with embracing behaviour analysis, its basic, translational and applied science. So in the name of all of Centro ABA's team, we really hope to welcome you in Lisbon this coming September!



Anna Budzinska

Featured Member

By Anna Budzinska

I graduated from the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Gdańsk, Poland, majoring in psychology, in 1993. During the course, I attended several lectures on behavioural therapy during my first year. I was glad to hear that the times of Skinner and the ‘dark card in the history of psychology’ were gone as were the so-called humanistic directions that dominated psychological therapy. I completed my education with this conviction, defending my thesis on dyslectic children and youth. I knew already by the third year that I would work with children and was eager to face new challenges.

Having graduated, I started to work at the Centre for Autistic Children and Youth in Gdańsk. Various forms of therapy were applied there – sensory integration, music therapy, a ‘good start’ method and the Sherborn developing movement method. There were also individual therapeutic sessions, where teachers tried to teach their students in some basic skills. In spite of the great dedication of the whole team, the results of our work were insignificant. Our students grew older and, although we wanted to help them very much, the number of problem behaviours kept rising year by year, and it was hardly possible to teach them any new skills. After two years of work, I concluded that unless nothing changed in our methods, I would have to find a new job, because the work with autistic children seemed to give no positive results. During the second year of my work, my director, Małgorzata Rybicka, invited therapists from Norway, Marit Lykseth and Tor Jullumstrø, working at the popular Bleiker Behandlingscenter (Asker, Norway). Their lectures were a revelation for me. I drank in every word and their visit, combined with the practical implementation of ABA in the therapy of autistic children,

“ ... the behavioural therapy started to be shown in a new light for the first time in Poland. I presented the effects of my therapy at national conferences, showing also the Lovaas studies and the efficiency of behavioural therapy in the work with autistic children. At first, my presentations elicited disbelief or even aversion. However, a good therapy can always defend itself”



allowed me to select my further career path. In February 1996, I went for six weeks of training in Norway. I decided to spend that time as effectively as possible. I combined the training at the Institute of Psychology at the University in Oslo, where my scientific supervisor was Professor Arne Brekstad, with daily practice at the early intervention centre for autistic children, Tidlig Intervensjons-Prosjektet i Oslo (TIPO), and daily several-hour practice sessions at the Kapellveien Treatment Center, headed by Jon Arne Farsestas. At the end of my stay in Oslo, Professor Arne Brekstad invited me to attend the Conference of the Norwegian Behavioural Analysis Association (NAFO), held in Gol, Norway, in May. After that, I managed to start a close cooperation with a number of experts from Norway, including Jens Skår. As a result, I was able to visit numerous therapeutic centres, not only in Oslo, which I revisited over subsequent years, but all over Norway. In addition, Norwegian therapists visited Poland, to help us introduce the ABA principles in our work with autistic children and youth.

As a result, the behavioural therapy started to be shown in a new light for the first time in Poland. I presented the effects of my therapy at national conferences, showing also the Lovaas studies and the efficiency of behavioural therapy in the work with autistic children. At first, my presentations elicited disbelief or even aversion. However, a good therapy can always defend itself. New children have joined the early intervention programme I started in 1996 and the results of the therapy were so good that nobody could deny that the behavioural therapy was actually effective. In 2000, I went with my present co-worker, Iwona Ruta-Sominka, for six weeks of training to the Princeton Child Development Institute (PCDI), USA. For American specialists, Poland was terra incognita. Therefore, they were very surprised to see that we had some knowledge and therapeutic skills. We were offered further help and cooperation and we went for further trainings in the subsequent years. Our trips were sponsored by the Foundation of Barbara Piasecka-Johnson.

After several years, the idea emerged to establish a replica of PCIDI in Poland. In 2004, I went to PCIDI for one year. My stay there, when I wrote my PhD thesis, was aimed at developing therapeutic and managerial skills. At the end of the training at PCIDI, I received a positive professional assessment from Lynn E. McClannahan PhD and Patricia J. Krantz PhD. In 2005, with the support of PCIDI and the Foundation of Barbara Piasecka-Johnson, the Institute for Child Development in Gdańsk (IWRD) was established, being the first replication of PCIDI in Europe.

I am the director of IWRD now. In 2006, I was first in Poland to defend a

PhD thesis on the efficiency of behavioural therapy of autistic children. The Institute for Child Development in Gdańsk organises the annual International Symposia, where experts from PCIDI and IWRD present their studies on the efficiency of teaching techniques. This year, more than 200 people attended the lectures and there were not enough seats for everyone. Together with my co-worker, Marta Wójcik MA, we have published a book on Diagnosing and ABA therapy for children with Asperger Syndrome. I also publish articles in Polish and foreign magazines. I help in establishing centres for autistic children all over Poland. I

also teach graduate and post-graduate courses at the University of Gdańsk. Owing to the operation of IWRD and the commitment of the whole team, behavioural intervention is gaining popularity in Poland and parents who need assistance can get it from us. The Institute for Child Development in Gdańsk has, under my management, become an important centre of training for new specialists, giving them valuable knowledge and experience related to the application of ABA techniques in their daily work.



EABA Membership

We are a growing community of professionals interested in the dissemination of Behaviour Analysis in Europe. Currently, EABA has 208 members from 21 countries.

EABA Membership

Welcome to our most recent members!

- Charalambos Cleanthous (USA)
- Giovanni Maria Guazzo (Italy)
- Ørjan Rapp (Norway)
- Kari Grinden Lillesteth (Norway)
- Monica Vandbakk (Norway)
- Pamela Osnes (USA)
- Stepen Bradley (Ireland)
- Pamela Garz (Ireland)
- Gabriel Schnerch (Canada)
- Leah Yulevich (Israel)
- Antonio Fernández-Parra (Spain)
- Lisa Frenette (USA)
- Risca Solomon (Wales)
- Fernando Saravia (Brazil)
- Celso Goyos (Brazil)
- Frans van Haaren (USA)
- Jodie Watts (UK)
- Mareike Overhof (Germany)
- Brian Iwata (USA)

EABA Membership benefits

The European Association for Behaviour Analysis (EABA) is an international organisation that aims to promote Behaviour Analysis in Europe and to provide an international forum within Europe for the study and discussion of matters relevant to behaviour analysis. One of the main functions of EABA is to organise congresses in experimental and applied behaviour analysis. At present these are held every two years.

Full membership of EABA will entitle members to:

1. Reduced EABA conference registration rates
2. Subscription to the European Journal of Behaviour Analysis
3. Access to our list-server and Newsletter
4. Nomination and voting rights

Renew your EABA Membership today



“The history of behaviour analysis in Italy is a pretty young history. Italian behaviourism has two main roots: one can be defined as Pavlovian-reflexological-psychiatric, a group in Milan; the other Skinnerian-operant psychological, in Milan and Padua.”

Paolo Moderato

The Interview

Dr. Paolo Moderato

By Børge Strømgen

Børge Strømgen (BS): Could you give us a brief report of your background and professional career?

Paolo Moderato (PM): I started as a student at the Faculty of Philosophy in Milan in 1969 where I obtained my Masters Degree with an experimental thesis on *Verbal learning and organization in pre-school children*; I then obtained my PhD in Psychology with a dissertation on *Concept learning and dimension preference through reversal-shift methodology in developmentally delayed children*. Right after my graduation I worked for a year with atypically developed children, then followed my mentor, Ettore Caracciolo, as an Assistant at the University of Messina. I stayed in Messina for 10 years and became Associate Professor with tenure. In 1987 I moved to the University of Palermo as a Professor and there I became Chair of the Graduate Program in Psychology, and deputy vice chancellor. In 1995 I moved to the University of Parma, where I was Chair of the Department of Psychology, and in 2005 I moved back to Milan, at IULM University, where I am currently teaching.

In the mid 1970's we started studying and applying behaviour analysis and modification interventions with mentally retarded and autistic children, thanks to the guide and mentorship of Sidney W. Bijou who came to Italy often to teach our group. In 1983, Paul Richelle organised in Liege the first International meeting on Experimental Behaviour Analysis and I had the opportunity and the honour of joining this international behaviour analytic community which included B.F. Skinner. This event was followed in 1986 by the First International Institute on Verbal Relations in Bad Kreuznach organised by Philip Chase, Linda Hayes, Thomas Skutella, and Claus Thierman. This event was very important from a personal point of view, developing life-long friendships with people like Phil and Linda, but also from a professional point of view. The opportunity to spend a week in close discussion with scholars like Ullin Place, Jack Marr, Hayne

Reese, Kurt Saltzinger, Phil Heline, Julie Skinner Vargas, Emilio Ribes-Inesta, Steve Hayes, Margaret Vaughan, Paul Andronis, Dave Palmer, and T. V. Joe Layng was unparalleled. *Dialogues on Verbal Behavior*, the book based on the proceedings of the First Summer Institute, is one of most cited books on verbal behaviour since Skinner's *Verbal Behavior*.

After those meetings our relationship with the international scientific community became numerous, and our bond grew stronger as a result of the frequent visits and fellowships exchanged. The results included the organisation in Italy of international conferences, like the Second International Conference on Behaviourism in 1994 in Palermo, the First ABA International Conference in 2001 in Venice, where EABA was actually founded, and the First EABA Conference in 2003 in Parma.

Most of my research has to do with learning and remembering in verbal behaviour, both from an experimental point of view as well as an applied one. I am also very interested in philosophical and historical issues related to general science, in addition to Behaviourism.

BS: Could you provide with some basic bullet points of the history of behaviour analysis in Italy?

PM: The history of behaviour analysis in Italy is a young history. Italian behaviourism has two main roots: one can be defined as Pavlovian-reflexological-psychiatric, represented by a group in Milan; and the other Skinnerian-operant psychological, represented by groups in Milan and Padua. In 1972 Ettore Caracciolo organised, at the European Centre of Education in Frascati, an International Conference on "Recent trends in psychology of learning". This was the first time an Italian audience had attended one of Fred Keller's lectures. As a consequence of these cultural events, a behaviourist group was constituted in Milan at the Institute of Psychology headed by Ettore Caracciolo. The scientific work

of this group, in the following years, focused on theoretical issues and applications of the analysis of behaviour, especially in the field of experimental research and intervention in normal and special education. At the end of 1977 the Pavlovian and Skinnerian groups joined together to represent the first and constitutive nucleus of the Italian Association for Behaviour Analysis and Modification (AIAMC), in which I served twice as president. In the autumn of 1983 the 3rd Congress of AIAMC had Sidney W. Bijou and Marc Richelle as special guests. The proceedings were published in a homonym volume.

In 1989 Latini Dies, the Association of Behavioural Psychotherapy of Latin language countries, was founded following an idea from G.F. Goldwurm and Emilio Ribes, and held its first congress in Rome.

In 1992, thanks to the contribution of the University of Guadalajara, Acta Comportamentalia, a Latin languages journal of behaviour analysis was founded and presented during the first Congress on Behaviourism and Behaviour Sciences, which took place in Guadalajara (Mexico). Acta Comportamentalia is at present edited by Emilio Ribes and co-edited by me for the Italian section.

In a few words, disseminating the behaviourism and pursuing original research by Italian scholars was not an easy job, but I was very grateful and proud of the formal recognition of the job that my group and I did, when I received in 2002 the SABA Award for International Development of Behaviour Analysis and when, one year later, IESCUM, the European Institute for the Study of Human Behaviour I founded with Nanni Presti and others, was acknowledged as ABAI Italian Chapter. AIAMC, which was the Italian ABA chapter, quit its interest in BA.

The financial situation in Italy, as many of you know, is very troubling and the educational system is the first, unfortunately, to pay the consequences. I have (and hope to keep) a PhD program in my University, which is strongly oriented in Behaviour Analytic principles. The grant system is not competitive enough, and rewards research in the neurosciences much more than research in the sciences of behaviour. A new system for evaluating research is just taking off in the next few months; we'll see what happens..

BS: How do you evaluate the current situation of experimental behaviour analysis in Italy?

PM: Experimental behaviour analysis in Italy did not thoroughly develop, due to the "classical" misrepresentations and misconceptions (see Erik Arntzen's and colleagues 2010 paper in Psych Record for a summary). For example, many still believe that behaviourism and operant psychology ignore consciousness, feelings and states of mind, and consider the brain a black box. Skinner in particular, is often misrepresented as discarding the role of physiological processes. Thus cognitive psychology in the 70's and 80's, and neurosciences following in the 90's-2010, treated BA as an obsolete thing of the past. Fortunately there is something new brewing, like the new trends of research on verbal behaviour and its functions, stimulus equivalence, and Relation Frame Theory, and this revitalises the experimental research with

new energy. Probably cognitive psychologists and neuroscientist do not even know that these new trends fully belong to the family of behaviourism! At the present moment there are 2 - 3 lines of research in the Italian universities focused on these trends and they are very active on the international scene.

BS: How do you evaluate the current situation of applied behaviour analysis in Italy?

PM: Behaviour analysis in Italy is being developed fundamentally in applied settings, while academic psychologists, with few exceptions, are reluctant to adopt behaviour analytic approaches, and – mostly - know very little about it. The demand of applied behaviour analysis is growing rapidly, thanks to the effectiveness shown in treating developmental disorders like autism. There are both pros and cons, the pros are that ABA is becoming progressively more popular, I'd say even too popular compared to what we can offer in terms of procedures and professionals. The cons are that it takes time to form a good behaviour analyst capable of designing individualised procedures based on a strong knowledge of basic principles. Furthermore, I see the risk that ABA is mainly considered to be a "cure for autism", neglecting ABA's contributions to general education, safety, organisational science, management, health, and everyday life, including helping to build a better life for mankind.

BS: How do you think EABA will help behaviour analysis in Italy and the relationship with European colleagues?

PM: In my opinion the best help from EABA is to be fully European. Let me try to explain what I mean. I'm strongly convinced of the need of Europe as a union, even in these hard days, for being successful. But we can't forget that countries with so different cultures, languages, individual and social values, and organisational systems, constitute this union. Consequently, I think that any European institution, like EABA, should pay careful attention and give improved voice to the different individuals of each country. We need to focus on creating opportunities for each of culture to develop, informing progress based on the experience of the countries with longer behaviour analytic traditions. BA is pretty well established in some northern countries (like Norway, the UK, and Sweden for example); in other nations, like the former socialist countries or some Mediterranean countries, behaviour analysis is getting started. Neil Martin is doing a great job in Romania. The Greek behaviour analytic community, led by Robert Mellon, is a wonderful example, as we saw at EABA's conference in Crete. There are some behaviour analysts in Turkey who attend ABAI every year, but not EABA conference and we need to reach out to include them. In Italy, the behaviour analytic community is still small, but rapidly growing, as in Spain and in France. If EABA is able to stimulate and support all these communities and give them visibility, EABA will become stronger and will be able in turn to stimulate and support the development of BA in other countries.

How “EDUS” brought ABA to Bosnia and Herzegovina!

Invited Article

By Nirvana Pistoljevic¹, Executive Director, EDUS-Education for All

On average, 1 out of 2 people in Bosnia and Herzegovina (B&H) suffers some kind of social exclusion (“Human Development Report on Social Exclusion in BiH”, UNDP 2007). Among these, children and adults with developmental delays with high or complete dependence on others, suffer the most. This is the country that is by so many criteria part of the Europe, yet it has a long way to go when it comes to providing appropriate education and services to children with special needs, and including them and their families in the society as equals.

Because of the acute deficit of adequately trained professional staff to work with children with special needs or appropriate educational programs, after a medical diagnoses, there are no programs to refer families and their children to. Children with early-detected developmental delays do not receive any services provided by the government until the age of 6 or 7, the start of the primary school. Still, even then, many children diagnosed with Autism and other Pervasive Developmental Delays, do not attend any educational programs if they have aggressive behaviors and difficulty self-managing. Special education schools in B&H, very unpopular and neglected by government, still use outdated educational eclectic methodologies and follow an old “communist pre-war” model where teacher to student ratios are 1:8-12 regardless of student needs, skills and levels of functioning, and curricula are based on just demanding “less” and expecting “less” of the student. Also, in the past 10 years, country has adopted a “full-inclusion” model, without adequate legislative provisions, without appropriate teacher training or higher education curricula to prepare new teacher for it. The price for that is usually paid by the students with special needs, who just simply at the end get expelled, and their parents who are left without any options or hope.

In these circumstances, many parents felt the need to get organized and seek ways to improve the prospects of their children and their whole families. Parents of children with ASD were in particularly difficult situation, struggling to live everyday life with this serious disorder of which very few people in B&H ever heard of, and having no place to go for any professional help and guidance. Realizing that they had to seek help outside the country, they

contacted me, Bosnian-born American scientist, on one of my private visits to B&H and this is where the NGO “EDUS-Education for All” was envisioned.

Thanks to extraordinary enthusiasm of several parents and professionals, after two years of preparation, lectures, workshops, trainings and fund raising activities, the pilot project in Sarajevo Special Education Institute “Mjedenica” started in September of 2010. A systematic replication of a CABAS® (Comprehensive Application of Behavior Analysis to Schooling) model classrooms, introducing teaching as ABA has been the goal to reach in order to secure a scientific model of education to implement in B&H. The CABAS® model provided a modern, effective, evidence-based, and research-driven opportunity to help children in Sarajevo, capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The project was based on the experiences of almost 3 decades of research and running the Fred S. Keller School, and other CABAS® schools around the world.

“Parents of children with ASD were in particularly difficult situation, struggling to live everyday life with this serious disorder of which very few people in B&H ever heard of, and having no place to go for any professional help and guidance.”

Together with me, several parents and professionals involved in the pilot project, striving to tie the existing system of education to the best and most advanced practices, supported by continuous and measured progress of the children involved in the project, founded officially a non-government and non-profit organization “EDUS-Education for All”. The NGO focused on the advancement of education and support for children with and without Developmental Delays in B&H, by introducing evidence-based practices and science of teaching as ABA. I left my job as an Assistant Director of the Fred S. Keller School (www.CABASSCHOOLS.org) and lecturing at the graduate program in ABA at Teachers College, Columbia University in New York, and moved to Sarajevo create a first ABA program in B&H.

In September of 2010, the ABA principles were introduced in 2 classrooms with total of 20 children, ages 5 through 8, mostly diagnosed with ASD and other serious developmental disorders. Also 10 professionals were being in-situ trained to deliver flawless instruction, take data and analyze them, implement tactics and individualized behavior plans and curricula. The project also included parent education and training and lecturing as a visiting professor at the Faculty of Pedagogy.

The EDUS-ABA Pilot project was successfully concluded in 2011, with all children showing progress and 5 of them being able to transfer to general education classrooms. Two of the staff being trained as part of the project, for the first time conducted research in their classrooms, which they were able to present at several conferences in Europe (i.e. IABA, ARBA). The first year data from the classrooms suggested that the B&H classrooms could successfully replicate the American, and other ABA programs, outcomes for their students and teachers.

As a result of great interest for the pilot project, and enormous amount of voluntary work to secure the funding, the new school year (2011/12) started with 7 CABAS® classrooms with 65 children and 25 professional staff being trained, with an unfortunate waiting list of another 30 children. The project has been funded by the EU, as the most successful at their call in the area of social inclusion and the one that puts Sarajevo and B&H on the European map of evidence-based quality education for children with special needs. Also, in 2011, EDUS has started a first ABA Early Intervention program in Sarajevo, where we are currently working with 15 children ages 18 months through 4 years old. This also is a new concept for this country, since no attempts to advance or develop an evidence-based program for early detection, diagnosis and intervention have been made so far.

“In September of 2010, the ABA principles were introduced in 2 classrooms with total of 20 children, ages 5 through 8, mostly diagnosed with ASD and other serious developmental disorders.”

The parents of children included in the EDUS-ABA classrooms today have already logged a petition to the local Ministry of Education requesting their financial and legislative support for the continuation of the ABA program and further enlargement in order to meet clearly existing needs of the children with developmental delays and their families in B&H. Unfortunately, we are still unable to make changes at the higher-education level, where outdated curricula need to include new findings and the wealth of research from the world. Behavior Analysis has lived in Europe for decades, yet B&H universities do not mention the science of behavior

in their curricula, and do not offer any single case research courses yet.

“Interestingly, parents are now contacting EDUS from all regions of the country and even from the neighbouring countries for help.”

Interestingly, parents are now contacting EDUS from all regions of the country and even from the neighboring countries for help. For the next school year, two additional NGO's from other cities in B&H have shown interested in developing ABA based programs for their regions. We at EDUS are continually trying to promote ABA in B&H through lecturing, data presentations and keeping the doors to our classrooms open to whoever wants to visit. Since I came to Sarajevo, I have continually tried to promote the science through presenting about the project at international conferences, giving lectures at B&H Academy of Arts and Sciences, Faculty of Pedagogy, Association of Psychologists, Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation, and other local conferences. Meanwhile, EDUS is working on securing the funds from the international organizations in order to continue our work, with the regret that we cannot use the ABA tactics to teach a government its responsibilities yet!

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In Memoriam: Gerald L. Shook, Ph.D., BCBA-D 1948 – 2011



We all strive to have a positive impact on our field. We work hard, take pride in our efforts, and try to represent in our careers the best behavior analysis has to offer. Everyone's efforts are important and contribute to the good of the whole, but some stand out as exceptional in their reach and impact. Jerry Shook's career embodied accomplishments that met this standard again and again.

Jerry earned his doctorate from Western Michigan University in 1981. He would have graduated considerably earlier had he not already begun a career in administrative leadership. As with many WMU graduate students at the time, he began working at the Kalamazoo Valley Multihandicap Center as a therapist, but within two years he began a seven-year stint as director. During that period, he worked with and mentored many of his peers who are now leaders in applied behavior analysis.



Following graduation, Jerry began what looked like a traditional career in academia. He took a position as assistant professor in the Department of Exceptional Children Education at the State University of New York College at Buffalo and then as assistant professor in pediatrics in the School of Medicine at Georgetown University. Although he continued affiliations in higher education throughout his career, they were adjunct relationships that were secondary to his primary focus, which was administrative leadership.

In 1984, Jerry began serving as Senior Behavior Analyst in the Developmental Services Headquarters Office of the Florida Department of Children and Families in Tallahassee. Over the next six years, his work defined that new position and set the standard for its many iterations in other states over the years. Jerry was responsible for ABA activities throughout the state, including managing the relatively new Behavior Analysis Peer Review Committee (PRC). The PRC was a powerful force for improving ABA services offered through state and private agencies, and Jerry used it to best advantage. In his central office role as coordinator of behavior analysis policy, budget, and legislative development, he was adept at finding opportunities to strengthen systemic support for ABA. For example, in one of many smart moves, he was able to slip the PRC into statutory language, where it remains today. His efforts were so successful that a second ABA position was added to the department, filled by Michael Hemingway.

Perhaps the most important role Jerry played as Senior Behavior Analyst was in developing the emerging certification movement in Florida. At the time Jerry took the Senior Behavior Analyst position, early efforts had been made by Hank Pennypacker, a member of the PRC, to establish a state certification program in ABA. Those efforts led to a state-funded contract for the development of a proper examination, and Jerry arrived as that initiative was getting underway. Over the next several years, he oversaw not only the development of the examination but also the procedures for administering and scoring it, as well as early efforts to build training activities



throughout the state. That experience turned out to be valuable for his later development of a national – now international -- certification program.

By 1990, Jerry had had enough of state government, and he turned to consulting on a full time basis. Given his experience, he focused on helping other states develop their ABA capabilities. His interest in professional credentialing did not wane, however. Outside events, including rapidly increasing demand for ABA services, were encouraging people of all stripes to claim qualifications to offer such services, particularly in the area of autism treatment. In addition, a number of other states were developing their own certification programs using the Florida examination. Jerry's work with the Florida Department of Children and Families led to the opportunity to build a national certification program based on the Florida model and incorporating its materials.

In 1998, Jerry established the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB). Few may appreciate the courage and conviction that required. Jerry and his wife BJ took out a second mortgage on their house, and Jerry did not receive a salary for two years as the BACB took shape. Although his experience in Florida led him to be hopeful about the venture, there was no guarantee that matters would evolve as he wished. However, by 2000, other state certification programs had been folded into the BACB, and examinations were being conducted nationally.

Jerry's leadership of the BACB over the next decade was masterful. Even a cursory review of the countless organizational decisions, the ways policies and procedures were developed, how the certification program needed to grow, how fast or slow to move in different directions, how to work with different interests would reveal Jerry's impressive skills and vision. What is most telling about his leadership is that no decision, policy, or process required correction to address significant flaws. Jerry brought to his role in the BACB uncommon intelligence, wisdom, thoughtfulness, judgment, patience, and confidence in our field. At the same time, he

was aware that development of a viable certification program for behavior analysts required guidance from individuals with expertise in other fields, including the law and high-stakes professional testing. Jerry also foresaw the value of having the BACB program meet the same standards as other professional credentialing programs, so early on he made sure it had the components required for accreditation by the National Commission on Certifying Agencies.

There is no question that the development of the BACB's professional certification program has been the most important event in the recent history of ABA. It has spawned many graduate and undergraduate training programs all over the world, associated faculty positions, thousands of graduates, and over 10,000 certificants to date. Growth in these indices continues to be positively accelerated. Throughout its history, the BACB has repeatedly raised training, testing, continuing education, and monitoring standards, pushing the field to improve its services.

Jerry's accomplishments have been recognized by many organizations, and many of us find it easy to reflect on how his career has affected our own. For so many, however, he was not just a respected colleague, but also a mentor and a dear friend. His seriousness of purpose was always matched by his humility and ready laugh. Jerry's passing occurred far too soon, and we will all miss him in many ways. But his legacy will continue to grow as we improve ABA technology, address the needs of a growing cadre of professionals, and work through some side effects of growth in the practice segment of our field with which the larger field is presently struggling.

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My story with Jerry

By Javier Virues Ortega

In 2006 Brian Iwata introduced me to Jerry Shook during a dinner at the ABAI conference in Atlanta. I must confess, I knew little about the BACB and its certification program. There were no board certified behavior analysts in Spain at the time. That dinner led to a series of interactions with Jerry that allowed ABA Spain to obtain course sequence approval for our training program on behavior analysis. Shortly after Atlanta I met Jerry again at the EABA Conference in Milan. He had the misfortune of getting injured in the stairs of the hotel. I visited him twice while in the hospital. I was amused by the fact that I had to buy a sandwich for him the first time I visited (the staff didn't notice that he had not eaten and he couldn't make himself understood). In my second visit I helped him organize his luggage (including his underwear!) before his return to Florida. Shortly after getting back to my home - I was living in southern Spain at the time - I got a hand written thank you letter from Jerry, a piece of appreciation that I treasured very dearly.

In 2008 I visited him and BJ at their home in Tallahassee. BJ cooked an incredible dinner, we sat in their living room and saw the deer on their daily visit to their back yard during sunset. There was an atmosphere of tranquility in their home that I remember clearly. Proudly, he showed me a book dedicated by Skinner that all graduates from Western Michigan used to get. The next day we ate gator steaks together and cruised the roads of Tallahassee in his old Porsche. We visited the remarkable car museum where I discovered that Jerry was a connoisseur of cars history in North America. When I was about to leave the battery of my rental car died. Jerry took the trouble to find a place where I could get it fixed, and even tipped the mechanic who did it - I was quite embarrassed!

During the time I spent at the EABA board I had the opportunity to interact more with Jerry and to become familiar with the extent of his work in support of behavior analysis across the globe. He always was an effective, generous and loyal allied to EABA. In 2009 we worked in an article together on behavior analysis and certification which was the first piece on BACB certification to be published in a non-English journal. The

article reached the 35K members of the Spanish association of psychology and it was made freely available both in English and Spanish over the internet.

While visiting in Tallahassee, Jerry informed me that the board had agreed on translating the BACB examinations into Spanish, a request in which I had insisted on a number of occasions. Spanish was going to be the first language other than English in which the exam was going to be offered. My understanding is that Jerry gave the final push to the Spanish version of the exam, which is now close to completion, during the last months that he was active at the BACB.

News from the EABA Community

From our members

- The MSc Autism Spectrum Disorders at *Queen's University of Belfast* now has 2 modules on Behaviour Analysis: 1) A new online module *Behaviour Analysis in Theory*, in addition to 2) an existing module *Behaviour Analysis in Practice*. For further information contact: Dr **Karola Dillenburger**, QUART Centre, Queen's University of Belfast, School of Education, 69/71 University Street, Belfast, BT7 1HL, Northern Ireland. Phone: 0044(0)28 9097 5985. email: K.dillenburger@qub.ac.uk.
- The School of Psychology at *Trinity College Dublin* offers a M.Sc. in ABA. This is a 90 ECTS one-year full-time study and the closing date for application is April 30th each year. Course modules are 1) Advanced research & data analysis procedures in behaviour analysis I, 2) Advanced research & data analysis procedures in behaviour analysis II, 3) Research Dissertation Proposal, 4) Supervised Research and Practice, 5) Special Topics in ABA, and 6) Research Dissertation. Entry requirements are amongst others a degree in Psychology from a recognised University and a Post-Graduate Diploma in ABA or a BCABA exam eligible course. Further details at <http://www.psychology.tcd.ie/postgraduate/applied-behaviour-analysis/msc/>. Other contact details: Course executive officer June Carpenter: Phone: +353-1-896 229. E-mail: carpentj@tcd.ie

Upcoming ABA Events in Europe

In February

- The Swedish Association for Behaviour Analysis (SWABA) arranges a annual business meeting along with a conference in Stockholm at February 11th 2012. Conference speakers include **JoAnne Dahl** (ACT), **Eila Nilsson-Karlberg** (PBS), **Lars Klintwall** (Autism hypothesis). More information at <http://www.swaba.se/>

In April

- ABA Professional Conference to be held on the 19th April by *Ambitious about Autism* in association with *Bangor University*. It is entitled: *Applied Behaviour Analysis: Beyond early intensive intervention?* The conference will be held at The Pears National Centre for Autism Education, London, from 9.30am to 4.30pm. The programme brings together leading academics and practitioners to provide an overview of contemporary issues in Behaviour Analysis and to illustrate the diversity of practice. Key note Speaker is **Dr Steve Noone**, other speakers are **Maria Saville**, **Dr Janet Feigenbaum**, **Professor Richard Hastings**, and **Dr Sandy Toogood**. 5 CEUs will be available for this event. For more information and a copy of the programme please contact, e-mail: LFuzi@ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk
- The Norwegian association for behaviour analysis (NAFO) arranges their annual business meeting together with a four-day conference in Storefjell, Gol at March 26th-29th. In addition to more than 60 native language-based events, there are some international events including the invited guest **Giulio E. Lancioni** from the University of Bari, Italy. More information at <http://www.atferd.no/>

Kudos for EABA members accomplishments

In Northern Ireland

- *STAMPPP II*: Recently recognised as an example of excellence by the European Commission, this is the second time the project *Science and the treatment of autism: A multimedia package for parents and professionals* (STAMPPP) has received funding from Leonardo. Current partners include Italy, Iceland, Holland, and Sweden. Members of the current consortium for this project include Dr. Mickey Keenan (lead researcher) and Dr. Stephen Gallagher (University of Ulster); Dr. Karola Dillenburger (Queen's University, Belfast); Dr. Tony Byrne (P.E.A.T.); Dr. Neil Martin (Applied Representative of the European Association for Behaviour Analysis; Antam); Prof. Paolo Moderato (Institute G.P. Fabris, IULM University, Milan), Dr. Lise Roll-Pettersson (Stockholms universite, Sweden); Dr. Jacqueline Schenk (Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands); Sigridur Jonsdottir (The State Diagnostic and Counselling Centre, Iceland). Read more at www.simplestepsautism.com and <http://www.adam-europe.eu/adam/project/view.htm?prj=8330>

In Spain

- *ABA Spain*: Over 500 people attended the ABAI conference in Granada, ABA Spain provided bursaries, coordinated volunteers and translator, facilitated attendance to a total of 50 ABA Spain members and friends.
- The translation of the BACB exam into Spanish is almost complete. In this initiative have been involved scholars from the US, Mexico, Colombia and Spain. ABA Spain has assisted the BACB throughout the process.

In Croatia

- Dr Neil Martin has obtained approval from the Behavior Analyst Certification Board, Inc. (BACB) for a BCaBA course sequence in Zagreb. This will be the first behaviour analysis course in Croatia, to start in 2012.

