



# Rowan Reinforcement Record

Center for Behavioral Research & Services Newsletter

## Undergraduate Advisement

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES	
Spring 2010	
Learning & Behavior (CRNs 21280 & 22573)	T: 1:30-4:30 T: 4:45-7:15
Applied Behavior Analysis CRN 20770	M 4:45-7:15
Developmental Psychopathology (CRNs 21841 or 20820)	W 4:45-7:15 TR 4:45-6:00
Field Experience (CRN 22078)	T 7:25-9:55

## Field Experience & Practicum Spring 2010

If you are an undergraduate student in the Specialization in Behavioral Services interested in **Field Experience** OR a graduate student interested in **Practicum in ABA** for Spring 2010 and have not already applied for this course, please contact Dr. Soreth as soon as possible to obtain the application at [soreth@rowan.edu](mailto:soreth@rowan.edu).



Volume 4, Issue 1

Fall 2009

### In This Issue:

Graduate Student Corner	2
Autism Legislation	3
Autism Conference	3
Student Profile	3
Placement Profile	4

## Walk Now for Autism: Philadelphia 2009 ABA Student Interest Group

Rowan University's Center for Behavioral Research and Services sponsored a team for the Walk Now for Autism Speaks event held in Philadelphia at Citizens Bank Ballpark on September 26th. Team Rowan ABA was comprised of over 70 volunteers, mostly students from the Psychology Department's Undergraduate Specialization in Behavioral Services and the MA in Applied Behavior Analysis programs. Total money donated in support of Team Rowan ABA topped out at over \$1500; all proceeds go toward funding research for Autism Speaks. Autism Speaks is the nation's largest autism science and advocacy organization, dedicated to funding research into the causes, prevention, treatments and a cure for autism. Congratulations Team Rowan!



The first ABA Interest Group of this year was held on Wednesday, September 9. The next general meeting will be held on **Wednesday November 11 at 7:30pm** in Dewey Lounge on the first floor of Robinson Hall. Pizza and refreshments will be served. We will be discussing upcoming service projects, events, and conferences. Come out and get involved!

## Graduate Student Meeting!!

Attention ALL current graduate students in the MA in ABA and COGS in ABA programs, please join us:

**Wednesday November 18, 2009**

**7:15pm**

**Robinson Hall 201B**

# Graduate Student Corner

## Rowan Welcomes First Class of Students in the MA in Applied Behavior Analysis Program!

We are proud to welcome the first class of Master's Degree students in ABA to Rowan! The inaugural class brings an incredible range of skills, experiences, and educational backgrounds to the program. They are undergraduate alumni of Rowan, Temple University, University of Pennsylvania, Rutgers University, University of Nevada-Reno, Stockton College, Hampton University, Waynesburg University, Wesley College, and LaSalle University among others. The students also bring a diversity of expertise, currently serving in positions as speech pathologists, occupational therapists, board certified assistant behavior analysts, teachers, behavior consultants, teacher assistants, clinical case managers, and therapeutic support staff.



The MA in ABA program allows students to gain the necessary coursework and degree requirements to be eligible for the BCBA™ credential assuming they complete the required supervised hours and successfully pass the certification exam. We are currently accepting applications for the FALL 2010 cohort. The deadline for applying is **February 15, 2010**. Online applications are available now at <http://www.rowan.edu/colleges/graduate/prospective/>

### Graduate Advising: Spring 2010

- Registration for graduate students begins on October 19 at 7am and closes November 15.
- Please register online using the banner system: [www.rowan.edu/selfservice](http://www.rowan.edu/selfservice)
- If you encounter a pre-requisite or other error, please contact Dr. Kerwin ([kerwin@rowan.edu](mailto:kerwin@rowan.edu)) or Dr. Soreth ([soreth@rowan.edu](mailto:soreth@rowan.edu))
- If you are planning to enroll in the Practicum course, you MUST fill out an application with Dr. Soreth ([soreth@rowan.edu](mailto:soreth@rowan.edu))
- Beth Glasberg-Katz will be the special guest instructor for the Social Skills course. We strongly encourage you to take this course as one of your electives if possible—it should be an excellent course!
- Office of the Registrar: 856-256-4360

GRADUATE COURSES SPRING 2010		
MA & COG ABA	Research Methods in Behavior Analysis (CRN 22903 )	M
MA & COG ABA	Behavioral Assessment & Functional Analysis (CRN 21718)	T 4:45-7:15
MA & COG ABA	Practicum in ABA (CRN 22077)	T 7:25-9:55
MA & COG ASD	Assessment and Interventions for Social Skills and Relationships in	R 4:45-7:15
MA & COG ASD	Instructional Methods for Students with Autism Spectrum	M 4:45-7:15
MA (Required)	Psychopathology of Children and Adolescents (CRN 20773)	W 4:45-7:15
MA (Required)	Education & Psychology of Exceptional Learners (CRN 20497)	M 4:45-7:15
MA (Elective)	Implementing Positive Behavior Supports (CRN 22196)	W 4:45-7:15



## Student Spotlight

**Heather McCusker** is currently completing her senior year as a Psychology major with a specialization in Behavioral Services for Children & Families and a minor in Sociology. Heather is currently the president of the senior class, vice president of Psychology Alliance, and the first president of the newly established ABA Interest Group.

Heather became interested in ABA early on. Her mother's career as a teacher's aide, who works with a variety of emotionally disturbed and autistic children, initially sparked her interest. She decided to add the specialization to get more experience and Dr. Soreth has helped her find ways to gain a better understanding of the field through coursework, research, and field experiences.

After completing her field experience at Behavior Counts Therapy, LLC., Heather was offered a job as a Behavior Instructor, running home programs for children diagnosed with autism. She is also working for Partners in Learning as an Inclusion Support Instructor.

Heather is going to continue to work towards obtaining her BCABA and she is looking forward to applying to Master's programs in Counseling Psychology this fall.



## Where are they now?

### 2009 Specialization Graduates are going places!

Jilian Planer: Caldwell College (MA in ABA)

Tara Frederick: Rowan University (MA School Psychology)

Christin Bell: Rowan University (MA in ABA)

Angela Taylor: Rowan University (MA in ABA)

Carla Benson: Rowan University (MA in ABA)

Karen Gilbert: Rutgers University (MSW)

Christina Breen: Montclair University (Speech Pathology)

## Action & Advocacy

### Autism Legislation Passed!

On August 13, 2009, Governor Jon Corzine signed the new legislation that requires many insurance companies to cover the screening and therapeutic treatment for children, up to age 21, who are diagnosed with autism and other developmental disabilities. The ceremony was hosted by PSE&G's Children's Hospital and was represented by Autism New Jersey and more than 200 individuals including families, children with autism, and professionals.

The legislation, A-2238/S-1561, states insurance companies will be required to cover up to \$36,000 annually to pay for treatments such as Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy, occupational, physical, and speech therapy. The legislation is scheduled to take effect in February 2010. New Jersey will be the 15th state to enact this law.

### 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Autism NJ Conference



Autism New Jersey's (formerly COSAC) Annual Conference was held in Atlantic City on October 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>. Students from Rowan's Applied Behavior Analysis programs volunteered and attended the conference, which is one of the largest autism-related conferences of its kind, reaching more than 1,400 caregivers, professionals, and parents. The conference displayed the work of several prominent behavior analysts currently practicing in New Jersey through a variety of workshops. A highlight of the conference was an address given by Governor Corzine addressing the current status of the autism-related legislation in the state of New Jersey. We encourage you to join the Autism NJ community of professionals, advocates, and other individuals affected by Autism at

**[www.autismnj.org](http://www.autismnj.org)**



MaryLouise E. Kerwin, Ph.D., BCBA-D;  
Director

Michelle Ennis Soreth, Ph.D., BCBA-D;  
Assistant Director

Center for Behavioral Research &  
Services

Robinson Hall - Psychology  
201 Mullica Hill Road  
Glassboro, NJ 08028

Phone: 856-256-5470

Fax: 856-256-4892

E-mail: [abacenter@rowan.edu](mailto:abacenter@rowan.edu)

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

## Profile of a Placement: The Y.A.L.E. School Southeast



The Y.A.L.E. School Southeast Autism Program is a private school providing year-round, full-day educational programming to students ages 3-21 with a diagnosis of Autism or Pervasive Developmental Disorder-Not Otherwise Specified. A small student-to-staff ratio (either 1:1 or 2:1) provides students with the necessary structure, engagement and supervision to achieve social, academic and behavioral success. In addition to the main campus in Voorhees, NJ, the Y.A.L.E. School Southeast Autism Program also has two satellite campuses providing behavior analytic services to students in the Hamilton Township area (students ages 3-7) and the Audubon area (students ages 14-21). Both of these satellite campuses are housed in public schools and are directly supervised by a BCBA from the main campus in Voorhees.

The Y.A.L.E. School Southeast Autism Program is based on the principles and practices of Applied Behavior Analysis and employs a variety of behavior analytic strategies and procedures in order to increase academic and social behaviors and decrease disruptive or inappropriate behaviors. These strategies and procedures include, but are not limited to, the application of Skinner's functional analysis of language, discrete trial instruction, small group instruction, errorless teaching, incidental teaching, activity schedules, individualized schedules of reinforcement, functional behavior assessments, analogue functional analyses, and computer-based instruction. The Y.A.L.E. School Southeast Autism Program features a comprehensive curriculum focusing on academic achievement and independence. This curriculum is tailored for each individual student's needs and based on the results of behavior analytic assessments (i.e., The ABLLS, The VB-MAPP). The program also features on-site, highly trained professional staff, including two Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA). The two BCBA provide full time supervision and training for all Y.A.L.E. School Southeast staff. These supervising behavior analysts also oversee curriculum development, all functional behavior assessments, analogue functional analyses and the creation and implementation of all individualized behavior plans.

Practicum students completing hours at Y.A.L.E. School Southeast will be provided with a variety of activities and experiences based on each student's level of education, training and experience. These activities include direct observation, data collection (skill acquisition, functional behavior assessment, Interobserver Agreement and procedural integrity data), implementation of Y.A.L.E. School Southeast teaching procedures, assistance in analogue functional analyses, assistance in the creation of individualized behavior plans, staff training for the implementation of behavior plans, and direct meetings with the BCBA to review clinical experience and current literature. For more information on The Y.A.L.E. School Southeast Autism Program please contact Rachael Sautter, PhD, BCBA-D at (856)346-007 x 103 or [rsautter@yaleschool.com](mailto:rsautter@yaleschool.com).