

## 2011 CalABA Conference Highlights

by Bryan Hebert, M.S., BCBA and Amanda Adams, Ph.D., BCBA-D  
2011 CalABA Conference Committee Co-Chairs



*The success of the 2011 Conference would not have been possible without the support, dedication, and hard work of so many people.*

Recognition goes to the members of the 2011 Conference Committee for the countless hours they put forth to develop a strong and impressive line-up of speakers and presenters. The hardworking team at Sacramento State University's Conference and Training Services did another wonderful job managing all aspects of the conference. We want to express our gratitude to CalABA's Marketing, Advertising, Professional Standards, Public Policy and other committees for all their contributions and collaboration in the many months leading up to the conference. Our utmost appreciation goes to Volunteer Coordinator Jeanne Lee for her organization and management of the small army of student volunteers. Special thanks go to CalABA's Administrative Director Bob Schwartz for the countless duties he fulfilled and tireless effort he put forth for the conference this year and for the organization as a whole. Our appreciation and gratitude also go out to all of the many donors, sponsors, supporting members, advertisers, exhibitors, and volunteers who contributed financially or in other ways to the success of CalABA.

The depth and quality of presentation offerings this year was remarkable and many efforts were made to ensure there was something for everyone who attended. Top-notch addresses were provided by our Keynote Speakers, Outstanding Contributor, and Glenda Vittimberga Memorial Lecturer. More invited speakers were identified and invited by our Conference Committee than ever before and multiple invited speakers were scheduled for program areas of the conference that have been under-represented in previous years. Over 115 addresses, panel discussions, symposia, workshops, and poster presentations were available to attendees, along with special events such as the Luncheon, Skinner Foundation Auction, numerous awards presentations, Poster Session, Cash Bar Social, Job Fair, and Graduate Program Expo.

A vital focus at this year's conference was the dissemination of information on the importance of public policy issues and a call to action for individuals in the field of behavior analysis. We were pleased and proud to have numerous presentations in our specially-designated Public Policy Track available to attendees in our program schedule. We were very happy for the positive feedback and responses we received by many in our membership on these events.

2011 saw the debut of exciting new uses of technology to help improve attendees' conference experience. This year, CalABA provided live updates on Facebook and Twitter during the conference events and festivities to keep followers actively informed. CalABA also introduced the use of electronic scanners to help improve the CEU process for the many attendees who require continuing education units at the conference.

Once again, our sincerest thanks go to everyone who attended and participated in the CalABA Conference last February. We look forward to you joining us again next year in Southern California!

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# Message from the President

**Jill M. Young, Ph.D., BCBA-D**

CalABA has an important mission - the advancement of the profession and practice of behavior analysis. CalABA's public policy goals are based on this mission. We are committed to ensuring that individuals, who depend on our intervention, continue to have access to high-quality, ABA treatment provided by appropriately trained and experienced professionals. In the current budget crisis, never has it been so imperative that CalABA participate in legislative activities then it is right now. We are all stakeholders in the process of making sure that our science, its application, and the qualifications of practitioners are carefully represented. This is a pivotal moment in our profession. What may seem like a time of uncertainty is a time of opportunity if we are prepared, focused and united.

We know we have to strengthen our political muscle. As behavior analysts, we understand the contingent relationships that shape and control individual behavior. And although we don't yet have the same knowledge and experience in managing political behavior, we are learning quickly. CalABA has moved forward in its participation within the political process and in activities that will determine funding, right to practice, and scope of practice.

Since the conference, our activities have included:

- On behalf of CalABA, Assemblyperson Bill Berryhill, has authored and introduced AB 1205. This bill, would establish licensure for behavior analysts based on the BCBA certification. If passed, this would be an important step to consumer protection; ensuring that ABA intervention is delivered by qualified practitioners. In addition, to the extent that the lack of licensure has been a barrier to health plan reimbursement for ABA services, AB 1205 will support insurance coverage laws.

- CalABA was invited to nominate three individuals to serve on the DDS behavioral services workgroup. We were able to introduce the service delivery standards guidelines developed by the CalABA taskforce. We anticipate that these guidelines will be important as DDS sets parameters for regional center funding of early autism intervention services. While no document is perfect, these guidelines would help ensure that young children who rely on ABA intervention would continue to have access to comprehensive programs while balancing funding-agencies' critical need for cost-savings.

- We have also begun the most ambitious grassroots organizing efforts ever undertaken by CalABA. Our multi-component grassroots effort focuses on getting you, our membership and stakeholders, informed on important legislative issues. By mobilizing members and consumers of services we can respond swiftly to political events that impact our profession. I hope that you have already experienced these grassroots efforts in action from receiving email alerts or by visiting the CalABA website to access public policy information, updates, talking points, and position statements as well as to make a donation! And you may have already "friended" CalABA on Facebook, and followed us on Twitter. In addition, CalABA will begin providing public presentations for professionals and parents to disseminate information and get prepared for the advocacy work needed to move our legislation efforts forward.

Finally, many share my concern in the growing division between practitioners and basic researchers and academicians. In truth, the current political climate, budget crisis, and issues around quality of practice

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## ABAI Overview and Leadership

The Association for Applied Behavior Analysis International is a non-profit organization founded in 1974 with the mission to contribute to the well-being of society by developing, enhancing, and supporting the growth and vitality of the science of behavior analysis through research, education, and practice. ABAI's executive council consists of an executive director, president, and member representatives.

In February 2011, Pat Friman resigned from his term as ABAI president and Richard Malott stepped in to fill the remainder of his term. Elections this spring will determine the 2011-2012 president and two executive committee representatives.

## Membership

ABAI offers members access to current developments in the field and opportunities for professional growth and participation, including continuing education units. Currently, ABAI has approximately 5,600 members.

## Conferences and Events

ABAI's annual convention is May 27-31 in Denver at the Colorado Convention Center. Other upcoming ABAI-related events include: Four Corners ABA meeting (Santa Fe, NM) in April, Norwegian ABA meeting in May and Australian Association for CBT in October. ABAI has made selected presentations from conferences available for purchase on-line at the Learning Center.

## Publications

ABAI publishes three scholarly journals, The Analysis of Verbal Behavior, The Behavior Analyst, and Behavior Analysis in Practice. Additionally, Inside Behavior Analysis, ABAI's newsletter, is disseminated three times per year. The most recent edition featured updates from the president of the Society for the Advancement of Behavior Analysis, obituaries for Masaya Sato, Ivar Lovaas and Howard Sloane and a summary of the 2011 Autism Conference in Washington, DC.

## Chapter News

ABAI maintains relationships with 13,500 members in 65 affiliated chapters throughout the world. Between November and March, twelve regional events and conferences were held to promote the dissemination of research and promote the practice of behavior analysis.

## Special Interest Group (SIG) News

ABAI hosts 32 special interest groups that provide additional support to members in particular areas. SIGs organize and produce presentations and encourage study and discussion. Recent SIG conferences included the Autism Conference, held in January in Washington DC, the Behavioral Economics Conference, held in March in Chicago and the Organizational Behavior Management Network, held in March in Tampa.

# Message from the President

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impacts both University settings and Clinical settings alike. We are all stakeholders in this process.

It is not for political purposes alone that it is important that researchers and academicians join forces with practitioners. Society and consumers gain huge benefit from the application of the science of behavior; however, these applications require a robust theoretical base. It is through research and experimentation that our science will continue to diversify and advance.

If we are to remain "evidence based" AND address the complex behaviors that confront practitioners and society - we need to close the gap between basic research and application. Our technology is powerful; imagine the impact Behavior Analysis could make to the issues within our society – if we had a strong voice in the controlling political contingencies.

If we are to have a leadership role in the legislative process that will have far-reaching affects on our science - NOW is

the time to find our voice. My message to you is this:

- Get Informed
- Get Involved
- Support the Cause

The behavior in which we engage and the decisions we make today will have far-reaching effects on our science and our practice. I urge you to be part of CalABA's plan to protect our science and profession.

Thank you!

# Glenda Vittimberga Lecture

Prepared by: Lindsey Dukes and Becky Penrod, Ph.D., BCBA-D

*The 2011 CalABA conference marked the sixth year for a special lecture honoring the memory of Dr. Glenda Vittimberga. The lecture is presented by an invited speaker who either worked closely with Glenda in the field or worked in an area that was of special interest to her. This year's lecture was presented by Dr. Jennifer J. McComas, associate professor in the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Minnesota. What follows is an abbreviated version of Dr. McComas' lecture, which was entitled: **Functional Communication Training: Modality, Schedule Effects, and Persistence.***

The term "communication" is typically understood to refer to behaviors such as talking, listening, and a combination of both. Communication is also a convenient metaphor when discussing the treatment of socially reinforced problem behavior. Research has shown that socially reinforced problem behavior in individuals with disabilities is often communicative in nature, in that these behaviors can often be effectively replaced with alternative "communication" responses.

There are several commonly held assumptions about problem behavior considered to be communicative. First, it is expected that such behaviors are largely influenced by social consequences, and identifying the specific consequences requires some type of functional assessment. It is also assumed that these behaviors are typically maintained predominantly by either social positive (access) or social negative (escape) reinforcement. Finally, it is expected that an intervention that has been matched to the function of the behavior, such as teaching an appropriate request for a preferred item, will be effective in decreasing the problem behavior.

The modality of the intervention being used can often influence its success. In one case study, an adult displayed severe aggression which was found to be maintained by access to attention. The individual had used facilitated communication in the past, but the problem behavior continued to occur. A functionally matched alternative behavior, manding attention with PECS, was introduced, and aggression continued to be reinforced with attention. The result of this intervention showed a significant decrease in the rate of aggression and an increase in the rate of exchanging PECS, compared to the use of facilitated communication. In another study, English and Spanish mands were compared for a child in a bilingual family. In this study a child with aggressive behavior found to be maintained by escape was taught to mand for play time using a voice output switch. Both English and Spanish mands were recorded, and the child was taught to use each. When given free choice between the two switches, the child allocated her responding equally between them, indicating no preference for either language. In another study a child with self-injurious behavior found to be maintained by access to preferred items was taught to mand for the item using

both vocal responses and PECS. Results showed that the rate of the problem behavior decreased and mands increased when using PECS, but not when using vocal responses.

The schedule of reinforcement for both the problem behavior and the functionally equivalent communication response can also have a big impact on the success of training communication. For example, a child who displayed aggression toward his sibling, which was found to be maintained by escape from the sibling, was taught to exchange a card asking his sibling to leave the room, while the problem behavior continued to be reinforced. No reduction in problem behavior was observed until the child was prompted to exchange the card once every 10 seconds, after which rates of problem behavior decreased and card exchanges increased. In another example, a child displayed aggression which was found to be maintained by access to attention. The child was taught to mand for attention first using PECS, and then using a microswitch. When given access to both, the child allocated more responding to the PECS than the switch. In another study, a child displayed self-injurious behavior that was found to be maintained by access to preferred items. The intervention involved immediate reinforcement for appropriate manding using a microswitch, and delayed reinforcement for the problem behavior. Results showed that the child allocated responding to the microswitch under these conditions, but to the problem behavior when the contingencies were reversed.

The final dimension of communication that must be considered is persistence. In other words, will the communication response continue to occur when reinforcement schedules are disrupted?

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## Interested in **Teaching Online** in Our Award-Winning Autism Program?

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# Spring 2011 Report of the CalABA Public Policy Committee

By Jane S. Howard, Ph.D., Chair, Daniel Shabani, Ph.D., Junelyn Lazo-Pearson, Ph.D., LeeAnn Christian, Ph.D., Kristi Miller, Ph.D., Jill Young, Ph.D., Dave Pyles, Ph.D.

The California ABA community has been busy working to advance the field of behavior analysis in public policy arenas. Thanks to you, the CalABA Board, its legislative committee, and committed supporters across the state, we are moving closer to accomplishing our goals and establishing ourselves as a presence in Sacramento.

We would like to recognize the following individuals for their special contributions to recent public policy efforts: Amanda Adams, Mila Amerine-Dickens, Greg Elsky, Tracy McMillian-Guiou Girou, Rob Holdsambeck, Ellie Kazemi, Doug Moes, Allyson Moore, Sergio Pinto, Jackie Pinto, Anki Sjolund, Michelle Wenell, Janet Yi, and John Youngbauer. We also appreciate the many excellent contributions of CalABA's Campaign Coordinator, Eric Ritter.

Many behavior analysts attended the February 2011 CalABA Conference and participated in a public policy track to promote important dialogues about the problems and challenges we face as a profession. These issues include budget cuts and the need for state laws and regulations and health plans to recognize our practice. There was widespread understanding of the importance of having behavior analysts organize themselves politically in order to actively address these issues. Here is what we have accomplished thus far:

- CalABA worked in collaboration with Assembly Member Bill Berryhill to introduce licensing legislation—AB 1205 (The Behavior Analyst Licensure Bill). When passed, this law will license

behavior analysts using the professional credential for our practice (BACB certification), as the basis for licensure. You and hundreds of other CalABA members wrote letters in support, you educated your families and colleagues, and you ultimately helped it pass out of Health committee by a vote of 9 to 0! As we go to print on this newsletter, AB 1205 has not yet passed out of Assembly Appropriations. ***Please respond to the email requesting CalABA members, friends, and allies to contact their state assembly representative, so it can pass out of Assembly Appropriations and go to the full Assembly for a vote. <http://calaba.org/ppc/news-2011-05-May05.shtm> We have a short time frame in which to do this.***

- CalABA Board members, appointees, and other CalABA members in leadership positions participated in the Department of Developmental Services Work Groups held to discuss the impending budget cuts. Participation in these work groups helped make sure that behavior analysts with appropriate expertise provided input during these state processes. As part of these efforts, the CalABA Guidelines developed for DDS were distributed to other attendees. See them online at [www.calaba.org](http://www.calaba.org). This is the first step in articulating ABA treatment guidelines based on research and clinical expertise. Others will be needed as health plans stop denying coverage for our services and as parents seek clarification regarding appropriate treatment parameters.

- CalABA formed a Political Action Committee (PAC) and held its kickoff founding event the 2011 CalABA Conference. A PAC is a separate organization whose focus is on lobbying and political activities. With generous support from many passionate and committed ABA professionals, the founding meeting for the CalABA PAC was a big success. Assembly Member Jerry Hill was the special speaker. Funds raised through the CalABA PAC will help us identify and establish relationships with elected officials who will be champions for our cause.

- Organizations and individuals made special donations to support CalABA's Public Policy activities. The CalABA Public Policy committee is made up of volunteers but your financial support makes that possible. Thank you!!

- See page 8 for names of individuals and groups who are founding members of the CalABA PAC or have donated to the CalABA PPC. ***Please thank them for their leadership and essential support in this area.***

***Note: YOU can donate to either the CalABA PAC or CalABA Public Policy online. Please go to <https://calaba.org/donate.asp> and donate today. Any amount will help. You decide what you can do. See list on page 8 for list of organizations and individuals who have sacrificed to support this work.***

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# Spring 2011 Report of the CalABA Public Policy Committee

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## What is ahead . . .

- There is now an email alert signup for families who value ABA services and want to work with CalABA to ensure high quality services from qualified professionals. Please direct interested friends, allies, and consumers to [calaba.org](http://calaba.org) to sign up.

- CalABA hosted **AB 1205 Advocacy Trainings** throughout May to educate our membership and allies about the political process and to coordinate our advocacy efforts throughout the state. By mobilizing our grassroots support, we will get AB 1205 out of Appropriations, and to the full Assembly Members so that they know that their constituents care deeply about this legislation. **Respond to Eric Ritter, CalABA Campaign Coordinator, at [eritter@calaba.org](mailto:eritter@calaba.org) for more information.**

- **Danger!** This is YOUR profession and its future is in YOUR hands. When you are asked to donate time, money, or attend meetings, we need you to respond. **Don't assume that "someone else" will attend meetings, donate, or make phone calls.** We need each and every one of you. Together we have accomplished a lot in a short amount of time. But in order to protect the field of ABA and ensure that ABA therapy is accessible to everyone who needs it, we still have a lot more work to do. Your continued support is crucial!

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## Glenda Vittimberga Lecture

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Research suggests that the schedule of reinforcement used when training the communication response will have a significant impact on persistence in the absence of reinforcement. In one study, several children were exposed to a continuous schedule of reinforcement, meaning that every mand was reinforced. At the same time, problem behavior was reinforced on a variable ratio (VR) 2 schedule, meaning that approximately every two responses contacted reinforcement. When both the appropriate mand and the problem behavior were put on extinction, manding decreased immediately and problem behavior continued to occur and even increased in frequency. When the contingencies were reversed, with manding reinforced on a VR 2 schedule and problem behavior reinforced on an FR1 schedule, manding persisted during extinction and problem behavior decreased almost immediately.

Examining these data as a whole suggests several important considerations for teaching functional communication. It is important to make sure that the learner has an appropriate means to communicate, and that the modality of the communication response is appropriate. It is also important to ensure that the communicative response is reinforced frequently enough to compete with the problem behavior. Finally, the persistence of the communicative response must be considered. Reinforcing on a leaner schedule over time may in fact increase the persistence of the communicative behavior if the schedule of reinforcement is disrupted. When these factors are addressed, strong, persistent, and functionally appropriate behaviors can be taught.

# Spring 2011 Report of the CalABA Public Policy Committee

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**Listed below are the organizations and individuals who donated to the CalABA PAC and CalABA PPC. Thank you for your generosity, commitment, and leadership.**

<i>Advance Kids (Michelle Wenell)</i>	<i>Gateway Learning Group (Melissa Willa)</i>
<i>Advanced Child Behavior Solutions</i>	<i>Ryan Gutterson</i>
<i>Advancement for Behavioral and Educational Development &amp; Intervention, Inc. (ABEDI)</i>	<i>Holdsambeck &amp; Associates (Rob Holdsambeck &amp; Leasha Berry)</i>
<i>Associated Learning and Language Specialists</i>	<i>Robert Haupt</i>
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<i>The Bay School (Andrea Gold)</i>	<i>Becky Penrod</i>
<i>Behavior Frontiers (Helen Mader)</i>	<i>Andrea Ridgway</i>
<i>Behavioral Building Blocks (Anki Sjouland)</i>	<i>Jose D. Rios</i>
<i>Behavioral Learning Center</i>	<i>Marla Saltzman</i>
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<i>B.E.S.T. (Sally Grevenberg)</i>	<i>Penelope Schenkkan</i>
<i>Bridges Educational Corporation</i>	<i>Sage Behavior Services</i>
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<i>LeeAnn Christian</i>	<i>STE Consultants (Sarah Trautman-Eslinger)</i>
<i>Bryan Davey</i>	<i>Kelly Ternent</i>
<i>Saxony Dominguez</i>	<i>Therapeutic Pathways/Kendall School (Coleen Sparkman)</i>
<i>FACES</i>	<i>Trumpet Behavioral Health (Don Walchelka)</i>
<i>First Steps</i>	<i>Tucci Learning Systems</i>
<i>Foothill Child Development Services</i>	<i>Vicci Tucci</i>
<i>Gina Green</i>	<i>Hermine Voskanyan</i>
<i>Shirin Ghesser</i>	<i>Janet Yi</i>
<i>Trumpet Behavioral Health (Don Walchelka)</i>	<i>ZMB Consulting &amp; Behavior Management</i>

## A Review of “The Effects of Exergaming on Physical Activity among Inactive Children in a Physical Education Classroom” by Fogel, Miltenberger, Graves and Koehler (2010)

By: Kathryn Lee and Becky Penrod, Ph.D., BCBA-D, California State University, Sacramento

Childhood obesity is an escalating problem for U.S. children. Currently, the issue is reaching epidemic proportions and contributing to a multitude of health problems for obese children (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2001). Despite federal recommendations that children should engage in 60 minutes of moderate to intense physical activity each day, reports indicate that children are engaged in predominately sedentary behaviors. Activities such as video game playing may be contributing to the increase in sedentary behaviors, as traditionally, these games have not required children to engage in physical activity.

An alternative to traditional video game playing may be exergaming. Exergaming is a term for video games that require movements of the entire body to increase the amount of physical activity of the gamer. Unlike typical video games that require the gamer to remain stationary, exergaming requires users to move around to play the game, thus increasing their heart rate and physical activity levels.

Fogel et al. (2010) evaluated the effect of exergaming on physical activity for four inactive, typically developing 5<sup>th</sup> grade participants during their regularly scheduled physical education (PE) classes. Inactive children were selected if they 1) spent 30% of their PE class not engaged in physical activity, 2) were overweight and, 3) had good attendance. An alternating treatment design was employed to assess differences between physical activity during exergaming and physical activity during regular PE. In addition, data were collected on opportunities to engage in physical activity during all conditions. Physical activity was defined as moving a large muscle group during any specific instructed activity. Opportunity to engage in physical activity included teacher instructed time for the class to engage in specific PE tasks or exergaming equipment was available.

During regular PE conditions, the teacher conducted class per usual without any modifications by the researchers. During exergaming conditions, students were given access to seven pieces of exergaming equipment. Students were provided rules and a schedule board indicating which exergaming equipment

was available for which students each day. Available exergaming equipment included games from Nintendo Wii, Sony Play Station, Fit Interactive and a Simulator.

Social validity measures were administered to the students and the teacher. Students ranked their preferences for exergaming equipment and the teacher completed a scale regarding her acceptability of exergaming as an alternative to PE. The teacher also identified changes in behavior and overall time spent giving instructions during both conditions.

Results indicated that participants had more opportunities to engage in physical activity during the exergaming conditions than during regular PE class. The participants engaged in more physical activity during the exergaming condition than during the regular PE condition. Additionally, the teacher reported that behavior problems reduced during the exergaming condition and that exergaming was a satisfactory alternative to regular PE activities.

The authors noted a few limitations of the study. First, the effects of exergaming may have been due to the novelty of the exergaming equipment. Second, a reduction in problem behavior was reported by the teacher but was not specifically measured by the researchers. Future research should evaluate the long term effectiveness of exergaming as well as collect data on problem behavior during each condition.

Fogel, V.A., Miltenberger, R.G., Graves, R. & Koehler, S. (2010). The Effects of Exergaming on Physical Activity among Inactive Children in a Physical Education Classroom. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, 43(4), 591-600.

# 2011 CalABA Supporters

CalABA wishes to thank the members who have made special contributions to support the work of the Association.

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1990 A. Charles Catania

1991 Mark Sundberg

1992 Paul Touchette

1993 Sidney Bijou

1994 Ogden Lindsley

1995 Donald Baer

1996 No award

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1999 Jerry Shook

2000 Sigrid Glenn

2001 Beth Sulzer-Azaroff

2002 Brian Iwata

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2011 O. Ivar Lovaas

*(posthumous)*

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2011 Greg Wagner

# Advertise with CalABA

The California Association for Behavior Analysis produces the CalABA Newsletter, **The Focal Point**, twice a year and offers job postings on its website throughout the year. The Focal Point is posted online at [calaba.org](http://calaba.org). Posting dates and submission deadlines are as follows:

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Deadline for Submissions</b>	<b>Posting Date</b>
Spring Newsletter	April 1, 2011	May 1, 2011
Fall Newsletter	October 1, 2011	November 1, 2011

<b>Advertisement Size</b>	<b>Rate</b>
One-eighth page . . . . .	\$75
One-quarter page. . . . .	\$125
One-half page . . . . .	\$250
Full page . . . . .	\$500
One page insert (front and back) . . . . .	\$1,000

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**\$125 for three months**

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All website job postings start with the title **“Position(s) Available”**. The following format is used for the remainder of the job posting:

- Position Title(s):
- Location:
- Salary or Pay Range (if you omit this, we will delete the reference to it):
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**For more information about advertising in the CalABA newsletter or on the website contact:**

### **California Association for Behavior Analysis**

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Phone: (805) 275-2143 • Phone (toll-free): (877) 843-0510  
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Or

Vist the “Advertising” section of our website at [calaba.org](http://calaba.org)

NOTE: Advertisements must comply with the CalABA Advertising Policy, posted at [calaba.org](http://calaba.org), and must be approved by the CalABA Advertising Committee. CalABA reserves the right to reject any advertisement deemed unsuitable. If an advertisement is not approved, payment will be refunded.



# The CSUN BCBA Program

Coming in Fall 2011...

*The next cohort in CSUN's Post-Master's Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) program.*

This 11-month university certificate program will teach you to:

- Manage individual and group behaviors,
- Assess for, develop and implement behavioral intervention plans, and
- Use data-based decision making to evaluate response to intervention and meet the challenges of your learners.

### **A Multi-Purpose Program**

In addition to preparing candidates for the BCBA Exam, the goal of the CSUN program is to increase the professional competence of candidates in the application of behavior analysis in different settings (e.g., home, school) with different learners (e.g., those with disabilities such as autism, ADHD, mental retardation and anxiety).

### **Is This Program Right for You?**

If you have a master's degree in a related field from a regionally accredited institution and are dedicated to helping people, this program could be for you.

Related degrees include: Special Education, Educational Psychology and Counseling, Child and Family Studies, Behavior Analysis, Psychology, Marital Therapy, Clinical Social Work, Communication Disorders and Sciences, or an equivalent field.

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### **Coming Soon - The CSUN M.A. in Psychology: Behavioral Clinical Psychology**

Complete your Master's and BCBA course series in just two years! Visit the program web site to start your pre-application: <http://tsengcollege.csun.edu/mabcba.html>

*\*This new program is currently under regular university review to be offered upon full CSUN approval. Anticipated start: Fall 2011*

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### *Contact Us*

Please visit our Web site for information about the CSUN BCBA program, and to apply online: <http://tsengcollege.csun.edu/bcba> or contact program manager Barb Frye at [barb.frye@csun.edu](mailto:barb.frye@csun.edu) or (818) 677-3332.

California State University  
**Northridge**



# CalABA 2011 Board of Directors Election

## 2011 Election Ballot (For Terms Expiring June 30, 2011)

### IMPORTANT!

You must be a current member of CalABA to vote.

Make sure your vote counts! Ballots must be submitted online or postmarked (if mailed) by the deadline of **June 17, 2011**.

Mail or fax completed ballots to:

**CalABA**

630 Quintana Road, #118 • Morro Bay, CA 93442 • Fax: **(888) 518-7586**

### Current Candidates

Please select one for each position.

#### President-elect (term 2011-2014)

- Daniel Shabani, PhD, BCBA-D

#### Secretary (term 2011-2013)

- Kristin Miller, PhD, BCBA-D  
 Christina Whalen, PhD, BCBA-D

#### 2012 Conference Co-chair / 2013 Conference Chair (term 2011-2013)

- Joyce Tu, EdD, BCBA-D

#### Advertising Chair (term 2011-2013)

- Allyson Moore, MS, BCBA

#### Membership Chair (term 2011-2013)

- Marianne Jackson, PhD, BCBA-D  
 Anki Sjolund, MS, BCBA

#### Newsletter Chair (term 2011-2013)

- Jaclyn Shandy-Pinto, MA, BCBA

#### Northern CA Liaison (term 2011-2013)

- Barbara Pemberton, MA, BCBA  
 Sarah Trautman-Eslinger, MA, BCBA

#### Southern CA Liaison (term 2011-2013)

- Greg Elsky, PsyD, BCBA-D  
 Robert Haupt, MS, BCBA  
 Mary Lang, PhD, BCBA-D  
 David Pyles, PhD, BCBA-D

### Current Directors

President: Jill Young (2010-2012)

Past President: LeeAnn Christian (2010-2011)

Secretary: Joyce Tu (2009-2011)

Treasurer: LeeAnn Christian (2010-2012)

2011 Conference Chair: Bryan Hebert (2009-2011)

2011 Conference Co-chair/2012 Conference Chair: Amanda Adams (2010-2012)

Newsletter Chair: Becky Penrod (2009-2011)

Professional Standards Chair: Janet Yi (2010-2012)

Advertising Chair: Junelyn Lazo-Pearson (2009-2011)

Membership Chair: Allyson Moore (2009-2011)

Public Policy Chair: Jane Howard (2010-2012)

ABAI Liaison: Kristin Miller (2010-2012)

Northern CA Liaison: Paul Romanowich (2010-2011)

Northern CA Liaison:Carolynn Kohn (2010-2012)

Southern CA Liaison: Daniel Shabani (2009-2011)

Southern CA Liaison: G. Roy Mayer (2010-2012)

# CalABA 2011 Board of Directors Election

## 2011 Candidate Biosketches

### President-elect

**Daniel Shabani, PhD, BCBA-D.** Dr. Shabani is an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology at California State University, Los Angeles and the executive director of the Shabani Institute and Center for Behavior Analysis & Language Development. Dr. Shabani has been working with children with autism and related disabilities for over 10 years. He is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst-Doctorate. Dr. Shabani received his BA degree in Psychology from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1997. He continued his graduate training in Psychology at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California where he earned a master's degree under the supervision of Dr. David Wilder. Dr. Shabani received his Ph.D. in Behavior Analysis under the supervision of Dr. James Carr at Western Michigan University. He completed a pre-doctoral internship at The Marcus Institute in 2005 under the supervision of Dr. Wayne Fisher, Dr. Cathleen Piazza, and Dr. Henry Roane. Dr. Shabani has also published in a variety of scientific journals including the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, *Research in Developmental Disabilities*, *Behavioral Interventions*, *The Behavior Analyst Today*, and *North American Journal of Psychology*. Dr. Shabani has been a member of the CalABA board for the past 3 years where he has served as Southern California Liaison and worked on a variety of public policy issues.

### Secretary

**Kristin Miller, PhD, BCBA-D.** Dr. Miller has worked in the field of behavior analysis since 1988 in the areas of autism and developmental disabilities with children and adults across residential and vocational settings, school districts, non-profit organizations and institutions. She obtained a Ph.D. from the University of Kansas in 2001 and completed a Post-Doctoral Fellowship at Juniper Gardens Children's Project in 2004. She moved to California in 2006, and currently works with children with autism in the area of early intervention in Tracy, California.

**How do you feel CalABA would benefit from your involvement on the Board?** I have experience serving on the CalABA Board in the capacity of Northern California Representative and ABAI Liaison. I have enjoyed meeting CalABA members across the State at the annual conference and at local meetings. I am interested in continuing to be an

active and enthusiastic member of the Board to forward work in the areas of public policy and the Service Delivery Standards Task Force. If elected, I will continue to reach out to connect behavior analysts to CalABA to give members a voice in their organization as well as in Sacramento and encourage our membership to become involved. I am committed to growing and strengthening CalABA.

**Christina Whalen, PhD, BCBA-D.** Dr. Whalen is a licensed psychologist in the state of California and a Board Certified Behavior Analyst-Doctorate specializing in autism and related disorders. She received her PhD at U.C. San Diego and did her post-doctoral fellowship at U.C.L.A. She has consulted for many school districts and has run early intervention programs at Autism Spectrum Therapies and University of Washington Autism Center. Dr. Whalen has more than 15 years of experience in research and clinical practice. She has presented at many professional conferences and has authored several peer-reviewed publications. She is editor of the book, *Real Life, Real Progress for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder: Strategies for Successful Generalization in Natural Environments*. Dr. Whalen has been a Principal Investigator on 5 federal grants and has won 2 awards for research including the National Tiddett's Awards from Small Business Innovative Research and runner-up in the 2008 Technology in the Works competition from the National Center for Technology Innovation. She works in the San Francisco bay area office of TeachTown and has been with the company since the very beginning in 2003. Dr. Whalen served on the CalABA board several years ago as ABAI Liaison.

**How do you feel CalABA would benefit from your involvement on the Board?** I have several years of experience in a senior position in a growing company, I have learned a lot about PR, marketing, sales, and business administration. I have strong writing, organization, data analysis, curriculum, and social networking experience. I attend many conferences and am connected to various educational groups. I would be very interested in growing the CalABA membership through social networking and blogging.

# CalABA 2011 Board of Directors Election

## 2011 Candidate Biosketches (cont.)

### 2012 Conference Co-chair/2013 Conference Chair

**Joyce Tu, EdD, BCBA-D.** Dr. Tu is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst. She received a Doctorate degree in Educational Psychology specializing in Applied Behavior Analysis from West Virginia University. Dr. Tu has over 15 years' experience providing training, workshops, and supervision for professionals and parents working with individuals diagnosed with autism and other developmental disabilities. Her specialization and research interests are in the area of verbal behavior, specifically, joint control and its role in listeners' behavior. Dr. Tu has given numerous presentations to national and international professional organizations. She had also consulted and presented workshops in schools for children with autism in China and Bahrain. She was an adjunct professor at California State University, Los Angeles and co-instructor for Florida Institute of Technology. Currently, she is the director of clinical services and co-founder of Center for Behavioral Sciences, Inc. She has served as program coordinator for several years, and is currently the site coordinator for the International Society for Behaviorology conference. Dr. Tu also serves on the advisory board of directors for Best Buddies of California and board of directors for California Association for Behavior Analysis.

***How do you feel CalABA would benefit from your involvement on the Board?*** From 2009 through 2011, I served as CalABA Secretary. I also contributed in Ad Hoc Committee meetings, Executive Committee meetings, service delivery standard meetings, and PAC events. I am familiar with CalABA's current and long-term goals and strategies.

Further, I am in touch daily with the issues that our members face. As clinical director for an agency, I understand consumers' needs, and advocate for their right to quality behavior analysis services. Similarly, as a mentor and teacher of the next generation of behavior analysts, I strive to pass on a tradition of quality services and advancement for our field.

I also have at least three years of experience organizing conferences for the International Society for Behaviorology. I am familiar with coordinating vendors to ensure successful events.

I am committed to CalABA's goal of furthering behavior analysis and believe that my background and experience will allow me to serve the board effectively.

### Advertising Chair

**Allyson Moore, MS, BCBA.** Allyson Moore holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Clinical Psychology from San Jose State University and a Masters of Science degree in Psychology (Behavior Analysis Concentration) from California State University, Stanislaus. Ms. Moore is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and Licensed Marriage Family Therapist. Ms. Moore has been working in the field of applied behavior analysis since 1996. She currently serves as a private consultant providing services to school districts, regional centers and non-public agencies, and she is a part-time consultant with Tucci Learning Solutions, Inc.

Prior to serving as a consultant, Ms. Moore served for eight years as a Site Coordinator for The Kendall School/Therapeutic Pathways, an early intensive behavior analytic treatment program in California's Central Valley. Additionally, Ms. Moore was a founding staff member of The Bay School, a nonpublic school for children with autism in Santa Cruz, CA, and served as a Behavior Interventionist designing behavior change programs for children and adults with a wide variety of disabilities within the Valley Mountain Regional Center service area.

Ms. Moore has been a member of the Board of Directors of the California Association for Behavior Analysis since 2007, serving as Membership Chair and member of the Advertising and Professional Standards Committees. Ms. Moore also has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Association of Professional Behavior Analysts since 2008. Ms. Moore has made several empirically-based research presentations at the annual conferences of The California Association for Behavior Analysis, Association for Behavior Analysis International and Autism Education Network Best Practices.

***How do you feel CalABA would benefit from your involvement on the Board?*** I have served for two terms (past four years) on the CalABA Board of Directors, as well as the APBA Board of Directors for the past three years. I believe that CalABA would continue to benefit from my involvement on the Board given this previous related Board experience. Additionally, I have served on both the Professional Standards and Advertising committees for the past four years. I believe that CalABA would benefit from my service as the Advertising Committee Chairperson given my vast knowledge and experience with

# CalABA 2011 Board of Directors Election

## 2011 Candidate Biosketches (cont.)

CalABA's advertising policies and procedures, as well as the BACB's Guidelines for Responsible Conduct for Behavior Analysts and how it relates to CalABA's advertising policies in regard to both responsible conduct and ethical responsibility to society. I have over fifteen years experience working with individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and other developmental and intellectual disabilities, their primary caregivers and staff, as well as collaboration with related public and private agencies. Given the importance of public policy and protecting our right to practice at this time, I believe CalABA would benefit from my continued involvement on the Board, assisting with special projects and reaching out and encouraging my contacts to participate in grassroots efforts such as contributing to our PAC and writing letters in support of AB 1205.

### Membership Chair

**Marianne Jackson, PhD, BCBA-D.** Dr. Jackson received her doctoral degree from the University of Nevada, Reno and currently holds a faculty position at CSU Fresno. In her current position she serves as the director of the undergraduate ABA program, the director of Technologies for Educational & Social Advancement (TESA), and as a consultant to the Central California Autism Center. Her research interests include the development of verbal relations, the interaction of derived responding and complex human behavior, and the basic processes of verbal motivation. Her current clinical interests include social skills training, teaching derived responding to individuals on the autism spectrum, and the application of Relational Frame Theory to health and fitness behaviors.

**How do you feel CalABA would benefit from your involvement on the Board?** During graduate school I gained some useful experience serving on the ABAI Executive Council. During this time I learned a variety of ways to recruit and communicate with the student members. I was also instrumental in the development and implementation of the Introductory Lectures and the Student Program Representatives Committee. On conclusion of this role I began my term as chair of the Health, Sport, and Fitness SIG. Upon taking this role, the SIG was under review to be disbanded. We now have 50 members, 135 Facebook friends, a discussion board, a bank account, and a developing website. In addition, I serve as a member of the

advisory board for the Cambridge Center for Behavioral Studies where I have been engaged in the process of becoming an approved provider of CEUs for a number of different professions. I believe that my experience will allow me to help CalABA to continue its efforts to increase membership, communicate effectively with the membership body, and provide appropriate forms of assistance and service.

**Anki Sjolund, MS, BCBA.** Anki Sjolund is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst who received her Master's degree in Counseling with a specialization in Applied Behavior Analysis from California State University, Los Angeles. She got her start in the field of applied behavior analysis in 1995 during her undergraduate years at UCLA where she studied with Dr. Ivar Lovaas and worked at UCLA Neuropsychiatric Hospital in the in-patient and out-patient programs for young children diagnosed with pervasive developmental disorders and psychiatric disorders. Ms. Sjolund is currently the owner and Clinic Director of Behavioral Building Blocks, Inc. (B3), an agency that provides support for children with developmental disabilities and behavior challenges and their families in Southern California. Ms. Sjolund has been published in the *Journal of Positive Behavior Interventions*.

**How do you feel CalABA would benefit from your involvement on the Board?** I see my passion and determination in getting community members educated about applied behavior analysis as traits that could benefit CalABA. I work with many families who have children with behavior challenges and I have a vision of expanding the CalABA membership to parents to offer them additional avenues of gaining knowledge in how to help their children. In addition, I employ people who are starting out in the field and think that reaching out to this group to inform them of CalABA and how CalABA can help them become better behavior analysts would be of great benefit to both new staff and the families they serve. Attempts at expanding membership in these times of public policy efforts and grass root mobilization would be highly beneficial to CalABA and its current goals and objectives. As the membership chair I would actively explore ways to expand membership to parents, teachers, students and persons starting out in the field of ABA.

# CalABA 2011 Board of Directors Election

## 2011 Candidate Biosketches (cont.)

### Newsletter Chair

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**Jaclyn Shandy-Pinto, MA, BCBA.** Jaclyn Shandy-Pinto is the Chief Operations Officer and Co-founder of B.E.S.T. Consulting, Inc. She holds a Bachelor's degree from Washington State University (WSU), and a Master's Psychology with a concentration in Applied Behavior Analysis from California State University, Sacramento (CSUS).

Her work in the field includes more than 17 years of clinical experience, with emphasis on Autism Spectrum Disorders. Jaclyn has studied under, and worked directly with Tristram Smith, Ph.D. at WSU. She was an intern at the Northwest Young Autism Project - a replication site for Ivar Lovaas, Ph.D. In addition, she worked at the Lovaas Institute for Early Intervention, and for Applied Behavior Consultants, Inc. as a Senior Behavior Consultant for several years to continue her training and education. Jaclyn was a Teaching Associate for two and a half years in Behavior Analysis courses at CSUS. Jaclyn and her partner, Sergio Pinto, opened B.E.S.T. Consulting, Inc. (an ABA intervention provider) 10 years ago, and currently have sites in Sacramento, Tahoe and Fresno.

Jaclyn is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, committed to the field of Behavior Analysis and maintains her familiarity with current research and intervention methods by attending and presenting at professional conferences at both the regional and national levels. Additionally, Jaclyn maintains ties to the academic setting at CSUS through guest lecturing, participating on thesis committees and providing an internship program for ABA graduate students to promote BCBA certification. Most importantly, Jaclyn is committed to serving our practice by focusing her efforts on the current political action required to protect the field of Applied Behavior Analysis.

***How do you feel CalABA would benefit from your involvement on the Board?*** CalABA is in current need of individuals who are committed to the science of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), to the dissemination of ABA, and to protecting our practice through the licensure of Behavior Analysts. I not only fully support these efforts, but also have strengths in the domains of organization, leadership and education. I am willing to dedicate an unlimited number of hours to the cause, the financial resources within my means, and the energy it will take to see the goals and objectives of the board through to fruition.

As a behavior analyst, I have been involved in and continue to support the education of the general public regarding the effectiveness of Behavior Analysis. Additionally, I recognize the need for more certified behavior analysts and have recently pushed for our organization to partner with CSUS in an internship program that will provide graduate students in the field of ABA with the practical and professional training/supervision required to become strong and effective certified behavior analysts.

In order to effectively fulfill the liaison position, I would be able to use my community ties and resources to reach out to the public and promote the CalABA organization. Additionally, outside of my involvement as the co-owner of B.E.S.T. Consulting, Inc., I am also the sole owner of Jackie Pinto Photography and a partner in Gold's Gym - Lincoln, California. Both of these businesses have flourished these past few years despite the economic difficulties the state has faced. My background in being able to effectively market the organizations and implement the principles of ABA within these two organizations will also serve as an invaluable resource in continuing to market and promote ABA through the CalABA organization.

I have been an active member for the past twelve years, and have yet to miss a conference throughout that time, despite the birth of two children and the completion of my Masters Degree. Additionally, every year, B.E.S.T. Consulting, Inc. has not only promoted the events and conferences of CalABA, but also has financially supported several employees in attendance and has presented. I have seen your organization grow and develop over the years. It has been a wonderful experience and I look forward to the possibility to serve CalABA in a new role.

### Northern CA Liaison

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**Barbara Pemberton, MA, BCBA.** Barbara Pemberton has been a professional in the field of Applied Behavior Analysis for over 13 years developing and implementing programs across a wide variety of children, adolescents and adults with developmental disabilities. During this time she achieved a B.A. in Abnormal Psychology from San Jose State University and a M.A. in Psychology with an Applied Behavior Analysis emphasis at California State University, Sacramento. Barbara became a Board Certified Behavior Analyst in 2007.

# CalABA 2011 Board of Directors Election

## 2011 Candidate Biosketches (cont.)

During her time at CSU, Sacramento Barbara was an active research member within the “Rat Colony” and led multiple research projects investigating resurgence. She has conducted various small-n studies investigating the effects of video-modeling and other observational learning methodologies for increasing adaptive living skills in adolescents with developmental disabilities. Barbara has delivered numerous addresses at CalABA conferences as well as presented posters on her research at a variety of well-known ABA events across the nation. Barbara has developed and currently delivers learning sessions educating special education teaching professionals on “The Everyday Principles of Applied Behavior Analysis.”

Barbara is an expert and certified coach in development and delivery of the Competent Learner Model, and has been employed with Tucci Learning Solutions, Inc. as a lead behavior analyst for 5 years. Earlier this year, Barbara opened an after school program for adolescents with developmental disabilities designed to strengthen adaptive living skills via ABA principles and “bridge the gap to adulthood.”

***How do you feel CalABA would benefit from your involvement on the Board?*** As a professional in the field of ABA, I am constantly striving to improve my knowledge base and disseminate information to those practicing in the field ensuring fidelity and ethical practices. I excel at delivering validated and pertinent information in a manner that is “user friendly” and welcomed by parents, educators, etc. Topics that I am interested in and feel passionate about I educate myself on and am always willing to discuss in an open professional forum and/or over a cup of coffee with a friend. At this point in time, our field seems to be undergoing exponential growth year after year and expanding to new areas. As an ethically driven BCBA, I feel it is my obligation and privilege to be involved with the board of directors that most directly impacts the ABA profession in my home state. CalABA would benefit from my involvement due to my “drive” and dedication to be educated on current issues, advocate for what we determine to be most beneficial to our practitioners, disseminate accurate information and assist in continuing to expand the membership base.

**Sarah Trautman-Eslinger, MA, BCBA.** Sarah began her love affair with behavior analysis as an undergraduate at Gonzaga University. After moving to California In 1999 she taught for a year at Spectrum Center before entering the crazy world of

behavior consultation. Sarah completed her Masters Degree in Special Education with an emphasis on vocational education for adults with developmental disabilities in 2001. Sarah became a Board Certified Behavior Analyst in 2004 and is grateful that she never has to take the exam again. Sarah is the founder and Executive Director of STE Consultants. STE Consultants has been providing behavior analytic services in the Bay Area since 2003 and is currently expanding into New York and Colorado. In addition to her work at STE Consultants Sarah has been a guest lecturer at San Francisco State University, has trained special educators in Belize, is a frequent presenter for parent/community/school groups, and has managed to sustain her passion for behavior analysis because it works and changes people’s lives in a way that nothing else can. Sarah is grateful for the opportunity to represent her amazing colleagues in Northern California and looks forward to creating more collaborative relationships with BCBAs and BCaBAs throughout CalABA.

***How do you feel CalABA would benefit from your involvement on the Board?*** As someone who has been in the field of behavior analysis for more than 12 years I have a devoted appreciation of our science, especially in applied settings. I have had a wide variety of work experiences within the field of applied behavior analysis that has given me a wealth of knowledge, helped me to create collegial relationships with many behavior analysts throughout California (and beyond) and has brought me immense joy and satisfaction. As a business owner who has grown my company into 100 employees and over 10 BCBAs I have extensive experience in business development and management. Additionally I am adept at using behavior analytic principles with my staff to increase the quality of our services and overall productivity. I have worked tirelessly to create a large network of clients, families and colleagues that have both sustained and propelled my business forward. I am an effective communicator, possess a good sense of humor (and large amount of humility) and enjoy working in a leadership capacity.

### **Southern CA Liaison**

**Greg Elsky, PsyD, BCBA-D.** Dr. Elsky received a doctorate in clinical psychology from Phillips Graduate Institute in Encino, California. He is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT), Board Certified Behavior Analyst-Doctoral (BCBA-D) and has been working with children with autism and their families for the

# CalABA 2011 Board of Directors Election

## 2011 Candidate Biosketches (cont.)

last 15 years. He received a Master of Arts in psychology, with an emphasis in Marriage and Family Therapy from Phillips Graduate Institute and a Bachelor of Arts in psychology from the University of Califontia, Los Angeles. During the course of his training, Dr. Elsky has studied/trained under some of the leading experts in the field of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). He began his training in ABA and discrete trial methodology working under the supervision of O. Ivar Lovaas, Ph.D., the pioneer of the behavioral treatment of autism. During this time he worked as both a therapist and senior therapist for young children with autism at the Lovaas Institute for Early Intervention (LIFE). He later trained in the provision of non-aversive behavioral interventions and comprehensive functional assessments under the supervision of Gary LaVigna, Ph.D., BCBA and Tom Willis, Ph.D., at the Institute for Applied Behavior Analysis (IABA). Dr. Elsky has also taught both general and special education while working as an elementary school teacher (grades k -5) for the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), as well as provided Counseling and standardized psychological assessments for children and adolescents with a variety of behavioral and mood disorders while working as a pre-doctoral intern at Switzer Learning Center, a non-public school in Torrance, CA. Currently, Dr. Elsky is an Associate Director at Behavioral Education for Children with Autism (BECA). He also teaches graduate level coursework in ABA as an adjunct faculty member at National University, and is a frequently invited guest speaker for undergraduate students of psychology at California State University, Dominguez Hills as well as Long Beach City College.

***How do you feel CalABA would benefit from your involvement on the Board?*** As a director of an agency which provides ABA services to children and families, and a member of the ABA provider community, I have direct contact with the many issues related to the provision of ABA services. I have developed many relationships with parties involved at all levels of service across the state, ranging from families, to funding sources to directors of other agencies. As a result, I am able to mobilize families, and other practitioners in an effort to assure appropriate clinical practice for consumers in need. Further, as my agency provides services in both Northern and Southern California, I am able to act as a "Bridge" to communicate pertinent information across the state.

As a volunteer to CalABA's Public Policy Committee, I have helped communicate CalABA's message regarding AB 1205

to families, other practitioners, and influential members of the community. Additionally, I have provided input to CalABA board members, and attended/participated in a DDS workgroup on behalf of CalABA. I believe these experiences as a volunteer combined with the professional relationships I have developed across the state makes me an ideal fit for the position of Southern California Liaison.

***Robert Haupt, MS, BCBA.*** Currently, Rob serves as the Vice President of Business Development at Autism Spectrum Therapies (AST), a non-public agency providing ABA services to children with developmental disabilities throughout Southern California and parts of Northern California. In this role, he oversees the development and expansion of AST's clinical services. This includes the development of new clinical services designed to reach each consumer's unique needs as well as the expansion of services into new regions. Rob has been with Autism Spectrum Therapies for the last seven years. During this time he has developed and overseen a variety of behavior interventions with a particular emphasis on working with consumers who display maladaptive behaviors, His personal clinical interests center on self-management procedures. In addition to leading trainings for parents and professionals, Rob has presented his work in self-management at both local and national conferences. Rob received his initial training and introduction to applied behavior analysis at the New England Center for Children, where he worked with teens and adults with developmental disabilities. Rob is a board certified behavior analyst and received his Masters degree from California State University, Los Angeles. In 2009, Rob served as a part-time faculty member at California State University, Los Angeles where he taught an ABA fieldwork Coarse. Rob also serves as a member of the special education advisory committee for Mount Saint Mary's College in Los Angeles.

***How do you feel CalABA would benefit from your involvement on the Board?*** I think that I would be a good addition the CalABA board for a variety of reasons. The environment in California seems to be changing every day. We are faced with brand new challenges that may potentially stand in the way of our continued right to practice. I think that I can bring an important perspective to these issues as I am a practitioner. I am in the field every day not only working with families, but more importantly working and training fellow

# CalABA 2011 Board of Directors Election

## 2011 Candidate Biosketches (cont.)

practitioners. I see the issues my fellow BCBA's face each day as they work with the regional centers and school districts. I am forced to adapt to the budgetary changes we are faced with while still striving to maintain everything I believe to be a clinical imperative. It is a constant struggle, but is one that many BCBA's in California face.

In addition to this local perspective, I think I also bring a larger viewpoint which is critical to our longterm efforts. I have lived and practiced in other states, and in my current role at Autism Spectrum Therapies I am responsible for overseeing our new expansion efforts into other states. In doing so, I am working with insurance companies and learning how other states are already addressing many of the issues that we are facing. It is critical for the ABA community to rally together on all levels, local and national. Many of our colleagues in other states have fought the battles we have to fight and I know that there is much that we can learn from them.

On a personal level, I have always been interested in politics. I studied history and government as an undergraduate student and have always been active politically through volunteerism and attending rallies for a variety of causes. It is this advocacy that has drawn me to this position on the CalABA board. For years, I have advocated for individual programs or families. I have had to stand by my recommendations in the face of financial and philosophical pressures. However, now I must also advocate for myself and our practice. I don't want to run from this challenge or stand back while others advocate for me. I want to stand up for myself and for my friends and mentors who have made me the behavior analyst that I am today. I think this passion for the cause might be my most significant contribution. I believe in what we are doing and I think I can bring an important perspective to the board.

**Mary Lang, PhD, BCBA-D.** Dr. Lang founded Beacon Day School in June 2004 for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and related disabilities. Dr. Lang also founded Beacon Autistic Spectrum Independence Center, an in-home, therapy-based program for children with ASD. Both the school and the in-home program are founded on principles of Applied Behavior Analysis.

Throughout her career, Dr. Lang has worked with children diagnosed with ASD, and has lectured widely on the topic.

She has been involved with the care of children for more than 25 years, first as a Nurse Practitioner and Educator, then as an Educational Psychologist. Dr. Lang has many professional publications. One of her most recent publications addresses issues in Autism and Law and Ethics, as it relates to the practice of school psychology.

In 1988, Dr. Lang graduated from the University of Southern California with her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology. A Diplomate of the American Board of Neuropsychology, Dr. Lang has been a practicing, licensed neuropsychologist since 1991. She is a member of several professional organizations, including the National Academy of Neuropsychology. Dr. Lang is also a board-certified behavior analyst (BCBA-D).

Dr. Lang is an Associate Professor at Azusa Pacific University, where her teaching responsibilities include introductory courses in Principles of Applied Behavior Analysis, as well as a course in Law and Ethics.

During Dr. Lang's professional career, she has been active on many professional and community organizations, where she has participated as a board member and consultant. Most recently, Dr. Lang is Chairman of the Curriculum Evaluation Committee of the School Counseling and School Psychology Program in the School of Education at Azusa Pacific University. She participated in implementing national standards established by the National Association of School Psychologists, which resulted in approval for this program being recognized and endorsed.

Her community activities include participation in the Inter-Agency Autism Committee for the County of Orange. This committee participated in establishing standards and programs in the County public schools for early intervention in the treatment of autism. In addition, currently she is actively participating in a county Planning Committee program related to transition and employment of young adults.

Her current research is related to sexuality in autism and related developmental disabilities. The focus of this research is to determine the nature and extent of maladaptive sexual behaviors as documented by parents. This research will lead to the development of curriculum and behavioral interventions that will reduce the maladaptive sexual behavior and will facilitate the individual's quality of life and integration into the community. The Institutional Review Board at Azusa Pacific University has approved this research.

## 2011 Candidate Biosketches (cont.)

***How do you feel CalABA would benefit from your involvement on the Board?*** I feel that I can benefit CalABA and the community in a variety of ways:

I Chair the Curriculum Evaluation Committee at Azusa Pacific University in the School Counseling and School Psychology Department. In that capacity, I developed an evaluation model that is used in the programs and is consistent with the overall university model. I have also published in this area.

I have developed a non-profit organization that is designed to meet the needs of individuals with autism and related disabilities. The goal is to raise funds for service education and research for individuals with autism and related disorders, particularly in the area of applied behavior analysis and education.

I have started a school for children and adolescents with autism and related disabilities. The school is a non-public school and is based on the principles of applied behavior analysis. Along with the non-public school is a non-public agency that provides in-home services to children and adolescents with autism and related disabilities.

As a result of all these activities, as well as my Associate Professorship at Azusa Pacific University, I have come into contact with many parents and professionals and have become skilled at communication and providing supports for this population.

In addition to all of the above, I am a parent of a 30-year-old disabled female who is a client of the Regional Center. This gives me unique insight into the needs of individuals with disabilities.

It also allows me to make connections with parents on another level and address their concerns appropriately.

**David Pyles, PhD, BCBA-D.** Dr. Pyles earned his Ph.D. in 1992 from Florida State University. He has served as Senior Behavior Analyst at Howe Developmental Center and for the Illinois Division of Developmental Disabilities. He has also consulted for a number of state and private agencies, and has been a consultant helping several states resolve Dept. of Justice court actions. Dr. Pyles is also a Past President of the Behavior Analysis Society of Illinois. Since moving to CA he has served as a member of the CalABA Public Policy Committee.

Dr. Pyles helped start the ABA Dept. at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology, which has opened a campus in Los Angeles. He is an Associate Professor of Behavior Analysis at the LA campus.

***How do you feel CalABA would benefit from your involvement on the Board?*** I have served as President and as Treasurer for the Behavior Analysis Society of Illinois, and for the Chicago Association for Behavior Analysis. Since moving to CA I have served as a member of the CalABA Public Policy Committee.

I am dedicated to promoting the profession of Behavior Analysis, and to increasing dissemination through advocacy, research, and training future professionals, as well as actively participating in CalABA.