

Update on Certification of Behaviour Analysts

At the Annual General Meeting and Conference held in Toronto in November of 1998 a motion was passed calling on a committee to meet and submit by June of 1999 to the Board of Directors a plan which would reflect an examination of the issues involved in the certification of Behaviour Analysts in the Province of Ontario.

"SO WHAT IS HAPPENING?"

Well plenty, actually. The committee is composed of Bill Kirby, Jim Reaume, Amy Smith, Dr. Joel Hundert, Dr. Wanda Smith and Dr. Ken Hranchuk.

Meetings have been held, conference calls and individual contacts have been made since December 1998. We first created a list of issues to explore if we were to establish a certification process for Behaviour Analysts in Ontario and perhaps even Canada. The model used in the United States along with the new National Board to oversee certification in all the individual states was reviewed. We have debated the pros and cons of creating our own "Made in Canada" product and process. Discussions have occurred with Michael Hemingway with the Florida State government (which designed the model in use in the United States), we have also talked to Dr. Jim Johnston, the ABA representative on the Board of Directors for the new National Board, as well as Dr. Gerry Shook, another Board member and one of the key players in creating the National Board.

"SO WHERE ARE WE NOW?"

The committee arranged an ONTABA meeting at this year's ABA conference in Chicago. We hoped that Canadians from other provinces would attend as well as those from other countries that may be exploring the same process. It is our position that certification must take into account a number of variables such as structure of post secondary educational systems, documents, like our Standards of Practice, the revenue generated in ongoing renewal fees and the approval of Continuing Educational requirements. The committee at this point wishes to explore with other nations the issues involved in certification of Behaviour Analysts beyond the United States.

It may be that the best interests of Behaviour Analysts in Ontario are served by using a common written examination with other countries, but determining and administering all other aspects within our country ourselves. We explored this option in Chicago and invited ONTABA members and others attending feedback.

**Bill Kirby ,
President - Elect, ONTABA**

ONTABA
 the ANALYST

Ontaba

The Ontario Association for Behaviour Analysis

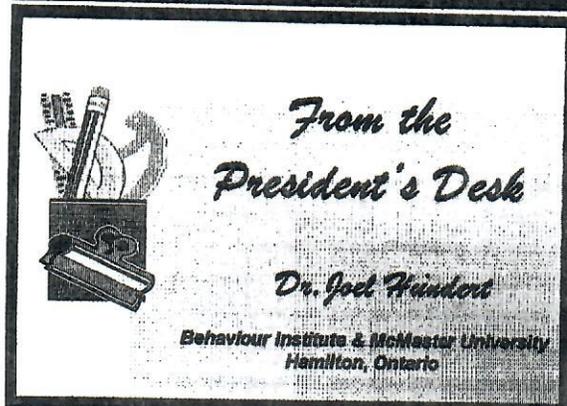
An Affiliate Chapter of
The Association for Behavior
Analysis International

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At the ABA Conference in Chicago, *ONTABA* booked a one hour session to discuss the Canadian perspective to certification of Behaviour Analysts. We opened up the debates that we are having within our association to others to share in the consideration of the certification process as it is exported across national lines. The fundamental question is whether there is sufficient uniqueness to the Ontario situation to warrant attempting to make modifications to the eligibility criteria for certification in Ontario.

The Florida model which is adopted widely and currently the basis of the new certification process being established through an independent board, calls for two levels of certification, a full Behaviour Analyst and an associate Behaviour Analyst. The associate level require a BA degree and experience, whereas, the full Behaviour Analyst calls for at least a Masters level of education, plus experience. In both cases, a written exam must be passed for an individual to become certified.

Eligibility criteria developed in Florida and later adopted in other jurisdictions were based on the US experience of availability of a number of graduate programs specializing in applied behaviour analysis. In Canada, to my knowledge, there is no specialized program in behaviour analysis although there are individual faculty members with whom one can do a Masters or Ph.D. in more of an apprenticeship model.

Second, there seems to be no equivalent to our Community College system. At St. Lawrence College in Kingston, a three year Behaviour Science Technology program currently is available and a similar program may soon be available at George Brown College in Toronto. Under the Florida model, BST students would not be eligible to become an Associate Behaviour Analyst unless they took a Bachelors degree.

Is our situation sufficiently unique to warrant pursuing separate eligibility criteria from the Certification Board? We considered the possibility of developing our own capacity for testing applicant's knowledge but it was not feasible.

In Ontario we want the highest standards possible as well as a certification process that is recognized around the world.

ONTABA

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The ONTABA Home Page

ONTABA has a home page/website and it needs your help!

ANNOUNCING: THE FIRST ONTABA HOME PAGE UPDATE CONTEST!

Entries are due by September 1st, 1999,
and will be judged by the Board of Directors in their September meeting.

There are three categories in the contest;

- 1) Best annotated bibliography of 10 books / journal articles of interest to Behaviour Analysts
- 2) Top ten websites of interest to Behaviour Analysts with a brief description of each
- 3) Best opening colour graphic for *ONTABA*

Each category will have a first place prize of \$50.00. All entries must be submitted with a hard copy and a 3 1/2" computer disc with the information / graphic on it. Mail all entries to Bill Kirby, St. Lawrence College, Portsmouth Ave., Kingston, Ontario, K7L 5A6.

FINE PRINT: Entries once received become the property of ONTABA and may be used as part of our website. Only one entry per member is allowed in each category. Any entries used on the ONTABA website will recognize by name the person who submitted it. No Board member may vote in a category which they have entered.

Have Fun!

Getting Connected

ONTABA HOME PAGE

Internet address:

<http://www.stlawrencec.on.ca/guests/ontaba/ontaba.htm>

E-mail Bill Kirby at: BKIRBY@SLCSL.stlawrencec.on.ca

CONTACTING ONTABA

If you have questions, information you want to share, or need to contact ONTABA for any reason,

Phone #: (416) 410-6141 (voice mail)

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Calling for ONTABA Analyst Submissions

Your newsletter is only as good as your contributions. The *ONTABA Analyst* is a forum for us to get and keep connected in many ways. All members are encouraged to submit articles on topics related to behaviour analysis; theoretical, practical or topical issues, perspectives from different regions, jobs or schools, research accounts, news, announcements, your biography, reviews, student practicums, etc. Job ads in the *ONTABA Analyst* are placed for a fee payable to ONTABA (\$50.00 1/4 pg., \$100.00 1/2 pg., \$200.00 full pg.).

Article submissions: We reserve the right to edit without changing the intent of an article, request further editing by the author, publish articles relative to the content of the current Newsletter, publish them at a later date with due respect to the timeliness of a given article, or refuse an article. You will be informed of acceptance, rewrite, or refusal of an article. Announcements will be published at the discretion of the editor. *ONTABA* is not responsible for the views and opinions of *ONTABA Analyst* contributors.

Submissions for the next *ONTABA Analyst* must arrive to Gerald Bernicky by July 31, 1999.

E-mail (preferred route): bernicky@interlog.com

“ From The Inside ”

Membership Update:

The ONTABA Membership and Recruitment Committee has been busy so far this year with many projects completed.

Our primary objective as a committee for ONTABA is membership. At the beginning of this year, we set two goals. Our first goal was to have at least 50 percent of our 200, 1998 members renew. Our second was to recruit 100 new members in 1999. We are happy to report that to date we have 91 renewals and 62 new members. Our total number of members is 153 with 109 Full, 24 Sustaining, 1 Affiliate, 18 Students and 1 Emeritus. Anyone who would like to become a new member, should contact the Membership and Recruitment Committee. Thanks to all of those who have renewed their memberships and a big welcome to the new members. Throughout the rest of this year, we will continue to recruit.

The committee has been involved in other activities over the past five months. A poster was developed and presented at the recent OADD Conference. A presentation was given to the first year Behavioural Science Technology students at St Lawrence College in Kingston. This presentation on ONTABA was given by Amy Smith, our Student Representative and Amy McParland, Chairperson of the Membership and Recruitment Committee. Great job!

Recently, we had another book draw and the winner was Mercedes Vahed. Congrats! The book was kindly donated by Prentice, Hall, Allyn and Bacon and entitled "The Family" written by S.J. Wilson and J. Ross Eshlenan.

We have materials available for presentations, information packages and membership forms for members who would like to spread the word about ONTABA. If your organization or agency is interested in having a member of the Membership & Recruitment Committee provide an informative presentation on the goals, benefits, and areas of focus of ONTABA, please contact Amy McParland at (416) 243-3600, ext. 2605, or by e-mail: amcparla@westpark.org

Angela Burgess, Amy McParland, and Gerald Bernicky



Upcoming Events:

**The Inter-Urban Conference on Acquired Brain Injury
Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 1999. Holiday Inn, King St., Toronto**

Student's Corner

Amy Smith, Student Representative
Behavioural Science Technology Program



Many of the members of ONTABA are graduates from the Behavioural Science Technology program from St. Lawrence College. In the past five years, there have been some changes and some updates to the program that reflect the changes in the field of behaviour analysis.

In the class entitled "Introduction to Exceptionalities", one third of the class is now dedicated to learning about Acquired Brain Injuries. Included are guest speakers who work in the field of ABI as well as people who have acquired a brain injury. Both share their experiences and answer any questions we might have about ABI. With ABI being such a growing field for BST student graduates, it is good to have this knowledge before going out on placements and into the work force.

Another part of the curriculum that has changed is the introduction of an ethics class for first year students. This course was designed to introduce students to the ethical issues involved in the field of psychology as well as providing an opportunity to research and present the application of applied behaviour analysis techniques to a case study similar to what we are expected to do on placement during second year. This proved to be a very useful course, learning about the ethical traps that we may run into during the course of our careers. The Standards of Practice, developed by ONTABA, are now a standard part of the curriculum.

Placements have become a chaotic process for both faculty and for students. The college is now accepting approximately sixty-five students into the program each year (as opposed to about forty-five to fifty in the past). Both second and third year students do a block placement each semester of six or eight weeks at an agency. This adds up to faculty having to place one hundred and thirty students, twice a year. This does not include the first year students that are required to do a half-day a week placement at a public school in the Kingston area. The teachers are expected to do this impossible feat between classes, having no scheduled time to perform these duties. I can understand the frustration they must feel, seeing numerous, unhappy students lined outside of their offices at every moment they are there. I know, I've been in those lines, hearing student after student complain, "I gave you three choices. You should have got me one of them."

Every student wants a good behavioural placement with a good behavioural supervisor – and why shouldn't we? It enables us to use the skills we have learned, it gives us good experience, and it looks good on our resumes. Unfortunately, that many good placements are just not available.

The Correctional Service of Canada has recently been accepting only BST students who possess a B.A. in psychology for most placement opportunities. The Developmental Service Workers program is moving to the Kingston campus in September so the possibility is there that some placements will be offered to them instead of BSTs. The college, at one point, had provided money for accommodations for out of town placements, but it became too costly. Many students cannot afford to leave Kingston in search of a good placement unless they have a relative to stay with.

Beginning in September, there will be class time allotted for students to receive more preparation for their upcoming placements and to share their past placement experiences with peers. This time will also be used to answer generic questions from students to hopefully alleviate some of the line-ups outside of faculty's offices, so they can have more time to focus on getting our placements in order.

If any readers would like more information on our program or on our placement manual, contact Bill Kirby at: bKirby@SLCSL.StLawrenceC.on.ca (Bill's off for the summer so a reply may not be received until September).

Students, you're encouraged to participate in the poster session at the next ONTABA conference in November. Are you proud of your program you developed on placement? Show it off!

BEHAVIOUR PHENOTYPES AND APPLIED BEHAVIOUR ANALYSIS

Jane Summers
Ontaba Member-at-Large

Research into the physical and behavioural characteristics ("phenotypes") of individuals with neurogenetic disorders has become increasingly important to the field of developmental disabilities. By systematically studying groups of individuals with known genetic anomalies, researchers have been able to identify syndrome-specific behavioural and psychiatric vulnerabilities, a line of inquiry that is likely to be of particular significance due to the high prevalence of mental health problems among individuals with developmental disabilities and a clinical picture that is often complicated by the interaction of biomedical and psychosocial factors.

The behaviour analyst can contribute to our understanding of behavioural outcomes in individuals with neurogenetic disorders in some of the following ways:

- ◆ developing observation systems that can be used to "catalogue" behavioural characteristics among individuals with specific syndromes and facilitate cross-syndrome comparisons
- ◆ helping to clarify the role of environmental (non-genetic) influences on behaviour
- ◆ providing a knowledge base that can assist with the selection and evaluation of intervention approaches

Thus, the behaviour analyst can play an important role in the rapidly evolving field of behaviour phenotype research and in doing so contribute to a fuller understanding of the interplay between genetic factors and human behaviour.

ONTABA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 18 & 19, 1999

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

DR. GLEN DUNLAP

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

NOVEMBER 18, 1999

Behaviour Analysis on the World Wide Web

Gerald Bernicky

ONTABA is an affiliate chapter of ABA International.

Let's visit the ABA International web-site located at: <http://www.wmich.edu/aba/>

What's there:	Pros	Cons
A very brief introduction about applied behavior analysis and the ABA association.	Go to the Table of Contents for more information.	
<u>Affiliated Chapters</u> : – a map of the world with highlighted chapters.	Shows the global spread of ABA.	There are more chapters than indicated here.
<u>International Affiliated Chapters Locations</u> : a map of the world with highlighted chapters.		Could not get the map to load, even after several attempts.
<u>U.S. Affiliated Chapters Locations</u> : a list of both U.S. and international chapters. Provides contact information for each affiliate chapter, and some include links to their web sites.	This is the best way for communicating between affiliate chapters. It is also useful for visiting different web sites as each will provide different descriptions, tools to use, newsletters to read on-line, etc. It can allow ONTABA to see what the cutting-edge online presence can be and work towards it.	
<u>Leadership</u> : – a list of and contact information for the elected leaders of ABA International	It is here if you need it.	Do you need it?
<u>Membership Information</u> : – a description of each membership category and benefits. Also, an on-line membership registration process.	It is here if you need it.	
<u>SABA</u> : – a link to the Society for the Advancement of Behavior Analysis. SABA seeks private funding to be used to support behavior analysis.	It is here if you need it. What benefits ABA International and behavior analysis may have a 'trickle-down' effect for us here in Ontario.	
<u>The Annual Convention</u> : – a link to a very complete on-line summary of the ABA International annual convention.	You can preview the convention schedule of presentations (may be useful for research, seeking professionals, developing joint projects, etc). Browse before you buy your ticket to attend.	Large area to navigate through. The convention program (hard copy) may be easier to use, and provide the same information.
<u>Special Interest Groups</u> : – a link to the list of ABA International special interest groups. To name but a few: Autism, Gerontology, Organizational Behavior Management, etc.	An excellent list of contacts for information, developing projects, etc. with other behavior analysts.	
<u>Publications</u> : – a link to the list of ABA International publications, journals, and ordering information.		Provides only a brief description of the publication, greater details on who the editors are, and how to order.
<u>Other Web Sites of Interest</u> : – a link to a list of behavior related sites.		Surprisingly short list.
<u>Membership Directory</u> : – from the homepage, a link to a searchable database of ABA International members.	If you are looking for someone and believe they may be a member of ABA International, you may find them here. Very easy to use.	

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ONTABA, the Ontario Association for Behaviour Analysis,
is an affiliate Chapter of the Association for Behavior Analysis International.
ONTABA currently has members from professions such as
education, nursing, health care, and psychology.
The objectives of ONTABA are to promote behaviour analysis in the province of Ontario,
to facilitate interactions between professionals engaged in behavioural activities,
to monitor and participate in legal and professional issues related to behaviour analysis,
and to initiate standardized practices and certification of Behaviour Analysts.

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