Hello and thank you for reading the second issue of the Blue Jay Behavioral Bulletin!

I am thrilled to finish the 2016-2017 academic year in my role as program director of the graduate programs in applied behavior analysis at USJ. In addition to sharing the great contributions of our USJ students and IABS colleagues, I wanted to share with you some changes that are underway in our program. Beginning August 2017, the Masters of Science in Autism and Applied Behavior Analysis degree will change to a Masters of Science in Applied Behavior Analysis. The major changes to the degree include changing the name, new courses in basic and applied research, and built-in practicum opportunities for students to obtain approved supervision opportunities. The updated program will continue to be 45 credits and will take three years to complete. Our goal is to continue to provide our students with a broad education in basic, translational, and applied applications of the science of behavior. Feel free to reach out with any questions and concerns and have a wonderful summer!

Andrea B. Courtemanche, Ph.D. BCBA-D

Congrats to the Class of 2016-2017

The second annual Autism and Applied Behavior Analysis Master’s Hooding Ceremony was held on May 12, 2017. Thank you to Elizabeth Hatzenbuhler for her inspiring words as this year’s alumni speaker. Best of luck to the graduating students and future behavior analysts!

Thesis Award Recipients

Erica Pare  Advisor: Dr. Laura Turner
The Effects of Rate Feedback Versus Quality Feedback on Task Completion

Kimberly MacDougall-Eaves  Advisor: Dr. Andrea Courtemanche
Perceived Stress, Impulsive Decision Making, and Procedural Fidelity in Staff Members

Melissa Gecaj  Advisor: Dr. John Molteni
The Effects of Precision Teaching and Discrete Trial Instruction on the Retention, Endurance, Stability, and Application of Tacts in Pre-School Children with Developmental Disabilities

Julie Conti  Advisor: Dr. Nicole Groskreutz
Evaluating Systematic Vocal Preference Assessments to Identify Activity Reinforcers in Individuals with Autism

Katherine Dubowsky  Advisor: Dr. Charlotte Mann
Teaching Multiply Controlling Responding to Social Questions to Children with ASD who Communicate not Exclusively with Speech Using a Differential Observing Response

Academic Achievement Award Recipients
Sarah Dean
Elizabeth Hines
Kimberly MacDougall-Eaves
USJ STUDENT PRESENTATIONS


Faculty Publications


News and Announcements

Congratulations to:

Kimberly MacDougall Eaves for being awarded the *Excellence in Empirical Design Award* at the 13th Annual Connecticut Association for Behavior Analysis Conference.

Briana Nadeau for being awarded the *Exceptional Contribution to Behavior Analytic Research In Applied Context Award* at the 13th Annual Connecticut Association for Behavior Analysis Conference.

Nicole Berger, Elizabeth Hines, Sherry Wong, and Ashley Dziura for being awarded USJ Student Research Grants to help support their thesis projects.

We’d like to acknowledge:

Sherry Crossley and Mackenzie Smith for being finalists in the *Student Poster Competition* at the 2016 Berkshire Association for Behavior Analysis and Therapy Conference.

Tara Bellefleur and Christina Kiley for being featured in the Fall 2016 issue of the Florida Association for Behavior Analysis' *Observer*.

Kimberly MacDougall-Eaves for being the Graduate Student Speaker at the 2017 USJ Commencement.

Congrats to the new BCBAs!

The BACB pass rates for 2016 were released in March 2017. Twelve USJ graduates took the exam in 2016 and nine passed the exam on their first attempt (75% pass rate). The national average pass rate for 2016 was 66%.

A Special Thank You

The ABA faculty would like to extend a huge thank you to Kathleen Hunter for all of her work that she completed for the program throughout the year.

We would also like to thank Thomas Hebert and Katelyn Blair for their help as the ABA graduate assistants for the 2016-2017 academic year.