



THE MISSISSIPPI BEHAVIOR ANALYST

Volume 3/ Issue 1



Steven C. Hayes, Ph.D.

BAAMS INAUGURAL CONFERENCE - KEYNOTE SPEAKER

STEVEN C. HAYES, Ph.D.

We are fortunate to have Steven C. Hayes from the University of Nevada, Reno deliver our keynote address. Dr. Hayes is a clinical psychologist who has authored 38 books and over 535 scientific articles among many other tremendous accomplishments.

Over the course of his career Dr. Hayes' research has focused on language and cognition applied to understanding and alleviating human suffering, a line of research that has evolved through his own personal life experiences. Specifically, Dr. Hayes used his clinical skills and training to target his own symptoms of panic disorder by combining meditation and mindfulness with his scientific and research background. He developed the model that underlies Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), and over time has eliminated his panic attacks altogether. His lab became a center for research on the psychological theory of human language called Relational Frame Theory (RFT).

His research based model has been applied to a spectrum of health issues including anxiety, depression, chronic pain, control of seizures and psychotic thoughts, weight management, and addiction. ACT focuses on detachment from negative thoughts through mindfulness practices which may help better control them when they occur.

Dr. Hayes grew up in California, attended grad school at West Virginia University, and was a faculty member at University of North Carolina-Greensboro, and is currently at the University of Nevada at Reno researching the application of ACT principles to a variety of mental and physical health conditions. He is married, has four children, and enjoys motorcycle riding in his free time.

www.stevenchayes.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

BAAMS Inaugural Conference

March 31, 2017
University of Southern Mississippi - Trent Lott Center
Hattiesburg, MS

Women in Behavior Analysis Conference

March 9-10
Renaissance Hotel – Nashville, TN

Association of Professional Behavior Analysts Conference

March 23-25
Sheraton – New Orleans, LA

BEHAVIOR ANALYST SPOTLIGHT

BRITTANY BELL, M.A., BCBA



Brittany Bell, M.A., BCBA

Brittany Bell, MA, BCBA has been part of the Rankin County School District, first as a special education teacher, then as a behavior analyst who created autism classrooms for the district using ABA and TEACCH methodologies. Her responsibilities for Rankin County included teacher and staff- training as well as program and classroom development. Currently Brittany has her own practice, The Growing Tree, which opened in August 2016. Services provided at the Growing Tree include Discrete Trial Training (DTT) and Natural Environment Teaching (NET), ABLLS assessment, IEP consultation, and clinic and in-home therapy. The Growing Tree is located in Flowood, MS.

Brittany holds a BA degree from Mississippi College in special education; an MA in Psychology from University of The Rockies, and a BCBA certification from St. Joseph's University in PA. She shares a home with her husband and four children.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

BAAMS celebrated its 2 year anniversary this month! Since the first meeting in February 2015, our membership has grown to 44 full members, 39 student members, and 2 affiliate members. We would like to continue this growth and promote the advancement of behavior analysis in Mississippi through several initiatives this upcoming year. Listed below are a few of ways in which we see ourselves growing our presence:

BAAMS is an ACE provider and will be offering CE opportunities throughout the year. The first of this opportunity will be at the BAAMS Inaugural Conference on March 31st in Hattiesburg, MS. Thank you to Keith Radley and Kate Kellum, conference co-chairs, for working on making this a successful event. We hope to see you there! Additional opportunities for BCBA CEs will be announced in the coming months. BAAMS is also an approved provider for Education CEs and we hope to provide multiple opportunities for educators access CEs for attending BAAMS events.

We are planning updates to the website to make it more interactive for members, students and affiliates (e.g., parents). A special thanks to Matt Davidson, treasurer of BAAMS, who has taken on this project. We will keep you posted on the updates. We now also have a presence on Twitter and LinkedIn, in addition to Facebook. Please find BAAMS and follow the page for relevant posts about BAAMS events as well as behavior analysis.

“The Mississippi Behavior Analyst” is our new newsletter name. Thank you to Dorothy Scattone for taking the lead and doing an excellent job on her first newsletter as BAAMS secretary.

As always, we welcome your input. Your support and participation in BAAMS helps the executive committee do more for you! Please contact us at info@baams.org.

Sincerely,

Neelima Duncan

Neelima Duncan, Ph.D., BCBA-D

President – BAAMS

SHARE!!

If you would like to advertise, post job listings, write an article, share a recent publication, share research endeavors or have something you'd like to share in the next Newsletter, contact Dorothy Scattone at info@baams.org.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Thank you for all you took the time to contact your legislators about Senate Bill 2625 and House Bill 887. We would like to say that your feedback to the legislators was received well and changes were made in the bills to reflect our concerns. The Mississippi Autism Board's move to the Mississippi Department of Education was removed from House Bill 887. In addition, the Senate Bill SB 2625 was passed with Senator Parker's amendment that moves us to the Mississippi Psychology Board in 2018 to share administrative costs only. Again, thank you for your support!

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER (UMMC)

UMMC's Center for Advancement of Youth is one of 21 sites participating in one of the biggest national genetic studies ever undertaken for ASD: SPARK (Simons Foundation Powering Autism Research for Knowledge). The study's goal is to build a registry of genetic information from children with autism and their families. This information will be important in identifying causes of autism and may help predict how the different subtypes of autism respond to different therapies or medications. Research will analyze DNA for genetic markers or gene variations that may contribute to ASD.

Dr. Rob Annett is leading the UMMC study site.



*From left to right: The SPARK team - Kristen Callahan
Dr. Rob Annett, Nina White, Dr. Dustin Sarver*

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI (USM) – APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS (ABA) PROGRAM

The ABA program at USM will graduate its first cohort of Master's-level ABA students this May!

Kudos to Katie Bishop and Parker Lundy for first authorship on book chapters in the upcoming Encyclopedia of Personality and Individual Differences!

"Behavioral Perspectives on Personality" was written by Bishop, Dixon, Moore, & Lundy

"Radical Behaviorism" was written by Lundy, Moore, & Bishop.

These chapters may help clarify the principles behind behavior analysis for a non-behaviorist audience.

MISSISSIPPI AUTISM BOARD UPDATES

The Mississippi Autism Board (MAB) requested for a master's level Licensed Behavior Analyst (LBA) to serve as a special advisor to the board. The representative would need to attend MAB meetings but would be a non-voting member. Sarah Kowalczyk, Region 2 Representative, has been appointed to serve in this position.

MAB will be hosting a panel at the BAAMS inaugural conference. Please be sure to attend to find out the latest developments with the board and their future directions.

NOW HIRING!!!!



AUTISM CENTER
OF NORTH MISSISSIPPI

The Autism Center of North Mississippi is seeking another Board Certified Behavior Analyst to join their growing team! For more information, visit their website at www.autismcenternms.com. Please send your resume to Brittany@autismcenternms.com.

BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS ASSOCIATION
OF MISSISSIPPI

BAAMS INAUGURAL CONFERENCE

M A R C H

31

TWO THOUSAND SEVENTEEN

REGISTER TODAY!!

WWW.BAAMS.ORG



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI (USM) – APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS (ABA) PROGRAM

The Applied Behavior Analysis Program at the University of Southern Mississippi is currently accepting applications for its third cohort, set to launch Fall 2017.

As the only Master's-level Program in the state with both a curriculum sequence and practicum experienced by the Behavior Analysis Certification Board, USM offers a short, five semester, 45 credit hour program that qualified and prepares graduates for the BCBA exam.

Excellence in teaching, research, and practicum experiences are the foundation of the training program at USM. Using the data-based problem-solver model, students learn how to conduct high quality clinical work that is worth of dissemination in peer reviewed journals, book chapters, and conferences. Students also have the opportunity to participate in comprehensive research programs through the Human Operant Performance and Evaluation Lab. Through collaborations with West Virginia University, Western New England University, Michigan State University, and Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, as well as the Ph.D. Program in School Psychology here at USM, students receive cutting-edge experience from top mentors in the field.

Currently, faculty and students in the program have published in the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, *Behavior Modification*, *Behavior Analysis Research and Practice*, *Child and Family Behavior Therapy*, *Journal of Organizational Behavior Management*, and many others. Students have research currently under review at additional journals such as the *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior* and *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disabilities*.

The Practicum Experience is a particular strength of the training program. First year, first semester students complete a semester-long mentorship program in which they rotate through three main clinical tracks: School placement, Clinic placement, and Residential placement. At the end of the mentorship experience, students submit a rank preference which is match with rankings received from each site. First year students complete intensive direct-care placements during the Spring of their first year. This includes placement at one of our current practicum sites: Petal School District, Forrest County School District, CARES School (Hattiesburg and Gulfport, and Canopy Children's Solutions). Funds raised through these placements help pay for student travel to conferences as well as program supplies. We also have students placed in one of our four current paid practicum placements: Pine Belt Mental Healthcare, Will's Way, Autism Spectrum Therapies, and Boswell Regional Centers. Using the Data-based Problem-Solver model, students not only learn how to make significant and meaningful improvements in the lives of a diverse body of clients, but also how to run such cases in a way suitable for publication or presentation.

The deadline for Fall 2017 applications is March 1, 2017. Please contact Dr. Jim Moore, Director of Training at james.moore@usm.edu if you would like to learn more about the ABA Program at Southern Miss.

James W. Moore, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA
Director of Training
Applied Behavior Analysis Program
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