



## BACB @ ABAI

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# Recent Developments

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Greetings! In this issue of the BACB Newsletter, we'd like to let you know about a number of new developments, both recent and upcoming.

### ACCREDITATION

Last summer, the BACB's BCBA and BCABA credentialing programs were accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). NCCA is a Commission of the National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA). The NCCA accreditation process was challenging and exhilarating for the BACB in many ways.

As you may recall, the BACB did not have a typical growth cycle for credentialing organizations. Rather than evolve as a subcommittee of the national professional organization (what typically happens), the BACB evolved out of the certification program administered by the State of Florida. The BACB was able to develop and expand the Florida certification program to meet the local, national and international demands for certified professionals. This evolution put many strains on the BACB's resources, including the BACB's assumption of a great deal of the resources needed to conduct the most recent update to the Job Analysis.

The BACB's consultants (psychometric and legal) advised the BACB to wait on applying for accreditation until such time as completion of the Job Analysis (2002-2003) update and implementation of the revised update in the examination specifications (2003-2005). Once the updated specifications were in place and the exams were

modified accordingly (October 2005), the BACB was then ready to select an accrediting organization.

In the field of accreditation of professional certification programs, there are two major accrediting organizations. The first is NCCA, identified above. The second is the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). On the advice of its consultants, the BACB began by applying for and ultimately obtaining NCCA accreditation for the BCBA and BCABA certification programs. It is possible that we also may apply for ANSI accreditation some time in the future.

So why is the BACB spending so much time and so many resources on being accredited? The answer is as simple as why professionals become certified. As noted by NOCA.org:

*NCCA accreditation is a means of demonstrating to your board, your profession and your certificants that your certification has been reviewed by a panel of impartial experts that have determined that your program has met the stringent standards of NCCA. (See [www.noca.org](http://www.noca.org), emphasis added).*

Accreditation is an important means by which the BACB can demonstrate the superior quality of its credentials to consumers, legislators, insurance companies, government agencies, and others. We hope that you will be as proud of the BACB's accreditation as you are of your own professional credential.



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### **NEW DOCTORATE/BCBA REVIEW OPTION TO QUALIFY FOR BCBA CERTIFICATION**

The BACB is committed to offering quality certification in the field of applied behavior analysis. From the beginning of the BACB's certification activities, the BACB has offered alternatives to the traditional coursework-experience eligibility requirements to qualify individuals to take its examinations. For example, many of you may be familiar with the College-Teaching option for eligibility. We are very pleased to announce the availability of one more option individuals may use to qualify for the BCBA examination – the Doctorate/BCBA Review Option.

The Doctorate/BCBA Review Option is a combination of three key elements. First, the applicant must have a doctoral degree in an acceptable field, such as applied behavior analysis, psychology, education or another related field (as approved by the BACB). Second, the applicant must have ten years of post doctoral experience in applied behavior analysis. Third, a minimum of three BCBA's must sign off on a review of the applicant, affirming the

applicant's experience, knowledge of the field and integrity to practice in accordance with the Third Edition Task List and BACB standards. If three BCBA's are not available to sign a review of the applicant, then the applicant should contact the BACB to discuss potential alternative reviewers.

Of course, as with all other pathways, the Doctorate/BCBA Review Option applicant will be required to take and pass the BCBA examination for certification. Once sufficient numbers of candidates have qualified under this option, we will assess their examination performance data and will then make a determination as to whether to continue or discontinue this option for eligibility in the future. In the meantime, get the word out to your colleagues you believe might meet the above requirements; they may now be able to qualify for the BACB examination!

For more information about the Doctoral Pathway option or to download an application, go to [www.bacb.com](http://www.bacb.com). You will need to download the standard BCBA application. All the requirements and forms are included in the application document.

## Did You Know?



- Since the switch to computer-based testing in 2005, BACB exams have been taken more than 3,500 times.
- The BACB currently has more than 5,500 certificants.
- There are 175 BACB Approved Course Sequences, located within 124 universities. Of those, 33 sequences are located within 28 universities outside of the United States. Distance-learning coursework is available though 14 sequences.
- There are now 23 Approved Course Sequences that offer approved experience in addition to their approved coursework.
- That the BACB wants your feedback? The BACB would like to encourage certificants to contribute to the newsletter. Email [Christine@BACB.com](mailto:Christine@BACB.com) if there are topics you'd like us to cover or if you're interested in writing an article.



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## News and Notes

*Gerald Shook, PhD, BCBA  
BACB Chief Executive Officer*

### **Online Certification Management**

We soon will be launching an online certification management system that will allow you to renew and recertify online and pay with a credit card. You will be able to update your contact information, as well as record and manage your continuing education information online. We will also collect information from BCBA's regarding whether they're available to provide supervision. That information will be incorporated into the Certificant Registry to help individuals locate potential supervisors more efficiently.

We will begin the launch by inviting a small number of certificants to use the system to complete their upcoming renewal or recertification applications, with a complete launch shortly thereafter. Online exam applications will also be available later this year.

### **Supervision of BCaBAs**

A few individuals have expressed concerns about the upcoming changes that will affect BCaBAs. In particular, individuals were worried about how to meet the requirements for supervision in unusual circumstances. For example, some BCaBAs may live in areas where there are few, if any, BCBA's available to provide supervision. Another example offered was that some BCaBAs may take time away from the practice of behavior analysis but would still like to keep their certification. As the BACB begins the process of implementing the supervision requirements, we expect to include provisions to address BCaBAs who

are not currently practicing, and BCaBAs for whom in-person supervision may not be possible. When those provisions are determined, they will be posted in the "Maintaining Certification" section of [www.BACB.com](http://www.BACB.com). It is likely that they will also be discussed in a future edition of this newsletter.

### **Board of Directors Elections**

The BACB congratulates the following individuals who were elected to the BACB Board of Directors: Jane Howard and Christie Enzinna. We wish to thank all of the candidates who ran in the recent election and the all of certificants who voted.

### **Hemingway Award**

This award is given in tribute to the late Michael Hemingway who, as the representative of Florida government, played a central role in the transfer of behavior analyst certification from the State of Florida to the Behavior Analyst Certification Board. Michael's courage and commitment to the profession of behavior analysis and certification are reflected in the behavior of the individual who receives this award.

The 2008 recipient of the Michael Hemingway award is Lorri Unumb. Lorri is a law school professor and parent of a child with autism who has been instrumental in gaining support for insurance coverage of effective autism treatment in South Carolina. You can learn more about Lorri by viewing this clip about her (<http://www.cnn.com/video/?/video/health/2008/04/01/griffin.autism.insurance.cnn>) that recently aired on CNN.





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As usual, the BACB will be actively involved in this year's annual convention of the Association for Behavior Analysis, International. Below is a list of events that may be of interest to BACB certificants. Some even provide the opportunity to obtain free continuing education. We hope you will attend some of these events and stop by the exhibit booth to say hello during the convention.

## FRIDAY - TUESDAY

### BACB Booth

Christine Ratcliff, Fae Mellichamp, Jerry Shook & guest appearances from various BACB directors

5/23/2007 – 5/27/2007 (Friday - Tuesday)

See program for booth hours

Exhibit Area

### BACB Item Writing Workshops

Fae Mellichamp

4M (fourth floor), dates and times to be determined.

## SUNDAY

### BACB International Certification Development

Chair: Gerald L. Shook (Behavior Analyst Certification Board)

Business Meeting (#128)

5/25/2008 (Sunday)

8:00 AM - 8:50 AM

PDR 2

*Type 5 CE available through BACB*

### Values in Behavior Analysis

Chair: Saul Axelrod (Temple University)

\*Gerald L. Shook (Behavior Analyst Certification Board)

\*Jon S. Bailey (FSU, BMC, FABA)

\*Maria R. Ruiz (Rollins College)

\*Erik Arntzen (Akershus University College)

Invited Symposium (#248)

5/25/2008

2:30 PM - 3:50 PM

International North

*Type 2 CE available through ABAI*

### Behavior Analyst Certification Board: Status & New Developments

Chair: Gerald L. Shook (Behavior Analyst Certification Board)

Business Meeting (#303)

5/25/2008 (Sunday)

7:00 PM - 7:50 PM

Waldorf

*Type 5 CE available through BACB*



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## MONDAY

### Professional Development Series: Aspects on Being a BCBA

Chair: Jennifer Sweeney (Columbus Children's Hospital Autism Center/Kent St)

\*Patrick M. Ghezzi (University of Nevada - Reno)

\*Rita Honan (Trinity College Dublin)

\*Christine L. Ratcliff (BACB)

\*Karen A. Gould (May Institute/Northeastern)

Panel Discussion (#421)

5/26/2008 (Monday)

1:30 PM - 2:50 PM

4A

### BACB University Contact Faculty Meeting

Chair: Gerald L. Shook (Behavior Analyst Certification Board)

Business Meeting (#481)

5/26/2008 (Monday)

7:30 PM - 8:20 PM

Continental A

## TUESDAY

### Behavior Analyst Certification Board: Introduction and Application

Chair: Christine Ratcliff (Behavior Analyst Certification Board)

Business Meeting (#495)

5/27/2008 (Tuesday)

8:00 AM - 8:50 AM

Williford C

### Behavior Analysis, Certification and the APA Model Licensing Act

Chair: Larry Alferink (Illinois State University)

\*Janet S. Twyman (Headsprout)

\*Gerald L. Shook (Behavior Analyst Certification Board)

\*Terrence Koller (Illinois Psychological Association)

Invited Panel Discussion (#505)

5/27/2008 (Tuesday)

9:00 AM - 10:20 AM

International North

Got comments, questions or suggestions regarding this newsletter?

Email [christine@bacb.com](mailto:christine@bacb.com)