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

To say the Spring 2020 semester year was unique is an understatement! Most importantly, we hope you and yours are safe and healthy. COVID-19 forced us to significantly change our everyday life. Despite it all, the entire USJ ABA program, students and faculty included, met the challenge of an abrupt transition to online instruction, virtual scholarship, and meaningful telehealth and service activities. Congratulations to all for your perseverance during this time! There are several notable “firsts” this year. Dr. Kimball finished his first year as a full-time faculty member and we are thrilled to have him as part of our team. I also finished my first year as Program Director, and what a year it’s been! A big thank you to Dr. Courtemanche for her incredible work as program director these past few years and for creating the first issue of the Blue Jay Bulletin. Please feel free to reach out to me this summer with any general questions or concerns, and to Dr. Mann with any of your supervision or practicum related questions. Lastly, to make your summers a bit more behavioral, we have created a summer reading list and group to explore several non-textbook ways to stay connected to the field (see attached fliers). Have a wonderful summer and hopefully we’ll see you in person this fall!

-Laura B. Turner, Ph.D. BCBA-D, LBA, ABA Program Director-

Cheers to the Graduating Class of 2020!

In lieu of the annual Hooding Ceremony, the USJ Faculty wished all students a socially distant, virtual congratulations. Several students and faculty also participated in a Zoom toast to their accomplishments. Best of luck to the graduating students and future behavior analysts! Don’t forget to join our Facebook Group, University of Saint Joseph - Autism and Applied Behavior Analysis Alumni

Cheers to the new BCBAs!

The results are in!

Graduates of USJ’s Applied Behavior Analysis, M.S. had the highest BCBA® Exam pass rate in the state of Connecticut and scored 10 percentage points higher than the national average on the 2019 exam!

Academic Excellence

Danica Ackerman-Perrier
Caitlin Emerson
Katherine Dussan
Brianna Keegan
Amanda Wedge

A Special Thank You

We would also like to extend a huge thank you to Linda Lohmeyer for all of her work for the program over the last 2 years. Linda will be moving on and will not be with us next year. We are very sad to see her go!


Grant, G. & Mann, C.C. An Evaluation of behavioral skills training on improving golf performance. Poster accepted to USJ Symposium Day.

Rapuano, E. & Courtemanche, A. B. Topographical differences in self-injurious behaviors as an indicator of pain in individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Accepted for USJ Symposium Day.


Yanke, L., Mann, C.C., & Courtemanche A. An evaluation of goal-setting and feedback on increasing physical activity. Poster accepted to USJ Symposium Day.

CONGRATULATIONS on the successful virtual defense of all Master’s Theses!

Dr. Courtemanche
Eric Rapuano
Jillian Bevis
Katherine Dussan
Carter Lauder
Sarah Lemelin
Amanda Upchurch
Ashley Cotto

Dr. Kimball
Danica Ackerman-Perrier
John Silveira
Sara Fulton
Emily Wininger
Chris Jones

Dr. Mann
Amanda Wedge
Briana Bogrette
Crissy Sarenas
Ginni Smith
Christina Torres
Sharon Bucciarelli
Gina Grant
Lindsay Yanke

Dr. Turner
Alycen Aigner
Caitlyn Campagna
Caitlin Emerson
Michelle Keaney
Brianna Keegan
Annika Simmons

Congratulations to Amanda Upchurch and Jillian Bevis for being awarded USJ Student Research Grants to help support their thesis projects, and Gina Grant for applying for a $500 grant through the Behavior Analysis in Health, Sport, and Fitness Special Interest Group.


Turner, L. (2019, December). Emotional Learning in ASD. Presented as an Invited brown bag at Child Study Center, Yale University, New Haven, CT.


Congratulations on finishing the 2018-2019 academic year in the graduate programs in applied behavior analysis (ABA) at USJ! We have some exciting changes we’d like to announce. First, we would like to welcome Dr. Ryan Kimball! Dr. Kimball will be joining the ABA faculty starting Fall 2019. He joins us from the Munroe Meyer Institute (Omaha, NE). Please introduce yourself to Dr. Kimball when he arrives in August. I’d also like to inform you that I will be stepping down from my role as program director of the ABA program starting this fall. I am pleased to announce that Dr. Laura Turner will be assuming the role as program director (and your academic advisor) beginning Fall 2019. As we make this transition, please feel free to reach out to either me or Dr. Turner with any questions or concerns you may have. Please continue to reach out to Dr. Mann with any of your supervision or practicum related questions. Have a wonderful summer!

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

Congrats to the Graduating Class of 2018-2019!

The fourth annual Applied Behavior Analysis Hooding Ceremony was held on May 09, 2019. We’d like to thank Katie Jacobs, MS BCBA, who served as this year’s alumni speaker. Best of luck to the graduating students and future behavior analysts!

Academic Excellence Award Recipients
Ashley Ainsworth
Shannon Aquila
Alea Bowman
Alyssa Hopson
Melissa Walker

Thesis Award Recipients

Erica Martino Advisors: Dr. Laura Turner & Dr. Charlotte Mann
Comparing Different Methodologies of Response Cost Procedures and Evaluating Choice in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Alyssa Hopson Advisor: Dr. Andrea Courtemanche
An Evaluation of Daily Challenges and Rewards on Fitness Session Attendance

Julie Fiaschetti Advisor: Dr. Andrea Courtemanche
An Evaluation of Goal Setting and Feedback on Increasing Physical Activity

Alea Bowman Advisor: Dr. John Molteni
Comparing Stimulus-Stimulus and Response-Stimulus Pairing Procedures to Establish Tokens as Conditioned Reinforcers

Fiaschetti, J., Courtemanche, A. B., & Groskreutz, N. (2019, April). *An evaluation of goal setting and feedback on increasing physical activity.* Poster presented at the University of Saint Joseph Symposium Day, West Hartford, CT.

Vo, M., Courtemanche, A.B., & Turner, L. (2019, April). *Evaluating the effects of perceived stress levels in undergraduate residential life staff members and effects on job performance.* Poster presented at the University of Saint Joseph Symposium Day, West Hartford, CT.


Acknowledgements

Congratulations to:

Congrats to the new BCBAs!

In 2018, 28 USJ graduates took the BACB exam and 18 graduates passed on their first attempt.

A Special Thank You

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

USJ Faculty Publications


Mann, C.C., & Karsten, A.M. Efficacy and social validity of procedures for improving conversational skills of college students with autism (*Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, accepted April, 2019)

Acknowledgements

Congratulations to:

Samuel Hauslaib for being awarded the *Excellence in Empirical Design Award* at the 15th Annual Connecticut Association for Behavior Analysis Conference.

Alyssa Hopson for being awarded the *Exceptional Contribution to Behavior Analytic Research In Applied Context Award* at the 15th Annual Connecticut Association for Behavior Analysis Conference.

Shannon Aquila, Julie Fiaschetti, and Melissa Walker for being awarded USJ Student Research Grants to help support their thesis projects.

Dr. Turner and Dr. Courtemanche for celebrating their 5-year anniversaries at USJ.

Dr. Courtemanche for being nominated for the *Father John Stack Teaching Excellence Award* for the second consecutive year.

Congrats to the new BCBAs!

In 2018, 28 USJ graduates took the BACB exam and 18 graduates passed on their first attempt.
Congratulations on finishing the 2017-2018 academic year in the graduate programs in applied behavior analysis (ABA) at USJ. We’d like to welcome Dr. Mann again in her role as Practicum Coordinator for our graduate programs. Dr. Mann (cmann@usj.edu) is available to answer questions about BACB experience hours or the practicum opportunities at the Gengras Center School. Feel free to reach out with any questions and concerns and have a wonderful summer!

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

The third annual Autism and Applied Behavior Analysis Hooding Ceremony was held on May 11, 2018. Thank you to Kimberly MacDougall Eaves, MS BCBA for her words of wisdom as this year’s alumni speaker. Best of luck to the graduating students and future behavior analysts!

Thesis Award Recipients

Michaela Moebius    Advisor: Dr. Laura Turner
The Impact of Mindfulness on Stress Among Special Educators

Jon Peterson        Advisor: Dr. Andrea Courtemanche
The Effects of Environmental Enrichment and Choice on Stereotypy among Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Katie Falvey         Advisor: Dr. Nicole Groskreutz
Teaching Prepositions to Children with Autism using Matrix Training

Katie Jacobs         Advisor: Dr. Charlotte Mann
Teaching Adolescents with ASD to use Self-Questioning as a Problem-Solving Strategy for Answering Questions of Past Recall

Academic Excellence Award Recipients
Katie Jacobs
Christina Sabo
Jennifer Wood
USJ STUDENT PRESENTATIONS


Pare, E. & Turner, L. (2017, October). The effects of rate feedback versus quality feedback on task completion. Poster presented at the Berkshire Association for Behavior Analysis and Therapy 38th Annual Conference, Amherst, MA.


USJ Faculty Publications


News and Announcements

Congratulations to:

Katie Jacobs for being awarded the *Rachel D'Avino Memorial Outstanding Student Award* at 14th Annual Connecticut Association for Behavior Analysis Conference.

Julie Conti for being awarded the *Exceptional Contribution to Behavior Analytic Research in Applied Context* award at the 14th Annual Connecticut Association for Behavior Analysis Conference.

Hannah Haggerty for being award the University of Saint Joseph Symposium Day Poster Award for her project entitled, *Assessing the Impact of Literacy Promotion on the Rate and Quality of Parent-to-Child Speech.*

Hannah Haggerty and Michaela Moebius for being awarded USJ Student Research Grants to help support their thesis projects.

Dr. John Molteni for his 10-year anniversary at USJ.

Dr. Andrea Courtemanche and Dr. John Molteni for being nominated for the Father John Stack Teaching Excellence Award at USJ.

Congrats to the new BCBAs!

In 2017, 27 USJ graduates took the BACB exam and 19 graduates passed on their first attempt (70% pass rate). The national average pass rate for 2017 was 65%.

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. Kathleen retired this year after dedicating many years to the Department of Counseling and Applied Behavioral Studies. She will be greatly missed.
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

Crossley, S. & Turner, L. (October, 2016). *Using non-invasive prompts to increase teacher’s use of descriptive praise.* Posted presented at the Berkshire Association for Behavior Analysis and Therapy 37th Annual Conference, Amherst, MA.


Nadeau, B., Courtemanche, A.B., & Groskreutz, N. (2017, March). *Student or teacher selected tasks and its effects on on-task behavior.* Poster presented at the 13th annual Connecticut Association for Behavior Analysis conference, Hartford, CT.


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.
Hello and thank you for reading the first ever issue of the Blue Jay Behavioral Bulletin!

I am delighted to finish the 2015-2016 academic year in my new role as program director of the graduate programs in applied behavior analysis at USJ. I hope you enjoy reading about the great contributions of our USJ students and IABS colleagues.

Have a wonderful summer!

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

The first annual Autism and Applied Behavior Analysis Master’s Hooding Ceremony was held on May 6, 2016. Thank you to Kimberly Lachowicz for sharing her lessons learned as a first year BCBA. Best of luck to the graduating students and future behavior analysts!

The thesis award recipients are as follows:

Mackenzie Smith
“The Recycling Initiative: A Comparative Analysis to Evaluate Effective Low Effort Recycling Interventions”
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Laura Turner

Christie Acosta
“An Evaluation of Fixed versus Variable-Time Exchange Schedules of Reinforcement Using a Classroom-Wide Token Economy”
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Andrea Courtemanche

Elizabeth Hatzenbuhler
“Increasing Sociodramatic Play Skills in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder via Peer Mediated Matrix Training”
Thesis Advisor: Dr. John Molteni

Congrats Class of 2015-2016!
Student Presentations


IABS Faculty Publications


News and Announcements

A Warm Welcome

We are pleased to welcome two new full-time faculty members beginning this fall. Dr. Nicole Groskreutz earned her Ph.D. from Utah State University and has been acting as a Visiting Assistant Professor in the ABA program for the last year. Dr. Charlotte Mann earned her Ph.D. at Western New England University and will join us starting Fall 2016.

Awards and Accolades

Congratulations to Elizabeth Hatzenbuhler for earning the Academic Excellence Award for her coursework at USJ.

Christie Acosta was awarded the Excellence in Empirical Design Award at the 12th Annual Connecticut Association for Behavior Analysis Conference.

Congrats to the new BCBAs!

The BACB pass rates for 2015 were released in May 2016. Twenty USJ graduates took the exam, and 65% passed the exam on their first attempt. The national average pass rate was also 65%. USJ has increased their average pass rate of the national certification exam by 17% since 2013. More information can be found here: http://bacb.com/2015-acs-pass-rates-now-available/

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 Sherry Crossley for her enthusiastic help as the ABA graduate assistant for the 2015-2016 academic year.