

From the Editor

The View From Here

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Almost 100 years before B. F. Skinner wrote his fictional novel of the optimal future of our world through a behavioral utopia in *Walden 2*, the author of the original *Walden*, Henry David Thoreau, presented us with an inner retrospective of life from a solitary individual seeking simple living and self-sufficiency. In his book, Thoreau encouraged embracing of solitude, and escaping society in an effort to produce a greater sense of self-reliance. Years after my initial read of *Walden*, I found myself intrigued by it once again, now however from the viewpoint of a behavior analyst. I kept digging into the text wondering why Skinner sought out a twist on its title in his own “sequel” about cultural contingencies. As I further reflected, I found the two texts distantly similar, both attempting to move the self into a more optimal state of affairs. *Walden* approached it via isolation, and *Walden 2* through community. As I now start my undertaking as editor of *Behavior Analysis in Practice (BAP)*, I find myself wondering who had it right—Thoreau or Skinner? Is the better tomorrow each envisioned best gained through isolation or integration? Of course I need to vote for Skinner, and I am sure most readers would too. However, the question not so easily answered is: Have we actually created our field according to the vision of *Walden* “1” or 2? Are we content in isolation, or do we seek and thrive on community? *BAP* is clearly not a metric of our entire field, but it does serve as a visible appendage. So, I ask you the reader, are we a welcoming integrated community made up of a variety of practitioners within and beyond behavior analysis, or are we content with self-reflection on our field’s own accomplishments?

In the opening paper of my first issue, you will see the outcome of an extensive survey that my editorial team presented to about 300 Board Certified Behavior Analysts®. I was shocked by many of the responses, and I believe you will be too. Not only was *BAP* unknown to many of these front-line behavior analysts, but also many responders tended to find the journal inaccessible or too expensive to justify purchasing. With the mission of *BAP* claiming to “provide science-based, best-practice information relevant to service delivery,” if the service delivers are not consuming the information, who exactly are we speaking to? And how can a journal that costs less than a cell phone bill be too expensive? Seems to be we are more like Thoreau than we might want to be.

I vividly recall the spring of 2008 when the first issue of *Behavior Analysis and Practice* was published. It was a very important event in the evolution of the discipline of Behavior Analysis. This issue was a true indicator that the field had changed. We were no longer exclusively made up of scientists. The professionalization of our field had occurred, and the numbers practitioners were rapidly exceeding the numbers of researchers. Although the front line of behavior analysts could obviously pick up a *JEAB* or *JABA*, it seemed that the introduction of *BAP* signified that a sort of legitimacy had been established for clinically centered behavior analysts. Empirical-based interventions were to remain paramount, but the extreme experimental rigor that often limited true application finally might take a second place to practice utility. Over the past six years, under the leadership of two outstanding editors, the vision of *BAP* became a reality. Many articles found in those initial issues are

required reading for a generation of graduate students. Mine included.

As I take the helm for this third chapter of *BAP*, you will see a variety of new features that I hope assist us in moving into the hands of more practitioners. In addition to the empirical peer-reviewed manuscripts, which will continue to be *BAP*'s foundation, you will now find Field Reports that showcase locations around the world that are truly engaging in the practice of behavior analysis. These Field Reports will be a regular feature in *BAP*, and I encourage practitioners

to submit requests for their organizations to be reviewed by my associate editors for inclusion in upcoming issues. We will each provide a new Report every issue. Another new supplement to the journal is a regular dedicated column of Field Gear by Josh Pritchard. Josh will be reviewing behavioral technologies, computer software, and materials, and provide an unbiased evaluation of their benefits for practitioners. Vendors and developers of behavioral "gear" should submit their products to the journal for possible future

review. In upcoming issues, we will examine rankings of the best places to work in behavior analysis, graduate training program outcome measures, and clinical case formulations by leaders in the field. Under my editorship, you will find that *BAP* will continue to embrace its history of original empirical and conceptual papers, and evolve into an even more comprehensive information source for the behavior analyst of today. In this issue, you will find diverse topics such as employee performance, energy consumption, a school for students with behavior disorders, a facility treating children with autism, and interventions for those with developmental disabilities. I am pleased to see such variety of papers, and I will strive to ensure that *BAP* continues to repre-

sent the wide-reaching applications of behavioral science.

Behind the pages of each issue, my editorial team will be generating press releases for every article and field report found within *BAP*. For too long our field has remained an unnoticed blip in the mainstream media. In order to reach the general public, we will need to talk like the general public from time to time, and our press releases are designed to do just that. It is my hope that these efforts will produce more visibility for the journal outside of the behavioral community, and

maybe even a more visible field of behavior analysis in general. Behavior analysts have many evidence-based practices to offer the world. It is my hope that information published in *BAP* springboards us to the popular press, nightly news programs, website blogs, and social media.

Finally, allow me to introduce you to the editorial staff. Under my editorship I have enrolled the assistance of Derek Reed and Tristram Smith, who will be serving as my associate editors for the three years ahead. Rachel Enoch will serve as our editorial assistant. Together, we bring you a board of editors that has been selected

for breadth and depth across many dimensions of our robust field. From animal researchers to applied behavior analysts, and from laboratory scholars to clinicians, the new *BAP* Board of Editors is truly impressive. It is an honor for me to be working among such an extraordinary list of people. Together we plan on taking *BAP* to exciting new frontiers. As Thoreau concluded in the original *Walden*, "Things do not change; we change." I too conclude with a promise of change. One in which we begin to better integrate the journal of *Behavior Analysis in Practice* into the very fabric of what it is to be a practicing behavior analyst, and move its contents outward to the general public. As I look out over the pond, personally, I want some company.

