

4CABA 2019 Speaker Bios

Heather McGee

Heather M. McGee is an Associate Professor of Psychology and Chair of the Industrial/Organizational Behavior Management graduate programs at Western Michigan University. She received her B.S., M.A., and Ph.D. from WMU. Dr. McGee is also co-founder of Performance Blueprints, a performance improvement consulting firm specializing in helping small businesses, non-profits & human service settings by providing a variety of consulting and training services. Dr. McGee has designed, developed and implemented organizational performance solutions in a variety of industries and settings, including autism service agencies, the pharmaceutical industry, education, and health and human services. These solutions have included performance-based instruction, performance management, behavioral systems changes, and lean sigma initiatives. Dr. McGee is the former Executive Director of the OBM Network and serves as an associate editor for the Journal of Organizational Behavior Management, and on the editorial board for Behavior Analysis: Research and Practice. Additionally, she serves on the Board of Directors for the behavior analytic management consulting firm, ALULASM (formerly CLG), and on Advisory Boards for DataFinch Technologies and Cambridge Center for Behavioral Studies.

Matthew Bell

Matthew C. Bell earned Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology at UCSD. Following three years as a postdoctoral scientist at the Center for Behavioral Teratology at San Diego State University, he joined the SCU Psychology Department in 2001, where he is a professor. As an experimental psychologist and behavior analyst, he studies and publishes experimental work on conditioned reinforcement, choice behavior and persistence using pigeons as subjects. He collaborates and publishes research with Dr. Patti Simone studying remembering in older adults and with both Dr. Simone and Dr. Lisa Whitfield studying college student learning tools & techniques. Some of his professional service activities include both serving on the board of editors and as an associate editor for the Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior, working as an ad hoc reviewer for a number of other journals, and a term as an experimental analysis of behavior area co-coordinator for the Association for Behavior Analysis International.

Sarah Lechago

Sarah Lechago is an Associate Professor in the Behavior Analysis master's program at the University of Houston-Clear Lake (UHCL). Dr. Lechago is the founder and director of the UHCL Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities (CADD) Verbal Behavior Clinic (VBC) and Verbal Behavior Clinic-Telehealth (VBC-T). She is also the co-founder and co-director of the UHCL Connecting the Dots (CTD) program. She has published in numerous journals including The Analysis of Verbal Behavior and the Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis. She has served or currently serves on the editorial boards for The Analysis of Verbal Behavior, Behavior Analysis: Research and Practice, and the Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis, and has served as guest reviewer for multiple other journals. Her research focuses on translational and applied research in verbal behavior, motivating operations, and staff training.

Kathryn Peterson

Dr. Kathryn Peterson earned her Master's degree in applied behavior analysis from the Pennsylvania State University in 2008. Dr. Peterson then earned her doctoral degree in applied behavior analysis from the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) in 2013. She now works as an assistant professor and doctoral-level board certified behavior analyst at UNMC's Munroe-Meyer Institute. Dr. Peterson serves as a case manager within the Pediatric Feeding Disorders Program at UNMC, where she conducts research on the assessment and treatment of pediatric feeding disorders. She has published in and reviewed for numerous journals, and currently serves on the editorial board for the Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis. She has secured grant awards through UNMC's Pediatrics, Diversity, and the Munroe-Meyer Institute's guild funds to conduct research on effective treatments for food selectivity in children with autism spectrum disorders. Dr. Peterson has fulfilled numerous positions on the boards for the Heartland Association for Behavior Analysis (HLABA) and the Nebraska Association for Behavior Analysis (NEABA), including Vice President and President for HLABA and secretary for NEABA.

Kimberly Kirkpatrick

Kim earned her doctoral degree from the University of Iowa in 1995 under the supervision of Ed Wasserman. She then worked as a Post-doctoral fellow with Russell M. Church at Brown, where she studied timing processes in classical conditioning paradigms. After leaving Brown in 2000, she established the York Timing Laboratory at the University of York, UK, where she spent 8 years as a faculty member. Her next move was to K-State, where she has been ever since. The main line of research in her laboratory is the role of timing and reward processes in determining impulsive and risky choice in rats. This research includes examining interactions between timing and reward processing, studying pharmacological interventions on timing and choice behavior, and assessing the role of reward processing neural substrates such as the nucleus accumbens core in timing and choice paradigms. Her work using a rat model to investigate targeted therapeutic interventions to treat impulsivity has been supported by an R01 from the NIMH since 2010. In 2017 she became the director of the Cognitive and Neurobiological Approaches to Plasticity center, funded by a large grant from the National Institutes of General Medical Sciences.

Kenneth Silverman

Kenneth Silverman has been in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences in the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine since 1989 and is currently a Professor in the department. His research has focused on developing operant treatments to address the interrelated problems of poverty, drug addiction, and HIV. His primary research has focused on the development and evaluation of abstinence reinforcement interventions for the treatment of heroin and cocaine addiction in low-income, inner city adults; financial incentives to promote adherence to antiretroviral medications and viral suppression in people living with HIV; the development of the therapeutic workplace intervention and the use of employment-based reinforcement in the long-term maintenance of drug abstinence, adherence to addiction treatment medications, and employment; and the development of computer-based training to establish critical academic and job skills that unemployed adults need to gain and maintain employment and escape poverty.

Patrick Ghezzi

Pat earned his BA and MS in Experimental Psychology at Western Washington University and a PhD in the Analysis of Behavior at Utah State University in 1985. He joined the research faculty in the Department of Special Education and Rehabilitation at The University of Arizona in 1984 and left for Reno in 1992, to join the faculty in the Department of Psychology at the University of Nevada Reno. A past director of the Behavior Analysis Program and the current Associate Chair of the Psychology Department at UNR, Pat's most visible and sustained involvement continues to be the Early Childhood Autism Program. Co-founded in 1995 with Sidney Bijou and Ivar Lovaas, This program provides early intensive intervention to young children and families with autism. The program is widely known for normalizing the development of young children with autism and for preparing students for careers in the science and practice of behavior analysis. Pat is a co-founder and current board member of the Sierra Kids Foundation and a founding member of the Nevada Leadership and Education for Neuro-Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities Program at UNR. He also serves as a member of the board of Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners, representing practitioners and consumers since 2011. Pat's has authored hundreds of articles, chapters, books and presentations. His research interests range from basic laboratory studies with humans to improving the education and treatment of young children with autism. His teaching interests are equally broad, from ethics and evolution science to behavior theory and philosophy.

Rich Mancil

Dr. G. Richmond Mancil, BCBA-D is a doctoral level board certified behavior analyst at SPBS. He earned his doctorate from the University of Florida where he gained clinical experience working with individuals with such complex issues as self-injurious behavior, rumination, and sleep disorders as well as complex communication issues. He has over 18 years' experience working with individuals with autism spectrum disorders, cognitive disabilities, developmental disabilities, and psychiatric disorders. Prior to moving to being at SPBS, Dr. Mancil created the Master's program in ABA at Louisiana Tech University and the first BACB™ approved course sequence in northern Louisiana. He also created and directed the Autism and Behavior Analysis Research Institute located at Louisiana Tech University. At the Institute, he oversaw direct services to children and adults, set and oversaw the research agenda as well as provided Organizational Behavior Management to various schools, agencies, and businesses in the state of Louisiana. Before living in Louisiana, he was the executive director of the Kentucky Autism Training Center where he designed and set up model classrooms across the state of Kentucky for preschool, elementary, middle school, and high school students on the autism spectrum.

Kevin Vowles

Over the course of his career, Kevin has worked almost exclusively in the area of chronic pain and has been a key figure in the development and adaptation of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) for this complex condition. He has authored many of the key research publications in this area and his work is cited by the APA's Division of Clinical Psychology in their listing of ACT for chronic pain as an intervention with strong research support: the highest possible grading. Kevin completed his PhD in clinical psychology at West Virginia University in 2004 and post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Virginia the following year. From 2005 to 2012, he held joint positions in academia and with the National Health Service in the United Kingdom. In 2012, Kevin moved to the Department of Psychology at the University of New Mexico, where he is an Associate Professor. His clinical and academic activities have

focused on the assessment and effective rehabilitation of individuals with chronic pain. He has published over 80 scientific articles in these areas, with recent work concentrating on identifying the characteristics of effective treatment and differentiating problematic from non-problematic opioid use. In addition to this academic appointment, he currently co-directs New Mexico's first and only interdisciplinary pain rehabilitation service. He will deliver the 2019 BF Skinner lecture at ABAI in Chicago.