

Operants

A Newsletter of the B.F. Skinner Foundation

First Quarter 2008, Volume II



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Big Cat Rescue

With Jennifer Ruszczuk and Dr. Kevin Murdock

Based in Tampa, Florida, Big Cat Rescue is one of the world's largest wild cat sanctuaries. It houses nearly 150 lions, tigers, leopards, cougars, servals,

caracals, and sand cats. 16 of the 35 species of exotic cat are represented at the sanctuary.

The 45-acre sanctuary is a permanent home to many cats that have "retired" from the animal entertainment industry. Many other wild cats have been rescued from death, fur farms,

roadside zoos or, unbelievably, from the backyard cages of people who tried to keep the cats as pets.

Each enclosure within the sanctuary provides a natural habitat with foliage and shelter. The cats receive nutritional and medical care, as well as operant

conditioning to improve the cats' well being.

Dr. Kevin Murdock, former Florida Association for Behavior Analysis (FABA) President, has visited Big Cat Rescue. He graciously offered his knowledge and expertise on the subject: "Operant conditioning techniques have long been employed to teach animals to perform in circuses, carnivals, and theme parks for the benefit (i.e., entertainment) of *human* visitors. There has been an increasing trend in the use of operant techniques for the benefit of the *animals*.... The cats' target behaviors are not "trick" behaviors to entertain humans. The cats' target behaviors are primarily for reducing stress associated with routine care, animal husbandry, grooming, veterinary care, and transportation... Problem behaviors include reaching outside of enclosures for treats and various forms of aggression toward food or staff."

Jennifer Ruszczuk (pictured below) is Big Cat Rescue's Secretary/Treasurer as well as a member of both the Board of Directors and the Volunteer



Committee. She also heads up and administers the Operant Conditioning program at Big Cat Rescue. Jennifer volunteers her time to ensure that all of the volunteers and interns receive their training classes and have the opportunity to participate in Enrichment and Operant Conditioning. She also spends her weekends helping the Director of Operations coordinate the volunteer force.

I had the privilege of corresponding with Jennifer this winter. Jennifer first learned about Skinner in a Psychology 101 class in college. It wasn't until attending a Clicker Expo in San Diego, however, that Jennifer really began to understand Skinnerian science and Operant Conditioning.

Jennifer had always wanted to work with animals, and had spent time volunteering at her local zoo. However, she felt the need to be more directly involved in "saving the planet." After visiting Big Cat Rescue, Jennifer became a volunteer. She has been working there for 8.5 years now and is confident in the positive effects of her work there.

Jennifer mentioned the impact of Karen Pryor, B.F. Skinner Foundation Board Member, and

her Clicker Training programs. "Karen Pryor's Clicker Training program was life-changing. At that program, I met so many people that were doing so many different things with animals. I met trainers at the local zoo, rescue dogs, agility dogs, horse trainers, shelter workers... I was amazed at how everything the conference speakers said made so much sense. It was really like a light bulb went on." Jennifer went on to say that, "[Big Cat Rescue's] biggest challenge is not really training the animals, but training our staff and volunteers. After the conference, things just seemed to fall into place. That conference really helped us put our current program together."



Kanawha the Siberian Lynx

Dr. Kevin Murdock explains the clicker training process at Big Cat Rescue: "The operant techniques employ the "clicker" to audibly signal the correct behavior the cat was doing at a point in time. The click is immediately followed by an edible treat delivered via a 2-3 foot stick. The click soon becomes a conditioned reinforcer. The cats are reinforced for incremental improvements in target behav-

iors. The cats are often initially afraid of humans and must be taught to approach the side of the cage when called, and to stay while being visually examined. Later, the cats are taught to respond to (stand) "up," (lay) "down," (show) "paw," and "open" (mouth). Other learned skills are tolerating the presence of multiple staff while receiving topical sprays, injections, and needles for blood samples. Problem behaviors like reaching a paw through the cage and other aggressive behaviors toward food or staff are treated by simply ending the session and moving away."

According to Jennifer, it is difficult to say how long it typically takes to train an animal at Big Cat Rescue. Jennifer explained, "It depends on the animal and its past. The majority of our animals don't come to the sanctuary as cubs. Some come with past training and many come with a lot of 'baggage.' In the early stages of our program, the animals took up to 3 months to become familiarized with the clicker. Now the training goes much faster because the animals are watching what is going with the others. I really feel that they learn a lot from just watching other training sessions." Is one type of cat typically easier to train than others? Jennifer is partial to leopards, and while admitting her opinion might therefore be biased, she feels they are the

most easily trained.



Simba the Leopard

Big Cat Rescue has a very strict program for training. There are four levels in which the animals *and trainers* are grouped:

Level 1: Click and treat. No talking, and no commands. The objective is to make the animal and volunteer familiar with the timing of the bridge and reward.

Level 2: The introduction of a few basic, yet beneficial, commands.

Level 3: More commands are introduced, and the animals are trained in front of groups of people. (Here, more experienced trainers can observe the newer trainers.)

Level 4: Includes the quarantine animals as well as very aggressive animals. Big Cat Rescue Staff are the only people allowed to work with these animals.

Few people working at Big Cat Rescue are in the behavioral science field. Jennifer explains, "The people working with our animals are just everyday people with really big hearts."

When asked about the future of Skinnerian science, especially in its relation to the train-

ing of animals, Jennifer is optimistic. She feels that people are changing their views regarding the training of animals. "There are more and more people using treats and verbal rewards rather than punishment techniques," said Jennifer. At Big Cat Rescue, a special tour is given where visitors can see how the animals are trained. Positive reinforcement and operant conditioning techniques are explained and discussed. "Visitors really respond to this tour," said Jennifer. One of the ways Big Cat Rescue staff explain the training process to their guests is by saying, "How do you put a pill in a 850 pound tiger's mouth? You can't open his mouth and force him to swallow it. We will show you how to do this, and the tiger will even come running up to you for their medication." According to Jennifer, "This usually gets our guests thinking and asking lots of questions!"



Bella the Tiger

Editor's Note: To learn more about this organization and the magnificent cats, please visit: www.BigCatRescue.org. This non-profit sanctuary receives no government funding and relies on

its volunteer staff, admission fees, and the generosity of individual donors. More information about clicker training is available at www.ClickerTraining.com.

Sea Turtle Conservation: A Worthwhile Hobby

By Dr. Al Murphy, B.F. Skinner Foundation Board Member

In the early summer of 1994 Burris, my very smart and inquisitive dog, and I spotted something on the beach we had never seen before. It looked like a track that could have been made by a tiny tank driving out of the gulf to the dune and back. It just so happened that a recent public service blurb about sea turtle nesting on the local television station had given a number to call if anyone came across any turtle activity. I took a chance by calling the number, described what we had seen, and was put in touch with a woman who was trying to form a sea turtle conservation organization for our county. Expecting to meet a khaki-clad biologist armed with the latest data collection equipment, it was a surprise when a very ordinary lady arrived equipped with two dogs and a lot of enthusiasm but nothing else. We measured that first nest by making a mark on piece of driftwood.

This was the humble start for what would eventually be-

come the South Walton Turtle Watch, which would quickly grow to approximately 40 volunteers and be recognized as the Volunteer Organization of the Year in 2000 by the Florida Wildlife Federation.

Sea turtles have been in existence for more than 100 million years but are in trouble. Of the four species of marine turtles nesting along Florida's coasts three are endangered (green, Kemp's ridley, and leatherback) with the loggerhead classified as threatened. Two other endangered species can be found in other areas of the country -- olive ridley's and hawksbills.

Volunteer organizations play an active role in sea turtle conservation by doing a number of tasks. During the nesting/hatching season, May through October in Florida, members patrol the beaches at first light in search of turtle tracks. Once a track is found it is inspected to determine if the turtle nested, laid eggs, or if it was a "false crawl," i.e., the turtle came onto the beach but returned to the sea without nesting. False crawls are thought to result from a number of variables: a young female merely "practicing"; interference by unnatural lights or objects left on the beach overnight or humans interacting with the turtle; odd sand as in that which may have been used in an attempt to "improve" beaches eroded by storms.

If it is determined that a nest was laid, then a number of measurements are taken. The track's width and pattern help to identify the species, e.g., loggerhead tracks are normally about 36" wide with flipper marks in an alternating fashion while a green's track will be larger and have a ladder-like appearance. Four wood stakes connected by survey tape with a sign warning people not to enter are used to identify the normally 4' x 4' nest area. The nest is frequently monitored, daily after the 50th day as the typical gestation period is 60 days.

In some cases the female turtle creates a nest low enough on the beach to threaten the eggs' survival during very high tides. When this happens the nest is relocated. The volunteers dig, no tools other than hands are permitted, until the eggs are found. Measurements are taken for the depth to the top and bottom of the nest cavity and used to recreate the same habitat in the new location closer to the dune.



Once the "nest" has hatched, determined by a collapse of the sand and many tiny tracks, the area is searched for

any hatchlings that might have gone the wrong way, typically as a result of unnatural lighting. The hatchlings instinctively crawl toward the brightest location, the starlit ocean, but will be equally attracted to streetlights, flood lamps, or bonfires near the beach. Nests are excavated within 72 hours after hatching to gather success data and release any hatchlings that might not have emerged on their own.

The least enjoyable duty for the volunteers is investigating "strandings." A stranding is recorded whenever a turtle is found in an unnatural situation. In some cases this consists of a live turtle being entangled by foreign objects or found to be sick or injured at which time they are taken to habilitation sites. Far more often, stranding is a euphemism for a dead animal washed onto the beach. When this occurs, the volunteers collect data on the size and condition of the carcass and arrange for its disposal.

There are many threats to the continued survival of sea turtles with the loggerhead in particular danger. Current estimates for a baby turtle reaching maturity range from 1 in 1000 to 1 in 15,000. Artificial lighting and human activity on the beaches such as the erection of sea walls pose risks for the mature females attempting to nest as well as the hatchlings as they try to reach the water. Turtles become entangled

in fishing nets, monofilament line, crab trap ropes, and trash tossed into the water. They mistake other trash such as plastic bags for jellyfish, a food source, thereby clogging their digestive tracks. Red tide, the karenia brevis algae thought to be more prevalent due to pollutant runoff, appears to be playing a growing role in turtle mortality rates. In the most recent, 2007, nesting season our county recorded only 18 nests, the lowest since the inception of monitoring, with an equal number of dead strandings.

Given these gloomy statistics one might wonder why volunteers continue their efforts. Not surprisingly, reinforcement is involved. Finding a nest or having the opportunity to release hatchlings both occur on a variable ratio schedule with the schedule thinning over the past few years. Sea turtles, like behavior analysts, tend to be reinforcing-people with a common cause of saving our own little parts of the world. Perhaps some of the greatest reinforcement comes from educative efforts, particularly with children. Volunteers have visited schools and attended community events to educate others on sea turtles and the efforts others can take to assist in their preservation. For example, turning off all lights, including flashlights, when near the beaches or removing all chairs, toys and trash from the beach. But, few things are more

reinforcing than the reactions of children who get to see a baby turtle being released for its journey to the sea.

For more information about marine turtles, visit:
<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/turtles/>
<http://www.ccturtle.org/>
<http://www.seaturtlewatch.com/>

Foundation PROGRAMS:

Archival: Volunteer for the B.F. Skinner Foundation Archival Program Committee

Criss Wilhite, the Archival Program Committee Chair, is looking for volunteers. She's looking for people who:

1. have experience procuring funds through grants or in other ways
2. have experience in transferring documents, film or video into formats that allow easy dissemination via the website
3. have special knowledge of, ability to access, or particular skills regarding Skinner-related material in one or many areas of the world.

If interested, please contact Criss Wilhite via email, at crissw@csufresno.edu

Educational: B.F. Skinner Foundation Seminar Series

Planning for the very first B.F. Skinner Foundation Seminar Series is currently underway. Tentatively scheduled for October 16, 2008, the Seminar will be held in Chicago, Illinois. Dr. Andy Bondy and Dr. Joe Morrow are slated as speakers. More details to come soon!

**International:
Brazil Liaison:**

Maria Teresa Araújo Silva



Maria Teresa Araújo Silva is one of the two B.F. Skinner Foundation's Brazil Liaisons. She received her

Masters degree in Psychology from Teachers College at Columbia University. While at Columbia, Teresa had the pleasure of meeting Fred Keller, who coincidentally had just returned from a one year stay in Brazil.

Much of Teresa's time is devoted to teaching behavioral analysis and to drug research. She is a professor at the University of São Paulo, in the Department of Experimental Psychology. Teresa's most recent publication, in which she discusses the relationship between neurosci-

ence and the analysis of behavior, can be found in the 2007 *Behavior Analysis*.

Teresa first learned about B.F. Skinner in a behavioral analysis course at Columbia University. She fondly remembers her professor, Fred Keller, sneaking her into a class of only undergraduate men!

Teresa described what made her pursue Skinnerian Science as her career, "From everything I had seen in psychology, and it was quite a lot, Skinner's work was the only thing that made sense to me. I was attracted to the way it could deal with all aspects of psych in the same consistent and logic framework. And once I turned around 180 degrees and understood that organisms aren't initiating agents, it was impossible to see things any other way."

At the University of São Paulo, Teresa teaches a basic course for undergraduates in Experimental Analysis of Behavior (EAB). She also teaches one undergraduate and one graduate course in Psychopharmacology, in which respondent and operant concepts are discussed. Teresa remembers a great public interest in Skinnerian Science throughout the 1960s and the 70s. She's now seeing a revival of this interest, particularly among neuroscientists.

Teresa believes that in the United States, the study of Skinnerian Science is more diversely

studied and researched than in Brazil. However, according to Teresa, both the US and Brazil share a couple common problems. "There is difficulty in transmitting concepts that challenge the cultural view on freedom, decision making, and an initiator self," explained Teresa. "Another difficulty is the scientific nature of the behavior language, which tends to create select groups of people who interact with each other but have trouble putting their views into accessible, everyday language."

As one of the Foundation's Brazil Liaisons, Teresa welcomes any project ideas, goals or suggestions. Email teresar@usp.br.

**International:
South Korea Liaison:
Dr. Grace Cho**



Grace Cho, former Executive Director of Asian Pacific Community Services

(APAC) in Los Angeles, received her doctorate from the University of California, Los Angeles in the field of Special Education. She is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA).

Just last year, Dr. Cho was involved in establishing a

Graduate ABA program at Namseoul University in Korea. She recently provided the Foundation with an encouraging update!

“After three semesters (spring, summer and fall) there are 7 certificate program students who have completed the program. All 7 graduated! They now are employed at various clinics, hospitals and schools for their practicum requirements. Some of them will take the BCBA exam in August of 2008,” reports Dr. Cho.

Dr. Cho has 7 masters students who will continue their studies next year. She has also recruited 10 new masters students and 10 certificate program students. Dr. Cho was forced to turn away many applicants due to the large number that applied.

Last fall, a masters student from the US joined the ABA program at Namseoul University. The student is originally from Korea, but had gone to the US to work in the Alaska school districts. When she heard about the NSU program she took a leave of absence from her teaching work. For further proof of the program’s success, Dr. Cho informed me that students are beginning to refer others to the graduate ABA programs at NSU.

In addition to the regular classes for students in the ABA department, Dr. Cho also offers workshops for teachers, parents, and professionals who would like to learn more about ABA. She

has also been involved in the Korean government project for people with disabilities. Dr. Cho continues to emphasize the need for ABA programs in Korea. “The growing ADHD and Autism population in our country requires more ABA programs,” said Dr. Cho.

Most recently, Dr. Cho gave a presentation at the 18th Asian Conference on Mental Retardation (ACMR) in Taipei. Dr. Cho plans to attend the 19th ACMR conference in Singapore in 2009, and plans to have some of her students give presentations there as well.

In addition to her work at NSU, Dr. Cho has agreed to organize the project of translating *Operants* into Korean. She has selected two students to assist her with this project. They include: Seok Ho Myeong, who completed the BCBA Certificate program in 2007, and is preparing for the BCBA exam this year. He is also the leading researcher of South Korean Institute of ABA (SKiABA). Eun Jung Huh will also be working on the translation of *Operants*. She is currently working on her master's degree and is one of the researchers at SKiABA. Both students are completely fluid in Korean and English. I look forward to updating you on the progress of this project.



L to R: En Jung Huh, Dr. Grace Cho, and Seok Ho Myeong

To contact Dr. Grace Cho, or to learn more about the Graduate ABA Programs at NSU, email gracemihyun@aol.com.

Research and Scholarships: **B.F. Skinner Foundation Scholarships**

The B. F. Skinner Foundation now supports research scholarships for students at two behavioral organizations: Florida Association for Behavior Analysis (FABA) and the California Association for Behavior Analysis (CalABA). The funds are awarded yearly.

FABA: Initially, in 2006, the scholarship fund award was five hundred dollars. In 2007 the scholarship fund was increased to one thousand dollars. The students who received the awards were Jeanne Donaldson in 2006 and Griffin Rooker in 2007.



Ms. Donaldson (above) used her scholarship funds to conduct a study on increasing physical activity with overweight and obese adults. The scholarship allowed her to purchase five heart rate monitors that recorded calorie expenditure. These monitors allowed Ms. Donaldson to use calorie expenditure as a dependent measure for physical activity.



Mr. Rooker (inset) used his scholarship funds to conduct a study that looks at assessing and treating

problem behavior occasioned by dental procedures. The treatment will be video modeling.

FABA has the discretion to award any portion of the scholarship to one or more students within any calendar year. Any funds not awarded stay with FABA to be awarded at some future date.

FABA's fine scholarship criteria has inspired other organizations to use it as a model for their own BFS Foundation scholarship efforts.

CalABA: In 2007 CalABA was awarded five hundred dollars for a research award to students. CalABA has set up an award mechanism following the FABA model. The first award is scheduled to be awarded in winter or spring of 2008.

As funds permit, more scholarships will be made available to students. It is an obvious cliché that developing effective research endeavors in young scholars is the life blood of our science.

The 2008 B.F. Skinner Foundation Board Meeting

On February 29 - March 1, 2008, the B.F. Skinner Foundation's annual Board Meeting was held. This year's board members include Drs. Julie Vargas, Ernest Vargas, Karen Pryor, Joe Morrow and Al Murphy. Newsworthy discussion topics will appear in future issues of *Operants*.

The 26th Annual Regional Cal ABA Conference and B.F. Skinner Foundation Auction

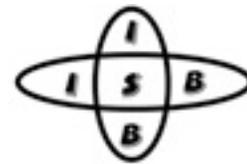


On February 21-23, 2008, the 26th CalABA Conference was held.

The Foundation held its annual auction of Skinner memo-

abilia, with Dr. Joe Morrow serving as the auctioneer.

A set of two silver-plated spoons engraved with S and used by B.F. Skinner were bought by Bryan Hebert. A coffee cup used by B.F. Skinner was bought by Julie Gomez. Skinner's Lecture notes for his last class of Natural Science 114 in 1962 was bought by Robert Littleton. *Science and Human Behavior*, signed by the author and by Ellie Reese, was bought by Darren Christopher Lemon. Lastly, a color etching by Deborah Skinner was bought by Glen E. Warnes.



The 2008 ISB Convention

The 2008 International Society of Behaviorology (ISB) Convention was held from March 18 - 20 in Melbourne, Florida, at which the B.F. Skinner Foundation held another successful auction.



L to R: John Glass, Joyce Tu, Joe Morrow, Greg Stikeleather, and Vicci Tucci.

Foundation board member Dr. Joe Morrow once again served as auctioneer. One notable auction item was B.F. Skinner's hand-made chess pieces. The set was purchased by Dr. Bob Allen (inset left).



President's Column
By Dr. Julie S. Vargas

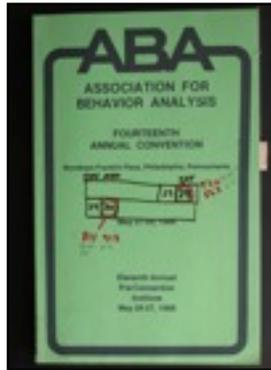


Ernie Vargas and I just came back from the International Society for Behaviorology (ISB)

convention in Melbourne, Florida. As usual, the Foundation held an auction. Unlike most conventions, the ISB convention is restricted to the number of presenters that fit into the three days of the convention. Still, the attendees are all advocates of the science that Skinner pioneered, so an auction usually brings in a respectable level of funding.

This auction occurred after the banquet on the last evening. Jose Martinez-Diaz had

reserved a small restaurant for just our group, and the chef provided a unique banquet. After an extraordinarily delicious meal, Joe Morrow, our auctioneer, began the bidding. The items were B. F. Skinner's program book from the 1988 ABA annual convention that he marked, although he ended up not attending. In the index, several of the group were listed with papers they had given.



Skinner's program book

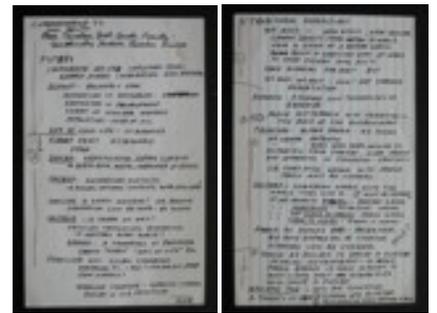
The second item was a "scatterpaint" picture by Skinner's daughter, Deborah. Only two of this style of her art are known to be in existence.



Deborah Skinner's "Scatterpaint" picture

Next, handwritten notes for a lecture that Skinner had prepared for a commencement

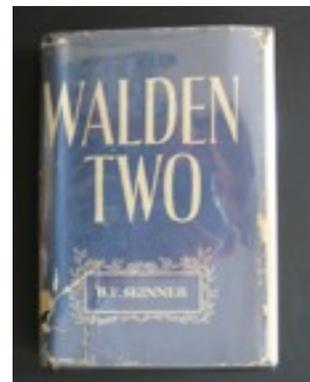
address, then a chess set he had made by gluing drawings on paper onto pennies, and finally, a hardcover first printing of *Walden Two* with Skinner's signature and also that of T. Reese (Ellie Reese's husband) to whom the book had been given. Total proceeds reached \$3,900. Thanks go to our auctioneer for his superb job and to all of the purchasers who made the auction a success.



Above: Skinner's commencement notes



Above: Skinner's hand-made chess pieces



Above: First printing of *Walden Two*

The Foundation plans to continue auctions where favorable venues like banquets exist, at least while supplies of items last. For the long run, more substantial funding is needed. Anyone know a billionaire who would like to donate a couple of million to a good cause?

Now we are back in Cambridge, where the weather is finally turning warm enough for the crocuses to bloom. Spring also promises a new calendar planned for 2009, a new reprinted book, *Contingencies of Reinforcement*, and the collection and archiving of material by the archival committee. We have been pleased by the volunteers that have helped with the Foundation's mission: *Better behavioral science for a more humane world*.

News from the B.F. Skinner Foundation Board Members

From Dr. Joe Morrow



In 2006 I was contacted by the Philippine Association for Behavior Analysis (PABA) to

help in setting up some quality control measurers for persons claiming to be competent in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA).

A problem arose as more and more persons, as soon as they could do a discrete trial, opened a private practice as ABA consultants serving children diagnosed on the autism spectrum. Most of these persons had little or no training in ABA beyond the discrete trial.

The leadership of PABA (which is affiliated with the Association for Behavior Analysis, International) consists of persons who have degrees in Psychology, Education, Occupational and Speech Therapy and who have taken several ABA workshops as they have been given in the Philippines and in various countries including the U.S. Additionally, PABA has sponsored workshops and brought in consultants to train them in current behavioral technology.

Our first step was to set up a test to measure academic knowledge. For this we used the series of tests constructed by Keith Miller for his text, *Principles of Everyday Behavior Analysis*.

Working with a testing center at a Philippine University, we arranged for persons to take one of the 100 item tests when they had completed the study of the Miller text. Persons who passed the test at the 80% correct level became eligible to have their hands-on skills observed.

I was asked to observe the hands-on skills of persons who had passed the test. Based

on passing that competency, such persons would become "PABA certified."

I have traveled to the Philippines for the past two summers to judge the hands-on skills and assist in the certification process. Now we are being told that "PABA certified" has become an important indication of competence in the autism community.

-- Dr. Joe Morrow

Volunteer Support

You can support the B.F. Skinner Foundation by contributing your time. The Foundation is looking for a volunteer in the Boston/Cambridge area, no more than a half hour traveling distance from its office. We're looking for someone:

1. with a background in Skinnerian behavioral science
2. who can be with the B.F. Skinner Foundation for at least two years
3. who can help part-time up to 20 hours a week (or more)
4. who is willing to learn new things
5. who is literate in Apple/Mac applications

Anyone of any age may apply. We can sort out hours and days. The volunteer must overlap with current staff, but other-

wise the volunteer would work on her or his own.

Looking Ahead...

Upcoming Behavior Analysis Conventions

★ The 34th Annual ABA Convention will be held in Chicago, Illinois from *May 23-27, 2008* at the Hilton Chicago. For more information, please visit <http://www.abainternational.org/convention/index.asp>

★ The 2008 FABFA Conference will be held in Bonita Springs, Florida from *September 17-20, 2008* at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point. For more information, please visit: www.fabaworld.org/

★ The very first B.F. Skinner Foundation Seminar Series will be held in Chicago, Illinois in October of 2008. CEU credits will be offered. More details to come soon!

★ The 5th International ABA Conference will be held in *Fall of 2009* in Norway. Plans are currently underway, more details to come soon! For more information, please visit: www.abainternational.org/events_intl.asp

Thank You, Donors!

Thanks to the continued generosity of past B.F. Skinner

Foundation donors, our 2007/2008 Fundraiser was very successful. The Foundation is immensely grateful to each and every one of you who contributed. Your support ensures the continued growth and success of our organization. Thank you!

Letter from the Editor



Dear Reader,

I hope you have enjoyed the very first issue of 2008. Please continue to submit your comments and suggestions -- all are welcome!

As you may have noticed, the Foundation website has recently been updated. You may now subscribe to *Operants* online. Simply go to www.bfskinner.org/operants.html Enter your email address and follow the instructions given.

I would like to thank Dr. Kevin Murdock for his initiation and assistance with the Big Cat Rescue article. Thanks, also, to Jennifer Rusczyk for her interview. I am in awe of the incredible work and commitment at Big Cat Rescue. The B.F. Skinner Foundation is a proud supporter of their hard work and overall mission.

Congratulations to Teresa Silva, who was recently appointed full professor at the Uni-

versity of São Paulo, Brazil. Congratulations to Dr. Grace Cho as well, for her wonderful progress at NSU. I look forward to interviewing the Foundation's remaining international liaisons for future issues of *Operants*.

Lastly, I would like to thank Dr. Al Murphy and Dr. Joe Morrow for their respective articles and updates. I hope to continue to share with you the current activities of the Foundation's five board members.

The next issue of *Operants* will include, among other things, a report on the 34th Annual ABA Convention as well as an update regarding the very first B.F. Skinner Foundation Seminar Series.

Thanks to you all for your continued support. Please keep reading!

-- Elizabeth McGlinchey, Editor

Please send any comments, suggestions or concerns to mcglinchey@bfskinner.org