

# Annual Newsletter for Four Corners Association for Behavior Analysis

## In This Issue

We are pleased to announce our presenters for our April 11 & 12, 2014 conference in Park City, Utah.

Venue: Yarrow Hotel and Conference Center 1800 Park Avenue Park City, Utah

<http://www.yarrowhotelparkcity.com/> or 435-649-7000

Park City lies mostly above 7,000 feet in Summit County, Utah. It is considered to be part of the Wasatch Back, 32 miles southeast of downtown Salt Lake City. The city is the main location of the United States' largest independent film festival, the Sundance Film Festival. In 2008, Park City was named by Forbes Traveler Magazine among one of the 20 'prettiest towns' in the United States.



President Elect: Nicole Bank

4CABA is proud to announce the following speakers for the 2014 Park City Conference



Michael Fabrizio

Partner and Clinical Services Supervisor

The Organization for Research and Learning

Seattle, Washington

Steven Lawyer

Assistant Professor

Idaho State University

Pocatello, Idaho

Maxine Stitzer

Professor

Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center

Baltimore, Maryland

Susan Schneider

Adjunct Professor and Visiting Scholar

University of the Pacific

Stockton, California

Hank Schlinger

Professor

California State University-

Los Angeles, California

Jon Pinkston

Assistant Professor

University of North Texas

Denton, Texas

Tom Higbee

Professor

Utah State University

Logan, Utah

Manish Vaidya

Associate Professor

University of North Texas

Denton, Texas

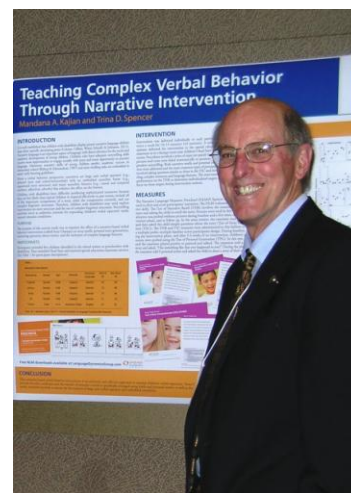
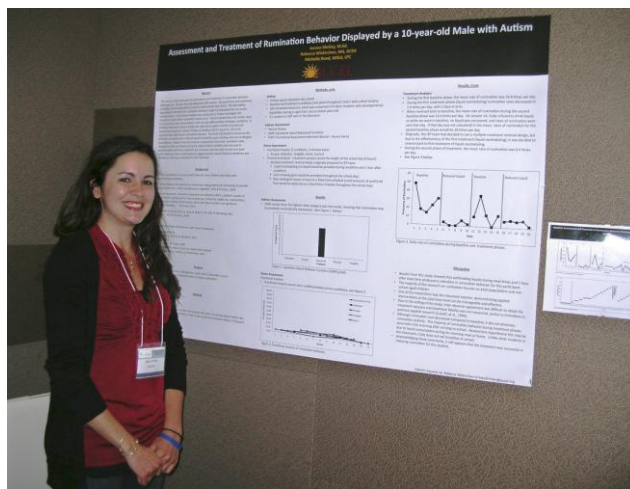
Kristen Hawkes

Distinguished Professor

The University of Utah

Salt Lake City, Utah

## 2013 Student Poster winner Announced!



This is the third year 4CABA gave a Best Poster Award to a student based on the quality of the poster presentation; this year's posters were judged by Dr. Guy Bruce and Dr. Jay Moore. This year's winning poster was Assessment and Treatment of Rumination Behavior displayed by a 10-year-old Male with Autism- the presenters were Jessica Molley & Rebecca Wiskirchen of ACCEL and Michelle Reed of YETZ. The study addressed the assessment and treatment of rumination behavior with all assessment and treatment conditions conducted in a special needs private day school. During the functional assessment phase, it was hypothesized that rumination behavior was automatically maintained. During the treatment phase, the participant was exposed to a variety of previously researched treatments for automatically maintained rumination behavior including gum chewing. Because the participant was unable to chew gum without swallowing it, a task analysis and subsequent changing criteria design was implemented to teach how to chew gum appropriately. Following the initial teaching procedure, gum was introduced as a replacement behavior for rumination with success.

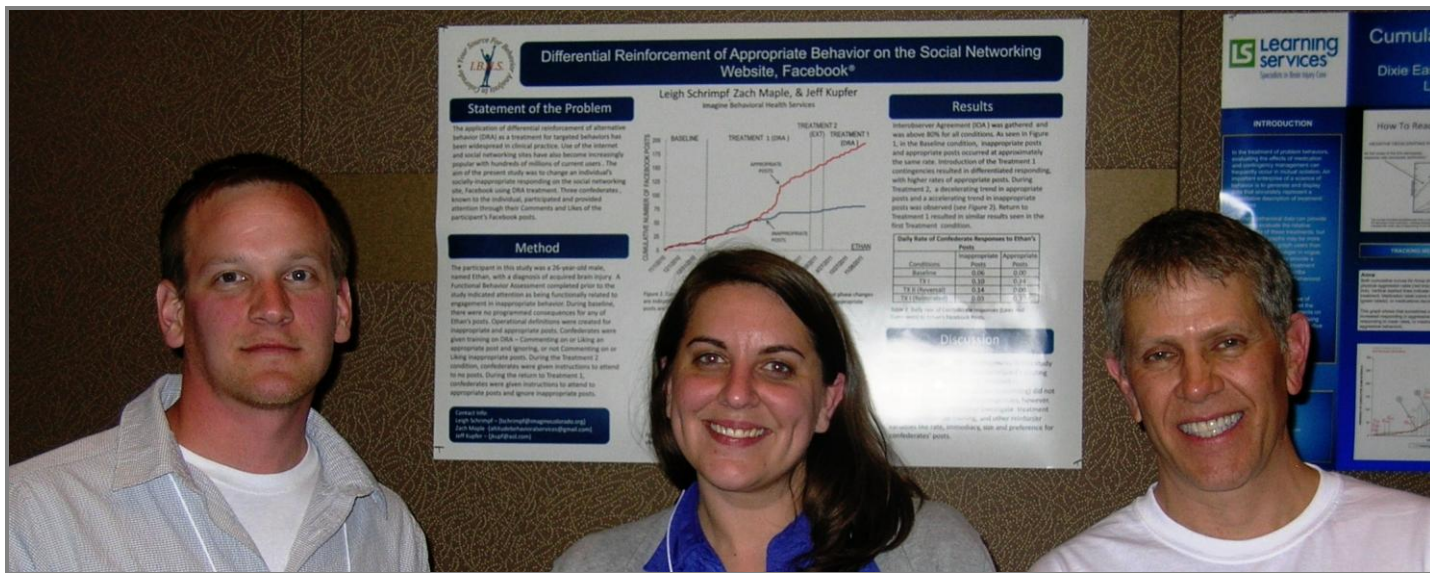
## 2014 Attendees





## Board Members

From left to right: Zachary Maple, Board Director; Leigh Schrimpf, Secretary, and Jeff Kupfer, Board Director.



## 4 CABA OFFICERS

Past President : Travis Blevins  
 Current President : Dixie Eastridge  
 President Elect : Nicole Bank  
 Board Director : Zachary Maple  
 Board Director : Travis Blevins  
 Board Director : Jeff Kupfer  
 Secretary : Leigh Schrimpf  
 Treasurer : Michele Bishop  
 Student Representative: Keelee DiPadova

# Breaking News from the desk of Dixie Eastridge-4CABA President 2013-2014

Behavior analysis continues to make strides in cutting edge policy changes in autism treatment. Behavior analysis has proven to be beneficial to individuals who suffer from traumatic brain injury yet policy changes do not include treatment options for individuals who have suffered a brain injury, including our military service personnel who struggle when they are attempting to integrate back into their communities. Continued efforts in promoting the benefits of behavior analysis, for a variety of populations, will ensure that individuals who need to have effective treatment options will be able to have access to treatments that are state of the art and best practices in the field.

## Autism Speaks Analyzes Military's New ABA Policies

*(July 31 Update: Autism Speaks has received copies of letters issued by TRICARE to its regional contractors confirming in writing that there will **no changes** in ABA coverage under the ECHO Autism Demonstration and Basic programs. See 4th paragraph; click on links.)*

Last week, TRICARE stepped back, but not away, from this ill-conceived change in the policy for ABA. After a tremendous outcry from military families, service providers, and advocacy organizations, Dr. Jonathan Woodson, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs and director of the TRICARE Management Activity, assured military families that services under the TRICARE Basic program and the Enhanced Access to Autism Services Demonstration (ECHO Autism Demonstration) will not change.

## Ruling's Effect on Autism Coverage

by David Gorn Tuesday, September 17, 2013

The Second District Court of Appeal in Los Angeles ruled last week that the Department of Managed Health Care cannot use licensure as a basis for denial of a type of autism treatment to state employees.

The ruling means better access for patients to applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapy, according to Jamie Court, president of Consumer Watchdog, the consumer advocacy group that brought the lawsuit.

Court said the state previously had a policy of allowing denial of ABA therapy because of a lack of licensing -- though health plans, he said, weren't actually denying it. And at one point, he added, the state worked on the assumption that ABA therapy was educational, not medicinal.

The bigger issue, Court said, involves the central principle of whether or not ABA therapy is a medically necessary treatment, and that part of the ruling came across clearly, he said.