

FOREWORD

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Editor

Rites of passage (in this case passing from being a subscriber, reader, and occasional contributor to first-time editor) generally involve prescribed types of behavior. Thanks to Richard Rakos, *BSI*'s previous editor, all I've had to do is follow in his large footsteps right up to publication. Over the past 12 years, Richard has ensured that this journal published articles important to our discipline. He afforded new authors the opportunity to contribute and encouraged innovative manuscripts from well-established behavior analysts. Maintaining these high standards is my first responsibility. Like Professor Rakos, I have some goals for *BSI*. This Foreword provides the opportunity to discuss these goals as well as to introduce the contents of this volume.

First, while continuing our focus on behavior analyses of important components of our social system (e.g., our jury system, health care delivery) *BSI* will serve as a forum for discussion of academic, socioeconomic, and pragmatic concerns to behavior analysts and to the culture at large. One such issue has to do with habilitating/rehabilitating inmates who will be housed for long time periods in prisons being built across the country. Larry Fraley offers us an interesting perspective on this challenge. His article engendered very strong responses from his reviewers so we have invited a nonbehavioral sociologist and criminologist, Richard Cloward, and Richard Rakos to respond to Fraley's suggestions.

Second, beginning in this issue we shall publish **Reminiscences** from those who helped develop our discipline before it was formalized as behavior analysis. Contributors will also include students who were mentored by these scientists. Our first reminiscence is authored by Joel Greenspoon, who began his graduate career at Indiana when Skinner was the department chair of the Psychology Department.

Third, we shall reprint relevant articles, when these are available, that have appeared in journals which may not be widely read by behavior analysts. We are delighted to offer Gina Green's article, **Facilitated Communication: Mental Miracle or Sleight of Hand?** in this issue.

Another important goal which we have been able to meet in this volume is to offer a forum for our international colleagues. Mark Burton's article, **The Verbal Community and The Societal Construction of Consciousness**, deals with the relationship between Skinner's concept of verbal community and society's structures as these relate to private events.

Providing very topical ideas for disseminating behavior analysis is our fifth goal. Chris Ninness' piece on **Electronic Distribution of Behavior Analytic Publications** is the first in what we hope will be elaborations on this idea and others you'd like to submit.

As a sixth goal, we plan to review behaviorally oriented books in each issue. The book review appearing in this issue was not written by a behavior analyst;

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Kathleen Speeth, an experimental psychologist now studying ethics and aesthetics, raises some questions and offers some criticisms of Schoenfeld's analysis of religion.

Our seventh goal, alas, not met in this issue, is to encourage manuscripts from graduate students as well as from new graduates who are starting their professional careers as behavior analysts. However, we are pleased to be making progress toward six of our goals for *BSI* in this first volume. Working toward these goals has been exciting and gratifying.