

CURRENT REPERTOIRE



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If you have changed positions recently and would like to share your news with our Center friends and colleagues, let Rebekah Pavlik know! Send your photograph and information to pavlik@behavior.org. We will be happy to include you in our **Familiar Faces in New Places** section in our newsletter.



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Trustees, Advisory Board Members, and invited guests at the business meeting of the Board of Trustees in September 1988.

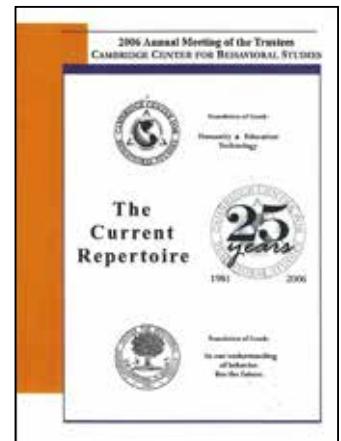


Sigrid Glenn and Hank Pennypacker clearly were having a good time at our reception.



Drs. Robert Epstein, Joseph R. Caustela, and Edward L. Anderson, Jr., three of the Center's Trustees, after a luncheon meeting in the fall of 1986.

Photos from ***Current Repertoire***, our first 25 years, as a gift to you when you make your year-end donation.



from our BOARD of DIRECTORS

2021 marks our 40th anniversary thanks to you, our donors, and our impressive volunteers!

The Cambridge Center for Behavioral Studies continues to strive to expand its programs and educational offerings. We hope that you will be able to attend one or more of our conferences, purchase our publications, and join us for an online webinar in 2021 to experience firsthand the pride we take in supporting our cause.

The Cambridge Center has a special role in the scientific community and in society. Our organization is dedicated to our unique and valuable mission, to advance the scientific study of behavior and its humane applications to problems, including the prevention and relief of human suffering.

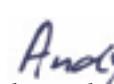
In order to continue to meet our mission and provide leading education to our community, we rely on the generosity of individuals like you for support. We ask that you make a commitment to support our annual appeal by making a donation. Your generosity will make a difference by allowing us to continue our work.

Make a donation online through behavior.org/donate. Remember that every donation makes a difference, regardless of size.

Thank you in advance for your support and best wishes for the holiday season and our approaching new year.


H.S. (Hank) Pennypacker, PhD
Chair, Board of Directors


Rob Holdsambeck, EdD, LCP, BCBA-D
Executive Director


Andy Bondy, PhD
Vice Chair, Board of Directors

...a tribute

David Dwight Harshbarger, 82, passed away on December 5, 2020, in the comfort of his home in Morgantown surrounded by loved ones. He kept his wit and humor until the end. Born in Milton W.Va. in Cabell County on February 1, 1938, Dwight grew up in a closely-knit community. He wrote that his life in "Appalachia included nourishment by a first basic language and dialect that accompanied my learning. A sense of place, an unshakable geographic identity. It has never left me, even though at times I chose to leave it. But my departures were always temporary. That language formed the permanent core of my sense of self, my identity, one built on a foundation of the syllables of people of the Appalachian Mountains, a language with the permanence of geologic strata. Through education, professional life, urban living, and world travels, I developed a new second language that overlaid my Appalachian roots."

Dwight was preceded in death by his parents, George and Olivia Stephens Harshbarger, and his brother James. He is survived by his children David (wife Colleen) of Morgantown, and Amy (husband Nathaniel Gove) of Princeton, Mass., his grandchildren Eric and Brynn Harshbarger in W.Va., and Bethany and Tucker Gove in Mass., his half-sister The Rev. Sandra Kline Mortimer (spouse Ginger Mortimer

O'Connell) of Martinsburg, his partner Betsy Pyle of Morgantown, and a large network of good friends both near and far.

Following graduation from Milton High School in 1955, he enrolled at



West Virginia University, where he earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Psychology in 1960 and 1961. As a student he participated in the US Army ROTC program. He began his PhD program in Psychology at the University of California – Berkeley before the US Army called him to active duty in North Dakota. After an honorable discharge from the Army, he completed his PhD in Psychology at the University of North Dakota in 1969 while teaching at Moorhead State University in Minnesota. He also completed a post-doctoral training program at Harvard University in Community Psychiatry before returning to West Virginia University to join the Department of Psychology faculty in 1970.

Dwight's work in Psychology spanned subfields including clinical psychology, mental health, and applied behavioral analysis. He also employed his skills working as the director of a mental health council in Beckley, and as a management consultant, ultimately accepting positions as a Vice President first for Sealy Inc. in Chicago, and later for Reebok near Boston. **Dwight concluded his career in Psychology at the Cambridge Center for Behavioral Studies in Mass., serving as its Executive Director from 2001-2008.** Dwight had strong interests in improving behavioral safety practices in industrial settings, and worked with colleagues to create the Commission on Accreditation for Behavioral Safety through the Cambridge Center to recognize outstanding efforts in industrial safety practices. He earned numerous awards and distinctions for his professional work over the course of his long career.

[Continue reading Dwight's tribute online.](#)

[Learn about Dwight's writing and novels on dwightharshbarger.com.](#)

Sliding Doors: A Chronicle



Dwight Harshbarger

*Senior Fellow, Cambridge Center for Behavioral Studies
Novelist*

In honor and memory of Dr. D. Dwight Harshbarger, Senior Fellow and past Executive Director of the Cambridge Center for Behavioral Studies (2001-2008), we will thank you with his chapter, "Sliding Doors: A Chronicle," from our publication *Behavioral Science: Tales of Inspiration, Discovery, and Service* when you **donate** any amount.

In memory of Dwight Harshbarger, a Memorial Gathering is being planned by Dr. Timothy Ludwig and CCBS during the 47th Annual Convention of the Association for Behavior Analysis in May 2021.

Invited Speakers



Robert C. Pennington, PhD, BCBA-D
Lake and Edward J Snyder, Jr. Distinguished
Professor in Special Education
University of North Carolina, Charlotte



Alexandra "Sasha" Protopopova, PhD
Assistant Professor, Animal Welfare Program
NSERC/BC SPCA Industrial Research Chair in
Animal Welfare
The University of British Columbia



Alice Shillingsburg, PhD, BCBA-D
Sr. Vice President, Children's Clinical Services
and Training
May Institute

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Seasonally

Appropriate Reinforcers

By Andy Lattal, Board of Directors

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Figure 1



“Visions of sugar plums” is but one of many descriptors featuring sweets used when describing this season of the year. Believe it or not, there is a connection between such visions and the history of behavior analysis. Gumdrops, along with raisins, currants, and “party mints,” served as reinforcers in some of the earliest learning experiments with children as subjects (Bijou & Sturgis, 1959). The sweet I wish to feature during this season of the year, however, is the familiar one that “melts in your mouth and not on your hand.” Yes, that’s it: the M & M, perhaps the most prominent candy in the history of our science.

In a comprehensive and influential review of “operant methods in child behavior and development,” Bijou and Baer (1966) discussed the use of M & Ms as reinforcers with children second, right after money. They noted the M & M slogan (see above) as a positive arguing for their use, but also several drawbacks, namely, concerns of parents with tooth decay resulting from too many sweets and the fact that “it is generally known that children will eat candy when they will not eat other food, candy is not insensitive to satiation” (p. 753). Despite these drawbacks, M & Ms became associated with operant research with children to the point that at least one behavioral research equipment manufacturer (the Ralph Gerbrands Company) advertised a pellet dispenser that

could be adapted for dispensing M & Ms (see Figure 1).

Using M & Ms as reinforcers may have started at the University of Washington soon after their 1956 introduction on the American culinary scene. Bijou was on the psychology faculty there, where he had an active research program focusing on the study of operant behavior of children. Bijou and Sturges (1959) described a discrimination learning experiment conducted with children conducted by Brackbill and O’Hara (1957) in which the reinforcers were M & Ms. Long before this, however, Warren and Brown (1943) used as reinforcers “candy pellets, approximately hemispherical in shape, ... made of sugar, corn syrup, and gelatin ...” (p. 186). These pellets were the direct ancestor of M & Ms, but that history takes us too far from the topic of this brief piece.

The combination of a decline in operant laboratory research with children, general health concerns with candy for children, and the rise of the technology of Functional Analysis for general use by applied behavior analysts to identify functional reinforcers led to the demise of M & Ms (as well as other more structurally defined reinforcers) in research and practice. Visions of M & Ms, however, still dance in the heads of an older generation of behavior analysts.

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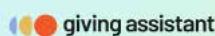


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