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Upward and Onward

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UPWARD AND ONWARD

Jeffrey N. Weatherly
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As the saying goes, be careful what you wish for because you might just get it. Well, apparently I got it.

Back in 2006, my colleague Mark Dixon approached me with an idea for a scholarly journal that would be focused on behavior-analytic research in the area of gambling. Despite the expanding field of behavior analysis, few behavior analysts were pursuing research and treatment options for gambling and/or gambling problems and were instead focusing their attention on the more rare disorder of Autism. He argued that a refereed, peer-reviewed journal in the area of gambling would raise awareness of the topic, as well as give behavior analysts a venue to showcase their research on gambling rather than needing to conform to the expectations of other gambling journals in psychology that promote the medical-model myth, routinely forward mentalistic explanations for behavior, and rely nearly exclusively on self-report data. I agreed that it was a good idea, promised to support his efforts as much as I could, and wished for the best.

Now 2010, we are publishing the fourth volume of *Analysis of Gambling Behavior*. Our editorial board spans the globe, as have the authors who have published in the journal across the first three volumes. Our readership is also worldwide. The journal can be found on the shelves of scholars as well as in the periodical sections of university libraries. We are working towards having the journal included in major research literature search engines such as *PsycInfo*. In short, Dr. Dixon's vision was a good one and, if I may be allowed to pass judgment, his efforts have been a success.

As of the present issue, I have assumed the role of Executive Editor of *Analysis of Gambling Behavior*. I am pleased that Dr. Dixon has agreed to remain on the board and serve in the role of Associate Editor. His guidance and expertise will no doubt be beneficial to my attempts to fulfill my new duties.

The core goal of *Analysis of Gambling Behavior* will not change. We will still be interested in the study of gambling behavior from a behavioral perspective. In past issues, we have published theoretical papers that were accompanied by commentaries by noted scholars in the field. I anticipate that we will continue that practice as it helps to promote discussion, debate, and overall interest in the field. I am also hopeful that we will also continue to regularly publish experimental research on gambling behavior. In my opinion, given the paucity of such research on gambling in the field of psychology overall, I think these publications make *Analysis of Gambling Behavior* a unique and important journal. With that said, we will continue to consider publication of other types of works (e.g., review papers, book reviews) that promote the understanding of gambling from a behavior-analytic viewpoint.

It is a somewhat daunting task and I have some big shoes to fill. However, what I wished for years ago has become a reality. There have been a number of individuals who have been instrumental in making that outcome possible. I thank them and look forward to their continued support of the journal. I believe they are, as I am, committed to its original mission.

So, without further ado, upward and onward.

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The Present Issue

The present issue represents the work and research of individuals who participated in the 2010 conference of the Behaviorists Interested in Gambling Special Interest Group (BIG SIG) of the International Association of Behavior Analysis, which was held in Reno, NV. Presenters were invited to submit their papers for consideration for publication in this issue of *Analysis of Gambling Behavior*, each of which went through the peer-review process.

The result is what I believe to be a representative sample of the different contributions that behavior analysts can make to the study of gambling behavior. The contributions range from theoretical perspectives of how gambling can and cannot be studied to original empirical contributions. I am confident that readers will appreciate the breadth of perspectives.

I am especially pleased to present these papers in the first issue for which I am serving as executive editor. Each of these papers could potentially serve as a springboard for additional research, just as each makes a significant contribution to the existing literature. I thank the authors for both their contribution to the conference and this issue. I look forward to working with them, and other researchers, in the days and years ahead.

Jeffrey N. Weatherly
Executive Editor
Analysis of Gambling Behavior