

## Welcome to TIBI [Spring 1998 Editorial]

Through an exchange of papers, proposals, and perspectives over the last couple of years, David Feeney, Lawrence Fraley, Glenn Latham, and I [Stephen Ledoux] recognized certain needs, and acted to meet those needs. The needs were for an organizational structure (a) that could provide training in behaviorology, especially for those who lacked ready access to that training, and (b) that could provide support for professionals who have been trained in behaviorological science. Our actions were to found The International Behaviorology Institute (TIBI), a non-profit educational corporation. The materials in this inaugural issue [volume 1, number 1, spring 1998] of TIBI's newsletter cover our concerns and indicate our directions. Due to the wide-ranging nature of these materials, an overview of historical items is in order.

Fraley and Ledoux (1997) recounted the origins and cultural mission of the natural science discipline concerned with the study of behavior, behaviorology. In the process they stressed both (a) the need to maintain disciplinary organizations fully supportive of all the various disciplinary components of behaviorology (including philosophical, experimental, conceptual, analytical, and technological components) and (b) the need to establish a variety of disciplinary homes for behaviorology, including academic programs and departments.

In 1990 Ledoux described possible curricula for training behaviorologists (see Ledoux, 1997a). Later, Ledoux (1997b) and Latham (1997) addressed the specific need to provide behaviorological training for Chinese behavior scientists who, like some professionals in other countries, aspire to bring behaviorology to bear on their country's concerns, especially in education and childcare, even though behaviorology training opportunities are few in those countries. TIBI's first visiting scholar, in the USA to study behaviorology, introduces himself in the first issue.

Ledoux (1997c) sketched the evolving nature of disciplinary organizations. And Ledoux (1997d) examined the specific need to assure continuous and actively organized support for a balance of activity in all of behaviorology's disciplinary components, recognizing that behaviorological scientists work all over the planet and that different behaviorologists are skilled in different disciplinary components.

In the effort to meet the concerns expressed in those papers, the founders incorporated TIBI. To better meet these concerns, TIBI also includes a discipline-supporting association, TIBIA, *The International Behaviorology Institute Association*. The purposes of TIBI are listed in TIBI's by-laws and are the same as the original purposes of *The International Behaviorology Association* (TIBA—now called

the *International Society for Behaviorology*, ISB). These purposes are to be fostered through several activities, including these: TIBIA members would be encouraged to host visiting scholars who are studying behaviorology. TIBI faculty (who are TIBIA members) would arrange or provide training for behaviorology students. And TIBI would provide certificates to students who successfully complete specified behaviorology curriculum requirements.

As should be clear, TIBI (and TIBIA) are complementary with, rather than competing with, other organizations serving natural scientists of behavior locally and around the world including, for example, ISB and ABA (the Association for Behavior Analysis). While TIBIA is "yet another" organization for natural scientists of behavior, it does not fragment the movement. Instead, it complements the other organizations by addressing important concerns not currently covered by any other organization. And over the last couple of years, many readers will have sensed an increasing general interest in the existence of the kind of organization TIBIA represents. I suspect that most members of TIBIA will also be active members of the other organizations.

So all readers are welcome to become members of TIBIA. You are needed to help provide the known benefits of our science to humanity.✻

## References

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