Editorial

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I am honored to conclude my editorship of *The Analysis of Verbal Behavior (TAVB)* by introducing the special section celebrating the 60th anniversary of Skinner's *Verbal Behavior (1957)*. The section begins with a commentary by Schlinger, which nicely illustrates that Skinner's interpretive system remains relevant, pragmatic, and influential. The articles that follow—by Miguel on the generalization of mands and by Palmer on the moment-to-moment changes in the stimulus control of verbal behavior—are examples of the ongoing extension of Skinner's system that has occurred over the past decades. The bibliometric analysis by Petursdottir and Devine shows that there has been a drastic increase in verbal behavior research and in citations to *Verbal Behavior* in the past decade. DeSouza, Akers, and Fisher review the hundreds of verbal behavior studies that have been conducted with children with autism since 2001; these have furthered our understanding of verbal behavior acquisition and have improved treatment for these individuals. Sundberg's historical commentary describes the role of Jack Michael's lab at Western Michigan University in the dissemination of *Verbal Behavior* and in the development of infrastructure in the verbal behavior area, including some of its first empirical studies, the Verbal Behavior Special Interest Group, and *TAVB* itself. The special section concludes with some musings from Jack Michael himself on *Verbal Behavior* (obtained by Esch, Esch, and Palmer). Collectively, the articles in this special section convey what longtime readers of *TAVB* know all too well: Skinner's *Verbal Behavior* has made a tremendous impact on our ability to understand and take effective action on verbal behavior, and that impact has grown considerably in recent years.

I would like to sincerely thank *TAVB*'s editorial team for their diligent efforts in operating the journal's peer review system. Anyone familiar with the inner workings of a scientific journal knows that the associate editors and reviewers are responsible for the lion's share of the editorial workload, and that has certainly been the case at *TAVB*. During my term, I have had the privilege of working with the following exceptional associate editors: Amanda Karsten, Alice Shillingsburg, Cynthia Pietras, Amber

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Valentino, Einar Ingvarsson, Linda LeBlanc, and Caio Miguel. I thank them for handling well over 100 manuscript submissions during my term, and I thank the 85 individuals who served as reviewers of these submissions.

TAVB's next editor is Dr. Mark Dixon from Southern Illinois University, who has been appointed to serve the 2018–2020 term. Mark is *TAVB*'s 10th editor, and I wish him the best as he serves as the next steward of this important scholarly resource.

Reference

Skinner, B. F. (1957). *Verbal Behavior*. New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts.