

## Remembering Glenn Latham

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Dr. Glenn Latham died suddenly last summer (July 2001) of heart failure. He was 70. He was a great friend and teacher. He was a good writer and an excellent applied behavior analyst. He was a most amusing and informative speaker, and there were no classroom or family problems that he couldn't resolve.

Dr. Latham was Professor emeritus of Special Education at Utah State University. He traveled the world collecting data and educating and inspiring people. As a passionate, productive, and dedicated behavior analyst, at the time of his death he was enroute to Australia to deliver several of his entertaining and educational lectures. His major book, *The Power of Positive Parenting*, is a very informative and useful treatise for the management of families. It is based firmly on behavior principles which he illustrates with the many and varied experiences he has had directly or through teachers and parents. I recommend this book in all my classes and, without exception, users report it helped a great deal with family and personal management issues. Glenn was expert at analysis and treatment design and application. He had a world of experience and therefore he rarely encountered a new behavior problem. It seemed that he had heard it all and treated it all. He was a genuine behavior management expert.

The classroom was a special context in which Glenn solved problems. He visited classrooms in all 50 states, always took data, and was usually disappointed in what he observed. He had given up on education as an institution and we agreed that it could not be salvaged. Our hope was to start over with a professional workforce whose analysis and procedures in education were scientific and based on an experimental analysis of behavior. We know how to teach effectively, we have known for decades, but we have been unable to break into colleges of education and have adopted what our science can do to improve the preparation and performance of teachers.

Glenn had friends, colleagues and students all over the world and he was busy writing and planning future activities involving them. Louise, Glenn's wife, was a major source of support and assistance and she frequently accompanied him to conferences and on speaking tours. Glenn could have been a professional golfer and he exercised this skill regularly. He was a great spokesman and promoter for behavior science and the field will miss his

contributions. We will miss him as a gentle, good humored, productive buddy.✻

A paragraph of the Editorial from the last issue of this magazine (i.e., volume 4, number 2, under the old title of *TIBI News Time*) is also relevant to remembering Glenn Latham. In keeping with the reprinting of all the important parts of those earlier issues in this first volume under our new name, here is that paragraph (—Ed.):

Unfortunately, I must also report some sad news. One of the four founding members of TIBI, who was also one of our faculty members and on our Board of Directors, Glenn Latham, has died. He had a surprise heart attack in July while on his way to more of the professional activities that so characterized his life. We share this loss with his family, friends, and colleagues, both nationally and internationally. Throughout his professional life, Glenn labored to bring the benefits of the natural science of behavior to everyone everywhere. On the international front, this was especially evidenced by his trips to the Peoples Republic of China (e.g., see Latham, 2002). He not only supported the natural science of behavior organizationally (e.g., through his part organizing TIBI) but also academically, through his articles and audio/visual materials and books (e.g., *The Power of Positive Parenting* and *Keys to Classroom Management*, and their related A/V resources—see the Afterword in [the same book containing Glenn's paper] for an extensive list). Even while his contributions to scientific knowledge and practice endure, continuing to help more people daily, he will be missed. As reported in the minutes of the annual meeting, in this issue, the Board of Directors voted to confer "Member in Perpetuity" status on Glenn in honor of his continuing contributions. (Reference: Latham, G.I. [2002]. China through the eyes of a behaviorologist. In S.F. Ledoux, *Origins and Components of Behaviorology—Second Edition* [pp. 297-302]. Canton, NY: ABCs.)

Also, some academic courses using Prof. Latham's books are available to provide education in the knowledge, principles, and practices that he promoted. An easy way to find these courses is to click "Ledoux" in the directory at [www.canton.edu](http://www.canton.edu) which is my faculty web page. Below the courses are several web links, and one of these is [www.parentingprescriptions.com](http://www.parentingprescriptions.com) where you will find not only Glenn's parenting products and advice but also several tributes to him by other colleagues.—Ed.✻