Commentary

In keeping with the purpose and goals of this forum, our second presentation is an article dealing with a rarely discussed but nonetheless very important topic: institutional and collegial behavior toward married colleagues. Elizabeth and Warren Street have analyzed the problems encountered by married co-workers; they point out that the cause and effects of such problems are analogous to the difficulties encountered by women in the professional work place.

Elizabeth and Warren are surely not the first married co-workers to have encountered these problems in a work setting; however, there has been little published about the problems they’ve identified. As more behavior analysts are graduated and accept positions in various academic departments across the country they may be faced with two challenges if they are married: 1) the situations described in this article; 2) the difficulties reportedly encountered by behavior analysts in whatever departments they enter. Elizabeth and Warren suggest some approaches to problem-solving and ask that those of you who are married co-workers respond to this article with your own experiences. Obviously, the more creative solutions can be promulgated. So, we ask you to reply to Elizabeth and Warren’s request for more data as we agree with the Streets that this is a critical issue that we predict will increase in importance as more behavior analysts enter professional work place.

— Janet Ellis