

# 2011 Presenters

## KEYNOTE PRESENTERS

### **Dan Coulter**

**Nationally Recognized Speaker and Producer, Asperger Syndrome Advocate**

<http://www.coultervideo.com>

Dan Coulter is a nationally recognized speaker and producer of videos about Asperger Syndrome and autism. His DVDs have been endorsed by experts at Harvard Medical School and Yale University, and recommended by the School Library Journal. He has authored more than 100 articles which are widely posted on support group websites and have been published in magazines such as the Autism Society of America's "Autism Advocate" and "Autism Spectrum Quarterly." Dan and his wife, Julie, began producing autism-related materials after their son was diagnosed with Asperger Syndrome in 1997. In 2009, Dan also was diagnosed with Asperger Syndrome, which explained many of the challenges he had to overcome in his career. Dan has been a radio disc-jockey, a TV weatherman, a national media spokesperson at AT&T, a media relations director at Bell Labs, a vice president of communications at Global Crossing and president of his own company.

### **Doreen Granpeesheh, Ph.D.**

**World-renowned Clinical Psychologist and Expert in the Field of Autism Research and Therapy**

<http://www.centerforautism.com/>

Dr. Doreen Granpeesheh is a world-renowned clinical psychologist and expert in the field of autism research and therapy. Dr. Doreen has worked with a wide range of patients - from high-functioning children with autism to the most challenging individuals whose families have been told to give up hope. Dr. Doreen has an unparalleled recovery rate, enabling children with autism to lead independent lives. With a PhD in Psychology from UCLA, Dr. Doreen is licensed by the medical boards of California, Texas, and Virginia and Arizona State Boards of Psychologists and is a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst. She is the 2011 recipient of the American Academy of Clinical Psychiatrists' prestigious Winokur Award.

Dr. Doreen founded the Center for Autism and Related Disorders, Inc., (CARD) in 1990, the world's largest and most experienced organization effectively treating children with autism. CARD develops individualized treatment plans utilizing the principles of applied behavior analysis (ABA), a behavioral treatment approach which the scientific community has empirically validated. Under Dr. Doreen's leadership, CARD has seen success with every child over the past 20 years.

Dr. Doreen is also the founder and president of ACT Today! (Autism Care and Treatment Today!), a national nonprofit organization that grants funding for resources and treatments to disadvantaged families.

## **OTHER DISTINGUISHED PRESENTERS**

### **Annie T. Baghdayan, PhD Candidate, BCBA**

#### **Lead Behavior Analyst, Oklahoma Autism Network, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center**

Annie joined the Oklahoma Autism Network as a lead behavior analyst. She has worked in school, home and clinical settings as a behavioral therapist and consultant. She was the director of the Autism Therapeutic Program at Easter Seals Oklahoma supervising more than twenty interns applying Applied Behavior Analysis intervention with young children with ASD. Later, she became the director of clinical services at Easter Seals Oklahoma, overseeing the language and speech program and disability services. She has worked with young children with ASD ages 2 through 7. She has worked as a Graduate Teaching/Research Assistant at the college of education at OU Norman campus teaching classes in the SPED teacher preparation program and supervising the student teachers in the field.

Her research focuses on two areas: the first is on parents of children with ASD, and the second focuses on quality of service delivery in Applied Behavior Analysis. She has presented at various conferences such as CEC, TED, and LDAOK. She also worked in Norman Public Schools in the Extended School Day program overseeing the instructional tutors and the program. Currently, she is working on her dissertation in special education

### **Dee Blose, MEd**

#### **Executive Director, Youth and Family Services, Canadian County**

Dee Blose is the executive director of Youth and Family Services located in Canadian County. She has a master's degree in education. She is a board member of Autism Oklahoma, is adjunct faculty at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, and is also a trainer in teacher registry. She is a graduate of the first class of Partners in Policymaking. She has been an advocate first for her son and then for others for the past 20 years. She loves to train others with her goal to always provide hope and energy.

### **Paul A. Böer, Sr, MEd**

#### **Education Director, Rose Rock Academy**

Paul A. Böer, Sr. is the Educational Director for Rose Rock Academy, a residential treatment facility for children with autism spectrum disorders. He completed his graduate studies in special education at the University of North Texas, and has almost thirty years experience working with learners of all ages and learning styles. For the past seven years, Paul has worked exclusively with children and adolescents with autism. He is currently completing studies preparing for board certification in applied behavior analysis.

**Penny Cantley, PhD**  
**Special Education Researcher and Educator**

Penny Cantley is a special education researcher and educator who recently completed her Ph.D. in special education at the University of Oklahoma. The focus of her work is transition to adult life for students with disabilities. She taught elementary special education for two years, high school special education for three years and has three years teaching experience at the university level.

**Jennifer Carlson, MT-BC, NMT**  
**Special Care, Inc.**

Jennifer earned her Bachelor of Arts in Music Therapy for the University of Missouri-Kansas City and is board certified through the Certification Board for Music Therapists, Inc. (CBMT). She is also a certified Neurologic Music therapist through the Robert F. Unkefer Academy for Neurologic Music therapy at Colorado State University. She has worked in clinical populations of skilled nursing, Alzheimer's, dementia, hospice, eating disorder, adult mental health, developmental disabilities, pediatric speech and language delays, and autism. Jennifer owned and operated a private Music Therapy practice in Kansas City, MO for two years. After moving to Oklahoma City, Jennifer began working at Special Care, Inc. as the director of Music Education and Therapy Services where she has designed a music therapy curriculum for children with special needs in group and individual settings.

**Mansur Choudry**  
**BSc Engg, MBA, Med, BCBA**

Mansur Choudry is the Director of Autism Behavioral Education Lab (ABEL), at Special Care, a NAEYC accredited facility, which enrolls 135 children, of which two-thirds have special needs. The children needs vary from physical to emotional such as Cerebral Palsy, Autism, Down Syndrome, Spina Bifida, Pervasive Development Disorders, Seizures, Behavioral, Mental Retardation, and Fragile-X and Sensory Integration, and others. Mansur holds a Degree in Mechanical Engineering, MBA and Masters in Special Education from University of Central Oklahoma and a BCBA (Board certified Behavior Analyst). He also teaches at the University of Central Oklahoma. He is a member of NAEYC, Ex-Vice President Early Childhood Association of Oklahoma, Council of Exceptional Children and Autism Society of America. He is also the Trainer for the First Start and the Master Consultant/Educator with the Council of Early Childhood and Professional Development.

**Rene' Daman, PT, MS**

**Director, Oklahoma Autism Network, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center**

Rene' is the director of the Oklahoma Autism Network at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. She has been with the Department of Rehabilitation Science since 1999 where she has taught in the professional and post-professional occupational therapy and physical therapy programs. Rene' has worked with families and their children with disabilities, including autism since 1993 through early intervention, school-based services, and in clinical settings. She has provided training and technical assistance for providers who support children with autism and their families in early intervention, educational, and community settings.

**Rebecca Duchon, M.S., CCC-SLP**

**Speech Language Pathologist/Autism Resource Specialist**

**ASHA Certification, ASD Certificate**

Rebecca Duchon is a speech/language pathologist and autism resource teacher in Eden Prairie Schools in Eden Prairie, Minnesota. With over 25 years experience in her profession, she is currently working with elementary age students as an autism resource teacher. Rebecca earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Education and a Master of Science in Communicative Disorders from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She completed the Autism Spectrum Disorders Certificate from Hamline University and is currently a doctoral student at the University of Minnesota. Rebecca is a member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

**Chuck Edgington, PhD**

**Today's Therapy Solutions**

Dr. Edgington is a pediatric neuropsychologist in private practice. He received his doctoral degree in clinical psychology from Oklahoma State University and fellowship training in pediatric neuropsychology at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. He specializes in diagnostic and neuropsychological evaluations of children with a wide range of developmental, psychological, behavioral, and medical problems. His passion is to assist parents, professionals, and educators to better understand the unique strengths and limitations, as well as unique learning style, of each child so that intervention and educational services can be designed for maximum effectiveness. Dr. Edgington works with a team of professionals at Today's Therapy Solutions in Oklahoma City specializing in speech/language, occupational, physical, and behavioral therapies for children with a wide range of special needs, including a strong emphasis on the treatment of autism.

**Tara Ford, Family Advocate**  
**Center for Learning and Leadership/UCEDD**  
**University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center**

Tara Ford has over 11 years experience in developmental disability arena, including advocacy, direct services, training, project coordination, curriculum development, and personal experience. The parent of four, two of whom are twin boys with developmental disabilities, Tara incorporates her personal experience and her passion for children with special needs to further advocacy movements in Oklahoma and to encourage and train other family members to do the same. She is the Project Coordinator for the *Oklahoma Family Support 360° Center* at the UCEDD and OUHSC providing services and training to families, pediatric residents, students, and other service providers. As a *Kids Count Leadership Program* graduate through the *Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy* and former family advocate with OU Children's Hospital, Mrs. Ford serves as one of Oklahoma's leaders in family support and services through the *Family Leadership Council* and represents Oklahoma Nationally as an *AMCHP Family Scholar*. She is a family mentor with the University of Oklahoma *LEND* leadership pre-service program; serves as the Governor-appointed Chair on Oklahoma's Interagency Coordinating Council for early intervention services; and is a trainer with *The Learning Community for Person Centered Practices for Essential Lifestyle Planning* providing statewide training in family support and person centered services.

**Bonnie Johnson, M.A., CCC-SLP**  
**Speech Language Pathologist/Augmentative Communication/Assistive Technology Consultant**  
**ASHA Certification, AT Certificate, Instructional Technology Certificate**

Bonnie Johnson is a speech-language pathologist, augmentative communication and assistive technology consultant for Eden Prairie Schools, Eden Prairie, Minnesota. Bonnie earned Bachelor of Applied Science and Master of Arts degrees in Communicative Disorders from the University of Minnesota-Duluth and Certificates in Assistive Technology and Instructional Technology. Bonnie is a member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

**Kathy Labosh, BS**  
**Mother and Author**

Kathy Labosh is the mother of two sons with autism and the author of *The Child with Autism* series of books. Her focus is on helping the families with autism overcome obstacles that may stand in the ways of their dreams. Tips include holding your marriage together, disciplining the non-verbal child, taking them to the grocery store, amusement parks, church, and many more. She also wrote a guide book for the amusement parks in Florida, and books on how to pass on your faith to your child.

### **Dean, Melinda, Joy and Sarah Lauffenburger**

Dean and Melinda met while attending OSU in the early 80's. Melinda graduated from Oklahoma State University with a master's degree in business while Dean obtained an engineering degree. Dean and Melinda have two children, Joy - 18 and Sarah - 15. Sarah is a freshman at Santa Fe High School. Joy was diagnosed with high functioning autism at age 7 and is currently a senior at Santa Fe High School. She has been the featured speaker at over 20 conferences and meetings.

Melinda started a parent group in Edmond in 2002 that has grown into the AutismOklahoma.org. AutismOklahoma.org is a group of parent-led organizations in Oklahoma that provide parent support groups, the Piece Walk and other autism awareness and fund-raising programs, parent education, social opportunities for children, teens and young adults, summer programs, and grant administration. Our branches include Edmond Family Center for Autism, Stillwater Family Center for Autism, Canadian Valley Family Center for Autism, and TeamAutism.org.

### **Kelli Marshall, MS, CCC-SLP**

#### **Today's Therapy Solutions**

Kelli Marshall is speech-language pathologist and has over 8 years experience working with children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. A graduate of the University of Oklahoma, Kelli obtained her bachelor's degree in communication sciences and disorders in 2001 and she completed her master's degree in speech-language pathology in 2003. After obtaining her degree, Kelli worked in several different settings including hospitals, schools, outpatient clinics and university settings. She currently co-owns a private therapy practice where she spends her days providing in-home therapy to children with Autism Spectrum Disorders and conducting trainings and consultations for schools, parents and health care professionals about Autism. Kelli's areas of expertise relating to Autism include developing functional communication systems, augmentative-alternative communication devices, social skill development and home programming. Kelli currently resides in Moore, Oklahoma with her husband and daughter.

### **James Martin, PhD**

#### **Zarrow Center for Learning Enrichment, University of Oklahoma**

<http://www.ou.edu/content/education/centers-and-partnerships/zarrow.html>

Professor James Martin is Director of OU's Zarrow Center. His professional interests focus upon the transition of youth with disabilities from high school into postsecondary education and the workforce. He has published numerous transition education lesson materials and papers, and has presented many transition professional presentations across the country and internationally.

**Angela Moorad, MS, CCC-SLP, IAYT, RCYP-2**  
**Founder of OMazing Kids Yoga**

Angela Moorad received her Masters of Science degree in Speech-Language Pathology from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in 1990. She has 21 years of experience as a certified and licensed Speech-Language Pathologist working with children with a wide range of disabilities ages birth to 21 in a variety of settings, including homes, childcare centers, schools, hospitals, playgrounds, etc. She worked for the SoonerStart Early Intervention Program for 14 years and has been at the JD McCarty Center for the past 7 years. While she enjoys working with all children, her passion and expertise is in working with children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. She has experience in using an ABA Verbal Behavior approach, TEACCH strategies, Floortime strategies, the SCERTS model, Hanen techniques, Picture Exchange Communication System, creating & using customized Visual Supports and using Positive Behavior Supports. She has been leading weekly therapeutic adapted yoga groups for kids at the JD McCarty Center since May 2010. In 2011, she received certification in the Radiant Child Yoga Program – Levels 1 & 2 and founded OMazing Kids Yoga to promote yoga for all kids and teens, with and without disabilities, here in Oklahoma.

**Jennifer Morris, PhD**  
**Moore Counseling Center, PC**

Dr. Morris is a clinical child psychologist at the Moore Counseling Center. She received her B.S. in Psychology from Oklahoma State University, and her Ph.D. in Clinical Child Psychology at the University of Alabama, where she first began working with children on the autism spectrum. Through her training and work in autism clinics in Alabama and Arkansas, she has developed a specialization in working with children and adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorders. She returned in Oklahoma in 2008 and began working at the Moore Counseling Center. Dr. Morris currently works in this private clinical practice and provides diagnostic evaluations and individual/family therapy services for children with ASD and their families.

**Penny Nichols, Executive Director**  
**Creatures and Kids, Inc.**

Penny Nichols founded a therapeutic animal organization in 2001 - Creatures and Kids, Inc. (CKI) Therapeutic Animal Interaction/Intervention (TAI team) CKI is a human and animal established organization. Our mission is to connect people and animals, teaching them to learn together, build character, self-esteem and how to communicate through each other. CKI trains, certifies, and creates working programs with schools, libraries, hospitals and individual professionals. CKI training programs prepare teams for many different environments and situations. CKI provides evaluations, and volunteer insurance to cover teams while they are volunteering. CKI also creates programs that help children develop reading skills, and interact with others by opening communication lines between client/patients with medical and therapy professionals. We offer continued learning weekly to CKI certified TAI teams.

CKI provides a broad spectrum of services for the community. Our CKI teams are a gift; to guide a mind to learn, turn a frown into a smile and perform a miracle right before your eyes.

Separately Penny is a professional and private trainer assisting people with the training of their Service Dogs. She specializes in Psychiatric Service Dogs - known as PSD. These are highly trained dog's often used in conjunction with Autism and the mental health field.

**Kim Osmani, MEd**

**Transition Coordinator, Department of Rehabilitation Services**

Kimberly Osmani is the Transition Coordinator for the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS). Ms. Osmani holds two master's degrees—in special education and educational administration and was a special education teacher for over 10 years. She was also an Associate State Director at the Oklahoma State Department of Education, Special Education Services. Kim is the Project SEARCH contact at DRS and helps implement programs statewide.

**Jenifer Randle, BS**

**Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council**

Jenifer Randle is the Advocacy and Training Coordinator for the Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council. She holds a bachelor's degree in special education and has over 15 years of experience as a special education teacher. Jenifer is a credentialed trainer in Person Centered Thinking as well as a Sibshops trainer. She is a member of the Oklahoma Transition Council and Coordinator of the Oklahoma Youth Leadership Forum.

**Lindsay Reed, COTA/L**

**Therapy Works**

Lindsay Reed, COTA/L graduated from Southeastern Illinois College in 2009 and moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma upon receiving a job at Therapy Works in August of 2009. She enjoys hunting, fishing and has active involvement in youth soccer leagues and her local church in Bristow, OK.

**Ilene Schwartz, PhD, BCBA**

**Professor and Chair, Special Education at the University of Washington; Director of the Haring Center for Applied Research and Training in Education**

<http://www.haringcenter.washington.edu/>

Dr. Ilene Schwartz is a professor and the chair of the Area of Special Education at the University of Washington and the Director of the Norris and Dorothy Haring Center for Research and Training in Education at UW. She earned her Ph.D. in child and developmental psychology from the University of Kansas. Dr. Schwartz has an active research and professional training agenda with primary interests in

the area of autism, inclusion, and the sustainability of educational interventions. She is currently working with Dr. Bonnie McBride from OUHSC on a federally funded grant to evaluate the effectiveness of a comprehensive treatment model for toddlers with ASD. Dr. Schwartz has had consistent research funding from the U.S. Department of Education since 1990 and serves on a number of editorial review boards including the Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis and the Journal of Early Intervention. Dr. Schwartz is the director of Project DATA, a model preschool program for children with autism that has been in operation since 1996.

**Elizabeth Strickland, MS, RD, LD**

**Founder of ASD Nutrition Seminars & Consulting**

[www.ASDpuzzle.com](http://www.ASDpuzzle.com)

Elizabeth Strickland is a Registered Dietitian specializing in integrative Nutrition Therapy for infants, children, and young adults with developmental disabilities, chronic illnesses, and special health care needs. Elizabeth's area of expertise includes Autism Spectrum Disorders. She has 30 years of experience ranging from providing individual Nutrition Therapy, training professionals and parents, and coordinating Nutrition Services statewide for children with disabilities.

Elizabeth is the founder of ASD Nutrition Seminars & Consulting, a clinical nutrition consulting firm that serves families, professionals, educational systems, and private and government programs. Her work expands nationwide to include providing individualized nutrition therapy to children with autism and related disorders.

Elizabeth is a published author, the title of her book is "*Eating for Autism ... The 10-Step Nutrition Plan to Help Treat Your Child's Autism, Asperger's, or ADHD*".

**Amanda Thompson MS, OTR/L**

**Therapy Works**

Amanda Thompson MS, OTR/L graduated from the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse in 2008 and moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma in January of 2009 to start her professional career. She enjoys traveling, training for half marathons, camping, and learning how to rock climb with her fiancé. They recently moved to Sapulpa, OK.

**Diane Twachtman-Cullen, PhD, CCC-SLP**  
**Editor-in-Chief, *Autism Spectrum Quarterly***

Diane Twachtman-Cullen, PhD, CCC-SLP is a licensed speech-language pathologist specializing in autism spectrum disorders (ASD). She is the editor-in-chief of *Autism Spectrum Quarterly* ([www.ASQuarterly.com](http://www.ASQuarterly.com)), the international Magajournal® that combines human interest and “how to” articles with important research news. Dr. Twachtman-Cullen is the author of numerous chapters and articles, and four books, including *How to be a Para Pro: A Comprehensive Training Manual for Paraprofessionals*. Her newest book (co-authored with Jennifer Twachtman-Bassett), *The IEP from A to Z: How to Create Meaningful and Measurable Goals and Objectives* was published in April 2011 by Jossey-Bass/Wiley. Dr. Twachtman-Cullen is a popular speaker who gives workshops on communication / language, social cognition, executive function, the IEP, paraprofessional support, and many other topics related to ASD worldwide.