

2014 Oklahoma Statewide Autism Conference

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Eustacia Cutler, BA

Parent

Eustacia Cutler, Temple Grandin's mother, earned a BA from Harvard, was a band singer at the Pierre Hotel, New York City, performed and composed for NYC cabaret, and wrote school lessons for major TV networks. Her research on autism and retardation created the script for two WGBH television documentaries: *The Disquieted* and *The Innocents*, a prize-winning first. Her 2006 book, *A Thorn in My Pocket*, describes raising Temple in the conservative world of the '50s when autistic children were routinely diagnosed as infant schizophrenics and banished to institutions.

Today Cutler lectures nationally and internationally on autism and its relation to the rapidly emerging bio-neurological study of brain plasticity. She discusses what causes rigid behavior in autism, the toll it takes on the family, and how current research into the neural nature of consciousness is pointing toward insightful possibilities of change.



Richard Simpson, EdD

Professor of Special Education, University of Kansas

Richard L. Simpson is Professor of Special Education at the University of Kansas where he has directed numerous University of Kansas and University of Kansas Medical Center demonstration and research programs for students with autism spectrum disorders and other disabilities and coordinated a variety of federal grant programs related to students with autism spectrum disorders. He has also worked as a special education teacher, school psychologist and coordinator of a community mental health outreach program. He has authored numerous books, articles and tests on a variety of topics connected to students with disabilities. Simpson is the former senior editor of the professional journal *Focus on Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities*. Awards include the Council for Exceptional Children Research Award, Midwest Symposium for Leadership in Behavior Disorders Leadership Award, Autism Society of Kansas Leadership Award, and numerous University of Kansas awards and distinguished roles, including the Gene A. Budig Endowed Teaching Professorship of Special Education.



Michelle Garcia Winner, MA, CCC-SLP,

Speech Language Pathologist, Social Thinking Center

Michelle Garcia Winner specializes in working with students with social learning challenges. She coined the term Social Thinking and pioneered the related treatment approach. She runs a clinic, has authored numerous books and speaks internationally.

Michelle is internationally recognized as a thoughtful and prolific writer in the area of social thinking/social skills. She travels around the world speaking on a multitude of topics relating to social thinking, and repeatedly receives accolades for her educational, energetic and enthusiastic workshop presentations. She has been invited to train psychiatrists, psychologists, counselors, parents, educators and government policy makers on the importance of Social Thinking. Michelle has written several books on social learning disabilities and Social Thinking, and has released training videos/DVDs for educators and parents. In 2008, she received an award of "Special Congressional Recognition" for her pioneering work for students with high functioning autism, Asperger syndrome and similar social-communicative challenges.

OTHER DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS

Jennifer Burnes, MEd

Doctoral student in special education, University of Oklahoma

Research assistant, Zarrow Center, University of Oklahoma

Jennifer Burnes is a 3rd year doctoral student in Special Education at the University of Oklahoma, where she works as a research assistant at the Zarrow Center. Her experiences include teaching middle school students with moderate to severe disabilities in Plano, TX, and Norman, OK, plus one year teaching a preschool class for children with developmental disabilities in Norman, OK. Jennifer also worked at the Oklahoma State Department of Education, Special Education Services, as an assessment coordinator for 3.5 years. She is currently President of the Oklahoma chapter of the Division of Career Development and Transition. Her interests include expanding postsecondary education opportunities for students with intellectual and other developmental disabilities in order to improve employment and independent living outcomes and providing access to the general curriculum for students with moderate to severe disabilities.

Penny Cantley, PhD**Assistant Clinical Professor of Special Education, Oklahoma State University**

Penny Cantley has worked as a special education teacher at the elementary and secondary levels in the Oklahoma public school system and the Department of Defense Dependent Schools. She worked at the OU Zarrow Center for Learning Enrichment where she worked to develop the ME! Curriculum. Dr. Cantley currently works as an Assistant Clinical Professor of special education at Oklahoma State University.

R. Nicolle Carr, PhD, BCBA-D**Board Certified Behavior Analyst – Doctorate**

Dr. Nicolle Carr graduated with a PhD in behavioral neuroscience from the University of Texas at Austin. Her research was spread across three labs based in Pavlovian conditioning, genetics and neuroscience. After graduation, she worked at a Boston residential treatment facility for kids and adults with developmental disabilities and behavior disorders eventually becoming a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and the Assistant Director of Clinical Services. Dr. Carr spent time helping an autism program in Western Massachusetts get off the ground before heading back to her hometown in Oklahoma to marry the boy next door. Currently, she consults for a program in MA and local school districts while teaching full time.

Traci Cook, MS**Executive Director, NAMI Oklahoma**

After having a successful career in marketing and business management, Ms. Cook shifted her focus to behavioral health when her two youngest children were diagnosed with mental illness. In 2001, Traci founded Special Parents Access Network (SPAN Oklahoma), a statewide mentorship program for parents who have children with mental and physical disabilities. Soon afterwards, she partnered with Dr. Ed Co and Joni Bruce to create the Oklahoma Family Network (OFN).

Believing that education is the key to change, Traci became passionate in teaching others about behavioral health. For ten years, Traci served as a family faculty member at the University of Oklahoma, College of Allied Health. At the University, she instructed occupational and physical therapy students about how to appropriately work with those who have mental illness, including post-partum depression. She has worked with multiple state agencies; and has served on numerous state and national councils to share her expertise. Traci is zealous about improving the ability of those who have mental illness to navigate the behavioral health system. She has been recognized as Oklahoma's Professional of the Year by the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) and continues to provide education at the local, state and national levels.

Today, Traci is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all Oklahomans who are affected by mental illness as the NAMI Oklahoma Executive Director. Traci and her husband, Jake, live in Oklahoma City with their five children.

Rene' Daman, PT, MS

Director of the Oklahoma Autism Network, Tolbert Center for Developmental Disabilities and Autism, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

Rene' is the director of the Oklahoma Autism Network (OAN) at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. She has been with the Department of Rehabilitation Science since 1999. 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 is the co-principal investigator for the ConnectedKids program, a parent training program for parents of young children with autism. Through her work with OAN she focuses on improving the quality of life for Oklahomans affected by autism through research, training, and advocacy. She chairs the Oklahoma Family and Interagency Autism Council, is a member of the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel for Developmental Disabilities, and serves on the Developmental Disabilities Services Advisory Committee for the Oklahoma Department of Human Services.

Lance Doss, Med

Special Education Teacher and Doctoral Student, Oklahoma State University

Lance Doss has 30 + years experience as a teacher in PreK-12 schools. Most of his experience has been as a special education teacher, and he has also taught general education and served as director of special education. Lance has helped his school raise money for Special Olympics and has also served as head coach for Special Olympics. In recent years, Lance has seen an increase in the number of students with autism in his classroom and therefore has become increasingly interested in helping students with Autism succeed in school.

Daniel Durany, BS

Speaker, Advocate, and Mentor

Daniel Durany is a 2006 graduate from Texas Christian University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Communication Studies. Daniel volunteers with FEAT (Families for Effective Autism Treatment) and pioneered a local adult Asperger's Support Group. He makes public speaking appearances at autism conferences and school districts around the state of Texas. He has served as the keynote speaker for the Texas State Autism Conference. Daniel brings an enthusiastic perspective about Asperger's during his time in school, job world, and dating/relationships to share with parents, professionals, and others with his condition. In 2013, Daniel was appointed by the Governor to serve on Texas Council on Autism and Pervasive Developmental Disorders.

Kathryn Anne Ellerbeck, MD, MPH, FAAP,

Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Center for Child Health and Development, University of Kansas School of Medicine

Dr. Ellerbeck is Associate Professor of Pediatrics and a developmental-behavioral pediatrician at the Center for Child Health and Development at the University Of Kansas School Of Medicine. Dr. Ellerbeck completed her BA and MD degrees at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine. She completed her MPH at Johns Hopkins in 1987 and her fellowship in Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics at the University of Maryland in 1995. She has been involved

in the diagnosis and management of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders for 20 years. Dr. Ellerbeck is the Immediate Past President of the Kansas Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. She is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics' Council of Children with Disabilities' Autism Subcommittee.

Josh Hargis, MEd, BS AgEo Animal Science

Founder and Program Director, AgVocates for Exceptional Individuals

Josh Hargis received his degrees in Agriculture Education and Animal Science from Oklahoma State University. After a decade of teaching high school Agriculture in a fully inclusive classroom, Josh will be receiving his M. Ed. in Special Education. Josh has worked with families across Oklahoma and Texas using animals to teach self-advocacy while shaping character and work ethic.

Shelley Hendrix, MA

National Director, Grassroots Advocacy, Autism Speaks

Shelley's son, Liam, was diagnosed with autism at the age of two in 1998. Since that diagnosis, Shelley has become a leader in the autism community, organizing political rallies across the country and teaching parents how to get involved in government activity. She began working at Autism Speaks in September of 2007.

Shelley has served on an advisory panel with the U.S. Department of Defense Autism Spectrum Disorder Research Program for Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs since the program's inception in 2007. This program works to fund and develop innovative strategies in autism research with a goal of helping people impacted with autism.

In 2005, Spectrum Publications named Shelley "Person of the Year" for her work within the autism community, and in 2006 she was named one of the Top 10 Faces of Autism. She graduated with a Bachelors of Arts degree from Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, MA with a double major in political science and art history, and frequently blogs about her experiences in advocacy and rearing a child with autism on Huffington Post.

Ellyn Hefner

NICU Family Support Navigator, Oklahoma Family Network

Ellyn Hefner, married and is a mom of three. She serves as a NICU Family Support Navigator at Integris Baptist hospital for the Oklahoma Family Network and as a secretary for the family run business. She is a Partner in Policymaking graduate, LEND fellow, an advocate for early intervention and respite care for caregivers.

Duane Howell

Director of Family Services, AgVocates for Exceptional Individuals

LEND Fellow

Duane Howell is an advocate for children with special healthcare needs and their families. As a parent of 4 children, 3 with a multitude of Neurological and Physical disabilities, Duane knows firsthand the added challenges of raising children

with unique needs. From a deep and rich family dynamic to his youth and family background, Duane utilizes his hands-on experience in all facets of social needs and advocacy and believes completely in the AgVocates mission to promote the cognitive, social and physical development of children with disabilities through daily care.

Jim Martin, PhD

Professor and Zarrow Family Chair in Learning Enrichment and Director of the Zarrow Center, Department of Educational Psychology, University of Oklahoma

Professor James Martin holds the Zarrow Family Chair at the University of Oklahoma, Directs the OU's Zarrow Center for Learning Enrichment, and is a Professor in the Dept. of Educational Psychology. Prior to working on his doctoral degree, Dr. Martin worked for four years with a community ARC program in Illinois where he developed and implemented community educational, employment, and living programs for youth and adults with developmental disabilities and emotional problems. Dr. Martin earned his Ph.D. in Special Education from the University of Illinois with a focus on secondary transition. Prior to coming to OU, Professor Martin was at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs for 16 years where he served as the Special Education program Coordinator for 10 years and as the Director of the Center for Self-Determination.

Professor Martin has authored several books, numerous chapters for edited books, journal articles, and several curriculum lesson packages and assessments, which include video and multi-media applications. Federal, state, and local funding agencies provided him over \$12 million to conduct his research, demonstration, and writing activities. Most recently the National Center for Special Education Research awarded him a four-year research grant to develop a new transition assessment. He has conducted presentations and professional development workshops across the US, Canada, and in Europe. CEC's Division on Career Development and Transition awarded Professor Martin the Oliver P. Kolstoe Award for his efforts to improve the quality and access to career and transition services for people with disabilities.

His professional interests focus upon the transition of youth with disabilities from high school into postsecondary education and the workforce, and what must be done to facilitate success in high school and postsecondary environments. In particular he examines the application of self-determination methodology to educational and workplace settings.

Monica McGuire, MS, CCC-SLP

Speech Pathologist

Monica McGuire was born and raised in Calgary, Canada. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Linguistics from the University of Calgary in 1993. During her studies in Linguistics, Monica developed a love of language acquisition and development which led her to pursue studies in Communication Disorders and Science at Wichita State University. She graduated with a master degree from WSU in 1995 and worked briefly in early intervention at Rainbow's United. Monica moved with her fiancé to Oklahoma City in 1996 where she worked with school age children at the Guthrie Scottish Rite Clinic for Childhood Language Disorders for nine years. After the birth of her second daughter, she

took a position with Edmond Public Schools where she has worked at the elementary school level with children with a variety of communication needs for nine years.

Jennifer Sollars Miller, BS Health Promotions

Co-Founder, Autism Friendly Locations

Jennifer and her husband John are the parents of two beautiful, active children, Josh and Reagan. When Josh was diagnosed with autism at the age of three, it became Jennifer's passion to help families affected by neurological disorders and to keep children safe. She currently serves Tulsa Area SafeKids Coalition as a parent advocate, spokesperson, and chairman of the Special Needs committee; and as a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP).

Jennifer is also a former member of the Saint Francis Family Advisory Council and Family Advisory Board for the National SafeKids Coalition in Washington D.C. Jennifer is co-founder and resource director of Autism Center of Tulsa, a non-profit organization. She oversees business and financial management, including fundraising, grant writing, and special events. She directs safety program initiatives; and works closely with the Program Director to create, develop, and implement autism pilot programs. She has a degree in health promotion from Oklahoma State University.

Megan Moore, MEd

Special Education Program Specialist, Edmond Public Schools

Megan Moore is a Special Education Program Specialist with Edmond Public Schools. She received her Master's degree from the University of Kansas in Special Education and Autism/Asperger Syndrome and her Undergraduate degree from the University of Minnesota in Child Psychology. Megan has worked with students with autism spectrum disorders, staff, and families over the last 20 years in a variety of capacities, including a statewide Consultant/Trainer with the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, District Autism Specialist, Elementary Autism Teacher, Early Childhood Special Education Teacher, Paraprofessional, Therapy Assistant and Personal Care Assistant. Megan has extensive experience in programming planning and development, proactive behavior management strategies, skill development, inclusion, team collaboration, working with families, and training.

Jennifer L. Morris, PhD

Clinical Child Psychologist

Dr. Morris grew up in northeastern Oklahoma and received her Bachelor's degree from Oklahoma State University. She received her Doctoral degree from the Clinical Child Psychology program at the University of Alabama. She completed her pre-doctoral internship at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock, Arkansas. She is a member of the American Psychological Association and APA's Division 53: Society of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology. Through her work in autism clinics in Alabama and Arkansas, as well as the advanced clinical training on the ADOS diagnostic instrument, she developed a specialization in working with children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorders. She has worked as an autism specialist at the Moore Counseling Center since September 2008. She

currently provides evaluation, therapy, social skills training, and consultation services for children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorders.

Camber Moulton, MS, CCC-SLP, ATP

Assistive Technology Curriculum Specialist, Oklahoma Assistive Technology Center (OATC)

Training and Outreach Coordinator, Oklahoma Autism Network (OAN)

OATC and OAN are programs of the Tolbert Center for Developmental Disabilities and Autism at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

Camber has provided assistive technology (AT) and augmentative/alternative communication (AAC) evaluation and intervention services in educational settings since obtaining her M.S. in Communication Disorders from the University of Oklahoma in 1998. She currently works for the Tolbert Center for Developmental Disabilities and Autism. Prior to joining the Tolbert Center, she served as a speech-language pathologist and assistive technology consultant for Oklahoma City Public Schools where she developed an assistive technology team for the district. She has also worked for Edmond Public Schools.

Erika Olinger, PhD, NCSP

School Psychologist

Dr. Erika Stevens Olinger was born and raised in Portales, New Mexico. She received her B.S. in Psychology from Colorado State University and her M.S. and Ph.D. in School Psychology from Oklahoma State University. Dr. Olinger is a Nationally Certified School Psychologist and has worked as a school psychologist practitioner at Cypress-Fairbanks ISD in Houston, Texas as well as the Putnam City and Edmond school districts in Oklahoma. She was the Lead School Psychologist and Response to Intervention Instructional Facilitator for Edmond Public Schools and is sought for her training and consultation by school districts, school administrative teams, professional organizations, and the Oklahoma State Department of Education. Dr. Olinger is a member of several professional organizations. She has served on the executive board (including two terms as President) for the Oklahoma Association of School Psychologists and is currently the Oklahoma Delegate for the National Association of School Psychologists. Her research and professional interests include applied behavior analysis, academic and behavioral interventions, Response to Intervention implementation, crisis prevention and management in schools, and threat/ risk assessment. Dr. Olinger is currently an Assistant Professor of Psychology and Coordinator of the School Psychology Graduate Program at the University of Central Oklahoma. She resides in Edmond, Oklahoma with her husband David and son Luke where she enjoys playing the flute, gardening, and constant reading.

Alex Plank, BA

Owner, Wrong Planet; Consultant, The Bridge

Alex runs, owns, and develops WrongPlanet.net, a popular community for individuals with Asperger's Syndrome and Autism, which he started in his teen years after being diagnosed at the age of 9. He graduated from George Mason

University with a degree in Film and Video Studies. Alex serves as the consultant to the lead actress & creators of FX's hit TV series "The Bridge."

Melanie Potock, MA, CCC-SLP

Speech Language Pathologist

Melanie Potock, MA, CCC-SLP, is an international speaker, media consultant and certified speech language pathologist who specializes in the assessment and treatment of pediatric feeding disorders. Melanie treats her clients in their homes and schools. Mel's clients have a variety of challenges impacting their ability to enjoy food, often including autism. Melanie's articles and advice have appeared in Parents Magazine, Generation Rescue.com, Pediatric Web and other national media. She is a monthly contributor on the topic of feeding disorders for the American Speech Language Hearing Association's blog. Melanie's book, [Happy Mealtimes with Happy Kids](#), is an award-winning parent guidebook that teaches the basics of *parenting in the kitchen*.

Tara Savedra, MS, CCC-SLP

Speech Pathologist

Tara Savedra MS, CCC-SLP is an educational based speech-language pathologist who received her master's degree in 2005 from the University of Oklahoma. She has been employed by Edmond Public Schools as an elementary SLP since 2005 where she works with children ages 3-11 who have a variety of communication needs. She has also worked in the private practice setting.

Maleeha Shaidid, ECFMG certified, MPH

Behavioral/Social Epidemiology Coordinator, SoonerSUCCESS, Department of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

Maleeha has an international medical degree and is ECFMG certified in the United States. She practiced clinical medicine in Pakistan several years prior to coming to the US where she has earned a master's degree in Epidemiology from the College of Public Health, Oklahoma University Health Sciences Center. She is a behavioral/social epidemiology coordinator with SoonerSUCCESS in the Department of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics at OUHSC since December 2012. She is also a LEND fellow.

Jacob Singer, MA, BCBA, LBA

Lead Behavior Analyst, Oklahoma Autism Network, Tolbert Center for Developmental Disabilities and Autism, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

Jake joined the Oklahoma Autism Network as a lead behavior analyst in 2011. Prior to joining the Oklahoma Autism Network, Jake was the director of behavioral services at Alpha Productions Technologies, a vocational center for adults with a wide variety of disabilities, including autism. There he provided training and supervision of ten direct care staff working with more than forty clients. Jake was also a behavior analyst for the Spectrum Program, where he conducted initial behavioral assessments (ABLLS-R), wrote treatment plans, analyzed data and evaluated programs weekly, and

trained and supervised tutors in an early childhood autism intervention program.

Debra L. Stevens, PharmD, BCPP

Director of Pharmacy Services, Oklahoma Department of Human Services, Developmental Disabilities Services

Debra Stevens graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy in 1996 and graduated with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 1998 from the University of Oklahoma. She completed a psychiatric pharmacy specialty residency at the University of Texas at San Antonio in 1999. She is board certified in psychiatric pharmacy. She has worked in the area of developmental disabilities since 1999, and has been employed with DHS/Developmental Disabilities Services since 2008 as Director of Pharmacy Services.

Amber Theinert

Director of Marketing, St. Gregory's University

Amber Theinert has two children, a 9 year old boy and a 7 year old girl. Amber, along with her daughter, participated in the ConnectedKids Research project conducted by the Oklahoma Autism Network. Amber is also a graduate of Partners in Policymaking, 5k chair and volunteer for Autism Oklahoma and a member of the Oklahoma Interagency and Family Autism Council. She also works as marketing director at St. Gregory's University, and is an avid runner and member of the Red Coyote Racing team.

Michelle Wilkerson, BA Psychology

Co-Founder, Autism Friendly Locations

Michelle and Brian Wilkerson are the proud parents of Austin and Ella. At age 2 1/2, Austin was diagnosed with autism. Right away, Michelle and Brian enrolled him in early intervention programs and involved their whole family in early education programs for parents and siblings of children with autism. Michelle is a member of Leadership Tulsa and served on the board of Town and Country school. She directed the TOPSoccer disabled soccer program for ten seasons while serving on the board of Metro Tulsa Soccer Club. She has also served on the Community Service Council Autism Task Force and Early Intervention Task Force, Oklahoma Combating Autism Leadership Team. She and Jennifer were named to Tulsa People magazine's "40 Under 40 Movers and Shapers" in 2007. They both serve on the Oklahoma Family Interagency Autism Council. As co-founder and program director of Autism Center of Tulsa, Michelle is responsible for program development and implementation as well as planning workshops and events. She is a graduate of Mississippi State University with a degree in psychology.