

# PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

Listed in alpha order by last name

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

### **Dr. Temple Grandin**

Temple Grandin, Ph.D., is now the most accomplished and well-known adult with autism in the world. Her fascinating life, with all its challenges and successes, has been brought to the big screen in a 2010 film. She has been featured on National Public Radio (NPR), major television programs, such as the BBC Special "The Woman Who Thinks Like a Cow," ABC's Primetime Live, The Today Show, Larry King Live, 48 Hours, and 20/20, and has been written about in many national publications, such as Time, People, Forbes, U.S. News and World Report, and the New York Times. Among numerous other recognitions by media, Bravo Cable did a half-hour show on her life, and she was featured in the best-selling book, *Anthropologist from Mars*.

## ADDITIONAL PRESENTERS:

### **Elizabeth Bowen, Graduate Student, Communication Sciences and Disorders, Radford University**

Elizabeth Bowen is a first year graduate student at Radford University. She completed her baccalaureate degree at Radford University in 2015 and has a variety of experiences with children with disabilities, including children with autism spectrum disorder. Last year, she participated in research with Diane Millar, investigating nonverbal communication skills in the context of conversation, and she will be continuing to assist with a study in the upcoming year.

### **Pat Burns, AT Specialist; Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)**

Pat is an occupational therapist and assistive technology specialist for the Virginia Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services. She was instrumental in developing one of the first Computer Accommodation Labs in the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1989. Pat has provided a wide variety of assistive technology services in her over 25 years of experience. Her most recent work has primarily been with the use of handheld technologies, youth in transition, computer access, and work site accommodation. Pat earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Occupational Therapy from the College of St. Catherine. She previously presented in the 2014 ATIA Conference on work site assessments and accommodations.

### **Carrie Clawson, AT Specialist; Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)**

Carrie is the Assistive Technology Specialist for the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services, serving the northern region of Virginia. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy from Virginia Commonwealth University and has over 20 years of experience as an occupational therapist, focusing on assistive technology for much of her career. She has been with DARS for five years. She developed and initiated the handheld technology program with individuals with memory and anxiety challenges, which is now being used in all regions of the state through DARS. Carrie previously presented at ATIA in 2014 and 2015 on the application of handheld technology for employment.

### **Dennis Debbaudt, Debbaudt Legacy Productions, Autism Risk & Safety Management**

Dennis is the proud father of Brad, a young man who has autism. In the 1980's, Dennis wrote for the Detroit News and worked with network television current affairs programs in the U.S., Canada and United Kingdom. A professional investigator and journalist since 1977, Dennis turned his attention to autism spectrum conditions in 1987 after his son was diagnosed with autism. His first report *Avoiding Unfortunate Situations* was published in 1994. He has since authored over 35 articles, books and chapters including *Autism, Advocates and Law Enforcement Professionals: Recognizing and Reducing Risk Situations for People with Autism Spectrum Disorders* for Jessica Kingsley Publishers, London UK (2002), *Contact with Individuals with Autism: Effective Resolutions* for the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin (Debbaudt & Rothman, 2001), *Patients with Autism and Other High Risks* for the Journal of Healthcare Protection Management (2009), *Autism in the Criminal Justice System* (Taylor, Mesibov & Debbaudt, 2009) and *Autism: Managing Police Field Contacts - Training Key 678*, International Association of Chiefs of Police, June, 2013. As managing partner of Debbaudt Legacy Productions, LLC, Dennis produced and wrote the scripts for the training videos *Autism & Law Enforcement Roll Call Briefing* (2004), *Autism, Fire-Rescue and Emergency Medical Services Video* (2009) and *Autism in the Criminal Justice System* (2009). Over the past 20 years, Dennis has trained and developed training materials for law enforcement, first response and criminal justice professionals throughout the United States, Canada and in Iceland, Australia, New Zealand and United Kingdom. Dennis lives in Port St. Lucie, Florida with his wife, Gay, and son, Brad.

### **Adam Dreyfus**

Adam works at the Sarah Dooley Center for Autism. He came there after serving the Commonwealth of Virginia as a Technical Assistance Associate at VCU's Autism Center for Excellence. Adam worked in Region 1 and 8 providing direct services to school divisions, primarily working with Henrico County Public Schools as well as Greensville County Public Schools. Adam graduated from the University of Connecticut with a Bachelor's Degree in Language and Child Development. He went on to earn his Master's Degree in Special Education/ Applied Behavior Analysis from Columbia University's Teachers College. He studied Verbal Behavior Analysis under Dr. Douglas Greer and was trained in the CABAS system. He holds a Teacher II rank in the system which emphasizes language development and social involvement.

### **Lisa Falke, Board Certified Behavior Analyst, Commonwealth Autism**

Lisa joined Commonwealth Autism in August 2012. She is a Board Certified and Licensed Behavior Analyst in the state of Virginia, as well as a certified Competent Learner Model (CLM) coach. Lisa received a Bachelor's of Arts in Biology and Psychology from the University of Virginia, and her Master's Degree in Behavior Analysis from the University of North Texas. Lisa currently serves as a CLM coach and staff training coach in the public school setting, as well as a trainer through the Learning Institute at Commonwealth Autism. Lisa has provided direct care support as well as consultative services to individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities since 2001 and has provided services in schools, residential facilities, homes, and center-based treatment programs. Lisa has presented her academic and applied work at professional conferences, such as the Association for Behavior Analysis, the Texas Association for Behavior Analysis, and the Commonwealth Autism Annual Conference.

### **Greg Hagen, Lifespan Committee Member, Charlottesville Region Autism Action Group (CRAAG)**

Greg Hagen is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point and earned a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree from the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland. He is a retired US Army and Department of Defense Civilian Counterintelligence Officer, who has served in South Korea, Thailand, Germany, Bosnia, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Iraq. His 21-year-old son, Erik, has moderate to severe autism and currently attends the Virginia Institute of Autism. Mr. Hagen has been active in autism parent support groups in Heidelberg, Germany; Fairfax County, VA; and Charlottesville.

### **Emily Helmboldt, BCBA, LBA, LPC, Technical Assistance Coordinator, VCU Autism Center for Excellence**

Emily is currently a faculty member with the Autism Center of Excellence at the Research, Rehabilitation and Training Center at VCU. There she serves as the lead technical assistance provider for Alexandria City Public Schools and co-technical assistance provider for Spotsylvania County Public Schools, as well as collaborating with other ACE staff to develop evaluation methods for the project. She holds a Master's Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from VCU/MCV and is licensed as a Professional Counselor. She also has a certification in Behavioral Analysis from Florida Institute of Technology. Having a diverse background in rehabilitation, cognitive behavioral therapy, autism spectrum disorders, mood disorders, behavior analysis, and positive behavioral supports enables Emily to apply herself in many aspects of the ACE project. She previously served as a community resource manager with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, behavior consultant, job coach, and residential counselor. She resides in Varina with her husband, 2 daughters, 2 dogs, 3 cats, and 12 chickens.

### **Jane Hilton, Associate Professor and Director of the UVA Speech-Language-Hearing Center, University of Virginia**

Jane Hilton is a Speech-Language Pathologist who received her Ph.D. from James Madison University. Her interests include examining the treatment efficacy and effectiveness of early intervention programs with young children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. She has worked with this unique population for over 25 years. She also has a special interest in clinical supervision of graduate students earning their Master's Degree in Communication Disorders. She has served as president of the Speech-Language-Hearing Association of Virginia and has been an active participant in the annual convention planning committee. Nationally, Jane has served as the Virginia Legislative Council representative to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Currently, she is an Associate Professor and Director of the Sheila Johnson Center For Human Service; Speech-Language-Hearing Center at the University of Virginia.

### **Christine Holland, M.S. BCBA, LBA, Commonwealth Autism**

Christine has been in the field of behavior analysis since 1996. She has a Master's of Science in Behavior Analysis from the University of North Texas. She has been a Board Certified Behavior Analyst since 2004 and is currently licensed in the Commonwealth of Virginia. In the past 20 years she has provided services to individuals with developmental disabilities in a variety of settings including schools, homes, and in the community. She is currently the Learning Institute Director at Commonwealth Autism where she provides numerous trainings around the state.

### **Elizabeth Horn, Disability Rights Advocate, disAbility Law Center of Virginia**

Elizabeth has 38 years of experience working with individuals with disabilities. It all began with a few sign language courses taken at Gallaudet University which equipped her to serve as a resident counselor at the Utah School for the Deaf and Blind. At the time, her day job was serving as executive director of the Weber County Arc in Ogden, Utah, which convinced her that a Master's in Non-profit Management would be useful in the field of disability. This degree led to a seven-year term as executive director of the Brain Injury Association of Virginia, followed by a five-year term as Human Rights Advocate for the Virginia Department of Aging and Rehabilitation Services. These experiences convinced Elizabeth that often securing social security disability benefits can be the underpinning to housing, independence, and the opportunity to develop one's potential to work. She operated Disability Benefits Assistance, Inc. for 16 years and successfully assisted over 400 individuals in receiving their benefits. In 2013, she joined disAbility Law Center of Virginia as a Disability Rights Advocate to make use of all of her skills. Perhaps her best experience is raising her 22-year-old son, an individual with Asperger's Syndrome.

### **Daniel Irwin, M.Ed., BCBA, LBA, Education Specialist: Autism, Intellectual Disabilities, Assistive Technology Virginia Department of Education**

Daniel is the Educational Specialist for Autism, Intellectual Disabilities, and Assistive Technology for the Virginia Department of Education. He is currently leading a project to create a comprehensive and functional curriculum framework for students with disabilities that will not earn a Standard or Advanced Standard Diploma. He has worked as an educator and coach in public and private school settings and has been awarded grants by the National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders as well as Virginia Commonwealth University's Autism Centers for Excellence.

### **Dr. Brice Jackson, Connections Achievement & Therapy Center**

Dr. Jackson is a Fellow of the American College of Functional Neurology and a Fellow of the American Board of Brain Injury Rehabilitation. He has been in private practice since 2006, treating children and adults with neurological problems such as autism, ADHD, concussion, chronic pain, migraine, dizziness, and vertigo. He and his staff are the exclusive provider of occupational therapy for the Virginia Institute on Autism. Dr. Jackson has lectured and shared his experience in functional neurology with psychiatric facilities, schools, conventions, and parent groups in Virginia. He is a member of the International Association of Functional Neurology and Rehabilitation, Virginia Chiropractic Association, the Charlottesville Chamber of Commerce, the Central Virginia Chapter of Autism Society of America, and the University of Virginia Children's Hospital Committee.

### **Suzie Klein, Rehabilitation Counselor Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services**

Suzie has worked as a Rehabilitation Counselor at the Charlottesville Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) office since February of 2014. She came from Chugiak, Alaska and arrived in Charlottesville in 2013. Suzie has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Recreation Therapy, and a Master's in Rehabilitation Counseling. She has over fifteen years of experience in providing support for people with substance abuse and has helped young adults with ASD transition to independence. Suzie also had her own business for 17 years providing rehabilitation for people with physical injuries. Suzie has also raised two children with disabilities to adulthood and independence, one of whom is on the Spectrum. Thus, she brings a wealth of both practical and professional experience to the table regarding the vocational rehabilitation of individuals on the Spectrum. In her spare time, Suzie sings in a chorus and likes to build things and rehabilitate furniture.

### **Robert (Bob) Kreps, Leadership Chair, Charlottesville Region Autism Action Group (CRAAG)**

Bob is the Leadership Chair of the Charlottesville Region Autism Action Group (CRAAG). He also chairs the Lifespan Committee of CRAAG whose primary focus is on transitioning individuals, young adults and adults with autism. CRAAG is an all-volunteer organization consisting of parents and professionals sharing a common goal of improving the lives of individuals with autism. CRAAG is affiliated with Commonwealth Autism (<http://www.autismva.org/what-we-do/autism-action-groups>) and is one of 6 action groups in Virginia. Bob moved to Charlottesville 5 years ago after retiring as an executive for a large industrial manufacturing company. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan with a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering. He is also a former School Board member (in PA) from which position he advocated for individuals with special needs. Bob and his wife are parents of 4 children, the youngest of which is a young adult daughter with autism. They are both dedicated to improving the quality of life for individuals in transition, young adults and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

### **Richard Kriner, Autism Services Program Coordinator; Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services**

Having spent the last 13 years working at the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (VADARS), Richard has valued a career rich in opportunities for professional growth and opportunities to have a meaningful impact on the lives of individuals with disabilities. He has experience planning, directing, and managing programs for people with disabilities, including DARS activities on the Assistive Technology for Cognition research study funded by a grant to Virginia Commonwealth University from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, VADARS Autism Services Pilots developed in part with grant funding from Autism Speaks, Virginia's Disability Program Navigator Initiative funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, Virginia's Disability Services Boards, and the Statewide Independent Living Council. Most recently, Richard has been responsible for supporting DARS' involvement in autism-focused projects and activities, managing VR participation in autism-related research activities, ensuring knowledge dissemination to stakeholders, and integrating evidenced-based practices into VADARS service delivery. Richard has presented on autism and effective vocational rehabilitation practices through state and national conferences, national webcasts, and has contributed to professional journals and practice briefs.

### **Diane Millar, Professor, Communication Sciences and Disorders, Radford University**

Diane Millar received her Master's Degree and Ph.D. from the Pennsylvania State University. Currently, she is a professor at Radford University, where she teaches two graduate courses: Autism Spectrum Disorder and Augmentative and Alternative Communication. She has received grants in support of her research in these areas and has a particular interest in improving the quality of services for adolescents and adults.

### **Julie Patterson, M.Ed., BCBA, LBA, Virginia Institute of Autism (VIA)**

Julie is currently a Behavior Analyst in the Outpatient Behavioral Services Department at VIA. In her role she supervises the direct services for 7 families and coordinates the Pathways Social Skills Program. She is responsible for the ongoing program development and modification of goals for all of the clients on her caseload. In addition she provides supervision to the staff providing in-home services for her clients. She received her bachelors in Therapeutic Recreation from Longwood University, her Master's in Education with a concentration in Adaptive Physical Education from the University of Virginia, and is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst licensed in the Commonwealth of Virginia. She has presented at multiple regional and national conferences on her work with children with autism spectrum disorders and their families.

### **Mark Peterson, DD Employment Specialist, Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services**

For over 30 years, Mark has worked from many perspectives and roles in the vocational rehabilitation world. In Virginia, he has specialized in supported employment services and most recently, customized employment. Mark has his Master's degree in Clinical Psychology from Pepperdine University.

### **Heather Pugh, MA, OTR/L, Shenandoah Valley Regional Program**

Heather is a pediatric occupational therapist who has been involved with Animal Assisted Therapy since 2004. She has served in the roles of an instructor, therapist, advisory board member, and administrator in therapeutic horseback riding programs. She has trained two of her dogs to become Delta Society Pet Partners Team Member volunteers. Heather recently completed a graduate degree in psychological sciences and applied behavior analysis. She partnered with a local therapeutic horseback riding center to complete her thesis, which focused on the benefits of therapeutic horseback riding for young children with autism.

### **Jessica Stehle, ID/DD Resource Consultant; Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services**

Jessica is a DD Employment Resource Specialist with Virginia's Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS). Jessica works with the Northern and Rappahannock District DARS offices and their corresponding community services boards, local education agencies, employment services organizations and other community partners to promote competitive, integrated employment opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Jessica has been with DARS for six years, previously serving as a vocational rehabilitation counselor for transition youth with disabilities. Jessica also supports DARS' autism services through integrating evidenced-based research into the agency's autism service delivery. Jessica has contributed to the development and implementation of formalized trainings, assessment tools, guidance documents and DARS' autism-focused service model. Jessica has presented on autism and effective vocational rehabilitation practices at local, state and national levels.

### **Andrew Stowe, Lead Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor; Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services**

Andrew has Master's Degrees in both Education and Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Counseling. At this point in his career, he has almost 30 years' experience in both the public and private sectors working with individuals with disabilities to find suitable employment matches. During this time, he has come to specialize in processing disorders such as those created by Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Specific Learning Disabilities and Autism Spectrum Disorders. In the past, he has been involved in many state-wide training activities sponsored by the Virginia Department of Social Services, the Virginia Rehabilitation Association, and his own agency, the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS). One of his core beliefs is that the integration of a diverse array of individuals, whether due to their culture, background, perspective or experience, strengthens our workforce and our communities.

### **Dawn Traver, Director, Waiver Operations, The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)**

Dawn obtained her undergraduate and graduate degrees from The College of William and Mary. She began her work in the I/DD field as a direct support professional in the Community Services Board system, conducted training and technical assistance related to best practices in the education of young children with disabilities at Hampton University, and organized recreation/self advocacy events for The Arc of Greater Williamsburg. She came to DBHDS in 1990 when Virginia first began implementing Medicaid-funded community based services for persons with intellectual disability. Dawn has been engaged in policy and regulatory development related to the Intellectual Disability and Day Support Waivers since 2007. In her current position of Waiver Operations Director, she is involved with efforts related to the implementation of the Settlement Agreement with the US Department of Justice, as well as the My Life, My Community I/DD waiver redesign efforts. Dawn oversees the operations of the Division of Developmental Services' waiver unit, including waiver preauthorization, waiver regulatory/policy staff, and Supports Intensity Scale® implementation.

### **Dana Traynham, Senior Staff Attorney, disAbility Law Center of Virginia**

Dana has worked with and for people with disabilities for over 25 years. She received her BA at the University of Virginia and began her career in California where she discovered her passion in working with people with intellectual and cognitive disabilities. Homesick for Virginia, she moved back after two years and continued her work in the field of disability services. She went back to school and received her Master's Degree in Social Work from Virginia Commonwealth University. During the last semester of her MSW program, she took a class entitled Social Work and the Law and decided then to apply for law school. Five days after receiving her MSW degree, she headed to the University of Richmond School of Law. She has been a staff attorney at the disAbility Law Center since May 2000 (she did leave in 2005 to pursue private practice, but was elated to return a year later!). Her area of specialty is advance care planning and supporting decision-making for individuals with disabilities as alternatives to guardianship.

### **Julie Triplett, Disability Rights Advocate, disAbility Law Center of Virginia**

Julie is a Disability Rights Advocate at the disAbility Law Center of Virginia (dLCV). She has been with dLCV since its beginning in October 2013. Prior to her work with dLCV, she was with the Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy (VOPA) for eight years. Julie loves advocating for people with disabilities. It comes naturally to her since she has been her own self-advocate her entire life. She particularly enjoys helping individuals with disabilities understand that they can go to work and that they will not lose their Social Security benefits right away. Julie also enjoys helping people work their way through the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) system in hopes that they will be able to go to work. Prior to her work at dLCV and VOPA, she was an advocate at a Center for Independent Living in Arkansas.

### **Didi Zaryczny, Public Safety Training Coordinator, Commonwealth Autism**

Didi was a member of the Commonwealth Autism Advisory Council for many years before becoming a staff member in 2004. She is the parent of an adult son with autism. She has provided services to individuals with disabilities and their families, both voluntarily and professionally since 1996. Didi founded the first Autism Action Group in Virginia, which now serves as the model for other action groups across the state. Her professional experience includes being the Central Virginia Family Educator/Advocate, where she helped families and individuals with disabilities access services. She has provided training to families/caregivers and professionals at local, state, and national conferences on a variety of topics related to disabilities. Didi is a Basic Electronic Search Specialist through Project Lifesaver and has completed training specific to interviewing and interrogation, detection of deception, victim assistance and other topics related to public safety. She currently serves as the Chair for the Virginia Public Safety Workgroup for Autism.