2022 GATE Seminar

Presenters and Bios

| **Presenter** | **Session Description** |
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| Jennifer Elwood | Coming soon |
| Tricia Price | Coming soon |
| Dr. Ben Satterfield | Dr. Ben Satterfield is a Research Associate at the Center for Inclusive Design and Innovation at Georgia Tech. His research is focused on measuring outcomes of AT use. Ben is also an Assistant Professor in the College of Education at the university of Georgia, teaching a graduate course in AAC. |
| Julianna Gonzales | Julianne graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education with an Endorsement in Special Education. She has taught 10 years in many different special education settings including the last 3 years teaching special education virtually. Recently moved here from Illinois with her husband and they are enjoying exploring and learning about the Atlanta area. |
| Robyn Head | Robyn is entering her 7th year in public education teaching in both general education and special education. She loves Google Tools and Canvas. Robyn recently graduated with her Specialist in Instructional Technology from Kennesaw State University. She has a passion for all things Assistive Technology and finding ways to give students a choice, a voice, and a way to become successful lifelong learners. |
| Jessie Mills | Jessie is a Speech Language Pathologist on the Assistive Technology team in Paulding County, GA. She currently supports the entire district with all its AAC needs. Jessie is a graduate of the University of Georgia (Go Dawgs!) with 14 years’ experience as an SLP. She loves working with kids of all ages and adapting materials to meet their unique needs. |
| Dr. Cecille N. Bolton | Dr. Cecille Bolton is a 19-year educator, with experience as a low-incidence teacher, special education department/grade chair, and selected as 2016 Teacher of the Year (local-school level) in Atlanta, GA. Dr. Bolton is an Assistive Technology Specialist for Paulding County, and published children's book author (Georgia Blue), who believes "learning is living while finding the positive in the experience.” |
| Juanita Pritchard | Juanita has been involved with students who have significant cognitive impairments for more than 40 years. Her work in the Georgia public school system includes high school classrooms of students with moderate to profound intellectual impairments, community based vocational instruction, assistive technology specialist and Intellectual Disabilities Specialist. Her passion is providing access to the school curriculum for all students, especially those with significant impairments.  She was a Core Access Teacher with Georgia DOE, helping adapt materials to align instruction for alternate assessment students to state standards. She does trainings and workshops around the state of Georgia supporting teachers in providing meaningful access to the curriculum. She is a published author. |
| David Floyd | David Floyd teaches students in a self-contained, moderate special education classroom in Gwinnett County, GA. David received his B.S. in Therapeutic Recreation from Georgia Southern University (GSU) in 2014, and is currently pursuing a M.S. in Adapted Curriculum from GSU. |
| LaWanda Dalton | For over twenty-five years, I have taught students in middle and high school with significant cognitive disabilities. I still love the adventures that await when I arrive at school each day. My interests include adapting teaching materials, assistive technology and teaching academics through life skills and authentic community experiences. I was a Core Access Teacher with the Georgia DOE, helping to adapt materials to align instruction to state standards for students with significant cognitive disabilities. Away from school, I most enjoy spending time with my teen and tween as well as reading. |
| Lisa Nevitt and Kristen Davis | Coming soon |
| Kristen David | Coming soon |
| Stephanie Ponte | Stephanie Ponte is a Special Educator, CVI Specialist, and Educational Consultant who focuses on learners with the most significant disabilities.She earned her B.S./M.S. in E.S.E. from Florida State University. Stephanie has worked in public and private schools, early intervention, and as a private consultant. |
| Kelly Bramblett | Kelly Bramblett is a program support specialist for the Cobb County School District. She supports teachers K-12 in the areas of assistive technology and instructional support. She has taught special education for over 15 years and holds a Bachelor’s degree and Master’s degree in special education. Kelly is a former Cobb County Teacher of the Year. |
| Lori Mueller | Lori is a program support specialist for the Cobb County School District providing support to students with disabilities and their teachers with instruction and assistive technology. She has a Master’s degree in Special Education and over 25 years teaching students with disabilities. Lori is a Wilson Dyslexia Practitioner and passionate about ensuring all students learn to read. |
| Dr. Caroline Musselwhite | Dr. Caroline Musselwhite is an assistive technology specialist with more than 45 years of experience working with children and adolescents with significant disabilities in a variety of settings, including Head Start, clinics, developmental day programs, homes, and the public schools. Dr. Musselwhite has written several textbooks and multiple “how-to” books on a range of topics and has authored many books and software programs for youth with disabilities. She has taught courses at several universities and presented thousands of workshops throughout North and South America, Australia, Europe, and Africa. She has also supported Communication Circles and Balanced Literacy Clubs in multiple cities in the US and Canada. Honors include Foundation Fellowship (West Virginia University), Educator of the Year (ARCH, North Carolina), Honors of the Association, (North Carolina Augmentative Communication Association), DiCarlo Outstanding Clinician Award (North Carolina Speech-Language-Hearing Association), and ISAAC Fellow. |
| Dr. Catherine Tommasello | Dr. Catherine Tommasello is a 3rd grade teacher at Tritt Elementary. Dr. Tommasello has been working with students with disabilities for over 16 years. She loves learning new tools and sharing what works with others. Her favorite subject to teach is phonics. |
| Katie Hilliard | Katie Hilliard is an Assistive Technology Specialist that supports AAC users in the Cobb County School District. Katie works with Dr. Tommasello supporting an AAC user in her classroom. As a classroom teacher, Katie incorporated communication devices, technology, and fun tools throughout her lessons to support all users. Her favorite subject to teach is writing. |
| Veronica Riera | Coming soon |
| Elizabeth Gulley | Elizabeth Gulley, a teacher with Cobb County Schools, has worked with students with moderate, severe, and profound intellectual disabilities and autism for 12 years. She has degrees in Early Childhood Special Education and Educational Leadership. Mrs. Gulley has a passion for developing meaningful and fun learning experiences for all students. |
| Anne Holloway | Anne Holloway holds degrees in Special Education and Educational Leadership. She has served as a teacher for students with multiple disabilities from mild to profound, spent many years as a Special Education Coordinator for the Gwinnett County School District, and currently works part-time supporting teachers in the GCPS low-incidence program. |
| Vicki Clarke | Vicki Clarke is the CEO of Dynamic Therapy Associates, Inc and Director of DTA Schools, a division of DTA Inc, which provides special education and AAC services in schools. |
| Jessica Gardner | Jessica Gardner has been in the special education teaching field in various capacities for over 25 years. Her experience includes working with children diagnosed with Autism and significant learning differences from birth to 5th grade in classroom and home settings. Her passion is teaching children, families and teachers how to increase communication and independence opportunities in daily life. |
| Tim Jones | Tim has nearly four decades of experience in educational technology. He began as a developer of educational software and has a background in nearly all aspects of helping teachers teach and students learn. He has presented and trained teachers and leaders all over the country; from boardrooms to prisons. |
| McKenzie Smith Gay | I am a Special Education Program Support Specialist in Cobb County. I obtained my Bachelor of Science in Education and Master's in Special Education: Adaptive Curriculum from Georgia Southern University. I was a host for a Microsoft EDU Chat on Reading Progress through Microsoft Teams. I am married to Andrew and we both enjoy everything Georgia Southern, The Atlanta Braves, and good food. We have two sons and an English Cocker Spaniel. |
| Ainsley Vergara | Ainsley Vergara is a clinical assistant professor for Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Georgia. Prior to her faculty appointment, she worked as an SLP in K-12 schools, home health, clinic, and nonprofit. Her passions include family-focused intervention, complex communication needs, and augmentative and alternative communication (AAC). |
| Pat King | SLP for 25+ years; passionate about AAC implementation |
| Rebecca Eswine | Rebecca Eswine is a Program Support Specialist in Cobb County Schools. She previously taught students with disabilities in both general and modified curricular settings. She received her doctorate in curriculum and instruction from Georgia State University with a focus on inclusion and high-quality teaching practices of low-incidence special education teachers. |
| Megan Murphy | Coming soon |
| Laurel McCurry | Laurel McCurry is an Assistive Technology Specialist in Cobb County. Laurel has 28 years’ experience as an SLP with a recent focus on social emotional learning and its impact on students and educators. Laurel received her Master’s of Education from the University of West Georgia with a Concentration in Speech Language Pathology. |
| Tanya Woods | I am a speech-language pathologist and assistive technology specialist with Rome City Schools. I have over 25 years of experience with Communication and over 10 years with AAC. |
| Lorraine Edwards | Lorraine (Lori) is an Assistive Technology Program Specialist with over 30 years of experience in Special Needs including Music Therapy, teacher of Interrelated Special Education, and teacher of students with cognitive disabilities and Autism. Current specialization involves implementation of Assistive Technology and AAC modified curriculum classrooms. |
| Loraine Goff | Loraine is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) with over 20 years experience working with children and adults who engage in significant and disruptive behavior. She as also been a teacher for special education students, an early intervention specialist for children 0-3 years old and worked with children in their homes and in residential facilities. |
| Samuel Parisi with Apple | Apple revolutionized personal technology with the introduction of the Macintosh computer in 1984. Since then Apple has designed products and programs that help unleash the creative potential in every individual, no matter how they learn and what they love to do. Apple Education is dedicated to helping schools around the world expand what’s possible for learning, create new opportunities for teaching, and establish dynamic environments that inspire both. |
| Tiffany Prucha | Tiffany is currently a third-grade math teacher at Mt. Zion Elementary in Carrollton, GA, and has been an educator in Carroll County for 16 years teaching Pre-K through 4th grades. She earned her B.S. in Early Childhood Education from the University of West Georgia, and M.S. in Education and Ed.S. in Educational Technology from Walden University. Besides her work in the classroom, Tiffany also serves as an E3 Innovator, Class Dojo Ambassador, Technology Club sponsor, and PBIS Coach. |