

2019 Dementia Education Conference Speaker Bios
(alphabetical by last name)

Anne F. Balcom started her blog, *Dealing with Dementia*, in 2007 following her mother's diagnosis with Alzheimer's. In 2017, after much encouragement from her father, Anne released her self-published book *The Blue Velvet Drape: Dealing with Dementia* based on her blog. Anne and her family live in Kentucky.

Pat Battaglia is an engineer and worked in the space program to put man on the moon as well as a documentation specialist assisting companies pursuing the ISO 9000 international quality system standard. Throughout his career, Pat developed a passion for creating word games. He is the author of five books of brain games and a newspaper puzzle column in syndication for 30 years. His alter ego, Dr. Fun, often entertains audiences with brain teasers.

Jenise Berning, OTR/L, received her Bachelor of Health Science and Masters of Occupational Therapy in from The University of Findlay, Findlay, Ohio. Since moving to Charlotte two years ago, she has been enjoying the warm weather and working as an OT in the acute care and home health settings. She works with Gaitway of Charlotte to provide home health occupational therapy and at Carolinas Medical Center- Main as a bedside OT mostly in the ICU setting.

Jay Buinicky is the Founder and CEO of Mobility & More. Mobility & More is a family-owned and operated home medical supply company that has been serving the Charlotte Metro area for over 20 years. Jay and his dedicated staff are committed to improving their customers' quality of life by helping them maintain comfort and mobility in their homes.

Angela Burrow, RN, CDP, CADDCT, offers person-centered care workshops for professionals and family care partners. A nursing graduate of St. Helens and Knowsley School of Nursing in the United Kingdom, Angela currently serves on the Charlotte Mecklenburg Council on Aging and the Dementia Friendly Charlotte-Mecklenburg Steering Committee. She is a Certified Trainer with the Learning Community for Person Centered Care Practices, a National Dementia Care Trainer, and a Certified Montessori Based Dementia Programming Professional. Angela is also an Alzheimer's Association Community Educator.

Robert Byrd, Pharm.D., is the pharmacy manager for Cannon Pharmacy South End, Charlotte, NC. A graduate of the University of North Carolina Charlotte with a double major in Biology and Chemistry, Robert completed his Pharm.D. Degree at Wingate University School of Pharmacy. He is MTM and Diabetes Care and Administration certified. He enjoys spending time in the outdoors with his fiancé and their dog.

Adrian Calabrese, Ph.D., Msc.D., MA, CH, is a theatre professional, motivational speaker, author, interfaith minister, counselor, and clinical hypnotherapist. Her theatre career spans over 40 years, as a director, actress and singer. She has been a member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, and is a former university and secondary drama professor/director, and private acting coach. She holds an M.A. in Theatre and Communications, a Ph.D. in Psycho-Spiritual Research, and a doctorate in Metaphysical Philosophy. Her mother suffered from dementia, and she was her full-time caregiver for seven years. Adrian is also an Alzheimer's Association Community Educator.

Ann Campanella, B.A., is a former magazine and newspaper editor and now serves on the AlzAuthors' management team. Her writing has been published and recognized internationally. She wrote her award-winning memoir, *Motherhood: Lost and Found*, inspired by her mother's development of Alzheimer's while Ann was trying to become a parent and experiencing a series of miscarriages.

Richard Creighton is the pen name for Frank Brown. Frank started his blog, *Living with Alzheimer's*, following his wife's diagnosis with Alzheimer's in 2011. Frank and his wife, Sarah, live in South Carolina.

Rebecca Edelmayer, Ph.D., leads efforts to accelerate the scientific agenda of the Alzheimer's Association through the creation and delivery of ongoing research education. She has over 17 years of experience as a practicing scientist and educator. Dr. Edelmayer has lectured, published and led collaborations in areas of neurophysiology, inflammatory skin pathology and pain neurobiology. She completed her Ph.D. degree and postdoctoral training in medical pharmacology with a focus on neuropharmacology at the University of Arizona College of Medicine. Dr. Edelmayer holds a bachelor's degree in neuroscience from the University of Pittsburgh, where she also completed a National Institute of Mental Health Research Fellowship.

Stacy Fleming, MHA, CMC, is the Business Development Manager at The Ivey Memory Wellness Day Center. She holds a Master of Healthcare Administration from Seton Hall University and has experience as a memory care coordinator, certified care manager, and business development director.

Kathy Garner is a licensed commercial real estate broker and certified executive coach. Her desire to support individuals and families with a dementia diagnosis began when her mother's dementia required a move to a memory care facility in Charlotte. She enjoys her family, two Labrador retrievers, reading, learning and being outdoors. Kathy is also an Alzheimer's Association Faith Outreach Representative with her congregation at South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, NC.

Joshua Gaskin is a Detective with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department Missing Persons Unit. A graduate of the University of South Carolina, Joshua joined CMPD in 2010 and the Missing Persons Unit in 2017. Joshua, his wife, and two sons live in the Charlotte, NC area.

Marie Glapiak is the Advocacy Manager for the Alzheimer's Association, Western Carolina Chapter. She manages the Association's federal public policy efforts in North Carolina, building grassroots advocacy through volunteer advocate recruitment and addressing federal policy impacting caregivers and disease research. Marie holds a Master's Degree in Public Policy from Universitat Bremen in Germany, through UNC's TransAtlantic Master's Program. Marie is currently a caregiver for her grandmother Nell, who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease in 2017. In her spare time, Marie loves to cook and travel.

Carol Hassell, M.Div., is currently practicing spiritual direction, facilitating enneagram work in workshops and small groups, facilitating retreats, and consulting for education and programming on spirituality, aging, and well-being. Carol is also a teacher at the Charlotte Spirituality Center. While serving as chaplain at a local CCRC, Carol co-facilitated an Alzheimer's and Dementia Education support group and created the Navigating Parkinson's Support Group.

Scott Herrick, MA, is the North Carolina State Director of Public Policy & Advocacy for the Alzheimer's Association. Scott's work for the Association includes building grassroots advocacy and implementing state policy initiatives that support the State Alzheimer's plan. Scott is a member of the Alzheimer's Impact Movement, was on the NC Institute of Medicine State Alzheimer's Plan Steering Committee, and now serves on the State Alzheimer's Coalition. Scott was a caregiver for his father, Terry, who was diagnosed with early-onset dementia in his late 50's and passed away at age 70. Scott lives in Stokesdale with his wife Beth, and their two children, Madeline and Connor. In his spare time, Scott likes to build wooden boats.

Barbara Ivey, Alzheimer's Kid and Author, is the founder of The Perfect Thing. She is a speaker and consultant for families experiencing Alzheimer's. Barbara and her sister were care partners for their dad who was the primary caregiver for their mom, diagnosed with younger-onset Alzheimer's, for 15 years.

Tracy Guren Klirs, was ordained as a rabbi at Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion in 1984 in Cincinnati. She has served as a teacher, lecturer, writer, educational consultant, rabbi and chaplain for a number of synagogues and Jewish institutions throughout the U.S. and Canada. Rabbi Klirs currently serves as part-time rabbi of Temple Beth Shalom in Danville, VA, and as a freelance rabbi in the greater Charlotte area. Rabbi Klirs is a member of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Women's Rabbinic Network, and was recently selected to serve in the Professional Advisory Group for the Clinical Pastoral Education program at Novant Health Presbyterian Medical Center.

Jessica Martin, CCC-SLP, is the on-site Director for Genesis Rehab Services at The Ivey Memory Wellness Day Center. She has 15 years of experience with Genesis as a speech-language pathologist and holds Master clinician status in dementia/ cognitive communication disorders. Jessica has undergraduate and graduate degrees in communication disorders from Appalachian State University.

Rose O'Toole, MT-BC, NMT, has been a practicing Music Therapist for four years. She graduated from Queens University with her music therapy degree. Over the last four years, Rose has used music therapy primarily with hospice patients and older adults with dementia and Alzheimer's. She is very passionate about the use of music therapy in increasing the quality of life for those in their journey with Alzheimer's, whether it be patient, caregiver, staff member, or loved one.

Dupal Patel, MD, moved to the greater Charlotte Region in June 2018 with her husband and two children. She was originally born and raised in New Jersey where she completed all her undergraduate training and medical school. She then moved to the Cleveland/Akron in Ohio where she completed her Family Medicine Residency at Cleveland Clinic-Fairview Hospital followed by a 1-year Geriatric Fellowship at Akron Summa Health System. Presently, she has a panel of her own patients in family medicine, supervises residents in a Geriatric Specialty Clinic, follows long term and subacute patients at Sardis Oaks, and does some inpatient hospital work at CMC Mercy.

Mark Pippenger, MD, is a native of Arkansas with a love of Celtic music. Dr. Pippenger recently relocated to Charlotte, NC to work with Novant Health in starting up a memory clinic. He is a Behavioral Neurologist with a special interest in Alzheimer's disease, dementia with Lewy body, and frontotemporal lobar degeneration. Dr. Pippenger is a member of the American Academy of Neurology, is board certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, and a member of ISTAART. In addition to being a founding member of the Arkansas Celtic Music Society, he is a member of the Dragonfly Society of the Americas.

John Potter, JD, is an estate planning and elder law attorney in the Charlotte, NC area. His practice, Potter Law Firm, focuses on protecting and preserving the financial and non-financial wealth and legacies of families through Wills and Living Trusts as well as qualifying for Medicaid and VA assistance. John received his B.A. in economics from Davidson College and JD from the University of Virginia School of Law. He is admitted into practice in North and South Carolina, Kentucky, and Ohio and is accredited by the Department of Veteran's Affairs.

Kent Prewette is the founder of Retirement Financial Services in Charlotte, NC. With more than 20 years in the insurance and financial planning industry, Kent specializes in estate planning, securities, life and health insurance, Medicare/Medicaid, and long-term care coverage and Veterans benefits. Kent is a graduate of Carolina School of Broadcasting and spent his early career in radio and television. In addition to Retirement Financial Services, Kent is an ordained minister and has served as teacher, elder, board member, and senior pastor.

Heather Rahrig, RN, BSN, CMC is the Director and Co-Owner of Carepoint, Inc. In addition to her BNS and RN, Heather is a Certified Care Manager and Certified Dementia Practitioner. She is active with a number of senior-focused professional networks in the Charlotte area. Originally from Ohio, Heather has been married for 20 years to her college sweetheart and is a mother of 3 children and a devoted Ohio State Buckeye fan!

Rebekah Ramsey, M.Div., BCC, ACPE Certified Educator, has worked as a Chaplain in clinical settings for over twelve years and currently serves as the Manager of Chaplaincy Services for Novant Health's Greater Charlotte Market. She holds a Master of Divinity from Hood Theological Seminary, Board Certification with the Association of Professional Chaplains, and Certification as an Association for Clinical Pastoral Education Certified Educator. Rebekah is happily married to Robbie Ramsey; a Physician Assistant with the VA in Salisbury, NC. They enjoy trips to the beach, playful sparring using their martial arts' backgrounds, playing with their pups, and thoroughly enjoying their son Alexander "Xander" born in 2018!

Kenneth Robinson, is a third-generation preacher and teacher of the Word of God and native of Cleveland, Ohio. At the age of 17, he accepted his call to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and felt led to relocate to Charlotte, North Carolina to plant a church. During his Abrahamic Journey, he planted two churches; one in Charlotte, NC and one in Rock Hill, SC. Throughout that time, Pastor Robinson founded the Urban Church Planting Network that helps minority and urban church planters gain knowledge and insight on how to successfully plant churches. Pastor Robinson currently serves as the Senior Pastor of The Creek Church.

Eileen Schwartz, M.Ed., CDP, artist, writer, and educator, is the founder of Healing Arts for Caregivers. Healing Arts for Caregivers provides art classes to individuals with cognitive impairment and their caregivers. Eileen also spearheads art classes for adults with special needs and veterans with PTSD. She holds a B.A. in painting from the Art Institute of Chicago and a M.Ed. in developmental disabilities from San Diego State University. She is a Certified Dementia Practitioner and was her mother's caregiver for 12 years.

Donna Schaefer, BS, RRT, CSA, is the owner of CarePatrol of Charlotte assisting families with transitions in living arrangements. Prior to her work as a Certified Senior Advisor and Senior Housing Expert, Donna spent 17 years as a Registered Respiratory Therapist working with individuals and families affected by chronic lung conditions. She is also a Certified Dementia Practitioner.

Edward G. Shaw, MD, MA, is dually trained as a physician and mental health counselor. He was the primary care partner for his late wife, Rebecca, who was diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's disease in 2008 at age 53 and died in 2016 after a 9-year battle. Ed was a practicing academic radiation oncologist for 23 years, specializing in the treatment of adults and children with brain cancer. In 2010, inspired by Rebecca's journey, his medical interest shifted to dementia diagnosis and treatment, and with his additional training in mental health counseling, he founded the Memory Counseling Program in 2011, part of the Section on Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine and the Sticht Center on Healthy Aging and Alzheimer's Prevention at Wake Forest Baptist Health in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He is the author of two books. Ed resides in Winston-Salem with his wife Claire and has 3 adult daughters and two grandsons.

Alison Starkey, P.T., MBA/MHA, CAPS, CDP, is originally from the United Kingdom where she graduated from King's College Physical Therapy. Alison worked in a Level 1 Trauma and Burn Center in Canada before relocating to Boston as a Clinical Specialist for Massachusetts General Hospital. A traveling assignment brought Alison to North Carolina, where she has lived and worked for the past 25 years. Alison is the founder and owner of Gaitway of Charlotte, LLC, which has provided in-home physical and occupational therapy and safety consulting concierge service with a special focus on individuals living with a dementia diagnosis and their families for 30 years. Outside of her work, she enjoys travel, public speaking, advocacy and serves on several community organization boards. Alison and her husband have three children and live in South Charlotte.

Libby Streitenberger, MPH, is the Program Support Coordinator at the Ivey Memory Wellness Day Center. With her Master of Public Health from the University of North Carolina Charlotte, Libby also has a background in physical therapy and worked in assisted living in Costa Rica.

Kimberly Terry, O.T., OTR/L, MSOT, CAPS, is a registered and licensed Occupational Therapist and Certified Aging in Place Specialist. She currently serves as a consultant providing private home-based therapy services for Gaitway of Charlotte as well as a Lead Occupational Therapist in acute care at a local hospital. Kimberly specializes in fall prevention, cognitive staging, and independent living. Kimberly graduated from the University of Alabama at Birmingham with a Master's of Occupational Therapy (2012) and from Auburn University with a B.S. in Rehabilitation and Disabilities Studies.

Lee Tuttle is a detective with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department. A graduate of the University of North Carolina Charlotte, Lee joined CMPD in 1992 and the Missing Persons Unit in 1997. Lee, his wife, and two kids live in the Charlotte, NC area and spend much of their free time watching and playing soccer.

Amy Weatherup, MSW, is a Strategic Account Manager with Hospice and Palliative Care of the Charlotte Region. In addition to her MSW, Amy holds a post graduate certificate in gerontology. She has over 30 years of experience in healthcare including home health, skilled nursing, and senior housing prior to joining Hospice and Palliative Care of the Charlotte Region.

Melissa V. Williams, DNP, MSN, ANP-BC, BSN, CCRN, has been with Atrium Health for 27 years and is currently with Atrium Health Senior Care. Melissa's clinical interests include geriatric medicine, home care and advanced life support. She completed nursing school at UNC-Charlotte and UNC-Greensboro and is Board Certified through the American Nursing Credentialing Center and a Critical Care Registered Nurse. Melissa served in the US Army as a Combat Field Medic and EMT and was awarded the Army Commendation Medal and Army Good Conduct Medal. Melissa is a licensed minister. She and her husband raised six young adults and enjoy family time with their grandchildren.

Richard Yercheck, MBA is a Financial Advisor who speaks throughout the region on the economy, stock market, and personal financial planning. He is a nationally published author and frequent guest on talk radio. Richard has been an Alzheimer's Association Community Education for many years. He holds an MBA from Montreat College, is active in his church, a volunteer with Union County (NC) public schools, on the board of multiple non-profits, and the father of two teenage daughters.