



THE BRAINS BEHIND SAVING YOURS®

Virtual Dementia Education Conference | September 2, 2020

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

*Alphabetical by last name*

### ***Matthew Baumgart | Vice President of Health Policy, Alzheimer's Association***

Matthew Baumgart is Vice President of Health Policy for the Alzheimer's Association, leading a range of projects at the intersection of policy and programs to achieve an aggressive agenda that serves all those affected by the disease. In addition, Baumgart directs the Association's global public policy efforts, working in collaboration with Alzheimer Disease International, the World Dementia Council and the World Health Organization.

### ***Alyssa Szymanski Botte, MDiv, MA, LPCA | Dementia Education Coordinator & Counselor, Memory Counseling Program | J. Paul Sticht Center on Healthy Aging & Alzheimer's Prevention***

Alyssa Szymanski Botte, MA, MDiv, LCMHCA, received her Masters of Arts (MA) in clinical mental health counseling and a Masters of Divinity (MDiv) from Wake Forest University in 2017. She works for the Memory Counseling Program at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center as the Dementia Education Coordinator and as a counselor. Alyssa was ordained in 2016 as a minister by the Baptist denomination and is currently a CBF-endorsed pastoral counselor. Her clinical experience includes work with Gentiva Hospice, the WFUBMC Chaplaincy program, Heartstrings Pregnancy and Infant Loss program, and private practice counseling for issues related to trauma. Additionally, she has worked with numerous faith communities as both a minister and as lay leadership in children/youth ministry, preaching, senior adult ministry, and clinical support to clergy members.

### ***Ret. Bishop Kenneth L. Carder***

Kenneth L. Carder is a retired United Methodist pastor and bishop and Distinguished Professor Emeritus at Duke Divinity School. He was caregiver of his wife Linda who died October 3, 2019, after a ten-year journey with Frontotemporal Dementia. For five years he has served as volunteer chaplain at Bethany, the memory care facility at the Heritage at Lowman in Chapin, South Carolina. He is the author of *Ministry with the Forgotten: Dementia Through a Spiritual Lens* published by Abingdon Press in 2019. The book was selected as one of five finalists by the Christian Books Award program in the category of "Ministry Resources."

### ***Elaine Deck***

Elaine Deck is a 5th generation Californian and 1 of triplet girls. While living in California, Elaine served as counselor, supervisor, and director of multiple women's treatment centers focused largely on counseling and substance abuse. More recently, Elaine lived and worked in Alexandria, VA, as Senior Program Manager for the International Association of Chiefs of Police. In her role, Elaine developed and coordinated training in the areas of leadership development, ethics, and community policing. She also coordinated the National Policy Summit in Washington, D.C., for Police Response to Persons with Mental Illness. Now retired, Elaine moved to the Charlotte, NC, area in 2013 where she spends time with her step-sons and four grandchildren as well as staying active through community volunteering.

### ***Ann Marie Daniel, Esq.***

Ann Marie Daniel established her law firm in Charlotte, North Carolina in 2007 in order to concentrate on estate planning, estate administration and guardianships. She truly believes that creating an estate plan is a gift to your family. Ann Marie brings many years of experience to the table and values personal service above all else. Ann Marie graduated magna cum laude from Seton Hall University School of Law in 1991. She initially practiced law in New Jersey, but her family has called Charlotte home since 1995. Ann Marie is a member of the Elder Law and Estate Planning Sections of the North Carolina Bar Association, the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, and the North Carolina Guardianship Association. Ann Marie is licensed to practice in North Carolina.

### ***Matthew A. Freeze, Esq.***

Matthew A Freeze joined the Ann Daniel Law Office in 2018. It is his desire to provide services to help put clients' minds at ease over the many legal concerns that come with end-of-life planning and the management of a loved one's estate. A North Carolina native, Matt earned a Bachelor of Arts cum laude with University Honors from UNC-Asheville in 2007 and a Juris Doctor from Wake Forest University in 2018. Along with legal experiences, Matt worked for close to a decade for organizations that foster support for child abuse victims and brings this same desire to provide strong advocacy for his clients of all ages. Matt is a member of the Elder Law and Estate Planning Sections of the North Carolina Bar Association and the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys. Matt is licensed to practice in the North and South Carolina.

### ***Pam McElreath***

Pam and her husband started the First Pioneer Insurance Agency in Moore County, NC, in 1975. It eventually grew to be licensed in 38 states with 3 locations in NC. Pam managed the HR Department and most of the accounting practices. Pam also served Bethesda Presbyterian Church in Aberdeen, NC, as an Elder and Deacon and was active in other community service. Pam was diagnosed at the age 59 with Younger-onset Alzheimer's. After her diagnosis, Pam and her husband sold their business and relocated to their family farm in Sugar Grove, NC, to be closer to their children and grandchildren. Pam advocates Alzheimer's awareness and the Alzheimer's Association through speaking engagements, WALK, and local education opportunities. She also spearheaded the creation of a local Peer Support Group and Caregivers Support Group. Pam and her husband have two children and four grandchildren.

### ***Mark A Pippinger, M.D.***

Mark Pippenger 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. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Western Carolina Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. In addition to being a founding member of the Arkansas Celtic Music Society, he is a member of the Dragonfly Society of the Americas.

### ***Jay Reinstein***

Jay enjoyed a 25-year career in local government. Most recently, he served as the Assistant City Manager of Fayetteville, NC, overseeing Transit, Development Services, Economic and Workforce Development, and Human Resources. In March 2018, at age 57, Jay was diagnosed with Younger-onset Alzheimer's Disease. After much soul-searching, Jay decided to use the disease as a platform to raise awareness, develop public policy, and raise funds for Alzheimer's research. He is engaged with his local Alzheimer's Association Chapter, is a member of the Alzheimer's Association National Board of Directors, and has served on the 2019-2020 Alzheimer's Association National Early-Stage Advisory Group. Jay and his wife, Angela, live in Raleigh, NC, with their daughter Elizabeth.

### ***Dave Sanderson | International Speaker and Author***

After nearly thirty-five years in sales and sales leadership with roles in companies such as ADP, Peoplesoft, KPMG and Oracle, Dave founded his executive coaching and personal leadership firm Dave Sanderson Speaks International in January 15, 2014. A sought-after international speaker, he works with established and emerging leaders to help them find what their DISTINCT ADVANTAGE, aligning with their purpose through employing their personal leadership skills, igniting their performance through focused execution, resourcefulness and gratitude. On January 15, 2009, Dave was one of the last passengers off the plane that crashed into the Hudson River, best known as The Miracle on the Hudson, considered to be the most successful ditching in aviation History. In addition to his 35 years in sales and sales leadership, he was the Director of Security for Tony Robbins for over 10 years and has recently been named one of the top 100 Leadership Speakers in Inc.com. His book, Moments Matter, details the lessons learned from the Miracle on the Hudson and how one defining moment can create a lifetime of purpose so you can create your own flight plan for your future!

***Macie Smith, Ed.D.***

Dr. Macie P. Smith is a Licensed Social Worker and a Social Worker in Gerontology with more than two decades of experience working with aging and vulnerable populations. She conducts research, develops programs, conducts program evaluations, and facilitates professional development training in the areas of health care management, Alzheimer's, dementia, and cognitive impairment. Dr. Smith is the CEO of Diversified Training Consultants Group, a Geriatric Care Management group that promotes quality education and training for health and human services practitioners and family caregivers. She is the author of A Dementia Caregiver's Guide to Care and the host of the MCI 911 Podcast.

***Heather Snyder, Ph.D. | Vice President of Medical and Scientific Relations, Alzheimer's Association***

Heather M. Snyder, Ph.D., is the Vice President of Medical and Scientific Operations at the Alzheimer's Association. In this role, she oversees Association initiatives that accelerate innovative Alzheimer's research and provide opportunities for the global dementia community to connect and collaborate. In addition, Dr. Snyder serves on the executive team for the U.S. Study to Protect Brain Health (U.S. POINTER) and oversees the development and management of the field's leading clinical neurology journal, Alzheimer's & Dementia. Dr. Snyder received her Ph.D. in molecular biology from Loyola University Chicago Stritch Medical School and completed her postdoctoral fellowship in the neurobiology program at Children's Memorial Research Center. She earned her bachelor's degree in biology and religious studies from the University of Virginia.

***Tina Ketchie Stearns, MBA***

Tina Ketchie Stearns has worked in elder care for 15 years. Tina educates medical professionals to understand hospice care and have effective communications with patients and families about end of life care. She also works with caregivers and the general public to better understand hospice and palliative care, advanced planning, long term caregiving, and grief. Tina is a graduate of East Carolina University and holds an MBA from Wake Forest University.

***Donna Thomson***

Donna Thomson has been a caregiver all of her adult life. She is the author of The Four Walls of My Freedom: Lessons I've Learned from a Life of Caregiving (The House of Anansi Press, 2014) and is the co-author with Dr. Zachary White of The Unexpected Journey of Caring: The Transformation of Loved One to Caregiver (Rowman and Littlefield, June 2019). Donna is the co-designer and co-instructor of the Family Engagement in childhood disability Research Certificate Program and facilitates the Caregiving Essentials online certificate course, both at McMaster University. She is also a 'Pro' mentor at the family caregiving support site, Huddol.com. Donna blogs regularly on matters related to disability, ageing and caregiving at The Caregivers' Living Room ([www.donnathomson.com](http://www.donnathomson.com)).

### ***Brian Van Buren***

Brian was diagnosed in 2015 with Younger-onset Alzheimer's. After losing his job as an international flight attendant, Brian reimagined himself as an advocate giving voice to Alzheimer's awareness. He is a Board Member of the Alzheimer's Association, Western Carolina Chapter and an Advisory Council Member for the Dementia Action Alliance. Brian also served on the Alzheimer's Association National Early Stage Advisory Group. As an African-American, Brian felt it was important to "give a face" to Alzheimer's disease and was featured in AARP's video announcement of their commitment to give \$60 million dollars to dementia research. He also passionate about helping meet the needs of marginalized populations such as the LGBTQ Community.

### ***Juanita Wade***

Public service is a mainstay in Juanita Wade's life. She currently volunteers as an Alzheimer's Community Educator (ACE) and support group facilitator for the Alzheimer's Association of Western Carolina. As well, Juanita sits as Board member for Freedom School Partners. This work follows her public service in Boston and DC as: elected public official, voter rights/registration advocate, and human rights advocate. Juanita's rich work history represents several notable careers in Boston over 30 years as: elementary school teacher, non-profit executive manager; university lecturer; and 10-year cabinet official (Chief of Health and Human Services) under the late Mayor Thomas M. Menino. Again, Juanita left an indelible mark during her 10-year stay in DC as: non-profit education manager, Senior Program Manager with Fannie Mae's Office of Community and Charitable Giving, and Project Manager for outreach Fannie Mae's Making Home Affordable (MHA) team engaged in expanding homeowner access to the Obama Administration's Making Home Affordable Programs. Juanita led their national on-the-ground outreach efforts until her retirement in October, 2014. Upon retirement Juanita and her husband moved to Charlotte, NC, where in late 2017 they opened a travel industry business, Wade Cruise and Travel Services. Ms. Wade is married and has three adult children.

### ***Zachary White, Ph.D.***

Zachary White, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor in the James L. Knight School of Communication at Queens University of Charlotte. He is the co-author with Donna Thompson of the book, *The Unexpected Journey of Caring: The Transformation of Loved One to Caregiver*. Dr. White's research and teaching focus on helping caregivers manage meaning and communicate life experiences amidst high levels of uncertainty. He teaches courses addressing such topics as provider-patient communication, caregiver communication, health and illness narratives, digital health literacy, online social support, and sense making amidst life transitions. He blogs at "The Unprepared Caregiver" ([www.unpreparedcaregiver.com](http://www.unpreparedcaregiver.com)).