

Positive Behavior Management and Support Workshops Presenters Bios



Joseph Dracobly, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA (TX) received his undergraduate degree in Psychology and Italian Studies from Gonzaga University in 2005. In 2009, he received his M.S. in Behavior Analysis from the University of North Texas under the supervision of Dr. Richard Smith. In 2014, he received his Ph.D. in Behavioral Psychology from the University of Kansas under the supervision of Dr. Claudia Dozier. After graduating from the University of Kansas, from 2014-2018, he was an

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Assistant Professor of Psychological Science at Eastern Connecticut State University.

In August 2018, Dr. Dracobly joined the faculty in the Department of Behavior Analysis at the University of North Texas as an Assistant Professor. He is currently a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and a Licensed Behavior Analysis in the state of Texas. Dr. Dracobly is the director of the Behavior Analysis Resource Center (BARC), a clinical and research project at the Denton State Supported Living Center (DSSLC). BARC provides students the opportunity to develop clinical skills within the context of interdisciplinary service delivery and conduct research on severe behavior disorders and trauma. Dr. Dracobly is also the faculty supervisor of the Creativity and Problem Solving (CaPS) lab. The CaPS lab conducts translational and applied research focused on response variability and its relation to more complex behavioral repertoires.

Dr. Dracobly's work has been published in the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, *Behavior Analysis in Practice*, and *Learning and Motivation*. He is currently an Associate Editor for the *Journal of Mental Health Research in Intellectual Disabilities*, serves on the editorial board of *The Journal of Organizational Behavior Management*, and regularly serves as a guest reviewer for the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, the *European Journal of Behavior Analysis*, and the *Education and Treatment of Children*.

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Richard Smith received his masters and doctoral degrees at the University of Florida. After receiving his doctoral degree, Smith joined the faculty at the University of North Texas where he served as chair of the Department of Behavior Analysis for 13 of his 25 years on the job. His primary research interest is in the assessment and treatment of behavior disorders in people with intellectual disabilities with specific areas of focus in motivational variables, advances in functional analysis procedures and the use of complex research designs to investigate basic principles underlying the effects of behavioral interventions. His research has resulted in numerous presentations and publications and he has served on the editorial board and as associate editor for the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis* for many years. He is the founding director of BARC, where BARC staff and student provide caseload, clinical, and caregiver training services.

Awards:

- B.F. Skinner New Researcher Award for innovative and important behavioral research by a new investigator, August 1997. Presented at the Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, Division 25, Chicago, Illinois.

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- Developing Scholar Award, University of North Texas, Fall 1999.
- Texas Association on Mental Retardation Research Award for Outstanding Research Contributions in the Mental Retardation Field, August 2000.
- Award for Distinguished Faculty Service, Special Recognition Award for 10 Years of Meritorious Service. Awarded Fall 2004. Denton State School, Denton, Texas.
- Hiram J. Friedsam Award of Distinction for Outstanding Faculty Contributions, UNT College of Public Affairs and Community Service. Awarded May 2007.
- Honor Professor, University of North Texas Student Government Award. Awarded April 2011.
- Career Contributions to Behavior Analysis in Texas Award, Texas Association for Behavior Analysis, February 2014.
- UNT President's Special Faculty Recognition Award, October 2017.



Audrey Newkirk received her bachelor's and master's degrees in behavior analysis at UNT and is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and a Licensed Behavior Analysis in the state of Texas. She supervises and mentors students who obtain practical training in the assessment and treatment of behavior disorders, competency-based staff training, behavior skills training, teaching clients to cooperate with and tolerate routine health care procedures, and the evaluation of procedural fidelity in program implementation. She has completed research on the development and

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evaluation of a large-scale pyramidal staff training program for behavior management. Her original work on this topic was presented at the 2014 meeting of the Association of Behavior Analysis: International conference, and she and her students continue to present extensions and refinements of this work at regional and national conferences.



Katy Atcheson received her bachelor's degree in psychology at the University of Nevada, Reno and her master's degree in behavior analysis at the University of North Texas. She is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and a Licensed Behavior Analysis in the state of Texas. Her primary interests and expertise are in the area of assessment and treatment of severe challenging behavior. Her 16 years of experience at DSSLC includes treating people who engage in extreme, severe behavior and has led to her passion to help and train future behavior analysts, providers and caregivers to better understand and more effectively manage their day-to-day behavioral challenges.