

2016 ThinkFirst Conference Faculty

Russell Amundson M.D. has a long history with ThinkFirst. He served as Board of Directors Chairman from 2007-2009, served many years on the Board and chaired numerous committees. Dr. Amundson co-chaired the ThinkFirst For Youth curriculum committee and is Dr. A in the youth curriculum. He was an active sponsoring physician in Delaware and in Philadelphia, and developed a sister-chapter relationship with ThinkFirst Peru. Dr. Amundson is now retired from neurosurgery and works as a consultant and entrepreneur.

Harris Blackwood has served as Georgia's Director of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety since he was appointed by Governor Nathan Deal in 2011. During his tenure he has dedicated himself and his staff to improving safety on Georgia's roadways by crafting creative safety campaigns and instilling effective programs with organizations around the state. Director Blackwood was appointed by US Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx to serve on the National Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council, a panel of federal agencies that coordinate resources and knowledge to advance EMS nationwide. He currently serves as vice-chairman of the Governor's Highway Safety Association and is chairman of the Georgia Drivers Education Commission.

Prior to his work in highway safety, Director Blackwood served as a senior adviser to the Deal campaign and has experience as a reporter and senior editor for many television, radio stations and newspapers throughout Georgia. His background also includes management positions within the Georgia Department of Corrections, the Georgia Peanut Commission and the Stone Monument Memorial Association. He and his wife, Allison, have four grown children and reside in Gainesville, where he writes a weekly column for the Gainesville Times that has, on multiple occasions, earned top honors from the Georgia Press Association.

Jill Braselton, RN, BSN, is the Team Lead Specialist for Injury Prevention at Northwestern Medicine–West Region, Central DuPage Hospital and the ThinkFirst State Chapter Director for Illinois. She has worked for Central DuPage Hospital for 29 years and in her current role oversees ThinkFirst Northwestern Medicine's Injury Prevention programs, which reach more than 24,000 students each year. She developed and implements ThinkFirst for Youth presentations in elementary and middle schools, presenting ThinkFirst assemblies/classroom presentations to over 8,000 students each year. She teaches 2 parent classes each month on Child Passenger Safety and facilitates a new mother's weekly support group for the hospital. She created the ThinkFirst Boost IL/CPS program at Northwestern Medicine distributing over 350 Child Safety Seats each year to families in need. Jill received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Science from Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois and her Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing from Rush University in Chicago. She is a Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician and Certified Breastfeeding Counselor. She lives in Glen Ellyn, IL with her husband and daughter Riley (18).

Thomas Bukowski, MPA, is currently an associate digital content producer at Chicago-area non-profit the National Safety Council. His primary duties are to manage and contribute to the editorial needs of a national education campaign on car safety technologies and defensive driving techniques. A trained digital analytics researcher and long-time social media user, Thomas's approach to social media combines the rigorousness of program evaluation and planning with the spontaneity and real-time interactivity necessary for successful social media management. As an employee of a non-profit and formerly in state government, Thomas also advocates for low-resource-intensive but high-value social media marketing techniques – such as leveraging “influencers” to promote messages for your organization.

Sophie Ann Canadé, Registered Art Therapist (ATR) Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), has been working in Chicago since 2011 when she received a Master of Arts in Art Therapy from the School of the Art Institute in Chicago. She began studying Art Therapy working with adult survivors of Traumatic Brain Injury by interning at New Focus, a rehabilitation day program. Her clinical art therapy has specialized in work with older adults who are challenged by age-related cognitive, emotional, and physical issues including symptoms from stroke, Parkinson's, and Alzheimer's disease.

Jill Castor has served as the ThinkFirst State Director and the Indiana University Chapter Director for 3 years. In this time, Jill has coached multiple VIPs in answering the difficult questions, and has coordinated her ThinkFirst chapter in reaching over 9,000 students. Jill also serves as the Chair for the ThinkFirst Falls Committee, and the Indiana Fall Prevention Coalition. Jill is also a Master Trainer for Matter of Balance.

David Cavanaugh, MD, is a neurosurgeon in Shreveport, Louisiana and has been the sponsoring physician for ThinkFirst of the Ark-LA-TEX for 20 years. He earned his MD from Louisiana State University and completed his neurosurgery residency at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. Dr. Cavanaugh served as the Foundation's Chairman of the Board from 2005-2007, after serving on the Executive Committee and holding the position of Medical Director. He and his wife, Donna have been a driving force for ThinkFirst and its mission at the local, state and national level throughout their 20 years of involvement.

K. Jason Crandall, Ph.D., ACSM EP-C, is an Assistant Professor of Exercise Science at Western Kentucky University. He is a certified American College of Sports Medicine Exercise Physiologist and a research fellow within the Center for Gerontology at Western Kentucky University. His research focus is physical activity interventions for older adults. Recently his focus has been the efficacy of an older adult health promotion program he created four years ago called, Bingocize®. In addition to completing three studies of the program, he has helped train others to implement the program as far away as California and New York. His research is currently funded by the Retirement Research Foundation and the Kentucky Science and Engineering Foundation.

Dawn Daniels, PhD, RN, PHCNS-B, has been a pediatric nurse for 33 years, mainly in pediatric trauma. Dawn has a master's degree in acute care pediatrics as well as in community health, and has a doctorate degree focusing on health policy and injury prevention. She has spent 10 years specializing in injury prevention and sits on related local, state, and national committees. Dawn serves as national faculty for injury prevention courses. She has served as a trauma program manager at a Level I verified pediatric trauma center for 4 years and serves on numerous state and national committees. Dawn is a ThinkFirst chapter director for ThinkFirst Riley Hospital in Indianapolis.

David M. Estorge, BS, M.Ed, received his Bachelors degree in Psychology from the University of Southern Mississippi and Masters Degree in Higher Education Administration from Florida State University. He has served as the President of the Memorial Hospital Foundation and Governmental Relations Liaison in Gulfport, Mississippi since August of 2005. He has over 17 years of experience in the non-profit sector and has worked for the USM Foundation and St. Stanislaus College in Bay St. Louis. He serves on the Board of Directors for The Mississippi Center for not-for Profits, Lynn Meadows Discovery Center, Boys and Girls Clubs, and is a member of the Gulf Coast Business Council and Rotary Club of Gulfport. Dave was recently named a Top 10 Business Leader Under 40 by the Biloxi Sun Herald and received the Outstanding Young Alumnus award from the University of Southern Mississippi. He lives in Gulfport, MS with his wife Jaime and daughters Allie 15 and Anders 12.

Edward Fletcher Eyster, MD, is a neurosurgeon and one of ThinkFirst's founding fathers. After starting Feet First-First Time in Florida, and at the request of the AANS and CNS, Dr. Eyster combined this program with Missouri's injury prevention program to develop a national program that became ThinkFirst. Dr. Eyster served as Chairman of the Board from 1994-1996 with Roy Black and was instrumental in all early operations and policy development. Dr. Eyster currently works in San Francisco and continues to stay in close contact with the ThinkFirst Foundation.

Debby Gerhardstein, RN, BSN, MA, is the Executive Director of the ThinkFirst National Injury Prevention Foundation since 2007. Debby began her nursing career in patient care, including ten years as a certified rehabilitation nurse, where she became interested in the need for brain and spinal cord injury prevention. She began working as a ThinkFirst chapter director in 1994, and over thirteen years was as state chapter director, trainer, program manager and child passenger safety technician. She served on injury prevention-related state committees and numerous ThinkFirst Foundation committees while completing a master's degree in Organizational Leadership with a concentration in nonprofit management. Debby has been our executive director since 2007 where she directs operations, works with the Board and all committees to support ThinkFirst's mission and attain our goals, and serves on related national injury prevention coalitions.

Michelle M. Gibler, PhD, has served 28 years on the faculty of the University of Missouri School of Medicine in the capacity of Director of the Injury Prevention Division. Over the course of nearly 3 decades, she has been responsible for the planning, development, implementation and research of injury prevention programs. Michelle is a past ThinkFirst Foundation Board member and has served on numerous state and national-level committees, including the conference planning committee. Michelle holds three degrees in Health Education, BS, MS and PhD.

Sue Gorcowski, BA, MA, is the Associate Administrator of the Office of Communications and Consumer Information at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation. In this position, she manages the office responsible for providing accurate and timely traffic safety information to the news media, consumers, and partner organizations. The Office conducts market research, develops external communication strategies, implements paid and earned advertising campaigns, develops collateral program materials in support of traffic and vehicle safety program initiatives and manages the Agency's websites. She has over 30 years of highway safety experience at the state, regional and federal levels. She holds a BA in Sociology from Regis University and an MA in Urban Affairs from St. Louis University.

Jeremy Greene suffered a Traumatic Brain Injury from a motor vehicle crash in 1999. He has been speaking with ThinkFirst since 2000 and was featured in the film *ThinkFirst for Teens and Young Adults*. He graduated from Colorado State University in 2013 with a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Art and a concentration in painting. Jeremy is now a professional artist.

Kim Greene is currently the Injury Prevention Specialist for Vail Valley Medical Center. Through her personal experience with the Colorado Brain Injury Association Support Group she began her calling with the ThinkFirst National Injury Prevention Foundation in 2000 as a volunteer and to share her experience as a mother of a brain injury survivor. In 2006 she started her career with Vail Valley Medical Center as the ThinkFirst Eagle County Coordinator. She obtained her National Child Passenger Safety Technician Certification in 2007 and the same year was promoted to Chapter Director and full time Injury Prevention Specialist. In 2012 she acquired a National Child Passenger Safety Technician Instructor Certification. She currently serves as the ThinkFirst Colorado State Chapter Director, sits on the ThinkFirst National Board of Directors and is Co-Chair of the Eagle County Prevention Committee. Through her work with the Eagle County Prevention Committee

she has been instrumental in fundraising via grant writing at a local, state and national level. Ms. Greene has also served on various committees and projects regarding prevention throughout her career including serving as district representative for Child Passenger Safety Team Colorado. Ms. Greene is also currently certified in Tai Chi for Arthritis, Matter of Balance, and N'balance as an instructor for older adult fall prevention.

Jim Howell served as a member of the Michigan House of Representatives from 1999 through 2004. Prior to that, he was a law enforcement officer with the Saginaw County Sheriff's Department and the Saginaw Police Department before finishing his law degree from Cooley Law School and working both as a corporate and private practice attorney until he took office in 1998. Howell later became a vocal advocate for Michigan's system of no-fault auto insurance after his son, Sam, was critically injured in a car crash. Jim is the immediate past chair of the Brain Injury Association of Michigan where he continues to serve today, along with his wife Maureen and Sam.

Maureen Howell was a surgical nurse, trauma nurse, trauma nurse manager and neuro-nurse educator for over 20 years at St. Mary's of Michigan in Saginaw. She obtained her Associates degree in Nursing in 1984 and her BSN in 1996. She worked as a professional nurse until February 14, 2005 when her son, Sam became injured. Since that time, she has been Sam's full time nurse and caregiver and has worked tirelessly at his side as he's recovered against incredible odds – by far the toughest nursing job she has ever had.

Sam Howell is a survivor of a severe traumatic brain injury resulting from a car crash. He was a talented scientist by age 18, winning the International Science Fair after discovering the cause of his sister's disease. He was recruited in high school to work with a researcher who specialized in this disease at Harvard University when he came home to visit and suffered his injury. His recovery has far exceeded expectations. Sam recently completed his Associates of Science degree with honors and is a VIP speaker for Think First chapters in Michigan. He has also provides Disability Sensitivity programs for Lansing, Saginaw and Freeland area school children.

Kelli Jankens, MBA, is the Injury Prevention Coordinator at MidMichigan Medical Center in Midland, Michigan. She has been a chapter director since 1999 and state director since 2000. She has served on several national committees including the ThinkFirst Board of Directors and has been a presenter at local, state and national conferences. Along with ThinkFirst, Kelli is involved with other national programs including Safe Kids, Matter of Balance and Remembering When. Kelli earned her MBA from Northwood University in 2011.

Joey Johnson has been a VIP speaker with Indiana University health since 2013. Joey was injured in 2012 only a month after returning from overseas where he served as an army ranger. You may have seen his YouTube video that went viral titled "Paralyzed Veteran Stands for First Dance". Joey now speaks to various schools and organizations through ThinkFirst in Indiana, reaching over 3,000 students annually.

Krista Jones, BS, NCPSP CPS Instructor, Krista holds a Bachelor's of Science in Community Health Education from Ohio University. With her current role as an Injury Prevention Coordinator she plans, budgets, implements, evaluates and facilitates grant-funded programs, and provides public relations services for all injury prevention programming throughout TriHealth. She has been a National Child Passenger Safety Technician/Instructor for the past 15 years. Krista is a member of numerous injury prevention committees. Krista is a certified Stepping On Program facilitator.

Darcy Keith has been a VIP Speaker for Indiana University Health's ThinkFirst Chapter for 23 years, and has spoken to over 50,000 students. Darcy was injured in a motor vehicle crash when she and her fellow sorority sisters decided to skip class. With Darcy's years of experience in public speaking, she is an expert when it comes to answering difficult questions. Darcy was a featured narrator for the *ThinkFirst VIP Training Program* film.

Stephanie Lambers M.Ed., OTR/L, is responsible for defining the injury prevention efforts in schools, hospital and community for TriHealth. She is an Occupational Therapist with a Masters of Education in Community Health Promotion. She has been an injury prevention advocate for over 20 years. In addition, she is a liaison with local government and medical agencies concerned with reducing the incidence of injuries. She is a member of numerous injury prevention committees and serves on 2 community agency boards and is a certified Stepping On Program facilitator. Her patient care and community health experience have led to her passion for prevention of traumatic injuries.

Jeffrey M Lobosky, MD, has a long history with ThinkFirst at the local and national levels. He is the sponsoring physician for ThinkFirst Chico, and after several years on the ThinkFirst Foundation Board Dr. Lobosky served as Board Chairman from 1998-2000. He co-chaired the committee that developed ThinkFirst For Kids, and has spoken on behalf of ThinkFirst at several national and international neurosurgery conferences. Dr. Lobosky continues to work and serve as sponsoring physician in Chico, California.

Ashley Marass DNP, CPNP, is a doctoral prepared Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. She is an Assistant Professor at the University of South Alabama, College of Nursing. She graduated from Samford University's Doctor of Nursing Practice program while creating a computer-based concussion awareness program. Her special interests include concussion education, neurosurgical nursing, adolescent medicine, and pediatric HIV. Through Ashley's experience as a nurse in the school system she gained unique insights in education that aided in the creation and implementation of a concussion awareness program.

Dr. Anthony Martino is the Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery at the University of South Alabama (USA) College of Medicine. Dr. Martino has practiced neurosurgery for 25 years specializing in pediatric neurosurgery. Throughout his career, Dr. Martino has been actively involved in championing head injury prevention programs. These efforts include initiating the south Alabama regional ThinkFirst program for which Dr. Martino is currently the physician sponsor. In concert with ThinkFirst, the USA Department of Neurosurgery has an active concussion management program which evaluates concussed athletes, including those from the USA sports programs (NCAA Division I), from time of impact through recovery.

Daniel B. Michael, MD, PhD, has 25 years of experience as a neurosurgeon specializing in neurotrauma and critical care medicine. Dr. Michael served as the ThinkFirst Foundation Board Chairman from 2011-2013 and is currently a member of the ThinkFirst executive committee. He also is a member of the AANS/CNS Joint Section on Trauma and Critical Care the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma. Dr. Michael is an active sponsoring physician for ThinkFirst Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Michigan.

Edward Neuwelt, MD, is a professor of neurology and associate professor of neurological surgery in the OHSU School of Medicine. He is the Department Head of the Blood Brain Barrier Program. Tumors and other brain cancers are now targets for chemotherapy and gene therapy as a result of Dr. Neuwelt's groundbreaking research into the delivery of therapeutic remedies across the blood-

brain barrier. Additionally, Dr. Neuwelt has created and supported brain and spinal cord injury prevention programs at OHSU since the early 1980's. Dr. Neuwelt has served as the sponsoring physician for ThinkFirst Oregon since the early days of ThinkFirst, and has conducted numerous studies on ThinkFirst programs.

Catana Philipps, Injury Prevention Coordinator, started her role in injury prevention at Indiana University Health just four months ago. Prior to that she was an emergency room nurse for 3 ½ years. In the past 4 months, Catana has already coordinated multiple events, speaking to more than 1,500 students.

Amanda M. Rist RN, BSN Outreach/Injury Prevention Coordinator, has been a registered nurse for 7 years, with a background in ICU nursing. Amanda earned her Associate Degree in Nursing at Eastern Kentucky University before achieving her Bachelor degree in Nursing at the University of Kentucky. She has been the outreach/Injury Prevention Coordinator for the University of Kentucky Level 1 Trauma Center based in Lexington, Kentucky (The Horse Capitol of the World) since January 2015. Amanda has a special interest in geriatrics and has made it her goal in her new role to collaborate with existing resources to implement falls prevention programs for older adults within her community.

Carlos E. Santos has been a Voice for Injury Prevention (VIP) speaker in Colorado for several years, following a high school football injury that caused a spinal cord injury. Carlos was featured in the ThinkFirst For Teens film, *Think About Your Choices*.

Patrick Severin has worked with ThinkFirst Northwestern Medicine/Central DuPage Hospital for over 20 years and prior to that with chapters at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago and the Spinal Cord Injury Association of Illinois. He has reached more than 50,000 students with his important message of making good choices. Patrick lives in Des Plaines, IL with his fiancé and 2 children.

Charlene Sligting, MPA, is a Public Relations Specialist for AAA Chicago where she oversees all of the traffic safety programs for Illinois and northern Indiana. With a focus on distracted driving, teens and senior mobility, Charlene has educated thousands of teens and countless other motorists about safety on the roadways. Charlene is a seasoned traffic safety professional whose passion for traffic safety is fueled by her own personal loss. Tragically, Charlene's dad was killed by a distracted teen driver days before Father's Day in 2007. Prior to joining AAA, Charlene served as the Victim Advocate for traffic safety initiatives at the National Safety Council. In her role, Charlene helped create and launch the HEARTS Network. This national initiative provided a voice for more than 100 families who have been impacted by teen and distracted driving. Charlene holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration, an Advanced Safety Certification, is a CarFit Instructor, a certificated Child Passenger Safety Technician, a judge for the Illinois Traffic Safety Challenge and volunteers her time with the Illinois State Police Heritage Foundation.

Mark Spatola MD, FAANS, is the Chairman for ThinkFirst National Injury Prevention Foundation Board of Directors. Dr. Spatola is a neurosurgeon in Orange Park, Florida and has been instrumental in developing ThinkFirst chapters in the Orange Park-Jacksonville area. Dr. Spatola is active on all Board committees and is devoted to expanding the footprint of ThinkFirst to further reduce traumatic injuries.

Daniel R Stafiej, Police Officer/DRE, has been a certified police officer for nine years. Officer Stafiej has been recognized by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Transportation Safety Institute as a Drug Recognition Expert. He has trained hundreds of officers, states attorneys, and local prosecutors throughout Illinois in impaired driver detection and prosecution. Officer Stafiej works with the Carol Stream Police Department in Illinois.

Heather Sudduth, OTR/L, CCM, CEAS is the Coordinator of Neuroscience Programs at Singing River Health System. She is also employed with Memorial Hospital at Gulfport where she coordinates the ThinkFirst State Chapter for Mississippi. As Coordinator of Neuroscience Programs, her main roles are overseeing the stroke and ThinkFirst programs. She has over 10 years of experience in program development and created the first Joint Commission Primary Stroke Center in the state of MS. As ThinkFirst State Chapter Director, she has reached out to over 29,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade to educate them on brain and spinal cord injury prevention. Heather received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Occupational Therapy from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, in Birmingham, Alabama. She also received specialty certifications as a Certified Case Manager and Certified Ergonomic Assessment Specialist. Heather received the Mississippi Occupational Therapy Association Service Award for Outstanding and Exemplary Service of the Occupational Therapy Profession and was named as one of South Mississippi's Top 10 Business Leaders Under 40 by the SunHerald and The Journal of South Mississippi Business, as well as, one of the Mississippi Business Journal's Top 40 Under 40.

Michael Turner M.D., was a Pediatric Neurosurgeon in Indianapolis for many years. He served on the ThinkFirst Board of Directors for more than 10 years, serving as Chairman from 2003-2005. Dr. Turner was also a member of the AAP Committee on Injury, Violence and Poisoning Prevention for 6 years and is currently on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention committee, developing evidence-based guidelines on the diagnosis and management of non-sports related concussions. Dr. Turner was an active sponsoring physician for ThinkFirst in Indianapolis for many years, retiring from this position when he retired from neurosurgery practice in 2013.

Margie Williams PhD, RN, ANEF, CNE, has been passionate about preventing brain and spinal cord injury since worked as a RN in pediatric rehabilitation and later in the adult intensive care unit over 35 years ago. In her role as a nursing professor she engaged her nursing students in learning how to conduct evaluation research by participating in designing and conducting multiple research studies to evaluate the impact of the provision of helmets to children.

Mary Wilstrup, RN, MSN, PCNS-BC is a master's prepared registered nurse and board certified clinical nurse specialist with the primary focus of pediatric critical care nursing. Ms. Wilstrup has worked for 16 years in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at USA Children's & Women's Hospital. Since 2005, Ms. Wilstrup has worked as a clinical coordinator of the "Cares for Kids" critical care transport team that specialized in the care of pediatric burn and trauma patients. Ms. Wilstrup is the chapter director of ThinkFirst Mobile, in Alabama.