

**Location:**

MHC 1430

*Classroom located in the School of Social Work (old AMHD area)*

**More Information:**

Tracy-Ann Gilbert-Smith  
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**Wednesday, May 8th • 9:00 am - 12:00 pm (Noon)**

**Phyllis Jones, PhD**

### The Promises and Challenges of UDL in the Classroom

This hands on workshop will introduce the fundamental concepts of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) in the classroom context. UDL will be contextualized in relation to the diverse learning needs of students, but emphasis will be given to students with disabilities. Workshop participants will leave the workshop knowledgeable about the principles of UDL, their application to teaching and learning, and an awareness of some of the current potentials and challenges of UDL.

**Dr. Jones** is an associate professor in the Department of Special Education at the University of South Florida. Phyllis taught and was a deputy head in schools in the UK for fifteen years before she entered teacher education. She is author of *Inclusion in the Early Years: Stories of good practice*, co author of *Collaborate Smart* and lead editor of three books related to classroom assessment, leading for inclusion and teachers as researchers. Phyllis is published widely in international journals related to inclusion, teacher education for teachers of students with severe intellectual disabilities and/or ASD. [pjones7@usf.edu](mailto:pjones7@usf.edu)

**Wednesday, May 8 • 1:00 – 4:00 pm**

**Sylvia F. Diehl, PhD, CCC-SLP**

### Incorporating Augmentative and Alternative Communication in Multiple Contexts

This presentation is focused on the use of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) in the classroom. It is intended to review evidence based practice and promising strategies that support both comprehension and expression in the school contexts. The use of AAC as a continuum of supports from basic visual supports to low tech aids to high tech devices will be discussed. Strategies that support communication and literacy development will be identified. Dynamic participation in meaningful classroom activities will be emphasized. Topics will be addressed through lecture, case study presentation, videos, and learning activities.

**Dr. Diehl** has supported children with autism spectrum disorders and their families for over twenty years. She is a faculty member of the University of South Florida Communication Sciences and Disorders Department where she teaches courses in augmentative and alternative communication, language disorders, and developmental disabilities. She serves as a consultant to many school districts and the Florida Inclusion Network. She has authored both webcourses and a master clinician workshop on autism spectrum disorders for the American Speech Language and Hearing Association. Her research and publication interests focus on consistent frameworks to support children with ASD in classroom settings. [sdiehl@usf.edu](mailto:sdiehl@usf.edu)

**Thursday, May 9 • 9:00 am - 12:00 pm (Noon)**

**Kathryn J. De Laurentis, PhD**

### Universal Design and Selection of Assistive Technologies for Learning

This presentation will outline universal design methods and human factor considerations necessary to develop technologies (tools and techniques) to increase, maintain, or improve functional, cognitive, or sensory capabilities of individuals with disabilities. Access, communication, mobility, and behavior related to function are some topics discussed in terms of their influence on design, choices of technology, classroom dynamics and educational tools. An overview of a variety of learning technologies aimed at improving the academic performance of children with disabilities will also be provided.

**Dr. De Laurentis** is a founder and the managing partner of Fourier Designs, LLC – a developer of innovative assistive technologies in central Florida since 2006. Dr. De Laurentis graduated from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey with a PhD in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering; and also has a behavioral and mental health practitioner background. Her experience over the last 13 years has been in the design, development, actuation, and fabrication of next-generation mechanisms, electro-mechanical devices and robotic systems for assistive, rehabilitation and space applications. She has patented and widely published her work. Dr. De Laurentis has received recognition from organizations such as Pinellas County Economic Development, the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and the National Science Foundation.

Project TSBA (Preparing Tiered System Behavior Analysts), a joint federally funded project of the Applied Behavior Analysis Master's Program and the Positive Behavior Certificate Program at the University of South Florida is offering a 2-day Summer Institute on universal design and assistive technology for children with disabilities. All are welcome. Open to USF and non-USF affiliates (responsible for own parking). Light refreshments, sweets, and fruits will be served.

