

The DeepBlue Team

Dr. James R. Rivet

Educator, consultant, researcher, and founder of “StudySmart La Jolla,” and “DeepBlue Educators,” Dr. James R. Rivet has a Masters degree in Curriculum and Instruction and a Doctorate in Education from the University of Southern California (U.S.C.). An adjunct professor teaching graduate courses in Education, James has also taught grades K-12 in the San Diego Unified School District. He serves on several advisory committees, and is a frequent speaker on education at conferences and colleges throughout the country. The philosophies of individualized learning present in his writings and lectures inspire him to offer his expertise to families and organizations grappling with the ever-evolving challenges facing children who are performing below their potential.

Dr. Paula Grayson

Dr. Paula Grayson received her BA in Biology from UCLA and her M.D. from UCLA Medical School. Dr. Grayson completed her pediatric residency at UCSD Medical School. She has over ten years of experience as a pediatrician in the outpatient setting and two years of experience in teaching medical students and pediatric residents. Paula is especially interested in educating both parents and children in the area of preventative medicine to cultivate a healthy evolution from childhood to adulthood.

Dr. Angela Ballantyne

Dr. Angela Ballantyne is a research pediatric neuropsychologist with a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the SDSU – UCSD Joint Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology. She has worked for 15 years in research on children's cognitive development. Dr. Ballantyne specializes in the neurocognitive assessment of typically developing and neurologically impaired infants, toddlers, children, and adolescents. She holds an academic position at UCSD as an Associate Project Neuroscientist in the School of Medicine, and is one of the Principal Investigators at the UCSD Project in Cognitive and Neural Development. Dr. Ballantyne believes that each child is a unique individual and that all children have strengths that can be utilized to build a healthy sense of self and positive self-esteem.

Dr. Amy Spilkin

Amy Spilkin, Ph.D. has a doctorate in Clinical Psychology from the San Diego State University (SDSU) - University of California, San Diego (UCSD) Joint Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology. She specializes in pediatric neuropsychology and has written numerous articles and given presentations on children with different neurological disorders including Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Asperger's syndrome and Autism. Her academic research and clinical training focus on understanding the connection between the brain and behavior. Her goal is to help children, families, and educators recognize and optimize children's cognitive and behavioral strengths and utilize these strengths to overcome any areas of difficulty.

Dr. Malinda Breda

Malinda L. Breda, Ph.D. has a doctorate in Clinical Health Psychology from the California School of Professional Psychology, San Diego. Dr. Breda is a therapist, with a specialization in health psychology and stress management. Her academic, research, and clinical training focuses on understanding the complex connection between one's emotional/mental health and physical health. She believes parents are better able to support their children if they learn to take better care of themselves. Her goal is to help parents learn to identify and work through the stressors in parenting to enhance one's ability to respond more intelligently to both the challenges, and precious moments, of child-rearing. Dr. Breda has facilitated numerous Stress Reduction classes, and has received formal meditation training in the Jon Kabat-Zinn Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction Program at the Scripps Center for Integrative Medicine.

Dr. Jacqueline Yarbrough

Dr. Jacqueline Yarbrough is the Head of the Gillispie School in La Jolla, California. She has 19 years of experience in both public and private education. She taught bilingual classes in the Los Angeles Unified School District for eight years, then began educational consulting for elementary independent schools in curriculum alignment. She was owner of an after-school tutoring business for nine years. During this time she created and implemented an Academic Dean position at Carthorp School in Santa Monica. Her academic training focuses on organizational leadership, curriculum development and child development. Her expertise is in education for children from ages 2 – 12, and her doctoral research was in emotional intelligence and school culture.

Tracy Callaway

Tracy Callaway is a pioneer in providing Parent Education to families with young children in San Diego County. Tracy offers the Redirecting Children's Behavior course and various workshops as a Certified Parent Educator through the International Network for Children and Families. As the Executive Assistant for the family learning and healing center Indigo Village, Tracy leads Certified Family Coaches through the Nanny 411 program. Tracy's experience began working as the Bilingual Coordinator with Children and Families Ready for School supervising various school readiness programs such as PAT (Parents As Teachers) and HIPPIY (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters). She is fluently bilingual in Spanish and has a vast cultural knowledge having resided, studied, and traveled extensively in Mexico for more than two years. In concordance with her dedication to children and families Tracy aspires to create a more peaceful and empowered community of parents and children.

DeepBlue Educators

2354 Torrey Pines Road Suite 11 La Jolla, CA 92037 | 866.432.BLUE (2583) | www.deepblueeducators.org

Dr. Tom Horvath

Tom Horvath, PhD, ABPP, is a clinical psychologist specializing in high risk behavior. He works with teens, young adults and their families to reduce or eliminate the risks associated with addictive and sexual behavior. He earned a BA from St. John's College, Annapolis, Maryland, and a PhD from the California School of Professional Psychology at San Diego. He is President of Practical Recovery Services, La Jolla, CA, which offers an alternative to traditional 12-step, disease model treatment. He was President (1999-2000) of the American Psychological Association Division on Addictions, the world's largest organization of addictive behavior psychologists. He was also President of the San Diego Psychological Association and is author of *Sex, Drugs, Gambling & Chocolate: A Workbook for Overcoming Addictions*, 2nd ed. (Impact, 2003).

Patrice Carington

"85% of what contributes to our Interpersonal and Financial Success is our Communication Skills." Patrice Carington is an award winning Professional Speaker that has taught communication skills to over 15,000 people throughout the United States, Canada and Australia. She teaches how to communicate without offending, to create win/win and to maintain the harmony and equilibrium within the family. Other topics include: how to keep your cool when you are upset, conflict resolution, listening techniques to calm children down, and emotional intelligence. She teaches that "the greatest form of Persuasion is Inspiration" and assists parents, adults and teachers to be the example that children strive to emulate. Patrice graduated with Highest Honors from the University of San Diego with her formal schooling in Psychology, Leadership and Business.

Alessandra Colfi

Italian-born Alessandra Colfi is an artist and Expressive Art workshop facilitator. Her mixed-media art, winner of numerous awards, is displayed and sold in galleries throughout San Diego. Through her personal experience, research and studies, Alessandra has been blending and applying her artistic and creative passion for the purpose of emotional healing and personal growth. Alessandra serves on the Board of Directors of several art and well-being oriented educational organizations. She is constantly refining her Playshops through programs and mentoring offered by the best professionals in the field. Her vision is to inspire parents, teachers and caregivers to share the Playshop with children, thus providing a meaningful activity and valuable tool for introspection, self-expression, transformation and bonding.

Matt Sanders

Matt Sanders is an M.S. in Psychology and Social Sciences, M.S. in Family Studies and Human Development. He is a Clinician, Health Educator, and Professional Consultant in the area of close relationships and family conflict. His comes with 15 years of experience in developing curriculum and providing training for educational administrators and parents as well as conducting therapeutic sessions to address some of the most difficult problems that families endure. Mr. Sanders recognizes that family conflict is often deeply rooted at the core of unique problems. He engages participants with vulnerability, humor and reverence designed to restore family esteem. "It takes courage to build trust. What follows is the communication and emotional connections that keep families intact."

Nicole Jackson

Nicole Jackson currently holds the position of Comprehensive Review Coordinator in the Office of Admissions and Relations with Schools at the University of California San Diego. Ms. Jackson has over ten years of work experience in pre-college outreach, including three years serving as the Test Preparation Coordinator for the Early Academic Outreach Program at UCSD. Her experience in test preparation includes designing curriculum, teaching courses, and evaluating student exam performance. In addition, Ms. Jackson has provided professional development training to San Diego County school staff on how to design and implement test preparation courses at their school sites. Ms. Jackson has had formal training from both the College Board and ACT Corp., and is intimately familiar with both SAT and ACT testing content, format, and procedures. Ms. Jackson is particularly interested and experienced in working with parents to find ways to be advocates for their students to help them achieve their personal, educational, and career goals.

Brett Wellington

Brett is Associate Director of Admissions at Alliant International University. As an Assistant Director for UCSD's Early Academic Outreach Program, he served as a member of the UC Cadre of Experts, a system wide team of experts providing on-site advising to K-12 officials with UC subject requirements and procedures as they apply to matriculation, curricula and special cases. He has over four years of experience in academic counseling in the San Diego City School District. He has developed and instructed a variety of successful programs to assist students, counselors and parents in preparing for and improving upon their university applications, including the Personal Statement Workshop component to University Link Medical Science Program in 2002 and 2003.

William (Kid Billy) Borja

Billy Borja is an accomplished martial arts expert with 15 years of experience. He owned and operated a Kid Billy karate studio for eight years where he trained hundreds of students specializing in traditional martial arts, crime prevention, and self-defense & awareness programs. Billy is the Co-Founder and President & CEO of Big on Kids Entertainment Inc. a company that creates, develops and distributes products on child safety. Billy is the creator and a writer of the Kid Billy video series. As a child safety advocate Billy has had several television and radio interviews in the San Diego area, and he speaks publicly at schools, private organizations, churches and corporately. Billy is married to his lovely wife Michelle and has two children, Christian and Lexxi.



DeepBlue Educators

2354 Torrey Pines Road Suite 11 La Jolla, CA 92037 | 866.432.BLUE (2583) | www.deepblueeducators.org

Sprig Allan

Sprig lives in the La Jolla Shores area of San Diego. He is a senior at La Jolla High School. His main interests are; playing sports, spending time on computers, and reading. He is on the La Jolla High School Cross-Country team and the varsity tennis team. Sprig is living testament to those challenges that teenagers face in school and he enjoys interacting with audience members and answering all questions about “life in today’s high school.”

Scott Sugarman

Scott graduated from The Maxwell School of Citizenry at Syracuse University in 1986 with a degree in Political Science. He is a financial adviser with over 15 years experience working with pension plans and high net worth individuals. He is a Senior Vice-President of Investments at Smith Barney and is a designated financial planning specialist. He received a certificate in personal financial planning from San Diego State University in 2002. He is currently on both the advisory committee for San Diego High School of International Studies and has served as an advisor for their National Academy of Finance. He enjoys sharing a lifetime’s worth of tips for parents and young adults about how to save and manage money. His passion is helping families properly plan for the costs involved in not only paying for college, but the day-to-day stress that most students encounter while living away from home for the first time.

Dr. Deborah Pontillo

Dr. Deborah Pontillo is a bilingual (English/Spanish) clinical psychologist with over 14 years of education, training and experience in the field of developmental and behavioral psychology. Formerly of Children’s Hospital, San Diego, she earned her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at UCLA, and completed internship training at the UCSD School of Medicine. She is currently voluntary Assistant Clinical Professor within the child teaching program in the Dept. of Psychiatry at UCSD. In addition, she has a highly specialized pediatric practice (San Diego Kids First) in Carmel Valley, in which she provides developmental/educational assessments, consultation, and therapeutic programs for infants, toddlers and school-age children. Dr. Pontillo specializes in addressing concerns ranging from mild social, emotional, educational or behavior problems to more significant developmental, learning or behavior disorders/disabilities. She participates as consultant, speaker and author within several local grant-funded research, clinical, and professional programs. Dr. Pontillo believes that every child is unique. By conducting a thorough assessment, one can best identify a child’s strengths and weaknesses and design effective strategies that suit their needs. It is through this individualized, tailored approach that the most significant and dramatic changes are realized.

Chuck des Bordes

Chuck des Bordes is a financial advisor, with des Bordes & Associates, providing comprehensive solutions to individuals, families and small businesses. His own experiences in combination with his client’s challenges highlighted a dramatic need in the area of preparing families for college admissions, college funding and the financial aid process. Chuck is president of Southwest College Strategies, a consulting firm providing solutions to families in maximizing college financial aid and minimizing the cost of college. This specialization as an advisor is enhanced by his achievements as a musician, on the soccer field, and academics leading to his award of a Marine Corps ROTC Scholarship. After receiving his BS in Economics from Texas A&M University, he served seven years on active duty as an officer in the Marine Corps. Believing he should spend his time where it is most important he serves on the PTA Board where two of his daughters attend school. Additionally, he is the current President of the San Diego County Texas A&M Club with an additional role as the Vice-President of Scholarship Fundraising. As you can imagine, Chuck also makes time for those activities that promote his health and fitness, his marriage, and quality time with his three young children.

Dr. Marta Reinoso

Ph.D. in Early Literacy and Language Acquisition (bio coming soon).



DeepBlue Educators

2354 Torrey Pines Road Suite 11 La Jolla, CA 92037 | 866.432.BLUE (2583) | www.deepblueeducators.org