

## ADTA MULTICULTURAL AND DIVERSITY COMMITTEE 2011



**Angela Tatum Fairfax, PhD, LPC, BC-DMT, NCC** is a charter member and newly appointed Chair of the Multicultural and Diversity Committee (MDC) serving on the ADTA Board of Directors. She also serves as the Vice President of the Pennsylvania ADTA chapter, Vice President of the Black American and African Descendants Affinity Group (BAAD) and consulting member of the Standards and Ethics Committee. Angela is a 2003 graduate of Drexel University/Hahnemann Creative Arts in Therapy-Dance/Movement Therapy program where she received the Award for Excellence in DMT Clinical Practice and the Dean's Award for Outstanding Community Service. She acts as clinical supervisor to graduate level interns in dance/movement therapy training, adjunct faculty and guest lecturer in Drexel University Creative Arts Therapy program, and operates a private practice specializing in stress management through creativity and spirituality. She is passionate about the interconnection of culture and spirituality especially in relation to healing practices through dance. Angela is a dancer, choreographer, clinician, speaker, and licensed minister of dance. You may reach her at [angela@goodfruitexpressivearts.com](mailto:angela@goodfruitexpressivearts.com) or [www.goodfruitexpressivearts.com](http://www.goodfruitexpressivearts.com).



**Christine Hopkins, MA, LPC, NCC, CGP, BC-DMT** is a Co-founder of the Multicultural and Diversity Committee (MDC). Since 1990 she has provided DMT groups with diverse adults in urban settings including inpatient psychiatric, addictions, geropsychiatric, adult day care, developmentally delayed adults and private practice with individuals. She is currently in New Jersey working as a Creative Arts Therapist in inpatient psychiatry serving diverse adults of European/Anglo, Puerto Rican and Mexican Latino, Chinese-American and African-American heritages. You may reach Christine at [dancingsmart@yahoo.com](mailto:dancingsmart@yahoo.com).

**Elizabeth K. Templeton, EdD, BC-DMT, NCC**, is a White, female dance therapist, dancer, and dance therapy educator of “uncertain middle-age.” She lives in center-city Philadelphia and has taught courses in multicultural perspectives of dance and healing at Drexel and Temple Universities over the past 10 years. Elizabeth is an adjunct faculty member of Hahnemann's Creative Arts in Therapy Program at Drexel University, and is currently a member of the ADTA Multicultural and Diversity Committee.



**Maria “Mara” Rivera, MA, R-DMT** was born and raised in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico. She currently works as a dance/movement therapist in New York and has acquired extensive experience working with children, adolescents, and adults with severe mental disorders and emotional disturbances. She is a dancer, choreographer, and songwriter working independently and most recently with Ase Dance Theatre Collective (pronounced Ah-shay), a New York City-based neofolkloric performance ensemble. Maria has also traveled to Cuba, Dominican Republic, and Jamaica to research traditional dance forms and religion, which have highly contributed to her belief in traditional dance as a healing vehicle. Recently, she has re-explored her own traditional roots of Afro-Puerto Rican bomba dance, using its improvisational element to restore and maintain physical, emotional, and spiritual health. In 2008 and 2010, Maria served as co-faculty at the New School in NYC, for the summer course: “Intercultural Issues in Creative Art Therapies”, in which Afro-Caribbean dance was used as the vehicle to explore these themes. She currently serves as the Public Relations Chair for the ADTA New York State Chapter and she is as a proud member of the ADTA MCD (Multicultural and Diversity Committee) Black Americans and African Descendants Affinity Group (BAAD), in which she serves as the Director of the Office of Afro-Latino Relations (OALR). She would like to help conduct research and create bridges between dance therapy and African based forms of healing.



**Akiko "kiki" Nishida LPC, BC-DMT, GLCMA** is currently working at Chicago Children's Center for Behavioral Health after graduating from Columbia College Chicago in 2008. Her dance background includes performing, teaching, and choreographing various street dancing such as hip hop, house, and lockin'. She is also passionate about traditional African dance and has choreographed and performed in Tokyo as well as the States. KiKi is the Co-creator of the Asian/Asian-American Affinity Group and is passionate about supporting and developing connections amongst the Asian DMT community as well as with the ADTA. You may reach Kiki at 312-636-8349 or [kiki.nishida@gmail.com](mailto:kiki.nishida@gmail.com).



**Kalila Homann, MA, LPC-S, BC-DMT**, is in private practice in Austin, Texas. Her professional experience includes program development in expressive arts therapy for inpatient and outpatient psychiatric treatment facilities, community resource agencies and public schools. Kalila is the program director of Accessible Arts, which designs music art, and dance therapy programs for nonprofit agencies and schools to support children with emotional and medical challenges. She supervises interns and trains professionals at the graduate and postgraduate level in dance therapy, expressive arts therapy, and counseling. Kalila presents nationally on various topics including Neurobiology for Creative Arts Therapists, Clinical Applications, Strategies, and Program Development in the Expressive Arts. She is active in Texas legislative and local efforts to address issues related to diversity and multiculturalism and their impact on families. You may reach Kalila at 512.441.8334x2.



**Julia Cuccaro** is a Drexel University Master's Degree Candidate currently in the process of completing her thesis, "An Exploration of Dance/Movement Therapy for Asian American Clients with Depressive Symptoms." She received her BA in Anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania. Julia is a member of the Multicultural/Diversity Committee (MDC) and is the Coordinator of the Allies for Social Justice Affinity Group (ASJ). She also has membership with the Alpha Eta Society, the National Scholastic Honor Society for Allied Health Professions. She currently works as a dance/movement therapist for New Point Behavioral Health Care in their youth partial care program for children and adolescents. She is especially interested in exploring the distinctive ways in which mental health and mental illness manifest in various cultures and socioeconomic classes and how to best approach treatment with an understanding of these differences. She continues to choreograph and perform modern dance in the Philadelphia area. Please feel free to contact her at [jlucuccs@gmail.com](mailto:jlucuccs@gmail.com).

**Heidi Wentworth** is currently working at Timberline Knolls Residential Treatment Center as a Dance/Movement Therapist. She specializes in working with clients with mood disorders, anxiety disorders, addiction recovery, marriage and family issues, eating disorders and women's issues. Using her dance/movement therapy skills, Heidi helps clients increase self esteem through gaining insight into their thoughts, feelings, and behaviors through movement groups and other expressive arts therapies. Heidi is a Kestenberg Movement Profile analyst. Using the KMP, she teaches non-verbal communication skills to help people better understand themselves and others in the areas such as personality, feelings, coping mechanisms, and social skills. Heidi has begun studying complimentary medicine in the form of Reiki and is a Level II Reiki Practitioner. She enjoys the benefits of Reiki including relaxation, stress management, mental clarity and an enhanced sense of well-being. Heidi also finds grounding in many spiritual paths. She was raised a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon) and enjoys reading the Feminist Mormon Housewives blog. She has begun studying additional paths of spirituality such as Buddhism, Taoism, and the Divine Feminine. Heidi lives in the suburbs of Chicago with her husband and three children. Together they enjoy cooking, reading stories, and going fishing. You may contact Heidi via email at [Heidi\\_wentworth@antiochne.edu](mailto:Heidi_wentworth@antiochne.edu).