

## 2014-2015 ADTA STUDENT MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE



**Lauren E. Harrison** is a second year student in the Dance/Movement Therapy and Counseling program at Antioch University New England. She is currently a counseling intern at The Putney School in Vermont, where she works with adolescents in a boarding school environment. Harrison has a background in Dance Education, having taught dance and movement to children, adolescents, and adults, including children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Other experiences

include DMT with adolescents in acute inpatient care and adults with developmental disabilities. She is interested in prevention, psycho-education, community outreach, and creative collaboration (which utilizes the healing power of movement and art).

**Lucia Sirota** is a second year Dance/Movement Therapy M.S. candidate at Pratt Institute. This is her first year on the student membership subcommittee. Lucia graduated from Tulane University with a B.S. in Psychology and a Minor in Dance. Her passion for dance began at a young age and she pursued various forms of training, including ballet, traditional Irish dance, and modern. At Tulane, Lucia trained predominantly in modern and African dance. Lucia's family is from Argentina and she loves to dance traditional tango. Lucia is also a pianist and cellist of fifteen years and is very passionate about music. She is interested in studying the overlap between music therapy and dance/movement therapy, as well as the potential benefits of combining the modalities. Lucia would like to gain a more thorough understanding of how the two types of therapy intersect and capitalize from an abundance of therapeutic techniques to better serve the varying needs of patients and clients. Lucia is fascinated by interdisciplinary approaches to the creative arts therapies.

**Mynesha Whyte** is a second year Dance/movement therapy student at Drexel University. This is her first year serving as an ADTA student representative. Mynesha graduated from the University of California, Riverside in 2008 with degrees in Sociology and Dance. Mynesha began dancing at the age of 14 for her high school's dance team where she danced mostly jazz, hip-hop, and color guard, but learned ballet, contemporary, West African, salsa, and cheer as well. At UCR, she focused on modern and experimental choreography and joined Envy Dance Company, an inland empire California hip-hop company. In college, she participated in a school funded dance troupe, an international dance intensive, a MFA thesis project, and many student choreography showcases. Mynesha is currently interested in working with adolescents and her second year internship and thesis project are focused on that population, specifically those with exposure to violence, a similar background to hers. She wants to be a positive influence and role model to adolescents, whom she feels is overlooked. Fun fact

about Mynasha: as a child, she dreamed of being a professional ice skater, like Michelle Kwan although to this day she cannot ice skate to save her life.

**Rachael Collins** is currently a third year graduate student in the Somatic Counseling Psychology program at Naropa University. Her focus within the program at Naropa is Dance/ Movement Therapy, and this is her second year as a student representative for the ADTA. As an undergraduate, Rachael attended the University of Massachusetts Amherst, double majoring in Dance and Business Management. Rachael has been dancing since the age of five, in modalities ranging from Broadway tap dance to contact improv. Most recently she is interested in yoga and ways in which the body can move and express itself authentically. Currently Rachael is doing her clinical internship at Mount Saint Vincent Home in Denver, CO, working with children experiencing severe behavioral and emotional challenges due to mental illness, trauma, abuse, or neglect. She is particularly interested in exploring the relationship between conflict styles and movement repertoire, and how dance therapy interventions can be used to expand an individual's options when working with conflict.

**Rosey Puloka** is a second-year ADTA student representative and master's student at Columbia College, Chicago for Dance/Movement Therapy & Counseling. Rosey received her B.A. in Dance from Colorado College before pursuing international work as an artist-in-residence at the Taipei Artist Village. While in Taiwan, Rosey also interned with the Dance and Disabled Project. International work continued with a grant-funded trip to the Kingdom of Tonga where she explored therapeutic movement with displaced women and teens. Once reestablished in the US, Rosey became a behavioral interventionist for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder before becoming a residential supervisor at a rehabilitation facility for adolescent girls. Since moving to Chicago Rosey has worked with the women of Cook County Jail as well as those in transitional housing out of prison. Currently, she is interning at International FACES working with refugee, asylee, and asylum-seeking persons. Rosey is passionate about dismantling the prison industrial complex, building community alternatives to expanding the punishing powers, and challenging heteronormative tendencies within the field of dance/movement therapy.

**Stefanie Belnavis:** As a Jamaican-born visually impaired dance artist and choreographer, Stefanie is also a Caribbean-American advocate for dance movement therapy, and, dance as therapy through the arts and cultural community. With her Bachelor's in Contemporary Modern Dance from Manchester Metropolitan University in the United Kingdom, Stefanie's desire to impact Caribbean-American arts communities through social action works, fused with the expressive arts, which is the driving force behind her creative work and passion for dance movement therapy. Stefanie is currently pursuing her Master's in Dance Movement Therapy and Mental Health Counseling at Lesley University, MA. Though her training in Contemporary Modern, Jamaican Folk Dance, Release Technique, Spoken Word, Meditation and Expressive Arts continues to infuse her artistic voice and therapeutic approach. An advocate for the development of expressive arts therapy in the Caribbean-American communities, Stefanie's mantra is...'You have to believe in the/this work...it will carry and inspire.'