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SCHOOL

**#DiversePerspectives**



# Adler Graduate School

*Summer 2023 Newsletter*

# President's Message

*Dr. Solange Ribeiro*



As I write this, we are one week away from the end of Spring semester and the 2022-23 academic year. And what a year this has been! It feels like yesterday we were having the 2022 commencement ceremony and the 2022-26 strategic planning retreat and yet here we are, planning for the 2023 commencement. In the meantime, 75 students completed their master's degree and 13 completed certificates; one of our students, Brenisen Wheeler, was awarded the prestigious National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship; faculty and B-GREAT students attended the American Counseling Association Annual Conference (ACA) in Toronto; faculty and students presented together at several professional conferences; staff members attended professional conferences where they learned the latest trends in their respective areas and networked with other professionals; our alumnus Hallie Williams was elected president of the North American Society of Adlerian Psychology (NASAP); thanks to the dedication of a task force led by the Director of Alumni Relations, Ev Haas, and our legislature liaison, Lisa Venable, we secured a grant from the Minnesota legislature to train mental health professionals on best practices for working with law enforcement personnel; and the list goes on. You get my drift – what I see is a vibrant community contributing to the counseling profession and working toward AGS's vision of being a leader in empowering and developing mental health and human service professionals to transform society through social interest in action.

So, what next? We continue to pursue our mission of preparing mental health and human service professionals with a strong Adlerian foundation to foster encouragement, collaboration, and a sense of belonging with the individuals, families, and the culturally diverse communities they serve! To this end, the next academic year will see us switching our online learning platform from Moodle to Canvas, which will allow for more dynamic instructional activities and improve the learning experience. We will also prepare and submit our midterm report to the Higher Learning Commission and develop the plans for an institutional improvement plan regarding belonging, equity, accessibility, and diversity, aimed at moving us from allies to agents against systemic discrimination. Also contributing to our mission and our values of Adlerian principles, diversity, and institutional sustainability, in August we will welcome the students, staff, and faculty of Arete Academy, a 6th to 12th grade school serving twice exceptional children, who will share our building with us. I look forward to having them on our campus and the opportunities for collaboration that will arise from this partnership, as well as to welcoming you all back for another year of Gemeinschaftsgefühl.

*~Dr. Solange Ribeiro*



## NBCC Symposium

Dr. Asha Dickerson, Dr. Christine Park, Dr. Letitia Browne-James, and AGS student Brenisen Wheeler attended the NBCC Foundation Bridging the Gap Symposium in Atlanta. The theme for the 2023 symposium was "From Awareness to Action." Drs. Dickerson, Park, and Browne-James are past doctoral fellows and presented at the symposium. **See the student updates section for more information about Brenisen!**



*Dr. Dickerson shares the stage with other clinicians from around the United States.*



*Dr. Letitia Browne-James, Brenisen Wheeler, and Dr. Christine Park.*



*Dr. Letitia Browne-James shares the stage with other clinicians from around the United States.*

## NASAP

AGS students Andrea Adams, Rick O'Bannon, and Katie O'Bannon are joined by Dr. Nicole Randick, Dr. Louise Ferry, and Dr. Solange Ribeiro at the NASAP conference in Denver.



At the NASAP conference, Katie O'Bannon, Dr. Nicole Randick, and Andrea Adams presented a poster titled *Being a Change Agent: Using the Expressive Arts to Guide an Aesthetic Response*.



## AGS Alumni Association Scholarship Event

Please join us for our first **Alumni Association Scholarship Event!** We are looking forward to this fundraising event on July 21, 2023. See details below!

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**Alumni Association Scholarship Event**

Eat, drink, reconnect, and auction with us at our 1st alumni fundraiser. This event will feature food, wine & beer, and a live & silent auction benefitting Adler Graduate School student scholarships.

**\$40 per person or \$200 for a table of 6**

**Date :** July 21, 2023  
**Place :** Zuhrah Shrine Center  
6120 Blue Circle Drive  
Minnetonka, MN 55343  
**Time :** 6:00-9:00PM CST

Your presence is very valuable to us.

### AGS Students!

Dr. Solange Ribeiro would be delighted to have you join her table at the event.

**To claim one of the four available seats,** email:

[nikki.marchand@alfredadler.edu](mailto:nikki.marchand@alfredadler.edu)

The first four respondents will be notified that a seat is theirs!

**Interested in purchasing a table or donating a ticket?**

Contact Ev Haas: [ev@alfredadler.edu](mailto:ev@alfredadler.edu)

**We welcome your auction donations!**

Contact Ev Haas: [ev@alfredadler.edu](mailto:ev@alfredadler.edu)



## Expressive Arts Summer Series



Expressive Arts  
*Summer Series* July 19th - July 22nd 2023  
On campus & Online  
24 CEUs

*Wednesday, July 19*  
Dr. Rashida Fisher  
Assisting Health & Wellness Through Music and Sound-An Experiential Workshop

*Thursday, July 20*  
Ashley Myhre  
Mindfulness, Somatic Awareness, and Creative Journaling: An Experiential Workshop

Dr. Bre Cahoy  
Becky Krenz  
Introduction to EcoWellness & Nature-Based Counseling

*Friday, July 21*  
Dr. Melissa Hedlund Nelson  
Somatic Approach to Art Therapy  
Trauma Treatment

*Saturday, July 22*  
Dr. Nicole M. Randick  
Daniel Hennigan  
Creative Connections: Creating an Inclusive Space for Children and Young Adults on the Autism Spectrum

Get your tickets now!

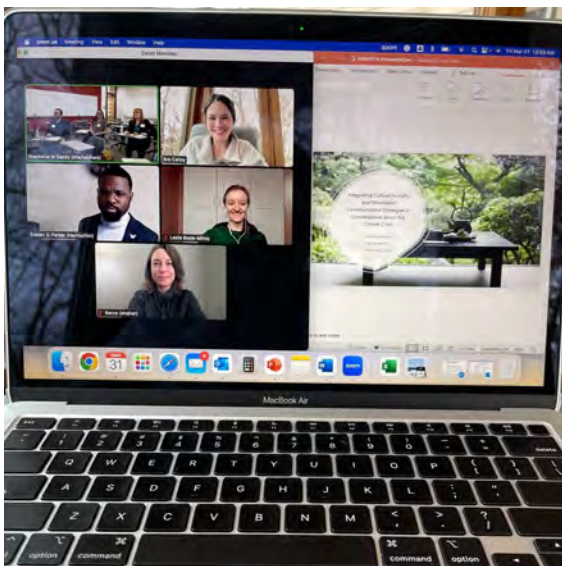
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Join us for our first **Expressive Arts Summer Series!** You'll learn from art therapists, eco-therapists, behavior therapists, trauma professionals, and more! Available on campus and online! 24 CEUs (NBCC approved). Students pay only a small material fee. Join us for one day or all four. **Limited on campus tickets - Grab yours now!**

**For more information and to register:**

<https://www.alfredadler.edu/event/expressive-arts-therapy-summer-series-on-campus-online>

## AGS Community Updates



On March 31, 2023, Dr. Bre Hiivala Cahoy attended and presented with two AGS graduate students at the Minnesota College Personnel Association conference. The conference theme was Envisioning an Inclusive and Sustainable Future in Higher Ed.

On June 16, 2023, AGS faculty members Michelle Doerr, MS, and Dr. Bre Hiivala Cahoy presented a workshop on Hope and Resilience in the midst of Climate Crisis.



**HOPE AND RESILIENCE IN THE MIDST OF CLIMATE CRISIS**

MICHELLE DOERR | BRE HIIVALA CAHOY

JUNE 16, 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM

[WWW.ALFREDADLER.EDU /EVENTS](https://www.alfredadler.edu/events)

# AGS Community Updates

## Conferences

AGS staff members attended a variety of Spring conferences, presenting AGS information, networking with peers, and keeping updated on pertinent information.

*Debbie Velasco* (Registrar): American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO) Annual Conference

*Dr. Nicole Randick* (Vice President of Academic Affairs) and *Dr. Solange Ribeiro* (President): Higher Learning Commission (HLC)

*Jeanette Maynard Nelson* (Director of Financial Aid): Minnesota Association of Financial Aid Administrators (MAFAA) Annual Conference

*Marcie Conrad-Skoglund* (Director of Admissions): Minnesota Children's Mental Health Conference

*Nick Reis* (Information Systems Administrator/Webmaster): Jenzabar Jam (Sonis)

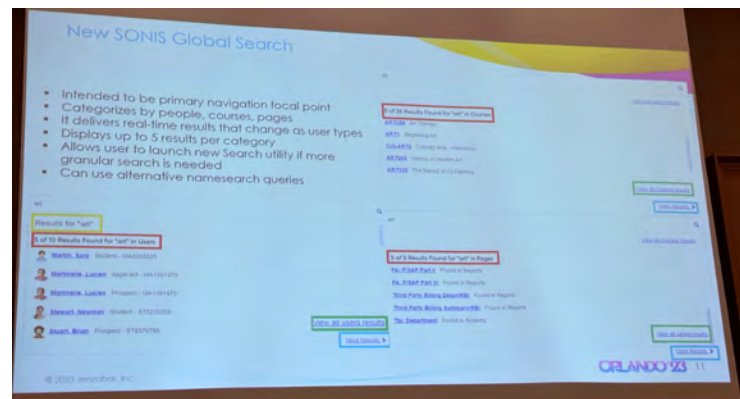
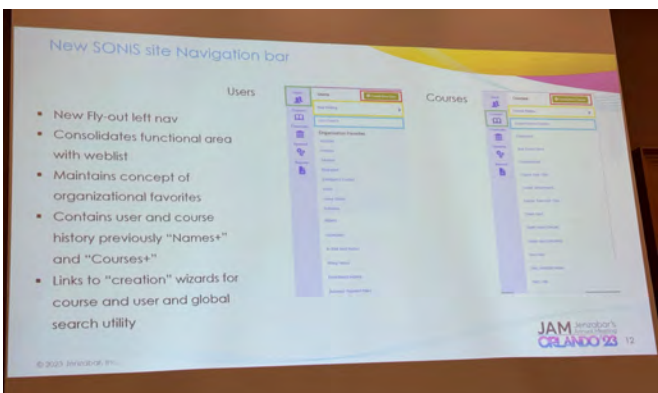
*Nikki Marchand, MLIS* (Director of Student Development Services): Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD) Master Class



*Dr. Solange Ribeiro and Dr. Nicole Randick at the HLC conference.*



## SONIS (Jenzabar Jam)



- Sonis versions will be changing to a yearly release. This year's version will be Sonis 2023, rather than Sonis 3.9.
- Administrative User Interface (UI) has been completely overhauled.
- Jenzabar is moving away from individual institution customizations and will be focusing on paid enhancements, which are rolled out to every institution on a yearly schedule.
- The UI for students and faculty will be a focus for Sonis 2024.
- Global search has been implemented to search the entirety of Sonis to find what you are looking for.
- The ability to customize and filter what information is displayed in Sonis has been added.
- General improvements to organization to improve workflow.

~Nick Reis, Information Systems Administrator



# AGS Faculty Updates

AGS Vice President Dr. Nicole Randick co-presented on art therapy supervision for the American Art Therapy Association last April. Over 300 participants joined the sessions!



**ART THERAPY SUPERVISION Series**

Event Speakers

Nicole Randick, EdD, ATR-BC, REAT, LCC, NCC

Margaret Carlock Russo EdD, LCAT, ATR-BC, ATR

18 Organizing the Supervisory Experience

25 Ethics, Liability, and Record-keeping

arttherapy



In addition to attending the NASAP conference, AGS faculty member Dr. Louise Ferry attended the Minnesota Psychological Association Annual Conference on April 27 & 28 in Plymouth. Dr. Ferry is a member of the ethics committee for the Minnesota Psychological Association and was part of a panel discussion at that conference titled "The Intersection of Ethics and the Law in Psychological Practice: A Panel Discussion."

AGS faculty member Dr. Rocky Garrison was awarded a Diplomate in Adlerian Psychology at NASAP's 71st annual conference in Denver, CO. This is awarded in recognition of significant professional accomplishment and contribution to Adlerian Psychology. **Congratulations, Dr. Garrison!**

AGS faculty member Dr. Tom Watson, American Counseling Association of Georgia Leadership Council Representative, presented "Navigating Best Practices for the Military-Affiliated Client" on March 24, 2023.



Center for Practice Transformation, Expanse MN and Progress Valley Proudly Present.

2023 Co-Occurring Conference

*Emerging Practices in Co-occurring Care*

Friday, May 12, 2023

8:00am - 4:30pm CDT

St. Paul Student Center Theater - U of M  
2017 Buford Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55108

In-person and virtual options available.

Center for Practice TRANSFORMATION EXPANSE Progress Valley

AGS faculty member Dr. Jared Bostrom's agency, Progress Valley, hosted a Spring conference on emerging practices in co-occurring care along with the University of Minnesota Center for Practice Transformation and Expanse MN. Dr. Bostrom spoke at the event.

## Faculty Publications

AGS faculty member Dr. Letitia Browne-James is excited to share the link from this research labor of love she did with her patient-centered healthcare colleagues, which was published in the *Journal of Medical Internet Research*.

<https://www.jmir.org/2023/1/e41095>



Dr. Letitia Browne-James (right) and her co-authors.



AGS faculty member Dr. Asha Dickerson's latest research article was shared by the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD). Fun fact: Her research partner is her identical twin sister, Dr. Aisha Dickerson, professor at Johns Hopkins University.

<https://srcd.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/cdep.12472>

## Art Therapy Faculty

We are pleased to announce that Jessica Metzger, MA, LMFT, ATR-BC will be joining us as the Program Director of the Art Therapy program. Jessica is an AGS alumna and has been an adjunct faculty member since 2017. She comes to us with over 25 years of experience, inspiring creativity and healing in others from teaching adults how to draw, counseling artists on their career development, leading workshops in art for healing, and volunteering with foster children.

Jessica began her work as an art therapist in 2009, working with children, adolescents, and families in their homes, schools, and day treatment programs. She currently has a private practice in which she sees older children, adolescents, and adults as individuals, couples, and families. She is also a board approved supervisor for professional clinical counselors and Marriage and Family Therapy licensure candidates. Check out her website to learn more:  
<https://www.moveandcreate.com/about>



*Jessica Metzger, MA, LMFT, ATR-BC*



*Juliana Thrall, MPS, LPCC, ATR-BC*

We are pleased to announce that Juliana Thrall, MPS, LPCC, ATR-BC will be joining AGS as the Field Experience Coordinator of the Art Therapy program. Juliana has been an adjunct faculty member at AGS since 2017 and is also a valued member of our Adler family. She graduated in 2013 with her master's degree in Art Therapy from Pratt Institute and is currently finishing her PhD in Art Therapy at Adler University in Chicago, IL. She is invested in the Twin Cities community and will be moving here to take this position.

Juliana has a passion for working within communities using art and dialogue to visualize narratives and provide opportunities for clients' voices to be heard and seen. She believes research is needed to further work on community-based approaches to trauma work and decentralizing healing from individual to communal spaces. She looks forward to working in a collaborative learning and teaching environment with both faculty and students.

## Student Updates

Dr. Letitia Browne-James and Dr. Christine Park are members of the National Board for Certified Counselors Foundation (NBCC) clinical mental health advisory council. The NBCC offers a Minority Fellowship Program. Dr. Browne-James and Dr. Park encourage students to look into the fellowship:

<https://www.nbccf.org/programs/scholarships>

**Adler Graduate School student Brenisen Wheeler is officially part of the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program.** Brenisen is the first AGS student to earn this prestigious award!

She was offered this fellowship through the National Board for Certified Counselors Foundation and the American Psychological Association. She could accept only one of the awards, but what an honor it is to be offered both! Brenisen Wheeler is a graduate of the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities and is currently a master's student in the co-occurring disorders and addictions counseling program specializing in expressive arts therapy at AGS.

Upon graduating, Brenisen is dedicated to uplifting and centering the holistic wellness of multiply marginalized individuals, especially LGBTQIA2S+ older people of color, impacted by addiction, sexual and domestic violence, and housing instability, by infusing embodiment-focused, culturally centered, and trauma-sensitive approaches. Earning this fellowship will support Brenisen in accessing specialized skills training and professional enrichment, contributing to trauma research, expanding her professional network through scholarly collaborations, and ultimately further diversifying the counseling field.



**Congratulations, Brenisen!**

*Dr. Asha Dickerson, Dr. Letitia Browne-James, Brenisen Wheeler, and Dr. Christine Park at the NBCC Symposium.*



**Congratulations to our first Adler Graduate School Student of Distinction, Lou Lou!**

Each semester, AGS faculty will recognize a remarkable student who has excelled in classes, interpersonal communication, and community involvement. @lou.art.therapy is our first.

Faculty comments about Lou:  
*"She is clearly committed to learning and helping her classmates."*

*"I get excited when I see that name on my class roster. Lou just has a beautiful spirit."*

*AGS student Lou Lou.*