

Boston University Part-Time Dance Faculty



Ann Brown Allen, *Part-time Instructor of Pilates. Simmons College, BA Education and Psychology.* Ann was a founding member of the Danny Sloan Dance Company in the late 1970's, one of the only African-American women dancing professionally in Boston at that time. For the past four decades, Ann has performed with all of Boston's major modern and jazz dance companies, including Peter Di Muro's Public Displays of Motion, Back Porch Dancers, and Dance Collective of Boston, and has toured New England, New York, and Europe. She has also been a guest artist with several ballet companies. For many years, she choreographed for a children's theater organization. Ann is an USPA Authentic Pilates™ teacher. She sits on the boards of Mass Movement, the Freelance Players and the board of advocates of Urban Improv. She is the secretary of the board of The Dance Complex. While Ann retired from full-time work at Boston University as an instructor of jazz, ballet and Pilates, she continues to teach Pilates-based Conditioning and Pilates Apparatus.



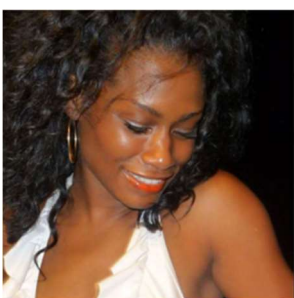
Molly Baechtold, *Part-time Instructor of Aerial Dance. University of New Hampshire. BA Studio Art with minors in dance and philosophy.* In college, Molly studied static trapeze and silks intensively and performed with the UNH dance company for four years. Since graduating, she has performed professionally in musicals at several regional theatres, trained with Cirque Du Soleil's Ivo Georgiev in New York City, and danced in Times Square for Cirque Du Soleil's 25th anniversary celebration. She currently shares her love for aerial arts by performing at corporate events, galas, and special events with her aerial partner, Leah Abel, as Baechtold & Abel. They performed with the Boston Lyric Opera, receiving a mention in the Wall Street Journal. You can catch them in the air at events ranging from high-end weddings at the MFA Boston, to Renaissance Festivals during the summer in Maine.



Hannah Beck, *Part-time Instructor of Aerial Dance. University of New Hampshire. BA Theatre & Dance: Dance Emphasis.* Hannah is a New Hampshire-born, Boston-based movement artist who aspires to spend as much time as possible upside-down. After training as a dancer for much of her life, she got her first introduction to aerial in 2013 while attending the University of New Hampshire and went on to train at the New England Center for Circus Arts as a ProTrack student. She has performed at a number of venues (including the Portsmouth Music Hall, the Currier Museum, Seacoast Sport Cycle, and the Lincoln Hotel), and enjoys all facets of creative work. She has choreographed and movement directed multiple productions and continues to teach and train in a variety of aerial disciplines (although trapeze will forever hold a special place in her heart). Hannah currently teaches aerial silks, sling, lyra, dance & static trapeze, and cube at both the University of New Hampshire and Sole City Dance. She is passionate about sharing her love of creative movement with others and hopes to eventually further her education, exploring aerial as a method of somatic therapy.



Vania Chan, *Part-time Instructor of Pilates Apparatus and Mat.* Vania got into Pilates as a very injured acrobat who reached a crossroads of giving up circus life or rehabilitating to be able to train and perform again. She did not aspire to become a Pilates instructor, but was encouraged to do so and eventually became certified in STOTT PILATES® Method. Later, Vania was diagnosed with Hypermobility Ehlers Danlos Syndrome/ Generalized Hypermobility Spectrum Disorder, which explains a significant part of her experiences. Her teaching tends to be detailed, thorough, and exacting with imaginative cues interspersed. In Pilates, a shape may look similar, but one can entirely miss the intended benefits of the exercises if one is simply just trying to copy another body or make it through a routine.



Jossie Coleman, *Part-time instructor of Beginner Jazz, Intermediate Jazz, Cardio Jazz Funk, Hip Hop, Afro-Fusion, Dance Styles of African Diaspora, and Heels Dance. Coursework at Boston Conservatory and the Alvin Ailey Summer Intensive Program.* Jossie has been teaching at BU since 1998. Her love for dance, music and theater began at age 6 while attending the Elma Lewis School of Performing Arts. In 1992, Jossie founded and developed a dance program for children at the St. Joseph's School of Roxbury where she taught tap, ballet, jazz, Afro Caribbean and hip-hop. She volunteers at her church teaching Liturgical Dance to the youth in the dance ministry program. She is a member of Roots Uprising Modern Dance Company. She was a performing member in companies such as 4 Women and Friends Modern Dance Company, ANU Hip Hop Dance Team, Rhythm Reggae Dance Company, Ebony Inspiration and The Patric LaCroix Folklore Dance Company. Jossie has danced and choreographed for various recording artists including Warner Brothers and worked with several Hip Hop and Pop artists including MC Lyte, Queen Latifah, Marky Mark and New Kids on The Block; she has choreographed for jazz and hip-hop music videos and film including the Movie Turntable. Jossie has taught at many schools and universities including Harvard University and Mount Holyoke College. Passionate about fitness, she is a former certified AAFA aerobic & Fitness trainer. For 27 years, Jossie was the Dance Department Head and teacher at Creative Arts at Park in Brookline. Her Motto is "The Feet May Learn The Steps, But Only the Spirit Can Dance."



Caroline Depietri, *Part-Time Pilates Apparatus and Mat Instructor. BS in Psychology, Boston University.* Caroline is a US Figure Skating Gold Medalist (Moves, Freeskate, Pattern Dance, and Partnered & Solo Free Dance) and 2023 US Championships competitor in Ice Dance. Following a back fracture at 16, Caroline turned to Pilates, which she credits for her return to and sustained success in skating. This experience sparked her passion for Pilates' benefits in enhancing core strength and flexibility, which she now teaches in private, duet, and small group settings. Certified by Balanced Body (Mat & Reformer) and with five years of teaching experience, Caroline aims to impart these principles not only to athletes but to everyone in daily life.



Paola Dartigues, *Part-time Pilates instructor, fully certified in the STOTT PILATES method.* She is qualified to teach Mat, Reformer, Cadillac, Chair, and Barrels at all levels. Paola has 10 years of teaching experience across Mexico, Italy, and the U.K., with extensive continuing education in each city she moves to. She specializes in tailoring her classes to fit every body, age, and need, and teaches in multiple languages, offering styles ranging from classical to contemporary Pilates. Currently, Paola is pursuing her second master's degree, an MFA in Sculpture, at Boston University.



Kit (Kiersten) Gould, *Part-time Instructor of Aerial Dance and Camp Terrier Aerial and Dance Arts. BA in Dance, a minor in Deaf Studies and a MA in Education from the University of New Hampshire.* She has been dancing for 16 years, studying many styles including ballet, contemporary, jazz, tap, hip-hop, modern, and some fusions between multiple styles. She studied before college mostly at Gate City Ballet, while also being a junior apprentice for two years at Urbanity Dance in Boston and being a company member of Touché Taps. She grew up attending summer dance camps such as Bossov Ballet, Festival Ballet Providence, and Pantos Project. At UNH she was on the dance company studying under Gay Nardone, Marybeth Marino, Assaf Benchetrit and Susan Endrizzi. She also took part in the aerial program (silks, trapeze, lyra) at UNH and became a teaching assistant for the class during her senior

year. Throughout her entire dancing career, she has substitute taught at a variety of dance studios and has choreographed many pieces. Choreography is a huge passion of hers and she looks forward to choreographing on future students! She is now currently teaching 3rd grade in Amherst, NH while continuing her passion of dance by teaching it after school and in the summers. She teaches jazz and contemporary at Rise Dance Studio as well as aerial dance at Aerial Northeast.



Anna Guastella, *Part-time instructor of Aerial Dance. BA in English and Master of Arts in Teaching from Boston University (minors in Dance and French).* As an undergraduate student at Boston University, Anna began to perform and choreograph with BU's Dance Theater Group. She first discovered her love of aerial dance by swinging from ropes with Lynda Rieman and taking BU's aerial dance intensives. She has been training and performing with aerial silks since 2012, with some performance experience in aerial ropes, sling, lyra, static trapeze, and flying trapeze. In 2017, she completed the Introduction to Teaching Aerials course at the New England Center for Circus Arts and began teaching aerial silks classes at BU. In 2018 she performed with Marin Orlowsky in the first ever installation of aerial dance to premiere at the Dance Complex in Cambridge. She has trained in aerial silks with Jill Maio in Somerville, with Trevor Kafka in Waltham, and

with Phil Servitas in Littleton, where she continues to practice duo silks work.



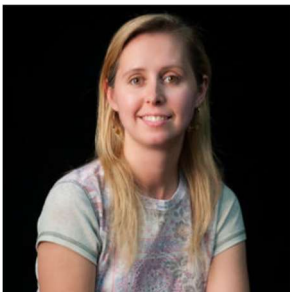
Eileen Herman-Haase, *Part-time Instructor of Ballroom, Beginner; Latin; and Swing. MA Teachers College, Columbia University in Dance Education.* Eileen is known for her gift as a motivating and patient teacher who can break down even the most complex concepts into simple and doable steps. As Co-Owner of Dance Caliente for more than 22 years she continues to bring Social Ballroom and Latin Dance to people of all ages through classes, workshops, performances and choreography. She is the recipient of numerous Massachusetts Cultural Council Grants for her work as a performer and choreographer, most notably for Interactive Ballroom Shows designed for Senior Audiences and Interactive Latin Dance Workshops for Children. She has been lead teacher with partner Raul for Boston Celebrity Series', 'Let's Dance Boston' on the Rose Kennedy Greenway, co-host of themed Social Dance Parties for the Boston Center for the Arts, co-choreographer for Company One and Arlington Friends of the Drama and taught

Jazz Dance as Adjunct Prof. at Northeastern U. In New York City she was the Artistic Director of Dance at the Dalton School, taught for many renowned studios and ran her own Dance Business called 'One Step at a Time'.



Von Ibezim, *Part-time Instructor of Pole Circuit. Boston University, BS Psychology.* Von currently works as a licensed financial counselor that supports Black and Latinx families in building asset wealth. Though never classically trained, she has always had a passion for dance and the way it's allowed her self-expression through movement and music. Her dance background spans more than 2 decades, and includes step, liturgical, band majorette, drill, and more casually -- salsa, bachata, and twerk. She has competed and won pole competitions and she is a Certified Pole Fitness Instructor for Level 1-4. As a pole instructor, she creates an inclusive, fun, collaborative learning environment that uplifts each student's understanding of their sensuality and strength. Von has been poling for 6 years and teaching for 4 years and enjoys teaching beginner and intermediate

level tricks and choreography on and off the pole.



Olga Marchenko, *Part-time instructor of Ballet. BA in Choreographic Art, Saratov, Russia; BA in History, Friends University in Wichita, KS; MS in International Affairs, Northeastern University.* Olga is originally from Russia where she began her dancing education at the age of nine. After graduating from Saratov Ballet Academy at the top of her class, she joined her hometown ballet theater. Three years later, Olga moved to Moscow to join the Moscow City Ballet of Smirnov-Golovanov with which she toured the world for four years, performing as a corps-de-ballet and soloist dancer. Once in Boston, she continued dancing professionally and began her teaching career in 2008. Working with children and adults, Olga has been involved with staging and choreographing recitals during the past 10 years at different studios and in public

school setting throughout the greater Boston area.



Christine McDowell, *Part-time Instructor of Ballet. BA in History from Boston University; Master's of Fine Arts in Performance and Choreography from New York University.* During her undergraduate years in Boston, Christine choreographed and performed with BU's Dance Theater Group, performed with Tony Williams and Margot Parsons, and worked for a season with Boston Ballet School. While at Tisch, Christine studied under Deborah Jowitt, Phyllis Lamhut, and worked with Patricia Beaman as the Dance History graduate assistant. She choreographed group and solo pieces and performed in works by Mark Morris and Alex Ketley. She was also an instructor with the dance education outreach program, Dancers and DanceMakers and after graduation, returned to the Mill Ballet School to teach ballet and pointe and to choreograph for the trainee students. Currently, Christine manages global corporate events for an application development software company

headquartered in Boston.



Marion Meirlaen, *Part-time instructor of Aerial Dance. University of Massachusetts Amherst, BS Computer Systems Engineering.* As an active competitor at the national level and a gold medalist at Aerialympics, Marion travels the world to train with top talent, incorporating these diverse techniques into her award-winning routines and teaching methods. Her global experience enriches her performances and inspires her unique, well-rounded approach to instruction. Marion's teaching philosophy is centered on aligning her guidance with the individual interests and goals of her students, emphasizing strength conditioning and flexibility training to help them succeed. She is committed to creating a supportive and challenging environment where students can build confidence, develop their skills, and achieve their personal best in the aerial arts.



Raul Nieves Jr., *Part Time Instructor of Pilates, and Zumba Fitness, BS in Engineering from the University of Connecticut, licensed in Zumba Fitness, certified in Mat Pilates, Yoga, and Brain Dance Education, Creative Social Dance Specialist.* Raul's dance journey began in 1973, evolving into a lifelong passion. Since 1998, he has been a cornerstone of Dance Caliente in Arlington, MA, in a business partnership with Eileen Herman-Haase in Creative Social Dance Instruction, Performances, and Party Facilitation. Raul and Eileen secured over 100 Massachusetts Cultural Council grants for initiatives like "Dancing through the Decades with Dance Caliente" and launched "Dance Caliente's Children's Latin Dance Workshop." Raul's professional teaching experience extends from Springstep in Medford, MA, to Suzanne Steele's Temporada Latina, Ryles Jazz Club, and several other Boston and Cambridge adult education centers between 1982 and 2011. He volunteered for the BU Dance Ballroom program and later joined its staff. Raul's competitive dancing with his partner Jana Bucholtz before 1982 included placing in Pro-Am in the Grand Nationals

Dance Championships and American Star Ball Championships. In the following year, as a Dance Professional, Raul and Jana placed in the Rising Star American Latin and Ballroom Dance in the Grand Nationals Dance Championships. He worked at the Boston Sports Club as a Zumba Fitness and Pilates instructor. During the Covid lockdown, he conducted virtual Zumba Gold Fitness Classes for the Jewish Community Center of Middlesex County. Raul teaches Ballroom Dance, Cardio Dance, Yoga/Pilates Fusion, and Barre at the FitRec Center. Outside of dance and fitness, Raul enjoys Tennis, Table Tennis, Pickle Ball, and Yoga. He worked as an engineer, and a later as a computer specialist for the Volpe Center, United States Government Department of Transportation, for 32 years before retiring to dedicate his life to dance and fitness.



Margot Parsons, *Part-time Instructor of Ballet; BS in Dance, University of Wisconsin, Madison; MA with honors in Dance, University of Utah; Artistic Director of DanceVisions, Inc.* She trained in Chicago and New York City, and performed with many companies. In New York City, she was invited to dance with Agnes de Mille and Pearl Lang, and performed with the Ballet Ensemble of New York under the direction of her coach Maggie Black, with Yuriko, and in the City Center Production of "The King and I." She has set her choreography on Boston Ballet II, BalletNY, Across the Ages Dance, Harvard Ballet Company, and BU students. She teaches ballet at Boston University, taught at Boston College for 37 years, at The Dance Complex for 27 years and at Harvard University for 13 years, and has been a substitute teacher at Boston Ballet and at Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre. In 2018 she was the first choreographer honored in the Living Legacy series at The

Dance Complex in Cambridge, in 2020 she received the Boston Dance Alliance's Dr. Michael Shannon Dance Champion Award, and in 2021 was honored by BU Dance Theatre Group. www.dancevisions.net



Anne Marie Paul, *Part-time Instructor of Ballroom Dance. BFA in Fashion Design - Massachusetts College of Art; Paris American Academy (Paris); Vesper George School of Art (Boston).* Anne Marie is the owner and Co-Director of DanceSport Boston in Weymouth, MA. She has been teaching Ballroom Dance since 1984. Starting out as a dance student while studying art and fashion, she was presented the "Outstanding Creative Achievement Award" for her dance-inspired fashion collection shown at the Museum of Fine Arts. Turning professional, she competed for seven years in the American Style Smooth and Rhythm Divisions. She has been a Pro-Am partner and choreographer for her students in showcases and competitions. She has choreographed for TV commercials such as The Boston Flower Show, taught celebrities to dance, and performed at numerous fundraisers on the South Shore. She managed dance studios in both the Fred Astaire and Arthur Murray Franchises. She was the Arthur Murray Franchises' top producing executive/teacher in the world (26 countries)

for three consecutive years. As the founding Coach of the BU Ballroom Dance Club, she coached the club for seven years, also judging many collegiate level competitions. She has been a guest instructor at Harvard Medical School, MIT, Boston College and Boston Conservatory. Anne Marie continues to enjoy helping people to transform their lives through dance.



DeAnna Pellecchia, *Part-time Instructor of Jazz, Modern, and Aerial Dance. BA in Dance/Performance with dual minor in Business Management & Latin from Roger Williams University.* DeAnna is an artist, dancer, choreographer, aerialist, mentor, and educator. Over the past 20 years she has taught and toured throughout India, Russia, France, and the US; danced with horses, in trees, on stilts, underwater and through air; and been featured in operas, plays, fashion shows, dance films, rodeos, books, movies, magazines, and music videos. As Executive Artistic Director of KAIROS Dance Theater, DeAnna collaborates with visual artists, musicians, composers, and fashion and set designers to craft immersive, multi-sensory performances. Her work has been funded by the New England Foundation for the Arts, Boston Dance Alliance, Boston Foundation, Boston

Center for the Arts, Boston Cultural Council, Somerville Arts Council; received a "Critic's Pick" 18 times by The Boston Globe; and presented at venues including Charles Playhouse / Broadway Across America, Institute of Contemporary Art Boston, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Jazz at Lincoln Center (NYC), Compass Theater (Moscow), Busan Biennale (Korea), ZOU Arts Festival (France), among others. DeAnna has performed with Paula Josa-Jones/Performance Works, Kinodance Company, Bennett Dance Company, Nicola Hawkins Dance Company, Anna Myer & Dancers, and Anikaya Dance Theater. She has taught at Boston Conservatory, Massachusetts College of Art, Dean College, Salem State University, Mount Holyoke College, and Boston Ballet. www.deannapellecchia.com | www.kairosdancetheater.org

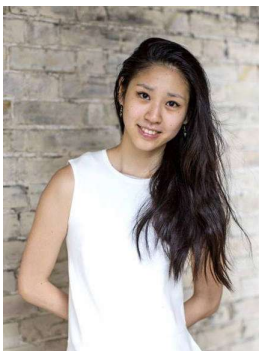


Molly Rainis, *Part-time Instructor of Aerial Dance and Youth Aerial Dance. Boston University. BA in Philosophy and Political Science. Graduation date: May 2027.* Molly has been studying aerial dance since 2012 and performing since 2016. She's studied at Florida Aerial Dance and Circus Arts since its founding, and taught students of all ages there since 2020. She is proficient in a variety of aerial apparatus including silks, dance trapeze, lyra, aerial moon, triple trapeze, and German wheel. Molly has also studied dance (specializing in ballet) and theater all her life, and loves performing and teaching. She has performed all across Florida, at locations such as The Hard Rock Hollywood and the Duncan Theater. Molly looks forward to expanding her involvement in dance in Boston!



Liz Roncka, *Part-time Instructor of Pole Dance Circuit and Dance Improvization; BS in Health Sciences, Boston University; MS in Physical Therapy, Boston University; Certified Pilates Instructor, Certified Pole Dance and Fitness Instructor.* Upon completion of her graduate degree at Boston University, Liz spent over a decade as a physical therapist working in a variety of settings from the intensive care units of Boston Medical Center to a private clinic specializing in the treatment of musicians and dancers. After years of dancing "on the side," Liz shifted her primary focus to dance and fitness. She has taught dance at Green Street Studios, Boston Pole Fitness, Boston University, as well as being a guest teacher at Bridgewater State College, Boston College, the American Dance Festival and Canaldanse in Paris. Her work has been presented at Dance Theater Workshop, Center for Performance Research, Five Myles, Judson Church, and Spoke the Hub in New York City, Canaldanse and Galerie G

in Paris, the Ludwig Museum and MU Szinhaz in Budapest, and the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston University, the Boston Center for the Arts (Artist-in-Residency) and the New England Conservatory in Boston. Liz has been teaching Pilates since 2003. She is certified to teach Mat, Reformer, Cadillac, Chair and Barrel. Liz has completed extensive continued education focused on the development of specialized Pilates exercise programs.



Amane Takaishi, *Part-time Instructor of Ballet and Pilates. MA in Education (Dance Teaching), University of Bath, UK; BA with Honors in Professional Dance and Performance Studies, University of Kent, UK.* Amane is a professional ballet dancer with City Ballet of Boston, a Pilates instructor certified by Balanced Body: Mat, Reformer, Cadillac, Chair, Barrel and Barre, and a registered ballet teacher of the Royal Academy of Dance (UK). She started Pilates as a part of her ballet training: Elmhurst School of Ballet in association with Birmingham Royal Ballet, and Central School of Ballet in UK. She continued Pilates training while she danced with professional companies: Eugene Ballet in Oregon, Ballet Tucson in Arizona, and A&A Ballet in Chicago. In the Boston area, she has worked with many choreographers, such as Margot Parsons and Gianni Di Marco. Amane is a member of Asian American Ballet Project, founded by Elizabeth Mochizuki.