WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?
Graduates of K-State’s Masters in Drama Therapy

Jamie Ansley, MA, Class of 2013, is the Life Specialist at Laurel Oaks Retirement Community where she co-manages the Memory Care Unit. She is also a part-time Drama Therapist at Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin.

Martha Crouse Burgess, MA, RDT, Class of 2006, is the 6th Grade Exploratory Arts Teacher at the Kunsmiller Creative Arts Academy, Denver, CO.

Britt Burr, MA, Class of 2013, is Assistant Director of Autism Services for the ARC of Carroll County, MD. She also works part time with one of ArtStream’s Inclusive Theatre Companies.

Caitlin Cairns, MA, RDT, Class of 2010, is the Life Enrichment Coordinator at Bradford Village Retirement Community in Oklahoma City.

Hee-sun Cheon, Ph.D., RDT Class of 2001, is Assistant Professor and Director of Internships in the Marriage and Family Therapy program at Seattle Pacific University.

Christina Cherry, MA, RDT, Class of 2008, has held several positions since she graduated. She served as the Activities Therapist for the Topeka Women’s Prison, then she was Activities Director at John Knox Village in Kansas City. Currently she is a Therapist for Midwest Foster Care in Kansas City, MO.

Michelle Davenport, MA, RDT, Class of 2010, currently works as the Inclusion Supervisor for Carmel Clay Parks and Recreation in Hamilton County, Indiana. She supervises the Adaptive Program, which provides classes for children and adults of disabilities. She is in charge of accessibility for the system, accommodations, and does one-on-one and group therapy.

Her first job was at Stone Belt Arc, Inc., which provides services for adults with developmental disabilities as their Lifelong Learning Curriculum Developer and Trainer. In addition to implementing group and individual drama therapy sessions along with curriculum development, each year she helped clients in writing monologues about their lives and directed in a production called I AM YOU, produced at a local theatre in Bloomington, Indiana. She also created one of the only integrated Playback Theatre troupe in the U.S. with clients and staff.

Adrienne Eberhardt, MA, Class of 2014, is a one-on-one Behavior Analysis specialist for a child on the autism spectrum in Manhattan, KS.

Lisa Erbe, MA, Class of 2012, is in Boston working as an ABA therapist with children on the autism spectrum.
Meredith Gagich, MA, Class of 2013, worked for a year as a one-on-one Behavior Analysis specialist for a child on the autism spectrum after graduating from K-State. Currently she is a fulltime program specialist for the ARC in Pittsburgh, PA and a PRN specialist for the Wesley Spectrum for youth with ASD.

Shannon Garretson, MA, RDT, Class of 2006, is the Education Director of the Salina Community Theatre in Salina, Kansas, with the charge of reaching out to underserved populations of all ages and abilities in the Salina Community.

Kareen King, MA, RDT, Class of 2006, been able to create her own path as a Registered Drama Therapist. She quit her full-time job as an Activity Director in 2008 to launch her own business, The Golden Experience. She applies principles of Drama Therapy in her work as an Adjunct instructor at Allen County Community College teaching Public Speaking and Theatre Appreciation, in her work as a Creative Engagement Consultant at two different long-term care communities, and as a Keynote Speaker doing educational concerts and workshops for conferences in the field of long-term care (Health Care associations, Direct Care Workers, Culture Change/Person-Centered Care, Activity Professionals, etc.) and for in-services for direct care workers.

Kareen says, “My training in drama therapy has helped me truly find ways to creatively engage, empower, and build community in my students and clients. I've sent a collage of scenes with me and my Emilou puppet. Emilou, who was custom-built after a resident I served, accompanies me to the care communities and conferences I serve. She has been an agent of healing and comfort to many.”

Currently she is writing a book on activities she has developed which provide recreation and education for older adults. For lots more info and ideas on her experiences working in the field of long-term care, visit www.thegoldenexperience.com.

Katherine Lawrence, MA, RDT, Class of 2012, has been working as the Activities Therapist for the Topeka Women’s Prison.

Tracena Marie, MA, Class of 2013, is the Inclusion Director of the Barrier-Free program at the Muncie Civic Theatre, Muncie, IN.

Jamie Johnson, MA, Class of 2011, is the Drama Teacher at Lawrence High School. She also serves as playwright for the Lovejoy Institute creating original musicals with adolescents at risk in the summers.

Stacy Park, MA, MSW, RDT, Class of 2002, is working at Hands of Hope Hospice and Heartland Health as an Arts Coordinator, a position she created and helped to get funded. At Hands of Hope, she and volunteers take arts opportunities to patients and their families. With their Healing HeARTS Cart they can bring arts opportunities to their patients’ rooms. They have also been taking creative storytelling to residents with dementia at care facilities. Lastly, they have been creating "Caregiver Gift Boxes" for family caregivers with decorated cards, lotions, chapsticks, message stones, teas, and
candies. She is in the process of beginning "Art a la Cart," an art lending program in which patients in one area of the hospital will be choosing their own artwork for their rooms. Lastly, she is working on bringing arts exhibits and arts activities to the Cancer Center. See a picture of her with the Healing HeARTS Cart at http://www.heartland-health.com/body.cfm?d=83

**Monica Phinney, MA, Class of 2013, is the Peer-to-Peer Educator** for SafeHaven in Kansas City. She creates an original play about dating violence with teens and then tours it to schools. She is also working as **PRN therapist** at Two Rivers, a mental health program in Kansas City.

**Sarah Price, MA, RDT, Class of 2007, is currently a School-Based Clinician III** for Aspenpointe Counseling And Health Services, Colorado Springs, CO. They use a curriculum called The Incredible Years, which includes a parent program and an early childhood program (called Dinosaur School!). She provides case management and therapeutic services for individuals and families in community-based and school environments. The focus is on prevention and intervention groups. She is working on her MA in Counseling.

**Ross Stone, MA, Class of 2013, is working as PRN therapist** at Marillack, a Hospital School in Kansas City for children and adolescence.

**Jayne Thompson, M.Div., MA, RDT, Class of 2002, is the Lutheran Campus Pastor** at Thiel College in Greenville, PA and uses drama therapy and the creative arts in her ministry.

**Sarah Tomek, MA, Class of 2013, is Director of Programs** at Unified Theatre, an organization that mentors middle and high school theatre groups in creating original inclusive theatre.

**Malerie Tabern Torres, MA, RDT, Class of 2011, has worked as a Senior Behavioral Intervention Aide** for the Intensive Behavioral Intervention Autism program at Nationwide Children's Hospital with children ages 3 to 18, who have been diagnosed with autism, in their homes.

**Nadya Trytan, MA, RDT, Class of 2002, is in Private Practice** at Center for Creativity & Health in St Paul, MN. She primarily provides group therapy, but is available for individual therapy as well and works as a **Program Therapist** for United Hospital (St Paul) on the adult & adolescent psychiatric units (Inpatient & Outpatient). She is the current President-Elect of the North American Drama Therapy Association.

**Brant Wadsworth, MA, RDT, Class of 2008, is the Program Director** at Lava Heights Academy of the Arts in St. George, Utah, a brand residential treatment center for adolescents that integrates therapy, expressive arts therapy, education, and artistic
He is also a Level 5 Alba Emoting trainer and is finishing his Ph.D. in Expressive Therapies at Lesley University.

**RDTs who did their Alternative Training through Kansas State University:**

**Karen Johnson Knappenberger, LMSW, RDT**, works as Clinician at Midland Care Connection PACE Program, a not-for-profit, community based organization in Topeka, Kansas providing options to families with challenging health care needs. She is currently a member of the NADTA Registry Committee.

**Lisa Peacock, MA, RDT** is the Founder and Director of the Vet Art Project. She is currently working in with homeless vets for the Family & Community Services Veterans Programming in Akron, OH.

**Tim Reagan, MA, RDT** is Director of the drama program at Sidwell Friends Middle School in Washington, DC. He has served on the board of directors of the North American Drama Therapy Association and as a judge for the Helen Hayes Awards in Washington, DC. Tim is the recipient of a Fulbright Memorial Fund Award, Goldberg Award for Teaching Excellence, and several venture grants for curriculum development. He is currently working on his Ph.D. in Expressive Therapies at Lesley University, and will be on sabbatical in 2014 to expand his research on Playback Theatre with adolescents in the UK and Holland.

**Patti Woolsey, MA, RDT** is the Founder, past Executive Director and current Artistic Director for ArtStream in the metropolitan Washington, DC area. ArtStream is a not-for-profit arts organization with the mission of bringing the arts to underserved populations. They sponsor 6 inclusive theatre companies in the metropolitan area.