Proceedings of the 5th Annual Conference on Haitian Mental Health, Art Exhibition & Cultural Celebration

Still We Rise: Religion, Spirituality and Well-Being in the Haitian Community

Saturday, May 7, 2016
William James College
1 Wells Avenue
Newton, Massachusetts
IN MEMORIAM:

Dr. Margaret Mitchell Armand  
November 14, 1950 – March 17, 2016

Dr. Margaret Mitchell Armand earned a Ph.D. in Conflict Analysis and Resolution at Nova Southeastern University and an M.A. and licensure in mental health counseling. Born and raised in Haiti, she worked in the field of education, provided training in conflict transformation, and spearheaded a series of diversity workshops. Dr. Armand was best known for her commitment to Haitian Vodou traditions and her magnificent collection of art. Her essays, lectures and conference presentations shed light on Vodou beliefs and traditions, including its central role in the Haitian revolution, post-independence reconstruction and the daily lives of adherents, challenging misconceptions and distortions along the way. She made compelling arguments for the central role of women and Vodou in Haitian society. Her passion for human dignity led her to indigenous communities around the world, including Africa, India, and the Caribbean. She was a recipient of numerous awards for her leadership and community organizing skills, including the United States Department of Justice Award for her work in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; the Spirit of Justice Award for her community activism; poetry Award at Nosside Mondial Poetry Prize; and Special Recognition from Benaris University, Women’s College in India. Her name is engraved on the Rosa Parks Wall of Tolerance Civil Rights Wall in Montgomery, Alabama. Dr. Armand authored several articles, essays and poetry that address indigenous education, transformative conflict resolution, and sociocultural issues that promote dignity, self-respect, and social equity. She published two full-length books: Finding Erzilli, a collection of poetry, and Healing in the Homeland: Haitian Vodou Tradition, an acclaimed interdisciplinary historiography of the power of Vodou and its struggle for legitimacy and recognition in the face of distortions. Dr. Armand, a teacher, artist, activist, initiated Vodou priestess, and psychotherapist died unexpectedly of complications from the flu in Miami, Florida. She was 65 years old. She is survived by her husband, Dr. Lucien Armand, two children, and four grandchildren.

Learn more about Dr. Armand's life and legacy by visiting:  
www.margaretmitchellarmand.com
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*Peace is a matter of the heart*

MARGARET MITCHELL ARMAND, PH.D
William James College (WJC) educates students for careers that meet the growing demand for access to quality, culturally competent psychological services for individuals, groups, communities and organizations. WJC offers 15 degree programs, with a focus on serving vulnerable populations, including children of adversity, Latinos and veterans as well as organizations and leaders on the forefront of creating long-lasting social change.

William James College is committed to meeting the needs of underserved populations, providing psychological services, and training culturally sensitive clinicians. WJC’s Center for Multicultural & Global Mental Health (CMGMH) aims to be a preeminent academic, clinical training and research center in promoting social justice and addressing mental health disparities among disenfranchised populations in the U.S. and abroad. CMGMH is comprised of three academic programs that focus on historically marginalized groups and underserved communities: The **African and Caribbean Mental Health Program**, the **Global Mental Health Program** and the **Latino Mental Health Program**. The primary mission of the Center is to recruit, train, educate, and prepare a cadre of professionals to serve culturally diverse individuals and communities locally and around the globe.

WJC’s doctoral clinical concentration in Children and Families of Adversity and Resilience, community partnerships with the Haitian Mental Health Network and the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, the Freedman Center for Child and Family Development, Interface Referral Service, and the Brenner Center for Psychological Testing also support WJC’s training and service mission. These programs and partnerships focus on meaningful classroom discussion on diversity, individual differences, and our common humanity as it relates to mental health. By promoting open dialogue about these crucial issues, WJC strives to attract a student body that reflects and engages with the communities it serves. The core of WJC’s approach is to provide students with hands-on experience and the clinical skills they need to be effective, pragmatic and compassionate professionals providing high quality services to their clients and solving complex problems in an increasingly diverse world.
The Haitian Mental Health (HMH) Network is a Boston-based organization comprised of psychologists, social workers, psychology and social work students, and other mental health providers. Members of the HMH Network work collaboratively with community-based organizations to improve access for Haitians to mental health services that are comprehensive, integrated, culturally sensitive, and developmentally appropriate. The HMH Network’s vision is to raise awareness about mental illness and promote access to quality, culturally-oriented and evidence-based mental health services for members of the Haitian community locally, nationally and internationally.

INITIATIVES IN BOSTON AND HAITI

In the Boston area, the HMH Network offers an array of services, including the following:

- **Clinical consultation and training** on culturally-oriented, trauma-informed mental health interventions with Haitian Americans and Haitian immigrants.
- **Conferences, community forums** and other professional events.
- **Facilitation of consumers’ access to mental health** and social services in the Haitian community.
- **A Directory** of local Haitian Mental Health Providers.

In Haiti, the work of the HMH Network has focused on:

- Providing **trauma-informed training** to health care providers, educators, and community leaders.
- Collaborating with Haiti-based agencies on **capacity-building initiatives** to address the mental health needs of Haitian children, adolescents, and families.
- Facilitating **knowledge exchange and knowledge transfer** between providers in Haiti and in the U.S. through annual service learning and summer immersion experiences.

### STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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To join or learn more about the HMH Network:

Website: www.HMHnetwork.org
Email: HMHnetwork@gmail.com
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The 5th Annual Conference on Haitian Mental Health was organized by the Haitian Mental Health (HMH) Network and William James College (WJC).

We would like to thank the following individuals for their continued support of the HMH Network and its local and international initiatives:

- Members of the HMH Network’s Steering Committee, Conference Planning Committee and Volunteers, including Marline Amedee, Gina Dessources, Myrtise Kretsedemas, Castagna Lacet, Joel Piton, Vanessa Prosper, and Suze Prudent
- Charlot Lucien and Joseph M. Chéry, Co-Founders, Haitian Artists Assembly of Massachusetts
- Dr. Nicholas Covino, President, William James College (WJC)
- Dr. Jill Bloom, Core Faculty, WJC
- Dr. Alan Dodge Beck, Director of Alumni Relations and Dean Emeritus, WJC
- Dean Abby, Director, Continuing & Community Education, WJC
- Kevin Costello, Facilities Manager, WJC
- The presenters, artists, and conference attendees.

CATERING SERVICE

Luncheon Catered by:

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INTRODUCTION

5th Annual Conference on Haitian Mental Health

Still We Rise: Religion, Spirituality and Well-Being in the Haitian Community

Saturday, May 7, 2016

Haitian religious views and spiritual practices are widely misunderstood and often vilified in mainstream forums. Yet, religion and spirituality are deeply rooted in the Haitian psyche, and are influential forces that empower and enrich the lives and personal experiences of Haitian immigrants as well as bring meaning and purpose to their existence. Given the pivotal role of religion and spirituality in the Haitian culture, mental health providers must be cognizant of misconceptions about Haitian spiritual values and traditions, understand the impact of religion and spirituality on help-seeking behaviors among Haitian individuals, and be knowledgeable about spiritually-oriented treatment strategies and interventions that can engage Haitian clients in care and promote their overall health and well-being.

The purpose of the 2016 interdisciplinary conference was to examine the complex roles and dynamics of Haitian spiritual belief systems and practices, explore the rich history of Christianity and Vodou and their impact on concepts of health and illness in the Haitian culture, and provide a context for a more meaningful discourse on traditional and nontraditional approaches to healing practices and symptom management in the Haitian community. The conference aimed to shed light on the roles that religion and spirituality play in coping in times of distress, and emphasize the strengths that Haitians gain from their religious and spiritual connections.

The overarching goals of the Annual Conference on Haitian Mental Health are to provide an intellectually stimulating forum where attendees can engage in a meaningful discourse on the mental health needs of the Haitian community; learn from leading scholars in the field; network with other professionals with a strong interest in, passion for, and commitment to promoting the health and well-being of Haitian immigrants; and exchange knowledge, information, and data on culturally-oriented theoretical inquiries, clinical practices, treatment interventions, research, and policy-based initiatives. In addition to offering cutting-edge plenary sessions, panel presentations and networking opportunities, the Annual Conference is intended to commemorate Haitian Heritage Month through a series of cultural events and an annual art exhibition that celebrate the rich history, values, and traditions of Haitian culture.

The Annual Conference is organized by the Center for Multicultural and Global Mental Health at William James College (www.williamjaemes.edu/cmgmh) and the Haitian Mental Health (HMH) Network. To learn more about the HMH Network, please visit www.HMHnetwork.org or contact the Network via email at HMHnetwork@gmail.com.
Developing Partnerships with Haitian Vodou Priests/Priestesses to Provide More Appropriate Care to the Mentally Ill Haitian Client

Marie Maude Evans, M.A., Mental Health Clinician and Vodou Priestess

In her Invited Address, Ms. Maude argued that, as a consequence of the slave trade, many Africans from various tribes disembarked on the shores of Haiti in the 16th century deprived of their identity, their culture, their language, and their traditional way of life. After centuries of mistreatments, deprivation, increasing violence in the form of degradation, rapes, lynching, and mental abuse, to name a few, Haitian slaves from various African tribes collectively formed the Vodou religion, united as a monolithic group, and uprooted slavery. Their resilience and determination to eradicate this macabre era in their history as a people gave way to Haitians’ strong sense of self that was, in some respect, founded in their resistance.

The contribution of Vodou, in particular the Ceremony of the Bwa Kayiman on the eve of the revolutionary war in 1791, has had a lasting, remarkable effect on the lives of Haitians. To this day, Haitian pride is explained in these terms: We are the First Black Independent Republic in the world and the first country in the Western Hemisphere to stage a successful slave revolt and win our independence. Historically, Vodou has been the essence of the Haitian people; that is, it constitutes our identity, our “self”. It is through the lens of Vodou that most Haitians view and understand the world around them. It is in this frame that socio-political, environmental, spiritual, economic, and health constructs are assigned meanings. Therefore, one cannot overlook Vodou in consideration of Haitian wellbeing. With the rise of mental healthcare needs in the Haitian community, especially after the devastating earthquake in 2010 when about 300,000 Haitians lost their lives, coupled with socio-economic disparities, many Haitians find themselves in a state of imbalance. Some attribute this imbalance to the presence of evil spirits and develop a new form of resistance by rejecting the very culture which once constituted their identity. Others become fixated on Vodou to the point that they reject...
any viable alternative to Vodou. While still others fall somewhere between these two extremes, all Haitians are aware of our cultural belief in magic and the spirits. Therefore, it is essential that mental health providers and Vodou priests/priestesses work in partnership to develop a holistic understanding of the root causes of their Haitian clients’ mental illnesses; thereby developing a treatment plan that encompasses both a spiritual and psychosocial approach. This presentation provided a culturally competent framework for mental health practitioners to explore in service of Haitian clients. Attention was given to the Haitian beliefs system that is rooted in spirituality, in particular, in the practices of Vodou that may hinder clients’ ability to accept mental health care solely from a Western perspective. Culturally sensitive practices in the treatment of Haitian clients that avoid negative stigmatization of Vodou’s healing traditions were also discussed. Particular emphasis was placed on the influence of Vodou on Haitian cultural practices and the dichotomy that these practices can create among Haitian mental health clients. When treating mental health clients, it is recommended that providers conduct a thorough intake, taking into consideration clients’ beliefs system and using that system as the cornerstone in providing mental health support and giving voice to their clients so they become active participants in their well-being.

**Religion, Spirituality and Well-being in the Haitian Community: Toward a Greater Collaboration between Spiritual Leaders and Mental Health Service Providers**

*J. Abède Alexandre, DMin, PsyD, Senior Pastor, Tabernacle Baptist Congregation*

In his Keynote Address, Dr. Alexandre remarked that, traditionally, there has been a general hostile relationship between mental health practitioners and religious/spiritual leaders. He indicated that such hostility stems from philosophical or metaphysical ideas about religion and spirituality from scientists in the field of psychiatry and psychology, and has caused religious/spiritual leaders to look at the field with suspicion. For instance, Freud’s writings on religion have influenced many mental health practitioners to see the practice of spirituality and religion as a form of psychopathology or more specifically akin to neurosis (Freud, 1907). On the one hand, mental health practitioners who do not share the values of certain religions tend to develop negative attitudes toward religion as a whole. On the other hand, religious leaders who reduce all human functioning to the physical and the spiritual may not see the need for psychological interventions to address issues that should be
resolved through prayers, confession of sin, and repentance. As such, serious mental health needs may be overlooked, appropriate referrals may be delayed and appropriate treatment methods, such as the use of medications to deal with certain mental disorders, may be discouraged. Those factors, among others, have resulted in low levels of cooperation between spiritual leaders and mental health service providers. Since religion plays a crucial role in all spheres of Haitian life, including politics, morals and health (Corten, 2000; Hurbon, 2004), mental health practitioners may need to overcome their own religious biases to facilitate greater cooperation with spiritual leaders in addressing various emotional, psychiatric and psychological issues of their clients. This should be accomplished through reviewing the various empirical studies that show how religion and spirituality are helpful in dealing with major life stressors such as natural disasters, illness, loss of loved ones, divorce and serious mental illness. The literature abounds with positive associations between religiosity and mental health. Religion can create a sense of coherence, meaning and stability that can be accessed as a resource in the face of adversity, distress and suffering. In addition, since many Haitians perceive personal and mental problems as a family or religious matter (Gopaul-McNicole, Benjamin-Dartigue, and Francois, 1998), they are likely to turn to their spiritual leaders first before considering a visit to a clinic or a mental health center. In such instances, religious/spiritual leaders may serve as “consultants or co-therapists” since they may be trusted, more readily than conventional mental health professions in medical institutions (Kirmayer, 2010). Dr. Alexandre suggested that the legitimate concerns that mental health practitioners might have regarding how certain religious practices or activities may be harmful to the clients would be better addressed via collaboration with religious/spiritual leaders. Such collaboration would facilitate not only more comprehensive and better treatment interventions but it would create greater opportunity for religious leaders to receive more adequate training in assessing mental health needs and greater opportunity for mental health practitioners to develop and demonstrate more religious competence in addressing the needs of their client/patients. Such collaboration can be created via mutual respect, respect of boundaries, referrals and consultations to the benefit of help seekers.

**CONCURRENT & PANEL PRESENTATIONS**

**Church as a Protective Factor to Suicide and Potential Barrier to Prevention**

*Tony Dellovo, MPH, and Emily Bhargava, M.A.*

In this panel presentation, Mr. Dellovo and Ms. Bhargava discussed the work of the Massachusetts Coalition for Suicide Prevention (MCSP) whose primary mission is to prevent suicide through statewide collaboration and advocacy. The Greater Boston Regional Suicide Prevention Coalition (GBRSPC) is a subgroup of the MCSP that serves the Greater Boston area. In 2014, the GBRPSC was awarded a grant to conduct a series of focus groups with a variety of cultural groups in order to 1) better understand the prevention needs
of particular communities, 2) establish and strengthen connections with diverse organizations, 3) expand and diversify membership in the coalition, and 4) learn how to better serve diverse communities. For each cultural community, two separate focus groups were convened. One group brought together individual community members, some of whom had personal experience with mental illness and/or suicide. A second group convened service providers who work with members of the community of interest. The Haitian community was one of three cultural communities that were identified to participate in the focus groups. Through our focus groups with the Haitian community, we identified key themes related to religion, spirituality, mental illness, and suicide prevention. Our findings indicated that religion and spirituality are both a protective factor and a potential barrier to suicide prevention. Haitian community members and providers mentioned the church community most frequently as a source of significant support. Individuals reported that pastors have an opportunity to discuss mental illness and to create openings for people to share their own experiences. While limited in scope, the findings from the focus groups underscore the need for a public health approach to education and awareness of mental illness and suicide. Based on these findings, as a vital first step towards improving suicide prevention efforts and increasing capacity for mental health supports within the Haitian community, community-based organizations must engage key stakeholders from the Haitian religious community as well as the general community in suicide prevention education and training provided in schools, churches, healthcare facilities, and other areas where civic engagement occurs. Through our collection of suggestions, the GBRSPC shared a variety of ways for churches and other service providers to improve the accessibility and appropriateness of their services to better meet the needs of the Haitian community.

Cultural Concepts of Health and Illness,
with an Emphasis on the Integration of Mind, Body and Spirit

Edna Laurent-Tellus, LICSW; Elizabeth Conward, LICSW; and Maggie Pierre, LICSW,

This panel engaged the audience in a conversation about the cultural concepts of health and illness in the Haitian community and how a holistic approach with an emphasis on the integration of the “mind-body-spirit” is more compatible to the Haitians’ African background than the current traditional approach to health care. The presenters took a brief historical journey from Africa to slavery and beyond to examine the psychological effects of colonization on the Haitian psyche and how that may have resulted in an implicit bias toward alternative methods like yoga and meditation. They discussed why alternative methods such as meditation, reiki, and yoga are not accepted in the church. While debunking the myths to show how these methods are not at odds with the Christian faith. The
The panelists also explained how these methods can strengthen an individual’s faith and create inner peace and how the philosophy behind these practices is in harmony with the Christian teaching and lifestyle. The panelists reviewed scientific studies that demonstrated the health benefits of various techniques such as meditation, dance, mindfulness, reiki, yoga and exercise. They also discussed how using these alternative methods in conjunction with traditional mental health could contribute to the recovery of traumatized Haitians. The presenters engaged the audience in an exercise to de-mystify these alternative methods and brainstormed solutions that could lead to increasing awareness in the Haitian community so they can take advantage of the health benefits of these methods.

Haiti Service Learning 2015: Spirituality & Community Identity and Connections in Vallue, Petit-Goâve
John Meigs, Alison Armour, Ashley White, Brittany Murphy, Catherine Barba, and Alessandra Frissora, William James College

This presentation focused on the service learning experience of William James College’s students during the summer of 2015 in the mountainous rural community of Vallue, Petit-Goâve. It provided an overview of service learning goals, evolution of the service learning program, and the implementation of workshops with community participants. The presentation also addressed the role that spirituality and community identity played in discussions with local teachers, parents, adolescents, and youths. More specifically, it focused on how spirituality is integrated throughout daily life, and was exhibited in interactions between WJC students and community participants during the immersion program. The presentation contained observations of the spirituality practiced daily and the importance of being attuned to unique aspects of spirituality and community identity in Vallue. The panelists put forth the “big S” and “little s” versions of spirituality. Spirituality (“big S”) as being more overt, explicitly expressed notion of spirituality, as observed in organized religion (e.g., Catholicism) or other spiritual practices (Vodou). The “little s” spirituality are the more covert, implicit daily acts that connect one spiritually to the community, environment, and shared history. Presenters shared observations of spirituality witnessed during the immersion experience. They remarked that members of the Vallue community appear to integrate spirituality more fluidly into daily practices, in contrast to the compartmentalization of United States culture where spirituality, religion, community, social connections, physical health, and understanding and appreciation of nature are viewed as separate pieces of an individual’s self. During the presentation, the panelists also examined the role of spirituality in practitioners’ current understanding of clients from cultures other than their own as well as explored the role of spirituality in psychological healing.
Dr. Blanc reported on a study that examined associations between religious beliefs regarding the origin of the 2010 earthquake in Haiti and posttraumatic symptomatology as well as depressive symptoms and resilience among its survivors. The researchers used convenient sampling to recruit participants \( (n = 167) \) who completed six scales that had been translated into Haitian Creole. These include the Earthquake Experience Exposure scale, the Peritraumatic Distress Inventory, the Peritraumatic Dissociative Experience Questionnaire, the PTSD Checklist, the Beck Depression Inventory and the Connor-Davidson Resilience Scale (CD-RISC). The findings revealed that among the participants, 51% were male (mean age = 30.5, \( SD = 11.03 \)), 92% \( (n = 155) \) were believers in some sort of supernatural force, and 65% \( (n = 108) \) endorsed the earthquake as a natural phenomenon. Perceiving the earthquake as divine punishment was associated with severe PTSD symptoms \( (\chi^2 = 5.06, df = 2, p < 0.05) \). There was also an association between low scores on resilience and severity of depressive symptoms \( (\chi^2 = 7.49, df = 1, p < 0.01) \); the latter were more prevalent among Vodou adherents than among their peers from other religions \( (\chi^2 = 9.05, df = 1, p < 0.01) \). Finally, the belief that the earthquake was divine punishment was predominant among those who scored \( \geq 80 \) on the CD-RISC \( (\chi^2 = 8.15, df = 1, p < 0.01) \). The results were discussed in the context of promoting greater understanding of the important role that spirituality plays in the psychological well-being of Haitians.
Haitian Heritage Month Celebration & Art Exhibition

Soul Searching: An Exploration of Haitian Spirituality through Visual Arts
Appendix A: Biographies of Presenters

J. ABÈDE ALEXANDRE, DMIN, PSYD
Dr. J. Abède Alexandre holds a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from George Fox University, and a Master’s degree and Doctorate in the field of Theology and Pastoral Ministry from Dallas Theological Seminary. He currently works as a School Psychologist for the Boston Public Schools. He is also the founder and senior Pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Congregation in Roslindale, MA. He and his wife, Edith, are the proud parents of two sons, Jean Abede II and Jonathan.

ALISON ARMOUR, M.A.
Ms. Alison Armour is finishing her third year as a PsyD student in the Clinical Psychology Program at William James College. She is completing her training under the HRSA grant at the Edward M. Kennedy Community Health Center in Worcester as part of an APA-accredited consortium. She currently works with patients across the lifespan and cross-culturally, including refugee individuals and families. Her clinical areas of interest include working in collaboration with primary care physicians and psychiatric providers in community health settings, and focusing on individual psychotherapy with children, adolescents, and geriatrics. Her approved dissertation proposal is under the working title of “The Relationship between perceived social connectedness, physical wellbeing, and subjective aging in older adults.” Prior to beginning her graduate work in psychology, Ms. Armour served as the Assistant Head of Foreign Language at an independent pre-K through 8 school, teaching French and introductory Spanish. She participated in the 2015 Haiti Service Learning Program in Vallue, Petit-Goâve.

CATHERINE BARBA, M.A.
Ms. Catherine Barba is a 4th year doctoral student in the Clinical Psychology Program at William James College where she is completing a concentration on Children and Families of Adversity and Resilience. Her clinical interests include cross-cultural treatment, identity formation, and interpersonal relationships. Ms. Barba is conducting her doctoral research on Contemporary Fathers and exploring how identity, attachment, and parental meta-emotion philosophy impact father’s involvement with their children. She is currently an intern at Bentley University’s Counseling Center and will be a postdoctoral fellow at Tufts University in the fall. Ms. Barba took part in the 2015 Haiti Service Learning Program in Vallue, Petit-Goâve.

EMILY BHARGAVA, M.A.
Ms. Emily Bhargava, Director of Connection Lab LLC, works in community health, community organizing and community art to promote health. Through organizational development, evaluation design and collaborative assessment, Ms. Bhargava helps to formalize and enhance the work of prevention to help communities achieve the greatest possible impact with the limited time and money dedicated to primary prevention and community level health promotion. Ms. Bhargava often works on the border between art and public health, using art to share health information, to increase community collaboration and community capacity, and to increase engagement in building healthy communities.
**JUDITE BLANC, PH.D.**

Dr. Judite Blanc was born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. She completed her B.A. in Psychology at the State University of Haiti (Université d’Etat D’Haiti/Faculté des Sciences Humaines), and her Master’s degree in Developmental Child and Adolescent Psychology and Psychopathology in France (Université de Caen Basse Normandie and Université de Toulouse 2). In 2015, she defended her Doctoral Dissertation in Clinical Psychology at the University of Paris 13. Her epidemiological research related to the psychopathological consequences of the Haiti 2010 earthquake has been published in high impact journals. Currently, Dr. Blanc is an Assistant Professor at the Université d’Etat d’Haiti and other universities in Port-au-Prince. She is also pursuing her work on Psychotraumatology, African Psychology, and Gender and Mental Health.

**ELIZABETH CONWARD, LICSW**

Ms. Elizabeth Conward is the Chief Operating Officer and co-founder of Awake IntuMind, LLC. She is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker. She completed her Masters in Social Work from Wheelock College. Her clinical training encompasses working with individuals, groups, and families. Ms. Conward has over 10 years of experience in the field of social work, and has worked in community mental health clinics as an in-home therapist, an outpatient therapist and a clinical supervisor. She has worked for multiple nonprofit agencies in the Boston area such as the Home for Little Wanderers, Catholic Charities and Children’s Services of Roxbury. Ms. Conward believes that therapy should be personalized; each client is unique and requires an approach that is individualized to their needs. She takes time to know her clients, listen to their life stories, and hear about their personal dreams and goals. Her therapeutic approach is always strength based and culturally sensitive. Modalities of therapeutic intervention that she uses with her clients include Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Solution Focused, Psychodynamic, Relational and Interpersonal and Play Therapy.

**TONY DELLOVO, MPH**

Mr. Tony Dellovo works as part development team at the Greater Boston Food Bank and was previously a development manager at Screening for Mental Health, a Boston-based nonprofit that provides mental health and substance use resources linking individuals to quality treatment options. He served as the co-chair for the Greater Boston Regional Suicide Prevention Coalition (GBRSPC) from 2014 to 2016. The GBRSPC has over 90 members including professionals, providers, advocates, faculty, students, those with lived experience, and survivors that are working to create a strong network of suicide prevention across the region.

**MARIE MAUDE EVANS, M.A.**

Manbo Marie Maude Evans holds a Master’s in Mental Health Psychology and works as a Health Manager at the Community Action Agency of Somerville (CAAS) as well as a Mental Health Clinician at South Shore Mental Health. Prior to this, she served Boston’s Haitian community as a child advocate, holding the position of Family Advocate for 10 years. Adding to her rich and varied set of skills, she studied Economics and worked for several years as an accountant for a telecommunications firm; she also attained her degree in Fashion Design at the Academy Verona, which led to her opening her own business. A native of Jacmel, Haiti, Ms. Evans re-located to the U.S. in 1990 and currently resides in Mattapan, Massachusetts. She is a Manbo (high priestess) in the Haitian Vodou tradition and serves a range of clientele who comes seeking spiritual guidance. She maintains strong connections to her temple in Haiti by traveling there each summer to conduct initiations, spiritual weddings, feasts, and other ceremonies.
**Alessandra Frissora**

Ms. Alessandra Frissora is a 2nd year student in the Clinical PsyD Program at William James College. Currently, she is completing her practicum training at Shrewsbury Youth and Family Services. Next fall, she will begin her 3rd year internship at Boston Behavioral Medicine. Some of her clinical interests include global mental health, women’s health and mind-body connection. She participated in the 2015 Haiti Service Learning Program in Vallue, Petit-Goâve.

**Edna Laurent-Tellus, LICSW**

Ms. Edna Laurent-Tellus is the Chief Executive Officer and founder of Awake IntuMind (AIM), an innovative mental health care provider that utilizes an integrated approach to the delivery of mental health services. Ms. Laurent-Tellus has over 20 years of experience as a senior administrator, strategic planner, and mental health program developer for diverse populations and communities in Massachusetts. Prior to establishing Awake IntuMind, Ms. Laurent-Tellus held positions as the Director of Behavioral Health Services at Children’s Services of Roxbury, Senior Director of Clinical Services at Roxbury Multi Service Center, and Executive Director of Brockton Neighbors United Community Connections Coalition. Under her leadership and guidance at these organizations, she generated millions of dollars in revenue for behavioral health programs, strengthened organizational capacity for mental health service delivery, and helped hundreds of underserved and at-risk families obtain access to mental health care. As a clinician, Ms. Laurent-Tellus is known as an effective advocate for individuals and families. She has devoted her professional life to developing client-centered and culturally sensitive treatments that empowers families to advocate for better services. The mental health care programs that she has established have used solution-focused/strengths-based approaches to address social, economic, and emotional needs of individuals and families. Ms. Laurent-Tellus earned a Master’s degree in Social Work from Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA (1996) and a Graduate Certificate in Women in Politics and Public Policy from the University of Massachusetts in Boston (2009). Ms. Laurent-Tellus is certified by the Massachusetts Board of Social Workers as a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker.

**John Meigs, M.A.**

Mr. John Meigs is a 3rd year doctoral student in the Clinical PsyD Program at William James College. His area of interest is Global Mental Health and his doctoral project is in the area of normal worry and trauma. He has interned at New Hope TSS, Lynn Community Health Center, Lesley University Counseling Center, and the Metro Boston Mental Health Units at the Lemuel Shattuck Hospital. Next year he will intern at the MIT Mental Health Counseling Service. He took part in the 2015 Haiti Service Learning Program in Vallue, Petit-Goâve. This summer he will travel with WJC students and faculty to Kandara, Kenya as part of an immersion program working with primary school students and teachers.

**Brittany Murphy**

Ms. Brittany Murphy is a 2nd year doctoral candidate in the Clinical PsyD Program at William James College. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Clark University. She is currently a psychology practicum student at the Massachusetts Mental Health Center’s Partial Hospital Program and next year she will be completing an APA-accredited consortium internship at Riverbend Community Mental Health in Concord, NH. She participated in the 2015 Haiti Service Learning & Summer Immersion Program. Her primary clinical interests are on children and families.
and the impact of trauma on child development. In her free time she enjoys skiing, traveling, and hiking with her dog, Zelda.

**Maggie Pierre, LICSW**
Ms. Maggie Pierre is an independently licensed social worker in the state of Massachusetts. Ms. Pierre has a Master’s degree in Social Work from Boston College’s Graduate School of Social Work, and a certificate in Basic Coaching from Boston University’s Graduate School of Social Work. She has worked in the field for 20 years in a variety of settings, including child welfare, foster care/adoption, and mental health and juvenile courts in Massachusetts and California. Ms. Pierre has worked at the Department of Children and Families, Children’s Bureau and Children’s Services of Roxbury as a social worker, clinician and clinical supervisor respectively. She is currently an independent contractor at Awake IntuMind, LLC as well as an adoption clinician at the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

**Ashley White**
Ms. Ashley White is a 2nd year doctoral student in the Clinical PsyD Program at William James College where she is enrolled in the concentrations on *Child and Families of Adversity and Resilience* and *Global Mental Health*. Ms. White’s research interest includes pediatric acute physical Illness, mind-body connection and disaster mental health. She has been a clinical trainee at Lowell Community Charter Public School and Family Health Center in Worcester. Next year, she will intern at Shriner’s Hospital for Children. Ms. White took part in the 2015 Haiti Service Learning Program in Vallue, Petit-Goâve. In the future, she plans to participate in more immersion experiences as a student at WJC and work internationally as a child psychologist.
Appendix B:
BIographies of Art Exhibition Organizers

JOSEPH M. CHÉRY
Joseph M. Chéry is a Community Relations Specialist, Community Peace Activist, and Artist. He is the co-founder of the Boston-based Louis D. Brown Peace Institute and creator of the acclaimed Louis D. Brown Peace Curriculum for High Schools. He co-authored, with Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith, “PeaceZone: A Program for Teaching Social Literacy”, published by Research Press in 2003. The PeaceZone is held by 61 libraries worldwide. The shooting death of his 15-year old son on the streets of Dorchester in December 1993 shattered Joseph M. Chéry’s life and that of his family. To find the strength to go on and continue to care for his two younger children, Joseph relied on the arts to journey through his grief and put the pieces back together. After the Haiti earthquake of 2010, he joined several community organizations that worked with the City of Boston and the State of Massachusetts to address the trauma experienced by Haitian-Americans in New England. In that capacity, he worked with his colleagues on the Haitian American Earthquake Task Force and the Haitian Artists Assembly of Massachusetts to raise funds and provide financial support and art supplies to artists in the coastal town of Jacmel, Haiti. He also helped curate several art shows that illustrate the artists’ individual and collective journey through loss, survival and hope.

CHARLOT LUCIEN
Charlot Lucien is a Haitian storyteller, poet and visual art artist who resides in Norwood, MA. He is also the founder and director of the Haitian Artists Assembly of Massachusetts, and has been active in the cultural arena in New-England, both in the Haitian and American communities. As a storyteller, he has released 4 storytelling CDs in Haitian Creole and French, in the tradition of Haitian storytellers such as Maurice Sixto, that have been well received by established critics: “Ti Oma,” “Ti Cyprien,” “Grann Dédé” and “San Bri, San Kont.” As a poet, his work has been released in various publications and newspapers and his recent book of poetry “La tentation de l’autre rive” was published in October 2013 by Trilingual Press of Cambridge MA. As a painter, an illustrator and a caricaturist, his works draw from a variety of sources, including Haitian history, culture, society and politics. They have been used to illustrate various publications—books, calendars and newspapers. Charlot Lucien frequently offers readings and conferences on Haiti in academic and cultural venues in the U.S. (e.g., New England, Florida, New York), Canada, Haiti, Guadeloupe and France. His creative work and cultural activism have been featured in several newspapers in Haiti and abroad. He is the recipient of multiple awards and citations from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the City of Boston, and various civic and cultural organizations for his cultural activism.
5TH ANNUAL HAITIAN ART EXHIBITION

Soul Searching: An Exploration of Haitian Spirituality through Visual Arts

Organized by the Haitian Artists Assembly of Massachusetts and the Haitian Mental Health Network in collaboration with William James College, Brockton Arts and Caribbean Arts Gallery.

For more information, please contact:
Charlot Lucien, Founder and Director
Haitian Artists Assembly of Massachusetts
Email: Charlotlucien@yahoo.com