



Melissa Edington (Thomas)

Melissa Edington, class of 1997, was a founding member and captain of the Bruinettes Dance Team when it started in 1995. Melissa began her dance training at age 4, studying all forms of dance under Charlotte Braun and Dee Hillier. She earned her B.F.A. in dance from the University of Akron, and upon graduating launched a career in dance that lasted over a decade. Some of Melissa's career highlights include Holland America Cruise Line, Pittsburg Civic Light Opera, and the Japanese and North American tour of *42nd Street*. Melissa's favorite professional credit is the 8 years she spent as a Radio City Rockette in New York City. As a Rockette, Melissa had the opportunity to perform on *The Today Show* and in the *Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade*.

Melissa has been teaching dance for more than 20 years, including two years as an adjunct professor at the University of Akron. While she enjoys teaching all ages, her adult tap classes are a particular favorite. In addition to dance, Melissa teaches fitness and is a licensed Zumba instructor. What she values most about teaching is the meaningful connection she builds with her students—both young and old.