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## AATA NEWS AND EVENTS

### Communication and Dementia: Painting a New Path through Art Therapy



Raquel Chapin Stephenson, Ph.D., ATR-BC, LCAT

William Utermohlen, a professional artist, recorded his cognitive decline through self-portraiture (Grady, 2006). Incredibly brave and astute, his visual representation of the journey into Alzheimer's Disease reveals an increasingly fragmented ability to organize the world outside, the darkening of life around him – an increasingly frightening picture. For Utermohlen, expressing his sadness through his art was a way of staying connected with the outside world. Like Utermohlen, individuals who have dementia still have a great need to communicate with others (Stephenson, 2015). Communication and expression, like eating and sleeping, are basic human needs. When a person loses the ability to process language and words become an impossible tool for communication, that person is at greater risk for becoming socially isolated or lonely. **READ MORE**



### A message of pride and gratitude from AATA



AATA

This Thanksgiving, we are grateful for all our members. We know how hard each of you work to heal, teach, strengthen and encourage individuals and whole communities through the power of Art Therapy. Thank you for

all you do and for being part of our AATA community.

– The AATA Staff and Board of Directors

## Support a New Professional on Giving Tuesday: Your Donation Will be Matched



AATA

Join AATA on December 1, 2015 for the 4th annual #GivingTuesday, a global day dedicated to giving back. On **Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2015**, charities, families, businesses, community centers, and students around the world will come together for one common purpose: to celebrate generosity and to give. AATA members are joining together to donate and to spread the word in support of art therapists just entering the profession. Our goal is to send as many as 10 new professionals to the American Art Therapy Association's national conference, the largest education event of the year. **READ MORE**

## 2016 Call for Honors



Craig Siegel, MA, ATR-BC, ATCS, Chair

The Honors Committee has opened the Call for Honors nominations. Professional Members of the Association can make nominations for art therapists to be considered for honors in 2016 for their outstanding contributions to the American Art Therapy Association (AATA), the profession of art therapy, art therapy education, and clinical work. The Honors Committee encourages all Professional Members to review the award categories and nominate the art therapist(s) who best fits the description(s). For details and the applications, please click on the link below:

- [Rudolph Arnheim Award \(RAA\)](#)
- [Jim Consoli Video/Film Award \(JCA\)](#)
- [Distinguished Clinician Award \(DCA\)](#)
- [Distinguished Educator Award \(DEA\)](#)
- [Distinguished Service Award \(DSA\)](#)
- [Honorary Life Member Award \(HLM\)](#)
- [Other Award](#)

**All Nomination Packets** (with the exception of the Jim Consoli Video/Film Award) **should be sent via email to [honors@arttherapy.org](mailto:honors@arttherapy.org), or faxed to (703) 783-8468.**

The deadline for all honors nominations is Feb.1, 2016.

## Conference news: Early bird registration opens Dec. 1, 2015



Jane DeSouza, MPS, ATR-BC, LCAT, Conference Chair

**Early bird registration for the 47th Annual Conference will open soon!** There are several reasons to register early such as paying the lowest conference registration fees to be offered, and making sure you reserve seats in the workshops, advanced practice courses, and special "ticketed" events that are your top choices. Be sure to mark your calendar for the 2016 conference, to be held in Baltimore, Maryland, July 6-10, 2016. **READ MORE**

## AATA Featured Member



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Sara Windrem, MS, ATR-BC, RMHCI is a Creative Arts Therapist at the West Palm Beach Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center and a Registered Mental Health Counselor Intern with the state of Florida. Sara is grateful for AATA's extensive networking opportunities and notes that "AATA is the glue that keeps us all connected!" While an undergraduate student, Sara attended a workshop that featured Bob Ault, a co-founder of the AATA, which inspired her to pursue a master's degree in art therapy. After graduating from Florida State University (FSU), Sara went on to gain experience in a number of different settings, including Bangkok, Thailand where she worked with child victims of trauma.

**READ MORE**

### ART THERAPY IN THE NEWS

## Local art therapist works with cognitively impaired



Indiana Daily Student

Paula Worley printed out sets of instructions for Popsicle-stick lanterns as she assembled materials for the craft at the Better Day Club. Bottles of glue and scissors were set out in separate bins and tissue paper was set on the table. She said she gives one handout to each participant to remind them of the steps, listed numerically on the sheet, in case they forget. Doing a sequence project can be difficult for participants with short-term memory loss, she said. Worley is an art therapist at the Better Day Club, an adult day center in Bloomington, Indiana, designed for individuals suffering from cognitive changes due to aging or Alzheimer's, as well as other forms of dementia. **READ MORE**

## Long Island University exhibit of art therapy students



The Island Now

An unusual exhibition has opened on the LIU Post campus. The students in the school's art therapy program are exhibiting their work in the Sculpture Gallery on the east end of the campus. "Their background is about 50/50 in fine arts and in something else," said art therapy professor Ann Charlotte Tivolacci. "All of them have some experience with art, but to some, this is their first exhibition, and to others, this is just another one," she said. It opens up to some new, outside the box approaches that isn't necessarily the usual. **READ MORE**

## Moving images



Nepali Times

Nepali artist Kripa Joshi had a morbid fear of earthquakes. During an earthquake during her childhood, she remembers her mother running upstairs to carry her to safety while everyone in the house was running down. Joshi had flown in from London with her one-year-old daughter to visit her family in Kathmandu when the earthquake struck in April. While she panicked, it was her mother who ran to carry her grand-daughter to safety. The earthquake and the aftermath left such a mark on Joshi that she teamed up with London-based Italian artist Elena Vitagliano to curate an anthology of artworks with the theme 'HOME' by noted international artists. **READ MORE**

### THE LATEST HEALTHCARE NEWS

## Education department announces new guidance to help students with disabilities as part of 40th anniversary of IDEA law



U.S. Department of Education

To commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the U.S. Education Department is releasing guidance aimed at ensuring that America's 6 million children and youth with disabilities have the same opportunity for a quality education as their nondisabled peers. "In the 40 years since this law was enacted, we have moved beyond simply providing children and youth with disabilities access to the school house," said U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. "Today, we want to assure that these students have no less than the same equal shot at the American dream as their nondisabled peers." **READ MORE**

The AATA's Art Therapy Today includes a digest of the most important news selected for AATA from thousands of sources. Guest articles may be submitted to Kat Michel at [kmichel@arttherapy.org](mailto:kmichel@arttherapy.org). Publication of any guest article is at the sole discretion of the American Art Therapy Association.

### Art Therapy Today

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