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### AATA NEWS AND EVENTS

## AATA Extends Giving Campaign for New Professional to End of December



AATA

Yesterday on #GivingTuesday, members of the AATA exemplified generosity by raising \$2859.00 to help send new professional members to the 2016 annual conference in Baltimore, Maryland. A percentage of funds that were raised during #GivingTuesday will be matched by the Network for Good. We extend our thanks to all those who chose to give and continue to give as support for this important cause! In response to your enthusiasm, the AATA is extending the deadline for contributions to December 31, 2015. To celebrate both the ending of this year and the beginning of the new one, we ask that you continue your support of fellow members by participating and spreading the word about our campaign. Click [here](#) to access the Donation Page.

### Conference news: Early bird registration is open!



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

**Early bird registration for the 47th Annual Conference is now open!** 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. Click [here](#) to access registration now.

### AATA Featured Member



AATA

Dr. Maricel Ocasio Figueroa, ATR-BC, is the current President and a founding member of the Puerto Rico Art Therapy Association. Additionally, she serves as a member on both the AATA Multicultural Committee and the Art Committee. Her AATA membership gives Maricel access to the broader "tribe" of creative mental health professionals that speak her language — "they understand the importance of legitimizing the therapeutic use of the visual arts, feel as passionate about it as I do, and support my endeavors to educate those who know little about the art therapy field." Maricel wanted to become an art therapist because she enjoyed making art while growing up and experienced its therapeutic benefit first-hand. **READ MORE**



## Deadline extended for mural pieces from AATA-approved art therapy programs



AATA

The deadline for programs to submit their piece for the AATA National Office Mural Project has been extended to December 11, 2015. 35 AATA-approved graduate art therapy programs have been called to contribute a piece of art for a mural that is to be displayed in the AATA's National Office. These participating programs have been asked to incorporate a design that represents their program on a 12" x 12" canvas. When combined, the mural pieces will form out the acronym "AATA" and the piece will be permanently housed in the AATA National Office's conference room.



Contact Kelly Muldoon at [kellymariemuldoon@gmail.com](mailto:kellymariemuldoon@gmail.com) for details.

## Seasonal Apparel is Available Now



AATA



Looking for something special to add to your holiday shopping? The [AATA Store](#) may have just the thing you're looking for. Keep warm through the winter with our new fleece jacket and beanie. Or cuddle up and stay cozy with an AATA fleece blanket.

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**ART THERAPY IN THE NEWS**

## Art is worth a thousand words of counseling



Khaleej Times via Yahoo News

Art for therapeutic purpose is gaining momentum in Dubai. "Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life." These words from renowned artist Pablo Picasso powerfully define the benefits of art therapy. A creative method of expression used as a therapeutic technique, art therapy acts as a stimulus for emotional output. Though this form of therapy is still gaining momentum here in the UAE, it has proven to be a particularly beneficial tool when working with children. **READ MORE**

## Art therapy program offers emotional healing, self-expression at Children's of Alabama



AL.com

When patients are going through treatments at Children's Hospital of Alabama or faced with a terminal illness, they sometimes are unable to process all their feelings and emotions surrounding their illness. The Hope and Cope Psychosocial Program provide art and other mediums to let children explore and work through their feelings in a supportive and creative environment. The program operates 10 hours a week at the hospital and has a team of art therapists, nurses, and psychologists that work with the children to provide individualized art therapy instruction. Based on the child's disability, special art tools will be utilized so the child doesn't feel

hindered to be artistic. **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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