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### AATA NEWS

## Announcing the Approval of the CAAHEP Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Educational Programs in Art Therapy



Dana Elmendorf, MA, ATR-BC, LPC, ACATE Chair

For the past several years, the American Art Therapy Association (AATA) and the Accreditation Council for Art Therapy Education (ACATE) have been pursuing accreditation of graduate art therapy programs through the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). The goal of accreditation is to increase the rigor with which our educational programs are reviewed and to facilitate professional art therapist licensure in as many states as possible. This has been determined to be a critical priority for our profession. [READ MORE](#)

## AATA Represented at the AMTA Annual Conference: Under the Canopy



Gretchen M. Miller, MA, ATR-BC, ACTP



This year's American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) Conference was hosted in my home state of Ohio from Nov. 10-13 at the Kalahari Resort and Convention Center in Sandusky. It was a pleasure to be able to attend Friday's program as an AATA representative, through an invitation extended by AMTA's President Jennifer Geiger, MA, MT-BC to the National Coalition of Creative Arts Therapies Associations (NCCATA), of which the AATA is a member. The AMTA's conference, focused on the theme of Under the Canopy: The Music Therapy Profession, offered 200+ sessions and welcomed over 1500 attendees from across the U.S. and internationally. [READ](#)

**MORE****Professional Doctorate of Art Therapy**

This Mount Mary University program advances working professionals' careers through an annual, summer 12-day residency, online coursework and practitioner-generated research to transform the profession.

**Just One Month Left to Submit 2017 Conference Proposals**

Heidi Tournoux-Hanshaw, MA, ATR-BC, LPC-AT, Conference Chair

Proposal submissions are now being accepted online until the deadline of Monday, Jan. 9, at 5:00 p.m. ET. Share your brilliant ideas, experiences, and knowledge with fellow conference attendees. The 48th Annual Conference of the American Art Therapy Association, Art Therapy: Traversing Landscapes of the Heart & Mind, will be held Nov. 8-12, 2017\* in Albuquerque, New Mexico. **READ MORE**

**Reminder: Join or Renew Today to Lock-in 2016 Member Rates**

AATA

Members of the AATA are at the heart of our mission. Thanks to our combined efforts, 2016 saw significant increases in AATA's public policy efforts, growth of continuing education offerings and a commitment from leadership to steer long-term strategies for all the critical needs facing art therapy. We need you to continue that momentum through 2017 — be a part of our mission by [joining](#) or [renewing](#) your membership today. For more information about what you can get as an AATA member, visit our [membership page](#). As an added benefit, those who renew before December 31, 2016 can lock-in 2016 rates for membership before the dues increase comes into effect on Jan. 1, 2017.

**SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT**
**AATA Featured Member**

AATA

Holly M. Wherry, ATR-BC, LPC was a classroom teacher in New York City before becoming an art therapist but, after completing her Master's Degree in Art Therapy from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, she worked in educational settings in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina. She provided trauma-focused art therapy to hundreds of schoolchildren, and conducted numerous community artmaking events throughout the area. Additionally, Holly spent a year in Chennai, India, creating art therapy programs to organizations that serve children with special needs, children with cancer, and adults with severe mental illness. **READ MORE**



## IN THE NEWS

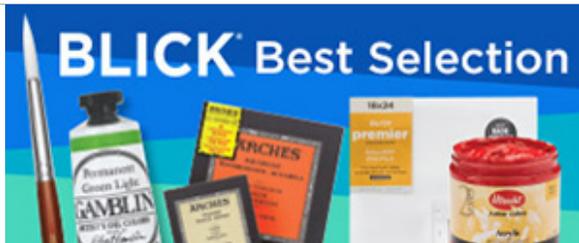
### VA center, Veteran Artist Program to highlight women veteran artists



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Kayla Williams writes: "Walking through the lobby of the Pittsburgh Veterans Affairs Medical Center one day, I was struck by an amazing exhibit of photographs taken by homeless veterans. Getting to view life through that lens was a powerful way to connect with their experiences, and it made a deep impression that stuck with me: Art can touch us in profound ways. After hearing in person and through surveys from women veterans that they often feel unrecognized, their service and sacrifice unappreciated — sometimes even within VA facilities — I began to ponder how encouraging women veterans to share their stories through creative initiatives could be instrumental in shaping how we all see women veterans." [READ MORE](#)

### PRODUCT SHOWCASE



#### Blick Art Materials

At Blick, you'll find the largest selection of art materials available. We carry high-quality products from the best brands in the industry. No matter the medium, Blick has the supplies you need to promote creativity through the visual arts.



#### Windsor & Newton

William and Henry's commitment to quality and innovation are part of a rich heritage which informs Windsor & Newton to this day. We're dedicated to the craft of the fine artist and to providing them with new ways to explore their creativity, allowing them to share their work with a worldwide community. [Read more](#)

### Applications of attachment theory in American art therapy practice illustrated through the bird's nest drawing and story



The British Association of Art Therapists

We asked Dr. Donna Betts, ATR-BC to introduce us to the subject of her keynote speech for the 2016 Attachment and the Arts conference. Attachment theories have impacted art therapy in the United States and inspired unique approaches to practice. This presentation details one such example – the bird's nest drawing and story, an art therapy assessment of attachment security. As is described in Yoon, Betts, Harmon-Walker and Kaiser, attachment theory is one of the most empirically grounded frameworks in the field of human development. [READ MORE](#)

### Art therapy and adolescents



The Center for Psyche and The Arts

Adolescence can be a challenging time in a child's development, but when losses, adjustment issues or trauma affect the child, it makes it all the more difficult. Teenagers often feel self-conscious, under stress and shut down. Sometimes teenagers in traditional talk therapies fail to feel engaged. Imagery and art tap into our earliest ways

of understanding the world, they invigorate and give a voice at times when language is inaccessible. Art combined with an empathic therapeutic relationship can bridge resistance and offer outlets to painful emotions and provide creative problem solving to life's challenges. **READ MORE**

## *Art Therapy Today*

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