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### AATA NEWS

## Best Wishes from AATA to You this Holiday Season



AATA

Dear members and subscribers: Thank you again for being a part of our community and for making *Art Therapy Today* such a success in its first year of publication. We wish you all a warm and happy holiday season and look forward to continuing to serve you in 2017.

## Licensing Questions Related to Newly Approved Accreditation Standards and Guidelines



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

Now that the Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Educational Programs in Art Therapy have been formally approved by the CAAHEP Board, some art therapists have had questions about how the new accreditation of educational programs may impact their existing license or future licenses. We hope this article will clear up any confusion. Basically, the new accreditation process will not preclude art therapists with art therapy degrees from education programs that were previously approved by the American Art Therapy Association's Educational Program Approval Board (EPAB) from gaining state licenses. **READ MORE**



**School of Arts & Sciences | Art Therapy**  
The Undergraduate Art Therapy major will provide students with both theoretical foundations and practical experience while learning the diverse application of art therapy.

## Congress Passes 21st Century Cures Act



Jason Besser, AATA Policy & Professional Affairs Associate

Congress has passed the landmark 21st Century Cures Act with overwhelming bipartisan support. The House and Senate easily passed the new legislation with a vote of 392-26 and 94-5 respectively. As a vocal supporter of the bill, President Obama is expected to sign it as soon as it reaches his desk. [READ MORE](#)

## Get into the Spirit of Giving: Support Future Art Therapy Leaders



AATA

This year has been particularly special due to the generosity of our members, many of whom have recently donated to the AATA in support of the profession and its future. We extend our thanks to those who have already given, and encourage those who may be thinking about giving to join us for our campaign to support our new professionals and students. Click [here](#) to donate to our 2017 campaign, "Paying-It-Forward: Support Future Leaders in Art Therapy."



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## AATA Featured Member



AATA



Robert Caswell, ATR-BC, LPC is a counselor and art therapist living in New Orleans and working at an outpatient mental health program with adults with severe mental illness. He graduated from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2007, and moved with his partner (and fellow art therapist), Holly Wherry, to New Orleans to help in the recovery after Hurricane Katrina. Robert was born in New Orleans, and many of his family members were driven out or affected by the storm. There, he worked in various capacities in the tattered mental health sector of the city, both inpatient and outpatient, and volunteered on recovery projects. [READ MORE](#)

## January Deadline Approaching for 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, 2017 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](#)

## IN THE NEWS

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### New cross-sector research projects explore arts, health and business



National Endowment for the Arts

The National Endowment for the Arts announces the first projects funded through a new program, NEA Research Labs. The cross-sector projects supported through the program investigate how the arts contribute to positive outcomes for individuals and communities. The NEA will fund four inaugural projects totaling \$598,600 that will yield insights for the arts sector and for nonarts sectors such as health care, education, business and management. [READ MORE](#)

### The healing potential of art therapy



Naropa University

On Feb. 5, Naropa University hosted 25 international visitors from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs International Visitor Leadership Program organized by the state department to learn more about the crime of human trafficking. The group, comprised of lawyers, administrators, managers, police officers and other officials, represented parts all over the globe where human trafficking has reached epic proportions. [READ MORE](#)

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