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April 27, 2016


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## AATA NEWS AND EVENTS

### Bringing Art to Life through Storytelling



Sarah Margaret Wade, LPC, ATR, NCC



I recently attended a celebratory gala and art show at the University of Alabama to honor five years of Art to Life, a program of art therapy and storytelling for adults diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and other cognitive disorders. Art to Life is a course sponsored by University of Alabama's Honors College in collaboration with the Cognitive Dynamics Foundation in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Viewing the art at the gala brought back memories of my involvement as the art therapist with the Art to Life pilot program in Perry County, an impoverished rural community in Alabama.

Twice a week, I met with four different families in the countryside with their loved ones, who had been diagnosed with mild to moderate Alzheimer's. Each family's home was filled with life-long memorabilia and I came bearing a smile and a cart full of assorted art materials. During art therapy sessions, each piece of art created by participants was like a time capsule, holding stories and treasured memories. **READ MORE**

### The Collaborative Care Model: Report on a Congressional Briefing for Integrative Care



Kat Michel, MA

On April 14, 2016, I represented the AATA at a Congressional Briefing on Integrative Care hosted by the American Psychiatric Association at the Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC. Panelists discussed

the Collaborative Care Model, mechanisms for its implementation, and policies to support its adoption. The Collaborative Care Model is a system of treatment that includes the provision of behavioral health, substance use services, and mental health in primary care. Even with its success accounted for in randomized controlled trials and cost-effectiveness analyses, wider implementation is impeded by obstacles such as insurance coverage. In particular, care management services still face complex or nonexistent reimbursement options.

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## Calling #HeroesofHope! Children's Mental Health Awareness Day is May 5, 2016



AATA



The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA's) [National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day](#) is **Thursday, May 5, 2016**, and the AATA will be participating as a national collaborating organization. The national event, to be held at 7 p.m. EDT in Washington, DC, the Jack Morton Auditorium, George Washington University School of Media & Public Affairs, will include an interactive panel discussion. Those who can't attend in person may join via [live webcast](#).

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## AATA Featured Member



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As someone who has moved around many times in her life, the AATA conference offers Rebecca Beers Miller, LCAT, ATR-BC, CCLS, an important platform for networking: "I am always eager to attend conferences and meet new art therapists with whom I can connect, wherever my new home will be!" While an art therapy student at New York University (class of '06), Rebecca was awarded the AATA Anniversary Scholarship and acted as student representative to the Education Committee. Later, as a professional, she was able to make a meaningful contribution by serving as the Chair of the

Scholarship Committee and as a member of the Conference Committee. **READ MORE**

## 2016 VSA Intersections: Arts and Special Education Conference Registration is Open



AATA

The John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts Office of VSA and Accessibility invites you to attend the VSA: Arts and Special Education Conference in Pittsburgh, PA from Aug. 1-2, 2016. This conference provides professionals in the related fields of arts education and special education the opportunity to share current information in research, practice, programs, and policy, and serve as a leading catalyst for change. Attendees will be able to build new skills through innovative and interactive sessions and can help shape best practices — improving educational experiences for students with disabilities learning in and through the arts. For more information about the conference and registration, visit the [website](#).

### ART THERAPY IN THE NEWS

## Autistic artist shares his world of vibrant colors



NBC News

Jeremy Sicile-Kira sees the world in vibrant colors: alluring oranges and yellows, calming purples and blues and soothing greens. And for the first time, the autistic artist is sharing that vision with the rest of us. "Color is evident in everything to me," says Jeremy, 27, whose form of autism spectrum disorder includes the symptom of "grapheme-color synesthesia," a neurological phenomenon that causes him to perceive letters, words and even emotions in colors. **READ MORE**



## Dr. Paul Christo Radio Show on art therapy

Dr. Paul Christo

Have you ever wanted to sink your hands into piece of clay and rip it apart when you're angry or upset? Imagine using an art form, like clay, or paint, or photography as a way to control your pain. You might be surprised to find out just how effective art therapy manages your symptoms. Rachel Lozano has lived with pain for 18 years due to a spinal tumor and many surgeries. She tells a remarkable story of overcoming substantial muscle and nerve pain through art therapy. Megan Robb, art therapist and assistant professor in art therapy counseling at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville tell us who's best suited for art therapy, what kind of art forms are used, and how it can alleviate painful symptoms.

You can listen to part 1 of the show [here](#).  
Part 2 can be found [here](#).

## The joy series: Alternative routes to happiness



Buro 24/7

Self-expression is one of our most primal urges. The need to be heard and feel understood, to show how we feel and think through whatever tools we can find. Yet sometimes the things we have to say can't find the words and stay buried. Past trauma, relationships lost, the mind's endless questions, can all weigh us down and affect our joy and well-being. While the word 'therapy' might conjure scenes of a doctor's couch, getting a massage, or maybe the shelves of self-help titles at a bookstore, there are actually many avenues for introspection that can be creative, engaging, and simply put, fun! **READ MORE**

The AATA's Art Therapy Today includes a digest of the most important news selected for the 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.

### SUGGESTED COMPANIES

 **Caldwell University**  
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