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As 2016 comes to a close, the AATA would like to wish its members, partners and other industry professionals a safe and happy holiday season. As we reflect on the past year for the industry, we would like to provide the readers of *Art Therapy Today* a look at the most accessed articles from the year. Our regular publication will resume Thursday, Jan. 5.

AATA's Role in School-Based Prevention and Intervention Services



AATA

From March 9: The National Alliance of Specialized Instructional Support Personnel (NASISP) is a coalition of organizations of professionals working in schools to support student success. The American Art Therapy Association is pleased to be one of NASISP's 20 member organizations. This important affiliation enables the AATA to make a difference in school-age children's lives. NASISP aims to empower professionals, including art therapists, by encouraging multidisciplinary collaboration, and affirming our role in education's best practices and involvement in school improvement efforts. **READ MORE**



Update on Art Therapy Licensure and Insurance Reimbursement in Maryland



Amanda Bechtel, ATR-BC, LCPC, LCPAT

From Aug. 24: It's hard to believe it's been almost four years since Maryland's law for licensing art therapists went into effect on Oct. 1, 2012. The law established the designations of Licensed Clinical Professional Art Therapists and Licensed Graduate Professional Art Therapists for those working towards professional licensure. In Maryland, art therapists are regulated under the general Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists which, in addition to regulating art therapists, oversees professional counselors, marriage and family therapists and drug and alcohol counselors. Art therapists in Maryland share the same core competency requirements of these other professions and hold the same ability to practice independently

and diagnose. The difference is that practice of art therapy is the primary approach for licensed art therapists.

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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.



Representing Art Therapy in the Schools - NEA New Business Item D: Specialized Instructional Support Personnel (SISP)



Jordan Potash, PhD, ATR-BC, REAT, LCPAT, LCAT, and Lida Sunderland

From March 30: On March 18, 2016, we had the honor of representing the American Art Therapy Association at a meeting convened by the National Education Association (NEA) on the topic of Specialized Instructional Support Personnel (SISP). For context, the new education law "Every Student Succeeds Act" (ESSA) contains the term SISP to identify the non-educators who work in schools to support students through behavioral, emotional, and psychological support. At their last annual assembly, the NEA board of directors introduced New Business Item D intended to design a professional continuum model by engaging stakeholders in detailing the contributions of SISPs, identifying their high quality training, addressing their environmental challenges and needs, and advocating for their continued inclusion in the schools. **READ MORE**



Exploring Strengths Through Masks



Gioia Chilton, Ph.D., ATR-BC and Rebecca Wilkinson, MA, ATR-BC

From Jan. 6: Although masks are ubiquitous to art therapy, when we were recently asked to run several mask-making workshops we realized that we were both conflicted about what they actually represent. Are they meant to hide or protect some aspect of ourselves? Do they reflect what we show to the world and obscure our "true" selves? Or do they help us uncover and discover parts of ourselves? Finally we decided that, as art therapists who operate from a positive psychology perspective, we would use masks to highlight and celebrate some aspects that showcase strengths. **READ MORE**



Art Therapy Licensing Bill in Connecticut Heading to the Senate

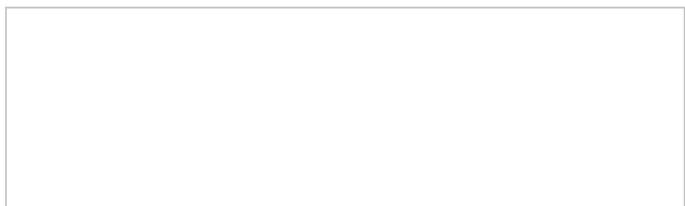
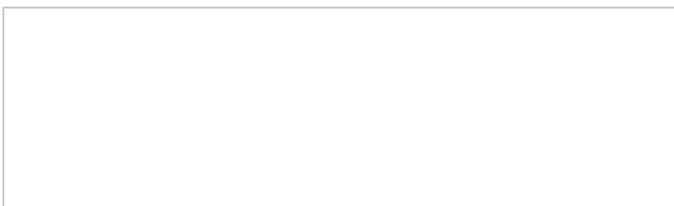


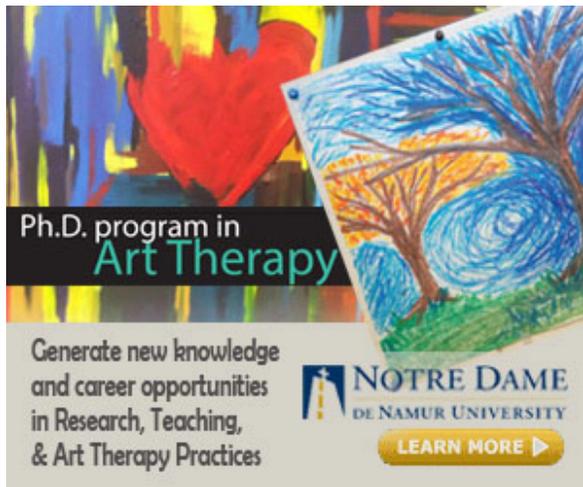
Ellie Nicol, ATR-BC



From April 13: On March 23, 2016, it was announced that the Connecticut (CT) bill, Raised Senate Bill 354, An Act Concerning Music and Art Therapy, was unanimously and favorably passed through the Public Health Committee (PHC) and is on its way to the Senate floor. The bill was developed collaboratively with music therapists, but would create separate licenses for the two professions. Art therapists Mary Hamilton, ATR-BC, LPC, President of the Connecticut Art Therapy Association (CATA), and Ellie Nicol, ATR-BC, Chair of CATA's Government Affairs Committee, joined with local legislators to provide testimony in support of this bill. **READ MORE**

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The AATA Recognizes Distinguished Members at the 2016 Annual Conference



AATA

From July 27: The American Art Therapy Association recognized recipients of recognitions, awards, and scholarships during the 2016 Annual Conference. Board President Donna Betts, PhD, ATR-BC, led the introductions and recognitions at a Plenary Luncheon Awards Ceremony on Saturday, July 9. Dr. Betts presented the 2016 Honorary Life Membership Award, and Honors Committee Chair Craig Siegel, ATR-BC, ATCS, presented additional prestigious honors.



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A Message from AATA President Donna Betts and Executive Director Cynthia Woodruff



AATA

From July 13: The American Art Therapy Association mourns the loss of lives in recent tragic events across the United States, three of which took place last week during the AATA's annual conference. The events in Orlando, Baton Rouge, Minneapolis, and Dallas are on our minds and in our hearts. We encourage our members to take time for reflection and self-care, as you work with and support your clients, in navigating their reactions to the deeply troubling acts of violence. Further, we offer a reminder that it is our collective duty to attend to multicultural and diversity proficiency in art therapy. Essential to the ethical practice of art therapy is the practitioner's cultural and diversity awareness and knowledge about self and others, while ensuring that these facets are skillfully applied in practice with our clients (AATA Multicultural Committee, n.d.). [READ MORE](#)

Color Party: TEDx NYU



Jordan Potash, PhD, ATR-BC, REAT, LCPAT, LCAT

From May 4: On April 15, 2016, I had the opportunity to represent the American Art Therapy Association alongside fellow art therapists and digital arts developers to discuss adult coloring books at Color Party: TEDx NYU (New York University). TEDx NYU is a student organization that plans annual conferences, as well as more intimate community events through the year to address pertinent topics. Chastity Polk, Director of Community Events for TEDx NYU, invited a range of speakers to discuss coloring from different perspectives. We were joined by almost 200 students on the top floor of the NYU Kimmel Center for University Life for an evening of food, coloring sheets, and learning. [READ MORE](#)





Art Therapy – Museum Collaborations in Colombia

Andrée Salom, MPS, ATR

From Feb. 24: Across American museums, art therapy programs have been developed for individuals with disabilities, addictions, physical and psychological challenges, as well as for populations receiving disaster relief, and recovering from trauma (Peacock, 2012). Through these art therapy-museum collaborations, populations of all ages have benefited from engaging with issues such as self-concept, tolerance, inclusion, empathy and emotional expression (ibid). Practicum placements have been developed, where art therapy students and museum curators collaborate to serve community members (Treadon, 2016). Both art therapy and museums have been steadily expanding to include social action incentives, allowing an innovative integration between health and culture. **READ MORE**



Bringing Art to Life through Storytelling



Sarah Margaret Wade, LPC, ATR, NCC



From April 27: 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.

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