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AATA NEWS

A Show of Solidarity for the Arts in America



Donna Betts, PhD, ATR-BC, AATA President

It's a critical time for the arts and healthcare across the USA. In solidarity with Americans for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and dozens of related organizations, the AATA was a proud National Partner for the 30th annual [Arts Advocacy Day](#), March 20 and 21, 2017, in Washington, DC. Executive Director Cynthia Woodruff and I represented the AATA at the event's



National Arts Action Summit. Hosted by [Americans for the Arts](#) (AftA) in partnership with over 85 cultural and civic groups, we joined together with a record 700 enthusiastic participants – and we were noticed! [The New York Times](#) and the [Washington Post](#) reported on this [most well-attended Arts Advocacy Day](#) to date." **READ MORE**

2017 Conference News: Early Bird Registration Opens Monday, April 3rd



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

Early bird registration for the American Art Therapy Association's 48th Annual Conference to be held November 8-12, 2017* in Albuquerque, NM opens on Monday, April 3rd. This year our program features more than 230 educational sessions. When you register early you will save money, and get first choices on the very popular workshops and advanced practice sessions. The majority of the sessions do not require preregistration including Digital posters, Focus Groups, Papers, Panels, etc. Please visit the conference website to learn more about the

registration packages including information about the sessions that require preregistration. Remember that these sessions typically do “sell out” so if you want to be sure you attend your top choices, be sure to register early! Remember that AATA members receive a discount, so be sure to [join or renew](#) before registering! **READ MORE**

SAMHSA Hosts National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day Event



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The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is hosting their 2017 National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day event on Thursday, May 4, at the George Washington University Jack Morton Auditorium. This year, the AATA is proud to be distinguished as a Change Agent Supporter.

Michael Phelps, the world's most decorated Olympic athlete, and Allison Schmitt, an eight-time Olympic medalist, will serve as Awareness Day 2017 Honorary Chairpersons. The interactive event will focus on integrating behavioral health and primary care for children, youth, and young adults with mental and/or substance use disorders. Audience members will have the opportunity to pose questions to the onstage panelists through email and social media using the hashtag#HeroesofHope. For more information, see SAMHSA's [event flyer](#). Admission is free, but [registration](#) is required.

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Protecting Children's Access to Healthcare: AATA Signs its Support



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The AATA recently signed two letters supporting the protection of children's healthcare coverage and expressing concerns about the negative impact the proposed American Health Care Act (AHCA) would have had on children. With the recent news of the AHCA bill's withdrawal, the AATA is pleased that these concerns about children's access to healthcare were heard. **READ MORE**

SAMHSA Releases New Webisode Exploring Identities and Challenges of LGBTQI2-S Youth of Color



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Knowledge Network for Systems of Care TV (KSOC-TV) is a web-based technical assistance program produced by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) featuring behavioral health experts discussing cutting edge issues in children's mental health. In the January 2017 webisode “Intersecting Identities: Improving Health Outcomes for LGBTQI2-S Youth of Color,” a panel discussed issues affecting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, Intersex, and Two- Spirit (LGBTQI2-S) youth of color and shared ways to help providers, afterschool program facilitators, families, and youth understand the intersection of identities and the challenges associated with trauma, suicide, and resilience. **READ MORE**



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.

2017 Call for Honors



Craig Siegel, MA, ATR-BC, ATCS, Honors Working Group Chair

As the Honors Working Group asks for your 2017 Honors Nominations to be submitted by May 1, we would like to once again acknowledge all of last year's nominees. Those of us who are fortunate to serve for this group are keenly aware of all the great work that is being done by all nominees for the betterment of the American Art Therapy Association, its members, and the profession in general. We are also aware, however, that there are so many additional individuals deserving of recognition that go unnoticed due to the limited number of nominations submitted each year. [READ MORE](#)

AATA Featured Member



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Dani Moss, ATR-BC, LPC is a core faculty member in the graduate art therapy program at Seton Hill University in Greensburg, Pennsylvania and is an alumnae of the same program. She is a doctoral candidate at Mount Mary University, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. As an art therapist and counselor, Dani has worked in a variety of settings, including: contracted work with social service agencies and public and alternative schools; as a primary therapist in community health centers, outpatient and in-home; and as a developer of art therapy programming in senior living, residential treatment, and out-patient settings. She serves a diversity of clients, with a concentration on children and families, and values social justice and wide access to art therapy for those she works with.

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IN THE NEWS

Advancing art therapy policy in polarized times



Laura Greenstone via LinkedIn

Since the Inauguration political discussions are hard to avoid in everyday life. Between social media, news broadcasts, and talk with family and friends; arguments over politics and policy seem to be everywhere. Internal dialogue within The American Art Therapy Association's membership has not been immune to this passionate dialogue. The American Art Therapy Association's mission is to advance art therapy policy regardless of a legislator's political affiliation. It is by design an inclusive, non-partisan organization. AATA maintains a core value of serving all populations regardless of religion, sexual orientation, identity, ability, race or status. [READ MORE](#)

Can programs that help the military save the federal arts agencies?



The New York Times

First they paint. Later, they write stories or express their emotions by playing the drums or piano. Finally, the military service members who participate in arts therapy at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center here create a "culminating project," a montage of shapes and words. "This gives them a visual voice," said Melissa Walker, one of the therapists for the Creative Forces program run by the National Endowment for the Arts in conjunction with the military. [READ MORE](#)

Heitkamp to introduce comprehensive bill to tackle long-term impacts of trauma among native children, families



The Office of Sen. Heidi Heitkamp

U.S. Senator Heidi Heitkamp this week will introduce comprehensive legislation to address and mitigate the detrimental impact exposure to trauma can have on children and families — particularly those in Native communities — as they grow and develop. According to a 2015 U.S. Department of Justice study, 58 percent of all American children had witnessed or been a victim of crime in the previous year. These types of adverse experiences — which can include abuse, neglect, or witnessing crime, parental conflict, mental illness and substance abuse — are known as traumatic experiences, and they can lead to severe health and behavioral complications that can impact children throughout their lives. **READ MORE**

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