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### AATA NEWS

## Virginia Sunrise Review Application Featured in Board of Health Professions Meeting



Gretchen Graves, MS, ATR-BC, CDATA



As the AATA works with members in 24 states engaged in advocacy efforts during the 2018 legislative sessions, I would like to highlight some good news from Virginia. The Virginia Board of Health Professions recently presented its proposed scope of study and schedule for a comprehensive review of the art therapy profession during a public meeting on December 7, 2017. The Board's study responds to the Virginia Art Therapy Association's (VATA) sunrise review application that the chapter submitted in

August. The Board approved a motion to proceed with formal review of the profession during an open hearing in October, one of only two reviews of unlicensed professions the Board has approved in recent years. **READ MORE**

## AATA Ethics Committee: Navigating Rough Waters



AATA Ethics Committee

The American Art Therapy Association's Ethics Committee educates the membership regarding the principles, values and mission of the organization in relation to issues or questions raised. This educational approach allows the members to make their own informed decisions regarding challenges and concerns. The AATA was formed in 1969 during a time of great political upheaval. This was the backdrop during a time when the AATA was also facing a duality between art and therapy. When our honorary lifetime members assembled to review the very first certification exam, some were opposed to the exam and some valued the necessity of the creation of the exam as a tool. Despite opposing views, they found a middle ground through their desire to promote the profession. **READ MORE**



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## Conference News: 2018 Call for Proposals



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

As 2018 begins, we hope you are making plans to attend the AATA 49th Annual Conference in Miami, FL, from October 31 to November 4, 2018! The theme, *Honoring Yesterday, Celebrating Today, and Building for Tomorrow*, will frame our overall program. **The Call for Proposals is now open.** Submissions will be due on February 1, 2018.



To review the 2017 Conference Program to include abstracts, handouts, and collect your Continuing Education Certificate visit <https://www.xcdsystem.com/aata/proceedings2017/>.

## Save the Date! Arts Advocacy Day Early Bird Registration Ends Soon



AATA National Office

Soon, arts advocates from around the nation will be gathering from March 12-13, 2018 in Washington, DC to participate in Arts Advocacy Day: The National Arts Action Summit. The event will include advocacy training and networking, followed by the Congressional Arts Kickoff, during which participants can meet with Members of Congress and Senators to discuss the impact of the arts on their communities.

The AATA encourages members and art therapists to attend. Early Bird registration is open now through January 26, 2018. This year, the AATA will be hosting a reception for attending members to continue networking and sharing their experiences as advocates. Be on the lookout for details about the date and location of the reception in upcoming issues of *Art Therapy Today*.

## Featured Member: David Gussak, Recipient of the 2017 Distinguished Service Award



AATA National Office



David Gussak, PhD, ATR-BC, is the recipient of the 2017 Distinguished Service Award. This prestigious honor is conferred on a Professional member of the Association in recognition of significant contributions to the field of art therapy, specifically in the area of the Association's internal development as well as its relationship with other organizations. In recognition of his significant contribution to the literature in art therapy, his advocacy and leadership in pro-art therapy legislative efforts, his service to the profession, and the countless students and peers he has mentored and inspired, the AATA was pleased to bestow this honor on Dr. Gussak during the 2017 conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. **READ MORE**

### ART THERAPY IN THE NEWS

## Best of 2017: Taking note: A round-up of arts participation research



National Endowment for the Arts

In July, households across the nation will get a call from the U.S. Census Bureau. They'll be asked to discuss such matters as their present employment, their income and education levels, and—as if to enliven the

conversation — how much they participated in the arts in the past year. [READ MORE](#)

### 'A powerful space for healing': Quilt builds support for abuse survivors



The Telegraph

Overcoming rape and abuse is a heavy burden for any person to handle. Survivors often feel isolated, stigmatized or even blamed for what happened to them. Diana Dykyj, an art therapist at Centerstone, and her colleague Christal Gabrielson, both licensed clinical professional counselors, decided to use a creative way to help women who came forward to heal and move beyond the shame that often accompanies their experience of abuse — creating a quilt. [READ MORE](#)

### Wounded Warrior's Art Therapy exhibit at Military Medical Museum; Upcoming talk to feature artist



South Potomac Pilot

The art ranges from a painting of three soldiers entitled "People Will Never Know Their Names" to a piece of canvas imprinted with ink and nailed to a wooden plank backing, entitled "Time to Water the Roots," an homage to a Thomas Jefferson quote: both are included in a temporary art exhibit, "THE SCARS REMAIN," by retired U.S. Army Sgt. Timothy "Mike" Goodrich at the National Museum of Health and Medicine, a Department of Defense museum. 'The Scars Remain' is on display at NMHM in Silver Spring, Maryland through February 2018. [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 Clara Keane at [ckeane@arttherapy.org](mailto:ckeane@arttherapy.org). Publication of any guest article is at the sole discretion of the AATA. The opinions expressed and/or contents of guest articles, advertisements, and external links included in any AATA publication do not represent the positions or policies of the AATA. The AATA makes no warranty or representation concerning the accuracy of such content.

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**American Art Therapy Association**

[4875 Eisenhower Avenue, Suite 240 | Alexandria, VA 22304](#) | [888-290-0878](#) | [Contact Us](#)

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