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As we look forward to the beginning of 2019, the AATA would like to share this selection of most-accessed articles from 2018 to reflect on the many accomplishments of the year. We have continued to see gains in advocacy and public awareness, launched new online networking tools to enhance year-round professional collaboration among members, witnessed the first art therapy programs approved for accreditation, and so much more! These achievements would not be possible without the support of our members, partners, and other industry professionals. We look forward to continuing to fulfill our mission together as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary in 2019! The AATA wishes our readers a safe and happy holiday season. Our regular publication will resume on January 3, 2019.

The Case Made for Art Therapy Licensure at the 2017 National Conference of State Legislatures

Deborah A. Good, PhD, ATR-BC, ATCS, LPAT, LPCC

From Jan. 11: The AATA was invited to participate in a panel presentation entitled "The Arts and Well Being Across the Military Continuum" at the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Capitol Forum in San Diego, California. I was honored to represent the AATA in this capacity and to speak on the pressing need for every state to pass licensure for art therapists. We extend a heartfelt thank you to Jay Dick, Senior Director of State and Local Government Affairs at Americans for the Arts for including art therapy in this important presentation. [READ MORE](#)



Late Show with Stephen Colbert Auctioning Art to Support the AATA

AATA National Office

From March 15: Yesterday, March 14, The Late Show with Stephen Colbert featured a segment on art therapy with AATA member, Rachel Brandoff, PhD, ATR-BC, LCAT. He spoke with Dr. Brandoff about the profession and even made some art himself. The show is generously auctioning off three pieces of Colbert's art and donating



the proceeds to the AATA! Please [check out the auction page](#) and [watch the segment](#) if you missed it!

Puerto Rico and Florida AATA Chapters offer Group Art Therapy in the Wake of Maria



Anais Lugo-Axtmann, MA, LGPC, ATR

From April 26: Experiencing hurricanes Irma and Maria was traumatic for most people living on the island of Puerto Rico. Seven months after Maria, Puerto Rico continues to experience prolonged losses of electricity, water, communications and infrastructure, limiting individuals' ability to recover, keep their jobs and return to their routine (which is so vital for recovery). Many Puerto Ricans are reporting intense feelings of anxiety and depression, which have been linked to the onset of mental health crises. **READ MORE**

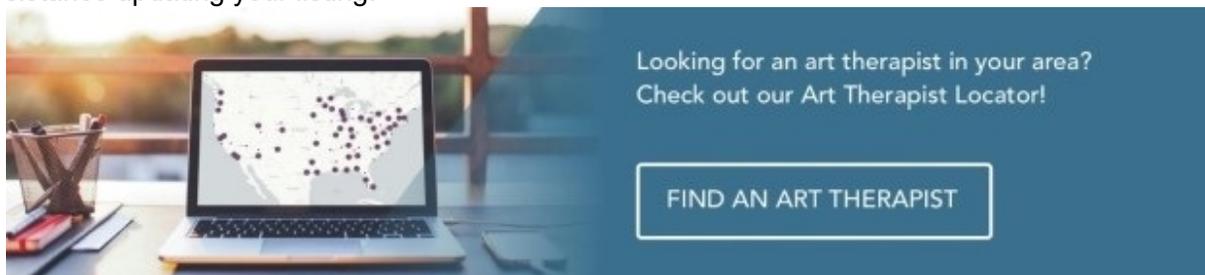


AATA Launches New Interactive Art Therapist Locator

AATA National Office

From May 17: The AATA is excited to announce our new and improved [Art Therapist Locator](#)! Take some time this week to check out this new tool. Finding art therapy services is now easier than ever, with a mobile-friendly map that can help clients, members of the public, and other professionals connect with art therapists in their communities.

The locator helps AATA members promote their private practices, highlight professional qualifications, and expand access to their clinical work. [Fill out the form](#) under the Career Center section on MyAATA to list your practice. **You must be an AATA member to be included on the Locator – renew your membership today to ensure that your listing remains active.** Please contact membership@arttherapy.org with questions, or if you need assistance updating your listing.



New Video on Art Therapy and Childhood Trauma



AATA National Office

From May 24: The AATA collaborated with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to create this video to showcase the benefits of art therapy for youth who have experienced trauma. The video was shown as part of the pre-event for SAMHSA's 2018 annual National Children's Mental Health Awareness Event, themed "Partnering for Health and Hope Following Trauma."



The AATA's Statement on the Traumatic Impact of Separating Children from Parents and Caregivers



AATA Board of Directors

From June 21: The AATA wishes to respond to the deleterious and traumatic effects that separating children from their parents and caregivers can have on their well-being. Of great concern is the appalling separation of children from their parents as a result of the Trump Administration's enforcement of the "zero tolerance" policy for families crossing the US-Mexican Border (June, 2018). Even as the separation practice is halted, steps need to be taken to re-unify the children with their families, ameliorate the trauma that has already been inflicted, and prevent future trauma. **READ MORE**

The AATA and the ACA Issue Joint Response to the Attorney General's Remarks on Mental Health in Higher Institutions



AATA National Office

From Aug. 2: On July 24th the Attorney General Jeff Sessions addressed an audience of high schoolers at Turning Point USA's High School Leadership Summit and accused many higher institutions of "doing everything they can to create a generation of sanctimonious, sensitive, supercilious snowflakes." In his remarks, he listed therapy dogs, art materials – specifically coloring books and playdough – and art activities, such as encouraging students to "draw about their feelings," as examples. [Read the speech transcript here.](#)

The American Art Therapy Association and the American Counseling Association (ACA) collaborated in writing a formal response, asserting that his **"remarks were highly misguided and they further stigmatize young people who seek mental health services and ways to manage stress at a critical transitional time in their lives."** **READ MORE**

Join the Discussion — the New MyAATA Community is Now Online



AATA National Office

From Aug. 9: Your MyAATA Community is here — come join the discussion! This week the AATA launched its online forum where members can explore, network, and engage with each other and with industry experts throughout the year. Think you might have something to share? Login to [MyAATA](#) today and post your thoughts, resources, or experiences. **READ MORE**



Virginia Board of Health Professions Votes to Recommend Licensure for Art Therapists to the Governor and Legislature



Clara Keane

From Aug. 30: On August 23, 2018 the Virginia Board of Health Professions (BHP) voted to recommend licensure for art therapists in the state of Virginia. Following years of advocacy work and a full year in the formal sunrise review process, a group of art therapists gathered to witness history unfold in the field of art therapy. After the BHP's Regulatory Research Committee made their final recommendations and "concluded that all criteria [for state regulation] were met," **the Committee voted unanimously to "adopt a separate license for Art Therapists to practice in Virginia."** **READ MORE**



Milestone for the Profession: First Art Therapy Graduate Program Receives Accreditation and More on the Way!



AATA National Office

From Sept. 27: Congratulations to Edinboro University, the first graduate art therapy program to [receive accreditation](#) through the [Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs \(CAAHEP\)](#)! The AATA has been working for several years to smoothly transition from approval through AATA's Educational Programs Approval Board (EPAB) to third-party accreditation, as a key step in continued professionalization.

Thank you to everyone who helped us reach this milestone!

The AATA is proud to sponsor the accreditation process through CAAHEP, the largest programmatic accreditor of the health sciences professions, managed by the [Accreditation Council for Art Therapy Education \(ACATE\)](#). Thank you to everyone on ACATE for leading us through this transition and to all program directors who have been working hard to comply with the rigorous requirements outlined in the [Standards and Guidelines](#). Several programs have already completed their site visits, and we anticipate more programs to achieve accreditation before the end of the year!

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. 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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