

Message from the PRESIDENT

2004

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Is Good, Good Enough?

I recently submitted the chapter report to AATA for the Annual Chapter Affiliate's Meeting in San Diego. In the report I included all the accomplishments we achieved over the past year. The following is an excerpt which reviews our activities:

Since the outset of the year, the organization hosted three simultaneous pot-luck social gatherings spread throughout the state to allow art therapists the opportunity to connect and/or reconnect with other professionals within their community. FATA has hosted subsequent events as we have had positive responses from attendees. We have been working very hard in our legislative efforts. In a sense, because our organization has been inactive for a number of years, it has felt a bit like reinventing the wheel. However, we have had the support of previous Governmental Affairs Chairpersons, as well as the support of the current AATA legislative team. We have just begun our Continuing Education calendar with a half-day workshop on "Griefwork Through Artwork," presented by Dr. Patricia Isis. We are in the process of setting up subsequent events spaced out approximately every three months and moved to various locations throughout the state. We are also initiating "Peer Mentoring" where art therapists of varying experience can get together to explore cases and/or professional concerns. We have been working closely with the Florida State University Art Therapy Department, providing support through hosting a reception during their summer institute and establishing the position of student representative. We are very proud of the FSU program becoming accredited this year and will continue to support it in all aspects as today's students are tomorrow's colleagues.

Because we have such a large state, we have worked on many ideas for reducing the size through ease of communication. Obviously, the social-networking event brings regions together. In addition, we have established a FATA discussion group through Yahoo. We have also established a new web page, www.floridaarttherapy.org. Although the geographic size of Florida has traditionally been an obstacle for a unified organization, these are two initial steps to bridge the distance through the sharing of information. We have also been supplying all art therapists in the state, members and non-members, copies of our quarterly newsletters as a means to disseminate information and bring back former members who may have been disheartened by the past inactivity of the organization.

Our biggest project has been preparing for the upcoming Regional Symposium to be held on a cruise ship. We will be leaving Miami on a four day cruise going to Key West and Cozumel, during which time we plan to squeeze in 12 hours of training on "Art Therapy and Addictions." It is truly the best of both worlds...the symposium will feed the mind, while the midnight buffet will feed the belly!

We have been working diligently on ironing out the organizational details as well as arranging for many special "goodies," "giveaways," and possibly a silent auction. As of this date, we have 78 guests registered for the cruise. We know it is going to be a great success!

We have accomplished a great deal over the past nine months and I look forward to officially taking over as President in January for the 2005-2007 term. I have a great team of motivated individuals, all of whom bring creativity, energy, and the desire to give back to the field of Art Therapy.

As I reflect on all the positives within the past year, I keep returning to the question, "Is good, good enough?" We have over one hundred and seventy art therapists and art therapy students within our state, yet we only have sixty-four members in the state association. Art therapists are usually scratching and clawing to create jobs for themselves in various settings; usually not even being hired as an art therapist, but rather as an activities therapist or art teacher, or some other title which muddles their identity. When asked, "What do you do for a living," we are all probably tired of explaining what art therapy is. How many years will we have to explain ourselves? How long will art therapists have to scratch and claw just to have an opportunity to demonstrate the benefits of art therapy? How long will we be in existence if things do not change?

The change has most definitely begun with the current FATA Board, but it must continue with you. Every art therapist in our state should strongly consider becoming a member. It is only as a strong organization, both in numbers and in action that we can make this change. Who will fight for us, if we do not display the desire to fight for ourselves? I have never met an art therapist who, when speaking with them, was not energetic and passionate about the field. I encourage each Florida art therapist to demonstrate these qualities for the future of the profession, as well as, for your own professional survival.

Craig Alan Siegel, ATR-BC
 President, Florida Art Therapy Association

**Come sail away, come sail away,
 come sail away with me**

FATA's sponsoring of the Regional Symposium to be held on a cruise ship is rapidly approaching. There is still plenty of room available for those interested in participating in a wonderful and unique learning experience. Sixty percent of the cabins set aside for the symposium have already been booked. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity! We set sail on February 10, 2005 for a four day cruise in which we will mix learning and laughter, technique and tanning, education and eating...well, you get the point.

To book the cruise, one must contact Carnival Cruise lines directly at (866) 721-3225, extension - 24301. The group is under American Art Therapy Association (Booking # Z3X736). Please use this booking number as it will expedite the reservations process.

To register for the Symposium, please contact AATA. The registration fees for the symposium is as follows:

	AATA Member	AATA Nonmember
Seminar	\$215.00	\$240.00
Students with proof of full-time status	\$100.00	\$100.00
CEC's	\$15.00	\$15.00

The costs are reasonable and comparable to attending any other conference. When calculating a three-day conference, one should figure that the average hotel room is \$75 a night and food costs approximately \$45 a day, bringing the grand total to \$360. The cruise costs approximately the same and provides three meals plus midnight buffets, entertainment, and the opportunity to participate in excursions to Key West and Mexico.

To obtain an application for registration, go to the AATA website, www.arttherapy.org, click the link for NEWS and EVENTS, then click the link ART THERAPY AND ADDICTIONS at the bottom left of the page.

For more information, please contact Craig Siegel at thesiegels561@adelphia.net or visit the FATA website at: www.floridaarttherapy.org

Look...Listen...Create

Professionally, as an artist and psychologist I spend my days helping others find ways to improve the quality of their lives in a healthier way. I not only love working at a crisis hospitalization program but it is satisfying to see some immediate change with a solution focused/creative art therapy approach. I am always amazed by the process and results that come out of each session. This is what pushes me to develop my skills as a clinician. It also encourages me to challenge my patients to face their thoughts and feelings. It is with this in mind that leads me to discuss my excitement for the upcoming Addictions Cruise in February 2005 that the FATA board has been working so hard to make both an enjoyable and educational event. Symposiums like this help me to stay in touch with research and techniques with art therapy and various populations. Not only will we all get this opportunity, but we will be having fun which makes it that much better. Part of my job as a member of FATA is to explore ways to provide the attendees with a welcoming bag full of goodies and many other surprises throughout the cruise.

I am pleased to say that many large companies and agencies have donated great items for us to enjoy. This cruise will be a great opportunity for us all to improve our understanding of others with all kinds of addictions so that we can better help the populations we serve. I know that the patients I see everyday are faced with addictions of drugs, sex, gambling, food, and I am optimistic that this symposium will help me develop better creative therapeutic avenues. Thank you for your support and listening ears.

Lisa Wasserman, Psy.D., ATR-BC
President-Elect, Florida Art Therapy Association

Florida's Presence at the AATA Conference

At this year's Annual American Art Therapy Association Conference, Janet Bush, ATR-BC will be honored at the opening plenary session as one of the national caretakers of the Association's creative spirit in helping to spark programs and job opportunities for school art therapists. The conference theme is **CREATIVE FIRE**, and it will feature Ms. Bush's work through the years. It will pay tribute to her "creative fire" in designing, developing, and implementing art therapy services in school settings. **Mr. Don Jones**, HLM, ATR-BC, will present the honors. Myra Levick, Ph.D., ATR-BC, HLM, will also be recognized as a major spark as the first President of the American Art Therapy Association.

In addition to these honors, Florida Art Therapists will be making a significant presence at this years Conference. The following is a list of Florida Art Therapists and their contributions in San Diego this November:

Myra Levick, Ph.D., ATR-BC, HLM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Paper: <i>Norming the Levick Emotional and Cognitive Art Therapy Assessment: Summary of Data Analysis</i> ➤ Master Supervision Group: <i>Medical Art Therapy with Children</i>
Patricia Isis, Ph.D., ATR-BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Presenter, Advanced Practice Course: <i>Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction and Art Therapy</i>
Mercedes B. ter Maat, Ph.D., ATR-BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Presenter, Advanced Practice Course: <i>Legal and Ethical Issues in Mental Health</i> ➤ Paper: <i>Art Therapy with Hispanic Clients: Results of a Survey</i>
Penelope P. Orr, Ph.D., ATR-BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Presenter: <i>Technology Training for Future Art Therapists: Are We Meeting Their Needs?</i>
Gaelynn Wolf-Bordonaro, Ph.D., ATR-BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Official Conference Photographer ➤ Focus Group: <i>International Networking Group of Art Therapists</i> ➤ Paper: <i>Short-term Art Therapy with Pediatric Patients Hospitalized with Sickle Cell Disease</i>
Donna Betts, MA, ATR-BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Panel: <i>Teaching Research Effectively in Graduate Art Therapy: An AATA Research Committee Panel</i> ➤ Panel: <i>How to Begin as a Researcher: An AATA Research Committee Panel</i>
Craig Siegel, MA, ATR-BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Florida Delegate to Assembly of Chapters' Meeting

GRIEF WORK THROUGH ART WORK



FATA President, Craig Siegel, welcoming those in attendance



FATA Board Members, Morgen Chesonis-Gonzalez and Jannia Gyorkos



FATA Board Member, Raquel Farrell-Kirk helps prepare the art supplies for the experientials



Dr. Isis leading the group in an art-making exercise

The Florida Art Therapy Association kicked off its continuing education calendar with a half-day workshop, *Griefwork through Artwork*, presented by Patricia Isis, Ph.D., ATR-BC. The first workshop in an ongoing series over the course of the next several months was well received by all who attended. Attendees were treated to a presentation that incorporated research data and case reviews with valuable art experientials. Dr. Isis shared with participants the current research on grieving, as well as findings from her own doctoral thesis on the role of artmaking in griefwork.

Did you know that the tears you cry when you are grieving are chemically different than the tears cried when you cut an onion? These and other interesting facts were used to underscore the importance of the entire grieving process. A process that, as Dr. Isis' presentation pointed out, is hardly neat and linear. Art was highlighted as a way to navigate and document a client's passage through this process. Art experientials provided opportunities for attendees to explore their own beliefs about death and to experience first hand some of the art therapy interventions they might use with their grieving clients.

Participants represented many fields of mental health, from consumer advocates to social workers and of course art therapists. This made for a dynamic audience with a variety of viewpoints to be shared and discussed. Several participants stated that the workshop reminded them of the importance of being aware of the ways in which their own beliefs can affect their work with clients. Still others noted that many of the points discussed would inform their treatment of all clients, not only those with grief and loss issues.

The setting for the workshop offered lessons of its own. We were treated to the beautiful surroundings and warm hospitality of the staff of Hospice of Southeast Florida. A tour of their grounds and a brief presentation by their director of education, Carol Pollacker, gave us a chance to see the hospice philosophy in action. The facility's recognition of the healing power of art is evidenced by the beautiful tile mosaic that decorates their main building; created by a local artist and family members of former hospice patients. We thank them for their support of our efforts.

The FATA board emphatically thanks Dr. Isis, Hospice of Southeast Florida, and all who attended for making this a valuable and enriching experience.

I bet those of you who were unable to attend are thinking, "Wow, look what I missed!" We hope you will join us for our future continuing education offerings and we welcome your suggestions for topics of interest.



Dr. Patricia Isis facilitating a wonderful day of learning and sharing.



Attendees, Michelle Huesman and Carey Easterling-Matthews



A day of art-making and self-exploration

Recent Events

Florida Art Therapists In Print

Miami-Dade County Public School art therapists, Cheryl Earwood, ATR-BC, Melinda Fedorko, ATR-BC, and Linda Montanari, ATR-BC contributed two chapters to *Aggression and Depression Assessed through Art: Using Draw-A-Story to Identify Children and Adolescents at Risk*, a new book by Rawley Silver, Ed.D., ATR-BC, HLM due out this Fall. The focus of the text is to assist the reader in identifying potentially violent youths prior to an aggressive outburst which will lead to more effective interventions, thus decreasing the number of casualties of violence in our youth culture. The book also includes a forward written by Dr. Linda Jo Pfeiffer, ATR-BC. A journal article summarizing this study was published in the most recent AATA Journal.

FATA NEWS

The following positions, although appointed by the President, subject to confirmation by the Executive Board, are also open to nominations by any interested party.

Delegate to the Assembly of Chapters

Article III, Section 5, Paragraph E

The Delegate...shall attend meetings of the Executive Board and the Annual Membership Meeting. The Delegate will be present for the Assembly of Chapters meeting at the annual AATA Conference as well as other conference proceedings deemed important by the Executive Board. The attending delegate will provide a report to the Executive Board after the AATA Conference.

Alternate Delegate

Article III, Section 5, Paragraph F

The Alternate Delegate...will perform the duties of the Delegate and exercise the duties of the Delegate in the Delegate's absence or inability to serve.

Historian

Article III, Section 5, Paragraph G

The Historian...shall record the achievements and progress of FATA for the current year and file an annual historical report, be responsible for filing and safekeeping of historical records.

Parliamentarian

Article III, Section 5, Paragraph G

The parliamentarian...shall attend all meetings of the Executive Board and the Annual Membership Meeting and advise, when requested, on parliamentary procedures and Bylaws questions concerning FATA.

Ethics Liaison

Article III, Section 5, Paragraph H

The Ethics Liaison...shall act as a liaison with the AATA Ethics Committee to resolve complaints concerning reported ethics violations in the state of Florida.

In addition to these positions, the FATA Board is looking for volunteers interested in chairing the following committees:

Publications

Article VI, Section 4, Paragraph C

The Publications Committee shall create and supervise all communications deemed desirable by FATA to insure a well-informed membership and a well-informed public. A newsletter will be published quarterly.

Student Representative

The Student Representative...shall act as a liaison between FATA and Art Therapy training program(s) within the state of Florida.

If you are interested in serving the state organization in one of these capacities, please submit this form to the FATA Board.

Name: _____
Position: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Please return by December 1st to **FATA** at 20976 Avenel Run, Boca Raton, Florida 33428

FATA NEWS

The FATA Mission Statement

The Florida Art Therapy Association is dedicated to providing education, professional development, training, and political action for its members. Further, FATA will pursue the highest professional and ethical standards to protect the public for which it serves.

PEER MENTORING

To address the needs of art therapists throughout the state, FATA is beginning the establishment of Peer Mentoring. Many of us in the field are isolated from the support of our colleagues, working as the sole art therapist in your facility. By becoming a part of these groups, it will provide you with the opportunity to connect with those who work in isolation and/or those who would love to meet with other art therapists for peer support and mentoring. Peer Mentoring groups may be established based on level of experience, clinical populations, and/or geographic proximity.

The coordinator of this activity for FATA will be Cynthia Andreas. Please contact her to add your name to a list of Art Therapy Professionals interested in establishing local groups to meet for professional support. To contact Cynthia, please email her at cynthia048@msn.com or via phone at (954)-784-9515.

FATA has decided to put our crayons down and pick up a mouse instead.

Check out our new web-page at:

www.floridaarttherapy.org

Employment Opportunities

Board Certified Art Therapist Position
Blue Ridge Juvenile Detention Center/James River Detention Center
Contact Rebecca Hicks, Academic Program Coordinator
Blue Ridge Juvenile Detention Academic Program
195 Peregory Lane
Charlottesville, VA 22902
434-951-9340

NEWS FROM SEMINOLE COUNTY

The FSU art therapy program graduated 3 students in August. Congratulations on completing the master's in art therapy go out to Pepper Arnold, Lariza Fenner, and Sally Whitaker. Pepper joined AmeriCorp and is now in Phoenix, Arizona working at a Valley View Elementary School and offering her services to the school in a variety of ways including conducting an art camp and creating murals. Lariza Fenner is now a doctoral student here at FSU and is conducting research in the prisons with David Gussak. Sally Whitaker has a new job with Youth Track in Tallahassee.

Ten new students were accepted into the art therapy program this fall semester. Students were accepted from several southeastern states (Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, and, of course, Florida) as well as Michigan and Massachusetts. We are proud to add these 10 new students to the 12 in the second year of the program. The FSU Art Therapy Department is honored to have all these superb students contributing to the program.

Two Events for the Price of NONE... Two Cities, Two Great Opportunities, Too Good to be True!

You are invited to join the FATA Board as we celebrate the close of a wonderful year
and prepare for even greater accomplishments in the New Year!!

Event #1: Gallery Walk – Art Basel, December 4th in Miami

Art Basel is an international art exhibition held annually in Miami. Several art communities around South Beach, the Design District, and the Wynwood Arts District also host a variety of art events and celebrations to coincide with this event. During this momentous art venue, which runs from December 2–5, one can view and purchase paintings, sculpture, video, installations, and photography from the likes of Picasso, Matta, Nam June Paik, Hockney, Bedia, as well as emerging artists from Miami and around the world. Since all the work is for sale, one might even be inspired to start amassing pieces for their very own art collection.

In conjunction with the Design District festivities planned to welcome Art Basel to Miami, FATA will be hosting its holiday gathering on Saturday, December 4th at Artspace C GQ from 7pm to 10pm. Morgen Chesonis-Gonzalez, FATA Secretary, will be exhibiting her artwork at Artspace C GQ and has arranged that FATA members to use this facility as a home base as we tour the area's gallery walk. Artspace C GQ is located at 4510 2nd Avenue, Miami, FL 33137. Please call 305-282-9154 for directions. Please RSVP no later than November 28th.

Event #2: Holiday Gathering, December 11th in St. Augustine

Please join the FATA Board in an afternoon of eating, drinking, socializing, and art making. We will meet from 2pm to 5pm at 5244 River Park Villa Drive, St. Augustine, Florida 32092. The celebration continues for those interested in joining the Board members as we take in the sights of Historic St. Augustine. Please RSVP no later than December 1st to Jannia Gyrokos at 305-598-1909.



Brought to you by your friendly neighborhood FATA Board.

Pictured from left to right: Lisa Wasserman, Morgen Chesonis-Gonzalez, Jannia Gyrokos, Raquel Farrell-Kirk, Craig Siegel