



Art Therapy Intervention at Violent School

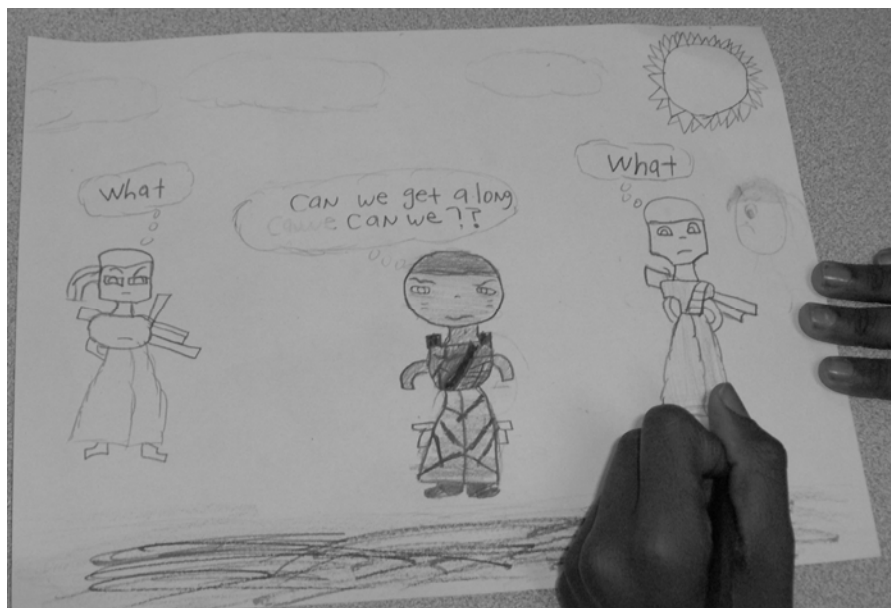
A project at a Miami-Dade County Public School confronts violence through art therapy in search of pathway toward peace and reconciliation.

By Morgen Chesonis-Gonzalez, MPS, ATR-BC

Violence, gangs, and drug dealings are common in the Homestead, Florida neighborhood surrounding Campbell Drive Middle School. Students from low socio-economic, single parent, and immigrant families crowd the school hallways where fights, thefts, and racial tension run high. Campbell Drive Middle School is also among several “F” schools in southern Miami-Dade County that participate in the “Zone” initiative to improve student academic achievement.

I am the clinical art therapist assigned to work with a certain group of students at Campbell Drive Middle School who have been identified as Severely Emotionally Disturbed. Within the Miami-Dade County Public School System art therapists participate as members of a treatment team comprised of teachers, clinicians, and other support staff. Together we assist the students in addressing the emotional problems that interfere with their ability to access their education and impeded their learning.

In October of this school year there was an article published in the Miami Herald that focused on gang violence, drug use, and police involvement at four schools in the southern quadrant of Miami-Dade County, which included Campbell Drive. I was inspired by this article to create an outlet for students to address the issue of violence, not only on a school level, but expanding it to include the community and global levels. With the principal’s permission, I offered this art therapy experiential to the entire school, not just the SED program.



Focusing on the idea of “PEACE”, students and staff portrayed their ideas, wishes, and responses using a variety of drawing materials. They were invited to visually represent their alternatives to violence and what peace meant to them. Over 100 students worked directly with the art therapist while creating their drawings; discussing their artwork in classroom groups. Although the directive was open-ended to encourage individualized responses, there were five recurring themes: community, relaxation, prayer, global, and symbols. The drawings were then assembled into several large murals in an exhibition entitled “Art for Peace” and displayed in the school’s Media Center. Announcements for this exhibition were distributed to the students, administration, and Mr. Peter Bailey, the Miami Herald reporter who wrote the original article on school violence. Mr. Bailey contacted me and was very interested in creating a

follow-up article on this project. He and a photographer arrived at Campbell Drive, interviewed and photographed several students, spoke with Principal Alicia Hidalgo, and consulted with the art therapy department chair Linda Jo Pfeiffer. The exhibition was not only featured in the Miami Herald, but also had a spot on the radio WLRN 91.3. If interested, please look up the complete article at the Miami Herald website.

I plan on making “Art for Peace” an annual event at Campbell Drive Middle School, and would like to collaborate with other schools in the future. Although the issues surrounding school violence are immense, giving students an opportunity to communicate their concerns and ideas through visual expression and verbal dialogue can be part of the solution.

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From the President

As my term as president of FATA comes quickly to a close, I want to reflect on the accomplishments of this Board. In my initial address in January 2004, I raised the following concerns. Let's see how we have dealt with them over the course of past two and one-half years.

It is imperative that FATA fulfills its responsibility to its dues paying membership by providing professional in-services, workshops, and conferences.

This past weekend represents FATA's ongoing effort to meet this goal. We have held our first state conference in eight years. Last year, we held a Regional Symposium in conjunction with a four-day cruise. Our "wet-foot, dry-foot" plan will continue as following the conclusion of this conference, we will begin our plans for another symposium cruise. In addition, we have hosted half-day workshops addressing not only topics of interest, but also meeting the standards set by the ATCB for BC recertification.

Assist FATA members through the promotion of the field of Art Therapy to other allied professionals and the general population.

In conjunction with Creative Art Therapies Week and Youth Art Month, FATA hosted an evening workshop, open to the public, as an introduction to art therapy and child artistic development. In our pursuit of licensure, we have made contact with the Boards of Marriage and Family Therapists, Mental Health Counselors, and Licensed Clinical Social Workers. We will continue to build these relationships in our ongoing efforts to achieve licensure and equality in the field.

Continue to pursue licensure options within the state to ensure that those consumers within the state are receiving services from a qualified Art Therapist, as well as for the livelihood and longevity of our profession.

Our Governmental Affairs Committee has made a tremendous effort toward licensure. Due to our late start in this endeavor, we were unable to find a representative who had both an open bill slot and the desire to sponsor our legislation. Further attempts to have our legislation attached to another proposed bill were unsuccessful as well, due to our legislation not being germane to proposed bills or potential bills being halted in committee. Following the close of this year's session, which happens to be this past Friday, we will begin our work preparing for next year. In collaboration with Senator Nan Rich and her staff, we will formalize a stand-alone bill for the next legislative session.

Utilize the FATA board as a liaison between fellow members through networking, professional activities, and social events.

The FATA Board has held informal gatherings for art therapists to meet, network, vent, socialize, play, and eat. We have made repeated efforts to form peer networking/supervision groups throughout the state. Also, FATA has attempted to increase communication through quarterly newsletter, a web-page, and an internet discussion group.

Strengthen the relationship between FATA and the Florida State University Art Therapy Department. Today's students are tomorrow's colleagues.

We have had ongoing communication with the FSU Art Therapy Program. The FATA Board has attempted to recruit a student representative to act as a liaison between the state association and the students. We are also hoping to have an art therapist from Tallahassee act as the local point person for the Governmental Affairs Committee. It is our goal to continue to foster this relationship because we are all working for the same goals.

We reestablished a state association that was dormant for approximately the previous six years. The work of each board member has laid the groundwork for subsequent boards to continue with the framework established. I commend each person that gave of their time and energy to breathe life back into FATA.

We have accomplished a great deal, however, there are significant hurdles in the way of our continued success. One major challenge is recruitment and retainment of membership. This has been a challenge throughout the past three years. It was extremely difficult proving to both members and nonmembers that FATA was more than just an annual twenty dollar commitment. Due to the lapse in being a viable organization, many art therapists had been disheartened with the state chapter. This was reflected in the shrinking membership and apathy toward rejoining. We were able to gain members these last couple of years. The state conference helped FATA recruit five new members. The other challenge to maintaining our membership base is part of a much larger issue within our profession. Our profession is being challenged by the lure of licensing opportunities in other professions (frequently encouraged by our own graduate programs through the dual degree track). In addition, many art therapists are faced with financial challenges, and one is often put in the spot of putting their monies toward the organization which provides them the greatest return. Unfortunately, for many that lies with the mental health counseling and marriage and family therapy associations. If individuals then choose not to join or rejoin AATA, the bylaws prevent them from being members of the state chapter.

It appears that the national organization's answer to retain membership is through the joint AATA-ATCB Initiative. This allows for a "grand-parenting" option for obtaining the BC. I want to inform members of the importance of board certification for the purposes of licensure; however, I want to be perfectly clear that based on our proposed legislation for licensure, one would be required to not only hold the credential of BC, but to have passed the exam.

My goals for the remainder of this term are the following:

- Continue to Chair the Governmental Affairs Committee, working toward getting a stand-alone bill for the next session.
- Recruit a minimum of two art therapists to join the GAC.
- Build membership by 10%.
- Recruit new members to take an active role in FATA by running for Board vacancies and/or Committee vacancies.

From the President-Elect

A Year to Remember!

A year to remember! This year has provided me with the opportunity to help the Florida Art therapy Board to accomplish our goals. Some of the goals were to have ongoing workshops and seminars to meet the standards of The American Art Therapy Association and Certification requirements.

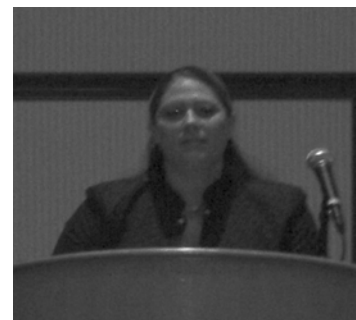
The collaboration of our efforts led to a successful conference on May 6th and 7th at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood Florida. All of the conference contacts were made about a year ago and the plans unfolded as we approached the deadlines. I prepared myself through a solution-focused model and allowed for the accomplishments of one task to lead to a higher level of motivation and achievement.

Since the beginning of my efforts on the FATA board I have found myself a strong candidate for the upcoming years. I have been on the board since 1997 and I have had the opportunity to see the last several years as a major success. The team approach and dedication has been unbelievable and I want to make sure that everyone realizes the dedication and energy that this current board has put forth. Craig Siegel as President has guided our efforts and maintained the flow for the last several years. Morgan Chesonis-Gonzalez as Secretary has been an important role in accomplishing our tasks and a caring support to us all. Raquel Farrell-Kirk has also been an important part of the yearly events and a major contributor to the plans. Cynthia Andreas has been on this board before all of us and she has been a dedicated, caring and important part of FATA's history. She has demonstrated her pride in her efforts to maintain the historical records of FATA and more recently she has been acting as the membership chair. Unfortunately, at this time she had to step down from her position and we will all miss her enthusiasm and dedication. Susan Gonzalez has been acting as our ethics chair and she has been contributing to our success in all of our events. Yetta Miller has maintained our financial records. Although several members that have been on this current FATA board had to resign for personal reasons I would still like to thank you for your contributions.

Despite the more obvious accomplishments, I would like to mention the weekly/monthly tasks that are an important part of maintaining a successful year. I had to get acquainted with the board plans, procedures and protocols. In doing this each board member was provided with a handbook for their position. This handbook will be passed on to the future board members. The board met for meetings about 1 time every three months to update our plans and to check if we were accomplishing our goals. This was helpful and rewarding as we recognized our potential for growth and to realistically put our plans into perspective.

As the President-Elect, my continued efforts will remain as the year comes to an end. I will continue to maintain a stable relationship with the many directors of facilities and museums for future workshops. I will support Craig with his efforts of obtaining licensure in the state of Florida, focus on updating the board members handbooks, create a summary/procedures of yearly events and contacts, start filling the peer mentoring spots, and have all of the board members computer information be placed on cd's.

This will be the tip of the iceberg but as I mentioned before this has been a year to remember and I hope that you consider joining us for future events or as a board member. I can be contacted at the Florida Art Therapy Association webpage under president-elect.



It is with great regret that we announce the resignation of Dr. Cynthia Andreas from the FATA Board. Cynthia has served on the ATAF/FATA Board since the organizations inception, taking on various roles to help meet the needs of our professional community.

Cynthia has been challenged by illness this past year and is in need of simplifying her life so she may focus on getting healthier.

The FATA Board thanks Cynthia for her dedication, professionalism, and friendship. We all wish Cynthia a speedy return to health!

CONTINUING EDUCATION CORNER



LET IT SHINE

"This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine"

I suppose you could say I included these lyrics because I was inspired by the musical surrounding of our recent conference site, the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino. Granted, I don't think these lyrics would ever make their way into the Hard Rock's collection but they serve to illustrate my point.

As your Continuing Education Chairperson I am very proud of the recent Florida Art Therapy Association state conference, Art Therapy Today. This pride is not related to my efforts, but instead to all of the ways our membership shone throughout the weekend. I am proud to know that art therapists traveled from other states to connect with their "tribe". I am proud of the collegial atmosphere that allowed art therapists to come together to learn from one another. It was evident in the laughter coming from presentation rooms, and in the clusters of colleagues connecting and reconnecting over coffee or lunch. I am proud of the commitment to professional development that kept presentations running over the allotted time and that brought people to the Business Meeting at the close of the conference. I am proud of this organization's second...or is it third, or fourth...lease on life. I am proud of the accomplishments of all the previous boards who guided FATA through its earlier incarnations and I invite ALL art therapists to be part of its current life. You are the lifeblood of the organization, and as with any living organism, we need to keep the blood circulating and active if we are to grow.

Please complete the survey at the back of the newsletter to let us know what continuing education events would best meet your needs in the future.

THANK YOU

Art Therapy Today was an enriching continuing education event. Presenters ranged from art therapists in private practice to those practicing in large healthcare settings. They included art therapy pioneers (such as Myra Levick, PhD, ATR-BC, HLM), veteran art therapists (such as Joanna De Angelo LMHC, ATR-BC), and faculty at art therapy training programs (such as Marcia Rosal, PhD, ATR-BC, Penny Orr, PhD, ATR-BC and David Gussak, PhD, ATR-BC). Feedback from conference participants to date has confirmed that all presenters brought participants vital information that will enhance their practice and professional lives. If you have not done so already, please contact the FATA board with your feedback regarding the conference. We can be reached via email from the FATA website www.floridaarttherapy.org.

Thank you to all the speakers for the time and energy you spent in preparing your presentations and for the quality work you do in our field everyday. Thank you to all attendees for making your professional development a priority and remaining active in your local art therapy community. A special thank you to Peggy Dunn-Snow, PhD., ATR-BC, President Elect of AATA for starting the conference off on an inspirational note with her keynote address.

CONTINUING EDUCATION SURVEY

The FATA continuing education events I have attended include:

- ☐ Art Therapy and Griefwork, Patricia Isis, PhD, ATR-BC
- ☐ Art Therapy has Many Faces, Judith Rubin, PhD, ATR-BC
- ☐ Ethics, Mercedes ter Maat, PhD, ATR-BC
- ☐ Symposium on the Seas, Regional Symposium
- ☐ Art Therapy Today, State Conference
- ☐ Have not attended any recent FATA events

Future topics I would like to see covered include:

- ☐ Substance Abuse Issues ☐ Personality Disorders ☐ Psychotropic Medication
- ☐ Ethics ☐ Art therapy assessments ☐ Art therapy with children
- ☐ Art therapy & elderly ☐ Family art therapy ☐ Other

I prefer to attend

- ☐ full day workshops ☐ half day workshops ☐ multiple day symposia/conferences

I find pricing of FATA continuing education events

- ☐ expensive ☐ inexpensive ☐ fair/comparable to other organization's continuing education events

I would attend more FATA events if

- ☐ they were in different locations

Please specify _____

- ☐ they were at different times/days

Please specify _____

- ☐ Other

Please specify _____



Secretary's Annual Report

In the capacity of Secretary, I have served the Florida Art Therapy Association in a variety of ways beyond transcribing and distributing the FATA Meeting Minutes. All the Board members have been working hard to plan, orchestrate, and carry through with professional development opportunities, networking events, and investigating possible partnerships in Tallahassee. During the recent Regional Symposium "Art Therapy Today", I co-presented "Maintaining Two Identities: Professional Art Therapist and Artist", transported and installed the M-DCPS Art Therapy Exhibit, and assisted with other behind-the-scenes duties. It was a very exciting experience. Planning for our next Regional Symposium will be under way soon – any volunteers from the membership to assist with committees?!? Let any one on the Board know of your interest via e-mail.

In addition to the "Chihuly at Fairchild Tropical Gardens" event and the Continuing Education workshop on "Ethics", FATA also had a strong presence at the American Art Therapy Association national conference in Atlanta, Georgia. Representing our "Sunshine State", Craig Siegel and I participated in the Annual Chapter Affiliates Meeting. An informal luncheon gathering of Art Therapists from Florida was coordinated by some FATA Board Members attending the conference. We are looking forward to a strong Florida turn-out at next year's AATA conference in New Orleans – see you there!

FATA ELECTIONS

Based on Article III, Section 3 of the Bylaws of the Florida Art Therapy Association, we are beginning the nominating process for electing members to the 2007-2009 FATA Board of Directors. The following is a list and description of the Board positions:

President-Elect

Article III, Section 5, Paragraph B

The President –Elect will perform the duties of the President and exercise the power of the President in the President’s absence or inability to serve, assist the President, and exercise all duties and functions assigned by the President. The President –Elect shall assume the office of the President at the end of the President’s term.

Secretary

Article III, Section 5, Paragraph C

The Secretary shall handle the official correspondence as requested by the President and the Executive Board, be responsible for keeping a minute’s binder of all meetings, send copies of minutes to all board members; keep-up-to-date files on officially adopted policy papers and documents of legal significance to the organization. The Secretary shall call meetings to order in the absence of the President and President-Elect.

Treasurer

Article III, Section 5, Paragraph D

The Treasurer shall be entrusted with the funds of FATA, receive and record all payments to FATA, and deposit them in depository approved by the Executive Board, keep an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements, disburse monies as approved by the Executive Board, and issue checks for payment co-signed by the President or by an officer approved by the Executive Board, be bonded and obtain and pay with FATA funds for bonding of all personnel entrusted with the handling of funds, present a statement of account balance at all meetings of the Executive Board and of the members, be responsible for maintaining FATA’s record of paid dues, prepare a collaboration with other members of the Executive Board a detailed and current Program and Budget to be reported at each meeting including all income, expenditures and balances, prepare an annual financial report to be submitted to and approved by the Executive Board, and present it to the Annual Membership Meeting.

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, there are also opportunities to chair or join the following committees: **Governmental Affairs, Continuing Education, Local Arrangements, Membership, Publications, Student Representative.**

Please respond by completing the nomination form.

FATA ELECTIONS

FATA ELECTIONS

FATA Nomination Form

Position:	1 st Nominee	2 nd Nominee
President-Elect		
Secretary		
Treasurer		
Delegate		
Alternate Delegate		
Historian		
Parliamentarian		
Ethics Liaison		
Governmental Affairs		
Continuing Education		
Local Arrangements		
Publications		
Membership		
Student Representative		

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please submit all nomination forms no later than July 15th to **FATA** at:
20976 Avenel Run, Boca Raton, Florida 33428

Art Therapy Today: Catch the Wave

Keynote Address, 2006 Florida Art Therapy Association State Conference
Dr. Peg Dunn-Snow, AATA President-elect



The theme of this conference is Art Therapy Today and that is the topic I was asked to speak to you about this morning. I hope my presentation will inspire you to be proud to call yourselves Florida art therapists. The best way to define today is to also speak about yesterday and tomorrow and to personalize a definition. I have attempted to do this by defining art therapy today in the context of the Florida Art Therapy Association.

Art therapy in the 21st century; is it a vision or a hallucination? From my vantage point this morning the answer is definitely a vision because art therapy today is you!

"Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family: Whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one." Jane Howard, businesswoman and writer.

Florida art therapists you have caught the wave, you are not the slave of your own past, you have plunged into the sublime seas, you have dove deep and have swam far...

The Florida art therapy community expands the entire state and yet it represents a microcosm of the breath and depth of the art therapy community today at-large. As individuals and in groups, Florida art therapists are among the first generation of pioneers who still hold passion and excitement for this field through their own desire to continue to learn to do research, to teach and to make art.

Florida art therapists are among the staff of the oldest exemplary school art program in the country. Since 1978 the Miami Dade Public School art therapy program has helped hundreds of students during their school careers.

Florida art therapists are on the faculty of one of 18 AATA, approved art therapy training programs in this country. The Florida State University program is also one of the few programs that offer a doctoral degree in the field.

Florida art therapists are among those clinicians like Ms Joanna De Angelo, Sister Mary Kuester and Dr. Lisa Wasserman who present art therapy in the best professional way through their work ethic, skills and dedication. Florida art therapists are among the students who will be the next generation in the field.

Collectively Florida art therapists represent the growing number that make up the 4,500 members of the American Art Therapy Association; the 2,500 art therapists who hold the credential ATR: Registered Art Therapist; the 1,300 art therapists who hold the credential ATR-BC: Nationally Board Certified Art Therapist as well as the hundreds of art therapists in the 37 active, affiliate chapters of the American Art Therapy Association across the country.

You are among the 800 annual presenters and attendees who participate at the national conferences. You are among the 100 art therapists who teach on one of the national symposia teams. You are among the thousands of authors who have published articles and among the hundreds of authors who have published books in the field. Together you are helping to bring art therapy into the mainstream and making it a household word.

Which leads to the next question, what is art therapy tomorrow? Is it a vision or a hallucination? Hope or fear will determine how that question is answered.

"Creativity can be described as letting go of certainties."
-Gail Sheehy, best-selling author.

Florida art therapists catch the new wave; continue not to be the slave of your own past;
plunge again into the sublime seas; dive deep and swim far...

When the answer is a vision for the Florida art therapy community and the art therapy community at-large there will be participation, growth and professionalism.

There will be more of you sitting in these seats listening to the keynote address at the FATA state conference next year. There will be continued growth and added investment in the Florida Art Therapy Association. There will be more Florida credentialed art therapists working in the state.

When the answer is a vision there could be additional centers and collaborative relationships between other mental health professionals, other training programs, more research and public protection. There could be franchises of Tracy's Kids, a Washington DC based therapeutic program for children with cancer, in Florida hospitals all over the state. There could be collaboration between the American Art Therapy Association and the American Red Cross where on every Florida Red Cross first response team there will be credentialed art therapists.

When the answer is a vision there could be additional art therapy training programs in both south and central Florida. When the answer is a vision there could be duplication research studies in areas including: art therapy with cancer patients;
art therapy in the reduction of pain, anxiety and fatigue in patients;
art therapy in the area of trauma and victims of natural disasters;
art therapy and patients with HIV and /AIDS and art therapy and the aging process. And, when the answer is a vision there could also be additional protection for the public through state licensing for art therapists in Florida.

With hope the answer is always a vision and never a hallucination; and the vision has endless possibilities. However, it takes a village community, a state of art therapists, a small world working together and supporting each other.

Florida art therapists catch the wave, be not the slave of your own past, plunge into the sublime seas, dive deep and swim far, so you shall come back with self-respect, with new power, with an advanced experience, that shall explain and overlook the old.

Ralph Waldo Emerson 1803-1882

If this can become FATA's continuing, collective goal there will always be a definition of art therapy today.

Surf's Up, Catch the Wave!

ART THERAPY TODAY

Welcome Address, 2006 Florida Art Therapy Association State Conference
Craig Siegel, FATA President

This conference is the result of the volunteer efforts of a team of people with whom I am privileged to work; Cynthia Andreas, Jannia Gyorkos, Susan Gonzalez, and Morgen Chesonis-Gonzalez. Through countless hours of work via meetings, phone calls, and emails, these individuals demonstrated their dedication to the association and their devotion to the field of art therapy. A special thank you is extended to Raquel Farrell-Kirk, our continuing education chairperson and Lisa Wasserman, who serves as both president-elect and 2006 conference chairperson; both of whom developed, planned and organized this fantastic event.

I would also like to thank all of our presenters for giving of their time and the sharing of their expertise.

In addition, I thank all of you in attendance for seeing the value of art therapy, the importance of continuing our knowledge, and the need to support the association that supports all of you.

As we discussed potential themes for the conference, there appeared to be so many areas on which we could focus. It seemed a natural fit to encompass all of these topics under the heading, ART THERAPY TODAY.

There are so many great things happening in art therapy today right here in Florida. Licensure efforts are moving briskly forward. Inspired by the discussions at the AATA conference this year in Atlanta, our Governmental Affairs Committee returned to Florida ready to make a push toward licensure. Although we had a late start in regard to this year's legislative calendar, we have made very positive connections with state legislators and have set the groundwork for initiating stand-alone legislation to be included in the next session.

Today, Florida hosts one of the strongest Art Therapy training programs. The Art Therapy program at Florida State University, under the direction of Marcia Rosal, David Gussak, and Penny Orr, is educating students with the tools necessary to face the challenges of serving consumers within the local community as well as half way around the world. With an emphasis on research, the FSU program has also established itself as one of the premiere Universities for Doctoral Studies in Art Therapy.

The state is also home to the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Art Therapy Department. Founded in 1979 by Janet Bush and currently chaired by Dr. Linda Jo Pfeiffer, the department has grown to approximately twenty art therapists working as and recognized as art therapists. This program has paved the way for art therapists to create positions within educational settings by serving as a model for school art therapy programs both nationally and internationally.

The number of art therapists in Florida has grown significantly over the past three years. Whether it is for educational opportunities, employment opportunities, or simply to get away from the snow, Florida has been the beneficiary of an influx of art therapists. Many have demonstrated the ability to create their own employment opportunities within the community. This can only assist to expand even more employment opportunities as well as increase public knowledge of our field.

The FATA Board has worked to assist in bringing this ever increasing art therapy community closer together. Through the establishment of a website and a web-based discussion group, as well as quarterly newsletters, FATA has attempted to improve communication within the state regarding professional activities, job postings, volunteer opportunities, and professional concerns. FATA has also provided ongoing professional development opportunities through half-day workshops, a regional symposium, and now this conference.

Florida is also home to the new President-Elect of the American Art Therapy Association, Peggy Dunn-Snow, whom we are fortunate to have join us as keynote. Peggy is not the only Florida art therapist to have offered her services on the national level. Mercedes ter Maat is currently serving on the nominating committee, Myra Levick and Marcia Rosal have both served as President, and both David Gussak and Donna Betts have served as Directors of AATA. Who will be next to step up to the plate?

With all these wonderful things happening in Art Therapy Today, we must be cognizant of the ongoing challenges our profession faces. The lack of licensure in Florida and a majority of states is forcing some art therapists to ally themselves with other mental health professions. This in itself is not a bad thing; however, many Art Therapists are foregoing their connection to both the national and state art therapy associations, allowing their credentialing to lapse, in turn, weakening our organization's capacity in both numbers and dollars. This then greatly impacts FATA's ability to make a strong push for licensure.

It will be with the continued efforts of all of us, that we continue the charge toward goals such as licensure and greater recognition of the field of art therapy in the near future. As we learn about Art Therapy Today, I encourage you all to look toward tomorrow, by considering taking on a more active role in the livelihood of our profession. Next month, FATA members will be receiving a call for nominations for the 2007-2009 Board of Directors. Please take this opportunity to be that next person who steps up to the plate.

They say that a picture is worth a thousand words, therefore the work we do speaks volumes!



ART THERAPY TODAY

Presented by
The Florida Art Therapy Association
Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino
May 6 – 7, 2006

Conference Reviews

Dear Mr. Siegel, Ms. Wasserman and Farrell-Kirk,

I want to thank you again for all the time, hard work and organizational skills that went into the FATA conference. Facilitating a conference is a complex task; the three of you made it look easy! Having hosted and attended other conferences, I was impressed by the accuracy of your planning, the quality of the presenters and the caliber of attendees.

This conference for me was an incredible opportunity to experience and to learn about in an inclusive, professional setting the diversity, strengths and dedication of its members. I am so in awe of what art therapists are accomplishing to make our communities-our world a better place.

Thank you for making this conference so successful and enjoyable.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Sullivan

Dear Lisa and Raquel

Thank you for all your hard work in putting together the FATA conference this weekend. I hope interest in FATA continues to grow and this is the beginning of another "good run" for the organization. I know you were the key folks who put this weekend together as per Craig's introduction yesterday morning.

It was like a reunion for me personally, as I was able to spend time with colleagues I have not seen in a while unless I run into them from time to time at the dollar store (Lisa) or Rag Shop (Joanna)

Fondly,

Peg Dunn-Snow Ph.D. ATR-BC, LPAT #0095, LMHC
#8604, NCC
AATA President-Elect

Dear Craig,

I want to congratulate you and the board on a wonderful conference. I came away inspired and informed. I also gained a deeper appreciation for our accomplishments and challenges. It was important for me to connect with like-minded people and I enjoyed making some new connections and renewing some old.

Thank you, again, for a valuable weekend.

Sincerely,
Elisa

Hi Craig,

I wanted to send you and the members who coordinated the conference a thanks for all of your effort and hard work. It was exciting to be a part of the "wave" as FATA moves forward.

Again, thanks for a wonderful experience and for all of your efforts!

Laura JJ Dessauer,MS,ATR-BC,LCAT
Licensed and Board Certified Art Therapist



Review of the “Art Therapy Today” Regional Symposium

Presentation “Grant Writing” by Melinda Fedorko, ATR-BC, LMFT

By Morgen Chesonis-Gonzalez, MPS, ATR-BC

I must admit that I have always been intrigued, yet terribly intimidated, by the process of writing “Grants”. I always read that grants can provide alternate sources of funding for special projects and creative activities in a variety of settings – but how does one get a grant?!? The associations I have always had about grant writing included mile long application forms, tricky time-lines, and cut-throat competition with millions of other worthy projects vying for the same grant. This is why I was excited to attend Melinda Fedorko’s presentation entitled “Grant Writing” to help dispel the mystery surrounding grants. She provided clear, succinct, and positive suggestions for grant writing and even shared several of her own successful grant-funded projects. Ms. Fedorko often collaborated with other interested teachers in her grant proposal projects for students classified as Severely Emotionally Disturbed in the Miami-Dade County Public School System. Along with an impressive visual presentation documenting her grant project entitled “Healing Words: Drawing from Within”, Ms. Fedorko also provided a thorough hand-out which gave suggestions on how to give structure, organize ideas, develop a budget, listed grant writing resources, and ...the “Holy Grail” of it all... her actual grant outline and budget proposal for the “Healing Words: Drawing from Within” project. I was so inspired!! She generously shared the nuts-and-bolts of a very realistic grant project that was successfully funded. She also included several grant writing resources, which included:

- “Show Me the Money – Tips and Resources for Successful Grant Writing”, Linda Starr, <http://www.educationworld.com/acurr/profdev/prodev039.shtml>
- Teacher Mini-Grant Application, The Education Fund, www.educationfund.org
- Grants for Arts, Education and Health Projects, Milagro Foundation, <http://www.milagrofoundation.org>

Throughout her presentation Ms. Fedorko had an active dialogue with the audience as they posed questions, shared ideas, and displayed a growing sense of enthusiasm for grant writing as a viable resource. No more mystery!!

Pictures!



Clockwise from top: Peggy Dunn-Snow; Patricia Isis, Laura Dessauer, and Amy Demner, Myra Levick; Mercedes ter Maat; Melinda Fedorko; Anne Prager-Karamessinis, Morgen Chesonis-Gonzalez, Elisa Eisenman, Stacey Summers

Catching the Wave: Perspectives on culture



If you weren't there, you missed it! The FATA conference that is, which was held in the plush luxury of the Hard Rock Café Casino and Hotel. It was a privilege and a challenge to present at the conference this year on the theme of multiculturalism. This was my first time presenting to the art therapy community here in the state of Florida. Attendees were receptive, warm and welcoming. I had the honor of sharing this theme with psychiatrist, Dr. Vasall. Dr. Vassall set the stage with a relaxing interactive approach. He presented us with wonderful images and thoughts and reminded us that culturally aware and appropriate practices begin with us: our ideas, beliefs and actions.

As a follow up I provided research in the area of cross cultural studies and examples of artists who use the theme of culture in their work; such as Nikki S. Lee and Wanda Raymundi-Ortiz. Cultural understanding plays a significant role in our alliances with our clients and can impact our decisions in treatment planning. When in doubt we must investigate through consulting and/or research. A cultural understanding or investigation can provide us with a window into the other person's perspective and ultimately treatment.

I look forward to continuing the development of this topic through presentations and writing and would welcome opportunities to share this theme with other professionals. And don't forget there is also available to us the AATA Multicultural Committee Selected Bibliography and Resource List which can be accessed online at <http://www.arttherapy.org/pdf/MCCBiblioTopical1105.pdf>

I would like to thank Craig Siegel and Morgan Chesonis-Gonzalez for their support during the presentation. For those of you who attended thank you and if you weren't there stay tuned for next year!

Susan Natacha Gonzalez

SATURDAY SPECIAL EVENING EVENT Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki (a place to learn) Museum

The Seminole Indians of Florida invited us to an evening at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum for an exciting private guided tour to see rare artifacts. We saw how the Seminole lived in the Florida swamplands of the Everglades, their dramatic struggle to remain in Florida and the featured collection of Colorful Seminole patchwork and clothing in an historic retrospective of their distinctive folk art life. Several Seminole Indian males who expressed their pride and dedication to their people guided the tour. They also discussed how their efforts to maintain their identity is demonstrated through the museum and events like ours. The evening also include the viewing of Seminole genre paintings including works of art about the Seminole Tribe by Seminole and non-Seminole artists. We also enjoyed the historical/traditional presentation with music, storytelling, and artwork with a well know Seminole Indian educator.

As an art therapist this event helped me to ground myself and explore the importance of identity. From what I learned the Seminole Tribe works hard to express themselves in the way that makes them feel good not how others expect them to behave. As an art therapist it is important that we continue to help our clients explore and develop a sense of identity through their art and help them to express what they need to grow not what we or others may expect. The art is a catalyst to their growth and development and we have the ability to provide this special and private opportunity for change. Keep caring, keep creative and keep centered.

Lisa Wasserman

Art Therapy TOMORROW!

Membership Application

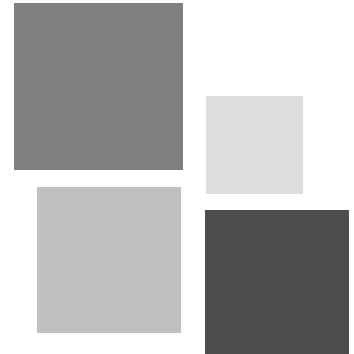
Want a great way to stay in touch with other Art Therapist around the State?

Interested in the field of Art Therapy and want to know more?

Joining FATA will give you access to this and much more!

FATA provides:

- Continuing Education through workshops and symposia.
- A quarterly newsletter
- Connects the Art Therapy community with one another.
- Promotes Art Therapy within the community.



FATA Membership falls into the following categories:

- Credentialed Professional, Professional, and Associate Member \$20
- Retired Professional and Student, \$10
- Contributors, \$20

Name (First MI Last):	Credential: <input type="checkbox"/> ATR <input type="checkbox"/> ATR-BC	Other Titles/ Degrees:
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		<input type="checkbox"/> Student
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If you **DO NOT** wish to have this information published in the membership directory, please check here: ☐

Please make checks payable to: **FATA**

Mail membership form and payment to: FATA at 20976 Avenel Run, Boca Raton, FL 33428

To receive more information on how to join FATA, contact Cynthia Andreas at

membership@floridaarttherapy.org

FATA dues are payable each year. You must first be a member of AATA in order to become a member of FATA. Upon receipt of your dues, you will receive a membership card and will begin to receive newsletters and updates on workshops. FATA exists through volunteer hours and efforts. Dues cover membership in the umbrella organizations, postage, expenses related to programs, publications, and outreach.

Thanks for your support!

Newsletter / Publications

Please feel free to contact us with any information you would like to see included in future newsletters. Suggested Topics: Book reviews, Networking, What's happening at your place of business, Goals, Popular techniques, Editorials, Training, Workshops, Graduation, or career advancements. Photos are greatly encouraged!!

Also, we have included areas in the newsletter for you. You will find boxes that ask you to draw! It is so rare for us to find time to make art. If you are so inspired please take photos or scan your art box creations and e-mail them to us so we can share them in our newsletters.

We are looking forward to providing the Art Therapy community with a quarterly newsletter. Although this particular newsletter was delayed to accommodate information from the state conference, the following is a list of deadlines and publications for the newsletter. Please submit any articles or information no later than the first of the month prior to publication.

Due Date	Mailing
January 1 st	February 1 st
April 1 st	May 1 st
July 1 st	August 1 st
October 1 st	November 1 st

If you have not done so lately,
check out the FATA website:
www.floridaarttherapy.org

You may now contact the FATA Board members
at the following email addresses:

president@floridaarttherapy.org
president_elect@floridaarttherapy.org
treasurer@floridaarttherapy.org
secretary@floridaarttherapy.org
continuing_ed@floridaarttherapy.org
membership@floridaarttherapy.org
ethics@floridaarttherapy.org

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.

A Space to Draw for You!



c/o 20976 Avenel Run
Boca Raton, Florida 33428