

FATA Grant Award Check Presentation Ceremony



FATA President, Amanda Alders Pike, and Treasurer, Leah Guzman, were presented a \$5000.00 grant award check from *The Verizon Foundation* to be used for our *Domestic Violence Education & Prevention: Creative Collaborations Initiative*. The intent of the program is to raise awareness for domestic violence, specifically in the areas of safe digital dating and healthy teen relationships. The award was presented at the St. Alban's Child Enrichment Center in Coconut Grove on October 25, 2013 while FATA volunteers, organized by Leah Guzman, painted a large animal themed mural on the façade of the building. The grant award is being used to support several small projects promoting awareness on safe digital dating and healthy teen dating relationships.

The *FATA Focusing on Healthy Dating Video Project*, made possible by the grant, invites individuals from all areas and ages, especially teens, to submit a one minute educational video addressing safe digital dating and healthy teen relationships. Submissions will be evaluated based on effectiveness the topic area and the impact of technology on dating. Monetary prizes will be awarded to the top three videos (\$500 for first; \$300 for second; \$200 for third). Deadline for video submission is May 2nd, 2014. Click hyperlink for the [official rules and submission form](#).

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AMANDA ALDERS PIKE

PRESIDENT-ELECT

ANNIE HOFFMAN

SECRETARY

JESSIE SPRAGGINS

MEMBERSHIP

RACHEL UPTON-RICE

TREASURER

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GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

CICELY COMANDARI &

DEANNA BARTON

HISTORIAN/BLOG

ALENA TROUTMAN

ETHICS

OPEN

WEBMASTER

GAELEN PALMER

NEWSLETTER

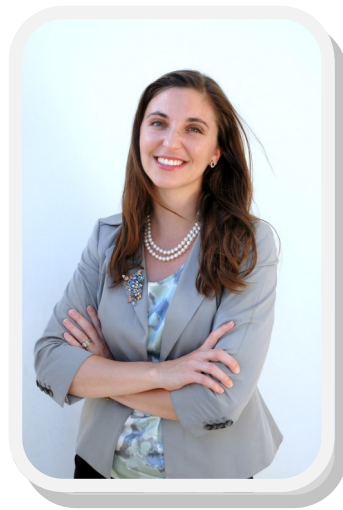
REINA LOMBARDI

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FROM THE BOARD

As president, I have been assisting with ensuring that Florida art therapists are eligible for medicaid/medicare reimbursement, planning the state conference, writing grants and managing those grants, doing outreach, advocating for licensure, and getting ready for the transition to a new board!



I have enjoyed my term as president and am looking forward to staying involved and continuing to write grants, and advocate for licensure. May 2014 will mark the end of two years of service and I am confident that the new board will continue the momentum and enthusiasm!

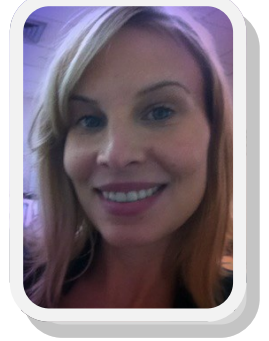
—**Amanda Alders, PhD, ATR-BC**
President
Florida Art Therapy Association

I've been enjoying my first year of serving as secretary, recording minutes for each monthly meeting and helping to plan the 2014 conference. Our board has been focusing a great deal of time and energy to ensuring the success of our first conference in several years as well as seeking grants that allow us to educate the state about the many benefits of art therapy. I look forward to another year in this position and am excited to see our work towards state licensure for art therapists eventually reach fruition!

—**Jessie Spraggins**
Secretary
Florida Art Therapy Association



As president-elect, I have been involved with supporting our pursuit of medicare/medicaid reimbursement, continuing to provide education and outreach in my community through grant work and establishing working relationships with community organizations as well as assisting with the licensure push and conference planning. I will be stepping into the President role in May when Dr. Amanda Pike steps down. She has been an amazing president and we are glad she will continue to remain involved.



I will continue to move forward with the goals FATA has set for the coming years in addition to focusing on increasing member involvement in our board. We will be moving to committee based involvement instead of sole board member positions in most of the roles to allow for more accessibility and member engagement.

—**Annie Hoffman MA, ATR-BC, LMHC**
President-Elect
Florida Art Therapy Association

The entire FATA Board would like to generously thank and acknowledge Susan Joy Smellie, for her distinguished service as Ethics Liaison and as a representative on the Governmental Affairs Committee over the past two years.

Are you interested in becoming more actively involved in your professional organization? Please consider becoming a committee member. We are currently looking for members to assist with membership, ethics, legislative and governmental affairs, grant writing and implementation, insurance reimbursement, and general community based advocacy. Please send inquiries to floridaarttherapy@gmail.com

FATA Newsletter • Spring 2014

Membership Chair Transition: May/June 2014

Dear FATA and Florida-based AATA Members:

I wanted to express my great gratitude in allowing me to serve as the Membership Chair for the past three (+) years! It has been an incredible service experience, one driven by purposeful connection and dedication to both my fellow art therapists and to the professional practice and process of art therapy.

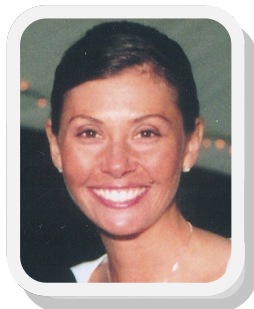
As Membership Chair, I've worked to connect and bolster the FATA/Florida-based AATA community through both member/non-member outreach and time-ly responsiveness; multi-city *Meet n' Greet* planning, promotion and execution; and, through on-site support for the 2014 Conference. In addition, I've made efforts to facilitate member communications and hopeful engagement in FATA's over-arching goals of Florida-state licensure; insurance reimbursement/managed care contracts; and, field relevance/employment opportunities for all Florida-based art therapists.

My plan is to continue in service to FATA - *post transition* - as both an active participant in the newly forming *FATA Licensure Legislation Task Force* and proponent for managed care contracts (*and their respective professional opportunities*)!

In conjunction, I also intend to orient and train a new Membership Chair and hopefully, supporting committee! So, if you are interested in either the Membership Chair position (*coming available in May/June 2014*) or in being a part of a newly forming membership committee, please contact me as soon as possible at [Membership Chair-Rachel Upton-Rice](#). I will walk any interested party through all the key steps!

Again, I thank you for your consideration and embrace, and look forward to a new chapter of service orientation!

—**Rachel Upton-Rice**
Membership Chair
Florida Art Therapy Association



GRANT WORKSHOPS

FATA has been awarded, for the second year in a row, a CVS Caremark Community grant in the amount of two-thousand dollars. The grant supports programs that increase access to quality health care for underserved or at risk populations, wellness or prevention programs, and training or education that raise awareness for health issues through seminars, interventions, screenings, and programs.

FATA has hosted a series of *Moments of Joy* workshops, co-sponsored by the CVS Caremark Community grant, which aimed to offer specialized support for anyone caring for older adults, and provide education on healthy strategies for living throughout the lifespan. FATA partnered with multiple community agencies to make these workshops possible.

During the month of January four *Moments of Joy* workshops were held on different days at the following community partner locations: Miami Beach Senior Center, Coral Gables Museum, Zen Village in the Grove, and Senior Lift Center. Five *Moments of Joy* workshops were offered during the month of February at the following community partner locations: Vizcaya Museum and Gardens, Myershoff Senior Center, Lowe Museum, and Coral Gables Youth Center. In addition to receiving wellness education, participants engaged in an art experiential.

FATA has also been hosting movie-making workshops to promote awareness about healthy teen dating and safe digital relationships. Thus far, four movie-making workshops have been hosted, in and around Miami, at the community partner locations Shake A Leg Miami and St. Alban's Child Enrichment Center. Participants were encouraged to submit videos to the *FATA Focus Focusing on*

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FATA 2014 CRUISE CONFERENCE

The FATA 2014 conference took place February 7-10 aboard the Norwegian Sky. The cruise sailed out of the Port of Miami to the Bahamas and back. We were fortunate to have beautiful weather the entire weekend making for a comfortable voyage.

There were approximately 75 people in attendance. Participants largely came from Florida; others traveled from Puerto Rico, Jamaica, New York, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Louisiana, Alabama, and Arkansas to participate in the proceedings.

Conference presentations began in the late afternoon and lasted into the evening, allowing attendees to participate in daily excursions, sight seeing, or a day of self-care on the boat if they desired. At eight o'clock each evening, presentations were given by a selected *Honored Speaker*.

Honored Speakers

Dr. David Gussak, was the *Honored Speaker* on Friday evening. Dr. Gussak, Chair of Art Education Department and Professor of Art Therapy for the Florida State University, started the conference off with a



presentation about his work as an art therapist in capital murder cases, which is the topic of his latest text *Art On Trial: Art Therapy in Capital Murder Cases*. Copies of Dr. Gussak's text were available for purchase, with personalized inscription if desired, on-site following the presentation.

Audience members listened to his first hand account of how art can become evidence and support clinical assessments of parallel mental health professionals in such cases. His presentation included color slides of the actual artwork used in the case along with rationales and art therapy assessment tools used to determine his clinical impressions.



Dr. Gussak book signing

Dr. Gussak's book is currently available for purchase on Amazon <http://www.amazon.com> or directly from the publisher at <http://cup.columbia.edu/book/978-0-231-16250-0/art-on-trial>. Individuals interested in learning more about his forensic work may also be interested in following his blog on *Psychology Today* at <http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/art-trial>.

Saturday evening's *Honored Speaker* was Dr. Marcia Rosal, Director, Professor and Doctoral Advisor of the Art Therapy Program at the Florida State University. Dr. Rosal's lecture *Using the Art Museum as a Tool in Art Therapy* informed audience participants how the art museum and its contents can be used as an effective therapeutic tool. The presentation highlighted current programs that she has developed and managed in conjunction with the Florida State University Museum of Fine Arts.

Dr. Rosal briefly discussed the work of Ray Williams, a museum educator, whose work has focused on the idea that museums serve as

centers for learning, of all kinds, for all people. The museum provides a rich, dynamic environment from which to stimulate understanding of the human experience.

Dr. Rosal discussed ongoing projects serving children from several schools in Tallahassee with diverse physical and mental health challenges, as well as at-risk youth. The museum art therapy projects are facilitated by students from the art therapy program at the university. This model allows for continued long-term programming. Graduate Art Therapy Students initially provide services in the educational centers, affording the children participants with opportunities to familiarize themselves with the facilitators, the structure of the sessions, and receive preparatory education about services to be provided in the museum setting.

A handbook on the topic of museums as a tool for art therapy is free and available in electronic form only. To request a copy of the handbook, please e-mail [Dr. Rosal](#).

Lorna Owens, former Assistant District Attorney for Dade County, international motivational speaker, and Founding

Member of the Footprints Foundation was the *Honored Speaker* for the final evening of the conference. Lorna's presentation focused on personal and professional empowerment.

Lorna shared the many ways that she has redefined who she is as a successful professional and gave tips and advice on how others can do the same. Whether as a Registered Nurse mid-wife, an attorney, or motivational speaker, Lorna professed that her passion for helping others has always been her guiding tenant. She attributed this and determination in spite of adversity as hallmarks to the level of success she has achieved in her many careers. She espoused that others can use these tactics to achieve success in their life.

Footprints Foundation, is Dr. Owens non-profit organization whose goals are to reduce maternal and infant mortality. They currently have projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Jamaica, and Somaliland. One can learn more about their programming via their website <http://footprints-foundation.org>

President Dr. Alders Pike posed the question to Dr. Owens, "How can art therapists collaborate and become involved on an International level?" Dr. Owens reported that there may be opportunities for art therapists to work with youth in her home county of Jamaica. She reported she will be in contact regarding potential opportunities.

Networking & Poster Presentations

Each evening ended with a cocktail networking hour, which included book signings, poster presentations, art making table, and raffle prizes for attendance. Conference attendees received a free raffle ticket each evening and earned opportunities to earn additional tickets through networking games and trivia. Prizes included art therapy bracelets, art therapy license plate covers, free lawyer consultation services, and more. Governmental Affairs Chair, Cicely Comandari organized the games and announced the raffle winners each night. Her energetic and positive presence on the microphone had everyone in the room excited to participate.

The Florida State Univer-

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sity Graduate Student, Rachel Mims, offered a poster presentation on the use of Art Journal Swapping for Self-Care. Along with the presentation, she created 3 journals to swap especially for the 2014 Cruise Conference. Conference attendees could be seen creating in the journal throughout the weekend. Rachel documented and shared about her process and the art created in the journals swapped at the conference on her [blog](#). She has three separate entries for each journal: [Journal 1](#); [Journal 2](#); [Journal 3](#).

Meredith McMackin, doctoral candidate in Art Therapy at the Florida State University, delivered a poster presentation on paper-making as a trauma intervention tool for veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Meredith had multiple examples of hand-made paper and printmaking techniques used in her work with veterans on display.

Additional Book Signings

Dr. Patricia Isis had copies of *Mindfulness and the Arts Therapies: Theory and Practice* edited by Laura Rappaport available for purchase. Dr. Isis contributed the chapter *Mindfulness-based Stress Reduction and Expressive Arts Therapies in a Hospital-Based Community Outreach Program* to the 2014 publication. The text is currently available for purchase on [Amazon](#). She conducted an experiential based workshop on using mindfulness in art therapy practice at the conference. Dr. Isis also had body scanning meditation CD's for purchase on-site. She has additional

information about upcoming projects, trainings, and products on her website [MiamiArt-Therapy.com](#).

Leah Guzman had her children's book *Rad is Smad* available for purchase. She authored and illustrated this book to help children express and understanding feelings. It includes prompts for readers to create book about feelings and friendship at the conclusion of the book. She has copies of the book available through her [website](#).



Legislative Update

FATA member, Deanna Barton, took initiative to make contact with Florida State Representative Watkins regarding sponsorship for Art Therapy licensure and title protection. As a direct result from her efforts sponsorship by a legislator in the house was achieved! Thank you Deanna for your efforts! In order to have the bill move to the committee for a vote, a sponsor from the Senate was also needed. We were unfortunately not successful finding Senate sponsorship during the past legislative session.

In 2014 FATA will continue to push forward with advocacy, education, and discourse about art therapy licensure with governmental leadership. We need as much help as possible with this effort. If you are interested in becoming more involved in this process, please e-mail President Dr. [Alders Pike](#).

Insurance Reimbursement

FATA has been contacted by two Medicaid insurance providers in the state: Wellcare and Cenpatico. You may have received an e-mail or phone call from Cenpatico stating that your contact information was provided by this organization. FATA did not provide member information. For that reason, we have associated ethical concerns. In our discussion with Cenpatico, they offered to provide art therapists with a reimbursement rate of \$30.00 per 45 minute encounter. In addition, they also expect the art therapist to be credentialed by the ATCB and hold a Florida state license (LMHC, LCSW, LMFT). The board advocated for fair and equitable reimbursement

for members. At this time, discussions have been placed on hold with this company until they re-submit a higher proposed reimbursement rate.

In contrast, we have been in continued discussions and negotiations with Wellcare. Wellcare is working with the Board to act as a referral provider for credentialed art therapists to provide home and community based art therapy services for their clients. Service providers will be expected to have a Master's Degree in Art Therapy and be receiving supervision under an ATR and/or have the ATR/BC credential. Negotiations regarding FATA's role in this referral process and respectable fees for individual and group services are still in negotiation. Unlike Cenpatico, Wellcare's offer for fees is comparable to rates paid to licensed psychotherapy providers on their panel. We look for up-to-date information regarding the status of this partnership on the [website](#), [Facebook page](#), and up-coming e-blasts.

Membership Growth

FATA has spent the past three years working hard to increase active participatory membership with the organization. Rachel Upton-Rice's efforts to coordinate structured events in multiple locations throughout our large state have had an impact on growth. We are proud to announce that we have 103 official members in the organization. We are incredibly proud and excited as this marks the highest level of membership that we have had in the history of the chapter!

SAVE THE DATE

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S
MENTAL HEALTH
AWARENESS DAY IS

MAY 8, 2014

If you are hosting any
events in honor of this day,
please tell us about it!

We still have plenty of ART THERAPY: TRUST THE PROCESS bracelets and ART THERAPY license plate covers for sale on our [website](#). Bracelets are \$5.00 and plate covers are \$20.00. Buy yours before they are sold out!



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Healthy Dating Video Project contest. More information about the project can be found on page 1 of the newsletter or by clicking [here](#).

Please check our [web-site](#), [Facebook page](#), and the e-blasts for up-to-date information about future workshop offering dates and locations.

Thank you to all who contributed to the newsletter!

Thank you to all who attended the 2014 Cruise Conference. It was a fantastic time. We look forward to reconnecting with everyone at the 2016 FATA Conference.

Do you have news about any of the following: your work as an art therapist, press coverage of an art therapy related project, potential job opportunities, workshops or conferences you are hosting or participating, or publications about the field of art therapy? We want to support and share your efforts on our [FATA blog](#), [Facebook page](#), and in future newsletters. Please e-mail the [newsletter chair](#) with your contributions. All contributions will be considered.