

## An Important Message From the ATCB and AATA Presidents Regarding the Enhancement of Your Art Therapy Credential

### Joint task force announces Board Certification Initiative

*Gayle M. Sutch, ATR-BC- President, ATCB, Inc.  
Paula Howie, ATR-BC- President, AATA, Inc.*

The ATCB and the AATA Boards have recently approved a memorandum of understanding, which is designed to enable us to work more closely and to help grow the profession of art therapy.

In a joint meeting held in August of 2005, both boards worked together to respond to an urgent Governmental Affairs Committee (GAC) item that came out of the AATA Strategic Planning Meeting with Matt Dunne in June. This response has required ongoing deliberation on the part of both the AATA and the ATCB Boards and an open exchange and examination of our missions and strategic plans.

As AATA completed model language for licensing and regulation, each Board needed to determine the threshold of competency required for art therapists to become licensed counselors. It was agreed upon by both Boards, that the Board Certification credential (ATR-BC) should be the standard for the licensure initiative. The resulting ATCB initiative supports the profession at large. Both Boards are charged to use our resources in the direction that will benefit the most art therapists and the decision to use the ATR-BC supports each organization's mission. Cur-

rently there are more than twice the number of ATR's as ATR-BC's, model legislation cannot mandate a standard that most art therapy practitioners do not have.

So, in the effort to support the goal of certification and to help determine competency, both the ATCB and the AATA Boards have agreed upon the following Board Certification Initiative (BC Initiative):

In support of AATA's legislative/advocacy goals which include establishing the ATR-BC designation as the standard for model occupational regulation, the ATCB for a limited time period beginning April 2006 and ending April 2007, will offer three options for art therapists to qualify for Board Certification. To facilitate this initiative the ATCB has agreed upon three options to qualify ATR's for BC status, agreed to administer the Board Certification exam more frequently, and will make the Board Certification exam available in more geographical locations.

As a benefit to its members, the AATA board has agreed to subsidize the cost of taking the Board Certification Exam for its current members.

The following are the three (3) options for obtaining the ATR-BC Credential from April 2006 – April 2007.

**Option I:** An individual holding the ATR credential may take the BC Exam

from April 2006 – April 2007.

The cost of the BC Exam application is \$50.00. AATA members will pay only \$25.00. Upon attaining a passing score, the BC will be granted.

**Option II:** An individual holding the ATR credential AND currently holding a state license or certification in one of the following mental health disciplines:

- Art Therapy
- Counseling
- Marriage and Family Therapy
- Social Work
- Psychology
- Addictions Counseling
- Psychiatric Nursing
- Psychiatry

*See "Important Message" on page 5*

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## Report from the AASCB Annual Conference

Terry Towne, ATR-BC

The American Association of State Counseling Boards held its 19th annual conference in Phoenix, Arizona January 12-14. This year the ATCB, Inc. was represented by Past-President Anita Mester, ATR-BC, LPC and President-Elect Terry Towne, ATR-BC. Because many of ATCB's credential holders are electing to become licensed as counselors, the ATCB Board of Directors has, for several years, sent representatives to this conference. Our representatives become educated about trends in state licensing, and issues that dovetail with the professional interests of our credential holders. The ATCB recognizes the fine work done by the AASCB to keep an ongoing dialogue amongst the state boards about initiatives arising in the area of counselor regulation.



*ATCB President-Elect Terry Towne and AASCB Executive Director Rita Maloy*

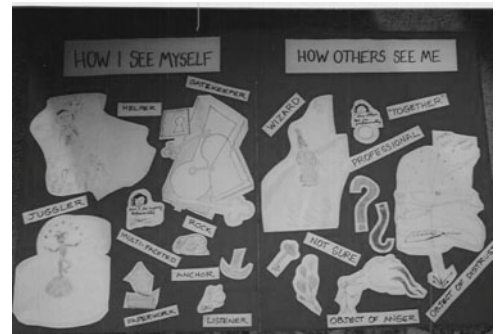
AASCB President, Charles Gagnon (LA), was not able to attend the conference as he is recovering from a major illness and surgery. However, his presence was felt throughout the event via video taped welcoming remarks and another video segment during the award ceremony held during Friday's dinner buffet. President-Elect, Barry Mascari (NJ) filled in for Charlie aided by Past-President, Jim Wilson (DE); Treasurer, Judith Powell (TX); and Secretary, Gloria Dansby Giles (MS).

The conference program included informative presentations on issues involving ethics, supervision, and professional disclosure. However, the two overarching topics of the conference were licensure portability and the AASCB's establishment of a National Credentials Registry Bank. The portability issue is one that will likely be an ongoing discussion at future conferences. However, proponents of portability have made inroads in 20 states that have committed to work towards the acceptance of other states' licenses. The National Credentials Registry Bank, which is available now, will store all the supporting documents of a licensed counselor such as educational transcripts, verification of the supervision hours required for licensure, and continuing education credits.

For those ATCB credential holders unfamiliar with the work of the AASCB, it might be helpful to review a portion of the AASCB mission, which states:

"AASCB is dedicated to the concept that individuals who have demonstrated competence to render counseling services are entitled to be licensed, certified or registered as counselors by its Member Boards. Accepting competent counselors into the arena of professional practice rather than excluding individuals based on arbitrary or unreasonable criteria is a goal of the Association. While acknowledging that an appropriate educational and experiential foundation is necessary for professional counselors, diversity of training, focus of practice, and theoretical orientation is recognized as a major strength of the profession." It is this inclusive policy that makes the ATCB presence at this conference so vital. It is also

why, beginning last year, the ATCB now sponsors a refreshment break for conference attendees and encourages their participation in a creative experience. This year Anita and I asked attendees to use the art materials to explore their personal and professional personas. As you can see from the photo, this creative exploration was not only taken seriously by those participating but resulted in powerful imagery expressive of state licensing board members seeing themselves as proud and dedicated to protecting the public. Conversely, their perceptions of how others see them in their role as regulators were more often as someone with infinite power or someone to be feared. During the Saturday morning open session, Anita and I presented two collages of the work we received. We had the opportunity to discuss with the conference attendees some of the common themes present in the artwork.



Our participation in this yearly event is an important forum for promoting the value of our credentials as they relate to art therapy education, requirements for post-master's level training, professional accountability, and the demonstration of clinical expertise through passage of the BC exam.

## ATCB Welcomes New Board Members

At its Fall Meeting in Atlanta, the ATCB Board welcomed two newly appointed Directors. Nina Denninger, ATR-BC, LPC joins the Board as an appointee of the American Art Therapy Association and Bill More, ATR-BC was appointed to the Board by the Art Therapy Credentials Board.

Nina is an Associate Professor of Art Therapy and directs the Art Therapy Programs (undergraduate and graduate) at Seton Hill University in Greensburg, PA. She received a Master's degree in art therapy from Goddard College in 1977 and since that time she has taught at Vermont College, Bowling Green University, and Cal State Sacramento. Ms. Denninger was a member of AATA's Education Program Approval Board and served a term as Secretary of the Association. In addition to her duties at Seton Hill, Nina maintains a small private practice and is pursuing a doctorate in Counselor Education and Supervision at Duquesne University.

Bill More is an Associate Professor and the Director of the Graduate Art Therapy Programs at Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, CT. Before joining the faculty at Albertus, Bill worked as a clinician and the Director of Rehabilitation Services at the Yale Psychiatric Institute. He earned a Master's degree in art therapy from the George Washington University and has been Board Certified since 1998. Prior to his appointment to the ATCB, Bill served the American Art Therapy Association in a variety of capacities including Chair of the Scholarships and Grants Committee, a member of the Strategic Planning and Finance Committees, and as a Director. He is a past President of the Connecticut Art Therapy Association and is a frequent presenter on the topics of brief therapy and supervision. In the Spring of 2005, Bill led a strategic planning session for the ATCB.

Please join us in welcoming Nina and Bill to the Board of Directors!

Thomas L. Hartsell, Jr. was elected from among the ATCB directors at the Fall ATCB meeting to fill the position of ATCB Treasurer. His position began in January of 2006. He will work closely with the ATCB management, including Dana Boylan-Waler, the ATCB's comptroller, to assure continued sound fiscal management of the ATCB.

## Thank You...Anita Mester, Brenda Barthell and Pat Grajkowski!

The Art Therapy Credentials Board has a history of having dedicated, professional art therapists as board members. I don't think that our registrants and certificants realize just how much work this volunteer board performs throughout the year. Most of you see us annually at the American Art Therapy Association Conference either at the Chapter Delegate meeting or at the ATCB booth in the exhibit hall area. What you don't see are the tireless, behind the scene efforts of a Board dedicated to protecting the public while maintaining the integrity of our credentials. During our Fall Board meeting in Atlanta, we bid farewell to three individuals who have served the ATCB in many capacities: Board President, Anita

Mester; Board Secretary, Brenda Barthell and Certification Chair, Pat Grajkowski.



*Brenda Barthell (L) and Anita Mester (R) bid farewell to the ATCB*

Anita first was appointed to the board as a Director in 2001; she was then elected President-Elect and recently completed her term as President.

Brenda Barthell began her relationship with ATCB as the Certification Committee Chair in 2001. Brenda completed her term as Chairperson and then was appointed Secretary to the Board of Directors and served in this capacity from 2003 – 2005. Pat Grajkowski was appointed Registration Standards Chair in the fall of 2002 and completed her term this past November.

Please join me in thanking them for their service and dedication to the mission of the Art Therapy Credentials Board.

*-Gayle M. Sutch, President ATCB*

## Congratulations to Our New ATRs!

*February 2005-January 2006*

Lesley Achitoff	Alexis Faulkner	Kerry Kruk	Dana Rohder
Jose Alcantara	Tammy Fountain	Jillian Kulka	Jean Romano
Shana Almeida	DeEtte Frary	Ka Yan Lam	Janis Rossman-Kaufman
Natalie Anderson	Thomas Freese	Susan Lau	Anne Marie Rounds
Lillian Ankrah	Toby French	Amy Lau	Bonnie Ann Rowan
Christine Arthur	Nicole Gartner	Philip Lawson II	Jill Rozell
Amy Bailey	Jaime Gaudet	Tara Leale	Amanda Sargenti
Kry Bastian	Tien Gerrodette	Jill Lewenberg	Poppy Scheibel
Sarah Beaman	Renee Gibson	Tzu-Ling Lin	Uli Schempp
Erin Berk	Anne Gill	Hannah Liu	Naomi Schwartz
Andrea Berry	Yona Gonshor	Kerren Lloyd	Anne Scully
Diane Bethune-Zeines	B Saga Graham	Lori Mackey	Alicia Seggelin
Carla Bettross	Alison Green	Joseph Madigan	Sandy Sheller
Billie Faxon Bivins	Brooke Greene	Marcelle Maio	Michele Silvestri
Paulette Black	Alicia Grivno	Erica Maluski	Shalini Singh
Tenille Blair-Neff	Leah Guzman	Sylvia Martinez	Gina Sinito
Heather Bonitz	Linda Hagen	Jennifer Mathews	Barbara Skelly
Rachel Bornfeld	Sharon Haile	Carolyn McDonald	Laura Smith-Lee
Emily Bradley	Mary Hamilton	Kathleen McDonald	Lynn Snyder
Jill Brenegan	Brigitte Hammond	Margaret McGovern	Jessica Sommer
Aillinn Brennan	Wonsun Han	Sheilagh McGreal	Sara Southard
Nevia Brown	Makiko Harada	Heather Michel	Debra Spaier
Laura Buechler	Debra Harrison	Anne Milek	Pippa Spector
Seema Buksh	Sylvia Hartowicz	David Mitchell	Laura Spinelli
Laurie Burgin	Mindy Hawkins	Alyson Mittleberg	Kelley Stalnaker
Sharon Burns	Lesley Hawley	Robin Mock	Heather Stanley
Meredith Callaghan	Kristin Haynes McNally	Gina Moeller-Baird	Loralee Streelman
Meredith Carleton	Elizabeth Hendley	Marjan Mokarram	Kristina Szada
Giora Carmi	Danica Henrich	Lacy Mucklow	Robert Tavani
Laura Carr	Nicole Herdegen	Sharon Murray	Heather Templeton
Emily Caruthers	Dale HERNSDORF	Martine Musy	Debra Tandler
Tara Chapal	Christina Hertel	Amy Nadler	Tricia Teneycke
Raquel Chapin- Stephenson	Mike Hoelzer	Sandra Naval	Hannah Willow Troy
Heather Chauncey	Deborah Horan	Gillian Neckles	Marlene Trzaska
Stephanie Cimmet	Amber Huff	Amy Ng	Carmen Tyler
Catherine Clauss	Holly Humphreys	Lynne Okun	Mary Utter
Joanna Clyde Findlay	Kin-Wah Hung	Colleen Ostrander	Courtney Valerio-Konecny
Melissa Cohen	Stephanie Hunter	Elaine Oswald	Jacqueline Van Den Bovenkamp
Carolyn Collins	Kristen Hutcheson	Nicole Paquet	Renee Van Der Vennet
Angela Cooper	Caren Hyde	Toni-Lynn Pelosi	Wendee VanOrder
Linda Cornwell	Linda Iacurto	Anne Pennington	Julio Ventura
Michele Coyle-Hughes	Amy Isaacs	Mary Peterson	Elizabeth Verna
Susanne Cranston	Kayla Jackson	Kimberly Phillips	Laura Vincent-Arnold
Johanna Curelo	Carol Johnson	Cameron Plagens	Alix Von Auenmueller
Marie de Bethune	Toni Johnstone	Nisa Rauschenberg	Beth Wade
Gretchen De Point	Leslie Jones	Jacquelyn Rease	Tracy Warnecke
Lorraine Dempsey	Cari Kamen	Mary Elizabeth Redfield	Sarah Warner
Sylvia Dolce	Daniele Kaplan	Astrid Rios	Erin Webb
Mary Donald	Irena Kenny	Maureen Ritson	Dana Wedin
Jacqueline Doner	Trudy Kim	Sarah Roach	Robert Whiteside
Angel Christine Duncan	Jingyung Kim	Megan Roche	Susan Worthington-Duffy
Amy Duquette	Linda Kistler	Kathryn Rogers	Denise Yonchek
Brigitte Dutil	Joyce Kliman	Rosemarie Rogers	
Deborah Elkins-Abuhoff	Katherine Kronmiller	Kendra Roggendorf	



## Ethics Requirement Reminder

In light of the fact that current mental health regulation trends are placing an emphasis on ethics, the ATCB has taken a proactive stance on this issue by adopting a new ethics requirement for ATR-BCs who are recertifying. Effective 07/01/06, all ATR-BCs who are applying for recertification in order to maintain their credentials will need to submit documentation that they have earned six (6) continuing education credits in ethics. These six CECs will count toward the total of 100 CECs required in each five-year renewal cycle. While many recertifying ATR-BCs have been earning ethics CECs out of their own commitment to their professional development, this new requirement provides a formal means of recognizing the significance of such efforts. In establishing an ethics requirement, the ATCB is communicating to consumers, employers, funding sources, and state licensing boards alike that ATR-BCs are accountable practitioners who are willing to further educate themselves in order to ensure a psychologically and emotionally safe treatment experience for their clients.

If you have questions regarding this updated policy, please feel free to contact the National Office at 1-877-213-2822 or atcb@nbcc.org.

### New Contact Information for AATA

American Art Therapy Association, Inc.  
5999 Stevenson Avenue  
Alexandria, VA 22304

TEL: 1-888-290-0878    EMAIL: info@arttherapy.org

### Letters to the Editor

Do you have a burning issue for the ATCB? The ATCB is offering credential holders the opportunity to address concerns to the Board of Directors with a section in future newsletters entitled "Letters to the Editor". Letters may be submitted via e-mail to the following address: atcb@nbcc.org. Please put "Letter to the Editor" in the subject field.

The editor of the ATCB newsletter will review all correspondence and select letters for include in upcoming newsletters. The ATCB is very interested in hearing from our credential holders.

### *Important Message Continued from page 1*

The applicant must provide verification of current state licensure or certification.

The cost of the Option II application is \$50.00. AATA members will pay only \$25.00. Upon verification of application by the ATCB, the BC will be granted.

**Option III:** An individual holding the ATR credential and providing specific documentation of five (5) years clinical experience as an ATR in the practice of art therapy.

The cost of the Option III application is \$100.00. AATA members will pay only \$50.00. Upon verification of the completed application by the ATCB, the BC will be granted.

Option I, II and III all require separate applications and fees must be paid at the time of application. All applications will be downloadable and available on line at the ATCB web site. Dates and locations of the BC exam will be made available in March 2006. Specific details for each application will be made available shortly on both the AATA and ATCB web sites.

It is the hope of both the AATA and the ATCB that all ATR's will take advantage of this time limited opportunity to gain Board Certification.

## ATCB Strategic Planning Highlights

*Bill More, ATR-BC*

In 2005 the ATCB Board of Directors began the process of creating a new three year strategic plan designed to support the ATCB's mission to protect the public by promoting the competent and ethical practice of art therapy. Before being elected to the ATCB Board, I had the pleasure of facilitating a one-day strategic planning session that preceded the board's spring meeting in April, 2005. At that session, board members along with the Chair's of the Certification and the Registration Standards Committees and the Management Director, went through a process of reviewing the internal strengths and weaknesses of the ATCB, as well as the external opportunities and threats facing the organization. The group then looked at the interface between the internal and external forces to generate a set of strategic goals to frame the working of the board for 2006-2008.

Following the strategic planning session, then President, Anita Mester accepted Terry Towne's offer of help in drafting the strategic plan. With input from the rest of the board members, specific goals were fleshed out along with action items to take towards attaining each goal. The plan also identifies the parties responsible for accomplishing these actions and a timeline for goal completion. The strategic plan is deliberately specific. This will assure that the plan is a living document that leads to effective actions that support of the ATCB mission.

The draft of the 2006-2008, Art Therapy Credentials Board, Inc. Strategic Plan was presented at the fall ATCB board meeting. There are four strategic goals in the plan, as follows:

### **I. Improve awareness of ATCB credentials**

The board will develop PR strategies to promote art therapy credentials, increase representation in other professional entities, coordinate with AATA to promote ATCB credentialing, and determine the effectiveness of the PR

### **II. Use ATCB financial resources to support the ATCB mission**

The board will fund the ATCB strategic plan, explore the feasibility of making contributions to AATA efforts, and continue to be fiscally responsible with ATCB's resources

### **III. ATCB will improve external and internal communication**

The ATCB will enhance communication with credentialed and non-credentialed art therapists, develop means for internal communication and continue to collaborate with AATA on ways to improve communication

### **IV. Continue to evaluate the ATCB credentials in order to fulfill the ATCB mission and vision**

The ATCB will incorporate input from stakeholders (objective dialogue regarding Option C), create a supervisor credential, determine need for change in Option C for registration (ATR), and determine need for change to qualifications for Board certification

The ATCB board is in the process of reviewing the draft, and a final plan is due to be adopted by the board in spring 2006.

## Congratulations to Our New ATR-BCs

Shana Almeida	Sarah Frahm	Yun Jung Lee	Dorothy Russell
Michele Amendolari	Janie Giles	Kristen Lopez	Uli Schempp
Christine Arthur	Virginia B Graham	Joseph Madigan	Sandy Sheller
Constance Susan Atkinson	Leah Guzman	Karyn Martino	Caridad Sierra
Michelle Berke	Linda Hagen	Michelle Masbaum	Michele Silvestri
Carla Bettross	S. Kathleen Heer	Kathleen McDonald	Gina Sinito
Elissa Bowes	Lisa Hixenbaugh	Gina Moeller-Baird	Sara Smith
Rita Canny	Amber Huff	Maureen Moses	Lynn Snyder
Meredith Carleton	Carol Johnson	Sharon Murray	Jessica Sommer
Raquel Chapin Stephenson	Stacy Jones	Monica O'Grady	Stephanie Somppi
Megan Charney	Daniele Kaplan	Susan Parcell	Susan Stimmell
Heather Chauncey	Trudy Kim	Angela Paul	Laura Vincent-Arnold
Mary Beth Cote	Jillian Kulka	Caroline Peterson	Alix Von Auenmueller
Marie de Bethune	Laura Kunze	Kimberly Roberts	Dana Wedin
Laura JJ Dessauer	Heidi Larew	Kendra Roggendorf	Nancy Workosky-Brooks
Dora Fairchild	Lindsay Lauder	Johanna Rosenfield	Denise Yonchek
Tammy Fountain	Joanne Leddy	Bonnie Ann Rowan	

## Recertification News

To all 2006 Recertifying Certificants: Please be aware that you are due to recertify on July 1, 2006. Prior to your recertification date, you will receive a recertification packet that will contain the Policy & Procedure for Recertification, recertification application, and a Continuing Education Credit (CEC) tracking form. Although these documents will be delivered via mail, you may visit the ATCB web site at any time to view the requirements for recertification as well as download any necessary documents.

Should you have additional questions concerning the recertification process, please call the ATCB National Office at 877-213-ATCB [2822].

### Change of Address?

Don't forget to let us know!  
Call 877-213-2822 or send  
an e-mail to [atcb@nbcc.org](mailto:atcb@nbcc.org)

## ATCB FAQs

### What is the process of recertification?

Each certificant will complete and submit the recertification application and the CEC Tracking form, which lists the 100 CECs (activity date/title, provider/presenter, content area (1-6), and number of CECs claimed for that activity.)

### How do I earn CECs (Continuing Education Credits) and in what content areas must they be earned?

CECs may be earned by attending various workshops, lectures, seminars and by attending or teaching educational classes that fall within the eligible content areas (Psychological and Psychotherapeutic Theories and Practice; Art Therapy Assessment; Art Therapy theory and Practice; Client Populations; Art Therapy Media; Professionalism and Multiculturalism; Ethics). CECs may also be earned by publishing articles, books, and videos, as well as participating in juried art shows.

**ATCB Board of Directors  
and Committees  
2005-2006**

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Frederick, MD

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**ATCB Unveils New Brochure Aimed at Employers**

The Art Therapy Credentials Board, Inc. took the opportunity presented by the AATA Annual Conference in Atlanta, GA to unveil its new promotional brochure, "The Board Certified Art Therapist: A Guide for Employers." This colorful brochure was designed as a marketing tool for our credential holders who might be looking to educate potential employers about the meaning and value of Board Certification in art therapy. Similarly, the brochure can be used by employers to educate the public about the Board Certified art therapists in their facility.

The brochure, which includes employer testimonials, was first made available at the AATA Assembly of Chapter Delegates meeting and

then at the ATCB booth in the exhibit hall in Atlanta. If you are interested in obtaining copies of the employer's brochure, please request copies from the ATCB Office.

This latest brochure joins the "Life after Graduation" flyer previously published by the ATCB. These marketing tools have been developed for those new to the profession of art therapy and existing credential holders to assist in their promotion of the ethical practice of art therapy

**Visit [www.atcb.org](http://www.atcb.org) for the latest information about the 2006 Board Certification Examination dates.**

**Art Therapy Credentials Board, Inc.**

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