

Mission: To protect the public by promoting the competent and ethical practice of art therapy

## A Message from the ATCB President...



Deborah Good  
ATCB President

Welcome to the spring edition of *The ATCB Review*, which includes updates and announcements regarding the ATCB's recent activities. The year began with the ATCB Board involved in work of historical significance to the organization, on behalf of the art therapy profession, and in keeping with our Mission, "to protect the public through the competent and ethical practice of art therapy."

The ATCB and AATA have been working closely to advance the profession of art therapy. The two organizations have grasped the true essence of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was first signed in 2005. The MOU is a statement of cooperation, which supports each organization as it works in its role to enhance and promote the profession of art therapy.

The AATA membership organization started the ATCB nearly two decades ago to provide credibility to the existing ATR and to create board certification requirements for an advanced credential, the ATR-BC. This entailed the creation of the Art Therapy Credentials Board Examination (ATCBE). Board certification is a measurement of a professional's knowledge base, as compared to registration that sanctions an art therapist's education and post-graduate supervised experience. Twenty years ago, in developing the credentialing process, art therapists acknowledged that the membership organization (AATA) and the credentialing organization (ATCB) needed to be separate entities with separate identities.

During the past 19 years, the ATCB has credentialed over 6,200 art therapists with AATA as its founding member. With the increased validation of the ATCBE, the natural progression is to seek increased professional recognition for the credential associated with it—ATR-BC. ATCB Treasurer, Bill More has reported in past issues about the ATCB's natural progression toward the credentialing standards set by the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE) [formerly the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NOCA)]. Having AATA as a member of the ATCB compromised the progress, due to concerns about possible undue influence of a member organization on a credentialing body. AATA supports the ATCB's efforts to achieve a higher standard for the ATCBE and demonstrated this commitment by relinquishing ATCB membership on February 1, 2010. For more information on this collaborative effort please see page 2 for a full explanation of what this development means for you as an art therapist.

As reported in previous newsletters, the *Code of Professional Practice* has undergone extensive review by a committee chaired by President-Elect Penny Orr, with oversight from the entire ATCB Board of Directors. The proposed revised

### ~ FEATURES ~

Message from the ATCB President	1
Public Comment Period for ATCB <i>Code of Professional Practice</i>	2
Upcoming Deadlines	2
Credential Holder Profile	3
AATA and ATCB Collaborate to Advance the Profession of Art Therapy	4
New ATRs and ATR-BCs	6
Board of Directors	7
Option A-B-C No Longer-The Single Application Process	7

### Upcoming Examination Locations

**November 6, 2010**

Sacramento, California  
Kansas City, Missouri  
Newark, New Jersey  
Charlotte, North Carolina

Note: You must be an ATR prior to completing the application for Board Certification, which includes registering for the Art Therapy Credentials Board Examination.

continued on page 2

## A Message from the ATCB President...

continued from page 1

*Code of Professional Practice* is currently posted on the ATCB Web site. We request your feedback and comments. You may e-mail your feedback to [atcb@nbcc.org](mailto:atcb@nbcc.org).

Don't forget that the next certification cycle closes July 31st. For ATR-BC's with a 2010 expiration date, please make sure that all of your continuing education credits match the categorical standards set by the ATCB. Remember, 100 continuing education credits hours within the past five years are required to renew your board certification. Information on recertification is posted on the ATCB Web site at [www.atcb.org](http://www.atcb.org).

Congratulations to all art therapists who recently earned the ATR and/or ATR-BC!

Deborah Good, Ph.D., ATR-BC  
ATCB President

## Public Comment Period Underway for Proposed Revision of the ATCB *Code of Professional Practice*

The ATCB Board of Directors is seeking public comment for the proposed revision of the *ATCB Code of Professional Practice*. Because this document directly affects all ATCB credential holders, you are encouraged to review it thoroughly and to respond to the request for commentary.

The public comment period will be open until May 16, 2010. The current *Code* and the proposed revised *Code* are available on ATCB's Web site at [www.atcb.org](http://www.atcb.org).

The *ATCB Code of Professional Practice* is designed to provide art therapists with a set of ethical considerations to guide their practice of art therapy, as well as Standards of Conduct to which every credentialed art therapist must

adhere. The Art Therapy Credentials Board, Inc. (ATCB) must ensure that the *ATCB Code of Professional Practice* is reviewed and revised periodically to support and protect the public and practitioners in the field of art therapy.

ATCB credential holders as well as the public have an opportunity to submit comments to the ATCB Board of Directors:

By mail: ATCB  
3 Terrace Way  
Greensboro, NC 27403

By fax: (336) 482-2852

By e-mail: [atcb@nbcc.org](mailto:atcb@nbcc.org)

The proposed adoption of the revised *Code of Professional Practice* is planned for October 2010, with an effective date of January 1, 2011.

## UPCOMING DEADLINES THAT MIGHT AFFECT YOU

**May 16: Public Comment** Last day of public comment period for proposed revisions to the *ATCB Code of Professional Practice*.

**June 1: Recertification** Deadline for ATR-BCs to submit requested recertification materials if your current certification expires in July, 2010. Letters were mailed on March 1 to ATR-BCs who are due to recertify this year. If you are an ATR-BC whose certificate expires this year and you did not receive a recertification notice, contact the National Office right away.

**June 30: Maintenance Fees** All ATRs and ATR-BCs - annual maintenance fees due to the National Office by this date. Notices will be mailed on May 15. If you have not received your maintenance fee notice by June 1, please contact the National Office right away. Please note, beginning this year, all credential holders will be billed for the full \$100 maintenance fee. You must include proof of current AATA membership to obtain a 50 percent discount.

**September 1: Early Application Deadline for BC** Early application deadline for ATRs who wish to apply for Board Certification and who need to take the Art Therapy Credentials Board Examination. ATRs applying by this date save \$25.

**September 17: Final Application Deadline for BC** Final application deadline for ATRs who wish to apply for Board Certification and who need to take the Art Therapy Credentials Board Examination on November 6th. .

**November 6: ATCB Examination Date** National examination date for the Art Therapy Credentials Board Examination.

# CREDENTIAL HOLDER PROFILE

## Keadron Finn, LPCC, LPAT, ATR-BC



*Keadron Finn*

I have always been creative and kind of a problem solver. I received a BFA in Studio Art from the University of New Mexico in 1995 and returned to Dallas

knowing two things: 1) I wanted to make more of a personal difference in people's lives than I felt would be possible as a fine artist and, 2) it was going to require creativity to find a way to support myself that was challenging, constantly changing, and focused on growth. I wish I had known that art therapy was going to be that "way" at that point in my journey!

I was self-employed almost immediately after undergraduate school in a variety of fields – furniture/rug design, antique/textile photography, Oriental rug store owner, and professional organizing. All of those things provided valuable experiences but they were not the perfect combination that used my gifts and passion. I started thinking about counseling as a profession in the year 2000... but it would be five long years before I was in a position to pursue graduate studies. It was a no-brainer that I would include art therapy in my practice, and when I started looking at schools, Southwestern College in Santa Fe, NM, felt like the right fit. In a 30 day period, I sold my professional organizing company in Dallas, packed and moved to graduate school.

Graduate school was where I was introduced to the power and the beauty of art therapy. What started as a 'practical' use of my first degree ended up being a vehicle for profound personal change. I had left the fine art world 10 years earlier a bit bruised by an environment where creative expression was focused on product not process, and the test of proficiency was the ability to critique other's work and defend my own. I had lost my ability to engage joyfully in the process of art making. My work in the art therapy program and my individual work with an art therapist was where I discovered a way to heal these old wounds. I was able to play in the creative process again for the first time in a long time. I discovered my intuitive ability to organize and process information and emotion in a right-brained way. And I was sold!

I graduated with an MA in Art Therapy & Counseling in 2005 from Southwestern College with job offers from both of my internship sites. It seemed that the combination and flexibility that the art therapy provided was a compliment to the staff of therapists at both clinics. I settled on Christian Counseling Partners in Albuquerque because of the supportive environment and opportunity to work with a broad range of clients. I began building a full-time practice there as I accrued my post-graduate hours and supervision. By December 2009, I received my LPCC, LPAT and ATR-BC completing my professional credentialing. A good friend threw a dinner party in my honor to celebrate the completion of the long process... it was great to mark the

end of that journey with all of the people who had offered me love and encouragement along the way.

Has completing my ATR-BC benefited my practice significantly? Absolutely! I am still doing the same work in my practice and loving it. My art therapy supervisor has been incredibly valuable and I now count her as my friend and on-going mentor. The process of concentrated supervision in the last two years has given me more confidence and understanding of the art therapy process, which has allowed me to push the envelope of my own comfort level in a great way. I have the ability to take more third party payments and increase my rates which has been beneficial. I am still working at Christian Counseling Partners three days a week, but I also was recently invited to take over the practice of a colleague who is retiring after 30 years in private practice.

I feel that I have found the perfect intersection of my passions and talents. I am enjoying the challenge and limitless growth of art therapy and the fact that my day changes with every session. Because the ATR-BC has helped me achieve the highest level of professionalism within my practice, I feel it has been a very worthwhile investment. I am looking forward to continuing to explore all the opportunities the art therapy profession has to offer.

# AATA and ATCB Collaborate to Advance the Profession of Art Therapy

The American Art Therapy Association (AATA) demonstrated support for the ATCB's work to strengthen the art therapy credentials (ATR, ATR-BC, ATCS) by voting to relinquish all financial and founding member ties with the ATCB. The ATCB strives to meet the standards set by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), the credentialing organization linked with the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE, formerly NOCA) and support the ATCB mission "to protect the public by promoting the competent and ethical practice of art therapy." The AATA has shown its dedication to the advancement of the profession of art therapy by acknowledging the ATCB's efforts to meet the highest standards possible in national credentialing. On March 1, the statement below was released from the AATA, in collaboration with the ATCB.

## **AATA and ATCB Collaborate on the Completion of ATCB's Independent Governance**

February 2, 2010

An art therapy credential has more validity when it is viewed by legislative, educational, occupational and other regulatory bodies as independent from outside influences. Because an accrediting body such as the Art Therapy Credentials Board (ATCB) must be able to demonstrate that it has autonomy in decision-making regarding essential certification activities, in the past year the American Art Therapy Association (AATA) Board of Directors thoroughly reviewed the remaining legal ties to the ATCB

that might hinder its recognition as a fully autonomous entity. Formal separation of the two corporations is in the best interest of a strong credential and protection of the public. Separation of the two corporations clarifies missions, reduces liability and expense, and removes potential conflicts of interest for both corporations.

In November 2009 the AATA Board approved the process of completing the final separation of the American Art Therapy Association and the Art Therapy Credentials Board, which began nearly two decades before. On February 1, 2010 the AATA Board approved a legal Separation Agreement fully eliminating the previously required AATA involvement in ATCB's governance structure. The two separate entities also agreed through the Separation Agreement to a vital and continuing relationship going forward.

Full independence required that the ATCB Board approve (1) that the provision of membership be eliminated in the ATCB Articles of Incorporation and (2) to eliminate the requirement of ATCB Board representation by AATA members. These two legal actions are incorporated in the AATA Board approved Separation Agreement and have been undertaken by the ATCB's Board, thus eliminating any perceived authority by AATA to control ATCB. Jointly the organizations have now completed the transition. By removing the membership clause, the \$10,000 membership fee the AATA had been paying annually to the ATCB is no longer required. Now the ATCB is a fully independent corporation but bound

by the mutually agreed Separation Agreement.

The AATA Board's decision is a significant milestone in the history of the art therapy profession. The American Art Therapy Association has decided to take this action to clearly demonstrate that the core symbols of our profession, art therapy credentials, are conveyed only through rigorous, impartial, and independent review.

It is important to note that the elements of our previously existing Memorandum of Understanding with the ATCB are included as an attachment to the Separation Agreement. We are continuing our mutual commitment to build the field of art therapy and inform the public about the importance of art therapy credentials through a series of on-going activities such as Web site references, conference attendance, and collaborative work on legislative, global, educational and regulatory efforts that impact the field.

As art therapy has grown, the profession has undergone a natural evolutionary process in the development of a credentialing and certification program. Typically, the development of a fully independent credentialing body follows clearly delineated steps beginning with an associational study; then outlining and setting up of an independent program; and finally establishing a separate corporate entity for the credentials program. Over the years, the American Art Therapy Association has closely followed this model, as has the Art Therapy Credentials Board.

**continued on page 5**

## AATA and ATCB Collaborate to Advance the Profession of Art Therapy

continued from page 4

In November 1991 a Resolution passed during the American Art Therapy Association (AATA) Annual Business Meeting that a certification program would be put in place within three years. That action led to the development of the free standing not-for-profit 501 (c) 6 organization that became known as the Art Therapy Credentials Board (ATCB).

In the intervening eighteen years the ATCB became the strong vibrant organization it is today. Following its mission to ‘protect the public by promoting the competent and ethical practice of art therapy,’ the Art Therapy Credentials Board Examination (ATCBE) was developed, and thousands of registered art therapists (ATRs) received their certification and were granted the title of ATR-BC.

The American Art Therapy Association’s role in the field is to serve its members and the public by welcoming the membership of professional art therapists and those entering the field; providing a range of benefits that help them in the careers; and, nurturing their continuing education. The Art Therapy Credentials Board’s role is to protect the public by granting credentials to those meeting and maintaining the requirements and standards signifying credibility in the field.

Both organizations continue their commitment to promote excellence in the profession of art therapy.

### **Why is this action important for the AATA Board to undertake at this time?**

Our field has been growing for more than four decades and has now evolved to a mature profession that

can benefit from an independent review of related credentials. There are several compelling reasons for the completion of the Agreement at this time:

1. Formal separation of the two corporations, the American Art Therapy Association and the Art Therapy Credentials Board, is in the best interest of our membership. Without question it provides clear, legally defined, third party verification of an art therapist’s credentials thus strengthening our members’ credibility.
2. Leading associations have realized that a totally separate entity for credential services is the most effective and ethical way to manage the various aspects of credential services including review of submitted materials, customer service, addressing concerns about standards for individuals that abuse the system, locator accuracy, and other aspects of credential management. Through this action we are conforming to industry standards so as to position the AATA as progressive.
3. By strengthening credential verification independence, the ATCB reinforces its mission to protect and support the public in making informed decisions about the qualification of art therapists.
4. Credentials conveyed by a strong independent entity have enhanced validity as the American Art Therapy Association approaches legislative issues, seeks licensure or access to it, heightens its public recognition, and seeks to generate funding support from the business sector and private foundations. Independently conveyed credentials indicate that

our field is mature.

5. Policing the field and enforcing art therapy credential standards is not only a costly undertaking, but also changes the relationship that the American Art Therapy Association seeks to develop with its members. The AATA does not want the role of the ATCB, nor does it wish to be perceived as having the ATCB’s role.
6. Although the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), the credentialing organization linked with the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE, formerly NOCA) does not expressly forbid a membership organization from being involved in its credentialing arm, the perception of “undue influence” can negatively affect the strength of a profession’s credentials.
7. The AATA establishes educational standards and communicates and promotes them. By promoting educational standards, the AATA would be in a conflict of interest to also require or influence credentialing to follow our association’s set education policies (that benefit our association through institutional fees) and/or to require membership as an entry for a credential (since the AATA benefits from the membership fees). The AATA does not grant credentials, but respects them as an indication of credibility in the field.
8. Through this action, the AATA leads our field by demonstrating that the core of our profession, its credentials, are granted only after rigorous, impartial review.

# Congratulations to Our New Credential Holders

September 1, 2009 to February 28, 2010

## New ATRs

Jennifer August	Tarri Driver	Amy Hazle	John Lorance Jr.	Sharon Sanborn
Sherry Beliles	Kathleen Elbert	Elizabeth Hennessey	Cherie Lusky	Erin Saponara
Melanie Biscuiti	Mackesy	Jill Howell	Carey MacCarthy	Esther Savetsky
Katy Bockelman-Sanders	Carrie Ezell	Celine Hunt	Rebecca Maguire	Pamela Sica
Amy Bucciarelli	Kelsey Fagan	Michelle Itczak	Lynda Maree	Ruth Strock
Lilla Cabot	Crista Favazza	Judith Jankowski	Pamela Matsuda	Jessica Stumpf
Robert Caswell	Melissa Ferriter	Lauren Jarosak	Sarah Mohajery	Pamela Swafford
Christine Check	Michael Fox	Melissa Jensen	Jennifer Murphy	Orit Tavori
Sang Choe	Steven Frazier	Suzanne Jolissaint	Elizabeth Nash	Lori Tiberi
Jill Cooper	Sarah Galloway	Tiffany Jones	George Novillo	Chiahua Tsai
Laura Cottrell	Sylvia Garcia	Stephanie Jones	Robert O'Brien	Lorraine Vitale
Donna Crocker	Jennifer Gildred	Hyo Kim	Christy Pagels	Amanda Webber
Melissa Daltry	Corissa Gold	Kyungmin Kim	Shannon Pearce	Katy White
Jodi Dash	Shauna Goodenough	Allison King	Susan Penn	Susan Wiggins
Ryan Davis	Anne Graber	Elizabeth Landswick	Andrea Perez	Nicole Willcox
Holly DeRosa	Jennifer Gregg	Heather Lee	Amy Rehberg	Mary Woods
Elizabeth Donahue	Susan Griesser	Chelsea Leitner	Gina Roell	Melanie Worstell
Sarah Drake-Ricart	Cindy Hamilton	Reina Lombardi	Beth Rosenblatt	Joanna Zakhem
	Heidi Harbin	Stacy Longley	Robert Ryan	

## New ATR-BCs

Barbra Allen	Samantha Commarato	Merrilee Jorn	Nazneen Meacham	Katherine Schwartz
Jessica Angle	Nazarena Cordero	Erin Keenan	Eileen Misluk	Beth Ann Short
Suzanne Arendt	Laura Cosgrove	Sarah Keenan	Rachel Mosler	Rachel Sikorski
Karen Artis	Kimberly Cottiers	Mlynarczyk	Tara Neu	Robyn Spodek-Schindler
Mindy Atkin	Megan Daman	Jennifer Kempema	Michelle Nicoletti	Allison Stroh
Jennifer Bald	Jennifer DeLucia	Eun (Suzie) Kim	Susan Novak	Kathleen Sutter
Wendy Baxter	Megan Diffendal	Jessica Kindig	Bonnie O'Connor	Lisa Syed
Melanie Beuth	Melanie Dolat	Deborah King	Christine Olaes	Jacqueline Tabb
Rebecca Boraz	Alexandra Dziedzic	Melissa Klay	Heather O'Lone	Charlene Taylor
Jennifer Borst	Raquel Farrell-Kirk	Tammy Kurre	Jennifer Padden	Lee Ann Thill
Breanne Broad	Keadron Finn	Catherine Lederman	Mary Pazdernik	Geoffrey Thompson
Lori Brown	Kimberly Frazee	Sheila Lorenzo de la Pena	Kristine Pink	Judith Tota
Kathleen Buday	Jeanne Freed	Laura Luongo	Danielle Polifroni	Rochelle Warner
Evelyn Cabrejos	Julie Gant	Caroline Maccachran-Lepordo	Denise Porto	Jamie Wasson
Stacy Carroll	Heather Grey	Kate Mack	Kristen Rodriguez	Jamie Waters
Siobhan Casey	Sylvia Hartowicz	Kate Marder	Sarah Roff	Martie Wielgus-Negri
Hilary Chermak	Emily Hearn	Jessie Masterson	Carla Rose	Jessica Woolhiser
Abigail Chodosh	Chloe Hodgson	Marci Mathew	Rebecca Rosenbluth	Susan Worthington-Duffy
Valerie Chu	Linda Iannacone	Erin McConnell	Catherine Rubin	
Kim Colline	Patricia Ingram		Gloria Saff	

## ATCB Board of Directors and Committees 2010

### PRESIDENT

Deborah Good, ATR-BC  
Albuquerque, NM

### PRESIDENT-ELECT

Penelope Orr, ATR-BC  
Fairview, PA

### SECRETARY

Bill More, ATR-BC  
Woodbridge, CT

### TREASURER

David E. Gussak, ATR-BC  
Tallahassee, FL

### DIRECTOR

Stephanie Wise, ATR-BC  
Wyoming, PA

### DIRECTOR

Susan Ainlay Anand, ATR-BC  
Flora, MS

### DIRECTOR

Debra Paskind, ATR-BC  
Chicago, IL

### DIRECTOR

Libby Schmanke, ATR-BC  
Oskaloosa, KS

### PUBLIC MEMBER

David Heinen  
Raleigh, NC

### CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE CHAIR

Diana Sabados, ATR-BC  
Rockville, MD

### REGISTRATION STANDARDS CHAIR

Deborah Sharpe, ATR-BC  
San Pablo, CA

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Rita Maloy  
Greensboro, NC

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Debra Paskind, ATR-BC  
Chicago, IL

# Option A-B-C No Longer—The Single Application Process

David Gussak, Ph.D., ATR-BC

Chairperson of Ad Hoc Committee on Registration Standards Review

This is an important announcement about changes to the ATR application process. Over the past several years, there has been confusion, and at times acrimony, over policies and directives that have emerged over the ATCB's Option A-B-C application system. This is a thing of the past. At the Fall 2009 Meeting, the Board of Directors of the Art Therapy Credentials Board, Inc., voted unanimously to develop an ad hoc committee comprised of representatives of the ATCB and the AATA for the purpose of creating a single application that in essence removes all confusion, one that validates and celebrates the content of the education and post-graduate supervised experience of our credential holders.

Representatives of the AATA Education Committee, the AATA Education Program Approval Board, and the ATCB met at the 2009 AATA conference to discuss the goals and membership of this committee. The following committee was developed:

Committee Chair- **Dave Gussak**, ATCB Treasurer

Member- **Craig Balfany**, AATA appointee and Director of Adler Graduate School's Art Therapy Program

Member- **Heidi Bardot**, AATA appointee and Director of George Washington University's Art Therapy Program

Member- **David Heinen**, ATCB Public Member

Member- **Stephanie Wise**, ATCB Board Director and Liaison to the Registration Committee

Since formed, this committee has been working hard to create a Single Application format. **It has succeeded.** Now, rather than create several "options", the Single Application, relying on the Education Standards of the AATA, will be a comprehensive checklist of the prerequisites, content areas—studio art, clinical, and art therapy—and the supervision requirements that must be met before someone is eligible for the ATR. While the process is still "streamlined" for those who graduate from an AATA-approved program, those who do not graduate from such a program have very clear guidelines on what must be met before they are eligible for the credential. Rather than worry about which "Option" they fall under, this process will make clear what requirements and education criteria must be met. Everyone is urged to refer to the new application format which will soon be available on the ATCB Web site ([www.atcb.org](http://www.atcb.org)). In the final analysis, I trust you will all come to agree that the Single Application process will strengthen our credentials, and in turn, our field.