A Message from the ATCB President...

Dear Colleagues:

The Art Therapy Credentials Board, Inc., is celebrating its 15th Anniversary this year! As the current Board of Directors looks back over the organization’s history and dedication to the ATCB Mission of “protecting the public through the competent and ethical practice of art therapy,” we are most grateful to all those who have served the ATCB through either board or committee work. Giving back to the profession, through volunteer service, can be time consuming and frustrating, but the rewards of service always seem to outweigh any hardships. I believe my fellow Board Members and our predecessors would agree that promoting excellence in the field of art therapy through credentialing makes the profession stronger and more viable. It also assures consumers that those who have qualified as Registered Art Therapists (ATRs) and earned Board Certification (ATR-BCs) have met rigorous standards and are required to adhere to a Code of Professional Practice that is enforced by the ATCB, Inc. I want to open this message with a salute to all who serve or have served the ATCB. Thank you for your contributions and Happy Anniversary!

As you will recall, we moved to an electronic format for our newsletter with the exception of the fall issue which will be offered online as well as sent to our credential holders in the mail. This issue is available online, in your mailbox, and at the ATCB exhibit space at the AATA Conference in Cleveland. Please remember to keep the ATCB National Office aware of any changes to your addresses – electronic and physical. This will keep you abreast of the most up-to-date news!

This issue of the ATCB Review will introduce you to two Board members, Dr. Penny Orr and David R. Heinen, Esq. We are pleased to welcome them and, as you will see from their individual profiles found on page 5, we are excited about the talents that each brings to our organization. 2008 is an ATCB election year. By the time you read this issue of the newsletter, you will have selected two members to the Board of Directors and this information will have already been posted on our Web site. Also in this issue you will find updates on ATCB’s strategic planning process and our financial resources.

I am pleased to announce that the Certification Committee has completed revisions to the Official Preparation Guide for the Art Therapy Credentials Board Exam (ATCBE). The guide, which can be downloaded from our Web site (or requested from the National Office), provides the very latest information available on the content areas covered in the ATCBE. Other projects that are in the process of being completed are the development of application materials for the Supervisor Credential, a complete review of the ATCB Code of Professional Practice, and the possible development of online continuing education courses.

Several members of the ATCB Board of Directors and our Executive Director will offer a panel on credentialing at the upcoming AATA Conference. This conference continues to be the premier networking and continuing education event for art therapists. We hope that when you are in Cleveland enjoying the conference, you will stop by the ATCB booth to visit with the Board, collect your credential designation ribbon, gather information about art therapy credentialing and collect some other goodies!

Best regards,
Terry Towne, ATR-BC
President

An Opportunity for ATR-BCs to Earn CECs

Plan to attend the premier networking and continuing education event for art therapists. The American Art Therapy Association’s annual conference will take place November 19-23, 2008, in Cleveland, OH. This year’s theme is “Art Therapy on the Cutting Edge: Invention & Innovation.” The maximum CECs available by participating is 31. Visit www.arttherapy.org for more information.
ATCB Treasurer’s Newsletter Report: Fiscal Year 2008
Dave Gussak, PhD, ATR-BC
ATCB Treasurer

Due to the diligent fiduciary practices of the outgoing ATCB Treasurer, Tom Hartsell, and his Finance Committee, the ATCB Board of Directors and its Management, the Art Therapy Credentials Board, Inc., is on solid financial footing, with an available cash balance of over $157,000. In accordance with sound accounting practices, the available balance would be enough to cover the ATCB’s expenses for a minimum of one fiscal year. As well, ATCB routinely moves additional funds in conservative investment products to protect the long-term interest of the organization.

The 2008 budget is comprised of two main categories, Revenue and Expenses, and is presented in the pie charts below. The 2008 budget line items are based on income and expenses from fiscal year 2007, the average income and expenses over the past five years, changes in the national economy, and anticipated expenses for additional tasks. These anticipated tasks include special projects, such as generating and analyzing the Job Analysis Survey and developing the Supervisor Credential.

Outgoing Treasurer, Tom Hartsell, served as ATCB’s Public Member for a number of years, and he will be sorely missed. I was elected from among the ATCB Directors to fill the position of the ATCB Treasurer beginning May 2008. I will work closely with the ATCB Board of Directors, the ATCB Finance Committee and ATCB Management to continue the sound financial practices executed by my predecessors.
The ATCB Looks Ahead with a New Strategic Plan

The ATCB Board of Directors added a half day workshop to their Spring Board 2008 Meeting devoted to strategic planning. The guiding focus of ATCB’s Strategic Plan is the fulfillment of the organization’s mission: “To protect the public by promoting the competent and ethical practice of art therapy.”

Leading the session were Strategic Planning (SP) Committee Chair, Debbie Good, David Gussak and Bill More (both of whom have previously been strategic planning consultants to the ATCB). Members of the Board worked in teams to identify the ATCB’s strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOTs). The Board then looked for common themes emerging from the SWOTs and thoroughly reviewed the existing Strategic Plan.

Several action items for the new ATCB Strategic Plan (2009-2011) will include: (1.) Increasing awareness of the ATCB’s credentials, (2.) Improving communication, and beginning to work towards (3.) International Credentialing and (4.) NCCA accreditation. The SP Committee is currently working to refine details of the new plan and will present a final draft to the Board of Directors for approval at its Fall Board Meeting in October. Credential holders will be kept in the loop with e-blasts and web updates – so stay tuned!
VISIT www.atcb.org TO FIND

- A listing of current ATRs and ATR-BCs by state
- Information about ATCB’s Board of Directors
- Guide for Students
- Code of Professional Practice
- Complete applications for the ATR and ATR-BC
- Recertification Standards
- Guide for Employers
- ATCBE Study Guide
- Continuing Education Tracking Form

Stay in the ATCB Loop

Are you feeling out of touch or disconnected from the ATCB? Have you moved recently or do you have a new internet provider? Help us keep you in the loop by making sure that the ATCB office has your current contact information – address, phone, and e-mail!

ATCB Exam Update

Over the last year, ATCB has conducted a job analysis or occupational study of the profession of art therapy. The purpose of the job analysis is to describe the professional art therapist. The results of this research are used to build an Art Therapy Credentials Board Examination (ATCBE) that reflects the current practice of art therapy as defined by art therapists.

The first task was to select ATR-BCs who represent various regions and practice settings. Together with specialized exam consultants, this Job Analysis Committee developed a survey designed to measure current practices in the profession. Job Analysis Committee members used the analyzed data from the returned surveys to create the ATCBE content outline. This outline provides the fundamental areas tested in the ATCBE.

The results and content outline were shared with the ATCB Certification Committee members. This standing committee of the ATCB regularly reviews the ATCBE and potential test items, and it utilized the data from the recent job analysis to ensure that the examination reflects current knowledge and practice found in the profession. The ATCB Certification Committee members also revised the official ATCBE Preparation Guide. This guide is free of charge and is posted on the ATCB Web site at http://www.atcb.org/examination.

ATCB CELEBRATES 15 YEARS

MILESTONES IN ATCB HISTORY

FEBRUARY 1993
ATCB bylaws are approved

NOVEMBER 1994
First certification exam is given in Chicago, IL

JANUARY 1997
ATCB joins NOCA

APRIL 2000
Code of Professional Practice created

APRIL 2002
ATCB joins AASCN

AUGUST 2005
AATA-ATCB Memo of Understanding created

FEBRUARY 2008
Current credentials number reaches over 4,045
New ATCB Board Appointments

David Henien: Public Member

David Heinen is the director of public policy and advocacy for the N.C. Center for Nonprofits. In this role, he advocates on issues affecting North Carolina’s nonprofit sector, monitors and analyzes federal and state issues affecting nonprofits, keeps nonprofits across North Carolina informed about important legal and policy developments, provides training on nonprofit advocacy and legal compliance, and convenes coalitions of nonprofits from diverse fields. David began his service as ATCB’s Public Member in 2008.

Previously, David spent seven years as an attorney with Dorn & Klamp, P.C., a Washington, D.C., law firm serving the nonprofit community. In this practice, he worked with a variety of board certification programs, advising them on legal matters such as ethics issues, board governance, ADA compliance, state licensure issues, tax compliance, intellectual property issues, contract review and negotiation, and HIPAA compliance. He feels strongly that successful credentialing boards such as ATCB play an essential role in protecting the public by establishing high standards for competent and ethical practice in mental health fields.

Penelope P. Orr, Ph.D., ATR-BC: Director

Penny Orr is a Registered and Board Certified art therapist currently working as an assistant professor at Edinboro University. Penny received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Furman University, a Master of Arts in Art Therapy from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and her Ph.D. from Purdue University. She provides art therapy services to students in alternative school settings and through her private practice. During her career, Penny has provided clinical art therapy services to diverse populations in medical and behavioral health settings. Penny has served on the AATA Ethics Committee and is currently the chair of the Research Committee.

Penny worked at Florida State University as an assistant professor from 2003-2008. During that time she served as a practicum supervisor, technical coordinator, and educator for the program. Penny has been active in state associations in South Carolina, Florida, and Pennsylvania. She has published and presented extensively on the role of technology within art therapy practice and work with special populations within alternative school systems.

The ATCB to Hold a Panel Presentation at the Annual AATA Conference, 2008

Attending the AATA conference this November in Cleveland? Be sure to check out the ATCB’s panel presentation “Got Credentials? Everything You Need to Know About the ATR and ATR-BC.” Members of the ATCB Board of Directors, including President Terry Towne; Treasurer and Certification Committee Chair Dave Gussak, Nina Denninger, and ATCB’s Executive Director, Kristi McKaskill, will cover a range of topics related to credentialing in the field of art therapy and provide valuable information about the process of becoming an art therapist.

Art therapists will learn how to attain the Art Therapist Registered (ATR) credential as well as Board Certification (BC). A history of the art therapy credentialing process will delineate the importance of certification. The panel will discuss the steps involved in qualifying and applying for the ATR, earning the BC and the recertification process. This will include detailed information about the clinical experience and supervision requirements for art therapy credentials.

The panel will also provide an overview on how the art therapy and counseling post-master’s experiences may interface; tracking your post-master’s experience and supervision hours; and the role of the membership organization in professional development. The most common problems that arise in credentialing will be described, and attendees will learn how to troubleshoot these problems. The presentation will be targeted to art therapy students and recent graduates, but all are welcome.

We hope to see you there!
ATCB Board of Directors and Committees 2008-2009

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Terry Towne, ATR-BC
Twentynine Palms, CA

PRESIDENT-ELECT
Deborah Good, Ph.D., ATR-BC
Albuquerque, NM

SECRETARY
Bill More, ATR-BC
Woodbridge, CT

TREASURER/
PUBLIC MEMBER
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Tallahassee, FL

DIRECTOR
Donna J. Betts, Ph.D., ATR-BC
Tallahassee, FL

DIRECTOR
Nina Denninger, ATR-BC
Greensburg, PA

DIRECTOR
Penelope Orr, Ph.D., ATR-BC
Fairview, PA

DIRECTOR
Gayle Sutch, ATR-BC
Frederick, MD

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Ft. Lauderdale, FL

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Oskaloosa, KS

REGISTRATION STANDARDS CHAIR
Dana Elmendorf, ATR-BC
Monroeville, PA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Kristi McCaskill
Greensboro, NC

UPCOMING EXAMINATION DATES

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