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. Currently 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

Features.....

Important Message 1
AASCB Conference Report 2
New Board Members 3
New ATRs 4
ATCB Strategic Planning 6
New ATR-BCs 7
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.

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.
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!

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.

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

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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.

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

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 website 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].

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.

Change of Address?
Don’t forget to let us know!
Call 877-213-2822 or send an e-mail to atcb@nbcc.org
ATCB Review

ATCB Board of Directors and Committees 2005-2006

PRESIDENT
Gayle M. Sutch, ATR-BC
Frederick, MD

PRESIDENT-ELECT
Terry Towne, ATR-BC
Shelton, CT

SECRETARY
Sarah Deaver, ATR-BC
Norfolk, VA

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Dallas, TX

DIRECTOR
Deborah Good, ATR-BC
Albuquerque, NM

DIRECTOR
Bill More, ATR-BC
Woodbridge, CT

DIRECTOR
Nina Denninger, ATR-BC
Greensburg, PA

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Austin, TX

REGISTRATION STANDARDS CHAIR
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Greensboro, NC

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 professional practice of art therapy.

Visit www.atcb.org for the latest information about the 2006 Board Certification Examination dates.

Art Therapy Credentials Board, Inc.
3 Terrace Way, Suite B
Greensboro, NC 27403-3660