MEET OUR INVITED SPEAKERS

Friday, November 10 Plenary Session | 8:15 to 9:45 a.m.

Art Therapy with the Military: Working Across the Continuum

In honor of Veteran’s Day, this plenary will focus on the use of art therapy with military service members. Panel members, who are currently working with members of the military, will discuss historical perspectives, current practice throughout the United States, research initiatives and future directions for art therapy.

Moderator Donna Betts, PhD, ATR-BC, is President of the AATA and Associate Professor of Art Therapy at the George Washington University. An award-winning researcher and author, Dr. Betts has presented internationally on diverse topics reflecting her clinical work and research experiences. Dr. Betts was recipient of the 2014 Art Therapy: Journal of the AATA Best Paper Award for her article “A Review of the Principles for Culturally-Appropriate Art Therapy Assessment Tools.” In 2012, she was granted the AATA Research Award for her role as Principal Investigator for “An Art Therapy Study of Visitor Reactions to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.” As co-investigator on a 2012 multi-disciplinary autism study funded by GW Medical Faculty Associates, Betts collected data using her strengths-based Face Stimulus Assessment (FSA). She also served as the GW Art Therapy Project Lead for a Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) SBIR-funded study that developed software that helped military service members express combat-related experiences through personal narratives in a graphic novel/sequential art format.

Paula Howie, MA, ATR-BC, LPC, LCPAT, HLM, directed the Art Therapy Service at Walter Reed Army Medical Center for more than 25 years. She currently lectures at the School of the Visual Arts and at Florida State University. She is a past president of the AATA, and her most recent book Art Therapy with Military and Veteran Populations: History, Innovations, and Applications will be published in summer 2017. In addition to her writing, private practice, and teaching, Paula is an avid watercolor painter.

Dr. Girija Kaimal is Assistant Professor in the doctoral program in Creative Arts Therapies at Drexel University College of Nursing and Health Professions. She has Bachelor’s degree in design from the National Institute of Design in India; a Master’s in Art Therapy from Drexel University, and a doctorate in human development and psychology from the Harvard University Graduate School of Education. She serves as the Chair of the AATA Research Committee and is an Assessment Fellow for Drexel University.

Dr. Sara Kass was born and raised in Ephrata, Washington. She received her medical degree from George Washington University. Dr. Kass is board certified in Family Medicine and is an Assistant Professor of Family Medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. She retired from the Navy in 2015, at the rank of Captain. Prior to retirement, she served as the Deputy Commander, National Intrepid Center of Excellence, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Dr. Kass founded The Kass Group, LLC, a consulting group focused on working alongside federal and non-profit organizations that are committed to improving delivery of health and wellness interventions to Wounded Warriors and their families.

Bill O’Brien is Senior Advisor for Innovation to the Chairman at the National Endowment for the Arts, and is responsible for exploring, examining, and identifying innovative practices and programs in the arts. He co-organized three summits of the nation’s leading artists, scientists, and technologists in partnership with the National Science Foundation focusing on future strategies for art, science engineering, media systems and biology, and co-organized an investigation into The Nature of Creativity in the Brain in partnership with the Santa Fe Institute. He serves as the NEA’s Project Director for the Creative Forces: NEA Military Healing Arts Network, advancing the role of the arts in helping heal military service members across the US. Plays he has produced have won numerous awards, including the Tony Honor for Excellence in the Theatre, and he appeared as an ensemble member on all seven seasons of NBC’s The West Wing.

Melissa Walker, MA, ATR, moved to the National Capital Region to work for the Department of Defense after earning a Master’s degree in Art Therapy from NYU. Melissa served as art therapist on Walter Reed’s inpatient psychiatric unit before transferring to the National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICOe). There, Melissa developed and implemented the NICOe Healing Arts Program to explore the integration and research of the creative arts therapies for service members with traumatic brain injury and psychological health concerns. Melissa also acts as lead art therapist for Creative Forces: the NEA/Military Healing Arts Network - a collaboration aimed to expand arts access for the military population. Since its inception the NICOe’s art therapy program has gained international recognition, including a National Geographic Magazine cover story and Melissa’s TEDMED talk featured as TED’s “talk of the day.”
Friday, November 10 Master Class | 10:15 to 11:45 a.m.
(Ticket and separate registration required)

Transforming the Pain: Art Therapy with Military and Trauma Populations–
An In-Depth Discussion of Advanced Interventions

Following the morning plenary, this session will allow attendees to gather information about the latest theoretical underpinnings of working with traumatized individuals, and interventions to aide clinicians in thinking about complex cases. This session will be beneficial to those who work with members of the military, or others who have experienced trauma.

**Moderator Paula Howie,** MA, ATR-BC, LPC, LCPAT, HLM, directed the Art Therapy Service at Walter Reed Army Medical Center for more than 25 years. She currently lectures at the School of the Visual Arts and at Florida State University. She is a past president of the AATA, and her most recent book *Art Therapy with Military and Veteran Populations: History, Innovations, and Applications* will be published in summer 2017. In addition to her writing, private practice, and teaching, Paula is an avid watercolor painter.

**Doris Arrington,** EdD, ATR-BC, HLM, artist, art educator, art therapist, author and international speaker served 30 years as founding Director and Professor of the Art Therapy Psychology Department at Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont, CA. Internationally recognized as a speaker and consultant on family art therapy and trauma, Doris, a Fulbright Senior Specialist to the Ukraine has keynoted or taught caregivers how to use art to rehabilitate the abused and traumatized in Cambodia, China, England, Ethiopia, Ireland, Mexico, Poland, Russia, South Korea, Spain, Taiwan, Ukraine, and the United States. Author of many chapters, and articles, Doris’ book publications include: *Home is Where the Art Is: An Art Therapy Approach to Family Therapy and Art, Angst and Trauma: Right Hemisphere Interventions of Developmental Issues*. She serves on the Advisory Board for *The Arts in Psychotherapy: An International Journal*. Doris exhibits art through the Peninsula Art Institute in Burlingame, CA.

**Amy Backos,** PhD, ATR-BC, is the Chair of Graduate Art Therapy Psychology Program at Notre Dame de Namur University located in the San Francisco Bay Area. Dr. Backos’ clinical and research interests include: trauma recovery, Art Therapy to treat PTSD, and psychological assessment. She serves as Research Committee member of the American Art Therapy Association. In addition to serving as Thesis Director in the Art Therapy MA program, she also teaches in the PhD program and serves on the Internal Review Board at NDNU. Her clinical work includes 17 years of work with children, teens, and adults who experienced sexual assault and intimate partner violence, combat trauma, and substance abuse disorders. Additionally, she has 6 years’ experience with the Veteran’s Affairs Hospital providing evidence-based treatments and Art Therapy for veterans with PTSD, as well as working as a research associate and conducting independent research on PTSD with Vietnam and Iraq veterans. Dr. Backos has presented at many local and national conferences, including the American Psychological Association, The National Coalition against Sexual Assault, and the Buckeye Art Therapy Association. She serves as a guest lecturer in undergraduate and graduate psychology classes at Alliant International University and San Francisco State University. She is published in the areas of domestic violence, sexual assault, Art Therapy, and PTSD.

**Linda Gantt,** PhD, ATR-BC, HLM, has a Master’s degree of Arts in Art Therapy and a doctorate degree in Interdisciplinary Studies. She is the Executive Director of *Intensive Trauma Therapy*, in Morgantown, WV, an outpatient clinic for trauma-related disorders where art therapy is the primary means of treatment. She has presented nationally and internationally on art therapy in trauma treatment. Linda is also the co-developer along with Carmello Tabone of the Formal Elements Art Therapy Scale, an instrument designed for measuring diagnostic information in drawings.

**Jacqueline Jones,** MEd, MA, ATR, earned her Master’s degree of Education with a focus on Art Education from the University of Maryland, and received a Master’s degree of Arts in Art Therapy from the George Washington University. She is the Creative Arts Therapist at Intrepid Spirit One, the National Intrepid Center of Excellence satellite at Fort Belvoir Community Hospital, where she provides art therapy services to active duty service members recovering from traumatic brain injury and psychological health conditions. Jackie has enjoyed developing the art therapy program at the outpatient brain wellness clinic, providing individual and group-based art therapy, and advocating for the value of art therapy as an integral element of treatment for service members.

**Eileen McKee,** MA, ATR-BC, LCPAT received a master’s degree in art therapy from The School of The Art Institute of Chicago. She is an art therapist with the Department of Veteran’s Affairs in Livermore, California. She is a consulting art therapist for Rock Recovery, and previously worked for the Department of Defense treating addictions and co-occurring disorders in military populations. Eileen practices from a solution-focused and relational perspective, with a particular interest in collaborative, team-based treatment. She is an experienced clinician with practical emphasis and training in trauma processing, substance use disorders and chemical dependency, and mindfulness approaches to mental health treatment.