

AATA Featured Member

December 15, 2016



Robert Caswell, ATR-BC, LPC is a counselor and art therapist living in New Orleans and working at an outpatient mental health program with adults with severe mental illness. He graduated from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2007, and moved with his partner (and fellow art therapist), Holly Wherry, to New Orleans to help in the recovery after Hurricane Katrina. Robert was born in New Orleans, and many of his family members were driven out or affected by the storm. There, he worked in various capacities in the tattered mental health sector of the city, both inpatient and outpatient, and volunteered on recovery projects.

At the local level, Robert appreciates the chance to meet with other art therapists through the Louisiana Art Therapy Association (LATA). “There are such a small number of art therapists in the state,” he explains, “so our regular meetings provide an important source of support, idea-sharing, and community building.” Similarly, he views his experience at the AATA annual conference as a learning opportunity and a way to connect with inspiring colleagues in the fields.

In a recent project, Holly and Robert rode bikes across the country as the *Art Therapy Pedalers*, and pulled a mobile art therapy studio behind them to make art with those they met. He notes, “I have seen art therapy grow in locations around the country where it is not well known or understood, and yet people have such a positive and appreciative response.

For more information about the *Art Therapy Pedalers*, visit their [web page](#) and like their [Facebook page](#) in order to receive notice when the book about the adventure comes out!



Art Therapy Pedalers, Robert Caswell & Holly Wherry, 2014.

