

Emporia State University Hosts 43rd Annual Art Therapy Conference

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Each year, the graduate art therapy students host a special dinner for the conference keynote speaker. This year's speaker was Dr. Judy Rubin, ATR-BC.

Greetings from the center of the country! On Sunday March 12, 2017, Emporia State University hosted the 43rd Annual Art Therapy Discovery Day Conference. The annual event began in 1974, shortly after Robert Ault established the Graduate Art Therapy program in Emporia, KS. The one-day conference is a fun and informative event open to anyone with an interest in art therapy. Attendees included professional art therapists, counselors, social workers, psychologists, and current and prospective students.

This year, we were delighted to welcome AATA Honorary Life Member (HLM), Dr. Judy Rubin ATR-BC to present our keynote lecture. Rubin introduced the development of art therapy from its early history. She highlighted Naumburg, Kramer, Lowenfeld, Stepney, and Silver, among others. Rubin also offered breakout sessions celebrating her 54-year career, including her time on Mr. Rogers Neighborhood as the Art Lady. One attendee stated, "Judy Rubin was one of my

favorite Discovery Day guests ever. It was a real pleasure talking with her about her upbringing and her career.” Earlier in the week, the Jones Institute for Educational Excellence sponsored *Lessons from Mr. Rogers Neighborhood: An Evening with Judy Rubin*. The free event welcomed participants from the university as well as the Emporia community.



From left: Victoria Manheim, Leslie Woodruff, Kim Nguyen, Cynthia Woodruff, Charles Anderson, and Tina Brackman.



From left: Gaelynn P. Wolf Bordonaro, Ph.D., ATR-BC, Libby Schmanke, MS. ATR-BC. LCAC. and Jessica Stallings. MS. ATR-BC. LPC. AS.

We Shall Overcome as well as the Temptations’ *Ball of Confusion*. Charles is a dear friend to art therapists in Kansas, and his thoughtful, timely lecture was a wonderful addition to the program. KATA Past-President Amber Dalzell said, “It was such an honor to study under Charles Anderson while I was at Avila. I am humbled by his photography and his paintings portraying the personal struggles he lived during the civil rights movement of the 1960s.” We hope that we can convince Charles to share his moving presentation at a national conference!

The lunch program highlighted AATA Executive Director Cynthia Woodruff, KATA President Jessica Stallings, Student Art Therapy Organization president Kim Nguyen, ESU Internship Coordinator Libby Schmanke, and the presentation of the 2017 Nancy Knapp Memorial

It was an honor to welcome Kansas Art Therapy Association (KATA) HLM Charles Anderson to the conference. Anderson presented a plenary session as well as a breakout session. AATA members know Anderson as one of the founding members of the AATA Mosaic (now Multicultural) Committee, but in Emporia, we also think of him as a local treasure. Anderson served as an art therapist at Menninger Clinic for 40 years, and worked alongside Robert Ault for many of those years. Well into his second or third retirement, Anderson serves as part-time art therapist for Stormont Vail Healthcare in the psychiatric/geriatric unit, in Topeka KS, where he also provides mentorship and site supervision for yet another generation of inspired art therapy students.

In Anderson’s plenary, he chronicled his life as an art therapist of color during the civil rights movement. Participants glimpsed his personal and professional journey through his artwork and music. Selections included a beautiful rendition of

Scholarship to Kim Nguyen. During the final breakout session, prospective students attended a faculty panel to ask questions about applying to graduate school and the ESU program.



AATA Executive Director Cynthia Woodruff greets the 110 participants at the annual conference.

Afternoon presenters included recent alumni of Emporia State University: Alison Boughn, LMHC, NCC; Amanda Halling, LPC; and Keslie Humburg, LPC. Boughn led a *Professional Forest* workshop in which participants explored individual and professional identities through self-symbol trees arranged into a collective forest. Halling presented on the art therapy reintegration program she co-created for the Lyon County Jail as her Masters Project (the curriculum continues to be used by graduate interns at the county jail). Humburg presented her Masters Project, *Lights, Camera, Autism: A curriculum guide for the use of popular movies in art therapy with individuals on the Autism Spectrum*.

At the end of the conference, participants enjoyed a narrated electronic exhibit of mandalas created by the first year cohort of art therapy students, and retrieved treasures won at the silent art and gift auction benefiting a Robert E. Ault Scholarship Fund, which will soon be established through the AATA Scholarship Committee.

