



The AATA Recognizes Distinguished Members at the 2016 Annual Conference

AATA

July 27, 2016

The American Art Therapy Association recognized recipients of recognitions, awards, and scholarships during the 2016 Annual Conference. Board President Donna Betts, PhD, ATR-BC, led the introductions and recognitions at a Plenary Luncheon Awards Ceremony on Saturday, July 9. Dr. Betts presented the 2016 Honorary Life Membership Award, and Honors Committee Chair Craig Siegel, ATR-BC, ATCS, presented additional prestigious honors:



From left: Lynn Kapitan and Donna Betts

- *Honorary Life Membership Award:* **Lynn Kapitan**, PhD, ATR-BC
- *Distinguished Clinician Award – Family Services:* **Paige Asawa**, PhD, ATR-BC, LMFT
- *Distinguished Educator Award:* **Michael Franklin**, PhD, ATR-BC
- *Distinguished Clinician Award – Adult Services:* **Martha Haeseler**, ATR-BC
- *Distinguished Service Award:* **Patricia St John**, EdD, ATR-BC, LCAT



Craig Siegel and Donna Betts present awards to (from left): Paige Asawa, Michael Franklin, Martha Haeseler, and Patricia St John.

Dr. Betts bestowed Presidential Recognition Awards to three volunteers for their exceptional service and dedication to the AATA:

- **Dana Elmendorf**, MA, ATR-BC, LPC, *ACATE Chair*
- **Gretchen Miller**, MA, ATR-BC, ACTP, *Facebook Content Manager*
- **Jane DeSouza**, MPS, ATR-BC, LCAT, *Conference Chair*



From left: Donna Betts with Dana Elmendorf; Gretchen Miller; Jane DeSouza with Donna Betts

Multicultural Committee Chair Brittney N. Washington, ATR, presented recipients of the Pearlle Roberson Scholarship Award:

- **Mariah Gormas**: “Measuring Implicit Racial Bias in Art Therapists Using a Projective Art Assessment.”
- **Yemonja Smalls**, PhD: “Black, Check. Female, Check. The Box Redefined. An Evaluation of the Digitally Collaged Self-Portrait on Identity on Identity Formation.”
- **Louvenia Jackson**, PhD, MFT, ATR: “Art Therapy Heuristic Study in Collaboration with a Collective Project to Help Promote New Epistemology, Self-Awareness and Enhance Cultural Humility in Art Therapy.”



From left: Brittney N. Washington, Mariah Gormas, and Donna Betts

Scholarship Committee Chair Michele Rattigan, ATR-BC, NCC, LPC, presented certificates to recipients of the Student Scholarship Awards and the New Professional Scholarships:

- *American Art Therapy Association Anniversary Scholarship*: **Mollie B. German**
- *Cay Drachnik Minorities Fund*: **Kyra Johana Sjarif**
- *Myra Levick Scholarship Fund*: **Kimberly Knowles**
- *Rawley Silver Award for Excellence*: **Zoé Cavnar-Lewandowski**

- *Student Scholarships to the American Art Therapy Association Annual Conference: **Sadé Barksdale, Jenna Broderick, Christine Hillman***
- *New Professional Scholarships to the American Art Therapy Association Annual Conference: **John Foxwell, Antigoni Mikellidou***

Research Committee Chair Megan Robb, ATR-BC, LPC, NCC, presented the recipients of the [2016 Research Awards](#):

- *American Art Therapy Association Research Award: **Donna Kaiser**, PhD, ATR-BC, LPC, LMFT & **Caroline Peterson**, MA, ATR-BC, LPC*
- *Gladys Agell Award for Excellence in Research: **Jessica Lynch**, MAAT*
- *Rawley Silver Research Award: **Deborah Elkis-Abuhoff**, PhD, LCAT, ATR-BC, ATCS, BCPC & **Morgan Gaydos**, MA, LCAT, ATR-BC*



From left: Donna Kaiser, Savneet Talwar, Yasmine J. Awais, and Donna Betts

AATA Journal Executive Editor Donna Kaiser, PhD, ATR-BC, LPC, LMFT, and Associate Editor Savneet Talwar, PhD, ATR-BC, recognized AATA member **Yasmine J. Awais**, MAAT, ATR-BC, ATCS, LCAT, LPC & Ann Marie Yali, PhD, as recipients of the *Best Paper Award* for their authorship of, “Efforts in Increasing Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Field of Art Therapy.”

The AATA congratulates all 2016 award recipients! Members are encouraged to nominate colleagues for the 2017 awards. For more information, click [here](#).

