



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Life is a learning experience. When you lay your head down each night you need to be able to state one thing – no matter how big or small – that you have learned that day.

An important thing I have learned is that becoming involved in state/national organizations for our profession is a necessity. We cannot do it with just a few professionals. We need to all become involved.

It's like what I try to teach my patients. You need to use your team, who is anyone in your life, to help you accomplish what you want. You cannot always do it by yourself. There are many opportunities to get involved or learn from your state organization and also your national organizations. They are your team and can be a great resource.

If you have questions, ideas or just want to know what's going on with RT in the state or nationally just pick up the phone, e-mail or facebook. I know recently I have asked many questions and advice from members of ATRS and ATRA and I plan to continue.

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Calendar of Events

**July 2010**

11-17  
Nat. T. R. Week

**August 2010**

18-20  
Texas T.R. Summit

**September 2010**

12-15  
ATRA Annual Conference  
Spokane, WA

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## 2010 Therapeutic Recreation Arts Festival "Bringing Out The Best In Me"

If you didn't make it to the Clear Channel Metroplex on May 7th, you missed a lot of fun! Little Rock Parks and Rec.—Therapeutic Recr. Dept had yet another great festival aimed at enriching the lives of individual with disabilities. There were: Hands on Activities,

Make it and Take it Crafts, Climbing Wall, Food, Music and Much More!!

**Make a date now, for next May.**

## 2010 Rollin' Round the Rim Wheelchair Basketball Tournament



ATU's team of former and current basketball players put their 'best wheel forward' to beat UCA in this year's wheelchair basketball tournament. ATU then went on to face the Pro team, which included former Rollin Razorback Bill Fryar, in a losing battle that ended in ATU's loss of 5-1.

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## NCTRC Specialty Certification Now Offered!!!

### NCTRC Specialty Certification Professional Areas of Recognition

- Physical Medicine/Rehabilitation
- Geriatrics
- Developmental Disabilities
- Behavioral Health
- Community Inclusion Services



As healthcare evolves, both the technical knowledge and the skills required to successfully practice in a complex service environment significantly increase. Although in practice there remains a need to possess a broad range of professional skills, there is an increasing expectation to develop focused and specialized knowledge and skills that are distinctive to a specific population and service sector. Health and human service professionals who acquire a higher level of knowledge and more advanced skill provide the consumer with a greater depth of service compared to individuals who practice at a less advanced level. Specialization is well recognized within professional practice and has become the norm within the health and human service delivery system today.

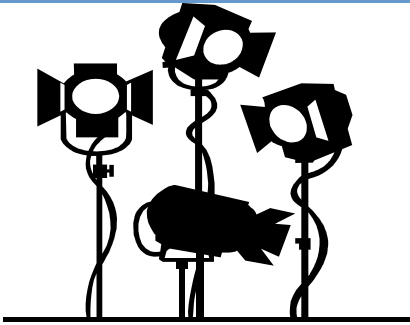
Establishing a method to distinguish professionals who practice at an advanced level is essential to ensure quality of care and risk management. The attainment of advanced knowledge and skill is acquired via several methods including education programs, conferences focused upon specific skills or diagnostic populations, and the successful acquisition of expert skills that have been mastered over a substantial period of practice. The primary purpose of NCTRC specialty certification is to acknowledge the CTRS whose practice has reached an advanced professional level, and to provide formal recognition of competence beyond the CTRS credential. NCTRC specialty certification provides an additional level of assurance to patients, consumers, and employers regarding the delivery of quality recreation therapy and therapeutic recreation services.

**For more information, visit [www.nctrc.org/SpecCert.htm](http://www.nctrc.org/SpecCert.htm)**

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# Member Spotlight

Eric Ascough, CTRS  
Member at Large



**Toni LeQuieu, CTRS**

**Arkansas Spinal Cord  
Commission**



Current job/duties? “I work full time as a Arkansas Spinal Cord Commission Case Manager. I cover several counties in north central Arkansas. I help coordinate services for individuals with spinal cord injuries.”

Professional accomplishments and satisfactions? “I have a pretty good working relationship with several agencies, federal agencies and universities around the state. I help coordinate a mobility hunting program within the state, I helped to advise a young lady and help as a personal coach with a basketball program for disabled youth in the Russellville area, teach classes when asked at UCA and ATU, work with Dr. Cathi McMahan within the Rollin Round The Rim Wheelchair Basketball Tournament, worked to make a wheelchair accessible archery range in Yell County. I have been asked to speak at several disabled conferences over the past couple of years. I also field many questions each year on how to adapt different activities such as hunting, fishing and gardening for people with disabilities.”

What is a typical/perfect workday? “A typical day at work is organizing peoples needs with resources and doing home visits with my clients.” “The perfect day at work would be I got a call to inform me that they have found a cure for SCI and that I call all my clients to tell them the good news.”

How does TR fit into your current job? “Well that is an interesting question. Everyone needs TR to some extent. I am able to provide answers to individuals with SCI on different activities and resources that benefit the client and their families.”

Education? “I have a BS degree from Henderson State University.”

Past work experience? I worked for about ten years at Health South Rehab in Jonesboro and the moved to the Arkansas Spinal Cord Commission in Russellville. I have been here going on five years.”

Hobbies/Family? “I have been married to my wife Elizabeth for almost five years who is an OT Instructor at UCA. We have a 20 month old and a 12 year old from my first marriage. I coach softball for my 12 year old and have done this since she was 6 years old. I like the outdoors and try and do as many outdoor activities as I can. I enjoy hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, ATV riding, archery and spending time with my family.”

Something that no one knows you may have an interest in or want to do? “I would like to try hang gliding. I think that it would be fun.”

I first met Toney as he was a presenter at an ATRS Conference back in the late 1990’s. What caught my attention was his knowledge and services he was offering the community and for his clients/patients. In 2005 Toney and I went to the ATRA Conference in Washington D.C. with a small group of ATRS members. We knew things were about to change. They did and will continue to change. Toney has adapted to these changes and continues to provide TR Services.

Look on the web for  
what ATRS has planned  
to celebrate!!

## National Therapeutic Recreation Week July 11–17, 2010

Visit [www.recreationtherapy.com](http://www.recreationtherapy.com) for ideas on promoting  
Recreation Therapy at your workplace

## 14th Annual T.R. Summit—Texas August 18–20, 2010



Held each year and sponsored by the Therapeutic Recreation (TR) branch. The Summit is a great opportunity to share new ideas about programming for individuals with special needs, new twists on old ideas, hands-on learning, networking, and just plain fun.  
(more information and web links on the ATRS website)

## American Therapeutic Recreation Association 2010 Annual Conference September 12-15, 2010



For more information and registration visit: [www.atra-online.com](http://www.atra-online.com)

## What's Going On?

Jimmie Duvall of Arkansas Tech University received the ATRS Student Scholarship. Jimmie is majoring in Recreation and Park Administration with an emphasis in Therapeutic Recreation. He is a hard worker both in the classroom and in the work force. Jimmie has managed to make the Dean's List while taking 15-18 hours and working 2-3 part-time jobs. Jimmie has a passion for working with individuals with disabilities and became interested in T.R. after working at Camp Aldersgate. Keep an eye out for Jimmie at our next Conference to congratulate him on winning our Annual Scholarship.

If you haven't already heard, Erika Kirkes and husband Matt are the proud new parents of

### Wyatt Edward Kirkes

born April 12, 2010

He weighed 8 lbs. 4 oz. and was 20.5 inches long

He's doing great!!



Let us know **What's Going On** by sending any news of events or recognition to:  
[eric.ascough@uhsinc.com](mailto:eric.ascough@uhsinc.com)

Report of the ATRA CAC call  
On March 12, 2010

The things that discussed were:

- Report of the Mid Year conference at Biloxi MS, it was reported that there were 170 people in attendance.
- Encouraged members to submit information for awards that will be presented at the annual conference in Spokane WA. For more information on award criteria go to ATRA web site for detail information and deadlines. Below is a listing of all the awards.
  - Distinguished Fellow
  - Outstanding Professional
  - Member of the Year
  - Individual Citation
  - Organization/Institution Citation
  - Certificate of Recognition
  - Frank N. Brasile Clinician of the Year
  - Excellence in Education
  - Scholarly Achievement
  - Chapter Affiliate of the Year
  - Advocacy
- Encourage students to submit for several scholarships that are available. Names of those scholarships are listed below; please go to ATRA web site for detail criteria information and deadlines.
  - Linda Levine-Madori Scholarship
  - Peg Connolly Scholarship
- Discussed new Incentive program with ATRA and the CAC board where a \$250.00 grant is available, deadline for submission is April 30th. Listed below are a few possible uses of this funding if awarded.
  - Membership Campaign
  - Workshop/Conference/Webinar cost
  - Chapter Conference Speaker
  - Marketing
- Discussed changes to the Articles of Operation for the CAC board that will be voted on at the annual conference in Spokane WA in Oct. Listed below are areas for the proposed changes.
  - Article VI Nomination & Election
  - Election
- Next CAC conference call is April 9<sup>th</sup>, at 11 am central time.
- Next ATRA Membership Call is April 1<sup>st</sup>, at noon central time.

Respectfully submitted by  
Diann Smith, CTRS  
ATRS President Elect/ATRS CAC representative

facebook



Don't forget—we're on Facebook.  
(Arkansas Therapeutic Recreation Society)

Become a fan!!!  
Add information, post pictures, comment on other posts, etc