

THE SMART NEWSLETTER

April 2025

By



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RECREATIONAL
THERAPY STUDENT
CONFERENCE**

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SMART CEUs HUB SET TO ATTEND THE GREAT LAKES RECREATION THERAPY STUDENT CONVENTION



This month we are excited to support the future of the profession at the Great Lakes Student Recreational Therapy Student Conference. The event, planned by Illinois State University, the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, Eastern Michigan University, Central Michigan University, Grand Valley State University and Indiana University, brings together over 100 students and professionals for a weekend of learning, networking, and personal growth. This unique, student-focused opportunity is in its 7th year. The event cannot happen without professionals willing to give of their time and knowledge, and we are excited to be a small part of it!

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The students are able to attend an expo event featuring many businesses and organization related to the field. This provides a chance to interface with potential internship sites, employers, learn about adaptive games and equipment, and be exposed to other areas of the profession like continuing education.

SMART CEUs Hub is excited to meet the future of RT. If you are looking for a new way to support students, this conference may be a great opportunity for you in 2026. Stay connected with the event (see info below) and watch for the call for papers for speakers in January.

Good luck to all of the speakers and students. We are excited to see you shine. Thank you again to everyone who worked hard to plan this event! See you there!

CONNECT WITH GLRTSC



@RecTherapyStuCon



www.rectherapystucon.com

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Pictured: Nathan Lamaster at last year's event

MIDWEST SYMPOSIUM ON THERAPEUTIC RECREATION

SMART CEUs Hub will be at the Midwest Symposium!

We are excited to engage in not one but two conferences in April. Look for SMART CEUs Hub and owner Nathan Lamaster at the Midwest Symposium's sponsors exhibit. Come learn about exciting new courses, the SMART Minute YouTube channel, ways to save on continuing education, and grab your fun swag!

The 2025 Symposium will be in historic St. Joseph, Missouri which is full of architecture, the Pony Express, known as the Tenderloin Capital of the World, and hosts the Gloré Psychiatric Museum which has been featured on The Learning Channel, The Discovery Channel, PBS and The Science Channel.



Learn more about the Midwest Symposium

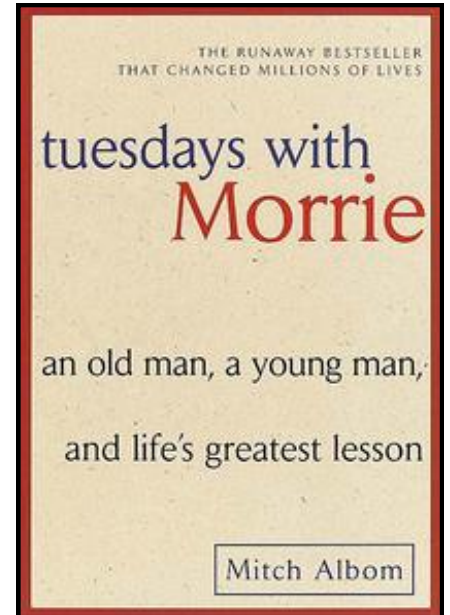
“The Midwest Symposium on Therapeutic Recreation is a professional development and networking opportunity for those working in recreational therapy and related fields. This annual event began in 1975 and rotates throughout the Midwest each year.”

SMART INSTRUCTORS

*Meet the professions creating courses for
SMART CEUs Hub*

MEET EMILY JORGENSEN

SMART Course:	Social Media & Advocacy in Therapeutic Recreation
Place of Employment:	I am a Recreational Therapist at a retirement community in Iowa
Favorite Book	Tuesdays with Morrie
Hobbies	I love to go camping in remote areas and hike and fish and canoe.



Favorite Quote:

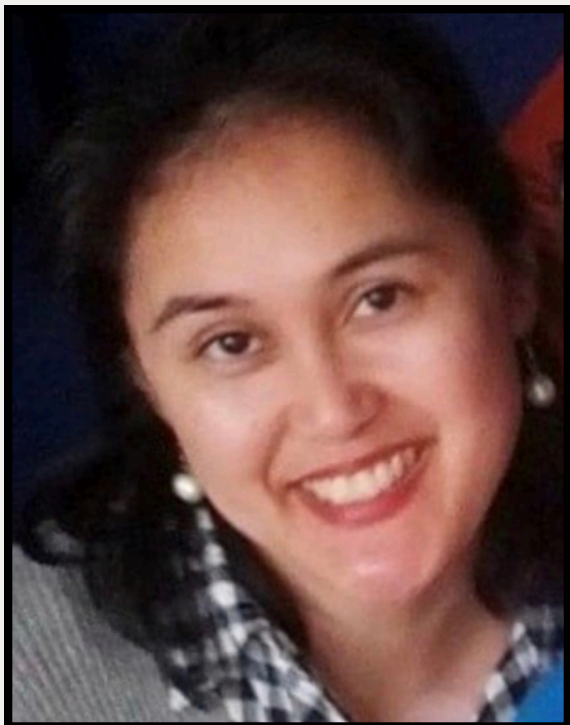
*"Life is not measured by
how many breaths you
take but by the
moments that take your
breath away."*



SMART INSTRUCTORS CONT...

MEET MARINITA DE LA PEÑA SANTOS

- SMART Courses:** Therapeutic Board Games for People with Traumatic Brain Injury
- Place of Employment:** I work as a Recreation Therapist on an inpatient Brain Injury Unit at Veterans Affairs Hospital in Palo Alto, California. I also work as a consultant for group homes for people with Developmental Delay.
- Favorite Quote:** "You can discover more about a person in an hour of play than in a year of conversation." Plato
- Fun Fact:** I have lived in three countries, Philippines, Canada and USA.



"My passion is education. I have supervised interns for over 15 years. I have also supervised international students to help them get their CTRS. I also mentor students at the University of Utah."

ATRA ADVOCACY UPDATE

**ATRA has released their 2025
advocacy priorities.**

Click to view the PDF.



FROM THE ATRA WEBSITE: DOE CALL TO ACTION

“In response to the Executive order to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education (DOE), we are asking you to call your Members of Congress and reach out to your state officials to educate them on the important work that the DOE does to protect and support students with disabilities and their families, and to talk to them about the role of Recreational Therapists in schools. “



*Review all of ATRA's
advocacy causes by
clicking the image.*

Read on to page 6

ADVANCE YOUR PRACTICE

Virtual Summit

From the ATRA Website:

“ATRA is excited to invite you to the **Advance Your Practice Summit: Recreational Therapy Entrepreneurial Leadership**. This virtual event is designed for Recreational Therapy professionals eager to expand their knowledge and grow their private practices. This Summit will offer insights on business strategies, funding opportunities, and facilitate networking with like-minded professionals. Watch pre-recorded sessions at your own pace and tune in for three live and interactive events throughout the Summit (May 1 - June 1, 2025).”



Registration and Preliminary Program now available!

CLICK HERE

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- **ADVANCED CLINICIANS CONSIDERING STARTING A BUSINESS**
- **CURRENT RT BUSINESS OWNERS SEEKING GROWTH STRATEGIES**
- **RTS WITH 5+ YEARS OF EXPERIENCE LOOKING TO ENHANCE THEIR ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS**

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ATRA SAN ANTONIO 2025

A Summit on the Future of Recreational Therapy

From the ATRA Website:

“For 2025, we’re embracing a summit-style approach to our annual conference — a dynamic, immersive experience designed to foster deeper connection with the key issues impacting us all: higher education, research and evidence-based practice, practice issues, and legislation and licensure. Attendees can expect a balance of general sessions and focused breakout discussions, all designed to foster meaningful conversations and collaborative learning.”



Call for Papers is Open

Select from two different categories to best suit you, your speaking style, and your topic. Different due dates (both in May), are provided for each category.



REGISTRATION

OPENS MAY 1ST!

Stay Connected with ATRA for more updates:



<https://www.atra-online.com/san-antonio>



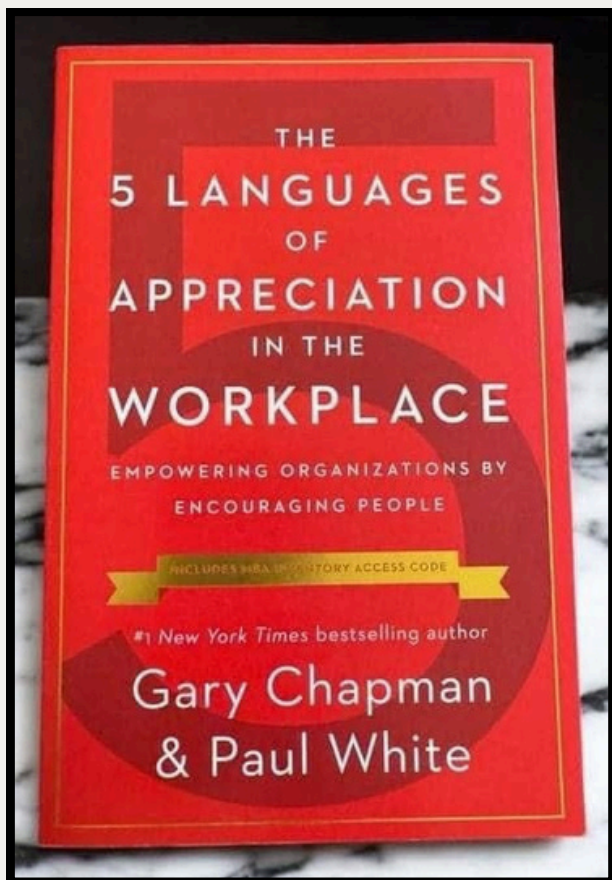
[American Therapeutic Recreation Association](#)



[ATRAinAction](#)

SMART BOOK OF THE MONTH

The 5 Languages of Appreciation in the Workplace delves into the profound impact that personalized appreciation can have on employee morale and engagement. Drs. Gary Chapman and Paul White reveal the five languages of appreciation, enabling you to authentically express your gratitude in ways that truly resonate with your co-workers and staff.



In *The 5 Languages of Appreciation in the Workplace*, Dr. Chapman and Dr. White will help you identify the five languages of appreciation in order to

- Express genuine appreciation to co-workers and staff — even on a tight budget.
- Increase loyalty with the employees and volunteers in your organization.
- Reduce cynicism and create a more positive work environment.
- Improve your ability to show appreciation for difficult colleagues.
- Convey the language of physical touch in appropriate ways.

LEARN MORE



[CLICK HERE TO VISIT THE WEBSITE](#)

SMART PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



CHAIR CHI

Chair Chi is a gentle exercise program developed by Pat Griffith to help people receive the benefits of the traditional Tai Chi Chuan in the comfort and safety of their chair. This allows people who cannot stand or lack confidence with their balance (walker, wheelchair, and movement disorder) to participate and benefit. Those benefits include balance, flexibility, range of motion, strength, energy, pain relief, tranquility, stress reduction, and peace of mind.

PAT HAS PRESENTED AT RT CONFERENCES INCLUDING:

- Texas Recreation and Park Society (TRAPS)
- Bay Area Therapeutic Recreation Association (BATRA)
- California Park and Recreation Society (CPRS)
- Ohio Recreational Therapy Association (ORTA)
- New Jersey/Eastern Pennsylvania Therapeutic Recreation Association (NJEPTA)
- Georgia Therapeutic Recreation Association (GTRA)
- Recreational Therapist of Indiana (RTI)
- North Carolina Recreational Therapy Association (NCRTA)

Earn a lifetime Chair Chi certification through one of Pat's seminars.

View upcoming seminars on next page.

SMART PARTNER CONT...

**JOIN ONE OF PAT'S TWO UPCOMING TRAINING SESSIONS
WITH SMART PARTNERS ORTA AND NJEPA-TRA.**



Join ORTA and Chair
Chi for Our Spring
Virtual Training Event!

ORTA est. 2017
Ohio Recreational Therapy Association

Thursday, May 8th, 2025
10:00am - 4:30pm EST

Zoom link provided at registration

ORTA members: \$115
VA employees: \$115
Non-Members: \$130
Course Refresher: \$25*

*Must have previously been certified

Register at orta-online.com/Chair-Chi-Fundraiser

- Appropriate for all ages and populations
- Adaptations provided during training
- Training materials included in registration
- 6 CE hours available
- 30 minute lunch break included
- Can be used for NCTRC CE requirement



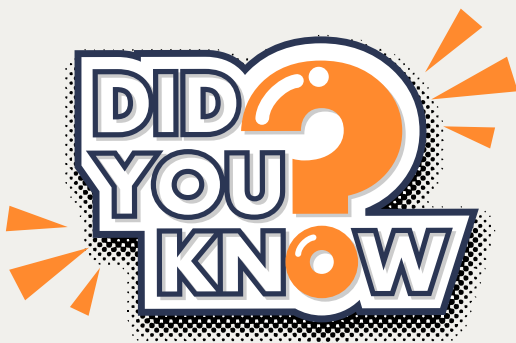
All proceeds support the ORTA Scholarship Fund



Announcement
Save the Date

NJ/EPA-TRA will be hosting
a Chair Chi seminar
May 31st

Click each image for registration details



**PAT WAS AWARDED THE 2023
INDIVIDUAL CITATION AWARD
FROM ATRA!**

NCTRC RECERTIFICATION & ANNUAL MAINTENANCE

Are you due to renew your CTRS credential?



CTRS renewals are typically due by June and December. If you are at your 5 year cycle, that includes the need for 50 hours of continuing education.

NEED CEUs?

SMART CEUs Hub offers courses for individual purchase and an annual membership which provides you unlimited access to all 300+ hours of continuing education on the site. Claim your CEUs with convenience, NCTRC pre-approved, quality courses. Topics available across the lifespan, with many focused on interventions you can use with your clients. Courses are self-paced and a completion certificate is provided for recertification purposes.

CLICK EACH LOGO TO LEARN MORE!



LEARN MORE ABOUT SMART CEUS HUB



THE UNLIMITED CEUS MEMBERSHIP

The Best Value In RT Continuing Education

\$179/YEAR = UNLIMITED ACCESS

***ALL COURSES NCTRC PRE-APPROVED**

MEMBERS HAVE ACCESS TO ALL 70 COURSES IN THE CATALOG!

**Course count as of 12/1/2024*

CLICK TO LEARN MORE!

Did you know SMART CEUs Hub offers a corporate membership?

A photograph of a diverse group of five professionals (three men and two women) in a meeting. They are gathered around a table, looking at laptops and documents. The image is used as a background for the corporate membership promotion.

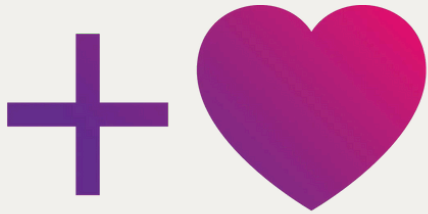
Save \$\$\$ on your team's CE cost with the...

**Unlimited CEUs
Membership
Corporate Account**

SMART
CEUs Hub

- Available to groups of four or more who purchase the Unlimited CEU Membership
- Offers 20% off the original price of \$179 which saves over \$35 per membership
- Includes unlimited access to the course catalog for the life of the membership
- Must be renewed annual and maintain four or more memberships to remain eligible

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THERAPEUTIC RECREATION ONTARIO

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NLTRA

Newfoundland & Labrador
Therapeutic Recreation Association



ORTA est. 2017



MY RT

MY RECREATION THERAPIST



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about partnerships.](#)