

# A.M.T.A. .

American Music Therapy Association Students

[www.amtas.org](http://www.amtas.org)



Happy Spring to all of you!

The year 2013 is in its full swing and all the regional conferences happened. It is about time to learn about all the wonderful things students of AMTAS do all around the country.

This newsletter is for you:

By and for the students of AMTAS.

Enjoy!

## Spring Newsletter 2013

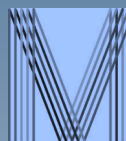
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## AMTAS Officers 2013



### From left to right:

Diandra Russo: Secretary  
Sara Thomas: President  
Alison Wendel: Outgoing SAAB Chair  
Kayla Hamilton: Treasurer  
Ethan Schmidt: Vice-President  
Melissa Heffner: Parliamentarian  
Scott Schmitz: President Elect

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## Officer Reports

### Vice President

Hello, my name is Ethan Schmidt and I would like to thank you for electing me to serve you as your Vice President of AMTAS. I am currently finishing up my Music Therapy course work at the University of Louisville. At UofL I have the privilege of serving as the Music Therapy Student Organization President. Following the completing of my course work, I will be moving to Murfreesboro, TN to intern at a VA hospital. My main duty as the AMTAS Vice-President is to keep the website updated by adding any new documents or information that may be helpful to interns and students. The website is a great way to obtain information about scholarships, internships, and upcoming events. If you need anything at all please feel free to contact me at [etschm01@louisville.edu](mailto:etschm01@louisville.edu). I look forward to meeting each of you at the 2013 American Music Therapy National Conference in Jacksonville, Florida.

## Parliamentarian

Hello AMTAS members!

I am still so excited to have been elected to serve as Parliamentarian for 2013. I feel so honored to have this opportunity!

A little bit about me: I am a graduate equivalency student at Ohio University and will finish my internship at the end of May. In the fall, I will return as a "real" grad student to OU and am expected to graduate next May. As Parliamentarian, my job is to make sure that all AMTAS business meetings adhere to Robert's Rules of Order. A large part of my duties also involve reviewing the AMTAS Bylaws to ensure that the content supports the needs and goals of AMTAS. The proposed changes I make will be presented at the annual AMTAS business meetings for approval. When appropriate, I will involve the other Executive Officers of AMTAS in these proposed changes, and I will be asking for their input regarding additions to the bylaws, if needed. My main concern at this point is maintaining consistency throughout the document and making sure that information is clear and concise.

I wish you all a wonderful spring and summer! We will see you in the fall!

Melissa Heffner, AMTAS Parliamentarian 2013

## Secretary

Buongiorno to all of you!

What a wonderful opportunity you have all given me to serve as your Secretary this year! My name is Diandra Russo and I am an international student at Alverno College in Milwaukee, WI at the end of my junior year in my undergraduate studies for music therapy. I am very appreciative to be part of two incredibly empowering organizations such as AMTA and AMTAS and am thankful for all the advocacy and the work that is put forth, to keep our profession moving forward. It is my job as the Secretary to housekeep our Facebook & Twitter page and I would like to invite you all to join the conversations and share any interesting information and thoughts. In the next few months I will start transferring our AMTAS Facebook Group Page into a Profile Page, so keep an eye out. I also had the pleasure to compile this newsletter and I was thrilled to read about all the incredible things that are happening all around the country. I can't wait to meet you all in Jacksonville Florida!

Happy Music Making!

Diandra Russo, AMTAS Secretary, 2013

# Regional AMTAS Reports

## Western Region

WRAMTAS is continuing to forge connections between students in the region. The executive board distributed the first Virtual Master Class call for papers to professionals within the region and the turnout was excellent; WRAMTAS was able to provide 4 VMCs to students in the region during the 2012-2013 school year. Additionally, a "pen pal program" was launched at regional conference and is further continuing the region's goal of connectedness between students. The WRAMTA conference was held on April 4th-7th in Tempe, Arizona. In addition to basking in the sun, students enjoyed the first ever conference student social event and participated in Connections--a day of conference solely for students, interns, and new professionals. The executive board is continuing to develop the website, [wramtas.org](http://wramtas.org), and hopes to compile numerous resources available on the website for the students in the region. The new executive board, elected at conference, will assume their positions on May 1st, 2013. WRAMTAS looks forward to more growth and connectedness in the upcoming year.

## Great Lakes Region

GLR of the AMTAS held Passages 2013 in Columbus, Ohio. The event featured student presentations, an internship panel, and a keynote presentation from Local music therapist Deborah Layman. We were able to offer three scholarships to students covering the cost of their registration at conference. Awards were received by Cathleen Flynn from Saint Mary of the Woods, Melanie Brison from the University of Evansville and Hannah Lowe from the University of Dayton. New officers were elected to the executive board at our regional business meeting. The new board hopes to continue work on the MY Musicians Grant, planning to donate \$500 worth of instruments to a local public school in need. In addition, incoming president Melissa Schumann, has expressed a strong interest in student advocacy and designing an app for GLR of the AMTAS functions.

## New England Region

Greetings to all! The NER conference has come and gone, with wonderful student attendance. 59 students registered and attended NER conference this year. The conference took place from April 4 to 6 at Hotel Viking in Newport, RI. This year we had a few student presenters, one presenting about a mentor program, as well as a presentation on the international service project to Greece, which took place in March of 2012. NER-AMTAS hosts Passages in the fall, separate from the regional conference. Elections for board members took place for the 2013-2014 board, and we will be extending the voting period due to extenuating purposes. However, I am pleased to announce that Katie Olsen is now President of NER-AMTAS. We also voted to combine the position of secretary and parliamentarian, which the regional students and boards believed to be a beneficial move for our small but mighty region. NER-AMTAS is sponsoring a service trip to Panama, where 6 students from the region will conduct sessions and in-services. I am thrilled that the board is continuing to support the international service projects and expanding their cultural awareness and experiences. For more information on the region, as well as the "Panamaniacs" please see our website: <http://www.neramtas.org/>.

May music continue to inspire and guide you. Fondly, Mikhala O'Donnell NER-AMTAS President 2012-2013

*I would like to thank Mikhala O'Donnell for all of her hard work over the past year as President. I certainly have large shoes to fill; however I am extremely optimistic about the year to come. Here is to another year of music and community.  
Always, Katie Olsen NER-AMTAS President 2013-2014*

## Mid-Atlantic Region

MARAMTS is excited for our regional conference this year that will take place April 4-6 in Scranton, PA. The theme for this year's conference is "On Track with Music Therapy" and will feature an assortment of inspiring sessions and MAR's 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party. The annual MARAMTS Student Service Project will take place in the morning on Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at St. Joseph's Center in Scranton. This facility is a large intermediate care facility for children and young adults with a variety of multiple handicaps, developmental delays, and neurological impairments. Students will volunteer their time before conference begins to carry our group music therapy sessions at this site. Also at conference, MARAMTS will be selling our new "Ask Me About Music Therapy" travel mugs. If there are any mugs left, we will be bringing them to Jacksonville in the fall for all of you to see as well! MARAMTS is also excited to give out our annual scholarships for students in our region: 2 club awards, 2 sophomore awards, 3 junior awards, 1 graduate award, and the Jenny Shinn Internship Award.

## Southwestern Region

Southwest and Midwest joint Regional Conference will take place April 4-7<sup>th</sup> in San Antonio, Texas. The theme is "Building Bridges: Fostering Unity in Our Music Therapy Community". Passages will consist of eight different concurrent student led presentations, ranging from use of iPads to opera in music therapy settings! SWAMTAS will have a booth and will be selling pens, stickers, and sticky notes decorated with an original music therapy logo. We have begun a project to create a directory of music therapy interns. This directory of current and recently completed interns would be available to music therapy students who are applying to internships so that they could contact the interns to receive information about the internships with the end goal of being better equipped to find the internship of best-fit. SWAMTAS held a fundraiser through GoFundMe.com. Over \$165 was donated. These funds and others from our budget will be used award over \$400 in prizes for those that compete in the President's Challenge. This year the President's Challenge consists of submitting a piece of creative writing that articulates a peak experience in music therapy. SWAMTAS has started a website/blog: [swamtas.wordpress.com](http://swamtas.wordpress.com). We hope that the website will become a location where students can find information about universities across the region, scholarships, events, and music therapy resources. Also check out the 2012-2013 SWAMTAS president's music therapy site, [musictherapiststudent.com](http://musictherapiststudent.com).

## Southeastern Region

In addition to hosting fundraising events such as benefit concerts, selling merchandise, and hosting dinners for local shelters, the student organizations have been continuing their efforts to advocate music therapy on their campuses through various informational sessions and events. One of the big goals for the students has been to improve communication across the region. We now have a SER-AMTAS like page on facebook as well as a facebook group for the presidents of each campus student organization. This has helped to make communication a little easier within such a big region. During this years regional conference the SER-AMTAS elected new officers for the upcoming year. President: Freddy Perkins. This exec board plans on continuing to improve the lines of communication within the region as well as starting up committees within the student organization. Lastly one thing the new board plans on doing is starting up scholarships for students to help them to be able to afford conference and overall help improve conference attendance, especially at the national level. The students as a whole have enjoyed this year's conference and look forward to continue improving ourselves as an organization and professionals.

## Midwestern Region

Greeting from the Midwest Region!

This year's conference was a combined conference with SWAMTA in San Antonio, Texas from April 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>. We were more than willing to visit San Antonio and warm weather after the never ending winter we are still experiencing in our region! The topic of this year's conference was "Building Bridges" which was very fitting for all of the connections students were able to make at this year's conference with professionals and students alike. Passages gave our students the opportunity to hear what other students have to say about internships, the use of an iPad in sessions, and so much more. This year's intern scholarship contest allowed students to create a song as to why they love the Midwest! The students had to get creative because they were not able to use a guitar or piano. We had a lot of fantastic entries and our 1<sup>st</sup> place winner was Kim Hesse from Wartburg College and the runner up was Anna Smith from the University of Kansas. Congratulations to our winners and thank you again to everyone who entered for their fantastic submissions. We have also elected a new board of students that will lead our students over the next year. The new president is Rebecca Townsend from the University of Kansas and our Vice President is Taylor Woods from The University of Iowa. Congratulations to our entire regional board of officers! Keep your eyes peeled for the dates of a student conference later this year and opportunities to get involved in the region. This information and more can be found on the regional website, <http://www.und.nodak.edu/org/amtamidwestern/MWRAMTAS.html>. It has been a fantastic semester in the Midwest Region and the board looks forward to seeing everyone at AMTA National Convention in Jacksonville, Florida this November.

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Hello AMTAS Students!



I want you to know how much I have loved my position as SAAB Chair. My life is richer for having met and served with you. Your stories of perseverance through all of the difficulties that come during the Music Therapy Program experiences are inspirational. The way you continue to feel the passion for and desire to move forward in order to be able to make a real difference in the lives of whichever population you end up with gives me such hope for the future of our shared profession.

I am sad to share that I will shortly stepping down as your SAAB Chair. This has been an extremely difficult decision to make. It was not made lightly. However, I need to practice what I ask of those I serve. Self-care is so important. Knowing where your limits are, and being brave enough to stick them takes self-awareness and strength. I can promise that while I am taking care of other professional obligations and the needs of my family, I will still be keeping up with what you are doing as members of AMTAS. I will be supporting your new SAAB Chair in every aspect of the position.

So continue to rock the music therapy student life. Move forward with the confidence that you do make a difference. Each of you makes our world and our profession stronger. You as a person, as a student, and as a clinician are contributing to the health of our nation. My thoughts and best wishes for your success will continue to be with you. Please still come and find me at conferences to say hello!

With Fondness,

Alison Wendel, MT-BC

Outgoing SAAB Chair



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## Announcements



### **AMTA 2013 National Conference:**

**"Voices of the Sea"  
in Jacksonville, Florida**

**Please save the date:**

Thursday, November 21, 2013

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Sunday, November 24, 2013

### **Scholarships**

Please watch out for the yearly available STARS scholarships on [amatas.org](http://amatas.org).

Updates and more information will follow soon!

### **Call for Research Abstract Submissions for the AMTA National Conference**

RESEARCH POSTER DEADLINE: JUNE 7<sup>th</sup> 2013

Check [musictherapy.org](http://musictherapy.org) for further information