

Newsletter

The American Music Therapy Association *for Students*
Spring 2014



President's Message

Hello AMTAS Members! I hope that everyone's spring semesters ended smoothly and that everyone's summers have started off well! The 2014 AMTAS Executive Board is hard at work preparing for this year's national conference and making major procedural changes. We have been meeting every month, and our minutes are posted on amtas.org if you're interested in what we've been up to! Our goals for the year are to: promote inclusion and equality in the AMTAS Bylaws, facilitate better communication between regions, and ignite meaningful connections between music therapy students. Each Executive Board member has specific action items that correspond with these goals. I am currently working on a method of sending emails to all AMTAS members to ensure that everyone receives important information regarding national conference, scholarships, website updates, and other projects. AMTAS is going to see some very exciting developments in the near future, and the AMTAS Executive Board is looking forward to see you all in Louisville this November!

Candice Bain, AMTAS President

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Officer Report – Candice Bain, President

E-Board Meetings and Highlights

The AMTAS Executive Board has held 4 meetings so far this year via Skype. Meetings took place on January 26th, February 9th, March 3rd, and April 20th. Meeting highlights include: Ensuring that appropriate documents have been transferred from outgoing counterparts, updating the standing committee nomination process, promoting standing committee representative vacancies, updating deadlines on the AMTAS website, creating an AMTAS regional presidents Facebook group, preparing distribution of the annual MUSETTE flier, and cooperating to adjust the gender pronoun usage in the AMTAS bylaws, which was an important issue brought up during the AMTAS Business Meeting at the 2013 AMTA Conference.

MUSETTE

All Executive Board members sent greetings and photos to Megan. The MUSETTE flier was compiled and 500 copies were printed after every regional president was asked for an estimate of projected student attendance at their respective conferences. Copies of the flier were sent by mail to each regional president for distribution at their conference. The MUSETTE was also posted on the AMTAS website and AMTAS Facebook group. After an AMTAS contact database has been organized, the MUSETTE flier will also be sent to all AMTAS members via email.

Goals

The long-term goals formulated by the 2014 AMTAS Executive Board are:

- Ignite meaningful connections between music therapy students
- Facilitate better communication between regions
- Promote inclusion and equality in the AMTAS bylaws

Some action items for these goals include:

- Add every AMTAS student to an email list; Email a greeting and MUSETTE flier
- Appoint students to standing committees
- Start a virtual jam session project over the summer
- Vote on Robert's pronoun changes at the 2014 AMTAS Business Meeting
- Update the official SAAB guidebook for students
- Write a mission statement for AMTAS

Officer Report – Vienna Sa, Vice President

- Updated the standing committee nomination deadline to September 15th, 2014
- Updated the 2014 E-Board positions and pictures on the website
- Created the new STARS application, deadline is one week earlier than last year's (to compensate for an earlier conference): 12pm on October 29th, 2014
- Updated the Edwina scholarship dates
- Made the standing committee nomination form more user-friendly on the website (so it won't need to be downloaded)
- Updated new picture of the next SAAB and E-Board
- Changed the nomination deadline of SAAB and the e-mail to which to send them (president.elect@amtas.org) on the website
- Put the contacts on the contact page, temporarily password-protected
- Uploaded Musette 2013 on the AMTAS documents page
- Changed the website to reflect committee openings
- Received regional presidents' e-mails for contacting SAAB about media they want to put on their tabs
- Emailed regional presidents requesting newspaper articles, YouTube videos, regional award winners, and regional event schedules for the website
 - Articles and links will be put into the blog section
 - Separate tab for "News & Events" with sub-tabs for each region
- Improved navigability on the website
- Updated the web form for nominations
- Uploaded the 2014 Musette and fixed a typo on the website
- Uploaded Ellen's podcast about her internship in Louisville
- Created a "News & Events" tab with sub-tabs for each region
- In process of updating the "AMTA Regions" page to be more student-centered by listing all the universities in each region
- Updated the President's Challenge on the website to reflect that anyone can apply to receive instruments

Officer Report – Ryan Rebagay, President-Elect

As President-Elect, my main project has been coordinating the nomination process for the Student Representatives to the AMTA Standing Committees. To date, this process has included editing the Standing Committee Nomination Form, confirming which of last year's representatives were willing and able to serve again this year, and receiving and organizing the completed Nomination Forms. Due to a large amount of nominees this year, the Executive Officers have created an additional step to the nomination process in order to distinguish exceptional nominees for selection. Supplemental items to the nomination form are currently being received from the nominees and the final selection of this year's Student Representatives will take place later this month.

Officer Report – Megan Kling, Secretary

In addition to taking minutes during our monthly AMTAS E-Board meetings, I have been fulfilling my officer timeline duties. I began this year by creating a Facebook group for regional presidents in order to facilitate increased communication between regions. I put together the annual Musette flyer that was distributed at conferences so students could get to know their AMTAS officers. I have just finished the spring newsletter with updates from the regions about their accomplishments. I also update AMTAS social media with music

Officer Report – Audrey Manis, Treasurer

So far this year, I worked hard I changing the account over to the new treasurer. I also am combine the AMTAS account over to online banking. This will make the account much easier and faster to manage. A new system is being set in place to make payments and reimburse the AMTAS Board.

Officer Report – Robert Aguilar, Parliamentarian

I have read through the AMTAS bylaws and made notes of revisions to present at the general business meetings. Revisions include updating executive board electronic nomination procedure, changing a "employment and public relations" title to "workforce development and retention" and consolidating duties found in different parts of the bylaws so they are found in the proper officer's description. My biggest change was changing the gender specific pronouns to be gender neutral to foster a more inclusive group dynamic. I will continue to update information as our monthly Skype meetings call for changes. Last I am beginning to compile a list of charges to pass on to the newly elected Parliamentarian.

Southeastern Region

The Southeastern region recently hosted its annual regional conference. This year the conference took place in late March, the beauty city of Mobile, AL! In true SER fashion both students and professionals alike came together and celebrate our wonderful profession. The conference lasted for three days and showcased a variety of sessions from both the students and the professionals. One of the big topics discussed at this year's regional conference was the need for more development within the area of multicultural music therapy. We as a region discussed how living in the South affects how we work with our clients. In addition we discussed what are the needs areas within our field and how do we expand our profession to include a more diverse population of clinicians!

This year we had a great turnout for student presentations! There were a total of 8 presenters at the student conference. Topics ranged from using rhythm and beating to using music therapy and dance/movement therapy to assist ambulatory and non-ambulatory adults with intellectual disabilities.

Due to the location of this year's conference student attendance was lower than normal. However that being said we still had representation from Appalachian State University, Converse College, The University of Alabama, University of Louisville, East Carolina University, and Florida State University.

During the student business meetings we discussed our regional fundraising project for drumSTRONG. Students showed enthusiasm and excitement about the fundraising competition! The competition we run until the beginning of November and the winning school will be announced at this year's AMTA National Conference!

We also elected a brand new executive board. Our new board members are as follows:

President: Caitlin Swett

President Elect: Chandler Sawyers Secretary: Alison Lockhart

Parliamentarian: Allison Miller

Treasurer: Nicole Wright



Newly elected officers Allison Lockhart (left), Chandler Sawyers (center), and Allison Miller (right) taking a photo after the student business meeting!



Mid-Atlantic Region

MARAMTS Update: Student Affairs and Happenings

Conio Loretto, MS, MT-BC, LCAT - MAR Student Affairs Advisor
 Logan Everhart – MARAMTAS President
 Liz Bligh – MARAMTAS President-Elect

The Mid Atlantic Region annual conference was held in early April in Buffalo, NY. Besides all of the wonderful learning opportunities, our student contingent (MARMATAS) took care of a lot of business

NEW MARMATS EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTED

First and foremost, our new Executive Board was elected...

Logan Everhart (SUNY Fredonia) – President
Liz Bligh (SUNY Fredonia) – President Elect
Qiana Thomas (Radford University) – Vice President
Abigail Erdman (Radford University) – Parliamentarian
Diana Abourafeh (Molloy College) – Secretary
Brooke Pantalena (Shenandoah University) – Treasurer
Shane Sullivan (SUNY Fredonia) – Government Relations Chair
Conio Loretto (The Center for Discovery) – Student Affairs Advisor

We extend our gratitude to our outgoing Executive Board members for their amazing service to our region... **Meaghan Bakey** (Outgoing Vice President from Duquesne University), **Kara Whipple** (Outgoing Parliamentarian from Shenandoah University), **Alicia Drexel** (Outgoing Secretary from Molloy College) and **Kayla McNamara** (Outgoing Government Relations Chair from Marywood University).

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

We awarded several scholarships during the conference. The MARAMTAS' sophomore, junior and graduate scholarships are awarded to students in our region who have demonstrated a commitment to our field based on active participation in Music Therapy club meetings and activities; involvement in regional conferences; and, self-motivation with regard to independent learning experiences.

The scholarship winners are decided by a team of student judges through a blind review of applications. This year's judging panel was **Liz Bligh** (SUNY Fredonia), **Victoria Gac** (Nazareth College), **Dana Jacoby** (Slippery Rock), **Abigail Erdman** (Radford University), **Chris Welch** (Seton Hill University) and **Allyssa Heitzenrater** (Duquesne University).

Congratulations to the following scholarship recipients, who were awarded with complimentary student membership to the American Music Therapy Association for 2014 and with free registration for the Mid Atlantic Region Conference...

SOPHOMORE SCHOLARSHIP: **Victoria Gac** (Nazareth College); **Susan Dalessandro** (Slippery Rock)

JUNIOR SCHOLARSHIP: **Diana Abourafeh** (Molloy College); **Rachel Reed** (Slippery Rock)

GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP: **Samantha Knapp** (Immaculate University)

The Jenny Shinn Memorial Scholarship for Music Therapy Interns was also awarded during the conference. This scholarship is given to three student interns within the Mid Atlantic Region who have demonstrated scholarly excellence, a strong character and significant service to our field. We accepted a record number of applications this year, which were then narrowed down to six finalists following a blind review by our judging panel of professional Music Therapists. The six applicants were then interviewed by our judges at the conference in Buffalo.

Congratulations to the three scholarship recipients, who will each be awarded \$500 to help support them in their internship experiences...

JENNY SHINN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: **Jingwen Zhang** (SUNY New Paltz); **Julie Hopkins** (Ohio University); **Bayla Cohen** (Elizabethtown College)

Thank you to our professional judging panel, **Trish Winter**, **Nicole Steele**, **Matthew Phillips** and **Beth Deyermund** for making this very difficult decision.

We also awarded this year's Music Therapy Club Award to **Temple University** and **Slippery Rock University**. Each club received \$250 based on their noteworthy efforts to spread awareness and advocate for our field.

STUDENT SERVICE PROJECT

Prior to the start of the conference, Music Therapist **Caroline West** worked closely with MARAMTS president **Logan Everhart** to facilitate the Student Service Project. Nearly fifty students from within our region had the opportunity to visit one of two locations in Buffalo to offer an introduction to Music Therapy through hands on clinical experiences - **Buffalo Women and Children's Hospital** and **High Pointe on Michigan Health Care Facility**.

ASK THE PROFESSIONAL: AN OPEN FORUM FOR STUDENTS

At this year's conference, we introduced a new opportunity for students to sit with a panel of professional Music Therapists, all at different stages of their careers, to answer questions and seek advice as to what it is like navigating the professional world. Moderated by our Student Affairs Advisor, **Conio Loretto**, a wonderfully dynamic exchange occurred, with many topics covered. Students appreciated the opportunity to hear the answers to their questions – we hope this opportunity will continue in future conferences. Thank you to our panel who openly shared their experiences – **Carol Ann Blank**, **Katherine Borst**, **Brooke Carroll**, **Ryan Carroll**, **Timothy Gannon**, **Dana Gleason**, **Amy Meyers**, **Kristen O'Grady**, **Roia Rafieyan**, **Kate Stanley**, **Craig Stevens**, **Lori Siesto** and **Caroline West**.

THE CANNING PROJECT

During the regional conference, our students circulated the conference center encouraging attendees to drop spare change into decorated coffee cans to benefit the Fender Music Foundation. Each school within the region created their own cans and competed to see who could collect the most money. **Nazareth College** won this distinction this year. All together MARAMTAS collected nearly \$200, which will be donated to the Fender Music Foundation.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Our new Executive Board is energized and looking to the future. Our PASSAGES conference will be held on October 11, 2014 at SUNY New Paltz; we are working on the formation of a graduate student committee to look at the unique needs of graduate students in our region and how MARAMTAS might best meet them; and, we're looking at creating an online store!



MARAMTAS President Elect, Liz Bligh and President Logan Everhart, both from SUNY Fredonia.



Newly elected MARAMTAS Executive Board (left to right) Conio Loretto, Student Affairs Advisor; Diana Abourafteh, Secretary; Qiana Thomas, Vice President; Liz Bligh, President Elect; Logan Everhart, President; Shane Sullivan, Government Relations Chair; Brooke Pantalena, Treasurer; and, Abigail Erdman, Parliamentarian.



Outgoing MARAMTAS Executive Board (left to right): Alicia Drexel, Secretary; Meaghan Bakey, Vice President; Logan Everhart, President; Kayla McNamara, Government Relations Chair; Brooke Pantalena, Treasurer; and, Kara Whipple, Parliamentarian.

Midwestern Region

Hello, I am Laura Wilson, the newly elected president of the Midwest Region.

We recently just had our regional conference in Springfield, Missouri. Passages was a hit, as we had Leslie Jones as our keynote speaker. We had one fundraiser this year for a student to go to conference for free, which did not turn out well. We could not raise enough funds for this student and only one recipient was submitted. As a region, we had an internship scholarship. This was a \$600 award to Michael Detmer(KU) and a \$500 award to Zach Williams(UMKC) and was handed out by the professional board. As a region we had the SPARCS event this spring between KU and UMKC. Our topic was Innovative intervention ideas.

If you would like any more information on our upcoming year, just let me know!

Laura Wilson

Southwestern Region

The Southwest Region had their regional conference March 27-29, 2014 in Addison, Texas. It was a blast! We finished up our regional project, the Internship Directory and sent it to our webmaster to get it up online so that it is easily accessible to students. Throughout the spring semester our schools held Music Therapy Awareness weeks/weekends. They were a lot of fun, and really helped to advocate music therapy. The student board awarded three scholarships: the Regional Project Award went to Sam Houston State University, the President's Challenge was awarded to Grant Howarth, and we awarded a surprise scholarship to a lucky student who attended both business meetings. A new SWAMTAS board was voted on the last day of our conference, and it's going to be a great year for the Southwest Region!

Rebecca Cantrell
Former SWAMTAS President

Western Region

WRAMTAS has had a very eventful spring! The 2014 WRAMTA Conference was held on March 27th-29th in Portland, Oregon, where music therapy advocacy is thriving! Students showed up in the masses; there was a total of 90 students in attendance!

WRAMTAS also held "Connections" this year, a portion of conference devoted solely to students and interns. During the opening session, students participated in a musical scavenger hunt activity. The scavenger hunt was organized by grouping people together from different schools in an effort to facilitate networking and strengthen the connections between schools. There were 3 teams of about 12 students each: "Jerwin and His Angels," "The Coalssacks," and "The VooDoo Doughnuts". These teams achieved the following tasks: serenade a stranger, sing a Disney villain song in an ominous setting, get an MT-BC to do the Gangnam Style dance, rap over a beat, write a theme song for your team, invade the jam room singing "Wrecking Ball", perform a dramatic reading of a pop song, enact a dramatic finish of a running race while singing the Rocky theme, and a bunch of other tasks which were all recorded and compiled into a very entertaining 6-minute video, which was presented the following morning.

After the video was shown, there was 1 professional presentation, 1 student presentation, an internship panel, and a brief closing session, which is a WRAMTAS tradition where every student stands in a circle and shares something positive they gained from conference. Then, they pass a ball of yarn to another student in the circle (the yarn ball has been passed down from WRAMTAS presidents for years!) Conference was an absolute blast!

In addition to our conference, we've also been updating our internship spotlight every month. Since January, we've added MusicWorx, Metropolitan State Hospital, Arts and Services for Disabled, and Seasons Hospice Foundation, all of which are located in our region. We've also held 4 more Virtual Master Classes since the AMTA conference, and thanks to the grant we won, we've been able to record them and post the links on our Facebook! If you're interested in any of those presentations, be sure to like "WRAMTAS" on Facebook or email amtas.wr@gmail.com for more information. The incoming regional board plans on creating an archive of these presentations, so look out for that next season!

Thank you, outgoing WRAMTAS Executive Board members for all your hard work this year, and congratulations to our newly elected Executive Board! The 2013-2014 WRAMTAS Executive Board also extends our thanks to the Student Affairs Advisory Board and to the student leadership in other regions. The future of music therapy looks bright!



Respectfully submitted,
Candice Bain



Great Lakes Region

GLR of the AMTAS held Passages 2014 in Rosemont, IL. The event held seven student presentations ranging in topics from The Jamaica Field Service Project, music therapy in the NICU, and how to professionally present music therapy. Passages ended with our keynote speaker, Dr. Jennifer Jones. At conference, we awarded five students with scholarships to cover the cost of registration.

At National Conference, AMTAS awarded us \$400 to fund our regional project. Our regional project was "MY Musicians". The purpose of the project was to provide a scholarship for a local music program in need. This year, we awarded the grant to the Hamilton J. Robichaud High School in Michigan. This school was chosen based on their dedication and passion to keeping the music in their school (they were playing instruments from the 1970's!!).

Hannah Gadzinski, the president of the 2014-2015 GLR-AMTAS board, plans to continue this project as well as focusing on bringing the students together through other activities throughout the year.

Best,
Melissa S. Neitzel
Former GLR-AMTAS President



2014-2015 GLR-AMTAS Executive Board (left to right):
Dan Bressler (Parliamentarian), Wiley Smith (Secretary), Hannah Gadzinski (President), Ellen Antes (President Elect), Izzy Branch (Vice President), Rachel Pinto (Treasurer), Donovan Thakur (Webmaster)

New England Region

1. This year's regional conference took place from April 3rd to April 5th at the Water's Edge Resort in Westbrook, Connecticut.
2. This year our region sponsored two major projects. The first being our annual Passages Student Conference which took place in the fall. The second being a service trip to the Grand Cayman Islands attended by 3 students from Anna Maria College and 3 students from Berklee College of Music. This trip took place in January.
3. The Spring term was focused on gathering student attendance at the regional conference for which we were successful in having the highest student attendance in 3 years. Students were also asked to help with the AV and instrument needs at the conference. Six students volunteered in this effort, the most we have had since we began this program. We thank the students for their help and for the participation at the annual conference.
4. A number of NER scholarships were awarded to students at this year's regional conference in recognition of their active participation within their respective school programs. A one-year student AMTA membership was granted to a returning student from each school and a one-year professional AMTA membership was granted to a graduating student. These recipients were:
 - Berklee College of Music
Returning student – Tessa Kaslewicz
Graduating student – Sheen Tse Kuek Tse
 - Lesley University
Returning student – Ani Kiledjian
Graduating student – Ruth Kahn
 - Anna Maria College
Returning student – Danielle Pilotte
Returning student – Karin Robinson
5. No AMTAS grant was received by NERAMTAS.
6. Thank you to our out-going NERAMTAS Executive Board for their enthusiasm and hard work.

Katie Olsen
Former NER-AMTAS President



2014-2015 NER-AMTAS Executive Board