

Newsletter

The American Music Therapy Association *for Students*

Fall 2014



President's Message

Hello AMTAS,

What a year it has been! It was so wonderful meeting so many of you at the 2014 AMTA Conference in Louisville. Thank you, AMTAS Executive Board, regional presidents, and the Student Affairs Advisory Board for all of your hard work this year. Thanks Ryan Rebagay- for your hard work with the standing committees, Vienna Sa- for your work on the AMTAS website, Megan Kling- for your organization of SAAB contact information and your thorough meeting minutes, Audrey Manis- for taking on the responsibility of handling all financial matters and conference sponsorships and logistics, Robert Aguilar- for editing the bylaws to promote inclusion and equality, and finally, Nicole Hahna- for all of your guidance and support throughout this whole term. All of your hard work has been very much appreciated, and it has set a strong foundation for the continuation of great work next year. Thank you all for making such a wonderful team, and it has been a great privilege to serve as the AMTAS president this year.

All the best,

Candice Bain
2014 AMTAS President

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Meet the 2015 AMTAS Executive Officers!



Congratulations to the new AMTAS Executive Board!

From left to right:

Elle Sanders – Parliamentarian

Alexandra Wilson – Secretary

Rachel Pinto – President-Elect

Ryan Rebagay – President

Krystine Smith – Vice President

Jerwin Monje – Treasurer

2014 AMTA National Conference in Louisville, KY



AMTAS Board of Directors – Executive Officers and Regional Presidents



AMTAS Executive Officers with the AMTA Board of Directors

Officer Report – Candice Bain, President

Board Meetings and Goals

The AMTAS Executive Board has held 6 meetings so far this year. Meetings were held monthly from January-May, and the first meeting of the fall semester was held on August 31st. Board members recounted their summer duties and a discussion was held regarding the organization of business meetings at national conference. The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, September 14th. The goals set by the AMTAS Executive Board earlier in the year were to: ignite meaningful connections between music therapy students and professionals, facilitate better communication between the executive board and regions, and promote inclusion and equality in the AMTAS bylaws. The following action items represent the progress towards those goals.

Standing Committees

The update to the standing committee nomination process has been successful. The vacancies were promoted, and many applications were received. All student representative positions for standing committees have since been filled, and an email was sent out for the students and professionals to initiate contact before conference.

President's Challenge

The AMTAS Executive Board is holding the President's Challenge again for the 2014 term. The online application was approved, and applications are due September 31st. The challenge was announced via Facebook on September 3rd, and 2 applications have already been received. Reminders will be posted periodically until the deadline, and an email announcement has also been sent to all AMTAS students. A new addition to the application was a list of suggested small items for the award so regional presidents can play a more prominent role in the awarding process.

Onset of Membership Email Communication

All AMTAS members have been added to a MailChimp database, and 4 email campaigns were sent out over the summer regarding the MUSETTE flier, Spring 2014 Newsletter, E. Thayer Gaston Scholarship requirements, and information about the annual conference scholarships. All AMTAS members will be sent an email prior to conference encouraging members to attend the AMTAS business meetings. This additional method of communication is setting a foundation for increased communication with membership for this term and for future terms.

Respectfully submitted,

Candice Bain
2014 AMTAS President

Thank you to all the students of
AMTAS for a wonderful year!

Your 2014 AMTAS Executive Officers



Southwestern Region

Hello AMTAS! After a great time at AMTA National Conference in Louisville, Kentucky, the Southwestern Region has been working on two regional projects! Our first project is our Professional-To-Be Award. Schools will nominate a soon-to-be graduate for this award. The recipient will receive a bag full of books, instruments, and various supplies to help get started in the professional world. It will also include a scholarship to help pay for the board certification exam! The second project is an awareness project in which we're challenging people to sing a song or dance a dance or perform some creative act in the name of Music Therapy Awareness. The participants are posting these videos on social media and challenging their friends to do the same! The pilot video can be found on the SWAMTAS Facebook page. We encourage you to take the challenge and challenge your classmates and friends! Keep your eyes peeled for this video and please participate! The schools in our region are keeping busy with fundraisers, service projects, advocacy projects, and social events. We have an active online presence helping us all to stay involved and connected. We're very proud of the work we're doing here in SWAMTAS, all in the name of Music Therapy!

Dawn Stewart, SWAMTAS President



New SWAMTAS board elected in March



Sam Houston State University students playing at "Scare on the Square"



West Texas A&M University students at a music therapy Christmas party

Great Lakes Region

GLR *Passages* 2014 was hosted on Thursday, March 28th, from 1-5. *Passages* featured student presentations on research, the Jamaica Field Service Project, how to present on music therapy, NICU music therapy techniques, effective student organization skills, the use of songs to create meaningful moments, and a keynote presentation by Jennifer Jones.

The GLR-AMTAS Board has started a new project this year in which each school in the GLR Region will be encouraged to take part in an advocacy project, in which each student program will do a music therapy advocacy presentation at their school or in their community. These presentations will be shared at the 2015 *Passages* conference and one of the schools will be awarded with a scholarship.

The "Making Young Musicians Grant" or MY musicians continues to be available for music educators across the great lakes region. Submissions are being collected and \$400 worth of instruments will be distributed to a public school in our region. Last year's grant was awarded to Hamilton J Robichaud High School in Michigan.

More information can be found at <https://sites.google.com/site/gramtas/pedagogical-musician-s-exchange-program>.



GLR AMTAS 

GLRAMTAS Officers For the 2014-15 School Year:

President: Hannah Gadzinski of Baldwin Wallace University

President Elect: Ellen Antes of Ohio University

Vice President: Izzy Branch of Western Michigan University

Secretary: Wiley Smith of Cleveland State University

Treasurer: Rachel Pinto of Illinois State University

Parliamentarian: Dan Bressler of Illinois State University

Webmaster: Donovan Thakur of Western Michigan University

The GLR AMTAS executive board published a video on different social media resources. This included an introduction to the new board, the benefits of involvement in AMTAS, and it promoted the benefits of conference attendance. The video can be found here: <http://www.glr-amta.org/students-overview/students/>



2014-2015 GLR-AMTAS Executive Board

From left to right:

Dan Bressler, Wiley Smith, Hannah Gadzinski, Ellen Antes, Izzy Branch, Rachel Pinto, Donovan Thakur

Mid-Atlantic Region

2014-2015 REGIONAL PROJECT

This year's project, **ROCK THE REGION**, will ask each university in the MAR to host a guest speaker (or other advocacy event) to promote the power of Music Therapy. Each speaker/event will be video recorded and shared on a newly formed (to be created) MARAMTS You Tube channel, so that all students (and professionals) from the MAR (and other regions) will have access to the presentations/events.

SUMMER BUSINESS MEETING

The MARAMTS Executive Board held their Summer Business Meeting in early August at **The Center for Discovery** in Harris, NY. A lot of ground was covered during the meeting and many plans were made for 2014-2015...

- Fund Raising – contemplating a “Penny War” at the next regional conference and/or setting up an online store to sell Music Therapy-themed materials; looking into purchasing a portable device that would allow for acceptance of credit/debit cards during fund raising events at conferences
- Canning Project – will once again collect spare change from attendees at the regional conference to benefit an organization to be determined by membership
- Student Service Project – to bring Music Therapy students to a facility in the area of the regional conference (Ocean City, MD – Spring 2014)
- Scholarships – Sophomore, Junior and Graduate Student scholarships will once again be awarded, as well as the Jenny Shinn Memorial Scholarship; two Music Therapy Club awards will be given
- Chapter Rep Award – creating a new award for the most involved and dedicated MARAMTS chapter representative (to be awarded at regional conference)
- Sister School Projects – pairing up nearby universities in the region and encouraging joint efforts towards Music Therapy special events and advocacy
- Graduate Students – examining organization by-laws to ensure inclusive language and promote greater participation by graduate students in the region
- Social Media Policy – forming a committee to develop a social media policy for the MARAMTS organization

PASSAGES 2014: TURN! TURN! TURN!

This year's PASSAGES Conference of the MAR will be held at State University of New York at New Paltz on October 11, 2014. The conference co-chairs, current New Paltz student **Kristin Ryan** and new professional **Timothy Gannon**, are hard at work preparing an exciting program.

This year's conference, entitled "Turn, Turn, Turn", will honor the life and legacy of **Pete Seeger**. Pete's ability to bring people together through the power of music certainly demonstrates music as therapy on the grandest of scales. It is hoped that by recognizing Pete, our conference attendees will be inspired by the potential of music to connect people and promote change. Linda Richmond, of "The Power of Song" and Music Therapist Ken Aigen are lined up as keynote speakers, who will offer musings on this topic. The conference will close with an outdoor music making event in Pete's memory.

PASSAGES is a free one day conference for current Music Therapy students and new professionals (five year or less in the field) in the MAR.

Logan Everhart, MARAMTAS President



Students of MARAMTAS in Louisville, KY at AMTA National Conference

Western Region

The Western Region is looking forward to 2015! With the new BA program at Pacific Oregon University, new Master's program at Marylhurst University, and the expansion of University of the Pacific's program to a second campus, WRAMTAS is growing. Several scholarships will be offered to students for the upcoming regional conference happening March 12-15. WRAMTAS will be offering virtual master classes through anymeeting.com in the months leading up to conference, as well as a variety of monthly internship spotlights.

Congratulations to WRAMTAS treasurer Jerwin Monje for being elected AMTAS treasurer for 2015!

Sara Cannon, WRAMTAS President



Members of WRAMTAS at the AMTAS Business Meeting in Louisville, KY at AMTA National Conference

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

Southeastern Region

During the national conference, the South-Eastern Region was proud to have 44 students attending the final business meeting of the conference. While in Louisville, KY, our board also put out our fall newsletter with reports from seven schools. We are excited by all of the wonderful things our students are doing and hope to see even more submissions for our spring newsletter. The students of SER are also continuing their efforts of raising money for DrumStrong. The music therapy program that raises the most money by our regional conference will be rewarded with a free djembe for their efforts. In preparation for our regional conference we have also been asking our students to submit their conference session proposals. Soon, our student board plans to send out a survey. This survey will request the opinions of our student members so that we may gain a better understanding of what they wish to see in their conference and what they wish to gain from their attendance.

Caitlin Swett, SERAMTAS President

Midwestern Region

Cadenza 5K: A 5K run/ walk will take place during the Midwest Regional Conference in April, 2015. This 5k will be available to conference attendees in tandem with a local Omaha running club, and will help advocate for music therapy in the region. The goal is to raise money for students to have the opportunity to attend a national or regional conference in the near future. It is currently scheduled for Saturday morning of the conference, and the Vice President and conference chairs have approved it.

Laura Wilson, MWRAMTAS President

Northeastern Region

1. The Annual Passages Conference is being held this year on September 13 at Lesley University. Students from the three NER universities will come together to share their research and clinical experiences. The day will open and close with a music ritual facilitated by the students. There will also be a raffle, with donations of instruments and books coming from the professionals and professors in the region. An AMTAS table will be set up describing all the services and scholarships available to students through AMTA. A pizza party and Open Mic are being planned for after the conference. Right now the students are deep in the process of planning this event, which is only a day away! Once the conference is over, the students will have more time to focus on other projects, with those being listed below.
2. The 2014 Regional Project continues to be around the idea of service to the community. There is a possible service project being planned to Jamaica. Local service projects are also being considered.
3. Another project that is continuing is the Mentoring Program, connecting students with professionals having similar areas of interest. This project began two years ago.
4. AMTA scholarships for attendance at the AMTA conference are also being planned for the fall.

Dalita Getzoyan, NERAMTAS President