

# AMTAS NEWSLETTER

The American Music Therapy Association Students Newsletter

Spring 2014

## President's Message

Hello AMTAS Members! Spring semesters are ending and summer is upon us! The 2015 Executive Officers are working hard to make this year's conference even more meaningful for students. We have met a number of times and are working toward goals of increased membership, unity among members nationwide, and an increased interest and involvement of students in research. We are continually coming up with ideas in order to achieve these goals, and come National Conference especially, we hope that you will be able to see the fruits of our efforts. It truly is an exciting time for AMTAS, and the Executive Officers are looking forward to seeing you in Kansas City this November!

Ryan Rebagay, AMTAS President



2015 AMTAS Executive Board

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# Officer Report

## Ryan Rebagay, President

### Board Meetings and Highlights

The AMTAS Executive Officers have held three meetings so far, in addition to an unofficial meeting to discuss a proposal for a concurrent session at the national conference in November. Meetings were switched from Skype to Google Hangouts in order to allow for group video chat. Meeting highlights include: discussion of the selection of new student representatives to AMTA standing committees, the creation of an AMTAS Instagram account, possible ideas for attracting attention to the AMTAS table at the national conference, and promoting AMTA membership among music therapy students nationwide.

### MUSETTE

Each of the Executive Officers submitted greetings and photos to Alexandra Wilson (AMTAS Secretary), who compiled the MUSETTE flier. Alexandra then shared the flier on multiple social media platforms and Krystine Smith (AMTAS Vice President) made the flier available for viewing on the AMTAS website. The flier will be made available to all AMTAS members via email once the database has been updated.

### Concurrent Session Proposal

Following the example set by a collection of students and professionals who gave a presentation on Passages at the AMTA Conference in 2014, a collection of the Executive Officers of AMTAS put together a proposal for a concurrent session at the upcoming AMTA Conference in November with the help of SAAB Advisor, Nicole Hahna. The proposed session will be a panel discussion on how to get involved with research targeted at undergraduate students, as well as young professionals.

### New AMTAS Logo Proposal

The 2014 AMTAS Executive Officers went through the process of creating a new logo for the organization. I have been in correspondence with the AMTA President-Elect, Jennifer Geiger, regarding the matter. The proposed logo is still being reviewed by AMTA for trademark purposes. A decision on its adoption should be made in the upcoming months.

### Goals

The goals the AMTAS Executive Officers have decided to focus on for the year are:

- To promote AMTA membership among music therapy students nationwide
- To create unity among members of AMTAS across the country
- To foster interest and exposure to research among undergraduate music therapy students

Particular action items for these goals include:

- Creation of an AMTAS Instagram account
- Initiation of a membership campaign through social media
- Proposal of a concurrent session for the AMTA Conference in November targeted toward undergraduate involvement in research

## Officer Report

### Rachel Pinto, President-Elect

AMTAS Board is currently in the process of selecting new Standing Student Committee Representatives. We have 6 positions that need to be filled. The deadline to turn in nomination forms has been extended to May 31, 2014. If you are interested and would like to be considered for one of the open positions please fill out the form found on our website ([www.amtas.org](http://www.amtas.org)) and submit the required materials to [presidentelect.amtas@gmail.com](mailto:presidentelect.amtas@gmail.com). Hope everyone has a wonderful end to the semester!

## Officer Report

### Krystine Smith, Vice President

As Vice President, my main responsibility has been updating the AMTAS website. In addition to uploading pictures of our current AMTAS E-Board, I updated other outdated pictures on the website. I uploaded recent documents pertaining to AMTAS membership, including the 2014 Musette and the current SAAB nomination form. I edited the formatting in several areas of the website to make it more user-friendly. I am currently in the process of contacting the new regional presidents to request information for their regional tabs on the website. I hope to add relevant media and information such as newspaper articles, YouTube videos, regional award winners, pictures, and upcoming regional events to the regional pages.

## Officer Report

### Alexandra Wilson, Secretary

In addition to taking weekly meeting minutes, I have created both the Musette and spring newsletter for AMTAS and distributed them on social media. I regularly update the AMTAS Facebook and Twitter with relevant information, such as news and AMTA membership benefits. I also have been managing the AMTAS contact information and have created a new Facebook group for regional presidents to facilitate communication between different regions as well as between the regional and national level.

## Officer Report

### Jerwin Monje, Treasurer

I have confirmed my treasurer position with AMTA and have my name on the account. I will be sending in the first check received the week of April 20th.

## Officer Report

### Elle Sanders, Parliamentarian

I have read through the current AMTAS bylaws and made notes of possible revisions to present at the general business meeting. Charges from the previous parliamentarian have been recently received and new set of charges is being presently compiled for the newly elected parliamentarian. An email has been sent out to regional AMTAS leadership elected in 2014 requesting proposals for changes in bylaws, however, this email has received minimal response. A second email will be sent out based on contact information for AMTAS leadership elected in 2015. In an AMTAS e-board initiative to increase AMTA student membership, I am compiling a master list of membership benefits.

## Mid-Atlantic Region

### Regional Conference

The Regional Conference of the Mid Atlantic Region was held from March 18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015 in Ocean City, Maryland

### New MARAMTAS Executive Board

At the Conference in Ocean City the student contingent of the Mid Atlantic Region (MARAMTS) elected their new Executive Board

**Elizabeth Bligh** (SUNY Fredonia) – President  
**Andrea Schaertel** (Duquesne University) – President Elect  
**Megan Neil** (Radford University) – Vice President  
**Allison Broaddrick** (Duquesne University) – Parliamentarian  
**Meghan Smith** (Temple University) - Secretary  
**Amanda Montara** (Temple University) – Treasurer  
**Cody Thompson** (Duquesne University) – Government Relations  
**Conio Loretto** (The Center for Discovery) – Student Affairs Advisor

### Ask a Professional: An Open Forum for Students

Just like last year at the conference a panel of professional Music Therapists, all at different stages of their careers, answered questions as to what it is like navigating the professional world. Moderated by the Student Affairs Advisor, a dynamic exchange occurred between the students and professionals, with many topics covered. Students appreciated the opportunity to get the answers to their questions and it is anticipated that this opportunity will continue at future regional conferences.

### Student Service Project

Prior to the start of the Regional Conference, a Service Project was organized for the students in the region to participate in. Nearly 100 students visited one of eight locations to offer an introduction to Music Therapy through hands on clinical experiences. The clinical settings ranged from preschools to retirement facilities.

### The Canning Project/Penny War

During the regional conference, students circulated the conference center encouraging attendees to drop spare change into decorated coffee cans to benefit the Tyler Seaman Foundation. Each school within the region created their own cans and competed to see who could collect the most change. On top of collecting loose change from professionals and students, the Executive Board held a Penny War. In the end the President and Government Relations Chair of the student Board received the most change in their Jar and had to sing a love song to one another. In the end MARAMTS collected nearly \$120, which will be donated to the Tyler Seaman Foundation.

### Passages 2015

Planning is underway for this year's PASSAGES conference for students and new professionals in the region, which will be held at Shenandoah University on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

## Mid-Atlantic Region Cont.

### **MARAMTAS Scholarships**

MARAMTAS awarded the following scholarships to in the Mid Atlantic Region, who first applied online and then were selected via a blind review by a team of student judges. Recipients of the scholarships received complimentary student membership to the American Music Therapy Association and free registration to the Regional Conference.

#### **SOPHOMORE SCHOLARSHIP**

**Lydia Anthony** (Elizabethtown University)  
**Bethany Wentling** (Elizabethtown University)

#### **JUNIOR SCHOLARSHIP**

**Briana Sanford** (Nazareth College)  
**Elizabeth Bligh** (SUNY Fredonia)

#### **GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP**

**Meghan Neil** (Radford University)

### **Jenny Shinn Memorial Scholarship**

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 twenty applicants this year, which were then narrowed down to six finalists following a blind review by our judging panel. The six applicants were then interviewed by our judges at the conference in Ocean City.

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

#### **JENNY SHINN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

**Diana Abourafeh** (Molloy College)  
**Marissa Aulenbach** (Elizabethtown University)  
**Arianna Bendlin** (Elizabethtown University)

Thank you to our professional judging panel, **Trish Winter, Bob Miller, Beth Deyermond and Michael Viega** for making this very difficult decision.

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

## New England Region



From Left to Right: Alli Fox, Phil Didlake, Emily Interrante, Lindsay Pennington, Jenny Madrigal, Marjorie O'Reilly, Ian Kovac, KC (Katherine) Beauregard, Calvin Eng

We held a successful Passages conference last year held on Saturday, September 13, 2014 at Lesley University in Cambridge, MA. We had 17 presentations given by students throughout the day. This year Passages is proposed to be on October 24, 2015 pending approval from the administration at Lesley University. Thank you to Becky Zarate, the Music Therapy department chair at Lesley University, for her help in promoting this event!

Thank you to Erin Rosen, Berklee College of Music, for helping to revitalize our [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [NER-AMTAS Website](#)! Our website now includes: updated calendar; new forms for conference scholarship applications; announcements and related information including the Constitution and By-laws.

This summer, we are going on a service trip to Grand Cayman Island August 9-16. While there, we will run a day camp for children in addition to working with an established music therapist. We plan for this to be a sustainable, yearly project.

Thank you to Amanda Fava, Anna Merria College for beginning the new mass e-blasts using Mailchimp. We look forward to seeing the improved communication in our region!

President-Elect Phil Didlake, Berklee College of Music, proposed changes to make our constitution and bylaws correspond with NER-AMTA and National AMTAS, along with updates based on the current structure of the executive board. Changes to the Constitution and Bylaws were passed at the student meeting during the NER-AMTA conference.

This year we were able to offer 3 scholarships for NER-AMTA regional conference covering conference registration. The recipients were: Jonathan Tang (Berklee College of Music), Emma Nadeau (Anna Maria College) and Melissa Lee Nilles (Lesley University).

## New England Region Cont.

### **Congratulations to the New Members of the Executive Board!**

**President:** Phil Didlake, Berklee College of Music

**President- Elect:** Calvin Eng, Berklee College of Music

**Vice President Anna Maria:** Marjorie O'Reilly

**Vice President Berklee:** Lindsay Pennington

**Vice President Lesley:** Ian Kovac

**Treasurer:** Emily Interrante

**Secretary:** KC (Katherine) Beauregard, Lesley University

**Public Relations:** Jenny Madrigal, Berklee College of Music

**Service Project Chair:** Alli Fox, Lesley University

**Thank you to all of the outgoing officers for your hard work  
and dedication this past year.**

**Good luck in all your future endeavors!**

**President:** Dalita Getzoyan, Lesley University.

**VP Anna Maria:** Julia Archambault

**VP Berklee:** Kevin Leong, Berklee

**VP Lesley:** Joseph Spilsbury

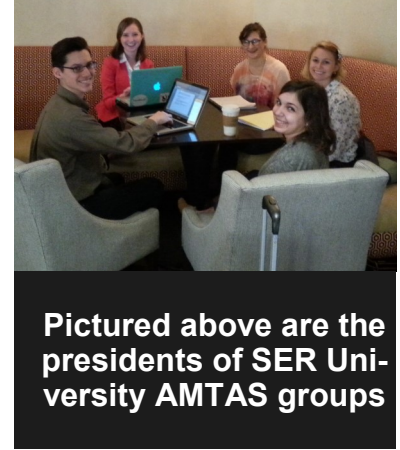
**Secretary:** Amanda Fava, Anna Maria College

**Public Relations:** Erin Rosen, Berklee College of Music

**NISPC:** Eleanor Foster, Berklee College of Music



## Southeastern Region



**Pictured above are the presidents of SER University AMTAS groups**

The Southeastern Region has enjoyed a very revitalizing spring. This year our regional conference was held in Columbia, South Carolina. It was a successful period of rallying and inspiration for those who were able to attend. We are happy to share that we reached a regional record for attendance at this past conference. Both of our student business were also very highly attended. Our students were eager to contribute to discussions about how students can make an impact on our profession. Six students organized meaningful presentations about their experiences with varying populations, techniques, and research studies for our student conference. We completed our fundraising competition for drum-STRONG with participation from several of our regional schools. The winner of the new djembe for raising the most money was Queens University of Charlotte! We are very proud of them and all those who participated to help fundraise for such a worthy cause.

As always, we held elections for new officers during the conference. It is great to have the following students join the student E-board for our region:

President Elect: Ian Toy, University of Alabama

Secretary: Daniela Schmiedlechner, University of Miami

Parliamentarian: Lydia Baker, Converse College

These students have been voted by their peers to represent our region of students, and we are confident that they will do it well.

Our returning officers include the following:

Chandler Sawyers: President, The University of Alabama

Allison Miller: Treasurer, The University of Alabama

Our region is so excited for what is to come in our area. We are beginning to organize a brand new website. Our students have shared what they want to see on the website so that it will be the best tool possible for them to access. With the completion of our drumSTRONG fundraising project it time for a new project to begin. We would love to collaborate with other regions on a new project if they are interested. Until then, we will be working hard to discover something that will make a difference in our profession. Finally, we are excited to announce that we will soon be offering two conference scholarships to AMTA student members in our region. The purpose of the scholarship is to promote conference attendance and AMTA membership.

## Midwestern Region

This year the Midwest Regional conference was held in Omaha Nebraska April 9-12th. Lindsey Wilhelm, MA, MT-BC was the key note speaker for Passages. She discussed what she has learned through her personal experiences as a clinician. Three student-led presentations were given: Anastasia Even and Amanda Sciarabba from Colorado State University spoke on "Different songs, interventions and Music Therapy with At-Risk Adolescents"; Kaitlin Bunse from UMKC reported her research on the "Effect of Music Therapy on speech with Children Diagnosed with Autism"; and Alex Nelson and Laura Wilson from KU discussed "A personal perspective on Asperger's Syndrome and the importance of Communication". Passages ended with a successful Internship Panel with two former interns who are now employed professionally, Jesse Dowell and Rachel Abbe, and an Internship director, Mary Lynn Bennett. Next year will be busy, as we are the host region for the AMTA conference this November in Kansas City and our regional is also in Missouri: "Meet us in St. Louis, Louis!"

The Midwest Board coordinated a successful Run/Walk/Rock called the "Cadenza 5k" in which several of the conference attendees participated. We were able to raise over \$300 for the region.



### New Board Members

President: Cecilia Deken, Drury University

President-Elect: Jennifer Hopper, UMKC

Vice President: Amanda Sciarabba, Colorado State University

Secretary: Alex Nelson, KU

Treasurer: Emily Stewart, Colorado State University

Parliamentarian: Daniel Shineberg, UMKC

## Southwestern Region



**Outgoing Board**



**Incoming Board**

We had a great time at our regional conference! Our conference was kicked-off with our keynote speaker, Barry Morrow, the screenplay writer for the CBS special Bill and the history-making film Rainman. Student attendance at the conference was great. We had a fresh crowd full of new and excited freshman music therapy majors. Our students have been active and busy in their school music therapy organizations, fulfilling service projects and promoting music therapy. The future for the music therapy profession is looking bright.

One of our regional projects this year was the Professional-To-Be Award. The award included items donated by the schools in our region and \$100 worth of supplies purchased by the SWAMTAS board, including books, gift certificates, instruments, and song books. It also included a \$100 scholarship intended to help the recipient pay for the board certification exam. This award was given to Michelle Low from Southwestern Oklahoma State University. She is currently finishing up her internship in Minnesota and plans to bring music therapy back to her home country of Singapore.

At conference, we also elected a new SWAMTAS board!

President: Victoria Glaser

President-Elect: Angelina Malegro

Secretary: Siobhan Kelley

Treasurer: Zachary Figueroa

Parliamentarian: Haide Guadamuz

Congratulations to the new officers and thanks to the students for a GREAT year in SWAMTAS.

Dawn Stewart

Outgoing SWAMTAS President

## Western Region



### Connections

Our annual WRAMTAS “Connections” was held within the last two days of conference. The “Connections” portion of the conference is dedicated to students and interns. On day one, we opened with ice breaker games and opened up the floor for discussion on how we decided on becoming a music therapists. A lot of the students shared motivating stories on how they chose to become a music therapist. On Sunday morning, Tim Ringgold held a special session just for students titled: “The music therapy student/intern survival guide: 10 key principles for success”. Tim gave great advice on self-care for interns and future interns; his motivation and energy challenged all of the music therapy students to be the best music therapists!

After Tim’s session, Connections continued to the “internship panel”, where former/current interns and internship directors answered questions. Internship director Lillieth Grand and former/current interns Brittany Olisar, Sara Cannon, Kevin Alvarez, Candice Bain, and Leah Cruz were on the panel. The panel gave advice on: internship interview preparation; common internship questions asked; skills to prepare before internship; how to choose an internship; and how to get the most out of your internship. After the panel answered prepared questions, the floor was opened for Q&A.

For our closing ritual, WRAMTAS continued its closing ceremony tradition. Students were put in a circle and a ball of yarn was passed around “connecting” each student. Before passing the yarn to another, the student had to say a quick spiel on what he/she gained from conference. We closed with a chant composed by Lauren Bevilaqua: “We are the Western Region”. Overall, conference was a success and we all came out motivated and ready!

### Scholarships

There were three scholarships awarded to students from WRAMTAS. One bumper sticker design scholarship and two essay scholarships were awarded. Bumper sticker design scholarship winner’s and last year’s bumper sticker design were sold during conference that brought in over \$500 in profit! All of the money will go towards next year’s conference scholarship!

## Western Region Cont.



### 2015-2016 WRAMTAS Executive Board

Pictured Left to Right

**Seung "Fred" Ra** (University of the Pacific) - President

**Annela Flores** (University of the Pacific)- President Elect

**Elizabeth Sharp**  
(California State University, Northridge)  
- Secretary

**Christian Tudino** (University of the Pacific) - Parliamentarian

**Jay Dressler** (Marilynhurst University) - Treasurer

**Natalie Pio** (University of the Pacific) - Media Relations

### WRAMTAS University Updates

#### Marilynhurst University

- Attended Hill Day to support HB 2796 for State Licensure. Many students and MT-BC's met with legislators to ask for support of our bill and answer any questions.
- Student organization co-hosted a screening and discussion forum of the documentary, Alive Inside. We will be showing the documentary and following it with a panel discussion and question and answer session.
- Masters Program in Music Therapy starts Fall 2015!

#### California State University-Northridge (CSUN)

- In 2015, our student organization, MTAN (Music Therapy Association of Northridge) has hosted 4 professional Music Therapists as guest speakers to our MT student body. These guest speakers from all around the Southern California area have hosted workshops on song-writing, movement/breathwork for trauma patients, Music therapy in the medical setting, and the use of biofeedback within Music Therapy.
- We have also connected with our student organizations on campus and collaborated to host MT student-run workshops on stress, anxiety, building communities and practicing positive coping skills. We have also collaborated with the Student Health Services department on campus to host multiple campus-wide drum circles while promoting awareness of Music Therapy and its many benefits.
- We recently completed our Music Therapy showcase, which is a performance open to the public where all students in the MT department perform original and pre-composed music on their main instrument, in small groups, and individually. We had a great turn out from the Northridge community.
- We are now preparing for the year-end concert of the Sunshine Singers - our Adult choir from the CSUN Music Therapy Wellness Clinic, our on-campus clinic facility with 5 clinicians. We look forward to finishing the last 4 weeks of the semester strong!

## Western Region Cont.

### Seattle Pacific University

- MT program started an Intergenerational Group/weekly session at Bayview Retirement Community, along with our newly started 1-on-1 sessions, with older adults from the memory care unit at Bayview and elementary age students from a local elementary school.
- Started training sessions to work with homeless youth at New Horizons. The New Horizons staff does a monthly training session that is required of all volunteers to learn how to deal with certain situations that may arise within the facility.
- During the last week in June is our annual EMP Music Therapy camp for children on the Autism spectrum or with other developmental disabilities, ages 6-14 (morning and afternoon sessions).

### Utah State University

At USU, we recently hosted a "music therapy passport" experience. We created mini passports to encourage students to go to each station. If they got a signature at each station, then they could turn in their "passport" for a cookie. At each station we had a different types of music therapy interventions. The stations included a bell chart to Cold Plays "Clocks", a relaxation station, an improvisation station with djembes, tubano drums, and an assortment of rhythmic instruments, and then the last station was an intervention that involved playing guitars in open D tuning by following a chart. The event was a huge success, and we introduced music therapy to not only our student body but a lot of different community members as well.

### University of the Pacific

- 102 applied for Music Therapy program for the 2015-2016 school year!
- Music therapy at UOP has extended to our San Francisco campus where masters/equivalency in music therapy will be available for students starting Fall 2015.
- Pacific Music Therapy Association (PMTA) have been working with at risk teens at Children's home of Stockton.
- Celebrated our 75th Anniversary in 2014!



Seattle Pacific University



Utah State University



University of the Pacific