

AMTAS Fall Newsletter 2009



AMTAS President - Rose Fienman

Hello to all,

Autumn has arrived in Sacramento, CA! Both the AMTA Conference and the end of the year are rapidly approaching, and I have really enjoyed serving as American Music Therapy Association Students (AMTAS) President for 2009.

The Executive Board (EB) has been hard at work getting everything ready for the AMTA Conference in San Diego. We have arranged the Standing Committee representatives, and prepared for our booth in the Exhibit Hall, including the Technology Tutoring Program. We look forward to reviewing the AMTAS Scholarship applications very soon.

Visit us in the Exhibit Hall this year to sign up for Professional Portraits! AMTAS is covering the sitting fee, and this is an excellent opportunity to get a quality portrait that can be used for contact cards and other professional needs. We are very pleased to bring this service to you this year, and we are grateful to Gretchen Chardos Benner and Theresa Chardos Camilli for working so hard on this project.

Also, please plan to attend the AMTAS Business Meetings at the conference. Our first meeting is Friday, November 13, 2009 at 6:00pm, and our second meeting is Saturday, November 14, 2009 at 5:30pm.

Check the conference program for the location. Your votes most definitely do matter, and we would love to see every region and school represented at our meetings.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance to you. My email address is amtas.president@gmail.com and I am here to help. I look forward to seeing you very soon at the 2009 AMTA Conference in San Diego, CA!

Best wishes,

Rose Fienman

AMTAS President

AMTAS Vice President - Gabrielle Tee



Greetings from Kansas City! This year I have been working to make another exciting step forward for the AMTAS website. Our site is now independent from AMTA, with our own hosting space and domain name, www.amtas.org. Here current and prospective students can find information on scholarships, conferences, membership, internships, and more. I'm looking forward to conference and working with the challenge of passing this work on to the next vice president, and seeing the site develop even further, to serve as a tool of communication, information, and advocacy for music therapy!



**President Elect -
Casey Primo (Gregg)**

Greetings!

Conference is just around the corner, and AMTAS is set to be well represented,

especially with the implementation of the tutoring program. It will be beneficial for students to share their knowledge of technology with professionals who can use it in their own lines of work!

We have been hard at work implementing the new procedure for appointing students as representatives on AMTA Standing Committees, and I am pleased to report that every position has been filled! I look forward to hearing each representative's report at the 2nd AMTAS general business meeting.

Please don't hesitate to contact with me with any questions or concerns regarding standing committees. It is a great opportunity to serve alongside professionals, and it is never too early to start thinking about nominations for the 2010 year! Nomination forms can be found on the AMTAS website at www.AMTAS.org.

You can reach me at amtas.presidentelect@gmail.com.

I look forward to seeing you in San Diego!

Best,

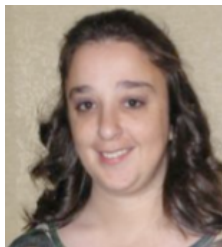
Casey Primo

AMTAS President Elect



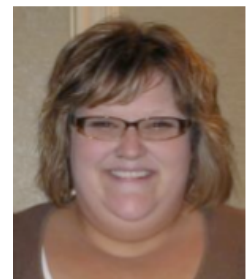
Secretary - Kate Polutnik

Our main source of communication remains the Facebook group, which can be located at www.facebook.com, search: AMTAS. We currently have 630 Facebook group members, which is another significant increase from the spring membership!



Parliamentarian - Sherrye Dobrin

This article is going to be short since all is quiet on the Parliamentarian front. That is probably a good thing because it shows that our bylaws are in good order and there haven't been any conflicts or reason to propose new changes. Most of the Parliamentarian duties take place at the National Business Meetings, when they make sure that Robert's Rules of Order are being adhered to during the meetings. One order of business I did this year was assist the Treasurer in writing a scholarship application and the President Elect to write a Nominating Committee form for self-nominations, by making sure that nothing in the wording or the application process conflicted with our bylaws or Robert's Rules. Ongoing, I am always reviewing Robert's Rules and seeing where they can be applied in our student organization.



Treasurer - Jessica Giese

The current balance of the AMTAS account is \$10,716.49.

The AMTAS Executive Board has been busy during the last 3 months preparing for the National Music Therapy Conference that is being held in San Diego, CA this fall.

Secretary, continued...

The Facebook group is a place where students can receive information regarding conferences, internship opportunities, and any other AMTA news. The Facebook group now has information regarding our new website as well as our new Twitter account.

Join the facebook group and feel free to email me with any questions @ kpolutnik@gmail.com or amtas.secretary@gmail.com.

It has been my pleasure to serve as the AMTAS Secretary, and I look forward to seeing everyone in San Diego!

-- Kate :)

Parliamentarian, continued...

To keep active and engaged as an officer on the board, I have created a Twitter account for AMTAS. Twitter users can "follow" us at @AMTAS and receive the latest AMTAS information, especially encouraging students to attend the conference. Twitter will be a great resource for it once it is up and running, but right now we have limited student followers. However, as we begin to spread the word and more students sign up, it will certainly prove to be an excellent communication tool. If, as a reader of this report, you can pass this information along to anyone who might be interested, that would be great. The more publicity the better.

It has been a wonderful opportunity to be a part of the AMTAS board and help out anyway that I can. I wish everyone well and success on their Music Therapy education and future careers!

- Sherrye

Treasury Report, continued...

During the month of October I have created a flyer that discusses the responsibilities of each position of the AMTAS Board. This flyer is intended to inform students of what exactly the AMTAS Board does. By producing this flyer, the AMTA students who are interested in becoming part of the AMTAS Board will be able to refer to this handout. This flyer will be available to AMTA students at the National Conference in San Diego, CA. Hope to see you all there!

Jessica Giese, AMTAS
Treasurer



Petra Kern - SAAB Advisor

As the Chairperson of SAAB (Student Affairs Advisory Board), I provide advise to the AMTAS Officers and support them in

- getting new projects of the ground
- analyzing challenges and finding solutions, and
- making connections to the national AMTA office and other AMTA related committees.

Additionally, I am administrating SAAB and lead our annual meeting at the national AMTA conference. I am very fortunate to have enthusiastic advisors and students on my side so that this volunteering position is pleasurable and rewarding.

I encourage you to find your role within AMTAS and become an active member by volunteering your talents and ideas. This is your chance to make a difference, learn about leadership, and join your student colleagues' vision of music therapy.

Join us during the AMTAS Business Meetings at the national AMTA conference in San Diego in November 2009. Introduce yourself, be part of a thriving student organization, and catch the wave to the future!

Petra

Dr. Petra Kern, MT-BVM, MT-BC, MTA
AMTA Student Academic Advisory Board Chair
Amtas.Advisor@gmail.com
www.musictherapy.biz

Hello Students,

This year, your student organization AMTAS accomplished a lot. Your officers have worked on

- improving visibility and transparency of their work by introducing themselves and describing job duties (see M.U.S.E.T.T.E. Vol. 2)
- improving procedures such as scholarship applications and nominations by streamlining the documents and considering your academic calendar,
- increasing communication and information sharing by regular updates to the website, Facebook, and Twitter, and
- organizing new events such as the AMTAS booth at the national conference, including the one-to-one technical tutorial.

Regional Updates...

Southeastern Region

Elly MacPhail

Our 5th annual student conference is approaching on March 25-26, 2010 in Orlando, FL. Last year's conference was a huge success, and we look forward to this year's event being even better! Students, be on the lookout for concurrent session proposal forms. They will be up on our website soon, and each school will receive copies via email. Presenting a session at the regional student conference is a wonderful way to network and improve presentation skills.

Each university should have received a copy of the SER-AMTAS fall newsletter via email. These newsletters are terrific ways to exchange ideas and to encourage each other. We look forward to your additional submissions in the spring. Don't forget to submit your application for the Spirit Award! Applications can be found on the SER-AMTA website and are due by March 10, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,
Elly MacPhail
SER-AMTAS President

New England Region

Kerry Leavell

The NER-AMTAS Board is starting the school year with a number of projects well underway. In May we presented a formal budget proposal to the NER Board, which included a projected allotment of funds for scholarships to the national conference, student networking/community building within the region, and both local and international service projects. Although the proposed budget total was significantly greater than in past years, we have already surpassed our fundraising goal by 50% and plan to apply the extra funds toward the international service trip. Fund raising included a benefit dinner in August, and t-shirt and guitar pick sales. (Check them out at the conference member marketplace!) The past month has also given rise to an official NER-AMTAS website, located at www.neramtas.yolasite.com as well as the first issue of our monthly newsletter, which can be downloaded from the website.

Current NER-AMTAS efforts are focused on wrapping up business from the 10th Anniversary Passages Conference, which took place on October 3rd at Lesley University. In the spirit of community, the Board collaborated with 15 volunteers from the general student membership as well as Lisa Kynvi, MT-BC, LMHC in planning the event. At the end of the day, it was deemed a great success by the 100 attendees, having featured 22 presentations, a community jam session, NER-AMTAS business meeting, and numerous additional networking opportunities. Also taking place at Passages was the election of two first-year representatives to the NER-AMTAS board. The positions were created in an effort to encourage NER-AMTAS involvement earlier in students' educational journeys and to decrease the turn over rate between graduating board members.

New England Region, continued...

The national conference also holds a prominent place on our radar as most of the board members (along with a number of other students) plan to attend. Two \$400 scholarships, sponsored by NER-AMTAS, were awarded to NER-AMTAS members to help defer the cost of attending the national conference. An international service project is also currently being planned for the summer of 2010.

The NER-AMTAS Board has already experienced an incredible sense of community and synergy so far this year and we approach the months ahead with great energy, determination, and joy.

Kerry Leavell, NER-AMTAS President

Southwestern Region

Nicki Wiloth

The SWR is looking forward to the upcoming national conference in San Diego California. Myself as well as our President-Elect will be attending.

Right now we are working on compiling a list of student representative from each of our schools in our region.

We are hoping to sell last years mugs at both the National and Regional conference and are working on new fundraising ideas for the regional conference in Amarillo.

We are also looking forward to the collaboration among schools in our widely spread region. The Facebook group has been a wonderful way for the schools to stay connected this past year. As well as the regional website.

This past conference we held our very first passages conference that resulted in great success with 6 different presentations from students. We are currently working on collecting dues, assembling a by-law committee, and creating an electronic copy of the by-laws for easy transfer between officers. In order to improve communication between our widespread officers we are working on constructing a conference call. Special Projects will include collecting essays from music therapy students about there experiences in their studies to be assembled later into a book called "The Day in The Life of Music Therapy Student/ Intern". Our publicity committee is working on getting a newsletter started to facilitate better communication between the schools. With that being said our next conference will be held March 25-27, 2010 in Amarillo and we are looking forward to the greatness to come.

Western Region

Lauren Bevilacqua

Welcome to the Western Region!

We are pleased to attend National Conference in our "home" region.

We hope you enjoy beautiful San Diego!

The Western Region has been busy this fall in various capacities. In addition to supporting their own students through university conference scholarships and student association activities, each program is providing quality services to the surrounding community through outreach, professional advocacy, fundraisers, and Music Therapy Concerts and Recitals.

Western region continued...

This year WRAMTAS has upgraded and created a new website and bi-semester newsletter full of important information about upcoming events available to all university students.

In addition, our students are creating independent projects to further music therapy and making contributions to our field through advocacy projects and an online community for music therapy students and interns in the western region.

Western Region Upcoming Events:

Please join us for our 3rd annual Passages Conference at our regional conference in Las Vegas!!!! April 10th, 2010, hosted by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Students and professionals from all over the region will come together to provide informative sessions tailored to the student, intern and new professional experiences.

In the spring, we are looking forward to a virtual master class series with professionals from our region speaking on their varied areas of expertise. WRAMTAS is working with each university student organization to coordinate a place and time for all universities to "tune in." It will be an excellent opportunity to learn about the kind of professional work occurring in our region, as well as a chance for the universities to get together and dialogue about student issues. For more information regarding this event, please contact Western Region President, Lauren at amtas.wr@gmail.com

Great Lakes Region

Bernadette Skodack

The GLR-AMTAS is in the process of putting together our committees, which were started by last year's executive board. Our committees are: public relations, scholarship, fundraising, and communications. We have already established a group on Facebook for students in our region. We held our first annual Passages conference at the GLR conference in March in Minneapolis. Augsburg hosted us, and we had 100 students in attendance! We will be holding the second Passages conference this March in Indianapolis on the campus of Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis. We are hoping to establish a logo design contest for Passages, with the winner receiving their GLR conference registration paid for. Our meet and greet event in St. Louis last year was a success, and we will be holding another meet and greet for our students attending the national conference. This year's event will be held in Charlie's in the Town and Country Resort following the AMTAS business meeting on Friday, November 13th.

As many of you know, Michigan State University is in danger of losing their music therapy program. A non-profit group has been established with the goal of raising money to pay for a faculty position. The group is the Advocates for Music Therapy Education. Everyone is asked to join, write letters of support for the program, and donate what you can to the cause. For more information, you can find the group on Facebook under SAVE THE MSU MUSIC THERAPY PROGRAM.

MidWestern Region

Paula Prosser

The Midwestern Region held their 2008 regional conference in Lincoln, Nebraska where student meetings were held and a new board was elected. Andrew Knight (MT-BC), from the University of North Dakota, was appointed as our new SAAB advisor.

The Midwestern region's main goal for the year is increasing membership and conference attendance. Board members have produced informative materials on the benefits of joining AMTA as a student member and disturbed and/or presented materials at schools across the region. This will be an ongoing goal for the Midwestern board this year. Many from our region plan to attend the national conference. Our regional conference will be held in Fort Collins, Colorado on April 17 and 18, 2010. As in years past, we will be presenting a Spirit Award to the school that participated in outstanding advocacy in their schools and communities. These efforts will be counted cumulatively over the school year. Sprit Award essays are read at the regional conference. This allows the board to choose the recipient and for other schools to gain ideas of how to advocate in their communities. The University of Iowa was the recipient of this award at the regional conference in Lincoln, Nebraska for their efforts following the flood that damaged their university. We awarded the winner with an instrument to be used in their university clinics and outside practica. The Midwestern board will also sell fundraising products at the regional conference in order to provided scholarships to deserving members of the Midwestern Region of American Music Therapy Association for Students.

Mid-Atlantic Region

Michelle Bonaventura

MARAMTAS continues to support students with a variety of scholarships. A "Freshman Welcome Package" will be send out to all schools in the region, including the names and contact information for the MARAMTAS executive board, an AMTA membership form, a motivational article, and scholarship paper. The passage conference will be held on October 24, 2009 at Nazareth College.

On behalf of the AMTAS Executive Board,

Thank you to all who contributed to this Fall Newsletter!

We look forward to seeing everyone in San Diego and at your respective regional conferences in the Spring!!!

Please email or contact us on Facebook with any questions or concerns.

Best, Kate Polutnik