



AMTAS Spring Newsletter

Officer Submissions

Hello to all,

Spring greetings from Sacramento, CA! I have enjoyed continuing my service as AMTAS President this year, and I know that Ellyn Hamm will do a great job when she becomes AMTAS President on May 1, 2010.

The Executive Board (EB) has created *MUSETTE vol. 3*, a one-page flyer introducing everyone on the EB, and this flyer has been distributed at the Regional Conferences across the country. We have also distributed a flyer entitled "Have you tried this?" The flyer shares fundraising ideas, in order to help as many students as possible join us at the AMTA National Conference.

AMTAS is excited to be collaborating with Matt Logan of Music Therapy Source in supporting their new Student and Intern Support Program. Check it out at www.musictherapysource.com!

Also, please notice that everyone associated with AMTAS now has an email address @amtas.org. A complete list of the new emails is available in the Student Handbook.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance to you. My email address is president@amtas.org and I am here to help. Enjoy spring, and I hope to see many familiar faces at 2010 AMTA National Conference in Ohio!

Best wishes,

Rose Fienman
AMTAS President

VP Since being elected as vice president in November, I have been working to exchange all of the information necessary for website and email transitions. I recently redesigned the AMTAS website (amtas.org) and have added updated information about the 2010 conference, new officers and emails. I also embedded a link to a downloadable pdf of The Musette on both the home page and the officers page. The website is still under construction and I will continue to add updates and important documents throughout the year, so stay posted and check it often!

Lauren Dickson

Secretary

Hello AMTAS members!

It is great to be serving as your 2010 AMTAS secretary. Be sure to email our vice president, Lauren Dickson if you have any troubles with getting AMTAS emails. Also, look to the facebook group for updates on the upcoming national conference! I hope to see you all in Cleveland in November.

Lelia Huber

Parliamentarian

There is currently little to report from Parliamentarian. However, we have begun to review the bylaws and see in what ways we can improve how our organization runs. Be on the lookout for those amendments at the national conference in the fall and feel free to contact me in the meantime if there are any specific improvements to these bylaws that you would like to see.

Jonathan Chaffin

Treasurer

Hello everyone!

My name is Ghazal Karimpour. I'm in my 8th semester at Berklee College of Music in Boston, and I will begin my Music Therapy internship in January. As the treasurer of AMTAS, I'm in charge of financial matters, such as scholarships. I hope that I can do my best during my one year of service.

Ghazal Karimpour

Regional Reports: This is a great way to hear what music therapy students across the country are doing in their organizations!

MWRAMTAS Region:

Our region has had an exciting year as we prepared for our first ever passages conference. We were able to offer conference scholarships and new opportunities to students through leadership and presentation opportunities. Four groups of presenters from Colorado State University, The University of Missouri at Kansas City, and the University of North Dakota were chosen. We are also working hard to set up a professional round table session at this year's passages. This will give the opportunity for students to ask questions and receive answers from experienced professional music therapists. Through these preparations, the student board has been in close contact with the professional board in planning our conferences together. We have also worked together in recognizing students and professionals of the month on our region's webpage. This is aiding in bridging the gap between students and professionals. In concurrence with the professional membership standing committee, the Midwestern region student board has held Skype conference calls with many schools on the topic of increasing membership. As our school year comes to a close, we are excited to welcome a new regional board. We are sure that these outstanding students will have much to offer the future students of MWRAMTAS.

Paula Prosser, MWRAMTAS President

SWAMTAS Region:

SWAMTAS had very productive and well attended business meetings at the 2010 regional conference in Amarillo, TX. We had roughly thirty-five students in attendance at each business meeting and they represented every school in the region besides SMU and UIW. We hope to encourage attendance by students from these schools at future conferences through greater communication among the region over the next year and new incentives such as our essay contest and future undergraduate scholarships.

The board successfully recruited two student representatives from every school except for the aforementioned two universities. Robert Krout recommended one student representative from SMU and we will be contacting Dr. Dvorkin to receive recommended UIW representatives. We're very excited about staying in touch with all of the schools in the region and collaborating on our newly approved community project/fundraiser of a 2011 music therapy wall calendar. The members passed a motion to begin work on a music therapy themed wall calendar that will feature imagery submitted from schools and regions across the nation and will highlight special dates (conferences, anniversaries, etc.) in our field. We will be producing the calendar in time to take it to Cleveland, Ohio as a fundraiser for our region.

The board submitted and successfully passed multiple revisions to the bylaws (see attached). Some of the approved changes included firmer deadlines for projects, newsletter submission dates, etc. throughout the year in order to improve communication and clarity. Each school in the region and the two student representatives from each will also be involved in student committees that will encourage deeper communication with specific officers. A new by-law committee was added this year in order to help keep revisions up to date.

The board is offering a \$100 prize for one selected winner from the essay contest on the topic, "A Day in the Life of a Music Therapy Student". All entries will be shared electronically on the swamtas website and excerpts from entries may appear in upcoming newsletters. The new essay deadline of Monday, April 26th was announced in both business meetings.

We sold our fundraiser of multi-colored flash drives with a music therapy logo and made a total of \$1200 at this regional conference from combined sales of the flash drives and music therapy mugs (last year's fundraiser). The organization has dropped the mug prices to \$5 each.

All organizations and members paid their dues. The new board was elected and the results were:

President, Lauren Dickson (SHSU)

President-Elect, Bryant Williams (TWU)

Secretary, Rachel McCready (WTAMU)

Treasurer, Karen Cassidy (SHSU)

Parliamentarian, Erin Feuerstein (WTAMU)

The board also decided to continue the monthly skype conference call tradition that began last year. We're looking forward to a great year!

Southeastern Region:

Our 5th annual student conference, "Music Therapy Magic," was a huge success. There was a great turnout of students at the conference. The students actually outnumbered the professionals! Emily Gill (Converse College) gave a presentation of her experience studying abroad at an orphanage in Kenya, and the University of Georgia Music Therapy Student Association presented on using piggy-back songs in music therapy with children and adolescents. Tamela Ponder, MT-BC, ITDS, spoke on her experience developing her own music therapy practice and was a wonderful and encouraging keynote speaker at the student opening session. We also held an internship panel at the conference for students to ask interns and internship supervisors questions about what internships will actually be like, and what they can do to prepare for their internships. This received great feedback, and was an overall success.

Our big project was a t-shirt sale fundraiser. The proceeds from the t-shirt sale were donated to the Music for Relief organization to benefit earthquake victims in Haiti. We raised \$195, and the SER-AMTA professional board of directors agreed to match what we raised. We also had a membership push in which we developed and distributed flyers advertising the benefits for students to join AMTA.

We had a busy and successful year, and are currently brainstorming for future projects.

Congratulations to our new officers!

Stefanie Maldonado, President (Converse College)

Matt Whitaker, President-Elect (University of Georgia)

Hannah Ivey, Secretary (University of Georgia)

Stephen Choate, Treasurer (Florida State University)

Kristin Johnson, Parliamentarian (Appalachian State University)

Michelle Erfurt, Advisor

-Stefanie Maldonado

GLR-AMTAS Region:

The GLR-AMTAS is fresh off our conference in Indianapolis where we "recharged our engines". Our 2nd annual Passages conference was held at Indiana University- Purdue University at Indianapolis and featured a variety of speakers and topics. We'd especially like to thank Dr. Burns and the IUPUI students for all of their help in planning the conference.

The GLR-AMTAS had a booth in the exhibit hall where we sold magnets and cds with powerpoint templates designed by the executive board. The money GLR-AMTAS made will go towards awarding scholarships for the next regional conference. We were able to award both of our scholarships this year. Our songwriting scholarship went to Jaclyn Bradley from Baldwin Wallace, and our Passages logo scholarship went to Joy Willenbrink from Dayton. Before the Saturday business meeting, we took over the professional meeting by singing "Lean on Me" with our GLR professional colleagues. GLR President Angie Snell challenged the

professionals to take over the beginning of our meeting at the next regional conference!

Our new executive board was elected at the meeting on the Saturday of conference, and they are gearing up for the national conference in Cleveland. Our new executive board is:

President- Jennifer Pinson, St. Mary-of-the-Woods College
Vice President- Carolyn Chwalek, Baldwin Wallace
Treasurer- Brad Bailey, Baldwin Wallace
Secretary- Alex Damiano, Ohio University
Parliamentarian- Rachel Benz, University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire
Webmistress- Amy Sawyer, Eastern Michigan University

The week of conference, it was announced that St. Mary-of-the-Woods would be cutting its music education program. Please let your voice be heard as it was and still is with the MSU music therapy program. Students from SMWC have started a Facebook group to save the music education program: "Save the SMWC Music Education and Instrumental Programs".

On a final note, it has been an absolute joy and privilege to serve as President of the GLR-AMTAS as well as the SAAB. I wish everyone the best, and know I am always available for anything that anyone needs. J

Bernadette Skodack, GLR-AMTAS Past President