

# A.M.T.A.S.

## 2012 Fall Newsletter:

### Conference Edition!



#### Table of Contents:

Conference Report.....Page 1 - 3

Regional Updates.....Page 4 - 5



## A.M.T.A.S. Conference Report

The A.M.T.A. 2012 national conference was held in St. Charles, Illinois this year, and being a town just outside of the “windy city” the conference motto was appropriately deemed “Winds of Change”. This year’s conference provided opportunities to hear the exciting new developments

**in music therapy, discuss serious issues related to the future of our career, learn information about your preferred area of music therapy, network with professionals in the field, and develop friendships to last a lifetime. For those of you who may not have been able to attend, here is a recap of some of the items that were presented within our own A.M.T.A.S. business meetings. Minutes from conference to be posted online soon!**

### **President's Challenge**

**Every year the A.M.T.A.S. officer board issues a presidents challenge in an effort to support one music therapist located within the area surrounding that year's conference location. The main stipulation to qualify for the challenge is to be an individual who is a brand new music therapist entering the field OR a music therapist starting a new program. After careful consideration of all qualified applicants, one is selected as the winner. The selected individual is then presented with instruments, music, and other resources provided to them by all of the regions and the national E-Board. This year's winner is Emily Sevcik, MT-BC. Emily is a music therapist who recently started working with young adults with disabilities who no longer qualify for services in the school system. She was brought to work with this organization starting this past June and was limited in age appropriate resources. Thanks to the enormous generosity of the regions and our own officer board, she was presented with a brand new ukulele, drums more suitable for young adults, and many other resources. It is such an honor to be able to provide that kind of gift to a music therapist in need. Keep that in mind for those of you students who will be entering into the field in the next couple of years. Don't be afraid to apply!**

## STARS Scholarships

Along with the president's challenge, the A.M.T.A.S. officer board also provides the opportunity for students and new professionals to receive scholarships geared towards their needs. This year we were excited to award two scholarships this year to deserving individuals. The first scholarship is the undergraduate scholarship designated for any undergraduate music therapy student who is an A.M.T.A.S. member. This year the scholarship was presented to Megan Dolan. The second scholarship is the graduate scholarship designated for any graduate student who is also an A.M.T.A.S. member. This year the scholarship was presented to Kayla Schafer. Congratulations to both recipients! Make sure that you apply for the STARS scholarships! There are five different categories including: undergraduate, graduate, intern, CBMT, and AMTA member. Find more information on the A.M.T.A.S. website: [www.amtas.org](http://www.amtas.org).

### E. Thayer Gaston Award

Presented by A.M.T.A in cooperation with the Student Affairs Advisory Board, this award is presented to student submitted paper on any topic relevant to the music therapy profession using the philosophical, historical, descriptive, or experimental mode of research. All submitted papers are reviewed by three evaluators selected from the professional community. The selected paper is presented with a \$500 reward along with the opportunity to have the revised paper published on the A.M.T.A.S. website. This year the award was presented to Elizabeth A. Shea over her paper: *A Survey of Music Therapists Understanding of the Neurobiology of Alzheimer's Disease*. Congratulations!

# Regional Updates

## Great Lakes Region:

This spring the GLR student body hosted an incredibly successful Passages conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Seven students from all across the region gave presentations, and the keynote was delivered by Angie Snell, a music therapist from the Detroit Public Schools. Since then, the board has been focusing on restructuring our budget. We want to find the most effective ways to deliver our money back to the students and communities of our region.

The GLR board is continuing with our Pedagogical Musicians' Exchange Program, where we donate \$500 worth of instruments to a public school music program in need. We are still accepting submissions and will deliver instruments by regional conference in 2013. We have the great privilege to announce that two of our Executive Board members were elected to the AMTAS board for the coming year. Scott Schmitz will become President-Elect and Melissa Heffner will assume the role of Parliamentarian.

## Southeastern Region:

The South Eastern Region has been working on unifying its students through a series of online measures. We have been working to improve our communication, moving from emails to Facebook groups and message threads, which we feel will be more accessible to students and student leaders in our region. We have been making improvements to our blog and working on updating all contact info available on various AMTA-related sites. With ten states, we have the largest number of states out of all the AMTA regions, so staying connected has historically been difficult for us. We hope that making strides with our online presence will help bring us together as a region.

Our thirteen schools have been very active in their respective communities, raising money to support students, volunteering music therapy services in a variety of local facilities, and promoting music therapy advocacy among students and professionals in their communities. A highlight for the South Eastern Region was a music therapy information session organized by Appalachian State University meant to reach out to students on campus and provide them with information about music therapy. Considering that students in other majors will someday be the doctors, nurses, therapists, social workers, and counselors that we are working with, advocacy among students is important! We are currently encouraging other schools to follow in ASU's footsteps on this issue.

-Cassidy Smith

President, SER-AMTAS

## **Western Region:**

After an exciting regional conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, WRAMTAS is full of momentum. President Erin Silvius and her executive board have developed numerous goals for the 2012-2013 school year and are looking forward to establishing a more connected student organization in the western region. Because of the large geographical area of the region, the students rarely have opportunities to interact face-to-face. The WRAMTAS executive board will implement new programs to increase opportunities to learn from fellow students and forge personal connections.

Additionally, WRAMTAS re-launched the website [wramtas.org](http://wramtas.org) following a brief absence from the virtual world. The website will be a place for students to connect with one another, find valuable resources, and become more plugged in to the region. The WRAMTAS executive board is excited about the possibilities this new school year holds. A few students from WRATMAS were able to make the long trip to AMTA National Conference in St. Charles, IL. National Conference was a great time for meeting students and leaders from other regions and for generating new ideas. After conference, WRAMTAS has fresh excitement and plans and will continue to flourish.

## **Mid-West Region:**

Greetings from the Midwest Regional board! First off, thank you to all students to attended National Conference in St. Charles. We had a fantastic turnout and our board was proud to represent you at the student board meetings. Our board is up to some fantastic things this year going along with our theme of "communication" for the remainder of our turn. We have decided to put on a student "conference" in the summer of 2013. It will include workshops on guitar, piano, and percussion skills as well as student gatherings to meet other students from our fantastic region.

Speaking of student conferences, we will be having passages in San Antonio at our regional conference. This conference is going to be a duel conference with the Southwestern region. The call for papers will be in January so make sure you are checking our website ([mw-amta.org](http://mw-amta.org)) and clicking on the student link. Mark down the dates of conference (April 3-7th) in your calendar now! We need to represent our region down in Texas. Hope you all are having wonderful semesters and see you in April!