Meet the 2015 AMTAS Executive Board

**Ryan Rebegay, President**

Greetings AMTAS! My name is Ryan Rebagay, and I am a Junior at the University of Miami. My principal instrument is double bass and I am from Houston, Texas. This year's Executive Officers and I are striving to achieve unity and better communication among the membership to help create an even closer wound network of future music therapists. I am excited to serve you all as president this year and look forward to seeing everyone at conference! Here's to a great year for music therapy!

**Rachel Pinto, President-Elect**

Hello AMTAS! My name is Rachel Pinto and I am currently a Sophomore at Illinois State University with piano as my primary instrument. I am honored and thrilled to serve as your President-Elect for this years national board. My responsibilities include collecting nominations for the Standing Committee Student Representatives and assisting the President. I am looking forward to a very exciting year! Thank you all so much for this opportunity!

**Krystine Smith, Vice President**

Hello AMTAS! My name is Krystine Smith. I'm very excited to serve as your Vice President! I am a junior at the University of Miami and my principal instrument is flute. My responsibilities as Vice President include managing and updating the AMTAS website, communicating with Regional Presidents, and assisting the President. I am looking forward to working with this year's E-Board to make AMTAS bigger and better than ever before! Hope to see you all in Kansas City later this year!
Alexandra Wilson, Secretary

Hello! My name is Alexandra Wilson and I’m a junior at Ohio University, studying voice as my primary instrument. As secretary I take minutes and manage contacts. I am also in charge of maintaining the AMTAS Facebook and Twitter, as well as creating the Spring and Fall AMTAS newsletters. I’m excited to have a chance to meet other music therapy students across the nation and to help foster communication amongst other students! Hope to see you all in Kansas City!

Jerwin Monje, Treasurer

Hey folks! My name is Jerwin Monje. I am currently a senior at the University of the Pacific, and my primary instrument is the flute. I am super excited to be your treasurer! I will be working hard throughout the year overseeing our fundraisers and scholarship opportunities. I am so grateful for this opportunity and cannot wait to see all of you in Kansas City!

Elle Sanders, Parliamentarian

Hi there. My name is Elle Sanders and I am a senior at Belmont University in Nashville, TN. I am primarily a vocalist and cellist with both commercial and classical training. As Parliamentarian, my role is to keep a close eye on our by-laws. I organize necessary revisions to our governing rules; thereby ensuring that intention matches function, language is clear and concise, and content remains relevant to the rapidly developing needs of our profession of choice. I love making connections and learning new things. As an aspiring music therapist, I’m excited about the prospect of program-development: particularly with populations traditionally unengaged by MT services. The power of music is versatile enough for personal healing, community restoration, and global impact: how exciting is that? Let us use our—very unique—skills to press into the world around us. Let us take the blueprints of human connection and actualize them with ingenuity and wavelengths.

Nicole Hahna, Ph. D., MT-BC, Advisor

Hello AMTAS, my name is Nicole Hahna, Ph.D., MT-BC, Fellow of the Association for Music & Imagery. I am a music therapist with a private practice in Pittsburgh and I teach in the music therapy program at Slippery Rock University. For my position as SAAB Chair (Student Affairs Advisory Board), I advise the AMTAS E-Board, providing mentoring and assistance as needed. I’m excited to work with this year's incoming E-Board and to see the student organization flourish and grow.
Executive Board’s Goals for the Year

Promoting Unity, Research and Membership

As an executive board we have developed three goals for the year. We hope that by reaching these goals we can continue to support music therapy students by providing professional opportunities.

Our first goal is to create unity amongst members of AMTAS across the country. We hope to achieve this by creating new spaces for students to communicate both online and in person. Through promotion of the forum located on our website, we aim to facilitate communication. We also will be collecting contact information for all the university chapters of AMTAS so we can reach students on many levels.

Secondly, we hope to support and prioritize research in the music therapy field by engaging the next generation of researchers. AMTAS will encourage exposure to music therapy research by highlighting opportunities for undergraduate students to get involved with ongoing studies. We hope to create a safe space for students to present their own findings in order to practice the process of collecting and analyzing data. AMTAS will also act as a platform for alerting the student body to recent developments in the field.

Lastly, we want to promote membership to our organization. We hope that by starting initiatives to grow our membership, that we can reach a wider variety of AMTAS students.

Thank you for giving us all a chance to represent you!