

AMTAS Spring Newsletter

April
2008



AMTAS President
Gretchen Chardos

Spring greetings from Cleveland, Ohio! It has been an honor and delight serving the American Music Therapy Association Students (AMTAS) with the Executive Board (EB) Members and Regional Student Representatives. After only a few months together, the AMTAS EB created *MUSETTE*, vol. 1! This first-ever flier introduces all eight officers with a brief job description and photograph. *MUSETTE*, vol. 1 was successfully distributed to all seven regions via student business meetings held at regional AMTA conferences this spring. Petra Kern, AMTAS Student Affairs Advisor and I were able to attend the MARAMTA Conference in Cherry Hill, NJ held March 26-29, 2008 and personally distribute *MUSETTE* during the MARAMTS Business Meeting I.

Another current project is the creation of an AMTAS logo. Alex Buzzell, Past President of the MRAMTAS is graciously donating his talents to this project, and AMTAS thanks him for his time! Upon completion, the AMTAS logo will appear on our Facebook Group, new website and letterhead.

One of my exciting tasks is to organize the 2008 AMTAS President's Challenge, with the help of the AMTAS Board of Directors. Applicants must be music therapists who are beginning his/her own program or have limited funds at an existing facility and reside in St. Louis, Missouri – the location of the November 2008 AMTA Conference. Each regional student organization is asked to compile donations, particularly musical instruments & supplies for the recipient who will collect them during the second AMTAS Business Meeting in St. Louis.

I look forward to meeting with you in November at the AMTA Conference. If I may of further service, please email amtas.president@gmail.com. Thanks for your participation and advocacy of music therapy!

AMTAS Vice President
Gabrielle Tee



Last November I attended my first national music therapy conference, and was so excited to have been elected AMTAS Vice President. This position has allowed me to use my creativity and computer skills to create a brand new AMTAS website. It is a new way for you to stay informed about music therapy conferences, scholarships, internships, fundraisers, and activities happening across the country and in your own city! It will be updated on a regular basis, so check it often for new information. Also, please feel free to e-mail me with any questions, thoughts, or information that you would like to see posted.

www.ser-amta.org/amtas



**AMTAS Past President
Megan Cummins**

We have had an exciting start to the year. Many of our action items from this past fall's meeting in Louisville, KY have already been put into action! My main goal these past few months is to make sure that our new officers transition smoothly into the new year, and to ensure that communication is consistent. We are happy to announce all of the regional presidents and advisor's are set up with gmail accounts! Our board has been exchanging e-mails on a daily basis discussing our website, by-laws, service projects, advocacy, and outreach programs to students and interns in need. I am most excited because it is only April, and we are sure to make leaps of progress by November. I hope you take the opportunity to attend our upcoming national conference in St. Louis and get involved with AMTAS. Happy Spring and keep up the good work!

**AMTAS President-Elect
Rose Fienman**



I attended the SER-AMTA Conference in New Orleans. MUSETTE was distributed at both student business meetings. I have almost finished sorting out all of the AMTAS Standing Committee Representatives. Most people seem to be in contact with their committees, though I am still helping a few people get in contact with the chairs.



**AMTAS Parliamentarian
Allison Reyburn**

Hello everyone! As AMTAS Parliamentarian, I have started off this term with enthusiasm and productivity. I updated our Bylaws based on the approved revisions from the fall conference. The main points of these revisions included the addition of a President-Elect position, and adjustment of officer duties to better achieve our goals. These Bylaws were made available to our executive board and are to be added to the AMTAS website. In addition to this transition, my fellow executive officers and I are in constant evaluation of potential Bylaw revisions for this upcoming National Conference. Although we are working hard, we enjoy striving to meet the goals of AMTAS. Thanks to everyone!

**AMTAS Treasurer
Christopher Combie**



The AMTAS Executive Officers unanimously voted to support a national service project called "MT your pockets for MTs in Africa." The scope of the project is large and the donation from AMTAS will help in a small way to provide drums, instruments, percussive instruments, and other music therapy necessities to assist Marisa Covert, MT-BC spearhead this new and exciting venture in South Africa. AMTAS is looking into the possibility of matching funds from the

regional AMTAS groups to further assist. Please do not hesitate to contact AMTAS with questions.



AMTAS Secretary
Emily Izen

The first four months of this year have flown by! I have tried my best to keep everyone updated via facebook with current updates and scholarship information. Those who attended regional conferences should have received the “Musette,” a flyer containing information about us, your AMTAS Executive Officers. Recently, I have been working on this newsletter. Thank you to everyone who submitted reports; this is a great way to find out what other regions are doing. Also, please remember – it is one of our main goals to communicate with each other! I will do my best to keep the facebook group updated in the upcoming months. If you would like something posted, please let know! Happy Spring! ☺

Great Lakes Region
Emily Applegarth



The Great Lakes Region student group has been busy over the past several months. We have been striving to increase communication among the region's schools and have also sponsored several unique projects. In the fall, we helped spread the word to GLR schools about an initiative through Ohio University to collect musical instruments for new music programs for children in Haiti. We also continued last year's fundraising endeavor by selling music therapy tote bags at regional schools. In addition, our executive board completed the much-needed task of revising our organization's bylaws.

On April 3-6, the Great Lakes Region and Midwest Region of AMTA held a joint conference just outside of Chicago where GLR students were well represented. GLR-AMTAS held a scholarship competition for that conference for which students submitted original song compositions about music therapy. The winner received reimbursement for conference registration and performed her song at the student meeting. Also at the conference student meetings, plans were discussed for creating project committees for GLR students for next year and the newest GLR-AMTAS executive board was elected.



Mid-Atlantic Region
Maryellen Fairchild

Hello everyone. This year has been a busy year for the MAR Region. We just concluded our regional conference held in Cherry Hill, NJ. A variety of sessions were provided to promote learning and growth in the field and it seemed everyone found something they were interested in. Networking among professionals as well as students took place throughout conference as well. Two service projects were put together by MARAMTS and both were very successful. “Empty Your Pockets for MTs in South Africa” was a coin collection fundraiser in which students carried buckets around conference and collected change. The money was being collected to

support a music therapist working in South Africa, specifically for the purchase of instruments. The second service project was held in the immediate area. Seven schools participated in doing recreational music experiences in local facilities and as a result, three of the facilities are interested in hiring music therapists now. In addition to service projects, MARAMTS continued with the tradition of have a Student SWAP shop during conference. This year, SWAP shop was a time for students to come together for about two hours and share what they are researching, working on, and opinions about school, music and more. This year's SWAP shop was extremely successful and we hope to continue it in future years.

In other news, MARAMTS developed a new committee and ongoing project to increase communication and awareness within the Music Therapy students in the Mid-Atlantic Region. This project, the Sister School Advocacy Project (SSAP), has had great responses from the students. The goal is to really promote communication between schools and get more schools to be active in the region. So far so good! Our other committees were all successful. Scrapbook, by-laws, and service committees fulfilled their duties to the fullest.

The Passages coordinators are busy planning the 2008 Passages conference. This promises to be another successful one-day symposium for students and new professionals. Finally, thanks to successful fundraisers, we gave 5 MARAMTS scholarships (AMTA dues + MAR conference fee) to undergraduate and graduate students and two Club Awards (\$250). In addition, MAR gave 3 Jenny Shinn Scholarship awards (\$500 each).

Hope all is well in national news and we are looking forward to next fall!

Midwestern Region
Alex Buzzell



Items addressed at the student business meetings included fundraising, newsletter circulation, and our annual Board Certification Scholarship, which will be awarded later this year.

Our conference was filled with a large variety of sessions and opportunities for students to learn and represent their schools. Session topics covered a broad range of topics, including: music therapy in the treatment of cancer patients, chemical dependency, integrative technology, hospice, and much more. This conference allowed students from across the region to network with professionals and students from other regions for professional and academic growth.

The 2008-2009 MRAMTAS board will continue to encourage its students in their academic and professional growth through financial support provided by fundraising. MRAMTAS sold large adaptive picks, finger drums, and music therapy insulated coffee mugs at conference. Every purchase made at the booth earned a raffle ticket to win a Remo Tubano drum, which stimulated sales. Money from this fundraiser will go to fund the MRAMTAS Board Certification Scholarship, as well as any projects the new board wishes to adopt. The region also recognized students from the University of Kansas with the Spirit Award, which is an annual award given to

the school that shows the most spirit through community service, volunteer work or charitable donations, and overall activity toward advocacy for music therapy. The award consists of an item (this year's prize was a Healing Drum Kit from West Music) to be used by music therapy students at the winning school in their clinical practica work.

The new board will continue to work on communication among the Midwest Region. They have already made use of the existing facebook group, and will continue to do so. Also, the 2007-2008 board worked very hard over the past year to update the materials and create new binders for the new officers, so that they were able to start their positions with adequate information to fully serve the students in the region. This has been a problem in the past, and the new board will work diligently so that their successors will receive the same amount of training information. The new board is full of bright and enthusiastic students that will be a great asset to the region. I wish them luck in their future endeavors.

The 2008-2009 Executive Board for MWR is as follows, congratulations!

Thomas Welander, President (University of Iowa)
Kate Polutnik, Vice President (University of Iowa)
Paula Prosser, Secretary (University of Kansas)
Sally Strnad, Treasurer (University of Kansas)
Patina Ammerman, Parliamentarian (University of Kansas)



New England Region
Lisa Jacobs

The New England Region has spent a lot of the spring semester gearing up for the annual regional conference. On April 4th, NERAMTAS passed several important revisions to our bylaws, including adding official Passages sub-committee responsibilities to the offices of President and the three Vice-Presidents. We also held elections and an excited new slate of officers has already stepped up to their positions, under the leadership of Jared Leaderman, our new regional President. NERAMTAS is looking forward to the AIDS Walk this June, and soon thereafter it'll be time to start getting ready for Passages again!

Southeastern Region
Kathryn Yeager



This year the Southeastern Region had its third annual student conerence, Building Together in New Orleans! It was extremely successful conference; presentation topics spanned from music therapy abroad experiences to clinical experiences to professional advocacy. We were able to plan our conference with in the dates of the professional conference, which brought a larger turn out of students than ever before! Our student conference is such an exciting opportunity because it allows our students to personally share with each other what we have learned in our various

experiences. Each year our student conference grows and we are excited to see how it will continue to progress!



Southwestern Region
Ana Lopez

The members of SWAMTAS met on March 28th and 29th in El Paso, Texas as a part of the SWAMTA Regional Conference. Student attendance at this conference was great and we had an average of thirty-five members present for each of the two meetings during the conference. We had successful elections and I am happy to announce that Erin Hargis is the new President for the 2008-2009 term. Erin served as President Elect for 2007-2008 and attended some of the meetings at the AMTA Conference. Erin's email address is: ech006@shsu.edu.

This past year our region has continued to increase communication throughout all the schools. In doing so we decided Facebook would be our primary means of communication in between regional meetings, as well as posting information in the student section of the SWAMTA Regional website. We have a SWAMTAS group on Facebook and plan to use the mass messaging capabilities more in the upcoming year.

In an effort to involve more students from all universities, we have created committees, which are available for student members to join. These committees are: the special projects committee, fundraising committee, and the publicity committee. The fundraising committee sold plastic cups with a music therapy logo on them at the recent regional conference. We have plans to continue to sell them at the next national conference. The members of SWAMTAS voted to form a committee to explore the possibility of giving a several small scholarships for students to attend regional conference. This is possible, in part, due to fundraising at this past conference.

The publicity committee is collecting essays from music therapy students about their experiences in their studies; this is a part of our SWAMTAS Regional Project. Our publicity committee is working on getting a newsletter started to facilitate better communication between the schools.

The special projects committee will work on starting a Passages student conference in our region. We are in the very early stages of arranging our first Passages Conference in conjunction with the SWAMTA Regional Conference March 2009 in Austin, Texas. The conference will take place before or after the regular conference or will consist of a "student" track within the conference. These plans are in the early stages, but everyone is very excited about the possibilities of hosting such a conference.

The Southwestern Region was able to increase the amount and number of intern scholarships given this year. Two scholarships in the amount of \$500 each were given to students who will be interning in the next fiscal year. The number and caliber of applicants was exceptional and the recipients are Marce Mueller of Southwestern Oklahoma State University and Nikki Simmons of Sam Houston State University. Marce served as our regional student president for the 2006-2007 term.

The student groups at two of our universities have been very busy this year. Both Sam Houston State University and Southwestern Oklahoma State University hosted a music therapy awareness weekends at their respective schools. Both events were well attended and well publicized.

Our regional student organization has done very well considering that the board dwindled to only one member just three years ago. We have come through most of that rebuilding process and we have many dedicated members with many great ideas for the next year.

Western Region
Bill Dluhosh



I would like to begin by stating that this has been an incredible year for the Students of the Western Region. The WRAMTAS Songbook for this year's fundraiser has been printed and will be available for sale at the Western Region Conference. The compositions were composed and submitted by students in the Western Region. On April 6th, coinciding with the Regional Conference, the Western Region Students held their first Passages Conference, at Seattle Pacific University. Current AMTA President, Dr. Barbara Wheeler, was the featured speaker. WRAMTAS Vice-President Angie Kopshy took the lead on applying for the AMTAS Regional Support Fund. AMTAS granted our proposal which sited the success of the Master classes at Marylhurst University and the desire of WRAMTAS to support a Regional Master class. On Saturday April 19, 2008, Barbara Dunn, LICSW, MT-BC, will be presenting a 2-hour class on Music Therapy in a Medical Setting, via Skype.

Thank you to everyone who submitted reports for the 2008 AMTAS Newsletter! Also, thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to read the reports. Each region has been busy this year with a variety of projects – congratulations to all!

The regional conferences for 2008 went well from what I have heard from AMTAS SAAB members and the Executive Board. At these conferences, new regional officers were elected for the 2008-2009 year.

On behalf of the AMTAS Executive Board, I would like to take this time to WELCOME & CONGRATULATE each and every one of you. We look forward to working with you over the next few months as we get ready for National Conference 2008 in St. Louis!

Remember, communication is our way to success!! If you have questions, comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at amtas.secretary@gmail.com

Emliy Izen
AMTAS Secretary