

MARAMTS

2008 Newsletter

Special points of interest:

- Scholarship announcements
- Updates from regional music therapy student clubs and organizations
- Updates from MARAMTS committees
- AMTAS on Facebook

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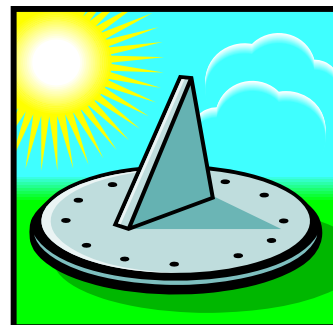
Letter from the Editor

Students of MARAMTS,

Fall has finally made it here, and that means it is time for regional conference. Although I am looking forward to going to conference, I am not looking forward to the end of my time working with the MARAMTS executive board. The last year has been awesome, and I have really enjoyed my time working with motivated students and professionals in the region. I would definitely recommend working with MARAMTS to others, and if you have any interest in getting some “pre-professional professional” experience, volunteer to be a chapter representative for your school or run for MARAMTS executive board office. My experiences working in the

region have been incredible, and if there is one thing that I have learned, it is that the professionals support us completely in everything we do. We accomplish so much as a region and we are fortunate enough to be able to give out scholarships to support our students.

This year’s conference in Richmond, Virginia, is going to be very exciting. The MARAMTS executive board and the chapter representatives have planned a swap shop for students (to meet, get to know, and share experiences with others), a fundraising service project, a session about preparing a presentation (perhaps for next year’s MAR Passages), and a conference guide that lists all of these events for students on one page.



Once again, I encourage students in the region to get involved whether it is at the national, regional, state, or school level. My experiences with MARAMTS are ones that I will not forget.

Michelle Bonaventura
MARAMTS Secretary
2008-2009

Letter from the President

Hello, MARAMTS!!

I hope that you have all enjoyed (and survived!) a very exciting Fall semester. I just returned from this year’s national conference in St. Louis and am happy to announce that I was elected to the AMTAS board, where I will be serving as Parliamentarian next year. The AMTA National Conference was great was attended this year by three MARAMTS executive board members - myself, Dana Frisher, and Megan Smith as well as 11 other MARAMTS students. If you have never been to a na-

tional conference, I highly encourage you to attend!

Instead of writing an article for this newsletter, I would like to share with you the report that I sent to AMTAS on our behalf. Many exciting plans are in the works for our Regional Conference which will be in Richmond, VA from March 26 - 28. I hope you are planning to attend and look forward to seeing you there!

MARAMTS Report (as submitted to AMTAS) - 2008
MARAMTS is proud to have an excited and active Executive Board and Board of Representa-

tives. This past September, we held our Fall Business Meeting as we do every year. We had chapters reps attend from 13 schools, including schools that haven’t attended this meeting in several years. These schools, that had previously been inactive have returned to an active status and we are thrilled to have them back.

We hope that this return of active involvement is due to a new program, implemented last year by our former Government Relations Chair, Amelia Chapman and is being continued by this year’s chair,

Letter from the President (cont.)

Megan Smith, called the Sibling School Advocacy Project. With this project, schools who are active in the region are paired up with schools who haven't been active and they work together to encourage active involvement. Some schools have gotten together and shared drum circles and other programs together. This program continues to grow in participation.

At each Fall Business Meeting, we have a guest speaker who is a professional from the MAR Region to present on a issue that is relevant for students and future professionals. This year's speaker was Dr. David Ramsey who gave an outstanding presentation entitled *Essential Human Experiences Through Electronic Music Improvisation*. The presentation was fascinating and moving, and we cannot thank him enough for taking the time out of his busy schedule to share this with us. Many great plans are in store

for the upcoming year. We are excited about our fundraiser this year. Since it hasn't been revealed yet, I don't want to give out too much information, but I will just say that they are car magnets and they look phenomenal. Last year's fundraiser was a notebook and pen set that were a huge hit. We raised a lot of money with it at our Regional Conference last year in Cherry Hill, NJ.

Other plans for this year include exploring the way that technology can be used as communication within the students. Just this year we created a Facebook group called MARAMTS Students. Many students in the region have already joined. We are also considering starting the use of a podcast to share information but that is still being worked out.

As we also do annually, we are proud to offer scholarships this year. We will be awarding 2 sophomore scholarships, 2 junior

scholarships and 1 graduate scholarship this year. Each scholarship pays for AMTA student membership as well as the regional conference registration fee. In addition, 2 Club Awards (each \$250) are awarded to schools for an outstanding advocacy project or community service project. MAR will also be awarding 3 Jenny Shinn Memorial Awards (\$500 each) to 2009 interns. All scholarships are judged by students as well as professionals according to pre-determined rating scales.

We are very excited about all of these upcoming projects and look forward to a successful year. I would also like to wish all students who are seniors this year the best of luck on their internships, certification and graduations! We all know this is quite a journey!!!

Sherrye Dobrin-
MARAMTS President
2008-2009



Letter from the Vice President

As Vice President I have been working closely with the MAR Board in accomplishing many things in our region. We recently met at national conference in St. Louis Missouri where we discussed the importance of having all music therapists, both professionals and students alike, to join AMTA. Also this past month the New Jersey task force held "Music Therapy Day" at the

State House in Trenton, NJ in order to educate and advocate lobbyists on the importance of music therapy in our region. I look forward to continue working with the MAR board and seeing everyone at MAR conference in Richmond, VA!

Dana Frisher
MARAMTS
Vice President
2008-2009



**Be sure to look for
the Student
Conference Guide in
your registration
folder!
This will provide
valuable
information about
the activities at
regional conference
that were planned
with students and
young professionals
in mind.**

Letter from the Secretary

Working on this board has been an amazing and rewarding experience. I have gotten the great opportunity to collaborate with other music therapy students in our region. The Fall Business Meeting this year was a huge success. The majority of the schools in our region sent two school representatives from their school. In this meeting we got a lot much accomplished; each officer on the board gave a report of what they had done and consequently what needed to happen, as well as each school gave a report of

things they have done. Schools in our region have started a Music Therapy Club on campus and fundraisers to buy instruments or donate to the community. We also gave each school Welcome Packets to give to all their new music therapy students to welcome them into music therapy and in depth articles and case studies. We also picked our fundraiser for MARAMTS, which will be music therapy car magnets. We discussed aspects such as out budget, by-laws and scholarships. One of the highlights of our meeting

was a presentation from Dr. David Ramsey who spoke and showed a video of his work entitled *Essential Human Experiences Through Electronic Music Improvisation*. I look forward to continue working with our executive board members and the school representatives. See everyone at the spring conference in Richmond, Virginia!

Michelle Bonaventura
MARAMTS Secretary
2008-2009



Letter from the Parliamentarian

Hi Everyone! My name is Bridget Skipper and I am very happy to introduce myself as Parliamentarian on the MARAMTS Executive Board for the 2008-2009 year. Let me begin by telling you a little about myself. I am currently a sophomore attending Immaculata University. My main instruments are voice and piano. Last year was my first time attending a music therapy conference that was held in Cherry Hill, NJ. I was very excited to be elected Parliamentarian. Since the spring conference, I have grown and learned so much in the music therapy field. I would like to thank my fellow music therapy students and professors for their support during the time I have attended Immaculata.

My work with the MARAMTS Executive Board began with the summer meeting. I was very nervous for this meeting but as soon as I met the other students on the E-

board, I realized the upcoming year would be an adventure. We all meshed so well and "got right to business" from the start. It was refreshing to meet new people who share the same goals as me. We came up with great ideas including the car magnets for this year's fundraiser.

I attended the fall business meeting and once again was slightly nervous but entered the room feeling completely comfortable with the E-board and all the new chapter reps. Before the meeting, I had the pleasure of meeting the Parliamentarian on the MAR Executive Board. She gave me a lot of good advice on Roberts Rules of Order and holding the position of Parliamentarian. The chapter reps and e-board

had a very successful meeting and everyone left very excited for the upcoming year and regional conference.

I am eager to begin planning swap shop for this year's conference. I have a lot of help from the members on my committee and we already came up with many great ideas at the fall meeting. For those of you who have never attended conference, please do! Last year was my first time at conference and I had an amazing time. I met so many new people and learned a lot of new things. I am very excited to meet all of you at conference. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be your Parliamentarian.

Bridget Skipper
MARAMTS
Parliamentarian
2008-2009

Be sure to
 stop by this
 year's
 Student
 Swap Shop!
 Check your
 conference
 program for
 more info.

Update from Treasurer

Hello MARAMTS,

This semester has been a great time to be Treasurer. Working with Elaine Abbott has offered me a great opportunity to learn about keeping accurate records and how to keep everyone happy. I'm very excited about our fundraiser this upcoming year! We have decided to sell a Music Therapy car ribbon to advocate for

ourselves as professionals and future professionals, and the clients we work with. We will be selling these at conference. Please feel free to contact me with any suggestions or questions, and hope you all have had a blessed holiday season and a happy new year!

Corinne Woolley
MARAMTS Treasurer
2008-2009

**Stop by the
 MARAMTS
 booth to pick
 up some of this
 year's
 fundraisers!**

Update from Government Relations Representative

The work that the board did over the summer culminated in the fall business meeting in September. Over two days, the students that attended from schools across the region were enthusiastic about making progress this year. Due to the higher number of schools attending than in previous years, some important contacts were able to be made. This accelerated the Sibling School project, which connects students in schools that are geographic neighbors. Schools are encouraged to do club projects with their sibling school to stimulate student participation across the region. The chapter reps that attended have been very proactive in organizing their sibling school efforts. Another positive outcome of the weekend was the stu-

dents' demonstrated interest in participating on state task forces. There is a general consensus that as students, we would like to participate in legislative forces that determine the future of our profession.

As government relations representative, I presented *Becoming an Advocate: The Time is Now at Passages at Immaculata University*. There was a great deal of interest in this topic, so stay tuned for more presentations with this content at the MAR Conference in March. There may be opportunities to meet and engage Virginia legislature representatives! The service committee met at the fall business meeting and had some great ideas about fundraising and utilizing philanthropic efforts to raise money for a service project. Please email maramtasgovrelations@gmail.com

if you would like to bring a viable cause to our attention to focus our efforts on. Thanks!

Megan Smith
MARAMTAS
Government relations
representative
2008-2009



Update from Student Affairs Advisor

I hope you had a wonderful Fall semester. Thank you to all the school reps who attended the Fall MARAMTS meeting in Scranton. It is so important to have all your voices heard and have your vote count in MARAMTS related matters. Your energy and commitment make MARAMTS the most successful music therapy student chapter in the nation! So please, stay actively involved throughout the year! If your school reps were unable to attend the meeting, make sure to get in touch with the MARAMTS EB so that they can update you and let you know how you can get involved.

Passages was another great success! Thank you **Immaculata University** for hosting this event and generously offering to cover all refreshments expenses! Thank you, Melissa Cook and Kevin Hahn, for your excellent job as Passages coordinators. Thank you to the local committee

and Drs. Anthony Meadows and Lilian Eyre for your help with all the logistics. I would like to strongly encourage all presenters to continue to present and submit proposals for our regional as well as for National conference. The MAR conference committee always greatly appreciates presentations from students and new professionals: you bring new, innovative ideas and new energy to our Region. Please, don't be afraid to submit a presentation proposal. You can ask your advisor for help/feedback. Next year's Passages will be at **Nazareth College!** Make sure to respond to the call for papers in March!!

For those of you who applied to the MARAMTS scholarships: thank you! You should hear from us shortly. If you are interning in 2009, make sure to apply now for the Jenny Shinn Scholarship. The deadline is Jan 30, 2009.

You are eligible to apply if:

- you have already begun your internship in 2008 and will continue in 2009
 - you will begin your internship anytime in 2009
- If you will be interning in 2009 but you have not been accepted yet by an internship site
The application packet is available at www.mar-amta.org. Don't forget to include your blind copies!

I wish you all a wonderful rest of the year! Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. My cyberspace door is always open at jbradt@temple.edu.

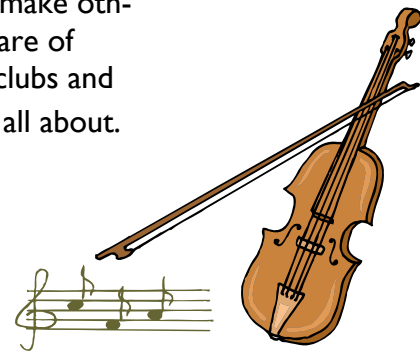
**Joke Bradt, PhD,
MT-BC, LCAT**



Update from Marywood University

Last spring we had 7 attendees at the Regional Conference in Cherry Hill, NJ. We fundraised by holding our male beauty pageant, "Mr. Marywood" where we had basket raffles from local store donations. We had an "Art Therapy/Music Therapy Pow-Wow" where both Art and Music Therapy Majors and others were present and shared their ideas and activities, which on our part, included a drum circle. As for the fall, We participated in "Adopt a Family" for Thanksgiving where you donate such amount of money to get food, including a turkey, among other things for a family in need for their Thanksgiving Meal. We are also currently in the process of a "Gertrude Hawk" sale for fundraising. We are in the midst of planning for our male beauty pageant, "Mr. Marywood", as well as an "Open Mic Night" for both fundraising and to make our Music Therapy Club better known across campus. We are also participating in Marywood's Annual "Tree Lighting Ceremony" where members of each club on campus make and hang up ornaments that were made by each club to make others more aware of each others clubs and what they're all about. Currently we are in the process of a "Gertrude Hawk" sale for fundraising. We are in the midst of planning for our male beauty pageant, "Mr. Marywood", as well as an "Open Mic Night" for both fundraising and to make our Music Therapy Club better known across campus. We are also participating in Marywood's Annual "Tree Lighting Ceremony" where members of each club on campus make and hang up ornaments that were made by each club to make others more aware of each others clubs and what they're all about.

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Update from Slippery Rock University

Students at Slippery Rock University have hosted a benefit concert where the students perform and inform people of the community about Music Therapy. Students are asked to play, or share a clinical experience that has touched the student to raise awareness about Music Therapy and the impact it has on people's

lives. Our students have also participated in drum circles and social gatherings with their sister schools, Duquesne University and Seton Hill University. Music Therapy students from all three universities get together to meet other Music Therapy students and to also share ideas. This semester the SRU Music

Therapy Club participated in Homeless Awareness Day. The group worked together to build a shelter out of cardboard, and members took turns sitting outside in the cold for a total of 24 hours. This semester has been full of advocating awareness for Music Therapy.

Update from Elizabethtown College

This semester, Elizabethtown College has put on an interactive recital at a local nursing home. We did a bake sale, learned about dance therapy and interviewed a dance therapist, and have also

volunteered to put on music programs almost bi-weekly at the nursing home. We also had a few members participate in an Autism awareness walk, as well as attend an inter-departmental screening of

Autism: The Musical. Last semester we did an interactive recital for children with disabilities. We also volunteered at the local nursing home.



Update from Temple University

Temple University has had a surge of First-year student to our program! We're all very excited about the growth that has been happening in our club over the last semester.

Our first order of business for the fall was to appoint and re-establish officers within our music therapy club. We now have a president, Heather Straka, a vice president, Lydia Westle, and a chapter representative, Jessica Lapp. We are still look-

ing to recruit a treasurer. We have met several times throughout the semester to discuss the future of our club and possible activities for this year.

Our club activities have included participating in a campus-wide event, sustainability day. We spoke with Temple University students about how music therapy is beneficial to our communities, and increased awareness of Temple's music therapy program. We have also

held a potluck for old and new club members.

Our future plans for the music therapy club include organizing community service activities that involve some of the area public schools in Germantown, PA and inviting Clive Robbins to come and speak to the club about Nordoff-Robbins music therapy.



Update from Nazareth College

Nazareth College has been going and growing at an incredible rate these past two semesters! This fall as been great as the clubs reputation has spread and we are growing in numbers. Not only has our attendance of music therapy majors gone up, but we also have a couple students in the nursing program attending our meetings. This is because of all the great activities the club was involved in during last

spring semester, such as: going the regional conference - we had a group of seven students attend-, and hosting our annual Night of Jazz
This fall we started to get the ball rolling on our long awaited plans to fundraise to make it possible for most students to attend conference. We had a fundraising concert after the opening of our new music therapy clinic, which was not only a large success but was a lot of fun too! It was a

chance to show the school and community that we are not only music therapy majors, but we are also musicians and performers as well. We have several other ideas, such as jar wars and playing at local coffee shops, to continue raising funds.
Other activities of the semester include the Walk for Autism, working on advocacy at local schools, and doing sing-alongs at local nursing homes.

Update from Montclair State University

There have been many exciting events happening with the Music Therapy Department and MTSO, this fall semester. The biggest news that happened was that our Music Therapy Student Organization got chartered by our Student Government. By being chartered we have been officially recognized as a University Club and get to have many new privileges such as funding and the use of any space on campus. Having these new found freedoms we can now promote and furtherer advocacy and awareness of Music Therapy.

With in our music therapy student organization we have been doing weekly drum cir-

cles. We also had a guest speaker, Marlon Sobol come and have a seminar with us on hand drums, we are hopeful to have come again, everyone had a great time.

We are also doing community service projects within our student organization. Our MTSO has been able to bring music to La Casa de Don Pedro, a youth and family services division in Newark, NJ.

For nationals we had three students go to St. Louis and they came back with a lot of information and great stories to tell us, which inspired more students to want to go next year's conference.

For upcoming events we have Music Therapy Day in Trenton New Jersey and as the primary and closest school to Trenton, Montclair State University is the Host school for this event. This even will happen December 16, 2008.

With all these great events happening at Montclair State University, I am happy to report that there will be more to come as we roll in to the spring semester. On behalf of the Music Therapy Department at Montclair State University, we hope everyone at MARAMATS and MAR had a very happy Hanukkah, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Update from Duquesne University

We hold our annual Mr. Music Pageant each spring to raise money for the club. We have had a booth in the homecoming day Autumnfest that our school holds to raise awareness on campus.

We had 3 students attend Nationals this year, and we had 17 go to Regionals this past

spring. We have our annual bake sales and smaller club fundraisers. We held a sibling project drum circle with Seton Hill and Slippery Rock. We had music therapy t-shirts made and the club wore them one day to raise awareness. We go caroling at Western Psych annually and also

went last year to Fair Oaks nursing home. Last semester we put on a MTSA student recital to display our professionalism on our instruments as well.

Update from Seton Hill University

This semester we established the first ever music therapy club and appointed officers. Last spring, we attended Passages conferences at Shenandoah University, approx. 15 attended. Fall began, and we appointed new officers, new president, myself, vice president, Mike Jones, secretary Molly Gladfelter, and treasurer, Emily Newcomer. We began in September selling Sarris candy bars to raise money for the regional conference in March. We had about 13 people attend a sister school event at Duquesne October 17th where they had a

big drum circle. We had 15 people attend the Passages conference at Immaculate University October 25th. We had two representatives, the president and vice president, our first ever MARAMTSCR meeting in Scranton, PA at Marywood University and attended a community drum circle in September where 10 attended and participated in a drum circle during an Art Festival. This weekend we hosted our sister school event and had a pizza/ice cream social and had a treasure hunt around campus and had jamming/bonding

time with 10 Slippery Rock students and 3 Duquesne students, and 4 professionals, plus 16 Seton Hill students. Will be visiting a nursing home and Christmas caroling there on December 5th. Have continued sell candy bars throughout community, at lunch and dinner at schools, and at homes and to our friends to raise money to attend the regional conference, this would be the first time any of us would have ever attend the conference. Are planning a possible musical game show fundraiser for the spring to raise more money for our confer-



AMTAS on Facebook

American Music Therapy Association Students (AMTAS), our national student organization, has recently created a group on Facebook. Now you can continue ignoring your schoolwork and

classmates while staying updated about national fundraising and student scholarships. Just search for AMTAS on Facebook.com.

If you do not already

have an account, you can sign up for free on the website.

Also, check out AMTAS at...

www.ser-amta.org/amtas



What is GoodSearch?

GoodSearch is an online search engine that supports over 32,000 charities. Every time someone uses GoodSearch to look for something online, the organization will donate to a specified school or non-profit.

Recently, AMTA has activated an account on GoodSearch. This means that every search you do online could help raise money for AMTA.

How does it work?

Simply go to www.goodsearch.com, click under "Who do you GoodSearch for?" and type in AMTA, then start searching!

Every search made on GoodSearch raises \$0.01 for AMTA.



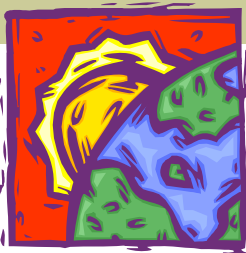
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online search
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**Many thanks
to all
committee
members for
all that they
do for our
student
organization**

MID-ATLANTIC
REGION
ASSOCIATION FOR
MUSIC THERAPY
STUDENTS

mar-amta.org



Thanks for reading!

Thank you for all of your support!



**Feel free to
contact the
2008-2009
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with any
questions or
comments you
may have.**

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