

the Muse

www.musictherapynewengland.org

Spring/Summer 2011 Newsletter
Post Regional Conference Edition



New England Region
American Music Therapy Association

President's Message

Eve Montague

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My idea is that there is music in the air, music all around us; the world is full of it, and you simply take as much as you require. ~Edward Elgar

Welcome to NER's spring/summer edition of The Muse. It is with great honor, and admittedly some anxiety, that I assume the reigns of President of our region. Caryl Beth Thomas, as you know, is a very tough act to follow. Her presence, professionalism, and passion for our organization and for music therapy, serves as an exceptional example for me as I settle into this new role. I want to thank Caryl Beth for all her work on our behalf and am thankful that her involvement with NER continues. I have served on the board for a number of years as Secretary and most recently President-elect. I have also been the committee representative for the Association Internship Approval Committee (AIAC). I have had the privilege of working with so many dedicated and experienced professionals and am ready to assume the leadership of our wonderful region. I will use the wisdom and counsel of those who came before, and of those who contribute now, to strengthen and develop our region as we pursue the work we do.

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12th Annual PASSAGES Conference
Saturday, October 15th, 2011 – Lesley University
= ATTN Teachers & Mentors =
Your guidance helps make Passages a Success!

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CONFERENCES 2011

- AMTA National
- Passages 12th Annual

Officers, Assembly Delegates and Standing Committee Members

The NER-AMTA continues to have a strong base of individuals willing to serve the region. AMTA expresses gratitude to all those who have served and continue to serve in new capacities.

EXECUTIVE BOARD of NER

President

Eve Montague, MSM, MT-BC
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President-Elect

Heather Bloam Wagner, FAMI, MMT, MT-BC
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Past-President

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Secretary

Dorothy Stapleton, MT-BC
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Assembly Delegates

Seated NER President

Linda Bosse, MT-BC

Jean Nemeth, MA, MT-BC

Jennifer Sokira, MMT, LCAT, MT-BC

Assembly Delegate-elects:

1st: Annette Whitehead-Pleaux, MAMT, MT-BC

2nd: Christine Routhier, MA, LMHC, MT-BC

3rd: Julie Andring, MSA, MT-BC

4th: Stephanie Clark, MT-BC, CCLS

Committee Representatives

Academic Program Approval

- Lisa Summer, PhD, LMHC, MT-BC

Affiliate Relations

- Shanna Clark, MA, LMHC, MT-BC

Association Internship Approval

- Eve Montague, MSM, MT-BC

Technology Committee

- Cassandra Mulcahy, MT-BC

Continuing Education

- Julie Andring, MSA, MT-BC

Employment & Public Relations

- Amy Hemenway, MT-BC

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- Stephanie Clark, MT-BC, CCLS

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- Emily Pelligrino, MT-BC

Reimbursement

- Jodie Deignan, MA, LMHC, MT-BC

Research

- Judy Nguyen Engel, MM, MT-BC

Special Target Populations

- Shannon Laine, MT-BC

Standards of Clinical Practice

- Annette Whitehead-Pleau, MAMT, MT-BC

Student Affairs Advisory Board

- Christine Routhier, MA, LMHC, MT-BC

Technology Committee

- Cassandra Mulcahy, MT-BC

Non-Voting Members of Exec. Board

Newsletter Editor

- Kimberly Khare, MA, CMT, NRMT

Passages Chair - TBD

Webmaster – Brittany Bloam

NER-AMTAS President – Jessica Brizeula

President's Message continued...

Our spring business meeting saw the installation of the new NER Board. I would like to welcome our very new members – Adrienne Flight (Treasurer), Alden Rockwell Murphy (VP-Elect), and Mikhala O'Donnell (Pres-Elect, NERAMTAS). You will have a chance to meet these folks further on in this issue. We are thrilled that some board members continue on in new roles. Dory Stapleton has moved from Treasurer to Secretary and Heather Wagner has moved from VP to President-Elect. It is also with great thanks that we say so long, for now, to Lisa Kynvi, Secretary and Christine Routhier, Past President. In our small but mighty region it is very likely we will see their involvement with the board again in the coming years.

We completed another spectacular NER Regional Conference at Ocean's Edge in Brewster, MA. The conference committee – Heather Wagner, Judy Engle, Dory Stapleton, Jennifer Sokira, and Nancy Skaliotis – put on an incredible event March 31st through April 2nd. Over 173 attended *Inspired for Tomorrow...Together, NER Conference*. Regional professionals including Kimberly Khare, Peggy Coddling, Kathleen Howland, Mary Carla MacDonald, and Christine Routhier, along with professionals from outside our region including Christine Neugebauer, Trish Winter, Dr. Eli Newberger, and Mark Holdaway, shared their knowledge and expertise in 8 CMTE course offerings. 35 concurrent sessions were also offered, providing our membership with exciting and varied professional development opportunities. This conference provided the greatest number of sessions to date and it was wonderful to see both new and experienced professionals sharing their knowledge. If you have yet to experience one of our regional conferences, try to come along in 2012. The camaraderie, the networking, the sharing, the entertainment, the Cabaret, the energy - are not to be missed.

Most of us spend much of our life educating the public, and usually our family and friends too, about music therapy. We all have our "elevator" speech ready and can tell each target audience what music therapy is all about. My last statement is always to say that I have the best job in the world – I get to witness the power of music as it affects individuals in ways that nothing else does. Recently, I have been getting a little more help in explaining my job thanks to the media, the movies, and the authors. Music therapy, after the tragic event in Arizona, became a source of national news in the rehabilitation and treatment of Representative Gabby Giffords. "The Music Never Stopped", a movie based on a case study by Dr Oliver Sacks and featuring a character based on real life music therapist, Dr. Concetta Tomaino, debuted at the Sundance Film Festival and has played in theatres across the country. Author Jodi Picoult, in her recent book Sing You Home made her protagonist a music therapist. She interviewed and shadowed a number of music therapists including some of NER's own. Suzanne Hanser, Annette Whitehead Pleaux, and Emily Pellegrino were among those interviewed from our region. All these events and resources have helped to create an exciting buzz for music therapy and music therapists.

There are many things happening out there in our world of work. The AMTA/CBMT state recognition operational plans are moving along across the country. New Hampshire music therapists have now come together in a formalized manner, thanks to the efforts of Marissa Ruffini, MT-BC. Connecticut and Massachusetts's music therapists also meet in state groups. If you are interested in joining, contact NER and we will put you in touch with the groups. If you want to develop a state group in Maine, Vermont, or Rhode Island, let us know so we can help and support your efforts. CBMT has new certification guidelines that include a required Ethics course. There are new and creative ways to earn your continuing education, so be sure to keep current with the guidelines. Watch for the new Fall 2011 IDEA that gives information about "specialized instructional support personnel" (SISP) – the new term for "related services" within the IDEA and pupil services in Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Our Government Relations Committee is working hard to keep up to date with all the changes and to be sure that music therapy is included in the language.

(President's Message continued on Page 4)

President's Message continued...

November 2012 brings the music therapy community to Atlanta Georgia for the national conference. While call for papers has closed, the call for Posters for the poster session is open until July 15. There are a number of NER music therapists willing to share their knowledge and experience with those interested in presenting. Let us know – we are here for you, our members.

In closing I would like to say that it is an honor and privilege to serve you as President of the NER board. Ronna Kaplan, President, AMTA, in the Spring 2011 *Perspectives*, reminds us that music therapy makes a difference and that every day, YOU make a difference. Thank you to all who make a difference in the lives of so many. Be proud of the work you do and the passion you bring. Please contact me, or any member of the board, if you have questions, want information, or need resources. There are opportunities to get more involved with the regional board through committee work. Check out the committees and see where you might share your passion and knowledge.

Here's to the power of Music ~ Eve Montague, President NER-AMTA

Heather Wagner/*Past Vice-President's Report*

Greetings, New England Region music therapists, students and friends! I'd like to take this opportunity to say a sincere thank you to everyone who made our 2011 regional conference such a wonderful experience. "Inspired for Tomorrow ... Together" was a resounding success. It takes a great number of people to make such an event happen, and I am grateful to all involved. A special thanks to Judy Nguyen Engel, vice president-elect, Jennifer Sokira, registration chair, and Dorothy Stapleton, treasurer for their hard work both in the planning and running of the conference.

We had a record number of 35 concurrent presentations and 8 CMTE courses at this year's conference! As has been my catch phrase throughout my tenure as vice-president, it's the presenters that really make the conference so special. Thanks to everyone who shared their talent and expertise to help us grow and be inspired in our work. We truly wouldn't have a conference without you. If you haven't already, please check out the [website](#) for handouts, articles, and songs that were submitted by conference presenters.

We were fortunate this year to have our first ever grant-funded CMTE, made possible through the hard work of Andrew Gentzow, MA, MT-BC and the [Jen DiReeno Foundation, Inc.](#) Through their contribution we were able to offer Christine Neugebauer's CMTE free of charge, and support her travel home to NER from Texas.

Finally, the conference committee would like to thank our webmistress, Brittany Bloam, for her behind-the-scenes role in the conference. She was instrumental in our use of online registration and has worked hard to upload the conference handouts to the website (no small task!). It is great to continue to progress with the use of technology in our work.

As I close my final report as outgoing vice president for the region, I offer my sincere gratitude to all who have made my time in this position so wonderful. Planning conferences is a big job, but it has been wonderful and rewarding. In addition, to those already mentioned, I'd like to personally thank Caryl Beth Thomas for being an amazing president with whom to work, to Nancy Skaliotis for the wonderful trips we've taken together in our quests to find just the right conference site, to Kimberly Khare for running the Cabaret with a smile (and a joke), and to the entire NER board for just being so fabulous and willing to pitch in at a moment's notice. I am looking forward to our next steps together!

MOVING ON – Reflecting on the past 2 years

Caryl Beth Thomas, NER Past-President

The past two years have been extremely full and busy ones for me in so many ways, and part of that has been serving as the president of NER-AMTA. It has been an honor and privilege to act in this role, and I just wanted to take a bit of time to reflect and share with you as I move on to become past-president, and Eve Montague takes on the presidency.

During this past two years, so many things have happened in our music therapy world! Passages celebrated its 10th year – the field of music therapy in the US celebrated its 60th year - MMTA celebrated its 30th year. So many markers of the poignancy and beauty of our profession! I was just so pleased to be one of the primary representatives of NER during all of these commemorations. Our board went through several shifts during these two years as well, with a few people needing to move on due to the demands of their lives. So I also had the opportunity to select and bring on some new faces and energies to our hard working community of peers and colleagues. That was one of the most fun things for me to do in this presidency – to get new professionals involved and active in our regional Music Therapy association, just as someone did with me almost 30 year ago! Our current NER board is a delightful and well-balanced board of newer professionals along with some seasoned sages in the field that all work for and represent our regional membership. We've continued to develop and are a highly-respected region of AMTA, and are still recognized as that "small but mighty" region! We are growing in numbers bit by bit each year, but still have the advantage of being a region where we are essentially close in geographical proximity and can be part of a vibrant and supportive professional community. I never realized how lucky we really are in this regard until talking with other regional presidents over the past two years and learning that our close-knit community is not commonplace. Most are much larger in size, both in numbers and area covered and they just do not have the ability to work, play and learn together as we do here. Our regional conferences are truly a living reflection of the wonderfully diverse, learned, experienced, and talented membership found in NER. Both last year's conference in Westbrook CT and this year's in Brewster MA were simply awesome and such auspicious gatherings. If you have ever gotten to be a part of these NER proceedings, it is the best way to gain an appreciation for our region. Such wonderful memories and great times together! And I have just been so grateful to preside over this community during these special events, as well as the other places where I have gotten to be your representative in these past two years.

But when I agreed to become the president elect in 2007, there was no way that I could have known that in just two more years, when I became the actual president, that I would also be going through major life transitions – some of the biggest I've ever lived through to date! From 2009-2011, my professional life took some enormous turns and transformations and it was quite a challenge to have all this start to take place as I also settled into my role as the NER president. The first year that began in April 2009, I agreed to take on the interim position as the coordinator of the Music Therapy specialization at Lesley University in addition to my regular job at the Community Music Center of Boston for the '09-'10 academic year. This was a somewhat unexpected and daunting task, juggling these two very full time jobs. But it also felt like an important thing for me to do in order to support the program at Lesley as it was in transition and I had taught there for many years. I can honestly say it was the hardest year of my working life, and there were many times when I felt badly that I could not give the time and attention to other roles I needed to attend to as well, including NER. And just before the 2009 AMTA conference, my mother-in-law unexpectedly passed away, and I found myself flying to Holland instead of San Diego as planned that week. I had to miss the national conference that year and was unable to carry out much of what I was to do as president. But we somehow managed to get through that year pretty well in NER, and I owe most of that to the ongoing support of the NER board, and particularly Christine Routhier in her role as the past-president. Everyone was so helpful in so many ways, and we actually got quite a bit accomplished, even though I felt very absent much of that year.

(Past-President's Report continued on page 6)

MOVING ON – Reflecting on the past 2 years Continued...

And then the summer of 2010 presented me with a new full time job that was totally unexpected and seriously changed my professional life, and pretty much everything in my life! I found myself ending my work of almost 20 years at CMCB, saying goodbye to many clients and co-workers I had known and worked with for many years, letting go of most of my academic work and affiliations and then beginning a forty hour a week job in one location. It is my first job under one roof since 1988! So needless to say that all of this has brought a lot of shifts and changes for me this past year - and in myriad ways. Fortunately I was much better able to give more focused attention and energy to the NER as well as other areas of my professional life and work, despite this huge life change. So this year has been pretty demanding as well, but it has been one where I was able to be much more present and actually able to be more fully in my work.

So now I am handing over the reigns of NER to Eve and I am essentially *just* working in one place. Such freedom! And even though I am just as busy in some ways now, it feels that I can finally start to attend to my life, work and music with much clearer intention and purpose. And I am also trying to simplify things – to become more present to all that I do while doing it and not be drawn in so many directions. And to have more time to do what I want to do! One of the things I hope to do for NER as past president is to revisit the bylaws and constitution and see how the increased presence of technology and our global world is affecting how we might do some of our work and make possible adjustments and revisions. I am also interested in staying on the Assembly for another term since I missed one of the two years that I was to represent NER, and have consequently been elected as an Assembly Delegate starting this fall. So I will still be able to be a representative voice for the membership, which I have done for more than 25 years now. Glad to continue to do so!

I want to say thanks to so many of you for all your support overall – and particularly during this past two years with its many challenges and opportunities. And again, I just want to express my deepest gratitude and thankfulness for getting to be part of this region, and for having this chance to represent all of you and the meaningful and profound work that you do in this world of Music Therapy.

Yours in the spirit of kinship and love of music,
Caryl Beth Thomas, Past-President NER-AMTA

*We are going – heaven knows where we are going
But we know within
And we'll get there – heaven knows how we will get there
But we know within

It will be hard we know
And the road will be muddy and rough
But we'll get there - heaven knows how we will get there
But we know within
Woyaya*

AMTA's 2011 National Conference
AMTA in the ATL – Advocacy, Therapy and Leadership
November 16 – 20, 2011 ~ The Hilton Atlanta, Atlanta, GA

Annette Whitehead-Pleaux/Standards of Clinical Practice Report

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Annette Whitehead-Pleaux, MA, MT-BC (Chair) (NER) Bob Miller, MS, MT-BC, (Mid-Atlantic)
Roberta S. (Bobbi) Adler, MT-BC (Western) Ellary Draper, MM, MT-BC (Southwestern)
Melanie Harms, MME, MT-BC (Midwestern) Lori Gooding, PhD, MT-BC (Southeastern)
Nancy Jackson, PhD, MT-BC (Great Lakes) Jennifer Lopez-Kaley, (Student Representative)

GOAL:

To develop, assess, and update the *AMTA Standards of Clinical Practice*.

TASKS:

Date completed: Ongoing

1. To review and revise the *AMTA Standards of Clinical Practice* document and recommend revisions to reflect applicability to current practice.
 - A. The Committee has continued to work on the Supervision Section of the Standards, mainly developing an explanation of supervision and to address vicarious liability.
 - B. It was also brought to the Committee that the language Developmental Disability is outdated and other terms including Intellectually Disabling Disability, Intellectually Disabling Condition, and Intellectual and Developmental Disability are being used instead. The Committee is reviewing the language used in the Standards of Clinical Practice in comparison with the other organizations including the APA, AAMR, NICHCY, CDC, and AAID.
 - C. The Special Target Population Committee questioned the use of Geriatrics in the Standards of Clinical Practice. The Committee reviewed this section and has proposed changes to be brought to the Assembly of Delegates in 2010.
 - D. The question was brought to the Committee to explore if the Medical Standards encompass the practice of music therapy in NICUs.

ACTION STEPS:

- A. The Committee presented proposed changes to the Supervision Section of the Standards of Clinical Practice to the Assembly of Delegates. These changes were passed with some minor changes by the Assembly of Delegates. *This task is complete.*
- B. After careful review of the language being used to describe the population formerly known as Developmentally Disabled, the Committee brought forth a change to the Assembly of Delegates which was passed. The Standards of Clinical Practice now uses the term Developmentally and Intellectually Disabled. *This task is complete.*
- C. The language of the Geriatric Settings was updated to Older Adults. This was approved by the Assembly of Delegates. *This task is complete.*
- D. During our meetings at the AMTA national conference, the Committee members reviewed the data from the NICU survey. The committee members are working on changes to the Medical Standards and the General Standards based on the results of the study. These changes will be brought to the Assembly of Delegates in Nov. 2011. *This task is ongoing.*
- E. To facilitate our work on the Standards of Clinical Practice, the Committee has created a Google Docs page with the Standards of Clinical Practice on it for the Committee members to work on revisions together. This decreases confusion from emailed copies.

2. To ensure that the *AMTA Standards of Clinical Practice* reflect the highest quality of treatment and services in music therapy. *The committee philosophy focuses on functionality and flexibility of the Standards to embrace all of the music therapy models. Therefore, all general standards are to be applied to areas. We will continue to examine our language to reflect the current practices.*

3. To inform AMTA members of the work of this committee via regional and national publications as well as on the *Members Only* section of the AMTA web site. *The committee members presented reports to their respective regional newsletters as well as provided oral committee reports at the regional business meetings. The electronic and future Sourcebook version of the Standards of Clinical Practice is the most current version.*

NER-AMTA Presidential Achievement Awards 2011

*Presented April 1, 2011 at the NER Annual conference in Brewster, MA
Caryl Beth Thomas, NER-AMTA President, 2009-2010*

Jennifer M. Sokira, MMT, LCAT, MT-BC

This recipient has been a fresh new blast of energy to the NER-AMTA board and has been with us since 2006. I have been so impressed with her professionalism and dedication to this work and we are all grateful to her for what she has brought to our region and to this field already! She is such a hard worker, and in multiple areas of her life simultaneously. I have a very clear memory of her sitting at the registration table at one conference for endless hours with a child that was about to be born at any moment – and yet there she still was for the whole conference! So now, in addition to being a mom, she continues to be very active in the goings on of our region and the field of music therapy. Most of you have met her at the registration table over these past several years. As you may know, she is quite serious about getting folks to be members of our association as well as being one of the welcoming faces at conference registration. As our Membership Committee Representative for the past several years, she has led very successful membership drives and has helped our numbers to develop and grow consistently each year. She is also currently serving on the Assembly of Delegates for NER and was really excited to get to also be a voice for our membership in this way as well. This year she was also responsible for facilitating the first NER professional scholarships for our membership, which provided three recipients their conference fees for this 2011 conference. She initiated the idea, facilitated a task force, created the guidelines and coordinated the process for this year's recipients.

She is a board-certified music therapist who has worked extensively with children and adults with developmental disabilities, autism, learning disabilities, physical disabilities, Rett's Syndrome, and other neurological disorders in school, community and home settings. She received her Bachelor of Science in Music Therapy from Duquesne University in 2001 and her Master of Music Therapy (MMT) from Temple University in 2006. She was also very active in the AMTAS, serving as both secretary and president of the national student association.

She is the founder, owner and director of ***Connecticut Music Therapy Services, LLC***, which she founded in 2005 in order to expand the availability of quality music therapy services to people in need throughout the state of Connecticut. CTMTS provides therapists that travel to client homes, schools and community locations, and work with individuals of all ages who have special needs including autism, developmental disabilities, learning, physical and neurological needs. They also provide trainings and in-services, assisting families, teachers and therapists to incorporate music into their lives and work. She also has worked at Pilot House and Giant Steps, providing programs and resources for families raising children who have developmental disabilities.

One of her main roles is clearly to be an advocate for the field of Music Therapy both on our board and in her professional work. And she not only provides and coordinates clinical services, but she is also educating other professionals in many different arenas. She has offered many workshops and presentations to a wide range of professionals, both in our creative arts therapy community, as well as educators, other health care professionals, families and caregivers. As part of her business, she has also started a blog this past January called ***Involve Me Music: Solutions for Music Educators***. "We offer a down-to-earth and practical perspective, with the intention of helping music teachers develop relationships with their special education students, allowing them to better participate in, enjoy, and benefit from music education." In addition to the many workshops and presentations she has provided, she also provides this blog, individual and group consultation services (live and via phone and skype). She participates in a wide range of social media and most of it is serving to promote our field and to educate others about what music therapy is and is not!

So I am just so happy to present this incredibly vibrant and hard-working woman with the 2011 NER-AMTA Presidential Achievement Award - **JEN SOKIRA**.

NER-AMTA Presidential Achievement Awards 2011, *continued*

LISA SUMMER, PhD, MCAT, MT-BC

This recipient has been a music therapist since 1977, and has served the field in many different roles and capacities over these three plus decades. I recently viewed her resume and it is completely mind-blowing. I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with her for almost 30 years now. When I first “met” her, we did committee work together for several years, although I never actually met her or was ever in the same room with her. I know that is not at all uncommon now in this age of long-distance and digital relationships, but back in the 80’s, we used to refer to her as the “phantom” committee and board member. Little did most of us know back then what a force of nature she was or how much she would contribute to the field of Music Therapy. She may be small, but wow, is she mighty! She is known for being a clear, calm, steady, and sometimes very intense person – and she has provided much guidance and support to so many of us over these past years.

She has been the director of several music therapy programs and institutes, has lectured, taught and trained countless music therapists all over the world, and has written extensively about music therapy in several books, chapters and articles that are utilized as texts internationally. She has served in some capacity of the various professional music therapy associations AMTA consistently since 1986 –NAMT, AAMT, and AMTA. She was instrumental in the most recent revision of the AMTA Code of Ethics and has always been one of the main people to call whenever an issue related to ethics or professional conduct might arise. She is well known for being able to offer clear and objective perspectives, but also to be extremely caring and personal, and one who has often helped others more easily find their own way. She was the editor of the American Association for Music Therapy International Report and part of the vision for VOICES, the International online Music Therapy journal that now links music therapists together all over the world.

One of the things that I admire most about this person is her tenacity and unwavering commitment to this work, despite the tumultuous times that she has sometimes faced in the programs in which she has been involved. In the face of various shifts and changes, she has always been able to continue to develop and shape her vision of music therapy, and her ability to continue as an influential teacher and trainer in our field. When I first met her, I was living in NYC and she was in Cookeville TN at Tennessee Tech, ergo our long distance relationship back in the days of AAMT committee work. And just a few years after I moved to MA, she left Tennessee and made her way to Massachusetts – and here she has remained, much to our advantage and great joy here in the NER! She has been the director, fierce advocate, and continued visionary of the undergraduate Music Therapy program at Anna Maria College since 1995. She was the Director of GIM Training at the Bonny Foundation for Music-Centered Therapies from 1988-1997, and is world renowned for her GIM skills as a clinician and trainer. She has a part-time music psychotherapy practice in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands and her primary interest has always been the use of classical music in psychodynamic and spiritual transformation. She is also currently the Director of the Institute for Music and Consciousness at Anna Maria College, a master’s level program that offers three levels of music & imagery training based upon Helen Bonny’s foundational notions of humanistic music therapy. Those are just a few of the many achievements that she has given to us over these past years.

She received her BA in Music Therapy at Western Michigan University, her Masters of Creative Arts Therapies from Hahneman University in Philadelphia, and she recently has completed her PhD studies at University of Aalborg in Denmark. She is a devoted wife and mother. She plays French Horn – she loves to dance and do cartwheels– and she loves to scuba dive in warm tropical waters. She has contributed so much to our field and in so many ways that I am just in awe at all she has done and continues to do.

We are so fortunate to have her as part of the New England Region– and it gives me great pleasure to present this year’s NER-AMTA Presidential Achievement Award to **DR. LISA SUMMER.**

WELCOME! New NER Board Members

Mikhala O'Donnell is currently enrolled in undergraduate studies in Music Therapy and Music Education at Anna Maria College. Her principal instrument is Voice. She has been interested in music, as well as psychology, from an early age. She discovered music therapy during high school when she observed a music therapist at work and instantly knew what she wanted to do! She is from Charlton, MA. Mikhala has been involved with NER-AMTAS since her freshman year at Anna Maria and cannot wait to continue her involvement.

Adrienne Flight holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Therapy from l'Université du Québec à Montréal as well as a Master of Music Therapy from Wilfrid Laurier University in Ontario, Canada. She completed GIM Level I training and Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy training. In the past, Adrienne interned at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in Toronto, and went on to work at Sunnybrook Hospital, one of Canada's largest hospitals. After moving to Boston, Adrienne worked in a small group home for children with trauma histories, and then worked at the Italian Home for Children where she continued working with that client population. Adrienne then moved on to work with adults with dementia at Rogerson House in Jamaica Plain. The treasurer role is Adrienne's first involvement with the NER-AMTA and she's enjoying it so far! Adrienne and her husband are expecting their first child in late June.

Jennifer Sokira/Membership Committee

Hello NER! I am happy to report that we're off to a good start regarding our membership, with strong numbers at the professional, student, and grad student levels. Our small but mighty region has done a consistently great job maintaining their membership numbers over the last several years, and I think that this is a testament to your dedication to our profession. In turn, AMTA and NER continue to work hard to support the members in many ways. This year, we supported three conference scholarships that provided full registration to our NER Conference. Congrats to the winners, Lisa Rue, Jaime Plancon and Natalie McClune! Thanks also to the NER board for supporting this project!

We conducted our first membership drive of the year at the registration table at NER Conference, gaining several new members. We'll be hosting another calling drive this spring, so if you haven't joined AMTA yet this year, you may be getting a call from one of our illustrious volunteers!

Also, don't forget that if you haven't yet signed up to be an AMTA member for 2011, you can now do this quickly and easily online at www.musictherapy.org. The new AMTA website is going to be unveiled this spring, giving you easy access to all of your member benefits and keeping you in connection with the other MT's across the US, so stay tuned to see new features!

Thanks to everyone for keeping our region strong. If you have any questions regarding your AMTA membership, feel free to get in touch with me at jen@ctmusictherapy.com, and I would be happy to answer or to point you in the right direction!

Jessica Brizuela/NER-AMTAS President

First off, I would like to express that I am pleased to have the opportunity to serve as president for a second term. This year we created a new board position of president-elect in order to make transitions from year to year smoother. I am fortunate to get to work with this year's president elect, Mikhala O'Donnell. We will be working closely with each other and we will be attending all meetings regionally and nationally together. This is Mikhala's third year serving on the NER-AMTAS board—she first served on this board as Anna Maria's first year representative and last year, she served as Anna Maria's Vice President. Mikhala is a wonderful person with so many brilliant ideas and visions for this group that I am excited to see what she will bring to the table this year.

NER-AMTAS Board 2011-2012:

- Jessica Brizuela, President (Berklee)
- Mikhala O'Donnell, President Elect (Anna Maria)
- Andrew Rohwer, VP (Lesley)
- Julieann Hartley, VP (Anna Maria)
- Channing Shippen, VP (Berklee)
- Jesse Kurn, Chair of Public Relations (Lesley)
- Kathy McCann, Parliamentarian (Lesley)
- Ashlee Burgener, Treasurer (Lesley)
- Molly Killilea, Secretary (Anna Maria)
- Mariza Neiada, National/International Service Project Chair (Berklee)
- Christine Routhier, Student Affairs Advisor (Lesley)

We had a good student turnout at the 2011 NER Conference. NER-AMTAS would like to acknowledge and congratulate all students who received scholarships at the conference: Lauren Calista, Kathy McCann, Mike Simonelli, Hannah Slater, Mikhala O'Donnell, and Megan Goddu. We would also like to thank all students who presented at the conference—Genuine Voices & Team Cayman 2010.

Our new board met for our first meeting last weekend and we have planned a number of exiting projects for this summer and upcoming school year. We have set the date for our 12th *Annual Passages Student Conference* for October 15, 2011 at Lesley University. Students can now submit their call for papers applications online at <http://www.tinyurl.com/neramtas> -- ATTN teachers and mentors: please save the date and encourage students to apply! *We need your help to make Passages a success.*

This summer we are planning to send students to do another service trip to Cayman Islands thanks to Julianne Parolisi. Our international trip for 2012 is already in the works thanks to our NISPC, Mariza Neiada. We have a number of fundraisers lined up for these projects such as songbooks, tote bags, Music Therapy BBQs, benefit concerts, and more!

To stay informed with NER-AMTAS please visit our website at <http://www.neramtas.org>.

12th Annual Passages Conference
October 15, 2011~ Lesley University
ATTN teachers and mentors = Your guidance helps make Passages a success!

Special KUDOS!

After 9 years our very own **President-Elect Heather Bloam-Wagner** has completed the requirements for AND earned her FAMI!!!! More remarkable than that though is that she was finishing all her work while being the Vice-President of the NER for the past two years and running our amazing conferences! *We are so pleased for her and wish her much continued success.* You deserve all things good dear Heather.

Allegra Themmen-Pigott, who lives in Stamford Connecticut and is the music therapy supervisor at Heartsong, is singing the national anthem for the METS game this Saturday May 7th, at 7:10pm. I have attached a flyer announcing the event. It is Autism Awareness Day at Citi Field and Heartsong will also be recognized. This is a great thing! Go Allegra!!! Congratulations to Heartsong!!!

JudyNguyen Engle/Research Committee

Calling all Clinicians!

The Research Committee is pleased to announce the 2011 Clinician Based Grant Program. The purpose of the AMTA 'Clinician-based grant program' is to encourage, promote, and fund clinician-based applied music therapy research. The program, sponsored by the AMTA Research Committee, seeks to support applied clinical research in the profession of music therapy and incorporated into routine fieldwork.

Grants may range from \$500-\$3,000. Award amounts will be made at the discretion of the review committee; however, individual grants may not exceed \$3,000. Please visit the members-only section of the AMTA website.

The Research Poster submission is now entirely on-line.

Those interested in having their research considered for the Research Poster Session should:

- 1) Submit one copy of a 600-800 word abstract; or a copy of the full report (including an abstract). Regardless of choice, each submission must include complete information for judging research quality.
- 2) Submissions must be received as an e-mail attachment using WORD (12 point in Times New Roman).
- 3) In the MAIN BODY OF THE E-MAIL include all of the demographic information necessary for listing in the final program including 1) the title of the paper, 2) names(s) of author(s) 3) institutional affiliation(s) and a complete address.
- 4) On the abstract or full paper INCLUDE ONLY the paper's title. DO NOT include the name of the author or affiliation.

The deadline for submissions is JULY 15, 2011. Please send submissions to: cmadsen@fsu.edu Clifford K. Madsen, AMTA Research Committee, Center for Music Research, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida 32306-2098 USA. If, after 5 days of submission you have not received a confirmation of your paper being received, please send it again and call Dr. Madsen (850) 644-4565.

AMTA's 2011 National Conference
AMTA in the ATL – Advocacy, Therapy and Leadership
November 16 – 20, 2011 ~ The Hilton Atlanta, Atlanta, GA