

Student Chapter News

Spring 2013

A Message from the Chair

Hello, ASTA Student Chapter Members!

We had a wonderful national conference in Providence, Rhode Island, in March. Several sessions were dedicated to student members, including a session on how to prepare for entering the job market. In this newsletter, you will find articles about the conference written by other student chapter members. I hope you enjoy reading these articles, and I encourage you to consider attending the 2014 ASTA National Conference, to be held March 5–8 in Louisville, Kentucky!

At the opening “Meet and Greet” Student Networking Session, more than 50 students attended. The following awards were presented:

- Most Improved Chapter: Ohio State University (Katherine Garrett, president; Bob Gillespie, advisor)
- Outstanding Student Chapter: Mansfield University (Brittany Hendler, president; Jeff Jacobsen and Kenneth Sarch, advisors)
- Student Exemplary Service Award: Chryselle Angerson (Montclair State University), Deanne Carloni (University of Wisconsin–Whitewater), Abigail Cash (Illinois State University)

Congratulations to the students and their advisors on these accomplishments!

The Student Chapter Leadership Meeting was attended by chapter presidents (or other representatives) from the following schools:

- University of Colorado
- Illinois State University
- James Madison University (Virginia)
- University of Louisville
- Mansfield University (Pennsylvania)
- Montclair State University (New Jersey)
- Nazareth College (New York)
- Ohio State University
- University of South Carolina

Some great ideas were discussed at this meeting, including member recruitment challenges, chapter session topics, and ideas for fundraising and 2014 conference sessions geared toward student members. Please see my article in this newsletter—and the articles from Western Michigan University, the University of Texas at San Antonio, and the University of South Carolina—for more information on fundraising and chapter session ideas.

Remember, we have an ASTA Student Chapter Facebook page, thanks to Brittany Hendler (Mansfield University), at <https://www.facebook.com/AstaStudentChapterNetworking>. You are encouraged to visit the Facebook page frequently for updates and to leave your own comments.

Finally, please make a point to visit www.astaweb.com and familiarize yourself with the website. You will find information about student chapters by clicking on “Member Resources” and selecting “Student Chapters” from the list provided—or link directly to www.astaweb.com/studentchapters. It’s not too early to take a look at the Student Chapter Awards information and consider applying or nominating your own chapter, or a student member, for one or more of our three national student chapter awards: Most Improved Chapter Award, Outstanding Chapter Award, and Student Exemplary Service Award.

Best of luck to everyone as you finish this academic year. Have a terrific music- and teaching-filled summer!

Sincerely,

Dr. Margaret Berg
 Chair, ASTA Student Chapters Committee
Margaret.Berg@colorado.edu



Dr. Margaret Berg
 Associate Professor of Music Education, University of Colorado



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From the National Office

by Tami O'Brien, ASTA Membership Marketing Manager/Chapter Liaison

Chapter Renewals Due November 1

Just a reminder that ALL collegiate chapters of ASTA must submit the College Chapter Application/Renewal and Roster Form **every year** in order to remain active.

A link to the form may be found on the ASTA website at www.astaweb.com/studentchapters, or you may go directly to the PDF by clicking [here](#).

The deadline is set for November 1 so that students have time to settle in for the new school year and hold officer elections.

Additionally, while there is no chapter fee, all individual members of college chapters **MUST** be current ASTA members in good standing. Unless you are a dues-paying ASTA member, you are not eligible for chapter membership.

If your membership has lapsed, your ASTA website logon will be disabled, preventing online renewal. However, other options for renewal include phone, fax, and mail. For assistance, please contact the Membership Department at membership@astaweb.com or 703-279-2113, ext. 14.

“Transitional” Memberships Available to Graduates

Did you know that ASTA student members are eligible to renew at a discounted rate when their membership term ends following graduation? The transition from student to working professional can be challenging, so we created the transitional membership, designed to ease the financial burden experienced by new graduates as they begin your careers. Rather than paying the full cost of a professional membership, student members may renew for one year at the discounted rate of \$75, a savings of more than \$30!

The transitional membership is not an advertised membership category. To take advantage of the special rate after graduation, simply write “TRANS” on your next membership invoice and submit it to the ASTA National Office with your payment of \$75. You may also

renew at this rate by calling the ASTA Membership Department at 703-279-2113, ext. 14.

The benefits of ASTA membership—and the ASTA network of experienced colleagues—become even more valuable as you start your career in strings. After graduation, don't let your membership lapse. Simply make the “transition” to ASTA professional member and save some cash, too!

NHSHO Deadline Approaching

Applications for the 2014 National High School Honors Orchestra (NHSHO) are now available at www.astaweb.com/nhsho. Get all the details about the orchestra, conducted by Maestro Gary Lewis, as well as information about the audition and application process. The 2014 NHSHO will perform *Symphony No. 5 in D minor*, op. 47, by Dmitri Shostakovich, at the ASTA National Conference in Louisville, Kentucky, March 7, 2014. The deadline to apply is June 15, 2013.

Chapter Award Applications Due November 15

Don't forget to nominate your student chapter for chapter awards! Awards are presented annually for Most Improved Student Chapter and Outstanding Student Chapter. All active student chapters are eligible to receive these prestigious awards, which are presented at the ASTA National Conference.

In addition to the student chapter awards, ASTA offers the Student Exemplary Service Award, designed to recognize and reward college string students who distinguish themselves as active members and supporters of ASTA while in college. Students completing the criteria will receive recognition at the ASTA National Conference and in the *American String Teacher* journal. Criteria for the award include current ASTA membership, participation in string-related activities, assisting your school's string program, participating in your school's outreach program, and service to your ASTA state chapter.

Applications for all awards are located on the student chapters page at

www.astaweb.com/studentchapters.

You may download chapter award forms [here](#) and the Student Exemplary Service Award form [here](#).

The deadline for ALL award applications is November 15, 2013.

2013 National Solo Competition Winners Announced

The final round of the 2013 ASTA National Solo Competition took place in early April in New York City. We are pleased to announce the grand prize winners: Sihao He of Macon, Georgia (cello) and Heran Yang of Denton, Texas (double bass). For a complete list of winners, click [here](#). ASTA is grateful to our sponsors, including SHAR Music and Ralph Matesky (grand prize), Jeffrey Solow (cello first prize), Gibson Guitar (guitar first prize), the Nathan Gordon Fund (viola first prize), and Yamaha Corporation (rehearsal and winners' recital space). 

After Graduation, Don't Lose Touch: Update Your Contact Information!

If you received this newsletter via your school email address and you are graduating this year, please contact the ASTA National Office with an alternate email address. Otherwise, you'll miss out on important news and announcements. To change your email address, simply send us your full name, city and state, ASTA ID number (if known), and your new email address to asta@astaweb.com, or call the Membership Department between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. ET at 703-279-2113, ext. 14.

In addition, if you currently receive your *American String Teacher* journal and/or ASTA renewal invoices at your campus address, be sure to update your mailing information, as well. Thank you!

Congratulations to the 2013 Chapter Award Winners!

If you didn't attend the Student Chapter Networking Session at the ASTA National Conference in Providence, you missed the presentation of the 2013 student chapter awards by Rebecca MacLeod, ASTA National Board member and liaison to the Student Chapters Committee. We are pleased to announce the following winners:



Outstanding Chapter Award: Mansfield University
 President, Brittany Hendler (holding plaque); Advisor, Kenneth Sarch



Most Improved Chapter Award: The Ohio State University
 President, Katherine Garrett (holding plaque); Advisor, Bob Gillespie



PHOTOS: RANDOM PHOTOGRAPHY, LLC

The first-ever recipients of the Student Exemplary Service Award were (from left) Chrysell Anderson, Montclair State University; Abigail Cash, Illinois State University; and Deanne Carloni, University of Wisconsin–Whitewater (accepted by chapter advisor Benjamin Whitcomb).

ASTA Makes Rhode Island Hot!

Andrew Price, University of South Carolina

When I arrived at the Providence airport from Columbia, South Carolina, I was expecting cooler temperatures. However, I was not expecting to see snow on the ground and very wet, cold conditions. Even though Providence was a very cold city, the Omni Hotel and the Rhode Island Convention Center were not cold. In fact, they were already on fire with people from all around the United States greeting each other and being welcomed to the ASTA National Conference.

Not only were these two buildings connected, but they also connected to a gigantic mall on the other side of the hotel, making it easy to wake up, get breakfast, and obtain a full day of information.

When sessions began on Thursday, there were hundreds of people storming the convention center. With nine to ten different rooms having different educational sessions in each one, it was quite impressive to see the way everything was laid out, how the rooms were arranged, and how people used the spaces they had available.

One of the amazing features of the ASTA conference was the variety of sessions that were presented. There was everything from yoga and body training, to teaching private lessons, to working with parents in order to have an outstanding private studio. Another great thing about the conference was how people could choose the sessions they wished to attend. In my case, because my instrument is the double bass, and because of my interest in body mapping and injury prevention, I chose to go to bass sessions and injury prevention sessions. Some of the sessions I attended included practicing techniques with Paul Robinson, the Alexander technique and body mapping with Lynne Denig and Abby Van Steenhuyse, bass and cello master classes, as well as some private teaching sessions. In my opinion, every presenter I saw had a great session, and every one was informative.

In addition, ASTA is known for making connections between people of different areas and levels of education. It is important to start connecting with other people and exchanging contact information, especially during college years, when most people start building their careers. Not all people will exchange contact information with you, but it is never a bad idea to at least say hello and introduce yourself to important people. In my case, I was able to meet ASTA President Bob Phillips. Another great experience for my colleagues and me was meeting other ASTA student chapter members, being able to interact with them, and going out to dinner with some of them. This rewarding experience helped me learn what it is like in other student chapters and string projects.

Finally, the exhibit hall was absolutely spectacular. It always amazes me how many free things you can get at the conference, from bumper stickers to bass strings. Not only did I also make connections in the exhibit area, I was able to look at everything from electric violins and cellos to custom-made rosin and rock stops that will not move no matter what kind of surface they were placed on. In general, the exhibit hall was very well rounded and had everything a musician could ask for.

“It is important to start connecting with other people . . . especially during college years, when most people start building their careers.”

In conclusion, the 2013 ASTA National Conference started off with a bang on Wednesday night. From the ASTA and string project receptions to the USC faculty and student dinner on Friday night, I enjoyed meeting people from California to Kentucky. Even though it was very cold in Providence, it did not stop the ASTA conference from being on fire with musicians, informational sessions, exhibits, and lifelong connections. *♫*



Andrew Price is a sophomore double bassist at the University of South Carolina (USC). He is majoring in music education and studies under the direction of Drs. Craig Butterfield and Gail Barnes. He has performed in numerous locations, including Carnegie Hall, the Peace Center, and the Koger Center, and has played with the Long Bay and Toccoa Symphonies. Price is president of the Double Bass Club at USC and works at the USC String Project, teaching six students privately. He plans to continue his education, getting his master's and doctoral degrees with a long-term goal of teaching at the college level.

Students Wanted for 2014 ASTA National Conference Master Classes

If you're interested in participating in a master class at the next year's ASTA National Conference, keep an eye out for an upcoming announcement about the application process.

The 2014 conference will be held March 5–8 in Louisville, Kentucky, and promises to be a terrific event! Check the ASTA website or the August issue of *American String Teacher* for more information and details about uploading your recording, which will be reviewed by our listening committee.

Educational and Effective Chapter Meeting Ideas

Margaret Berg, University of Colorado, Chair of Student Chapters Committee

While some student chapters plan events on a month-by-month basis, other chapters engage in “strategic planning” either in late spring or early fall. I encourage you to try planning various types of events (educational/speakers; fundraising; service) over the course of the year so that your chapter will remain vital. Below are some ideas for chapter meetings and activities that were shared at the ASTA National Conference leadership session.

Chapter Meeting Topics

- String repair workshop
- String quartet master class
- Guest presenters on musical topics that interest students (like improvisation, bluegrass-style playing, etc.)
- Organize a flash concert/mob
- Guest presenters/topics who would be of interest to performance majors (this has an added goal of attracting more students to become ASTA members); suggestions included holding a session on organizing a private studio, or having a session devoted to how to teach a specific string instrument technique
- Create an ASTA chapter video

Fundraising Activities

- Sell refreshments at a regularly occurring performance event at your university/college
- Sell t-shirts at an event (such as a string project concert)
- Coordinate street performances
- Organize an ASTA member concert that includes a silent auction and/or dinner

Community Service

- Serve as mentors for a high school ASTA chapter
- Host a one-day workshop in which ASTA members serve as the teachers (if there is a fee, this could also be a fundraising activity)

I encourage you to check out page 16 of the [Student Chapter Handbook](#) for additional chapter activity ideas. The sky is the limit, so use your creativity. Good luck! 

Chapter News *(continued from page 7)*

String Day at Walled Lake High School—January 2013

Members were able to lead sectionals and assist other sectional leaders at String Day.

Volunteer Sectionals in Kalamazoo—February through May 2013

Members volunteer once a week leading sectionals at Hillside Middle School, Maple Street Magnet School, Kalamazoo Central High School, and Loy Norrix High School in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Four Part Lecture Series—March through April 2013

Members of ASTA joined with all education organizations to lead a four-part lecture series on music education. Each organization brought in a guest speaker focused on their organization’s area. Each speaker discussed how to run that particular program if you are just starting out or are a teacher who has been asked to start a music program out of your comfort zone. The lecture series helps student to become well rounded with the basics of running a band, choir, and orchestra. Lastly, students enjoyed a grant-writing workshop!

Submitted by Brittany Harris, President 

Chapter News

University of Colorado

Earlier this spring, I had the privilege of attending the ASTA National Conference in Providence, Rhode Island, along with three other students from the University of Colorado at Boulder (CU). This year marked my third time at the conference, and it certainly did not disappoint.

I attended a lot of really wonderful sessions at the conference, so many that it's difficult to choose a favorite...or even two! I learned about everything from teaching sight reading, to writing Suzuki dramas, to providing middle schoolers with full orchestra experiences, to arranging music to meet the needs of ensembles, to effective concert planning and repertoire selection for school orchestras.

Another highlight for me was getting to assist Dr. Margaret Berg with her session, titled "We're All In This Together: The University of Colorado Middle School String Ensemble," which detailed a unique extracurricular orchestra program (run by college music education students) that CU offers to middle school students in the community. This was the first time I've ever been a part of such a presentation, and I am very grateful to Dr. Berg for the opportunity to participate.

Perhaps more than anything, though, I enjoyed meeting (and re-connecting with) other string teachers and collegiate members from across the country. Each year, I've formed friendships with some of the other college students who've been at the conference, and I enjoy seeing them again (and meeting people from other schools) the next time the conference happens. It's also fun to see people who were once students at CU or who formerly taught in Colorado and who have moved on to positions in other states. The longer I'm a part of the string teaching community, the more I realize how small and tight-knit it is, and I always look forward to expanding my relationships with these people.

This year, I had the opportunity to go out to dinner one evening with the other students from CU, as well as some students from the University of Northern Colorado and the president of Colorado ASTA, Linda Johnson. I'm looking forward to fostering greater collaboration with these people on a state level. I also really enjoyed the student chapter leadership meeting, at which I met many different students who have great ideas and who are doing incredible things with the ASTA chapters at their schools—I definitely picked up a lot of ideas to try with the ASTA chapter at CU!

Another connection I made was with Peter Rolland, son of string educator-extraordinaire, Paul Rolland. His daughter

Eden (Paul Rolland's granddaughter) is actually a law student at CU, and she was on the board that approved some of the funding that helped cover our chapter's travel costs for the conference. She came up to me after I presented my proposal and explained the connection. She requested that I make time to find her father in the exhibit hall while at the conference, and I really enjoyed getting to do this. It's incredible what a small world we live in!

Each year, the ASTA conference affords me with the opportunity to meet many new people and learn more than I ever could have imagined about the string teaching profession. I'm excited to attend the national conference next year, in Louisville, Kentucky, and I hope to connect with many student members when I'm there. If you've never attended the conference before, I'd definitely recommend it. There seems to be a larger and larger student contingent at the conference each year, and I hope that trend continues!

Submitted by Hannah Smith, President



CU Chapter Members Molly Evans, Hannah Smith (and Dr. Berg) at their 2013 ASTA National Conference presentation, "We're All In This Together: The University of Colorado Middle School String Ensemble Program"

The Ohio State University

Attending the ASTA conference in Rhode Island was a fantastic learning experience. Not only did I attend many great workshops, but also had the opportunity to meet members of other student chapters. At the student chapter leadership meeting, I participated in brainstorming discussions that made me realize the full potential of the OSU ASTA chapter.

At the leadership meeting and at the group dinner outing that followed, I learned that all of the student chapters deal with many of the same challenges, especially pertaining to event attendance and fundraising. Chapters had similar positive stories to tell, as well, and many creative event ideas. As OSU ASTA hasn't done much fundraising in recent years, primarily relying on university funding instead, other chapters' ideas were very helpful. Regarding event attendance, no conclusions were made on how to consistently boost membership turnout for events. Everyone commented that it's difficult to get music students to come to an extra event during an already jam-packed week.

After weeks of pondering this dilemma of group participation after the conference, I realized that there might not be a way to get the majority of members to attend every event of the year. This year, OSU ASTA had eight events and three outreach projects. All 21 members were involved at some point during the year. My chapter's goal is to get as many students consistently involved in as many activities as possible. Discussing this with next years' officers, we decided that instead of having a workshop-based chapter, we will become project based. Each semester, we will have two or three major projects on which members may collaborate. This enables all members to

Chapter News

be involved in the chapter, even if they can't attend a workshop at a specific time during the week. We will still have workshops, but not as many. Having fewer events will allow our chapter to focus on larger events that will bring in greater attendance.

The networking aspect of the national conference was extremely valuable. The transfer of ideas over the four-day period led to continued communication for officers of several



Student ASTA members from Ohio State University, Mansfield University, University of South Carolina, Montclair State University, and University of Louisville (pictured above) continued conversations over dinner in Providence.

chapters after the conference. Leaders from Ohio State, Mansfield University, University of Louisville, University of South Carolina, and Montclair State University proposed a session—ASTA Student Chapters Serving and Building Community Support—to be considered for next year's conference in Louisville, Kentucky. Additionally, Ohio State and the University of Louisville have discussed a joint YouTube project that would document stages of music education experiences. I'm looking forward to next year's conference to continue the great discussions that began in Rhode Island.

Submitted by Katherine Garrett, President

University of South Carolina

The USC ASTA student chapter has accomplished a great deal this year. Highlights include:

- Helping at the USC Quartet Workshop in December.
- Sponsoring Dr. Craig Butterfield's concert at Conundrum Music Hall in Columbia, South Carolina, in December.
- Helping at the SC ASTA Violin/Viola Day in February.
- Hosting the USC Strings in Silhouette Silent Auction and Benefit Concert in February to raise money to attend the National Conference.
- Organizing a t-shirt sale in February to raise money to attend the National Conference.

- Nine members attending the ASTA National Conference in February.

Submitted by Rachel Myers, President

University of Texas at San Antonio

Our chapter has been very busy this year! Membership has increased by nearly 40 percent. We organized an Orchestra Social event at the beginning of the semester, which was a huge success. We recently raised money to help fund our needs through a snack sale as well as a chili and cornbread sale. Many of our members volunteered during the annual music major auditions to get to know all of the prospective students and provide them with tasty treats. We also volunteered our time to help with a high school's spring trip visit and clinic at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Currently, many of our members are training to run as a team in the second annual Beethoven 5k/10k marathon, which benefits the Youth Orchestras of San Antonio. In the upcoming months, we plan to host ASTACAP exams for the second time at UTSA. We also will run another clinic with a high school from the Houston area.

Submitted by Sundas Mohi, President

Western Michigan University

Lesson Exchange—October 2012

Students from all education organizations signed up for a lesson on an instrument with which they were unfamiliar. In exchange, they gave a lesson on their instrument to those interested.

Skunk Orchestra—November 2012

The WMU ASTA chapter, in coalition with other education chapters in the school, held its annual Skunk Orchestra. Students were able to teach a lesson plan to beginning strings dealing with everyday classroom problems. After the lesson, each student teaching a lesson is critiqued and given helpful tips. Also, students with no string experience got a chance to learn a stringed instrument!

Volunteering with KSO Kids in Tune—Fall 2012

Members of ASTA volunteered at the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra's Kids in Tune after-school program. Members helped where needed with their fall concert.

Scott Tribby Instrument Repair Workshop—Fall 2012

Members of ASTA brought Scott Tribby (instrument repairman, instrument maker) to hold a workshop on string instrument upkeep and repair. Quick do-it-yourself fixes were shared.

(continued on page 5)



*Greetings from
Louisville!*

Photo: Mitchell Prout Photography

**The 2014 ASTA National Conference heads to Louisville, Kentucky, March 5–8.
We hope to see you there!**

Important Online Resources for ASTA Student Chapters

www.astaweb.com/studentchapters

<https://www.facebook.com/AstaStudentChapterNetworking>

American String Teachers Association

National Office
4155 Chain Bridge Road
Fairfax, VA 22030

Phone: 703-279-2113
Fax: 703-279-2114
Web: www.astaweb.com
Email: membership@astaweb.com



ASTA Student Chapters Committee

Margaret Berg, Chair: margaret.berg@colorado.edu

Rebecca MacLeod, Board Liaison: rbmacleo@uncg.edu

Hannah Smith, Student Representative: hannah.smith@colorado.edu

www.astaweb.com

ASTA Student Chapter News is published twice annually, during the fall and spring. Please direct questions and/or comments about this publication to Tami O'Brien, ASTA membership marketing manager/chapter liaison, at tami@astaweb.com.