



SCORE

SCORE March 2010

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Donna Toney

It is my honor to greet you as LMTA President. We have much to celebrate in Louisiana – and not just the Saints!

Louisiana Music Teachers Association is 2010 State Affiliate of the Year!



This is the highest honor MTNA bestows upon state organizations and recognition will be made at the national conference in Albuquerque. Gary Ingle, MTNA Executive Director shared comments of the selection committee: "we chose Louisiana because of their ability to retain members at a higher rate, their high percentage (24.8%) of certified teachers including 2 newly certified, their addition of a new collegiate chapter and their generous contributions to the MTNA Foundation Fund. Their supporting materials, such as newsletters and conference booklet were clear and contained information both about their wonderful state activities and National programs. Projects such as their "Students Helping Students Playathon" and a successful on-line newsletter with features such as a LMTA Discussion Board, Technology Tips & a Collegiate Chapter Forum inform their members. Their state convention featured sessions servicing both string and piano teachers showing a healthy collaboration amongst their diverse members."

LMTA Winter Board Meeting

The executive board met in Natchitoches on January 30 at NSULA campus, hosted by 2010 convention collegiate hosts Chris Allen and Francis Yang. The board welcomed new members Patti Misita, VP-membership; Dorothy Sahlmann, VP-rallies; Lynette Murphy, Secretary; Janet Colbert, Treasurer; and Jill O'Toole, Historian. Welcomed back were returning members in new positions: Judy McGehee, President-elect, Katherine Tobey, Past-president and Webmaster and Charles Jones, South Central Division Director-elect. Brett Andrews, strings, represented Paul Christopher, Strings chair.

President-elect Judy McGehee shared plans of the 2010 convention and Dr. Burt Allen, music school coordinator, led a tour of the facility.

The executive committee voted to nominate **Cindy Hockenjos** of Ruston and **Katherine Tobey** of Baton Rouge as our 2011 LMTA Foundation Fellows.

From the President continued on page 2

From the President continued

**Louisiana Foundation
Fellows**

2001

Connie Knox Carroll

2005

Sue Humphreys Holder

2008

Sue Steck-Turner

2009

Fred Sahlmann

2010

Ernestine Durrett

Charles Jones

Both of these fine members have given many years of expertise, leadership and service for the betterment of LMTA. So, you may ask...**What is a Foundation Fellow? Where does the money go? Who can be a Fellow?**

The MTNA Fellow program offers a meaningful method for honoring deserving individuals while supporting the efforts of the MTNA Foundation Fund, through a \$1,000 donation to Foundation Fund in an individual's name.

This is an honor bestowed by peers. Each year new MTNA Foundation Fellows are recognized at the MTNA national conference.

The money donated to the Foundation Fund helps fund programs that nurture the creation, performance, study and teaching of music. Examples of MTNA funded programs include MTNA Student Competitions, Commissioned Composers, and a variety of grants for associations and teachers. Both Katherine and Cindy's names have been registered with MTNA as our 2011 nominees.

There are several ways of donating to MTNA.

- The first option is to send your donation with your dues, via paper renewal statement. On the statement, there is an area for a contribution for the Foundation Fund. You may write down the amount you wish to give, and, then on the left hand side of the statement, list the fellow nominee's name.
- The second option is to renew online. Using the online method, however, there is no way to designate the nominee's name. Send an email to [Jenny Thomason](mailto:jenny.thomason@mtna.org) and let her know which nominee(s) the donation is to go towards. You can also call Jenny at 888-512-5278.
- The third option is to send a contribution to the attention of Jenny Thomason at the address below. Please note on the memo line of the check, or include a note designating either Cindy Hockenjos or Katherine Tobey. Jenny Thomason's address:

Jenny Thomason, Executive Assistant
Music Teachers National Association
441 Vine Street, Suite 3100
Cincinnati, OH 45202
www.mtnafoundation.org

...and remember, you will also be given an opportunity to donate at the 2010 convention!

LMTA sent \$1,704.55 to the MTNA Foundation after the 2009 Convention. The used music sale collected \$451.55, silent auction \$668 and donations \$585. Rest assured that Foundation Chairman Sarah Roy will be reminding us of our new goal!

2009 Convention Review

What a wonderful convention we enjoyed in Lafayette at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette! Our collegiate hosts Susie Garcia and Chan Kiat Lim were very welcoming and provided wonderful facilities and helpful collegiate chapter members to aid in technology. LAMTA President Mila Olivier and members of this outstanding local association provided hospitality, organization and wonderful spirit as we moved throughout the sessions and events. Ingrid Clarfield was both motivating and inspiring, and William Chapman Nyaho played a wonderful recital and enjoyed being "back home." We appreciate and thank everyone that made our time at convention such a success. We set an all time high record for attendance - 150 members and attendees. Our Collegiate members were offered "free lunch" after their panel discussion led by Steele Moegle. Fifty students representing five universities were on hand to participate in networking and lively discussions. The students elected officers and made plans to network throughout the year. LMTA is offering \$500 to each elected collegiate officer that attends the Albuquerque conference. Let's keep the momentum rolling!

From the President continued on page 3

From the President continued

Division Meeting and Competitions

The South Central Division met at Centenary College in Shreveport on January 9-10, 2010. We are grateful to Dr. Gale Odom, Dean of the Centenary Music School, GSMTA President Gulya Chandler and association members for a wonderful weekend of hospitality and hosting! Congratulations to Louisiana participants, and good luck to our first place composition winners, whose works go on to the national competition!

South Central Division



FIRST PLACE WINNERS

Christopher Aubert
Giselle Eastman

Elementary Composition
Young Artist Composition

student of Sue Steck-Turner
student of Dinos Constantinides

AWARDS WERE ALSO PRESENTED TO:

Joseph Aubert
Reid Black
Wesley Newton
Palmer Leo
Dylan Blanchard
Sarah Rushing
Catherine Owens
Andrew Larson
Angy Estrada
Kostadin Dylgerski
Emily Zirlin

Honorable Mention - Junior Composition
Alternate Junior - Piano
Honorable Mention - Junior Strings
Honorable Mention - Junior Woodwinds
Alternate - Senior Brass
Alternate - Senior Piano
Honorable Mention - Senior Strings
Alternate - Young Artist Brass
Honorable Mention - Young Artist Piano
Alternate - Young Artist Strings
Alternate - Young Artist Woodwind

student of Sue Steck-Turner
student of Faina Lushtak
student of Jivka Jeleva
student of Lorretta Andres
student of Charles Jones
student of Willis Delony
student of Pasha Sabouri
student of Joseph Skillen
student of Faina Lushtak
student of Matthew Daline
student of Katherine Kemler



March 20-24, 2010 is the date for the national conference. Among Louisiana presenters are **Dr. Pamela Pike** presenting Sight Reading Strategies For The Beginning And Intermediate Piano Student; **Dr. Christy Vogt** presenting Getting Theory Off The Page: Ideas For Music Making Through Harmonization, Improvisation And Other Group Activities; and **Katherine Tobey** and **Donna Toney** presenting Burnout vs. Balance: Independent Music Teaching-The True Story. Two poster sessions from LMTA/LSU members are **Rebecca Carter Bellelo's** The Effect of Technique Drills on Sight Reading Performance of Group Piano Students and A Case Study in Kindergarten Piano Lessons presented by **Robin Bertucci**. **Ernestine Durrett** and **Dr. Charles Jones** will be honored at the MTNA Gala as LMTA 2010 Foundation Fellows. **Steve and Johnny Durrett** will be our guests, representing their mother who passed away last November.

Chamber Music Competition

Dr. Chan Kiat Lim has agreed to serve as Chamber Music Competition Chairman. LMTA will sponsor this pre-college event beginning in 2011. Guidelines can be found at www.lmta.org The University of LA in Monroe will hold the first chamber music competition in November, 2011. The competition site will rotate each year.

Certification

Congratulations to **Courtney Oubre** (Lafayette), **Christy Vogt** (Lake Charles), **Cara McCool** (New Orleans), **Steele Moegel** (Ruston), **Guyla Chandler** (Shreveport) and **Pamela Pike** (Baton Rouge) who are newly nationally certified members! VP-Certification Sue Steck-Turner reports that 8 LMTA members have applied for national certification and 3 members are being evaluated. Please remember that LMTA will refund half the \$200 fee to members applying for national certification before October 1, 2010.

From the President continued on page 4

From the president continued

Students Helping Students Fund

The Students Helping Students Fund continues to provide a valuable service to our teachers and students throughout the state. From January 1, 2009 to January 9, 2010, over 45 individuals have received \$4740 in funding to subsidize tuition and keyboards. Three young teachers struggling financially have received membership grants and six students in the Greater New Orleans Youth Orchestra received subsidies of \$200 for the trip to Carnegie Hall in June. SHS is funded by students performing in Playathons throughout the state. Five affiliates presented playathons this year to earn over \$4025 to supplement the fund.

IMTF
CAROL WHITE, CHAIR



"THE
PIANO
VERSION
OF
McDONALD'S
FRENCH-FRIES!
YUM!"

In Which We Muse on the Future of Pianos and Technique

The other day, my piano technician and I were discussing the problems with the baby grand at my church. It is a small church where it is impossible to maintain the perfect temperature and humidity required for an acoustic piano. Air conditioning or heating are turned on only during services twice a week. He said the best instrument for a church like mine would be a low maintenance digital keyboard. I gasped in horror.

And this coming from someone who makes his living tuning and repairing acoustic pianos!

He expounded on some disturbing facts: Really good spruce wood is increasingly difficult to find AND the wood that is being used is no longer cured in the time honored ways or for nearly as long as formerly, so the pianos are not being made as well as they were in years gone by and they are not getting any cheaper. They are expensive to keep tuned and maintained especially in an economy where getting the piano tuned is at the bottom of everybody's priority list. The answer for many churches is the new hybrid by Yamaha called the "Avant Grand". It is a digital piano with hammer action and truly sounds and feels like you are playing a nine foot concert grand piano.

I expressed my doubts in loud and colorful language. He insisted that I check out Yamaha's website, or better yet go play one in residence at one of the church's in Baton Rouge.

Before I looked at the website I got to wondering: if the acoustic piano became obsolete how would that impact our teaching of technique? I posed the question via e-mail to several teachers that I knew used keyboards as an aid in their piano studios. I asked how important technique was in their teaching. I also asked if they required their students to practice on an acoustic piano.

Most teachers agree that technique is very important to good piano playing and that an acoustic piano is the ideal instrument for teaching technique for *that* instrument. But some added that the "modern current digital grands simulate the feel of an acoustic piano better than ever before. In this way, the basic, foundational techniques can be taught and mastered."

As to the question about whether or not students were required to practice on an acoustic piano I found that some teachers did require it and some did not.

"Yes. Good technique begins at the first lesson and needs to be practiced on a real piano. How else will a student understand the feel of the action of a real piano and the reasons for a particular movement pertaining to weight of the arms, hands and fingers?"

Another teacher responded:

"No. I do not believe it is necessary to learn the instrument. If a high school student is moving into college study, then yes--classical acoustic piano is important. But in most other areas--not necessary for learning and good playing."

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IMTF continued

Personally, I myself require my students to have an acoustic piano to practice on. Do they all actually have one at home? Well.....ask them no questions and you will hear no lies. (At one time I had a student who practiced on a good "Clavinova" but as she learned more advanced music her technique became more of an issue at the lesson. Because she never saw hammers striking strings or watched as a damper pedal controlled the dampers she simply could not understand how she should "feel" certain actions in striking the keys, and her range of dynamics was limited.)

I am a romantic purist and I pouted several days over the possibility that my beloved piano might one day be obsolete. But Life evolves and so do the things to which we are attached, so I booted up and "Googled" Yamaha's new "Avant Grand". Boy Hidey. I was impressed. The sound of a *Nine Foot Concert Grand* was produced from what looked like a very short baby grand. The performances by three concert pianists and their testimonials about the instrument were very convincing. Or maybe they are as gifted at lying as they are at playing. I doubt it.

I have not yet actually played the "Avant Grand" myself but from what I have seen and been told it seems that here indeed we may have a digital instrument on which we can really teach and practice technique.

And yes, they seem to be the ideal answer for places like churches, choir rooms and practice rooms if not the concert stage (*Please*, they look like a piano version of the "hatchback") and they can be had for a mere \$20,000 as opposed to \$150,000, the price of a really nice nine foot grand.

On the other hand, for parents looking for the perfect learning instrument for little "Brittany" that doesn't take up a lot of room and has headphones to protect the sensibilities of other members of the family the price becomes a *staggering* \$20,000.

But now my mind is asking the question: "Do we really want this?" I asked my tuner another question. Does every "Avant Grand" sound exactly alike? The answer was an emphatic, "YES!"

So no matter where you go in the entire world, you can sit down at any Avant Grand and play and hear the *exact same thing*. The piano version of McDonald's French fries. Yum.

A piano with no hammers or strings cannot produce real vibrations. It has no wood that breathes nor can its black engineered speakers connect on a deeper level with a human being and feel like a living partner in making music. It's just a robot. So yes, maybe we can teach good technique on this piano but how will that good technique ever really be understood until one plays on a real acoustic piano?

Again, I'm a romantic. Many musicians are truly applauding this new break through especially the "green musicians", because if all the good spruce trees are truly disappearing then the question "Do we really want this?" is a moot one.



WEBMASTER KATHERINE TOBEY

Have you visited the LMTA website lately? You'll find the answers to just about any question you have regarding LMTA or MTNA. In addition to full information about all our events, policies and VIPs (Outstanding Teachers and MTNA Fellows), we have contact information for all our officers and chairs, information about local affiliates and collegiate chapters, and a library full of articles of interest to teachers. Looking for a colleague? Go to our Membership Directory (click on "For Members"). Looking for recipes for busy teaching days? Visit "Food for Thought" on the "For Teachers" page. Want to join the LMTA Discussion Board or another music teacher blog? Information and links for these are also on the "For Teachers" page. Need a speaker for your local affiliate? Find these on the "For Teachers" page, too.

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Webmaster continued



Did you know that entry forms for all our events are posted on the website? And they are all fillable. No more handwritten forms! The *Certification Handbook* has recently been updated, and information about the new Chamber Music Competition has been posted. We are really excited to now have all the String Rally forms (fillable, of course) on the website (just visit the "Rally" page under "Events") as well as an updated *String Rally Syllabus*.

New information is added to the LMTA website frequently. We want to keep you informed and current. Can't find what you need? Just e-mail us. Have an article you'd like to share, or information about a local event you'd like to announce? Just let us know. LMTA.org is your website. Take advantage of the wealth of information available to you!

LMTA TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

Fred and Dorothy Sahlmann



Dorothy Swindle and Fred Sahlmann met at McNeese State University in Lake Charles in the mid-sixties. They played duets and developed a friendship at that time. Dorothy left Lake Charles after a few years. Twenty years later, their friendship was reestablished when they worked together as clinicians in an Arkansas Piano Festival. In 1985, they were married, and Dorothy came "home" to Lake Charles. To the delight of all who know and hear them, they are once again a duo/duet team. They are also heralded as soloists, collaborative pianists, teachers, adjudicators, master class clinicians, supporters of all who perform, leaders in the community, leaders in Lake Charles Piano Teachers Association, LMTA and MTNA.

Dorothy Swindle began piano study at age 5. Her degrees are from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. She also studied at Arkansas A & M, Washington University in Washington D.C., and did Doctoral work at North Texas State University, the University of Central Arkansas, and McNeese State University. During the last two decades, she has concentrated on private teaching. Dorothy is a Nationally Certified Teacher, has held many offices in the Lake Charles Piano Teachers Association, and LMTA. She has done a stellar job as the Lake Charles District Rally Chairman, and presently is LMTA Vice-President for Rallies.

At an early age, Fred Sahlmann showed interest in learning to play piano and was soon enrolled in lessons and has been performing all off his life. As a teacher, his artistry and his total love of the music, elevate his students beyond their own expectations. His degrees are from Elon University, Teachers College of Columbia University and Eastman School of Music, where he earned his DMA. He studied in Vienna for a year as a Fulbright Scholar. Dr. Sahlmann is Professor Emeritus at McNeese State University where he taught piano, theory, organ and harpsichord and served an eight year term as music department chair. He continues to perform as pianist with McNeese's chamber ensemble PASTICHE and as organist/choir master at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church. He is a NCTM Master Teacher. He has held many offices in LCPTA and LMTA, including LMTA Past President, and current LCPTA Treasurer. He was named an MTNA Foundation Fellow at the 2009 MTNA Conference in Atlanta.

One of Fred's colleagues describes him as affable, charming and a good listener. One of his students describes him as the finest of teachers and she could not imagine anywhere where she could have gotten a better musical education than studying with Fred Sahlmann.

One of Dorothy's colleagues says "Having heard her students play in district and state competitions, I know that her teaching is superb. Her students are meticulously prepared, play with a fine sense of style, and have been consistent winners for many years". One of her former students gives her absolute credit for his place in the professional musical life he now leads. He says there have been countless times when he has "thanked the stars" for having such an exceptional teacher from the beginning of his musical training.

Either of them standing alone would deserve this honor. Together, Dorothy and Fred are truly ambassadors for LMTA and for our profession.

OUTSTANDING TEACHER NEWS**CINDY HOCKENJOS CHAIR****CHALLENGE**

Each Local Affiliate nominate a member for
LMTA Outstanding Teacher Award

OPPORTUNITY

To honor a member who has been active in their local
association

REQUIREMENTS

By September 10, 2010 gather and send in information

We all know someone who deserves this award! This is a great time to start gathering the information listed in the guidelines. Information can be found on our website LMTA.org.

What an honor to your member if their Local Association nominated them for Outstanding Teacher for 2010!

Why wait? During your meetings in the spring, talk among yourselves, decide on who to nominate, and GET BUSY!!!

MTNA FOUNDATION**SARAH ROY STATE CHAIR**

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the MTNA Foundation Fund during our State Convention in Lafayette last October. The Used Music Sale total is \$451.55; donations brought in \$585; and the Silent Auction reaped \$668 – all for a grand total of \$1,704.55.

Due to your generosity, LMTA was able to name a second Foundation Fellow, Charles Jones, for 2009.

As 2010 continues, may we see it in our hearts and feel it in our pocketbooks to again make a contribution to this MTNA fund that gives where needs are great. Wouldn't it be wonderful if every one of us could give something to this cause?

2010 CONVENTION**JUDY MCGEHEE PRESIDENT ELECT**

Can you believe the excitement of 2010 so far? Louisiana is being honored by MTNA as State of the Year, the Saints have won the Super Bowl, and just before beginning this article I built a snowman in my front yard! The excitement will continue as we plan our Convention for October 14 – 15 at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches. Our collegiate hosts, Christine Allen and Francis Yang, are already planning to make this convention special, as is Jill O'Toole, CENLA President.

Our featured clinician is Christine Barden, a co-author of Alfred's *Music for Little Mozarts* preschool piano method and an internationally recognized authority on early childhood music. She will present pedagogy sessions and an Alfred Showcase on "Music for Little Mozarts."

Our convention artist is Irish pianist Peter Mack, now of Seattle, who will inspire us with a recital, a master-class, and sessions as well. Peter is a winner of the New Orleans, Young Keyboard Artists and Pacific International Piano Competitions and has performed throughout the United States and Europe, in Australia and the former Soviet Union. He is excited about visiting our state.

Paul Christopher, our strings chair, is once again planning several strings sessions. Our voice chair, Lynette Murphy, is planning voice sessions from Lisa Benner of LSMSA, and Laura Thompson from ULM. LMTA members already planning to present sessions include Stephanie Hoffpauir, Ross Smith, Katherine Tobey and Donna Toney, and Robin Williams.

We are still accepting session proposals; please contact me as soon as possible if you are interested. The deadline for submitting proposals is April 1.

Mark your calendars now for the Convention: October 14 – 15, 2010. Plan your teaching calendar to include days off for Convention - your students will benefit from your becoming more informed and more inspired!

Faculty College Forum Panel Discussion

JONI JENSEN CHAIR

I would like to thank my colleagues who joined our panel discussion, Paul Christopher, Northwestern, Pamela Pike, LSU, Robin Williams, UNO, Christy Vogt, McNeese State. Here is an overview of the great sharing of ideas and suggestions that took place at our panel discussion!

Time saving suggestions for practicing and performing.

- Listen to CD's in the car, especially on longer trips to learn repertoire quicker.
- Visualize performing while away from the piano.
- Always have a "practice plan", what to get accomplished in a specific amount of time.

How to motivate your students to practice and perform.

- Have them play lots of gigs, coffee shops, nursing homes...any public place they can perform to get experience performing without the pressure.

Suggestions for recital planning.

- Combine art and music in a theme.
- Use power point for visuals to enhance the musical experience.
- Talk about the music or the composer, or perhaps share a personal experience; a feeling about the music you are performing.

Ideas and suggestions to help students with performance anxiety.

- Tell students to only expect 90% accuracy or not to expect a perfect performance.
- Give specific memory techniques; be able to start in specific spots. Practice backwards. Be able to jump from one section to various other sections.
- Pace yourself- 2 weeks before- start performing the concert in the order it will be played or have a 21 day program to build up to the final day.
- Harmonic Approach or jazz approach -study the fundamental harmony of the piece and understand the chordal progressions.

Chamber Music Competition

Chan Kiat Lim Chair

Chamber music making is very much a part of a musician's journey. A journey where a budding musician learns to interact musically with his or her peers, cultivates aural sensitivity of balance, timbre and nuance, learns how to blend, understands the power of shared musical connection and delights in the sheer fun and joy of music making.

Chamber music is so much a part of any musician's repertoire that we, as teachers, are responsible to encourage our students in playing chamber music. Otherwise, we neglect some of the most precious repertoire in classical music. And it is through this fine art that one emerges with a special skill set necessary in developing artistry and musicianship.

With the onset of the national conference in Albuquerque later this month, MTNA is creating a buzz by launching "a year of collaborative music." On board to promote the awareness and the joy of chamber music making is **LMTA's First Chamber Music Competition**, which will be held in 2011.

This Chamber Music Competition (CMC) is designed for pre-college students. There will be two categories for the Chamber Music Competition (CMC): piano duo/duet/trio/quartet and mixed chamber groups. Each category will encompass two age divisions: Lower division (grades 6-8) and Upper division (grades 9-12).

While, 2011 may seem far away, teachers know that developing these new skills takes time. If you do offer not chamber music in your studio for whatever reason, make 2010 the year for change. Fill your studio with sounds of chamber music we hope to see *your* students at the LMTA 1st Annual Chamber Music Competition in 2011. Please stay tuned to www.lmta.org as details emerge!

CERTIFICATION

SUE STECK-TURNER VP/CERTIFICATION

MTNA Certification

At the State Convention last October, the LMTA Board voted to reimburse \$100 to each member who applies for MTNA certification before October 1, 2010. There are currently 16 members who have either completed or are in the process of completing their certifications.

To obtain the reimbursement, members must notify me when they mail their application to MTNA. Contacting me is of utmost importance—MTNA does not send information concerning applications to me. When I hear from members, I contact MTNA to confirm the receipt of the materials and then request the reimbursement check from our treasurer. LMTA assumes that members will then complete their certifications at their earliest convenience.

The next scheduled testing date will be at the convention in Natchitoches. If a sufficient number of applicants want to take the test prior to the convention, I will try to schedule a time and place convenient for all.

Information concerning MTNA's new projects procedure can be obtained from the www.mtna.org website. If you have questions, please contact me. If I do not have an immediate answer, I can get one.

LMTA Certification

Recent LMTA certified members include Laura Misita, Steele Moegle and Robin Williams. To become LMTA certified, members must achieve qualifying Rally scores or be college faculty members. I have contacted everyone who qualified in the 2009 Rallies. 2009 scores are good only until the 2010 Rallies begin so I urge all qualifying teachers to complete their certifications immediately. Information may be found in the LMTA Certification Handbook available at www.lmta.org.

Are you sufficiently confused now? Don't worry. You are just one of many! Please contact me if you have questions (steckturner@hotmail.com).



The 57th annual LMTA State Convention took place on October 15-18, 2009 at the beautiful campus of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. ULL's school of Music buzzed with excitement and activity as bonds of friendship were lit and others rekindled. Music teachers from around the state gathered for a time of refreshment and inspiration. A few key speakers at the conference were Ingrid Clarfield, Ken Boulton, Sue Steck-Turner, Dr Michael Buckles, Katherine Tobey, and Dr. William C Nyaho. A welcome addition to the conference was the large number of college students in attendance. Of special interest to the college students was the collegiate chapter forum. Moderator Steele Moegle was joined on the panel by four other area music teachers. During this forum, presenters discussed the value of MTNA in their lives as a professional musician and teacher. The panel shared invaluable wisdom of lessons learned from their past experiences related to music. Around twenty-five collegiate members were in attendance at this collegiate forum. In this meeting, the college forum formed a new collegiate board of offi-

cers. These positions exist to provide a connection between Louisiana collegiate chapters, discuss ideas and activities, and plan for greater involvement in MTNA. As a second-time convention participant, I found these few days to be an important key to the success of any music teacher. The response of encouragement and support from MTNA has a true delight and comfort in my life. So, thank you, MTNA, for being that support and reassurance as we embark on our own journey as apprentices in the realm of teaching.

Submitted by Natalie Wood
LMTA Collegiate Board

Biographies of Collegiate Board Members continued on page 10

LMTA Collegiate Board

President

Amanda Yan is currently a sophomore at Louisiana State University. She is privileged to study with Gregory Sioles and is majoring in music with a double concentration in piano performance and piano pedagogy. A native of Houston, Texas, Amanda began studying piano at the age of six.

Performing and teaching are both important to her and last summer, Amanda interned as a teaching assistant for Ariane Liao's studio. She also enjoys teaching her own students during the school year at the After Care Music Program at the University United Methodist Church in Baton Rouge.

Amanda loves to be involved in different music teacher organizations. She serves as the secretary for the LSU MTNA Student Chapter and is also the president of the newly-formed LMTA Collegiate Board. Amanda believes this group will improve communication and interaction between Louisiana MTNA colleges.

Vice President

Robin Bertucci is a graduating senior at Louisiana State University. She is majoring in piano pedagogy and is in the studio of Gregory Sioles. During her time at LSU, she has been both president and vice president of LSU's MTNA Student Chapter.

Robin is from Madisonville, Louisiana where she started piano at the age of 14 with Jo Morrow. She also taught music theory at the Music Academy for the Performing Arts throughout high school.

Being in the supporting and encouraging environment of piano teachers in Baton Rouge, Robin has had many teaching opportunities. She currently coordinates the After School Music Program at University United Methodist Church. Along with a full teaching schedule at UUMC's music program, Robin also teaches several students in the private studio of Patti Misita. Working alongside such an experienced teacher has been her most rewarding teaching experience. Robin also has several private piano students around the Baton Rouge area.

As the vice president of Louisiana Music Teacher Association Collegiate Board, Robin hopes to help foster a sense of community among the different colleges in Louisiana. She plans to serve in whatever capacity is needed during her year on the board. Although she will greatly miss Louisiana when she leaves to pursue a master's degree in the fall, Robin has loved having the opportunity to be so involved in the Louisiana teaching community.

Secretary

Linden Uter is a sophomore Piano Performance Major at LSU. Linden was born in Dallas but spent most of her life in Lafayette, LA, where she attended Comeaux High School. Linden played the flute in the band and was Drum Major of the marching band for 3 years. She also enjoyed singing in the chorus and being in the Magic Moods show chorus. Music has been a big part of her life. She grew up singing and playing guitar with her mom, and now has chosen to pursue it as a full-time career. Even though piano is her main focus, Linden also loves singing in choirs and composing. When she's not playing music, she listens to all kinds of music, from cool jazz and swing to rap! At LSU, Linden is a member of the Sigma Alpha Iota fraternity, and plays piano for masses at Christ the King, a Catholic center on campus. Linden hopes that one day her music will allow her to travel the world and experience all kinds of different cultures and people!

Treasurer

Natalie Wood is a senior piano performance major at Louisiana Tech University. She grew up in El Dorado, Arkansas with her parents and four siblings. In the third grade, Natalie started taking piano lessons from a family friend and widely known Ruston teacher, Jeanne Patterson. Natalie enjoyed studying with Mrs. Patterson for 10 years. During this time, she participated in many competitions including Louisiana Music Teachers Association's (LMTA) Piano Rally, the state Baldwin Elementary Auditions, as well as Ruston Area Music Teachers Association's Solo and Hymn Festival. As an elementary student she received Honorable Mention at the Baldwin Elementary Auditions. In the LMTA Piano Rally, Natalie qualified to participate in the State Piano Rally. Under Mrs. Patterson's teaching and guidance, she developed a love for the piano and decided to further her study at the collegiate level.

Natalie is now studying with Dr. Steele Moegle, Associate Professor of Music at Louisiana Tech University. Through her work with Dr. Moegle, Natalie expects to reach new heights in her musical career. In 2008, she was named Honorable Mention in the Caudell Cup Competition held in Pineville, Louisiana. While at Tech, she was selected by audition to be the 2007-2008 Virginia Thompson Scholarship recipient. Additionally, she serves as soprano section leader in the Louisiana Tech Concert Choir. She looks forward to her senior recital in April, and she expects to graduate this spring.

Locally, she enjoys playing for weddings, and she now accompanies the Calvary College Choir at Calvary Baptist Church. Besides being a pianist, Natalie enjoys playing sports, spending time with her friends, going to church, reading books, and visiting her family.

President-Elect

Jordan Foster is a music theory graduate student at Southeastern Louisiana University. He studies theory and composition under Dr. Jeremy Sagala and Dr. Stephen Suber, where his focus is on ElectroAcoustic composition and post-tonal theory. As an undergraduate, Jordan studied piano under Dr. Henry Jones.

Jordan is currently a piano and theory instructor for the SELU Community Music School, under the direction of Dr. Kenneth Boulton. He teaches both private and group piano lessons for all ages, as well as advanced and adult theory. While maintaining teaching duties, Jordan is also a founding member of the SELU Louisiana Music Teachers Association collegiate chapter, and currently serves as the chapter president.

I hope you enjoyed reading the SCORE! Thank you contributors for the articles you submitted. Members, if there is an area of interest you would like to see in the SCORE, email me at achordabove@etigers.net and tell me about it!

***David Easley
VP/Publicity***