

## Ideas for Your Chapter

### Update Your Constitution

When was the last time your chapter updated your constitution and bylaws? It is healthy for your organization (and probably required by your university if you are an official campus organization) to do so every year. It is a good leadership exercise for your officers, will help your members become more knowledgeable about the operational structure of the organization, and can clarify officer duties and the mission of your chapter. Resources for revising your constitution—or writing one if you do not currently have one—can be found at your institution's Student Activity Office. I also recommend the book "Advising Student Groups and Organization" by Norbert W. Dunkel and John H. Schuh, Jossey-Bass (1998). There are also two sample constitutions on the SNATS pages of the [nats.org](http://nats.org) site that you can use as you need.

### Collaborate!

We are stronger together! Have you thought about collaborating with other organizations on your campus to host an event? This is an especially effective tactic for smaller chapters or chapters with small budgets. Or have you invited another chapter of SNATS in your state to your programming? The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee chapter did exactly that this fall when it hosted members of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire SNATS with an educational lecture and potluck dinner on September 19. Dr. Scott McCoy, a guest of UW-M, shared "The top ten things every new teacher should know" with these young hopeful voice pedagogues. SNATS members enjoyed a potluck dinner and mingling with students from both schools. They are planning on meeting together in the future at the Wisconsin NATS auditions and there are plans in the works for a Wisconsin SNATS Tshirt for all chapters in the state!

## A Message For Our SNATS Chapters

Greetings from Wisconsin! My name is Mitra Sadeghpour, and I am the NATS Vice President of Discretionary Funds and Field Activities (which includes SNATS), and the advisor of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire SNATS chapter. The students in our chapter are off to a great start this fall and as I've been hearing from many of you I am inspired by your activities and the great work you are doing in your schools and communities! Some of those amazing activities are featured in this newsletter and I hope that you find something you'd like to try in your chapter.



Mitra Sadeghpour  
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Remember that there are SNATS grants for up to \$200 to help your chapter fund an event. The grants, which are designed to work in combination with other funds secured by your organization, require a simple application process which is located on the [nats.org](http://nats.org) website. Applications should be in 6 weeks prior to the event. Consider applying for spring semester! I also encourage you to attend and/or apply to present at Indiana University SNATS' "New Voice Educators Symposium. [See Pages 3-4 for details.](#)

And speaking of the website, have you checked out the new national website? There is a wealth of information on the site, and the SNATS pages are a great resource for you in finding other chapters in your area and finding past editions of the newsletter. [The SNATS directory](#) is completely updated. Please check your chapter's entry for accuracy. Thanks to Tom, Amanda, and Deborah for their work for SNATS in the national office!

Please send me your chapter news for inclusion in our next newsletter. Deadline is Jan. 31, 2014



Scott McCoy, UWM SNATS advisor,  
Tanya Krise-Ruck and students from  
UW-Milwaukee and UW-Eau Claire..

My best wishes for an exciting and productive semester of SNATS!

*Mitra Sadeghpour*

## Chapter Updates

### New SNATS chapters as of Oct. 2013:

Bowling Green State University  
Mississippi State University  
Southwestern Oklahoma State University Texas  
Tech University  
University of Connecticut  
State University of New York at Potsdam Ozarks  
Chapter at Missouri State  
Concordia College at Moorhead

We look forward to working with you!

## One Year Later: Baylor University



**Year One:** On September 13, 2012 under advisor Deborah Williamson, the Baylor University Student Nats chapter held an informational meeting with over 40 people expressing initial interest in establishing a Baylor SNATS Chapter. [This makes the Baylor chapter one of our largest chapters.] We nominated and elected officers who met immediately following this meeting and agreed upon a plan for drafting a constitution and obtaining information as to how to become an officially sanctioned student organization at Baylor University.

On September 27, 2012 the new officers presented a draft of the constitution, which was approved by the members of Baylor SNATS.



**BAYLOR**  
UNIVERSITY

The chapter enjoyed subsequent meetings in October, November, February, March, and May of the 2012-2013 academic year; and the officers completed the necessary training and official paperwork required to become an official student organization on the Baylor University campus. At the final meeting of the year, the chapter elected a new slate of officers for the 2013-2014 academic year. The Baylor Chapter of SNATS received its official University Chartering in a May 2013 ceremony. Programming for their first year included:

### 2012-13 Baylor University SNATS Presentations – featuring members of the Baylor University Voice Faculty:

- Establishing a Private Studio; Julianne Best, speaker (October 16, 2012)
- Vocal Pedagogy and Vocal Health/Hygiene Crash Course; Robert Best, speaker (November 13, 2012)
- Exploring the Texas UIL Solo & Ensemble List: Repertoire Study and Evaluation; Robert Best, Randall Umstead, and Deborah Williamson, speakers (February 19, 2013)
- Panel Forum: Teaching the Female Voice; Jack Coldiron, Robert Best, and Deborah Williamson (March 21, 2013)

- Panel Forum: Teaching the Male Voice; Jack Coldiron, Randall Umstead, and Deborah Williamson (May 2, 2013)

**Year Two:** The first meeting of the 2013-2014 academic year for the Baylor University Student Nats chapter occurred on September 17, 2013 and featured Baylor Choral Faculty member Lynne Gackle. The projected schedule of events for this academic year is listed below.

Baylor University will host the Texoma Region Nats Conference, November 6-9, 2013; and the Student Nats chapter will be actively involved, assisting with the organization and supervision of room monitors for the student auditions and selling water, fruit, and energy bars as a concession throughout the conference.

### 2013-14 Baylor University SNATS Presentations:

- The Changing Female Voice; featuring Lynne Gackle, Baylor Choral Faculty and author of *Finding Ophelia's Voice*, *Opening Ophelia's Heart: Nurturing the Adolescent Female Voice*, published by Heritage Music Press. (September 17, 2013)
- Panel Forum: The Collegiate Professor Career Track: Graduate study, Summer Performance programs, and other recommended qualifications and experiences; featuring members of the Baylor Voice Faculty: Robert Best, Randall Umstead, and Deborah Williamson, speakers (October 24, 2013)
- The Private Studio; Lois Landrum, guest speaker (January 14, 2014)
- Vocal Health; Bradford Holland, M.D. Otolaryngology, guest speaker (February 11, 2014)
- Solo Vocal Repertoire; featuring members of the Baylor Voice Faculty: Jack Coldiron, Kathy McNeil, and Jamie Van Eyke, speakers (March 27, 2014)
- Final meeting, election of officers, and party (April 22, 2014)



## Spotlight Chapter: Indiana University Jacobs School of Music

Student Nats at Indiana University

Email: [iusnats@indiana.edu](mailto:iusnats@indiana.edu)

<http://www.indiana.edu/~iusnats/index.html>

The Indiana University chapter of Student Nats was founded in 2004 under the guidance of the late vocal pedagogue Dr. Paul Kiesgen. Our founding members sought to provide career-building support for Jacobs School of Music students who were focused on a career in teaching voice. Now in its tenth year and under the guidance of Dr. Brian Horne, Nats Foundation board president and 2014 Nats Master Teacher, Student Nats at Indiana University continues



### JACOBS SCHOOL OF MUSIC

INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
Bloomington

to promote vocal pedagogy and provide an environment for discussion of issues dealing with teaching voice both privately and at the collegiate level.

Student Nats at IU sponsors many annual events including the Voice Faculty Cabaret, a guest lecture series, masterclasses,

community caroling, and the New Voice Educators Symposium. The guest lecture series features topics related to vocal health, pedagogy, performance, and career advice. The Voice Faculty Cabaret, our annual fundraiser, offers a unique opportunity for faculty, students, and community members to socialize, network, and experience up-close performances by our distinguished faculty.

The New Voice Educators Symposium (NVES) is designed to provide a forum for information and discussion about topics related to vocal pedagogy, vocal performance, voice science, vocal literature, and all related subjects. The Symposium offers new and future teachers the opportunity to present academic papers, workshops, and performances in a formal, yet friendly, atmosphere. Last year, SNATS at IU was honored to have Dr. Allen Henderson, Nats executive director, begin the symposium with his presentation entitled Teaching Voice in the 21st Century.

More about the New Voice Educators Symposium (NVES) at Indiana University:

#### ► When is NVES 2014?

- Symposium Dates: February 21-22, 2014
- Location: Sweeney Hall, Simon Music Center (Indiana University – Bloomington, IN)
- **Submission Deadline: January 17, 2014**
- Presentation Materials Deadline: February 4, 2014



*Voice Faculty Cabaret 2012 with Kevin Murphy, Heidi Grant Murphy, Marietta Simpson and Brian Horne (SNATS Advisor).*



*Voice Faculty Cabaret 2012 with Wolfgang Brendel, Mary Ann Hart and Alice Hopper.*

# Continued: Indiana University SNATS

## ► Who is eligible to present?

- Any person currently pursuing a degree in voice or a voice related field OR any
- College/University employed voice teachers with less than five years of full-time teaching experience.

## ► How long are presentations?

- Most presentations are 30 minutes long with 5-8 minutes included for questions and discussions.

## ► Steps to take to be an NVES presenter

Send an Abstract: Applicants send a 200-word abstract of their presentation to the iusnats mailbox (Email: [iusnats@indiana.edu](mailto:iusnats@indiana.edu) – Subject Line: NVES Submission). Submissions are chosen by committee members of Student NATS at IU under the guidance of our faculty advisor, Brian Horne.

### Criteria for selection may include:

- high degree of scholarship and research

- relevance to singing or the teaching of singing
- selection from a variety of topics

## ► Costs related to NVES

The symposium is a free event but does not include travel expenses for presenters.

### Presentation examples from NVES 2013

- Breathiness: As a Vocal Fault and Its Solutions
- Singing as a Treatment for Aphasia, Depression and Alzheimer's Disease
- Feedback and Failure: Responding for Effective Change
- Tone Deafness? Understanding, Discovering, and Correcting Musical Aptitude
- A Response to the Question: Is Classical Music Dying?
- Ornammentation: From Treatises to Teaching
- Worlds Colliding: The Jugendstil Movement and Turn of the Century German Romantic Music

## STUDENT NATS AT IU

2013-2014

### EVENTS CALENDAR

#### September 2013

SNATS Social  
Guest Lecture Series - Vocal Diction

#### October 2013

Voice Faculty Cabaret  
Guest Lecture Series - Taxes and the Professional Musician

#### November 2013

Guest Lecture Series - Classically Fit

#### December 2013

SNATS Caroling

#### January 2014

Guest Lecture Series - Jazz in the Voice Studio

#### February 2014

New Voice Educators Symposium  
Guest Lecture Series - Grants and Grant Writing

#### March 2014

SNATS Masterclass

Topics, dates and times are subject to change.  
Check our website for updates: [www.indiana.edu/~iusnats](http://www.indiana.edu/~iusnats)

### 10TH ANNUAL NEW VOICE EDUCATORS SYMPOSIUM

#### DATES AND DEADLINES

##### Symposium Dates

February 21-22, 2014

##### Abstract Submission Deadline

January 17, 2014

##### Presentation Materials Deadline

February 4, 2014

Please send any NVES questions to the SNATS mailbox: [iusnats@indiana.edu](mailto:iusnats@indiana.edu)  
Subject Line: NVES 2014



Indiana University Chapter  
Student National Association of Teachers of Singing

## Activities From Our Chapters

### ► Southwestern Oklahoma State University

So far in 2013, the SWOSU Student NATS chapter has organized receptions for the university's choral concerts, as well as for a member's senior recital. Members also organized and attended two watch parties, one for a documentary, "The Audition," and one for Donizetti's "L'elisir d'amore." In late spring, they elected new officers and discussed recruitment ideas, such as T-shirts, welcome letters to incoming music students, and reaching out to local junior and senior high schools. This fall, members are planning more opera watch parties, bake sales to fund receptions for this semester's vocal/choral events, and continuing recruitment efforts.



*From left to right: Ashton Jung - Vice President/ president elect, Krista Hudson - Secretary, Kristen Williams, Stacy Stevenson - President, Shawna Hardin, Blake Boily - Treasurer, Dr. Kristin Griffeath - Advisor.*

### ► University of Toronto (yes, we have chapters in Canada!)

The University of Toronto's student chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (SNATS UofT) held its first event, The Vocal Health and Pedagogy Symposium, on April 20th 2013 at the University of Toronto's Hart House.

Created in the fall of 2012 by a group of graduate voice students with the help of teachers Lorna MacDonald and Elizabeth McDonald, SNATS UofT seeks to advance knowledge about the profession of voice teaching by engaging with students, faculty members and the community.

The symposium's opening session dealt with diverse topics linked to voice pedagogy. Shannon Coates presented terminology and imagery used to teach



breathing for singing, as well as cases where the imagery used may diverge from physiologic and acoustic realities. Charlene Santoni discussed different concrete materials that can help circumvent psycho-social vulnerability and vocal repression in the adolescent voice studio. Examples included hoola- hoops, straws, yoga mats, feathers, and smarties. Jelena Ciric presented the differences in the vocal training of actors and singers, and gave useful tips on how voice teachers can provide efficient vocal coaching to actors.

The presentation segment was followed by a roundtable discussion led by Karine St-Pierre, which addressed breathing support, vocal health and the anatomy of singing.

Following a masterclass format, talented high school and undergraduate singers Michael Johnston, Robin Whiffen, Emily Pearce, and Mikhail Shemet interpreted contrasting pieces from the classical repertoire with pianist Suzy Smith. Voice teachers Brooke Dufton and Catherine Gardner gave useful advice to the singers, based on their vast knowledge and experience of voice teaching and performance.

The symposium ended with a voice recital showcasing members of SNATS UofT, Catherine Gardner, Douglas Brenton, Brooke Dufton and Katherine Napiwotzki.

Following the symposium's success, SNATS UofT has already committed to hosting a second symposium in the upcoming year, as well as a variety of workshops and events. To learn more about SNATS UofT, please visit our Facebook page or email us at [uoft.snats@gmail.com](mailto:uoft.snats@gmail.com). Karine St-Pierre President, SNATS UofT 2013-14.



### ► University of Alabama at Birmingham

This semester, our activities include a day of master classes and coachings with Reed Woodhouse of The Juilliard School. He will focus on Mozart recitative for the opera students who are preparing LA FINTA SEMPLICE, and offer private coaching sessions to other SNATS members. Our regular activities include editing graduate school application essays and watching opera videos together. Next semester, our guest clinicians will include Arlene Shrut, also of



## Continued: SNATS Chapter Activity Reports

the The Juilliard School. She is also the founder and President of New Triad for Collaborative Arts, based in New York.

### ► Jacksonville University

The chapter is doing an outreach event with a local elementary school with no music program. Congratulations to the chapter led by President Jordyn Jones and their advisor, Kimberly Beasley!

### ► Valley of the Sun SNATS Chapter

VSNATS purchased awesome shirts for use by our chapter, while helping at events. Students worked at their inaugural event, VSNATS Fall Workshop, YogaVoice, with Mark Moliterno presenting, on Sept 27-28, 2013. Grand Canyon University hosted the event. We had a total of 10 students volunteer and assist, with 3-4 students at each of the 4 sessions. We also have a GCU SNATS Facebook Group.



### ► Mississippi State University

Spring 2013 was our first semester and we elected officers, held Master classes on campus, and several of our members also participated in the NATS student auditions. This picture is of our members at our first meeting. We are very excited about our next event. Jessica Dermondy, talent scout and agent from New York City, is coming to work with students on October 17-18 to hold mock Broadway auditions and lead master classes on a variety of related topics. We are thrilled to have her in residence!



*Cory Ramsey (treasurer), Bre Jackson (secretary), Ivye Yeatman, Katie Morgan (President), Michael Becher (webmaster), Amy Arinder (Vice-president), JJ Haight, Callie Ellis, Jordan Dobbins, and William Tiffin.*

## SNATS Mission

The National Association of Teachers of Singing has fostered the formation of student chapters in order to advance knowledge about the Association and the professions of teaching and singing. A Student NATS (SNATS) Chapter is an organization of students that can meet, hold events and discussions, participate, practice, and learn more about voice teaching as a profession.

*Student*  
**nats**

Submit your chapter news by January 31, 2014, for inclusion in our next newsletter!

[vpdiscretionary@nats.org](mailto:vpdiscretionary@nats.org)