

Welcome, New Chapters!

New and reinstated chapters since June 1, 2017

The Studio Space - A Venue for the Arts, Private Music Education & Performance Venue Brookfield, WI

Jodi Ann Curtis, advisor
Sarah Niemann, president

Louisiana State University Baton Rouge, LA

Sandra Moon, advisor
Kirsten Larson, president

Reinstated SNATS Chapters

Bowling Green State University Bowling Green, OH

Dr. Jane Schoonmaker Rodgers, advisor; Rachel Cammar, Adelle Blauser, and Autum Cochran-Jordan, co-presidents

Ohio State University Columbus, OH

Katherine Rohrer, advisor
Justin Fields, president

Ozarks (Missouri State University) Springfield, MO

Dr. Carol Chapman, advisor
Kayli Owen, president

University of Florida Gainesville, FL

Dr. Elizabeth Graham, advisor
Sabrina Baeta, president

Westminster Choir College Princeton, NJ

Dr. Kathy Kessler Price, advisor
Dorothy Shrader, president

Message for our SNATS Chapters HAPPY FALL!

(Although you are receiving this newsletter in November, the VP's message was written in October.)

I am sending warm greetings to all of you from Northfield where we are experiencing a beautiful, sunny fall day. After several windy days, many of the leaves are off the trees; however one can still find strong splashes of color here and there. I hope your fall semester is off to a good start for your chapter. I've heard from a number of you and it sounds like many wonderful events are scheduled for this term. Some of those are noted in this newsletter.



Alison Feldt
SNATS Coordinator and
NATS Vice President for Outreach
feldt@stolaf.edu

I am happy to announce the reinstatement of the following SNATS Chapters: Ozarks, Ohio State University, and Bowling Green State University.

Two new chapters were added this fall: The Studio Space in Brookfield, WI and Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge.

The names and email addresses of each chapter advisor and president are listed in the SNATS online directory. Many of you have yet to update advisor and chapter president directory information this fall. **Please remember to notify me immediately via email to vpoutreach@nats.org or feldt@stolaf.edu anytime there is a change in your chapter's leadership.** This is the only means the national office and I have of communicating with your chapter. If that information is not up-to-date, you may miss out on important announcements, miss out on receiving this newsletter, etc. Thank you to chapter advisors and presidents who have already emailed their directory information to me.

NATS membership is now available to full-time students. Although it is not a requirement for belonging to your local SNATS Chapter, the NATS Student Membership offers benefits including digital access to *Journal of Singing*. Fall enrollment began October 1 and continues through early 2018. Membership enrollment during that time period is good through January 1, 2019.

The first-ever SNATS Chat held last spring with guest presenter Lynn Holding was a huge success. Professor Holding's presentation "NOT Lost in Translation: Adapting Classical Technique to Music Theatre Styles" was moderated by Professor Errik Hood from Utah State University. Our Fall SNATS Chat was held on Sunday, November 5. The topic and presenter are summarized below.

Finally, I am happy to visit your chapter as time allows. I am excited about the possibility of visiting SNATS Chapters in Iowa, Missouri, and Louisiana this coming spring. The spring 2018 newsletter will go out between March 15-April 15, 2018. Email your chapter's news/photos to vpoutreach@nats.org by March 15, 2018.

Alison Feldt

ABOUT SNATS

*The National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) fosters 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.*

For more information about Student NATS (SNATS) Chapters, send an email to Alison Feldt, SNATS Coordinator, at vpoutreach@nats.org

SNATS CHATS!

Our second SNATS Chat took place on Sunday evening, November 5, 2017. The featured guest was **Dr. Cindy Dewey**, offering her presentation, "Strategic Practice: What is it? And How to do it. Lessons from motor learning theory and learning theory and their practical applications in the singer's practice room." **Dr. Errik Hood**, assistant professor and voice area head at Utah State University, served as moderator.

The presentation opened with the premise of the power of believing you can improve. Dr. Dewey explained how to develop a growth mindset to cultivate a desire to learn, embrace challenges and see effort as a path to mastery.

This presentation, as well as the Spring 2017 SNATS Chat, is archived at the [SNATS Webpage](#).

SNATS Chats take place twice a year, during the fall and spring semesters. The one-hour event is a live online, real-time discussion for students and singers, usually scheduled on Sunday evening at 9:30 p.m. Eastern; 8:30 p.m. Central; 7:30 p.m. Mountain; and 6:30 p.m. Pacific. The date for the Spring 2018 SNATS Chat will be announced soon, along with a link for you to register. If you have ideas for future topics, you can send an email to errik.hood@usu.edu

About Cindy Dewey

Fall 2017 SNATS Chat Guest



Cindy Dewey, soprano, is Music Department Head and former Voice and Opera Area Head at Utah State University. Before joining the music faculty at USU, Dr. Dewey was a tenured Associate Professor of Music at West Virginia University where she was the director of graduate and undergraduate programs in voice performance and pedagogy. Dr. Dewey earned her bachelor's and doctoral degrees in voice performance

at Louisiana State University where she was a student of master teacher Sandra Kungle, and Metropolitan Opera star, Martina Arroyo. She earned her master's degree under the tutelage of nationally recognized voice teacher, Herald Stark. In addition, Dr. Dewey was a long-time student of Oren L. Brown of the Juilliard School, with whom she organized two international multi-disciplinary seminars on healthy voice use held on the campus of Utah State University.

Social SNATS

We're seeing a lot about SNATS on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, and it is great that you are sharing chapter news and events. We've taken another step in expanding the SNATS presence on social media. An Official SNATS page has just been created to serve as a hub for communication among chapters. [Click here, like and share.](#)

SNATS Members, share your photos on Instagram and Facebook, #SNATS #NATS. If your student chapter has a Facebook page, email the address to Brian Leeper at leeperb@uww.edu and we will add your address to the list below, or let us know when your Chapter launches a new page!

SNATS Chapters on Social Media

Facebook

- [SNATS Official Page](#)
- [Asbury SNATS](#)
- [Colorado State SNATS](#)
- [Indiana University SNATS](#)
- [Jacksonville University SNATS](#)
- [Sam Houston State University SNATS](#)
- [University of Alabama-Birmingham SNATS](#)
- [San Diego State University SNATS](#)

- [Shenandoah SNATS](#)
- [University of Kentucky SNATS](#)
- [University of North Carolina-Greensboro SNATS](#)
- [University of Northern Iowa \(UNI\) SNATS](#)
- [University of Toronto SNATS](#)
- [University of Wisconsin-Whitewater SNATS](#)
- [University of Wyoming SNATS](#)
- [Wilfred Laurier University SNATS](#)
- [Winthrop SNATS](#)

Twitter

- [University of Toronto @SNATSUofT](#)
- [Indiana University @IUSNATS](#)
- [East Carolina University @ECUSNATS](#)
- [Ozark SNATS @OzSNATS](#)
- [Miami University @MiamiSNATS](#)

Instagram

- [University of Toronto SNATSUofT](#)
- [Jacksonville University SNATS JU](#)
- [San Diego State University SNATS SDSU](#)

JOIN FOR 2018! NATS Student Membership

Annual Membership is just \$46.

Students can now become members of NATS and partake in benefits including FREE *Journal of Singing* digital access.

Mentoring and serving students is at the heart of the NATS mission. Lifelong learning begins at the student level, and it is in this spirit that NATS has launched

a new student membership category this year. We enthusiastically welcome students to become part of a community of friends and colleagues who all seek the same goal: excellence in teaching and singing.



Membership offers benefits including digital access to *Journal of Singing*.

Enrollment is now in progress and new membership is good through January 1, 2019.

Having a NATS Student Membership is not a requirement for belonging to a Student NATS (SNATS) Chapter. However, we encourage that you actively participate within a SNATS Chapter as a step toward purchasing a NATS Student Membership.

Requirement: Must be a full-time student. (NATS may request a verification of full-time student status).

CHAPTER NEWS

Auburn University SNATS

Auburn, Alabama

*Matthew Hoch and Anne Duraski, advisors
Taylor Holt, president*

On September 22 and 23, 2017, Auburn University, with the assistance of the AU SNATS Chapter, hosted Dr. Loraine Sims (*pictured, center*) from Louisiana State University for a two-day residency. On Friday, Dr. Sims gave a master class for Auburn University students as well as a lecture-recital on comedy song. On Saturday, Dr. Sims presented a daylong workshop in conjunction with Alabama NATS. It was a wonderful opportunity for their students to work with Dr. Sims over the course of these two days.



Drake University SNATS

Des Moines, Iowa

*Leanne Freeman-Miller, advisor
Gabrielle Clutter and Mollie Lawler, co-advisors*

Drake SNATS has several exciting events happening this semester. On October 24th, Scott Arens and Sam Carroll from the Des Moines Metro Opera met with their chapter for a resume-building workshop and to speak about the Des Moines Metro Opera upcoming season.

Another big event is their opera and musical theater scenes program that is led by students only. This program allows chapter members to assume leadership roles, such as music and stage directing, collaborating with students in role preparation, and performing and accompanying.

Drake SNATS holds two meetings per month. Topics have included discussions on career advice, graduate school preparation, YAPs, and other information that will prepare them for the classical and musical theater world once they leave Drake University.



Participants from last year's student-led productions at Drake University

Miami University-Ohio SNATS

Oxford, Ohio

Dr. Alison Acord, advisor

Alexandra Hotz, president

2016-17 was a busy year for the SNATS Chapter at Miami University of Ohio. As a registered campus student organization, the Miami SNATS Chapter is able to apply for funding to bring in special guests. SNATS members Ali Hotz, president; Dana Kuehn, vice president; and Karl Sissman, treasurer secured funding to bring singing vocal health specialist **Dr. Wendy LeBorgne** (pictured below) to campus fall 2016. Dr. LeBorgne spoke to students about how they can practice good vocal hygiene to preserve good vocal health through the vocally demanding careers of professional singing and as music educators.



St. Olaf College SNATS

Northfield, Minnesota

Alison Feldt, advisor

Alma Neuhaus & Erica Hoops, co-presidents

The St. Olaf SNATS Chapter celebrates its 20th anniversary as an official SNATS Chapter this month. The chapter was officially organized in October 1997 with ten members and Alison Feldt serving as its advisor. The Chapter has been going strong ever since. This fall the chapter has organized a dinner conversation with Dale Kruz about getting into the opera world; an opera movie night; and a group trip to *Le Nozze di Figaro* at Minnesota Opera.

Shorter University SNATS

Rome, Georgia

Dr. Tara Warfield, advisor; Mary Saintfort, president

At Shorter University, Opera Fright Night is in the works with mad scenes and food (of course!).

Oberlin College SNATS

Oberlin, Ohio

Lorraine Manz, advisor; Theodora Nestorova and Joseph Klinger, co-presidents

The Oberlin Conservatory Student National Association of Teachers of Singing Chapter (OC SNATS) was delighted to bring **Dr. Melissa Malde** (pictured below), author of *What Every Singer Needs to Know About the Body* and Professor of Voice at the University of Northern Colorado, for a Residency on Body Mapping for Singers from September 15 - 16. Her workshops and master class were wonderful learning experiences for the students.



Ouachita Baptist University SNATS

Arkadelphia, Arkansas

*Margaret Garrett and John Alec Briggs, co-advisors
Amy Lytle, president*

The chapter has several activities planned this fall, including singing for veterans at a nursing home near Veterans Day, making travel packs (baggies with hand sanitizer, tissues, encouraging notes, and travel snacks) for NATS participants, and making audition gift bags for students auditioning for voice scholarships at Ouachita Baptist University. The gift bags included a cup, sunglasses, information about their program, a bag of hot tea, and a packet of honey. They did this same activity last year, and the gift bags were well received. In addition to being a friendly gesture, it was also seen as a way to recruit future members to their SNATS chapter.



University of Alabama-Birmingham

Birmingham, Alabama

*Kristine Hurst-Wajszczuk, advisor
Maurice Nix, president*

The University of Alabama-Birmingham guest clinician is Dr. Jason Hiester of Ohio Wesleyan University, who will give private coachings, a master class, and will work with their choirs in late October.

Jason Hiester, a tenor, teaches voice and conducting, and directs both the opera and choral programs at Ohio Wesleyan University. He performs professionally in a variety of genres, including opera, oratorio, choral, and jazz.

Hiester's contribution to the many fields of vocal music is varied and exemplary. He is an active conductor and has directed all levels of singers from children to professional in numerous works ranging from medieval to contemporary.

University of Southern California SNATS

Los Angeles, California

Lynn Holding, advisor; Melissa Treinkman, president

On November 3, Scott Rieker presented his DMA vocal pedagogy project "Beyond the Sum of Its Parts: Social Network Theory (how people influence one another) and Emergence Theory (the whole is greater than the sum of its parts)." Lisa Popeil presented an "Introduction to Commercial Styles" November 17.



USC SNATS members with Scott Rieker, presenter, and Lynn Holding, advisor.

University of Southern Maine SNATS

Gorham, Maine

*Dr. Mariana Mihai-Zoeter, advisor
Celeste Mettelhauser, president*

The University of Southern Maine Student Nats Chapter is continuing their monthly "Snacks and SNATS" free movie nights where they will be showing Newsies, Il barbiere di Siviglia, and classic jazz recordings as part of their vocal arts education and outreach mission. Later this fall they plan to host a "Teacher Tea" which will give voice students the opportunity to chat with voice teachers about teaching techniques, building a voice studio, and making a career as a voice teacher and singer. In the spring, they will be hosting a World Voice Day event on campus which will include guest speakers and vocal health workshops.

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee SNATS

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Tanya Kruse-Ruck, advisor

Katie Gruell, president

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee SNATS Chapter has a number of different events planned for this academic year. Fall semester activities include a BYOCS (bring your own cleaning supplies) clean up of the practice rooms; a Student Spotlight event with Danny Koplitz & Jackie Willis on "Finding your niche in music"; a discussion group on "Diversity in Casting"; a Movement/Choreography workshop (& how it applies to voice lessons); a session on "Teaching & Performing", and Christmas/Holiday caroling at local memory care and assisted living homes.

January and spring semester activities include observing a Florentine Opera rehearsal of Purcell's Dido & Æneas; solo & ensemble coachings and master classes with local high school students; touring a company in Chicago (First Stage/Chicago Lyric); jury practice at local memory care and assisted living homes; a presentation on "Cabaret Style Music"; presentation about "How to write a Resumé"; and a financial planning expert on "Managing your money as a young person".

University of Wyoming SNATS

Laramie, Wyoming

Katrina Zook, advisor

Brittany LaPalme, president

Events planned for fall semester include a Karaoke Night, Opera Night (they will be watching and studying Aaron Copland's The Tender Land), volunteer service (holiday caroling at local nursing homes), and hosting guest speakers. Their first guest speaker is David Jones. He will scope student volunteers, which will be followed by a discussion of the mechanics of the vocal instrument and basic pedagogy. Other planned events include the process of starting a private voice studio and a Q&A session regarding music education in primary, secondary, and higher education.



Photo from last year's opera night at University of Wyoming

Viterbo University SNATS

LaCrosse, Wisconsin

Dan Johnson-Wilmot, advisor

Arianna Day, president

Viterbo University's SNATS Chapter was founded in the spring of 2016. Because the officers established Viterbo SNATS as a university student club in the spring of 2016, the Viterbo chapter was able to petition to Viterbo University's Student Government Association for funding of the 2016-2017 school year. The SNATS Chapter was awarded \$2,672 by SGA with the promise to provide learning opportunities for their student members. The 2016-2017 school year gained consistent activity within the club and a roster of roughly 20 members.



Pictured is Ms. Means-Weekly working with student Nick Temte.

In the spring of 2017, Viterbo SNATS sponsored a masterclass with **Edrie Means-Weekly** of Shenandoah Conservatory. Due to SGA's generous contribution to Viterbo SNATS, the club was able

Reminder

SNATS chapters who would like to have their events listed at [nats.org](http://www.nats.org) can follow this link: http://www.nats.org/snats_events.html and click the green "Submit an Event" button.

Update your SNATS directory listing. Anytime there is a leadership change, send an email to vpoutreach@nats.org or feldt@stolaf.edu.

to sponsor Edrie's masterclass fee, flight, hotel, and food expenses with no outside financial help. Edrie's visit was intended to start a conversation on commercial music in Viterbo's predominantly classical program. She offered a more intimate meeting and demonstration session with strictly SNATS members on a Saturday morning, and in the afternoon of that same day, she presented a public workshop where she worked with eight students from both the music and music theatre departments.

Western Michigan University SNATS

Kalamazoo, Michigan

Ken Prewitt, advisor

Hayley Girard and Sarabeth Brown, co-presidents

This year, Western Michigan University SNATS kicked off a once-a-month series called "Voices of the Past." They listen to recordings of the great singers of the last hundred years and discuss what makes their voices beautiful and how they can apply that knowledge to their own practice and performance. They will also sponsor a recital featuring the renowned contralto Meredith Arwady, and they will sponsor additional sessions on Alexander Technique and performance anxiety.

Wilfrid Laurier University SNATS

Waterloo, Ontario, CA

Amanda Brunk, advisor

Rachel Kalap and Janelle Laarakker, co-presidents

The SNATS chapter of Wilfrid Laurier University kicked off their fall membership drive with a wine and cheese information session on October 1st. They are excited to begin the year!

Western University SNATS

London, Ontario, Canada

Barbara Dunn-Prosser, advisor

Laura Duffy, president

Western SNATS was founded in 2015 with only five members and has quickly grown to 16 members and counting! The Western Chapter is dedicated to the promotion of vocal pedagogy, as well as career building and support for those interested in professional careers in teaching and performing.

This past September their chapter partnered with Elizabeth Noel, a dress store in London, Ontario, to host a private dress sale for voice students at Western in search of recital gowns (*pictured, right*). In October they will be running an adjudication workshop with Barbara Dunn-Prosser.

