

# AMAT CONNECTIONS

## Fall 2013 Newsletter

### AMAT Board of Directors

Bobby Howard—President  
Remonia Chapman— President  
Elect  
Sandy Andrada—Past President  
Carla Hawkins—Secretary  
Kelvin Satcher—Treasurer

#### Board Members:

Sabrina Ho  
Jeffery Graham  
Kenny Boyd  
Audrey Brown  
Michelle Tolliver  
Heidi Nicome  
Kevin Myer  
Elena De La Cruz

### The President's Corner



Greeting AMAT Members and Friends!

As we anxiously await the upcoming conference, I'd like to take a moment and reflect. This past year seems to have flown by and yet, so much was accomplished. We all have important jobs full of responsibilities, yet each of you took time out of your busy schedules to help our wonderful organization continue to expand and connect with more organizations and people around the world. I'd like to personally thank our amazing board members for attending our monthly calls, and weighing in on one important organizational planning decisions. You made my job a lot easier, because you shared and stepped up to the plate every time you were needed.

I'm not one to brag, but I must say that we have some of the greatest committee chairs an organization could ask for. With your leadership and discipline, our strategic goals and objectives were met, and our expectations were exceeded. From the informative quarterly scheduled webinars from the Asian/Pacific-Islander, Hispanic/Latino, and African-American Workgroups to the exciting news in each AMAT Spectrum Newsletter, we gained so much insight and perspective on how to better serve our respective communities and each other.

I must thank the Conference Planning, Membership and Fundraising Committees for

arranging a dynamic conference agenda, increasing our individual and organizational memberships, and raising the funds that help make all of this possible. Every committee, including the Bylaws and Office Administration, plays a unique and important role in allowing AMAT to meet all regulations required of us and coordinate the materials and functions necessary to provide the quality resources we offer and collaborate effectively to grow individually and collectively. We have established new partnerships that will expand our outreach and our name as the premiere resource for organ/tissue transplant education and professionals. This would not be possible without everyone's hard work and dedication.

I encourage each of you to consider joining a new committee or two this year. I also want to hear your candid feedback on how we can add value to your AMAT membership. I welcome your input and guidance as I step into my second year as President of AMAT; after all, my charge is to serve your needs and the overarching mission of this phenomenal organization. Thank you all, and look forward to seeing you later this month!

Sincerely,

Bobby Howard

## In Memorium: Remembering Debbie Delgado-Vega, former AMAT member and friend.



The world has lost one of its most passionate advocates for liver awareness among the Hispanic community. Debbie Delgado-Vega, diagnosed with autoimmune liver disease, founded the Latino Organization for Liver Awareness (LOLA) in 1992 while waiting for a liver transplant. Frustrated by the lack of Spanish-language materials about liver disease and organ donation, she enlisted legislators, health professionals and community leaders to help address this issue.

Following liver transplant complications, Debbie was fortunate enough to receive a second liver transplant. With renewed energy, she became an outspoken advocate for promoting liver health and organ donation, helping thousands of Latinos who might have otherwise died without her guidance and concern. Debbie will be sorely missed, and leaves leaving a tremendous void in addressing liver health issues among the Latino community.

*Remembered for the life she lived  
and the lives she touched.*

## I AM AMAT



**Name:** Stephen A. Kula, Ph.D., NHA  
**Organization:** Legacy of Life Hawaii  
**Title:** President and CEO

### What attracted you to the field of organ and tissue donation/transplantation?

*For the most part, I have mainly been involved in non-profit healthcare work since my wife and I moved back home to Hawaii in 1984. Most of my involvement in healthcare has been in hospice care. My educational background is avian medicine and production management. I find it very rewarding that I am able to use that education in an indirect way to understand the nomenclature and theory as it applies to healthcare and management.*

### What professional milestone/accomplishment are you most proud of in your work to save lives through donation and transplantation?

*In the past seven years, our organization has been able to more than double our number of donors and organs transplants. During that same period, the number of tissue donors has more than tripled. All of which has helped more of those in need of a life-saving organ transplant or life-restoring tissue transplant.*

### How long have you been a member of AMAT, and what do you like most about your AMAT experience?

*I have maintained an individual membership in AMAT for the past three or four years. What I love most about AMAT is the cultural diversity of its membership and how it leverages that diversity to develop culturally competent approaches to healthcare. Coming from Hawaii, one of the most culturally diverse places on the planet, I have a natural curiosity and sense of adventure when it comes to other cultures and customs.*

### What is the best thing about working with multicultural communities to promote the gift of life?

*Again, I would have to say coming from and having grown up in a very diverse cultural environment I have the natural curiosity and sense of adventure when it comes to other cultures and customs. Death and dying, its customs, outcomes, moirés, consequences, etc. all involve such diversity and offer such a vibrant learning exchange of ideas and experiences.*

### If you could recruit a famous person (living or dead) to help promote the cause of organ and tissue donation, who would it be and why?

*My first thought would have to be Mohammad, Jesus, and Buddha as part of a roundtable to discuss organ and tissue donation as the ultimate gift of love one could give to another human being.*

### What's one thing people would be surprised to know about you?

*That I am happily married to my childhood next door neighbor, (the girl next door), who I have known for more than 50 years and married 43 years ago.*

# Workgroup Updates

## African American Workgroup Update

Webinar Series – Session 3:

***BUILDING AND EMBRACING COMMUNITY AND PROFESSIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND RELATIONSHIPS*** – *Innovation in reaching the Faith-based community* (Call scheduled for Thursday September 5, 2013 at 2pm ET)

Are you ready for National Donor Sabbath? Listen in and share in a lively discussion about ways that our speakers have used community partners, hospital programs and/or other organizations to create effective outreach into their faith-based community. Speakers include Erskine Gilespe, Mid-South Donor Network and Cheryl McGee, Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency. Topics include:

- **Utilizing local Ministerial Organizations to develop programs**
- **Working with hospital chaplains to create outreach beyond the hospital walls**
- **Partnering with well-established venues that draw a faith-based attendance**
- **Establishing partnerships with religious media outlets**

## Hispanic/Latino Workgroup

The Hispanic/Latino Workgroup will feature two of their very own at this year's AMAT Conference! Elena de la Cruz and Mel Bearns will be presenting: **Transplantation for Undocumented Immigrants** and what that means for everyone across the board. They have put together a document that will be handed out for everyone to use. Look forward to an exciting presentation and have some great questions ready for these wonderful speakers!

## Asian/Pacific Islander (API) Workgroup

The Asian/Pacific Islander Workgroup will be hosting its next webinar event on October 29, 2013, 11:00 pm PST. The topic: **Partnership Opportunities to Maximize Outreach to the API Community** will educate us all on the various opportunities to reach our respective communities and the best organizations to link up with. The API Workgroup will also be providing Filipino brochures as a valuable resource at this year's conference. Be on the look out!

## Special Message from the AMAT Membership Committee

Dear Friend:

On behalf of the Association for Multicultural Affairs in Transplantation's Membership Committee, we would like to thank you for your ongoing support. The committee is working on updating our membership database and **we need your help**. In order to do so, we request that you **complete a (five-question) survey**. To complete the survey please access the link below. Your participation is crucial and your help would be greatly appreciated.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RXRFRGH>

Best regards,

Vanessa Duvert  
Chair, Membership Committee

Lisa Upsher  
Co-Chair, Memberships Committee

### AMAT TRIVIA QUESTION WINNERS

These loyal and lucky winners will each receive a \$75 Visa Gift Card for correctly answering the five trivia questions from the last AMAT Spectrum Newsletter! Thank you to everyone who participated. Do not be dismayed, for there will be a chance for three winners with each newsletter issue. The key is to read, answer, and respond correctly within seven days! We look forward to announcing more winners in the future. The next issue will award three \$50 Visa Gift Cards! This issues trivia questions are below. Good Luck!

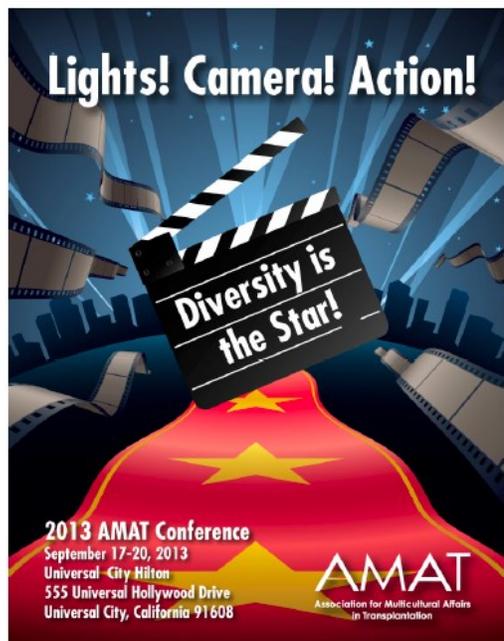
**Sharnika Merricks**  
Community Education Specialist  
Washington Regional Transplant Community

**Debbie Gibbs**  
Public Relations Manager  
LifeShare of The Carolinas

**Lacene Terri**  
Multi-Cultural Outreach Officer  
Legacy of Life Hawai'i

Who will be the next three winners? How thoroughly do you read these newsletters?

# Conference Planning Committee



The 21st Annual AMAT Conference, “Diversity is the Star”, which will take place September 17 - 20 in Universal City, CA, is fast approaching. If you are planning to attend and have not done so, I urge you to register TODAY! It is too late to book the hotel at the special group rate, but not too late to book your room at their regular rate.

There are *10 Great Reasons* to participating in this year’s Conference:

1. **Value:** The best value for the money - learn from the top leaders of the industry!
2. **Continuing Education:** AMAT Conference meets the qualifications for 13 continuing education units.
3. **Exciting Workshops and Presentations:** Have your pens and notepads ready!
4. **Committee Sign-up Opportunities:** Your chance to get involved!
5. **Stress-free Environment:** The fabulous Hilton Los Angeles/Universal City Hotel on Universal Hollywood Drive!
6. **Professional Growth:** Best Practices will be shared!
7. **Access to Resources:** There will be a variety of resources and exhibitors to visit!
8. **Knowledge of Current Industry Standards:** There will be sessions that speak to this very issue!
9. **Networking:** Share ideas and experiences with your colleagues!
10. **Universal City!!!** Explore the sights, sounds and culinary delights from one of the most exciting cities in the country, which embodies Universal Studios Hollywood Theme park, Universal City Walk, the Gibson Amphitheatre, and so much more!!



# Letter from the Editor



Hi Friends,

It's been an amazing year serving as the PR Chair for AMAT! I've learned and grown because of this organization and the opportunity it has given me. I'd like to take a moment to shout THANK YOU! to everyone who has contributed to AMAT. You all have made my job that much easier because of your generosity and willingness to share your expertise and pictures.

I've got a few special PR crew shout outs to make:

Ayanna Anderson – thank you for always being there with ideas, feedback and, of course, edits (smile). I wish you the best in your bid for the board.

Carla Hawkins – thank you for the suggestions, articles and enthusiasm. You've been a joy to work with!

If you haven't already, I'd encourage you to join a committee. This is an opportunity to stretch yourself, meet fellow members and help build AMAT. There are several committees to choose from and we can all use a few good men and women to help us reach our goals.

I look forward to seeing you all next week!

Best,

Kaysa Cranon

## Trivia Questions for this Issue:

- What did President Bobby say we have established to expand our outreach and name?
- How many questions are there in the survey sent from the Membership Committee?
- What does Kaysa encourage you to do?

***Send your answers to: [Carla.Hawkins@lifelinkfound.org](mailto:Carla.Hawkins@lifelinkfound.org)***



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in Transplantation**

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## AMAT's Bold Request:

- \* Take Ownership
- \* Share your expertise
- \* Commit to AMAT
- \* Be in Action for 12 months

Together, **WE** can make a difference!

*The mission of the Association for Multicultural Affairs in Transplantation (AMAT) is to support our partners in the donation and transplant field as they save and heal lives in our diverse communities.*

*AMAT Connections is a newsletter provided quarterly by AMAT to its members and friends. We welcome articles for consideration in future issues of AMAT Connections or suggestions for articles. Please submit these to Kaysba Cranon at [kaysba.cranon@lifelinkfoudn.org](mailto:kaysba.cranon@lifelinkfoudn.org)*

*Thank you for your continued support of our mission in the donation and transplant community!*