

SWOSU Celebrating Music Therapy Awareness Week with Wednesday Expo

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Southwestern Oklahoma State University's Music Therapy Awareness Week 2017 is being celebrated through this Friday, February 24, on the Weatherford campus with the highlight being an awareness expo on Wednesday.

The 10th annual Music Therapy Awareness Expo will be held on Wednesday, February 22, from 4-5 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center Ballroom. Everyone is invited and admission is free.

Dr. ChihChen Sophia Lee, MT-BC, director of the music therapy program at SWOSU, said participants will experience the power of music therapy via Drum Circle, an active music making technique of music therapy, facilitated by SWOSU music therapy students. Musicians of melodic instruments are encouraged to bring their instruments along for the experience.

Music therapists and interns at the Children Center Rehabilitation Hospital, including SWOSU alumni Rachel Nowels, MT-BC (2003), Brooke Roulet Lisher, MT-BC (2012), Alexandra Robison (2017), and Stephanie Bates (2017), along with Jennifer Schafer, MT-BC, will be the honored guests for the expo. Upper class music therapy students will showcase their clinical practices in early intervention, pediatric medicine, school-age children and adolescents with special needs, adolescent acute physical rehabilitation, at-risk youth adult physical rehabilitation, women and children experiencing domestic violence, and geriatrics via oral and poster presentations.

The activities are organized by the SWOSU Music Therapy Student Association (SWOSU-MTSA) in conjunction with February being the national music therapy month grass root celebration month. Additional celebratory events an information booth at 12 noon on Thursday and bake sale on Friday, both at the Memorial Student Center, to help raise funds for attendance to the Southwestern Region of American Music Therapy Association Annual Conference on March 23-25, 2017 in Fort Worth (TX).

SWOSU has the longest standing music therapy undergraduate and equivalency/certification programs in the state of Oklahoma (approved by the former National Association for Music Therapy in 1981) and is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music and American Music Therapy Association. The Master of Music in Music Therapy has received the approval by the National Association of Schools of Music in 2016.

SWOSU graduates since 2002 have a near 100% passing rate on the National Board Certification Exam for Music Therapists. There are over 50 students currently in the SWOSU music therapy program. The new SWOSU Music Therapy Center is located at 103 Davis, featuring spaces for 1:1 and small group music therapy services provided by three music therapy faculty members and a graduate assistant, all national board-certified music therapists, available for the general public per inquiry.

Signed by Governor Mary Fallin in 2016, music therapy is now a state-regulated licensed profession in the State of Oklahoma; licensed music therapists carry the credential of Licensed Professional Music Therapist (LPMT).

For additional information about the expo and music therapy degree plans, contact Lee at (580) 774-3218.