

SWOSU Music Therapy Awareness Week Features Expo on Wednesday

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Music Therapy Awareness Week 2010, organized by the Southwestern Oklahoma State University Music Therapy Student Association (SWOSU-MTSA), will be celebrated February 15-19 on the Weatherford campus with the highlight taking place at a public expo scheduled for this Wednesday, February 17.

SWOSU has the only music therapy program in the state of Oklahoma and is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music and the American Music Therapy Association. SWOSU graduates since 2002 have a 100% passing rate on the National Board Certification Exam for Music Therapists.

The highlight of the awareness week celebration is the 3rd annual Music Therapy Awareness Expo, co-sponsored by the Oklahoma Music Therapists, from 4-5 p.m. on Wednesday, February 17, 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 the keynote speaker is Rachel Nowels, MT-BC. Nowels, a 2003 graduate of the SWOSU music therapy program and head music therapist of the Children's Center of Bethany, and Megan Long, MT-BC, NMT, another music therapist at the Children's Center, will speak on adaptive musical technologies for therapeutic usage. Poster presentations by participating

Oklahoma music therapists and SWOSU senior music therapy students will focus on the clinical applications of music therapy in pediatric medicine and adolescent acute physical rehabilitation, psychiatrics, and at-risk youth.

Participants will also experience the power of music therapy via Drum Circle, an active music making technique of music therapy, facilitated by SWOSU music therapy faculty Yu-Chin Anthea Lin, MM, MT-BC.

"This is a wonderful hands-on event especially for high school students interested in pursuing music therapy as a career," Lee said.

There are other events planned on the SWOSU campus in Weatherford each day to raise the awareness of the community to music therapy. Music therapy majors will have a booth and bake sale at the Memorial Student Center on Monday and Tuesday (February 15-16). On Thursday, February 18, an evening featuring many young talented musicians will be held from 6-8 p.m. in downtown Weatherford at The Cup.

Lee said efforts in promoting the awareness of music therapy to improve the quality of life have resulted in the formation of House Bill 2749 Music Therapy Practice Act, which is scheduled to be discussed by the Public Health Committee of the Oklahoma House of Representatives for approval on February 16.

For additional information about the expo and other events of the SWOSU Music Therapy Awareness Week, contact Lee at 580.774.3218.