

Music Therapy Recital Planned Wednesday at SWOSU

02.19.2007

A Music Therapy Awareness Recital is planned this Wednesday, February 21, at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford.

The recital, which is part of SWOSU Music Therapy Awareness Week and a continuing celebration of the 25th anniversary of the music therapy program at SWOSU, will be held at 4 p.m. in Room 101 of the Music Building on the SWOSU campus.

The recital will feature two proud SWOSU music therapy alumni, Marti Bessinger and Todd Balcom. The pair will facilitate participants in a drum circle to experience wellness, teamwork, and other benefits music therapy may promote in an active music making process.

Dr. Sophia Lee, director of the music therapy program at SWOSU, said this is an excellent opportunity to learn more about music therapy and encourages everyone to attend. SWOSU has the only baccalaureate music therapy program in the state of Oklahoma.

Bessinger, member of the Class of 1985, is the music teacher at Weatherford East Elementary School and adjunct faculty of SWOSU. She specializes in Orff-Schulwerk techniques and creative movement. Balcom, the 2006 Distinguished SWOSU Music Therapy Alumni Award recipient, works for Children of Promise - Mentors of Hope, a University of Oklahoma outreach program serving children with incarcerated parent(s). He is one of only 10 Remo-endorsed HealthRHYTHMS facilitators in the United States and has years of experience in leading groups and individuals.

SWOSU's music therapy program has many proud graduates currently practicing or pursuing graduate degrees in many other states. Lee said SWOSU music therapy alumni retain a 100% passing rate on the Board Certification Examination for Music Therapists. The program is accredited by the American Music Therapy Association and National Association of School of Music.

For further information concerning the SWOSU music therapy program, please visit www.swosu.edu/music/therapy or contact Dr. Lee at 580.774.3218 or email: sophia.lee@swosu.edu.