

SWOSU Music Therapy Students Win Awards

04.06.2015

SWOSU's music therapy program won several top honors at the recent Southwestern Region conference held in Oklahoma City. Participating were (front from left): Hunter Stevens, Clinton; MT Program Director ChihChen Sophia Lee; Brooke Roulet, Oklahoma City; Didier Khoo, Malaysia; Tzu-Chi Belle Lin, Taiwan; Wei-Hsuan Vanessa Tu, Taiwan; Yu-Ling Chen, instructor of music therapy; and Rachel Nowels, Oklahoma City. Second row from left—Amanda Powers, Purcell; Ali Richards, Oklahoma City; Brooke McCullough, Enid; Haley Woolsey, Wichita Falls, TX; Elizabeth Sommerfeld, Fort Worth, TX; Jacqueline Cox, Broken Arrows; and Shelby Baker, Wickes, AK. Back from left—Kyle Chai, Oklahoma City; Richard Lindsey, Oklahoma City; Madison Steh, Atlanta, GA; Josiah Trey Langley, Lawton; Rebecca McCoy, Oklahoma City; Beth Carr, Wichita Falls, TX; and Antoinette Neff, Gallup, NM. Not pictured is Alexandra Robison, Oklahoma City.

Students and faculty in the music therapy program at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford recently fared well at the recent conference of the Southwestern Region of the American Music Therapy Association (SWAMTAS).

The conference was held in Oklahoma City and attended by music therapists in the states of New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma.

SWOSU music therapy junior/senior students swept all five of the research proposal competition. The SWOSU students competed against dozens of undergraduate and graduate students from Southern Methodist University, Sam Houston State University, Texas Woman's University and University of Incarnate Word. Their research presentations were:

- Kyle Chai, Oklahoma City (Putnam City): The Neural Associations of the Brain with Sound and Synesthesia
- Richard Lindsey, Oklahoma City (McGuinness): The Utilization of Music Technology in Music Therapy
- Alex Robison, Oklahoma City (Southmoore): *How Rhythm Facilitates the Mind of a Child with Autism*
- Madison Brittney Steh, Atlanta GA: *The Effect of Early Intervention Music Therapy and Preventing Eating Disorders*
- Hunter Stevens, Clinton: The Effects of Caregiver-led Music Therapy Interventions on the Emotional States of Dementia Patients

Senior Student Michelle Low of Singapore received the Professional-To-Be Award by the SWAMTAS.

Also honored was SWOSU Music Therapy Program Director Dr. ChihChen Sophia Lee, PhD, MT-BC, who is also the president of the SWAMTA during 2013-15. She received the region's prestigious *Harmony Award* for Distinguished Clinicians, Educators, Researchers and Professionals in Services for her contributions in music therapy education.

In addition, the conference also had a SWOSU music flair as Dr. Richard Tirk led the SWOSU Jazz Combo during a festive 60th anniversary reception prior to the opening awards banquet.