

SWOSU's 53rd Annual Band Camp Starts Sunday

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Southwestern Oklahoma State University's 53rd annual Band Camp starts this Sunday, July 6, and runs through July 11 on the Weatherford campus.

More than 70 music educators from Oklahoma, Texas and Arkansas will work with the nearly 500 students from over 80 schools and five states.

All students will audition and be placed in one of five concert bands on Sunday, July 6. They begin rehearsals that evening under the following conductors: Dr. Thom Wubbenhorst, Orland, ME, Honor Band; Michael Westbrook, Oklahoma City, Symphonic Band; Robert Edwards, Plainview, TX, Concert Band; David Toelle, Enid, Cadet Band; and Marc Christy, Tulia, TX, Prep Band.

In addition to two band rehearsals and a section rehearsal each day, each student is required to enroll in two elective classes. Choices for these elective classes include drum major, flag fundamentals, jazz improvisation, conducting, music theory, jazz band, technique, sight reading and various ensembles such as percussion ensemble, clarinet ensemble, flute ensemble, saxophone ensemble, trumpet ensemble, trombone ensemble and tuba/euphonium ensemble.

Camp director Dr. Terry Segress will direct the Faculty Jazz Band Concert on Wednesday night, July 9, at 7 p.m. in the SWOSU Fine Arts Center Auditorium.

The Faculty Concert Band will be conducted by Lansford, Pankratz and Dr. James South, director of bands at SWOSU. The 90-piece concert band will be comprised of the camp instructors, student counselors and staff. They will present a concert on Thursday, July 10, at 7:30 p.m. in the SWOSU Fine Arts Center Auditorium.

The Grand Finale concert for the camp will feature all five student concert bands on Friday, July 11, at 2 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center Auditorium.

All concerts are open to the public, and admission is free.

The SWOSU Band Camp was started in 1956 by the university's director of bands, Dr. Richard V. Coy; Thomas High School band director Melvin "Buster" Westmoreland; and Hollis band director Robert Moses. Dr. Coy served as camp director from 1956-1961 and 1964-1967. Dr. Russ Coleman was the interim director of bands and camp director in 1962 and 1963 while Dr. Coy worked on his doctoral degree at UCLA. When Dr. Coy became director of bands at Pasadena City College, California, Harlon Lamkin served as camp director from 1968-1970. Dr. James Jurrens became the camp director in 1971 and held that position until his retirement from SWOSU in 1986. Segress has held the position since 1987.

Even though the pre-enrollment deadline for the 53rd annual Band Camp has passed, students who would like to attend the camp may obtain applications by calling 580.774.3296 or downloading applications from the SWOSU Music Department web site www.swosu.edu/music. Applications may be faxed to the Music Department at

580.774.3714 before 3 p.m., Friday, July 4, or brought with full payment to the camp registration on Sunday from 1-3 p.m. in the SWOSU Fine Arts Center lobby.