



Southwestern Oklahoma State University
Dr. James South, Chair, Department of Music

July 23, 2010

Greetings from SWOSU!

It's been a great summer at SWOSU with Music Camps and summer classes. I am really excited about working with all of you this fall. We have six home games this year and we will also play one high school game as an exhibition performance. This fall will see the debut of **NEW UNIFORMS** and **NEW TURF** at Milam Stadium, as well as **NEW \$350 SCHOLARSHIPS** for everyone in the Marching Bulldogs. Also new this year is a Massed Band performance at the Homecoming pregame with all the bands who participate in our parade. It should be an outstanding year.

PLEASE READ THIS ENTIRE LETTER!

Our big show this year (including Homecoming) will be a *Salute to Duke Ellington*. Our other show will be a *Broadway Hits* show. I know that you will like the arrangements chosen for this year's shows – they are both challenging and fun.

I hope your summer has been relaxing and rewarding, so that you can come back ready to work! As of today, we have 79 people enrolled in the Marching Bulldogs. That's 7 more than last year at this time, AND many returning people have not yet enrolled. If you know of someone from your high school or a friend at SWOSU who played in high school and isn't playing in the Marching Bulldogs, please persuade them to give us a try. They'll enjoy it and you'll have another friend in the band! **The personal touch makes the difference – talk to someone about playing in the Marching Bulldogs!** It would be fantastic to be over 100 again this year, and I know that's possible IF we each work to recruit a member or two.

The student leadership for the band this year will be outstanding! Graduate Assistants will be Adriel Reynolds, Rachel Matthews, and Nathan Rapson. The Drum Majors are Erin Hanson and Michael DePew. The Flag Captain is Maria Ortega, assisted by Lauren Turner and Kristen Whaley, and the Drum Line section leader is Erich Spaeth.

Section Leaders for 2010 are: Chrissy Hagood (flute), Bobby Wolfe (clarinet), Josh Dodson (saxes), Tara Berland (horn), Aaron Daniels (trumpet), Josh Buxton (trombone), Ingrid Simmons (euphonium), Daniel Soto (tuba), and Enid Hennen (front ensemble). I'm looking forward to working with these student leaders. **We will have a student leadership meeting (section leaders, DMs, Presidents of KKY and TBS, and auxiliary heads) on Friday, August 13 at 9:00 AM.**

I have enclosed the schedule for the Marching Bulldogs camp (also known as pre-band). **Everyone MUST attend camp August 14-17 (Aug 13-17 for Drum Line).** This is our most intense time of learning music and drill. Our first game is twelve days after we begin! Call me immediately if you have any question, concern, or problem with this policy.

Please have a flip folder and comfortable walking shoes (NOT SANDALS OR FLIP-FLOPS) for marching rehearsals. You will also need sunscreen and a water bottle. You will need to supply your own all-black MARCHING shoes and black socks to wear with the uniform. **I am specifying black MARCHING shoes this year with the new uniforms**, and we will make them available for under \$35. Marching shoes can be ordered through Midwest Music in Weatherford, or we will have samples to try on during camp and we'll order them for you through our uniform supplier. We are supplying (free to you) black gloves, and a Marching Bulldogs T-shirt and cap.

If you will live in a SWOSU dorm, you may move in early so that you can be at band camp on time. Early move-in is Friday, August 13 (late afternoon – exact time TBA, usually it is after 5 PM). **If you wish to move in early, your name MUST be on my early move-in list. Send me an email and I'll get your name on the list and let you know what time to be there.** I need that information on or before noon on August 12.

Here is the marching schedule for 2010. You should clear your calendar **NOW** for the following required performances:

Aug. 26	Emporia State	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 11	West Texas A&M (<i>Parents Day</i>)	6:00 p.m.
Oct. 2	Eastern New Mexico	2:00 p.m.
Oct. 16	Northeastern State (<i>Homecoming</i>)	3:00 p.m. Parade; 6:00 p.m. Game
Oct. 30	Texas A&M-Kingsville	6:00 p.m.
Nov. 6	Central Oklahoma	2:00 p.m.

Enjoy your last few weeks of the summer! Please **email** me with questions – I will be difficult to reach by phone until camp starts.

Sincerely,

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