

SWOSU Department of Music



Summer 2012

2012 Summer Music Camps a Success!

Running from June 10 through July 13, SWOSU Department of Music offered four camps and invited nearly 900 students, 100 faculty, and 30 staff to campus during the summer of 2012.



3rd Annual Marimba Camp June 10-13

Dr. David Bessinger, SWOSU Percussion Professor, along with SWOSU Alumni, Jeremy Parr, Assistant

Band Director from Moore High School and Stuart Langsam, Adjunct Percussion Professor at OSU, taught the ten students who attended the camp from around Oklahoma. The camp involved classes on technique, literature, performance practice, history, and theory. The evening activities included recital performances by Dr. Bessinger, Mr. Parr, Mr. Langsam, Enid Van Treese, SWOSU Music Department Graduate Assistant, and several college students from around the state.

39th Annual Choral Camp

June 17-21

Dr. Daniel Farris, SWOSU Director of Choral Activities, along with eleven faculty taught 70 choral students from around the region. Dr. Farris organized

a successful revamp of the choral camp which had seen declining numbers the past several years. While the campers still learned much of the All-OMEA Choir music, a broader emphasis on 'developing the entire choral student' was implemented. Students had the opportunity to take electives in: Jazz Choir, Choreography/Musical Theater, Music History/Theory, Diction/Technique, Pedagogy, and Piano. Each student also had the opportunity to sing in a men's or women's chorus and attend a concert of faculty performers. Tony Gonzalez from Edmond High School was the featured clinician for the High School Choir. The camp was expanded one day to give further rehearsal time for the large choirs and an opportunity to develop other important musical skills. We look forward to increased attendance in the future and are pleased with the new direction the camp is taking. Thanks to Dr. Farris for his great work with the new format!

24th Annual Middle School Band Camp

June 24-27

Dr. Keith Talley, SWOSU Music Camp Director,

assembled a faculty of over 40 music educators from around the region to teach 260 campers. Camp attendance has steadily risen over the past 5 years with the hopes of being able to break the 300 mark in the near future. Students completing grades 6-8 are eligible to attend. The majority of the students have completed their first year of band and this is often the first band camp they have attended. Coordinators Kent Barker, Chickasha, and Randy Brooks, Elk City, were of great help in keeping the camp running smoothly and providing campers with what they needed to do and when they needed to do it. Jill Hagan, Ardmore, and Danny Powers, Enid, were the Deans for the camp and helped in providing assistance and supervision with students staying in the dorms.

Directing the concert bands were: Blue Band, Scott Kennedy, Mesquite, TX; Red Band, Dawn Haas, Duncan; White Band, Randy Johnson, Enid [not the Randy Johnson in Enid who teaches choir, but the one that teaches band]; and Gold Band, Sandy Cross, Guymon. Thanks for your hard work! We're lucky to have next year's directors: Michael Dodson, Bartlesville; Will Brewer, Canadian; Bryce Victory, Spearman, TX; and Sandy Cross, Gruver, TX.

Students had the opportunity to take elective classes from a wide-range of topics as well as have a master class on their instrument

each day. The students were able to participate in a talent show for scholarships for next year's camps. They were also treated to concerts by a faculty jazz band, directed by Dr. Keith Talley and a faculty concert band, directed by Mr. Marc Mueller, SWOSU Director of Bands.

We look forward to another great camp next year!

57th Annual Band Camp

July 8-13

Dr. Keith Talley, Camp Director, assembled over 70 faculty and 30 staff from around the region to teach 552 campers. The camp attendance was the most in recent memory

Returning from the Middle School camp were Coordinators: Kent Barker, Chickasha, and Randy Brooks, Elk City and also Deans: Jill Hagan, Ardmore, and Danny Powers, Enid. We would not be able to have had such a well-run camp without their help.

Directing the concert bands were: Honor Band, Dr. Barry Krauss from Belmont University in Nashville, TN; Symphonic Band, Donny Longest, Konawa; Concert Band, Jeremy Haas, Duncan; Cadet Band Steve Smith, Cordell (filling in for an injured David Irby); and Prep Band, Todd Baker, Newcastle. We are pleased that next year's directors will be: Honor Band, Gary Gackstatter, St.

Louis, MO; Symphonic Band, Teresa Segress, Ft. Smith, AR; Concert Band, Rob Anderson, Enid; Cadet Band, David Irby, Bethel; and Jimmy Polk, Kemp, TX.

Students had the opportunity to choose from dozens of elective classes, small ensembles, and jazz bands. The students attended a faculty recital featuring some of the camp faculty; a faculty jazz band concert, directed by Dr. Keith Talley and Euell Hanna, Verdigris; a student talent show; and a faculty concert band, directed by Mr. Marc Mueller, SWOSU Director of Bands, Dr. Barry Krauss and Donny Longest.

A special thank you to Marla Russ, camp financial secretary; Kristy Talley, camp office manager; and student workers: Kathleen Crook, financial; Chrissy Hagood, camp office; Tony Bertolozzi, equipment; Rebecca Cantrell, librarian; and all the counselors for their service to the camps. We could not have been successful without your help!

David Irby, Bethel, was to conduct the Cadet band at this year's camp, however, while rehearsing, he suffered a major injury when he fell shattering his forearm and breaking his thumb. He was in good spirits through the entire ordeal and his main concern was for the students in his band. We wish you a speedy recovery Mr. Irby!

New Positions

The summer of 2012 was an eventful one in the Department of Music. We have two new faculty which were hired, the former Chair of the Department was named Dean of SWOSU's College of Arts and Sciences, a new Chair was appointed and a new administrative assistant was hired.

Dr. James South, Dean of Arts and Sciences



Dr. James South was named Dean of SWOSU's College of Arts and Sciences in May, 2012. He had been appointed Interim Dean in February, 2012 when Dr. Radwan Al-Jarrah accepted an administrative position at another university. Dr. South was Chair of Music Department for 4 years and has been teaching at SWOSU for 17 years - 16 of that as the Director of Bands. SWOSU and the Music Department are very fortunate to have Dr. South as the Dean of Arts and Sciences and wish him the best in his future position!

Dr. Keith Talley, Chair, Music Department



Dr. Keith Talley was named Chair of the Department of Music in July, 2012. He joined the faculty in 2006 to teach saxophone, clarinet and direct the jazz ensembles. After his first year at SWOSU he took over the summer music camp program. Dr. Talley received his Doctorate in Saxophone Performance from Michigan State University, his Master's of Music in Saxophone Performance from the University of Kansas City - Conservatory of Music, and his Bachelor's of Science in Music Education from Missouri Southern State University.

Dr. Robin Griffeath, Assistant Professor of Voice



Dr. Robin Griffeath was hired as an adjunct voice instructor in the fall of 2011. He was hired as a full-time faculty member in August, 2012. Dr. Griffeath is a tenor and holds degrees from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance (D.M. in vocal performance), the University of Arizona (M.M. in vocal performance), and Lawrence University (B.M. in vocal performance). Dr. Griffeath will be teaching Voice Class, Applied Voice, and assisting with the Opera Workshop.

Dr. Richard Tirk, Assistant Professor of Trumpet and Jazz Studies



Dr. Richard Tirk joined the music faculty in August, 2012. he completed a Music Education degree at the Lawrence Conservatory of Music in Appleton, Wisconsin in 1996. His desire to pursue a degree in trumpet led him to Kalamazoo, Michigan where he was a trumpet graduate assistant at Western Michigan University and completed a Masters degree in Trumpet Performance. Dr. Tirk completed his Doctorate in Trumpet Performance from Michigan State University. Dr. Tirk has been on faculty at Luther College, Bethel College, Independence Community College, and the University of Michigan-Flint. Dr. Tirk will be teaching Applied Trumpet, Directing the Jazz Ensembles and assisting with the band program.

Ms. Rhyesa Hamilton, Administrative Assistant

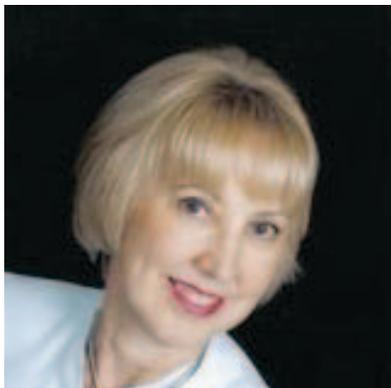
With nine years experience in the SWOSU Physical Plant working for director Jim Loomis (former director) and Rick Skinner (current director) our new Administrative Assistant, Ms. Rhyesa Hamilton joined the Department of Music in August, 2012. Her on-campus connections, organizational skills, and professionalism have already proven valuable during the transition of administration within the department. She has lived near Weatherford for 17 years. Welcome to the music department family!

Graduate Assistants

Graduate assistants for the 2012-2013 year were named in July, 2012. Enid Van Treese will be returning assisting in the percussion and instrumental areas. Nathan Rapson is also returning and will be assisting the instrumental areas. Hector Lopez will be assisting the orchestra and jazz programs James Edwards will be assisting the instrumental area as well as music theory. Karena Van Horn will be assisting the vocal area. All five graduate assistants hold undergraduate degrees from SWOSU. Welcome to the graduate staff!

Joyce Adams Curtis, Instructor of Voice

1950-2012



On July 25, 2012 SWOSU Music Department lost a valued colleague, a talented musician, a caring teacher, gifted director, and a good friend when Joyce Adams Curtis passed away. Ms. Curtis received a Bachelor of Arts in Organ and Music Education from Oklahoma City University. She completed a Master of Sacred Music from Southern Methodist University. She joined the music faculty at SWOSU in 2001. She directed the Women's Chorus (which was selected three times as an honor group at the Oklahoma State Music Educators Convention) and also taught applied voice, Opera Workshop, and piano. Ms. Curtis' influence will continue to reverberate throughout the halls of SWOSU and with the many lives of the students, staff, and faculty she touched in her teaching career.