

# SWOSU Students Involved in HIV Research

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Southwestern Oklahoma State University students Amy Cain (second from left) of Indianahoma and Neil Funwie (third from left) of Weatherford were recently awarded NASA scholarships to perform HIV research. Pictured with them are Madeline Baugher, principle investigator of the NASA grant program, and Dr. Tim Hubin, assistant professor in the SWOSU Department of Chemistry and Physics, who is directing the research.

Southwestern Oklahoma State University students Amy Cain of Indianahoma and Neil Funwie of Weatherford were recently awarded NASA scholarships to perform HIV research.

Both students are junior chemistry majors and are performing research under the direction of Dr. Tim Hubin, assistant professor in the SWOSU Department of Chemistry and Physics. Their research is studying the anti-HIV properties of the drug AMD3100, which blocks the entry of the HIV virus into a cell. Their project aims to synthesize and characterize new analogues of AMD3100 that incorporate bridges into the macrocyclic components of the drug.

SWOSU is a member of the NASA Oklahoma Space Grant Consortium that provides scholarship funds for students in science and technology areas at member institutions. SWOSU matches these funds with an equivalent amount of its own.

All scholarship awardees are required to volunteer 10 hours of their time to either the Stafford Air and Space Museum located in Weatherford or another appropriate community service organization.

Grant principle investigator is Madeline Baugher, faculty member in the SWOSU Department of Entrepreneurship and Computer Systems. Baugher said students may submit research proposals for a spring funding cycle until January 31. A description of the program and an application may be found at <http://www.swosu.edu/academics/ace/compsci/nasa/grant.asp>.