

SWOSU Student Involved with Animal Food Preference Research

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Southwestern Oklahoma State University senior Casey Cochran (middle), biology major from Boise City, has been awarded a NASA research scholarship to work in animal food preference research. He will be working with Dr. Jimena Aracena (left), an assistant professor in the SWOSU Department of Biological Sciences. Also pictured is Madeline Baugher, NASA grant principle investigator.

Southwestern Oklahoma State University student Casey Cochran, senior biology major from Boise City, has been awarded a NASA research scholarship to work with Dr. Jimena Aracena, an assistant professor in the SWOSU Department of Biological Sciences.

Cochran will be working in the area of food taste, a very complex system that controls the lives of all living animals. This research uses fruit flies to show how the introduction of quinine into the food supply affects the feeding preferences of the flies. He will also study how the effects of hunger modify feeding preferences.

SWOSU is a member of the NASA Oklahoma Space Grant Consortium, which 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 Department of Entrepreneurship and Computer Systems. More information about the program can be found at <http://www.swosu.edu/academics/ace/compsci/nasa/grant.asp>.