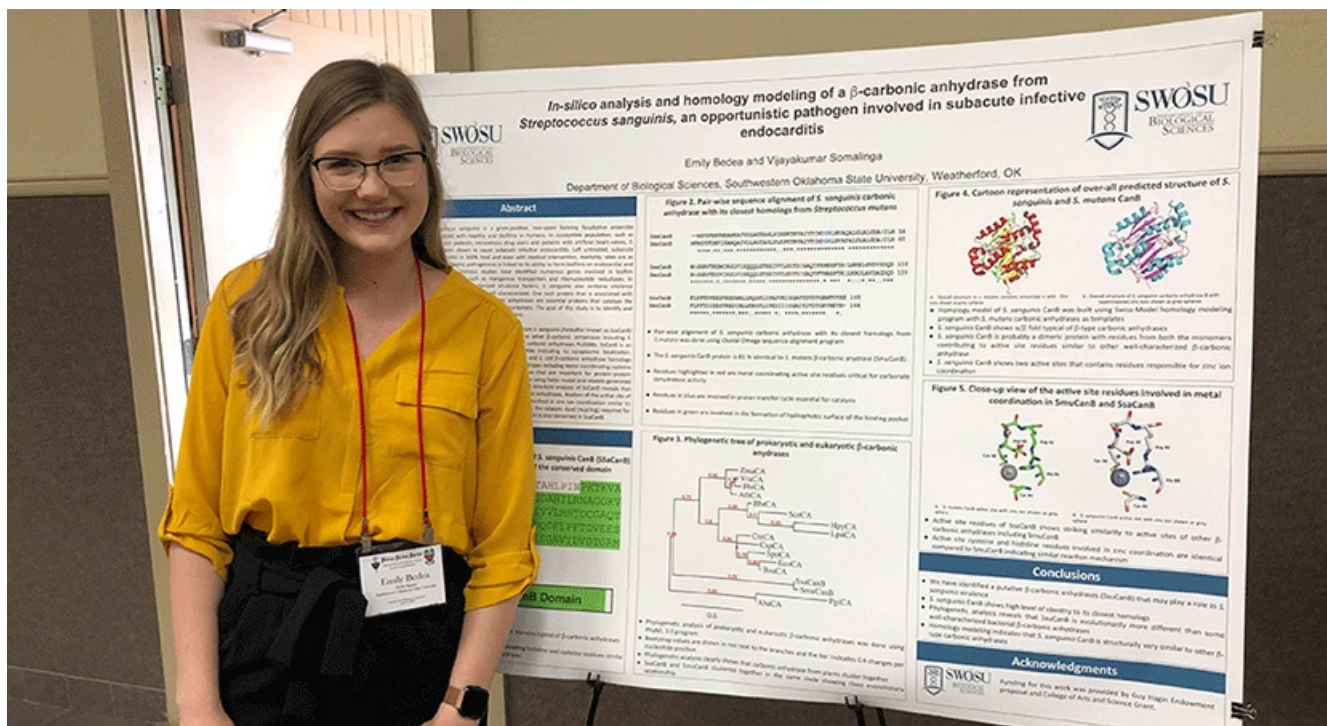




31 March, 2021

# SWOSU Student Emily Bedea Wins Grand Prize at Oklahoma Research Day at the Capitol



Southwestern Oklahoma State University student Emily Bedea of Canute won the overall grand prize at the recent 26th annual Oklahoma Research Day at the Capitol held March 30. Bedea becomes SWOSU's third grand prize winner since the inception of the Oklahoma Research Day at the Capitol event. Her research topic was infectious disease.

Southwestern Oklahoma State University student Emily Bedea of Canute won the overall grand prize at the recent 26<sup>th</sup> annual Oklahoma Research Day at the Capitol.

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Her research topic was infectious disease and Bedea's faculty mentor is Dr. Vijay Somalinga, assistant professor in the SWOSU Department of Biological Sciences.

As a component of the event, students presented their work to an independent panel of judges on March 30 live via Zoom. The judges identified the top three students in each of two categories— (1) Regional, Community and Tribal Colleges (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> place) and (2) Research-Intensive Institutions (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> place). One overall Grand Prize Winner was also selected—which was Bedea from SWOSU.

For winning the grand prize, Bedea won a \$500 award plus \$4,000 summer research internship.

“This competition involved the top 21 undergraduate student researchers in the state, and we are so excited that Emily won the grand prize,” said Dr. Lori Gwyn, director of the SWOSU Office of Sponsored Programs.

The entire group of exciting undergraduate research projects via the virtual poster site can be viewed until May 29 at:

<https://www.posterpresentations.com/research/groups/epscor/epscor-virtual-poster-session.html>.

Previous SWOSU grand prize winners are Courtney Garcia in 2011 and Madison Duckwall in 2017.

Oklahoma NSF EPSCoR, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the National Science Foundation sponsor this event.

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