

SWOSU Biology Students & Tri Beta Chapter Earns Awards

04.10.2017

Eleven Southwestern Oklahoma State University biology students in Weatherford recently presented their research findings at the 2017 Beta Beta Beta (National Biological Honor Society) South Central Regional Convention held in Mt. Lebanon, Cedar Hills (TX).

Sixteen universities from Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas sent students to the annual regional convention. SWOSU's Delta Sigma chapter was awarded Outstanding Chapter for District 1 of the South Central Region, which includes Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma.

SWOSU's Chelsea Miller of Yukon, Sara Hutchinson of Oklahoma City, and Ashna Dhoonmoon of Mauritius, East Africa, won first place awards; Tyler Mitchum of Minco won third place, and Laci Johnston of Lindsay and Lindsey Hendricks of Cordell received honorable mention, all for Outstanding Poster Presentations. First place winners will receive financial support to attend the 2018 Beta Beta Beta National Convention in Monterey, CA.

Johnston's presentation was "Investigating the role of biosurfactants in *Pseudomonas syringae* motility and attachment". Her mentor for this work was Dr. Regina McGrane, assistant professor in the SWOSU Department of Biological Sciences.

Hendricks' presentation was "Pick your poison: the sublethal effects of pesticides on amphipod life history". Her mentor for this work was Dr. Rickey Cothran, assistant professor in the SWOSU Department of Biological Sciences.

Mitchum's presentation was "Analysis of autophagy and its effects on the D-type motor neuron circuitry of unc-33 mutants of *Caenorhabditis elegans*". His mentor for this work was Dr. Andrea Holgado, associate professor and chair in the Department of Biological Sciences.

Miller and Hutchinson co-presented "Analysis of surface motility regulation in the phytopathogen *Pseudomonas syringae*". Their mentor for this work was Dr. Regina McGrane, assistant professor in the Department of Biological Sciences.

Dhoonmoon's presentation was "Stimulation through innate immune receptors selectively upregulates co-receptor expression on B cells". Her mentor for the work was Dr. Christopher Horton, assistant professor in the Department of Biological Sciences.