

## News



17 February,  
2018

## SWOSU Biology Students and Tri Beta Chapter Earn Awards at South Central Convention

Photo Caption: SWOSU's Tri Beta Chapter in Weatherford was awarded Outstanding Chapter for District 1 of the South Central Region by Dr. Steve Ropski (back row, far left), president of the Beta Beta Beta National Biological Honor Society. Accepting for SWOSU were (front row from left): Amelia McKennon, Megan Whorton, Sarah Gore, Chelsea Miller, Lindsey Hendricks, Ashna Dhoonmoon, and Gloria Farinango. Back row from left--Dr. Christopher Horton, Devin Widick, Jay Garber, Brooke Rankin, William Ton That and Dr. Regina McGrane.



Photo Caption: Five SWOSU students received awards at the Tri Beta South Central Regional Convention for their research presentations. Students receiving awards were (from left): Brooke Rankin of Elgin, Chelsea Miller of Yukon, Devin Widick of Woodward, Jay Garber of Manhattan (KS) and Ashna Dhoonmoon of Mauritius, East Africa.

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Ten Southwestern Oklahoma State University biology students in Weatherford recently presented their research findings at the 2018 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 the states of Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma.

SWOSU's Ashna Dhoonmoon of Mauritius, East Africa, and Brook Rankin of Elgin won first place awards; Devin Widick of Woodward won second place; and Chelsea Miller of Yukon won third place, all for Outstanding Poster Presentations. Additionally, Jay Garber of Manhattan (KS) won second place for Outstanding Oral Presentation. First place winners will receive financial support to attend the 2018 Beta Beta Beta National Convention in Monterey (CA).

Dhoonmoon's presentation was "Investigating the effects of innate stimuli on B7 molecules in bulk splenocytes vs. sorted cells". Her mentor for the work was Dr. Christopher Horton, assistant professor in the Department of Biological Sciences.

Rankin's presentation was "Ice Nucleation: a look at evolutionary significance beyond frost injury". Her mentor for this work was Dr. Regina McGrane, assistant professor in the SWOSU Department of Biological Sciences.

Widick's presentation was "Using the co-receptor protein B7-H4 to promote Tfh cell accumulation". His mentor for this work was Dr. Christopher Horton.

Miller's presentation was "Looking beyond the leaf: understanding the impacts of motility on *Pseudomonas syringae* seed colonization". Her mentor for this work was Dr. Regina McGrane.

Garber's presentation was "Investigating the effects of varying surface conditions on phytopathogens". His mentor for the work was Dr. Regina McGrane.

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