

SWOSU Students Working on Computer Grid Research

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Three Southwestern Oklahoma State University students in Weatherford have been awarded NASA research scholarships to study computer grid networks. They are: Michael Davis (second from left) of Scott City (KS), David Goree (fourth from left) of Bessie, and Eric Boehs (fifth from left) of Fairview. Also pictured are (from left) NASA grant principle investigator Madeline Baugher and faculty sponsors Dr. Warren Moseley and Dr. Anil Pereira.

Three Southwestern Oklahoma State University students in Weatherford have been awarded NASA research scholarships to study computer grid networks.

They are: Eric Boehs of Fairview, Michael Davis of Scott City (KS) and David Goree of Bessie. Boehs and Davis are senior computer science majors and Goree is a junior engineering physics major.

The students will work under the tutelage of Dr. Warren Moseley, associate professor, and Dr. Anil Pereira, assistant professor, both in the SWOSU Department of Entrepreneurship & Computer Systems.

Their research will focus on creating a grid network for use in rendering 3D animation sequences. A computational grid can combine the processing power of smaller machines to support applications that require more power than is available on a single processor. The grid will be built using open source software and must be configured to have a scheduler which will control where and when jobs are executed, according to Moseley.

The grid will be used to support rendering of complex three dimensional images and animations. Open source 3D scene generation and animation software applications will be tested to determine which are most suitable for grid application.

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. The grant principle investigator is Madeline Baugher, faculty member in the Department of Entrepreneurship and Computer Systems. More information about the program may be found at <http://www.swosu.edu/academics/ace/compsci/nasa/grant.asp>.