

Nine SWOSU Biology Majors Finish Summer Internships

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Nine biology students at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford conducted research or professional shadowing experiences this summer thanks to scholarships received by the students.

The students are Aaron Bushong, Shawnee; Forrest Clark, Weatherford; Jake Gregston, Duncan; Angie Hoover, Edmond (Santa Fe); Mason Howe, Okeene; Nick Maddox, El Reno; Allison Statton, Oklahoma City (Putnam City North); Jay Stinson, Weatherford; and Canisia Tatah, Oklahoma City (Capitol Hill).

- **Bushong** attended the Mission to Planet Earth summer institute hosted by the Oklahoma Space Grant Consortium. Bushong is seeking a natural science education degree and participation in this program enhanced his repertoire of hands-on science, technology, engineering and math curriculum.
- **Clark** conducted research through the SWOSU Department of Biological Sciences and Oklahoma IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (OK-INBRE) under the mentorship of Dr. Andrea Holgado. Clark worked on a project titled Analysis of Autophagy in Neurons. His summer internship is awarded through a grant from the National Institute of Health.
- **Gregston** performed research at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation as part of the Fleming Scholar program. Gregston worked under the mentorship of Dr. Holly Van Remmen on a project titled “The Mitochondrial Unfolded Protein Response in an ALS Mouse Model.” The Fleming Scholar Program was founded in 1956 as a way to give Oklahoma’s high school and college students “hands-on” biomedical research experience.
- **Hoover** completed her research at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL) at the University of Southern Mississippi. Hoover performed her research under the mentorship of Dr. Richard Heard and studied marine invertebrates. Hoover has also been accepted at GCRL graduate program starting August 2015.
- **Howe** conducted research through the Reynolds Oklahoma Center on Aging and Oklahoma IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (OK-INBRE) under the mentorship of Dr. Ferenc Deak. Howe worked on a project titled “Creation of a DNA Construct for the Study of VAMP Transcriptional Regulation”, and Howe’ internship is awarded through a grant from the National Institute of Health.
- **Maddox** was awarded a Carl Albert internship sponsored by the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality. Maddox worked under the mentorship of Jayme Jones and his work on nitrate analysis of drinking water was performed at the State Environmental Laboratory Services.
- **Statton** performed her research experience thanks to a program called Bridge to Research in Marine Science at Savannah State University. She worked at the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography at the University of Georgia under the mentorship of Dr. Aron Stubbin and co-mentors Dr. Leanne Powers and Dr. Clifton

Buck. The title of her research was Dissolved Organic Carbon and Iron Flocculation in Estuaries.

- **Stinson** was involved in the Patient Care Assistant Program organized by St. Anthony Hospital. This program—led by Lisa Lewis, director of the Physician Development Unit at St. Anthony Hospital—allowed Stinson to rotate and shadow professionals at Radiation Oncology, Nephrology, Emergency Care, Surgery, Behavioral Medicine and more.
- **Tatah** conducted research as a fellow at the Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) at the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center. Tatah worked under the mentorship of Dr. Sanjay Bidichandani and investigated a novel therapeutic strategy in Friedreich Ataxia. The SURE program was established in 1989 through the support of the provost and the graduate school of the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.