

SWOSU Biology Student Wins National Award

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Lauren Blatzheim of Norman (North) receives the first place national award from Dr. Don Roush, national president of Beta Beta Beta.

The SWOSU delegation to the national convention of Beta Beta Beta was (front from left): Abby McKisson, Andrea Holgado, Sandy Wolgamott and Gary Wolgamott. Back from left—Lauren Blatzheim, Claudio Brigueda and Timothy Stein.

Southwestern Oklahoma State University biology student Lauren Blatzheim of Norman (North) recently won a national first-place award at the recent 2014 Beta Beta Beta national convention that took place in Erie (PA).

The Delta Sigma chapter at SWOSU was also awarded third place in the Bertholf Award competition out of 571 chapters in the United States and Puerto Rico.

Others who attended the national convention from SWOSU were SWOSU biology undergraduate students Abby McKisson of Edmond (Memorial) and Timothy Stein of Kremlin-Hillsdale, SWOSU Associate Professor Dr. Andrea Holgado and SWOSU emeriti Dr. Gary Wolgamott.

Blatzheim's presentation was "Integrative Biological Effects of the Neonicotinic Pesticide Thiamethoxem and how it affects Motor Responses and Foraging Behavior of Honey Bees." Blatzheim's research was conducted in Turkey with funding from the National Science Foundation-UCO REU program. Her mentor for this work was SWOSU Biology Assistant Professor Dr. Victor Gonzalez.

McKisson's presentation was "The Effect of Long-Term Diet-Induced Hyperglycemia and Hyperlipidemia on Oxidative Balance in Mouse Heart". McKisson's research was conducted at the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences at Oklahoma State University. Her mentor for this work was OSU Associate Professor Dr. Pamela Lloyd.

Stein's presentation was "Correlating VSM-1 Expression with Muscle Physiology". His mentor for this work was Dr. Holgado.

The SWOSU Delta Sigma chapter was founded in 1952 and is dedicated to improving the understanding and appreciation of biological study. Research presented at the national convention was funded by the National Science Foundation, Oklahoma INBRE, the SWOSU College of Arts and Sciences and the Biology Department at SWOSU.