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11 December, 2019



SWOSU Biology Students Present Research at Oklahoma Academy of Sciences Technical Meeting

Photo Caption: SWOSU biology students presented their research at the recent Oklahoma Academy of Sciences Technical Meeting held in Edmond. Attending were (from left): Emily Bedea, Clinton; Cody Hanks, Sayre; Alexa Benedict, Burns Flat; Dr. Rickey Cothran, Dani Whiting, Rhinelander (WI); Dr. Zach Jones, Greyson Weedon, Arapaho; Connor Slattery, Thomas; and Bryler Atchley, Clinton.

Seven Southwestern Oklahoma State University biology students presented their research at the recent Oklahoma Academy of Sciences Technical Meeting held in Edmond.

The scientific meeting promotes collaboration between researchers working in Oklahoma and aims to educate citizens of Oklahoma about science.

Attending the meeting were SWOSU students Bryler Atchley and Emily Bedea, both of Clinton; Alexa Benedict, Burns Flat; Cody Hanks, Sayre; Connor Slattery, Thomas; Greyson Weedon, Arapaho; and Dani Whiting of Rhinelander (WI). Research mentors Drs. Rickey Cothran and Zach Jones, both associate professors in the SWOSU Department of Biological Sciences were also in attendance.

- Oral research presentations were:
- Whiting and Jones: Raptor perch and location preferences in rural southwestern Oklahoma.
- Slattery and Cothran: Phenotypic plasticity of freshwater amphipods.
- Bedea and Somalinga: Homology modeling and purification of β -carbonic anhydrase from *Streptococcus sanguinis*, an opportunistic pathogen involved in subacute infective endocarditis.

Poster research presentations were:

- Weedon and Jones: Botteri's sparrow density changes with spreading non-native habitat in southeastern Arizona.
- Atchley, Hanks and Jones: Preliminary assessment of a riparian forest along the Washita River in western Oklahoma.
- Amy Hofeld of Oklahoma City (Epic Charter) and Jones: Timing of avian migration through the Oklahoma City area 1995-2017 using NOAA weather data.
- Atchley, Kade Ezell of Yukon, and Dr. Regina McGrane: Characterization of the impact of syringafactin on human pathogen chemotaxis and membrane permeability.
- Benedict and Vijay Somalinga: Identification, in-silico analysis and homology modeling of β -carbonic anhydrases from free-living amoebozoans, *Acanthamoeba castellanii* and *Naegleria gruberi*.

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