

SWOSU Students Involved in Cancer Research

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Southwestern Oklahoma State University students Gabriel Pray (second from left), Melissa Pray and Keturah Odoi were recently awarded NASA scholarships for anti-cancer research work they are conducting under the direction of Dr. William Kelly at SWOSU. Also pictured is NASA grant principle investigator Madeline Baugher.

Southwestern Oklahoma State University students Keturah Odio, Melissa Pray and Gabriel Pray were recently awarded NASA scholarships for anti-cancer research work they are conducting under the direction of Dr. William Kelly.

All of the students are senior chemistry majors on the Weatherford campus. Odio is from Oklahoma City while the Prays are a husband and wife team from Weatherford. Dr. Kelly is a professor in the SWOSU Department of Chemistry and Physics.

Their research is focusing on studying the toxicity and activity of a series of anti-cancer drugs proposed to a SWOSU lab by the university's collaborator at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. The research is done in several ways which include NADH assays, Fluorescence Quench Titration assays and UQ1 assays to discover the effects of each drug on beef heart mitochondria and cancer cell mitochondria.

SWOSU is a member of the NASA Oklahoma Space Grant Consortium that provides scholarship funds for students majoring in STEM disciplines at member institutions. STEM disciplines are science, technology, engineering and math.

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 SWOSU Department of Entrepreneurship and Computer Systems. Students may submit research proposals for a spring funding cycle until January 31, 2009. A description of the program and an application may be found at <http://www.swosu.edu/academics/ace/compsci/nasa/grant.asp>.