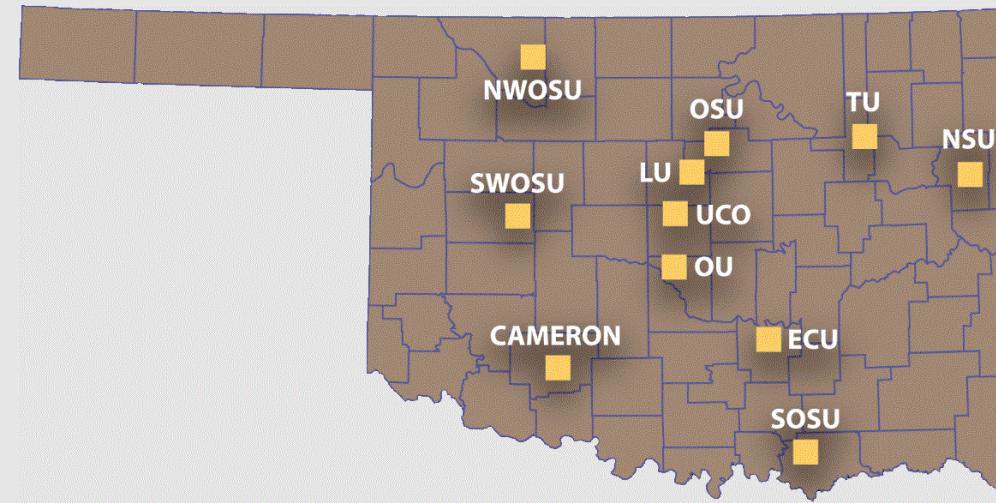


# THE LINK

The Annual OK-LSAMP Newsletter

Fall 2015—Spring 2016



## OK-LSAMP

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Letter from our PI

## About OKLSAMP

### Oklahoma Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation

- Funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF),
- a partnership of Oklahoma colleges and universities working together to develop programs aimed at increasing the number of students from underrepresented populations who receive degrees in STEM disciplines.

Current goals of the program focus on:

- undergraduate research experiences
- international experiences
- graduate school preparation

Activities include:

- faculty mentoring
- conference and presentation travel
- meetings focused on professional development and networking
- performance based stipend support for students



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September  
24th  
2016

*22<sup>nd</sup> Annual* RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM  
**CONFERENCE**  
The Oklahoma Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation  
Noble Research Center  
OSU Campus  
Stillwater, OK, 74078

**Keynote Speaker:**  
**Dr. Robin Kimmerer**  
State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry professor

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Also Poster and Oral Research Presentations

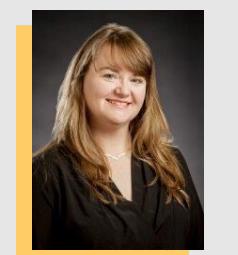
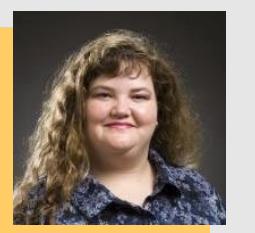
Online Registration Coming Soon!

## Program News

On August 19, 2016, **Congressman Louis Stokes**, the namesake of LSAMP, passed away at the age 90. He left behind a legacy of rising above the racial injustices of his time. In 1967, he was elected Mayor of Cleveland, making him the first African-American to hold that title for a Major US city. In 1968, he was the first black person to be elected to Congress from Ohio. After serving 15 Democratic terms, Stokes retired from Congress in 1990. For the rest of his working life, Stokes continued being a civil rights lawyer and took up teaching college students.



**Fara Williams**, OK-LSAMP Program Coordinator since 2006 accepted in the position of Project Director for the Kentucky-West Virginia Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (KY-WV LSAMP). Although we were sad to see her leave OK-LSAMP, we are glad she is continuing her work to increase minority participation in STEM fields.



OK-LSAMP is pleased to announce **Ms. Darlene Croci** as the new OK-LSAMP Data Coordinator. Ms. Croci comes to OK-LSAMP from her previous position as a Senior Financial Assistant for the Research and Financial Services department in the OSU Spears School of Business. She has also held multiple leadership positions with the OSU Staff Advisory Council, including Chair of the Council from 2013 to 2014.



In October 2015, OSU OK-LSAMP mentor **Dr. Charles Abramson**, Regents Professor of Psychology, received a \$4 million NSF grant to support four years of international research, titled "Neural Mechanisms of Reward and Decision." A consortium of US and international faculty will work together to use honeybees as a model of human reward-based decision making. Projects in Puerto Rico, Canada, Chile, Egypt, Italy, and Turkey will cooperatively work on this interdisciplinary research problem. This project also provided an opportunity for OU Scholar, Bree Cooper, to accompany him to Turkey during the summer of 2015 for eight weeks of research.



In January 2016, Dr. Jason F. Kirksey, VP and Chief Diversity Officer for Oklahoma State University Division of Institutional Diversity, represented the Oklahoma Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation at the **Tulsa Mentoring to the Max Breakfast**. The event is sponsored by Tulsa Mayor Dewey F. Bartlett. First Lady, Victoria Bartlett led the mentoring campaign. Pictured are Jason Kirksey, Mayor Bartlett, Jr., and First Lady Victoria Bartlett.

## Program News

**Dr. Sharon Lewis**, Langston University Campus Coordinator, published an article titled "Asphalt Chemistry" in the *Global Journal of Science Frontier Research: B* with students. In this publication, the authors recycled 18 asphalt samples to generate oil (binder). The physical and chemical properties of the asphalt samples were also compared to learn more about their background. Student authors for this publication were Terry Phillips, Kayla Love, Martell McKinney, Quintessa Jackson, Denzel Pugh, Evann Comeaux, Lindsay Davis, Megan Bowlin, Rajah Singh, Phoebe Carter, Nichole Newman, LeMarcus Lott, Ryan Johnson, Brittany Vann, and Mehari Future. The link to the full publication is provided:

[https://globaljournals.org/GJSFR\\_Volume15/E-Journal\\_GJSFR\\_\(B\)\\_Vol\\_15\\_Issue\\_2.pdf](https://globaljournals.org/GJSFR_Volume15/E-Journal_GJSFR_(B)_Vol_15_Issue_2.pdf)

**Dr. Tim Hubin**, SWOSU Campus Coordinator and Professor of Chemistry, received two prestigious awards. Dr. Hubin was recognized for his outstanding teaching and research in the regional/community college category at the Oklahoma Foundation of Excellence Award ceremony during the 29<sup>th</sup> Academic Awards Banquet in Tulsa, OK . He received a plaque and a \$5,000 check. Additionally, he was honored as an Outstanding Mentor by the David and Molly Boren Mentoring Initiative, during the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Oklahoma Mentor Day held at the Oklahoma State Capitol in January 2016. Michael Joseph Gorbet, SEOSU Scholar nominated Dr. Hubin for the award, along with former SEOSU Scholars and accompanied him to the awards ceremony.

**Kay Porter** retired in May 2016 after holding the position of OK-LSAMP Program Manager for the past nine years. Her leadership has greatly expanded the impact of the OK-LSAMP program. When she started, there were only eight scholars on the OSU campus, to date there are over 100 scholars at OSU and over 200 statewide. She also served as an OSU staff member for the past 42 years.

OK-LSAMP is pleased to announce **Ms. Brenda L. Morales** as the new OK-LSAMP Program Manager. Ms. Morales comes to us from her previous position as the Coordinator of Hispanic/Latino Affairs at OSU. Brenda has a M.S. in Psychology from OSU and received her B.S. from University of Texas Pan American. Ms. Morales looks forward to continuing her work to support and assist students to achieve their academic and career goals through the OK-LSAMP program.



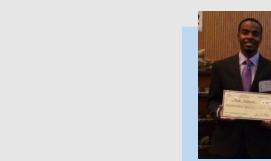
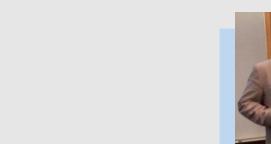
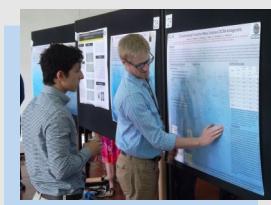
## Events

The 21<sup>st</sup> OK-LSAMP Annual Research Symposium was held on Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at Oklahoma State University's Noble Research Center.

Dr. Kathleen Kaplan and Dr. Virginia Swindell, representatives of the Air Force Research Lab Office of Scientific Research were the keynote speakers.

Dr. Kathleen Kaplan, leader and manager of the U.S. Air Force Research Program in Systems and Software, inspired listeners to pursue STEM careers by speaking of her personal experience as a student, researcher, professor, mentor, and lifelong learner. She also provided valuable information on internship and career opportunities available in the Air Force. Kaplan's degrees are in computer science: a Bachelor of Science from the University of Massachusetts in Lowell, a Master of Science from the Florida Institute of Technology, and a Ph.D. from George Washington University. Before her current career with the Air Force, Kaplan was a professor at Howard University, Oklahoma City University, and Oklahoma State University.

Dr. Virginia Swindell also shared inspiring stories about her experiences as a minority in a STEM field. Currently, she is a Mechanical Engineer for the Air Force Research Laboratory Munitions Directorate.



Dr. Matt Gilligan, Professor Emeritus of Marine and Environmental Sciences at Savannah State University (SSU) and a Specialist with the Institute for Broadening Participation (IBP), gave a presentation on the Pathways to Science Program. He highly encouraged all of the undergraduate listeners to apply for summer REUs.

A Graduate School Q & A session was moderated by former OK-LSAMP Scholar, Dalton Kelley, with BD Fellows Brice Fiddler, Shelby Fraser, Milecia Matthews, Danielle Perryman, and Allison Sherier served as panel members.

Prizes were awarded for first, second, and third place presentations.

The winners for Oral Presentations were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Susan Pham (OSU)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Blake Chancellor (TU)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Kathryn Secrist (TU)

The winners for Life Sciences Poster Presentations were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Natalie Santa-Pinter (TU)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Andres Guerrero (OSU)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - (tie) Joana Pantoja (UCO)  
and Natalie Ruiz Castillo (CU)

The winners for Non-Life Sciences Poster Presentations were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Ariel Cross (OU)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Skyler Calhoun (OU)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - (tie) Alicia Aguilar (OSU) Matthew Maxwell (SE)

OK-LSAMP and invited scholars made 25 oral presentations and 47 poster presentations. A total of 217 faculty, staff, students, and guests attended this event. Thank you all attendees!

## Events

Two OK-LSAMP scholars were honored during the **2015 Women of Color Conference**. The conference held in Detroit, Michigan, October 15-17, 2015 recognized Morgan James from LU with the Student Leadership Award and Cori Taylor from OU, with the Student Academic Award. Oklahoma is proud of each Scholar.

**EPSCOR Women in Science Conference** was held in Tulsa, OK at the Mabee Center in late October 2015. Scholars from throughout the Alliance served in numerous roles during the one-day event. The Women in Science Conference is designed to introduce STEM programs and careers to middle and high school women.

Joseph Michael Fields (LU), Nick Means (OSU), and Zach Ridge (OSU) accompanied Kay Porter and Darlene Croci to the **2015 Louis Stokes Midwest Center for Excellence (LSMCE) Annual Conference** from October 23-25, 2015 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Kay Porter along with Dr. Randy Duran, Professor, Louisiana State University, presented a workshop on international opportunities with Nick Means (OSU) as a panel member. Darlene Croci served as a moderator for one of the breakout sessions.

On November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015, Linzi Thompson and Elizabeth Apala, OK-LSAMP scholars from ECU, presented posters at the 104<sup>th</sup> Annual Technical Meeting for the **Oklahoma Academy of Science**. Elizabeth Apala received the Best Physical Sciences Poster award. Kay Porter and Darlene Croci set up an information booth advertising the OK-LSAMP program and opportunities for Scholars. Campus Coordinators Carl Rutledge and Karen Williams from ECU, along with Mike Husak from CU, were also in attendance.

The **Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science** (SACNAS) held the 2015 national conference in Washington, D.C., October 24-31, 2015. Scholars from OSU, SE, LU, TU presented research posters and participated in breakout sessions. Adrian Sanez (OSU) and Matthew Maxwell (SEOSU) received honors for their posters presentations and were recognized on-stage by the President of SACNAS. Grant Williams (OSU) was recognized for solving a mathematical equation and received an award to attend the 2016 national conference at no charge. Scholars were accompanied by Kay Porter, Dr. Gilbert John, and Dr. Donald French.

A total of 16 OK-LSAMP Scholars attended the SACNAS National Conference: Joseph Michael Fields (LU), Matthew Maxwell (SEOSU), and Katherine Secrist (TU). OSU Scholars included: Katelyn Whitaker, Adrian Saenz, Jordan Fleming, Daniel Henthorn, Grant Williams, Brooke Romine, Maeghan Murie-Hartung, Susan Pham, Michael Adair, Andres Guerrero Criado, Zach Ridge, Marla Ichord, and Nick Means. Autumn Only A Chief was accepted to present at the conference, but was unable to attend.

In Seattle Washington, November 15-17, 2015, OK-LSAMP Scholars Joseph Michael Fields (LU), Blake Chancellor (TU), and Troy King (OSU) attended the **Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS)** and presented their current research projects.



## Events

Milecia Matthews (BD Fellow) and Grant Williams (OSU Scholar) represented the OK-LSAMP program at the first **STEM Fair** held on the University of Tulsa campus, December 5, 2015. The fair was developed and arranged by TU Scholar Natalie Santa-Pinter for high school students in the Tulsa school system to become better acquainted with STEM degree programs across the state.

OK-LSAMP Scholars Todd Edmonds, Troy King, Brooke Romine, Mayowa Akinwale, and Eric Butson (BD Fellow) participated in the **27<sup>th</sup> Annual OSU Research Week Symposium** on February 15 -16, 2016.

Tabitha Gunners and Katherine Saravia, OSU OK-LSAMP Scholars, presented posters during the first **Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI)** event on the OSU campus. Katherine tied for 1st place in the Undergraduate Poster competition.

The National Science Foundation hosted the National Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** in Washington, D.C., February 22-24, 2016. The event celebrated the birthday of founder Congressman Louis Stokes and provided opportunities for Alliance members to meet and discuss best practices and learn about new initiatives for the LSAMP program. Additionally, scholars and BD Fellows were given an opportunity to attend and present their research. Dr. Jason Kirksey, Kay Porter, and Darlene Croci attended along with Scholars Andres Guerrero Criado and Troy King. Former OSU Scholar and now BD Fellow at Louisiana State University, Amanda Mathias, also attended and presented her current research.

**Oklahoma Research Day**, March 11, 2016, was held on the NSU campus in Tahlequah. Scholars attending included: Troy King (OSU), Matt Maxwell (SE), Joana Pantoja (UCO), Elizabeth Apala (ECU), Joseph-Michael Fields (LU), Imani Jackson (LU), Jordan Fleming (OSU), Alexander Riva (CU), Mary Catlett (OSU), Andres Guerrero Criado (OSU), Brooke Romine (OSU), Maranda Clyer (CU), Nicolas Simon (LU), Angeline Satchell (UCO). Campus Coordinators Carl Rutledge (ECU), Karen Williams (ECU), Jodie Buckholtz (NSU), and Sharon Lewis (LU) were also in attendance along with program staff, Darlene Croci and Kay Porter.

**National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR)** was held in Asheville, NC April 7-9, 2016. Scholars from LU, SEOSU, OSU, and TU were selected to participate and present their research either by poster or oral presentation. NCUR is dedicated to promoting undergraduate research, scholarship and scholarly activities in all fields of study. Students not only had a chance to present their research but to hear presentations from a variety of fields as well as plenary speakers. Those from OK-LSAMP attending included: Mang Chang (OSU), Andreas Criado (OSU), Nicola Davalos (TU), Joseph Michael Fields (LU), Cassidy Gierhart (OSU), Troy King (OSU), Matthew Maxwell (SE), Susan Pham (OSU), Katy Roijas (TU), Adrian Saenz (OSU), and Katelyn Whitaker (OSU).

The group was accompanied by Darlene Croci and Kay Porter.

In 2018 the NCUR conference will be held on the campus of the University of Central Oklahoma. If you wish to volunteer with this activity, you may contact Dr. Greg Wilson, OK-LSAMP Campus Coordinator.

## Events

**Research Day at the Capitol** is a very prestigious program. The event sponsored by EPSCoR is to inform the legislature and the public about the high quality of research being conducted by students at Oklahoma colleges and universities. Students are nominated by their respective university and their posters are judged for cash awards. Scholars selected this year were:

Chase Tiller, ECU  
 Michael-Joseph Corbett, SWOSU  
 Joseph Michael Fields, LU  
 Skylar Calhoun, OU



The first **International Research Symposium** was held April 17-20, 2016 at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater Campus, in the Wes Watkins International Center. To co-sponsor this three day international symposium, the OK-LSAMP program and OSU, in conjunction with Louisiana State University and Dr. Randy Duran, LSU Office of Research and Economic Development , submitted a proposal to the National Science Foundation (NSF).

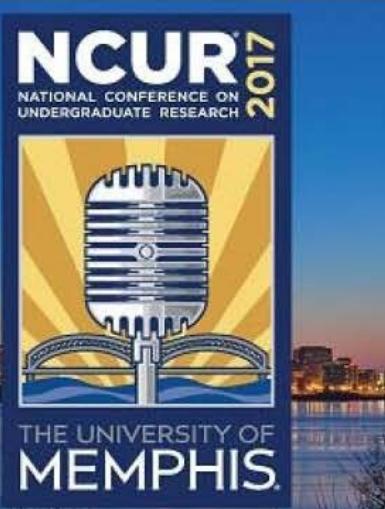
The symposium was designed to bring discussion for implementation of future international research experiences for students. This effort enabled the creation of a concise report with a set of recommendations for best practices to be easily adopted by higher learning institutions to promote successful international mentoring and research experiences.

Attendees included OK-LSAMP program officers and Scholars, and faculty from Thailand, Switzerland, Argentina, France, Germany, and many other international locations. A cultural dinner was provided by the Citizen Potawatomi Tribe, the Iowa Tribe, and the United Houma Nation from Louisiana. Over 75 people attended the symposium.



## Submit Abstracts

**Oct 3 - Dec 2, 2016**



[http://www.cur.org/ncur\\_2017/](http://www.cur.org/ncur_2017/)

## OK-LSAMP Scholar

### Requirements and Responsibilities

#### List of Eligible STEM Majors\*

Biological Sciences	Technology & Engineering
Agronomy	Biosystems Engineering
Animal Sciences	Chemical Engineering
Biology	Civil & Environmental Engineering
Botany	Electrical & Computer Engineering
Cell & Molecular Biology	Fire Protection and Safety
Entomology & Plant Pathology	Industrial Engineering
Forestry	Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering
Horticulture	All Engineering Technologies
Microbiology	
Molecular Genetics	
Nutritional Science	
Zoology	
Physical Sciences	
Biochemistry & Molecular Biology	
Chemistry	
Physics	
Geology	
Meteorology	

Mathematical Sciences
Mathematics
Computer Sciences
Statistics
Information Systems
Management Information Systems
Management Sciences
Computer Systems

#### Eligibility Requirements

1. Minimum GPA 3.00
2. US citizen or permanent resident
3. Able to participate in and contribute to program activities
4. Full time student in an approved STEM field (see approved majors below)
5. Demonstrated intent in pursuing investigative studies and a graduate degree in STEM
6. Demonstrated desire to promote the efforts of LSAMP and NSF in underrepresented communities

#### Specific Requirements for Continued Support

1. Maintain GPA of 3.00
2. Regular class attendance
3. Provide a current class schedule at the beginning of the semester
4. Retain full-time status (Immediate notification of any drop/add changes required)
5. Remain in eligible STEM major (Immediate notification of major change is required)
6. Continued active participation in the required program activities. Any scholar whose participation rate is below 75% may be dismissed from the program the following semester

#### Required Activities for All Participants

- **Scholars Meetings** – once a month unless specified otherwise
- **Mentoring Component** - Under the guidance of faculty mentors, all scholars are expected to participate in 5-10 hours of research-related experiences per week. Enrollment in 3 hours of departmental Special Problems permitted.
- **Graduate School Preparation** - Scholars will be involved in vigorous preparation for graduate studies. Specific activities will be based on academic classification. By the end of the semester BEFORE you graduate, you are required to submit a minimum of five applications for admission to graduate school.
- **Summer Research Internships** – All scholars will be involved in a two-month summer internship and must present their research at the annual research symposium held at OSU.
- **Occasional leadership, peer-mentoring, or other program activities** - This will not interfere with your academics.
- **Acknowledgement of support by OK-LSAMP and NSF** - (Cooperative Agreement HRD-0902027) in appropriate publications and public events is required. Display of the OK-LSAMP (and NSF if desired) logo on posters and on last slide of PowerPoint Presentations is required. Logos will be provided by the OK-LSAMP office

\*The chart above is a condensed list of approved majors. If your STEM major is not listed, please visit with the program staff.

## Scholar Highlights

**Alfa Abame**, Southwestern OSU Scholar majoring in Biology, presented her research this year at the 2016 Oklahoma Research Day in Tahlequah, OK and the Tri Beta Conference. In summer 2016, she accepted an internship at Colby College.

**Michael Adair**, Oklahoma State University Scholar, Biological Sciences, was awarded the OSU Wentz scholarship for undergraduate research and attended the 2015 National SACNAS conference in Washington, D.C.

**Alicia Aguilar**, Oklahoma State University Scholar majoring in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, was named one of the Top 20 Freshmen Women at OSU, received the Julius Caesar Matli Endowed Scholarship, represented OSU at the national Engineering Without Borders Conference in Denver, CO, and accepted a summer 2016 internship at Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, CA.

**Elizabeth Apala**, East Central University Scholar majoring in Physics, presented research at Oklahoma Research Day, Tahlequah, OK, the 21st OK-LSAMP Annual Research Symposium in Stillwater, OK, the Zone 12 meeting of the Society of Physics Students, and the American Astronomical Society Meeting. She also received first place at the Fall Academy of Science Conference, Oklahoma City, OK.

**Charles Bales**, University of Tulsa Scholar majoring in Electrical Engineering, presented research at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Asheville, NC.

**Asaph Matheus Barbosa**, Oklahoma State University Scholar majoring in Electrical Engineering, presented research at the 2015 National Conference on Undergraduate Research, OSU Research Week, and the 21st OK-LSAMP Annual Research Symposium in Stillwater, OK.

**Suzi Barboza-Pacheco**, Oklahoma State University Scholar majoring in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, received a travel scholarship to attend the 2016 Maize Genetics Conference in Jacksonville, Florida. For the summer 2016, she accepted the Bioinformatics REU at the Boyce Thompson Institute at Cornell University.

**Skylar Calhoun**, University of Oklahoma Scholar majoring in Civil Engineering, received first place at the 2015 OK-LSAMP Research Symposium, was selected to represent the University of Oklahoma at the 2016 Research Day at the Capitol, received the Stuart Family Foundation Study Abroad Scholarship, received the President's Community Scholar Alumni Scholarship, received the Gallogly College of Engineering Tomorrow Engineer Award, and accepted a summer 2016 internship at Poe and Associates in Oklahoma City.

**Maria Castaneda**, University of Tulsa Scholar, presented research at the 2014 Joint Meeting of the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Research Colloquium and the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual OU-Tulsa Research Forum in Tulsa, OK where she received Honorable Mention for her research poster on *Synthesis of Enaminones Utilizing Copper Catalysts*.

**Mary Catlett**, Oklahoma State University Scholar majoring in Mathematics and Physics, presented research at the 2016 Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics in San Antonio, TX and the 2016 WENTZ Research Symposium at OSU. She participated in the 2016 International Mentoring Symposium for Students in STEM, the 21<sup>st</sup> OK-LSAMP Annual research Conference, and the 2016 Oklahoma Research Day, Tahlequah, OK. She was the recipient of the following scholarships: OSU Wentz Semester Research Grant, Arts & Sciences Alumni, Daniel Stevens Memorial Scholarship, Sharon L. Daniel Math and Computer Science Scholarship, and the Dexter Johnson Scholarship. She was also selected for a summer 2016 OK-LSAMP REU in the Physics Department at Oklahoma State University with Dr. Mario F. Borunda.

## Scholar Highlights

**Mang Chang**, Oklahoma State University Scholar majoring in Microbiology/Cell & Molecular Biology, presented research at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Asheville, NC, and participated in the summer 2016 ORISE Project Spotlight research experience at Oak Ridge National Laboratories.

**Ryan Cloud**, East Central University Scholar majoring in Physics, was a recipient of the Springfield Centennial Physics Endowment Scholarship.

**Bree Cooper**, University of Oklahoma Scholar majoring in Chemical Engineering/ Biotechnology, participated in a summer 2016 REU with OSU Mentor Dr. Charles Abramson and Anna Chicas Moser. Bree travelled to Turkey where the team conducted research related to honey bees.

**Ariel Cross**, University of Oklahoma Scholar majoring in Chemical Engineering, received first place in the non-life sciences category at the 21st OK-LSAMP Annual OK-LSAMP Research Symposium and received the CBME undergraduate research scholarship at OU. During the summer of 2016, she continued to conduct research in the lab of Dr. Sikavitsas at OU.

**Victor Ekeh-Chiadi**, Oklahoma State University Scholar majoring in Biochemistry presented research at the 2016 WENTZ Research Scholar Symposium.

**Jordan Fleming**, Oklahoma State University Scholar majoring in Microbiology, received the WENTZ Scholar research Grant and presented research at the National SACNAS Conference in Washington, D.C., the OSU 3-minute thesis event, the 2016 WENTZ Research Symposium, the 2016 Oklahoma Research Day in Tahlequah, OK, and the 2016 Regional Science conference. He also attended the 2015 National SACNAS Conference in Washington D.C.

**Michaela Flonard**, University of Tulsa Scholar majoring in Biology, presented research at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Asheville, NC and accepted a summer 2016 internship with Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor in MA.

**Cassidy Gierhart**, Oklahoma State University Scholar majoring in Chemical Engineering, presented research at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Asheville, NC, and was named a 2015-1016 OSU Freshman Research Scholar.

**Rachel Grider**, Southeastern Oklahoma State University Scholar majoring in Biology, was selected to participate in a 2016 summer experience in Beijing, China. She visited hospitals and chemical and physical analysis centers.

**Daniel Henthorn**, Oklahoma State University Scholar majoring in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, was named a 2015-2016 OSU Freshman research Scholar. He attended the 2015 National SACNAS Conference in Washington, D.C. and participated in the HHMI EXROP program.

**Morgan James**, Langston University Scholar majoring in Biology, received the Women of Color Student Leadership Award for 2015. She also received a travel scholarship to attend the 2016 Maize Genetics Conference in Jacksonville, Florida.

**Donnie Jones**, Southeastern Oklahoma State University Scholar, spent the 2016 Summer in Hull, England conducting research with Professor Steve Archibald and Post-Doc Ben Burke. This project was a continuation of a project started in the summer of 2015 when the Hull representatives were on the SEOSU Campus.

**Matthew Maxwell**, Southeastern Oklahoma State University Scholar majoring in Chemistry, was one of the 100 to receive an Outstanding Poster Presentation honor at the National SACNAS conference in Washington, D.C. At the 21<sup>st</sup> OK-LSAMP Annual Research Symposium in Stillwater, OK, he received third place for his poster presentation. He also presented a research poster at the 2016 Oklahoma Research Day in Tahlequah, OK and the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Asheville, NC. During the summer of 2015, he participated in an REU at Oklahoma State University and during the summer of 2016, he accepted an REU at Harvard University.

## Scholar Highlights

**Natalie Santa Pinter**, University of Tulsa Scholar majoring in Biochemistry, founded the 2015 TU STEM Fair. She presented research at the National Conferences on Undergraduate Research in Asheville, NC and the 21st OK-LSAMP Annual Research Symposium in Stillwater, OK, where her poster presentation received the first place in the Life Sciences Category. She also received the following scholarships: Catholic Business & Professional Women's Scholarship, Iota Sigma Pi Women in Chemistry Honor Society, Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society, and TU Avis Global Trekker. For the summer of 2016, she accepted an internship with the OU-TU School of Community Medicine, Tulsa, OK.

**Amber Morgan**, University of Oklahoma Scholar majoring in Chemical Engineering, was selected to participate in the Native American and Pacific Islander Research Experiences (NAPIRE) program in Costa Rica for the summer of 2016.

**Autumn Only A Chief**, Oklahoma State University Scholar majoring in Nutritional Sciences, was named OSU Ms. American Indian and was accepted to present at the 2015 National SACNAS Conference in Washington, D.C. She received the ONASHE Up & Coming Leader Award and the Center for Disease Control Scholar award. For the summer of 2016, she participated in the public health scholars program at Columbia University.

**Joana Pantoja**, University of Central Oklahoma Scholar majoring in Biology, received third place at the 21st OK-LSAMP Annual Research Symposium for poster presentation in Stillwater, OK, presented research at the Experimental Biology National Meeting in San Diego, CA, and received the Synergy Scholarship Award for research.

**Cameron Patterson**, Oklahoma State University Scholar majoring in Architecture, represented OSU at the AIAS Forum National Conference and received the Tesone Endowed Scholarship and the College of Engineering Dean's award. He participated in a summer 2016 internship with Perians and Will Architecture Firm in Dallas, TX.

**Clay Patterson**, Oklahoma State University Scholar majoring in Computer Engineering, received the CEAT Scholarship and participated in the National Association of Engineering Student Councils (NAESC) Central and National Conferences.

**Melida Perez Errasquin**, University of Tulsa Scholar majoring in Petroleum Engineering, presented research at the 21<sup>st</sup> OK-LSAMP Annual Research Symposium in Stillwater, OK.

**Susan Pham**, Oklahoma State University Scholar majoring in Chemistry, presented research at the 21st OK-LSAMP Annual Research Symposium in Stillwater, OK, the National 2015 SACNAS conference, Washington, D.C., the American Chemical Society Conference in San Diego, CA, , and the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Asheville, NC. She was awarded the WENTZ Research Fellowship for 2016-2017.

**Brandon Postoak**, East Central University Scholar majoring in Biology, was named a 2015-2016 National Aeronautics and Space Administration Fellow, and received the following scholarships: the Francisco-Hatchett Scholarship, the Thorpe-White Scholarship, the Lillian Fowler Memorial Scholarship. He presented research at the Summer Undergraduate Research Program in Oklahoma City, OK, the 21<sup>st</sup> OK-LSAMP Annual Research Symposium, and the 2016 Oklahoma Research Day in Tahlequah, OK.

**Nate Richbourg**, University of Oklahoma Scholar majoring in Chemical Engineering, received the CIS Philip Farish Study Abroad Scholarship, the Chemical Engineering Biotechnology Program of Excellence Scholarship, and the Chevron-Phillips Scholar-Mentor Award for 2016. He also gave an oral research presentation at the OU Undergraduate Research Day.

## Scholar Highlights

**Alexander Rivas**, Cameron University Scholar majoring in Chemistry, presented research at the 2016 Oklahoma Research Day in Tahlequah, OK, the American Chemical Society regional meeting in Memphis, TN, and the American Chemical Society meeting in Bartlesville, OK. He also received the following scholarships: Chemistry Department and Chemistry Honor Society.

**Rendi Rogers**, Oklahoma State University Scholar majoring in Microbiology and Biochemistry, received the OSU Institutional Nominee Scholarship and the Bureau of Indian Education Tribal Scholarship. She also gave an oral research presentation at the OAS Annual Technical Meeting and a poster presentation at the 2016 Microbiology and Molecular Genetics Annual Research Symposium.

**Nicholas Simon**, Langston University Scholar majoring in Biology, presented research at Oklahoma Research Day in Tahlequah, OK and received recognition at the 2016 K-INBRE Conference for poster presentation.

**Riley Smith**, Oklahoma State University Scholar, spent the 2016 summer on the Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Lightsource (SSRL) facility in Menlo Park, California along with OSU Mentor, Gilbert John. This research project is a continuation of a project started three years ago at Brookhaven National Labs (BNL). The research project was moved to California due to a remodeling of facilities at BNL.

**Sydni Smith**, Oklahoma State University Scholar majoring in Microbiology, participated in the HHMI 2016 EXROP Summer program, received a third place award for her research poster presentation at the 2016 Life Sciences Freshman Research Scholars Symposium, and presented research at the American Society of Rickettsiology Conference in Bozeman, WY.

**Colby Starr**, Oklahoma State University Scholar majoring in Microbiology/Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, conducted research with Erica Lutter on the OSU campus during the summer 2016.

**Tekenari Tienabeso**, University of Oklahoma Scholar majoring in Biochemistry, accepted a summer internship for 2016 at the Stephenson Center in Norman, OK and received the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Grant Program award for 2016.

**Chelsey Tiger**, Oklahoma State University Scholar, spent the 2016 summer on the Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Lightsource (SSRL) facility in Menlo Park, California along with OSU Mentor, Gilbert John. This research project is a continuation of a project started three years ago at Brookhaven National Labs (BNL). The research project was moved to California due to a remodeling of facilities at BNL.

**Chase Tillar**, East Central University Scholar majoring in Physics, represented ECU at Research Day at the Capitol.

**Edgar Viveros**, Oklahoma State University Scholar majoring in Electrical Engineering, received the following scholarships: College of Engineering Dean's Award Scholarship, the Hispanic Student Fund Scholarship, and the Lynn T. Miller Scholarship.

**Katelyn Whitaker**, Oklahoma State University Scholar majoring in Animal Science, received the Native American Faculty and Staff Scholarship. She also presented research at the Merial Veterinary Medical Summer National Conference in Los Angeles, CA, the National SACNAS conference in Washington, D.C., the July 2015 OSU School of Veterinarian Medicine Symposium, and the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Asheville, NC.

**Grant Williams**, Oklahoma State University Scholar majoring in Computer Science, presented his research at the 2015 National SACNAS conference in Washington, DC where he received recognition for his problem solving skills.

**Johnny Williams**, Oklahoma State University Scholar majoring in Nutritional Sciences, accepted a summer 2016 internship with the Future Public Health Leader Program in Ann Arbor, MI. During his 10 weeks in Michigan, he distributed water to the families of Flint and conducted diabetes research.

## BD Fellow Updates

The Bridge to the Doctorate Fellowship is available to any current or former LSAMP Scholars. If you are interested in more information on applying to this program, please email us at [oklsamp@okstate.edu](mailto:oklsamp@okstate.edu)

**Tomica Blocker**, OSU BD Fellow, completed her Zoology Ph.D. in May 2016. She will continue her education in the M.D. program at Kansas Medical School. Tomica also had an article published in the National Geographic magazine in September 2015. Her article, "When Single Male Rodents Settle Down, They're Changed Forever", can be found at: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2015/09/150903-prairie-voles-sex-love-animals-science/>

**Cara Cowan Watts**, OSU BD, completed her Biosystems Engineering and Environmental Sciences Ph.D. in December 2015.

**Zach Dunn**, OU BD Fellow, completed his Electrical Engineering Ph.D. in May 2016.

**Shelby Fraser**, OSU BD Fellow, completed M.S. Degree requirements in Natural Resources, Ecology, and Management in July 2016. She received third place for her oral presentation in biological sciences at the 2016 OSU Research Week, received The People's Choice Award at the Entomology And Plant Pathology Graduate Student Association (EPPGSA) Research Symposium at OSU. She was named by her department Outstanding Master's Student in Leadership and Service, and received the MICAH scholarship for research and work with the elderly. She has been accepted to Ph.D. program at the University of Washington to conduct research on wolves.

**Jonathan Gonzales**, BD Fellow, is the Principal Investigator to an NSF grant for Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR).

**Jacob Henderson**, OU BD Fellow, completed his Electrical Engineering Ph.D. in May 2016.

**Bill Jones**, OSU BD Fellow, completed his M.S. Degree in Plant and Soil Sciences and accepted a position with Anheuser Busch in Fargo, North Dakota.

**Daron "DJ" Lamkin**, BD Fellow, is the CEO *Class Matters*, a non-profit organization aimed at increasing STEM among high school students in the Oklahoma City area.

**Milecia Matthews**, OSU BD Fellow, completed her M.S. Degree in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. She has accepted a position at Miratech Corporation in Tulsa.

**Nicole Bryant Parker**, BD Fellow, presented at the 2015 Arabidopsis International Conference, England.

**Danielle Perryman**, OSU BD Fellow, attended the 2016 Emerging Researchers National Conference in STEM on February 25-27, 2016 in Washington, DC.

**Cody Pinkerman**, OSU BD Fellow, completed his Aerospace Engineering Ph.D. in May 2016.

**Joe Ross**, OSU BD Fellow and former ECU LSAMP scholar, completed his M.S. Degree in Physics and accepted employment in Madison, WI as a Nuclear Engineer/Radioactive Materials Inspector for the state. He and his wife are expecting their first child in early 2017.

**Allison Sherier**, OSU BD Fellow, completed her M.S. Degree in Forensic Sciences at OSU Center for Health Sciences and has been accepted to a Ph.D. program at the University of North Texas.

**David Supeck**, completed Ph.D. requirements in July 2016.

**Liz Zehren**, OSU BD Fellow in Physics, completed the Dosimetry Certification program at the University of Texas in San Antonio. She has accepted a position at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa.

## Alumni Updates

**Mayowa Akinwale**, former Oklahoma State University Scholar majoring in Biological Science, graduated in May 2016. He presented research at the 2016 WENTZ Research Symposium and presented research at the 21st OK-LSAMP Annual Research Symposium, Stillwater, OK.

**Amber Anderson**, former Oklahoma State University Scholar majoring in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, graduated in May 2015. Amber is currently attending graduate school at the University of North Dakota. In 2015, she was featured as the cover story for the OSU Vanguard research magazine. In September 2016, her first two cancer research publications were printed in the Journal of the Oklahoma State Medical Association.

**Jonathan Aston**, former University of Tulsa Scholar majoring in Mechanical Engineering, graduated in May 2016. In 2016, he presented research at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, Asheville, NC.

**Deborah Bowman**, former Langston University Scholar majoring in Biology, graduated in May 2015.

**Blake Chancellor**, former University of Tulsa Scholar majoring in Biology, graduated in May 2016. He presented research at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Asheville, NC, the ABRCMS National Conference in Seattle, WA, and the American Chemical Society Meeting in San Diego, CA. He received 1<sup>st</sup> place for his presentation at the 21st OK-LSAMP Annual Research Symposium in Stillwater, OK. In Fall 2016, he started attending the Ph.D. program in Biological and Biomedical Sciences at Harvard University.

**Kevin Chancellor**, former University of Tulsa Scholar majoring in Biology, graduated in May 2016.

**Evann Comeaux**, former Langston University Scholar majoring in Chemistry and Chemistry Education, graduated in May 2015. He has been awarded the Bridge to the Doctorate Fellowship at the University of Texas at Austin.

**River Crawford**, former Oklahoma State University Scholar majoring in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, graduated in December 2015. She has been accepted to the University of Kansas Medical School.

**Nicole Davalos**, former University of Tulsa Scholar majoring in Biology, graduated in May 2016. She presented research at the 2016 National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Asheville, NC.

**Lindsay Davis**, former Langston University Scholar majoring in Chemistry, graduated in May 2015. She has been awarded the Bridge to the Doctorate Fellowship at the University of Texas-Austin.

**Eugene DeLoach**, former Langston University Scholar majoring in Biology, graduated in May 2015. He is continuing his education at OU Physical Therapy School.

**Taylor Dismuke**, former Langston University Scholar majoring in Biology, graduated in May 2015. She is continuing her education at Texas State University Graduate School.

**Sarrysa Eaves**, former Southeastern Oklahoma State University Scholar majoring in Biology and Chemistry, graduated in 2016. She presented research at the 2016 OSU Research Day in Stillwater, OK and received scholarships from the Chickasaw Nation and Alpha Chi Honor Society.

**Todd Edmonds**, former Oklahoma State University Scholar majoring in Physics & Mathematics, graduated in May 2016. He is currently attending graduate school at Cornell University.

**Ahtia Edwards**, former Oklahoma State University Scholar, completed her MBA in 2015.

**Elisa Elizondo**, former Oklahoma State University Scholar majoring in Biological Sciences and Natural resource Ecology and Management, graduated in May 2015.

## Alumni Updates

**Leslie Farias**, former Oklahoma State University Scholar majoring in Nutritional Science, graduated in May 2016. She was named by the OSU Student Alumni Association to be one of the 12 2016 OSU Seniors of Significance.

**Joseph Michael Fields**, former Langston University Scholar majoring in Biology and Chemistry, graduated in May 2016. He presented research at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Asheville, NC, the 2016 Oklahoma Research Day in Tahlequah, OK, the Louis Stokes Midwest Center for Excellence in Indianapolis, IN, and the 2015 National SACNAS Conference in Washington, D.C. He also represented Langston University at the 2016 Oklahoma Research Day at the Capitol.

**Michael-Joseph Gorbet**, former Southwestern Oklahoma State University Scholar majoring in Chemistry, graduated in August 2016. He represented SWOSU at the 2016 Oklahoma Research Day at the Capitol. He also participated in an internship in Hull, England during the summer of 2016, conducting research with Professor Steve Archibald and Post-Doc Ben Burke. This project was a continuation of a project started in the summer of 2015 when the Hull representatives were on the SEOSU Campus.

**Andres Guerrero Criado**, former Oklahoma State University Scholar majoring in Biochemistry and Molecular, graduated in May 2016. In 2015, he participated in a six month International Research Experience for Undergraduates (I REU) through a collaborative grant with Louisiana State University and OK-LSAMP. At the Joseph Fourier University in Grenoble, France, he conducted microbiology research. In June 2015, he presented his research at the French-American Research Symposium. He was named one of the 2016 Top Ten Seniors in the College of Agriculture and the College of Arts and Sciences. He participated in the Tribal Health Conference and presented research at the 2015 National SACNAS Conference in Washington, D.C., the National LSAMP meeting in Washington, D.C., the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Asheville, NC, and the 2016 Oklahoma Research Day in Tahlequah, OK.

**Caleb Hubbard**, former SWOSU Scholar mentored by Dr. Andrea Holgado, was accepted to the Virginia Tech Carlton School of Medicine and Research Institute.

**Ryan Johnson**, former Langston University Scholar majoring in Chemistry, graduated in May 2015. He has been awarded the Bridge to the Doctorate Fellowship at Louisiana State University.

**Mary Jordan**, former Langston University Scholar majoring in Biology, graduated in May 2015. She is continuing her education at Purdue Veterinary School.

**Troy King Jr**, former Oklahoma State University Scholar majoring in Biochemistry, graduated in May 2016. He presented research at the Louis Stokes Midwest Center for Excellence in Indianapolis, IN, the 2016 Oklahoma Research Day in Tahlequah, OK, the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Asheville, NC, National LSAMP Meeting in Washington, D.C., the 2016 ABRCMS National Meeting in Seattle, WA, and the OSU Research Week in Stillwater, OK. For Fall 2016, he was one of the eight accepted to the University of Georgia PREP post-baccalaureate program for training in infectious disease research.

**Martel McKinney**, former Langston University Scholar majoring in Chemistry, graduated in May 2015. He was awarded a Bridge to the Doctorate Fellowship at Binghamton University Graduate School.

**Nick Means**, former Oklahoma State University Scholar majoring in Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, graduated in December 2015. In 2015, he participated in a six month International Research Experience for Undergraduates (I REU) through a collaborative grant with Louisiana State University and OK-LSAMP. At the Joseph Fourier University in Grenoble, France, he conducted microbiology research. In June 2015, he presented his research at the French-American Research Symposium. He gave a presentation on his international REU experience at the 2016 International Research Mentoring Symposium in Stillwater, OK and was a student panel member at the 2016 LSMCE Conference, Indianapolis, IN. He presented research at the 2015 SACNAS National Conference in Washington, D.C. and the 2016 LSMCE Conference in Indianapolis, IN. For Fall 2016, he has been accepted to graduate school at University of Oklahoma Center for Health Sciences.

## Alumni Updates

**Gretchan Moore**, former Oklahoma State University Scholar majoring in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and Microbiology, graduated in May 2016. She was named by the OSU Student Alumni Association to be one of the 12 2016 OSU Seniors of Significance. Her research presentation received first place at the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Symposium. She was also awarded the WENTZ Research Scholarship, named Tylenol Future Care National Scholar, and received the Outstanding Leadership and Service pin from the OSU Residential Hall Association. For Fall 2016, she was accepted to the OSU Center for Health Sciences in Tulsa Doctor of Osteopathic Program.

**Ana Chicas Mosier**, former Oklahoma State University Scholar majoring in Biology and Psychology, graduated in May 2015. This year, she was one of the 2,000 awarded the Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) Award, from over 17,000 applicants nationwide. Currently, she is in the OSU Ph.D. Integrative Biology program.

**Maeghan Murie-Harting**, former Oklahoma State University Scholar majoring in Chemistry and Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, graduated in May 2016. She was one selected as one of the Top Ten Seniors in the OSU College of Arts and Sciences and named a 2015 Morris K. Udall Scholar. She presented research at the National SACNAS conference, Washington, D.C., the American Chemical Society National meeting, San Diego, CA, and Research Day at the Capitol, where her presentation won third place. For summer 2015, she was selected for an internship at the University of Oklahoma's Health Sciences program. She was also the keynote speaker at the OSU WENTZ Scholar Symposium. She has one publication in Green Chemistry. For Fall 2016, she was accepted into the graduate program at University of Wisconsin.

**Kellyn Pollard**, former Langston University Scholar majoring in Biology, graduated in May 2015.

**Denzel Pugh**, former Langston University Scholar majoring in Chemistry, graduated in May 2015.

**Zach Ridge**, former Oklahoma State University Scholar majoring in Chemistry, graduated in May 2016. He presented at the LSMCE Conference in Indianapolis, IN and the 2015 National SACNAS conference in Washington, D.C.

**Katy Riojas**, former University of Tulsa Scholar majoring in Mechanical Engineering, graduated in May 2016. This year, she was one of the 2,000 awarded the Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) Award, from over 17,000 applicants nationwide. She presented at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Asheville, NC and the 2015 RESNA conference. She was also the recipient of Little Light House Therapy Volunteer of the Year Award, a finalist of NCAA Walter Byers Scholarship, and received the Medicine Wheel Award. For Fall 2016, she was accepted to graduate program at Vanderbilt University.

**Brooke Romine**, former Oklahoma State University Scholar majoring in Microbiology and Biochemistry, graduated in May 2016. She presented research at the 2016 Oklahoma Research Day in Tahlequah, OK, the OSU Research Week, the 2015 National SACNAS conference in Washington, D.C., and the 2016 WENTZ Research Symposium. She received the Outstanding Arts & Sciences Student Award and WENTZ research scholarship. For Fall 2016, she has been accepted to the Health Care Administration Master of Science degree program at the OSU Health Sciences Center in Tulsa, OK.

**Jodeci Ross**, former Langston University Scholar majoring in Computer Sciences/Tech, graduated in May 2015. She completed her Masters in Systems Engineering and accepted a position at the UMB Bank in Kansas City.

## Alumni Updates

**Natalie Ruiz Castillo**, former Cameron University Scholar majoring in Agriculture-Environmental Science, graduated in May 2016. This year, she was an InStars mentor at the Society for Freshwater Science Conference, assisted with TU STEM day, Tulsa, OK, presented her research at the American Geophysical Union National Conference in San Francisco, CA, and participated in a with the Minorities Striving and Pursuing Higher Degrees of Success in GEO REU summer 2016 Professional Development Program.

**Adrian Saenz**, former Oklahoma State University Scholar majoring in Civil Engineering, graduated in May 2016. He presented research at the 21<sup>th</sup> Annual LSAMP Research Symposium in Stillwater, OK, the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Asheville, NC, and the 2015 National SACNAS Conference in Washington, D.C. where he received an Outstanding Poster award. He also received a summer internship at the University of Colorado-Boulder in Environmental Sustainability, He was named one of the College of Engineering Saint Patrick Top 5 Graduating Seniors and named OSU Mr. Hispanic. For Fall 2016, he received a graduate research assistantship from the OSU Biosystems Department, where he has been accepted into the Master of Science program.

**Katherine Schwartz**, former Oklahoma State University Scholar majoring in Natural Resource Ecology and Management Wildlife and Pre Vet, graduated in May 2016. She received the 2016 Natural Resources Ecology and Management Departmental Honors Award and has been accepted to the OSU Veterinary College for Fall 2016.

**Linzi Thompson**, East Central University Scholar majoring in Environmental Science, graduated in May 2016 and has been accepted to a Ph.D. program at Stanford University. She received the ECU George Nigh Top Senior Award, presented research at the 21<sup>st</sup> OK-LSAMP Annual Research Symposium in Stillwater, OK and presented research at the Oklahoma Technical Society Annual Meeting in Oklahoma City, OK.

**Kevin Vo**, former Oklahoma State University Scholar majoring in Civil Engineering, graduated in May 2016. He presented research at the 2015 National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Washington D.C. and the 21st OK-LSAMP Annual Research Symposium in Stillwater, OK. He has accepted employment with H.W. Lochner Engineering Firm in Oklahoma City.

**Amber Ward**, former Cameron University Scholar majoring in Physics, graduated in May 2016. She accepted a summer 2016 internship with Notre Dame Biophysical Society Summer Program and represented Cameron University in Houston at the NASA Kennedy Space Center. She was accepted to participate as a mentor to the Summer NanoExplorer Summer Camp. She also presented research at the Women in Physics Conference in San Antonio, TX and the Baylor University Regional American Chemical Society meeting.

## Program Staff for 2016-2017



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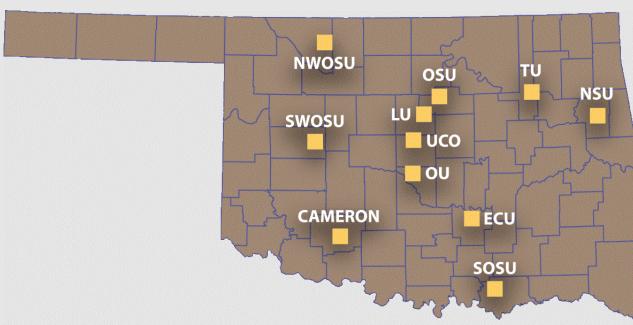
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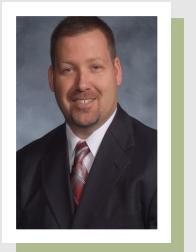
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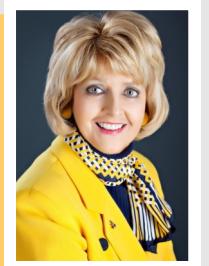
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