

OMRF welcomes 62nd class of Sir Alexander Fleming Scholars

[Among them is NOC student Monica Davis]

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OMRF has welcomed its new class of Sir Alexander Fleming Scholars. First row, from left, are Jocelyn Rodriguez, Erin McShan and Keirah Jefferson; second row, Han Li, William Towler, Kristy Johnson and James Li; third row, Henry Unterschuetz, Jarett Lewis, Abigail Ballard and Lauren Gawey; fourth row, Matthew Lerdahl, Josh Ross, Kobby Wiafe, Madeline Gish, Kari Hall and Monica Davis. [Photo provided]

The Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation has welcomed its 62nd class of Sir Alexander Fleming Scholars.

The students, all graduates of Oklahoma high schools, were chosen from a statewide pool of applicants and will spend the summer working in OMRF laboratories with senior medical researchers on in-depth, individual research projects.

The program is named for the Nobel Prize-winning scientist who discovered penicillin and in 1949 dedicated OMRF's first building. The program bearing his name was founded in 1956.

Eugene A. Young; NOC Agriculture, Science & Engineering Division instructor, wrote in an email sharing the announcement, "Pleased to announce that Monica Davis, a freshman student-athlete (soccer) who wants to be a biochemist, was accepted into the Fleming Scholar Program at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation (OMRF) in Oklahoma City. She sent me an e-mail indicating she accepted the position, which will take place this summer. For more information you can see this link concerning the scholar program: <https://omrf.org/about-omrf/education-outreach/fleming-scholar-program/>

Here is a link to the OMRF: <https://omrf.org/about-omrf/our-history/>

Here is the link to the 2016 scholars: <https://omrf.org/about-omrf/education-outreach/fleming-scholar-program/current-fleming-scholars/>

If this year's list is anything like the 2016 institutional list, a tremendous achievement by Monica, and a demonstration of the value one can receive from NOC. She was recruited by our previous soccer coach. When he left she decided to stick with NOC, primarily due to research possibilities. I visited with her (and parents) talked about the potential for research on her visit, and she was hooked. I'm currently working on a project idea with one of our former student's and adjunct Jennings Gabriele (Stillwater) to assess the potential for transmission of resistant bacteria from birds to humans in urban environments. Monica will be the primary student involved with the project."