OU HONORS STUDENT AWARDED NSF GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NORMAN – Based on her outstanding abilities and accomplishments as well as her potential to contribute to strengthening the vitality of the U.S. science and engineering enterprise, University of Oklahoma honors student Erica Brown, who last year was named a Goldwater Scholar, has been awarded a 2010 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship.

“The well-deserved fellowship being awarded to Erica Brown is one of the most prestigious recognitions in the entire country that can be given to an undergraduate science or engineering student,” said OU President David L. Boren. “Her student and faculty colleagues at the University of Oklahoma are extremely proud of her achievements.”

Brown, who will graduate summa cum laude from OU in May with a degree in chemical engineering, plans to pursue a doctorate in biomedical engineering at Duke University.

Her research experience includes work with stem cells in tissue engineering at OU and an NSF-sponsored Research Experience for Undergraduates internship at Cornell University to create a biodegradable nanofiber mesh for tissue engineering purposes. She has given numerous presentations at OU, Cornell and national conferences in St. Louis, Mo., and Philadelphia. Last summer, Brown interned with the Project Development division of ConocoPhillips, which recruits top students in the field of engineering with extensive leadership experience.

Brown has a 3.95 grade-point average and is a member of the OU Honors College, Alpha Lambda Delta honor society, Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society and the OU chapter of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, for which she has served as sophomore class representative and external vice president. Brown also has served as a Chevron Phillip mentor for chemical engineering sophomores and as a mentor on the Dean’s Leadership Council. She currently works as the service chair for Tau Beta Pi.

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Her honors and awards include the President David L. Boren Award for Outstanding Sophomore; Outstanding Sophomore in Chemical, Biological and Materials Engineering; the CBME Outstanding Junior and Outstanding Junior Researcher; the CBME Program of Excellence Undergraduate Research Scholarship; an Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program grant; the Harriet Harvey Scholarship for Outstanding Research; and the Alpha Lambda Delta Trow Scholarship and Graduate Fellowship.

The NSF award offers $30,000 per 12-month fellowship year for a maximum of three years.

(EDITORS: Hometown information follows.)

OKLAHOMA CITY – Erica Brown, a senior majoring in chemical engineering, is the daughter of Young Sook Cho and Gregory Duke Brown.