



## **Gilman Scholarship Program**

**Name: Stella Onyeri**

**Home Town: Stillwater, Oklahoma**

**U.S. Institution: Oklahoma State University**

**Major: Biochemistry**

**Country: Spain, Spring 2007**

My name is Stella Onyeri and I am a student majoring in Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, and Chemical engineering with a Biomedical option. I believe that if given the opportunity to study abroad I can gain an international perspective in the Biomedical Engineering field. Research is what I plan to do as a career once I graduate. One of my objectives or goals in life is to be able to work with different countries on finding successful biomedical applications that can solve world problems in health such as organ transplant shortages, various gum diseases, and finding alternatives for heart valve replacements.

I will be participating in the National Reciprocal Exchange Program through Oklahoma State University. This program allows the student to attend a host university in another country while paying the home tuition rate. I met a student from Valencia, Spain last year who had participated in this program. I noticed how much she had changed upon her completion of the program. The student conducted research in her area of study in economics. I asked her what her overall experience was. She told me that she walked away with the ability to compare the economy between her country and the United States. She was able to do this by seeing it with her own eyes and researching it with a specialized faculty member. She also walked away more culturally aware and with a better understanding of the English language than she had before she arrived to the United States. It was a good experience for me having her here. I had learned so much about her country that I had decided that I would go.

I had become serious about it and knew that the time was limited for me to go because I would be graduating in the Fall of the year 2007. The only opportunity I would have to go would be in the spring of the year 2007. In addition to the coursework I will take, I plan to become involved outside of the classroom as well. I plan to make the most of this once in a lifetime experience. I will join an engineering club while I am there. I belong to the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and it will be good to see how things function differently overseas. I also plan to help students with their English. It is important to give back to something you are benefiting from. I plan to take what I learn from the Spanish culture and apply it to my everyday life. So it is very important that I give them the opportunity to learn about me and my culture.

I have been through many hardships in the past including being homeless and on my own since I was sixteen years of age. I had to learn to hang in there and remain diligent. I even had to drop out of school for a semester to get my finances straight. I was able to return to school and provide a roof over my head in the process. I know that every process is for a reason and that nothing is just given to you; you have to work for it. I strongly believe that once you begin something you must finish no matter what the circumstances are. I have applied this belief to everything in my life since I have been in college and the determination works. I have been able to get through my health illnesses with my kidney and have the opportunity to complete college by working and with the help of assistance from the Pell Grant. It is organizations like the Benjamin Gilman Scholarship Program that gives students like me the opportunity to have experiences that would not ordinarily be available for a person like me. Thank you for considering me for your program.