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JSU STUDENT SELECTED TO MEET NOBEL LAUREATES

JACKSON, Miss. — Jason Ford-Green, a doctoral student at Jackson State University, was selected by the National Science Foundation as one of 20 outstanding research participants to attend the 57th Lindau Meeting of Nobel Laureates and Students in Lindau, Germany, from July 1-6.

“I definitely saw this as a golden opportunity to be able to go represent the United States and more importantly African-Americans,” said Ford-Green, 26, whose research concentration is computational chemistry. “It’s good to lay out a foundation for young black scientists to traverse these same fields and push the envelope further than their predecessors, including me.”

Since 1951, Nobel Laureates in chemistry, physics and physiology/medicine have convened in Lindau to conduct open and informal meetings with students and young researchers from around the world. This year’s event, which traditionally rotates by discipline each year, will focus on physiology and medicine.

NSF’s participants will join 29 other students to represent the United States and more than 500 other international students at the meeting. The other students representing the United States are sponsored by Mars Inc., the U.S. Department of Energy, the National Institutes of Health and Oak Ridge Associated Universities.

“Academically, this opportunity means being able to have a panoramic view of things,” said the Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., native, who earned a master’s degree in chemistry from JSU in December. “Professionally, it really means the world because I will be able to sit down and speak to different scientists and ask them what got them going and kept them motivated.”

During the meeting, the Laureates will lecture in the mornings on the topic of their choice related to physiology and medicine and participate in less formal small group discussions with the students in the afternoons and some evenings.

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The primary purpose of the meeting is to allow participants — most of whom are students — to benefit from informal interaction with the Nobel Prize winners. During lunches and dinners, Laureates will join participants at local restaurants for informal discussions. Various social events are also on the agenda to allow participants to meet other attendees from around the world.

Ford-Green said making contacts with people who have reached the pinnacle of scientific research will help him with his future endeavors.

The 2004 graduate of Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University plans to work for a government agency such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the National Institutes of Health or the National Science Foundation.

"I plan to go to work for them, establish contacts and from that point be able to go into academia, take a professorship and start a consulting business," Ford-Green said.

Photo of Jason Ford-Green: <http://www.jsums.edu/~announcements/Ford-Green.JPG>

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