Ball State Grad awarded NSF Graduate Research Fellowship

Ball State graduate Rachel Suroweic is the recipient of a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship to continue her academic career for her doctorate at the University of Michigan.

"This is an incredible honor," Suroweic said. "The fellowship will allow me to focus on research at the University of Michigan in a topic I’m extremely passionate about. It also provides opportunities for international research and professional development."

For Suroweic's doctoral degree, she’s working in the Orthopaedic Research Laboratory within the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at U of M’s School of Medicine. Her current research is focused on the molecular imaging of bone structure and metabolism, thereby pursuing pathways for novel therapeutic treatment of Osteogenesis Imperfecta, a disease that results in bone fragility.

The NSF Graduate Fellowship program recognizes and provides financial support for outstanding graduate students in the NSF-supported science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines who are pursuing research-based master's and doctoral degrees at accredited U.S. institutions.

In 2009, Suroweic earned her undergraduate degree from Ball State in exercise science then continued her graduate work in the biomechanics program, graduating from the program in 2011.

She credits Ball State for helping her get where she is today, noting members of her thesis committee provided her guidance in applying both to U of M as well as for the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship.

"Rachel was a very motivated student that wanted to be involved and learn," said Clark Dickin, director of Ball State's Biomechanics Laboratory and an exercise science professor. "She loved the research process and was excited to be able to continue doing research after leaving Ball State."