MARILYN AND BILL TAYLOR
MEET SOME OF THE STUDENTS
IN THE BESITOS PROGRAM IN
THE KSU COLLEGE OF
EDUCATION (FROM LEFT):
IRLANDA GUTIERREZ, DANIEL
SANCHEZ, JUDY VANG, JORGE
ESTRELLA, MADAI RIVERA,
MIKE FLENTHROPE, EILEEN
MONTALVO, KASEY STADLER,
KYLIE JO BROWN, DAXELI
MONTERROZA AND ANNA
ALCANTARA.

WINTER/SPRING
2003

PHOTOS: J&C IMAGING/JOHN LABARGE

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

OUR MISSION
The mission of the Kansas State University Foundation is to secure and prudently manage private gifts in support of Kansas State University and foster a culture that unites philanthropic desires with university priorities.

OUR VISION
The Kansas State University Foundation is helping to build the world’s finest land-grant university.

OUR VALUES
Respect, diligence and integrity guide our interactions, decisions and work.
ROMANCE

Marilyn Spinhour grew up in Westwood, Kan. Intrigued by other languages, she studied Spanish and French, two of the Romance languages at K-State. While in college, Marilyn took an opportunity to travel across Europe. Short on time, Marilyn missed visiting Spain and the chance to try out her Spanish language skills, but the overall trip left a lasting impression.

“By helping students have an international experience, they will be better able to go out and help others,” Marilyn said.

She speaks from experience. After Marilyn earned a bachelor’s degree in modern languages and a teaching certificate at K-State in 1966, she taught Spanish to fourth, fifth and sixth graders at elementary schools in North Kansas City. Although Marilyn later worked in information systems at AT&T and Reuters, she never lost interest in languages and teaching.

PASSION AND KISSES

Socorro Herrera and Kevin Murry arrived at K-State in 1996. These college professors directed a Taylor-made teachers’ aid program. For a student in bilingual education, we provide enthusiasm for their native language or country. “The main goal of bilingual education is for kids to learn English without sacrificing their native language or culture,” said Daniel Sanchez, a junior who moved from Mexico to Gardner in 1994. “We have different ways of teaching English to students, depending on their age. If we have elementary kids, we might utilize the money.

The first wave of BESITOS students has applied for study abroad programs in Vichy, France and Ronda, Spain. Six students plan to travel in the summer or fall 2003.

“It’s incredible what you can do when you provide the opportunities,” Herrera said. “I hope the Taylors understand how grateful we are to them for providing this next step — it’s an additional dimension through which BESITOS students may experience other cultures, languages and educational systems. These experiences will better prepare our students to serve the needs of all students, irrespective of country of origin or first language spoken.”

“The Taylors generosity enriches an already special program,” said Michael Holen, dean of the College of Education. “Perspectives our BESITOS students gain in their studies abroad will enhance the instruction they provide throughout their careers. Good programs can become great programs when people with big hearts step forward to make a real difference.”
Their decision to make a gift to K-State grew from a desire to ultimately benefit communities as a whole. The couple has made a commitment of $200,000 to establish the Dr. David and Rita Beggs Marriage and Family Therapy Graduate Fellowship. The fellowship awarded a graduate student with $35,000 for the fall 2002 semester, and again for spring 2003.

David is a native of Kansas City, Kan., and a 1956 graduate of Ward High School. He received his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Kansas City's Rockhurst College in 1960. David entered the University of Kansas School of Medicine in 1961.

Rita Hentzelman was raised in Leavenworth, Kan., and graduated from Immaculata High School in 1955. Later that year she enrolled at the Sisters of Charity School of Nursing in Leavenworth. A portion of her training took place at Providence Medical Center in Kansas City, Mo.

The couple met at Providence in 1956. David worked there as an orderly during his first year of college, occasionally helping out at the "canteen." A certain student nurse came in for a soda pop, and a couple of weeks later, they began dating. David and Rita were married in 1960.

Rita worked as a nurse until the birth of their third child. While David finished his residency, Rita became a full-time mother. Once all the children were in school, Rita earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from St. Mary of the Plains, Garden City, Kan., in 1982. She went on to earn a master's degree in professional counseling from Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kan., in 1984. Rita practiced as a marriage and family therapist for 15 years before the couple moved to Texas last year.

David's medical career has taken them to Wilmington, Del., Amarillo, Texas, and part time back in Hays. The move also put them closer to their three grandsons.

"David and I have always been interested in mental health. We knew about K-State because our friends were leaders we need. Giving to K-State has been very beneficial for many years to come. If we don't educate our young people we're not going to have the leaders we need," David said.

"Rita and I are committed to making an impact on our world and our society," David said. "It makes a bad situation worse if there aren't good family dynamics. Hurt and anger that has never healed can explode around somebody who is dying." We appreciate the Beggs' generosity in support of marriage and family therapy," said Bill Meredith, director of the School of Marriage and Family Studies and Human Services. "They have truly rewarded the excellence of the program with their interest in preparing students to work in the field of mental health."

"Rita and I are interested in continuing our support of the fellowship for the college and our world," David said. "We want to focus our efforts by giving in a way that would be beneficial for many years to come. If we don't educate our young people we're not going to have the leaders we need. Giving to K-State has been very worthwhile."
Alfred Schwan was raised in Marshall, Minn., and earned a B.S in mechanical or electronic engineering technology from the DeVry Technical Institute in Salina, with a giving history surpassing $250,000. Al's understanding of engineering technology and his love of flight led him to establish the Al Schwan Fund for Excellence in Aviation in 2002. Recognizing Tony's Pizza Service, this $50,000 gift will support student projects and provide scholarships for outstanding students enrolled in mechanical or electronic engineering technology or technology management.

"My brother was once asked, "What does it take to succeed at Schwan?" Al said, "Mavnin told them to work hard, be enthusiastic, have integrity, believe in growth — personally, spiritually and in business — and help one another. "Those values are, hopefully, in the hearts and minds of our people, and they're engraved in stone."

They are, in fact, engraved on a marble paperweight atop Al's desk.

Since 1986, Schwan's and its subsidiaries have supported KSU and what was then called Kansas Technological Institute in Salina, with a giving history surpassing $250,000. Al's understanding of engineering technology and his love of flight led him to establish the Al Schwan Fund for Excellence in 2002. Recognizing Tony's Pizza Service, this $50,000 gift will support student projects and provide scholarships for outstanding students enrolled in mechanical or electronic engineering technology or technology management.

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"ABSOLUTELY AMAZING!"

That’s the appraisal of Telefund Director Gordon Dowell following another record-setting Telefund campaign. A late pledge pushed the month-long phone-a-thon to $1,403,303 via 21,221 pledges. Telefund is the world’s largest all-volunteer telephone campaign for higher education. Overall, 1,860 students participated.

“Considering the economic and geopolitical challenges facing our nation, the success of Telefund 2003 is absolutely amazing,” Dowell said. “The pledge and participation totals speak volumes about alumni pride, student leadership and generous support from the business community.”

Telefund started in 1980 and provides scholarships and educational benefits in the nine academic colleges. During those 24 years, records have been set each year for dollars pledged, alumni donors or both.

K-State ranks No. 4 nationally and No. 1 in the Big 12 based on percentage of alumni supporting their alma mater. With more than 20,000 donors annually, Telefund is a key to those standings.

For more, click to www.found.ksu.edu/telefund.

OVRATIONS

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