The Developing Scholars Program is known for the diversity of its Scholars’ career interests. Majors range from biology to pre-law and from kinesiology to engineering, the humanities and the arts. More and more students, however, are choosing to enter the medical field, and for those who work hard, DSP has set the precedent.

Four former Developing Scholars have made the decision to become medical professionals. Kristy Morales, Reinaldo Morales, Hieu Doan, and recent DSP alum Samuel Ornelas, have all chosen to move forward and pursue their medical careers.

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Jorge Goes to Harvard... and Idaho... and Virginia... and California... and back to Kansas...

On the way to Idaho, he had a layover in Seattle, so Jorge saw the sights in Seattle. He visited the Space Needle, stopped by the very first Starbucks, visited Pike Place Fish Market, and the offices of the Discovery Center, the main players in the push for Intelligent Design.

In the Fall semester Jorge and Jasmine Sharp journeyed to Virginia for the Strategies for Ecology Education, Diversity and Sustainability Conference. There were students from Yale, Arizona, Florida, Virginia and Kansas at the SEEDS conference. Jorge and Jasmine participated in interesting research activities. They learned about tree gardening as well as working with salamanders and worms, and some interesting facts about the Pangaea Theory and its origins.

Shortly after Jorge returned from Virginia, he learned that he had been accepted into the University of California Berkeley Edge Conference. (Only 40 were chosen out of 200 applicants.) While in Berkeley, Jorge had the chance to speak with several professors, including Dr. Eileen Lacey, and graduate students that work in his same field.

Although Jorge has traveled across the country for opportunities that presented themselves via his research, he has had some great opportunities right here at Kansas State. While presenting his research last April, he was approached to give a presentation to the Audubon Society, a group entirely dedicated to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth’s biological diversity.

As Jorge approaches graduation, he looks forward to May and to a well-deserved break. That may not happen, however, as Jorge has applied for another SEEDS conference in Puerto Rico followed by a second internship at Harvard. Eventually, we feel confident that Jorge will find time for graduate school. We just don’t know where yet.

Jasmine Sharp

In addition to participating in the SEEDS conference with Jorge, Jasmine is the recipient of the King Memorial and Blue Key Scholarships. She will be studying abroad in France this summer with Dr. Robert Clark.

Where Are They Now?

Morgan Fisher:
- Inaugural class 2000 - 2001
- Masters, Bowling Green University
- Employment: Athletic Academic Coordinator, George Mason University

Travis Hudson:
- Dallas Morning News online edition

Clemente Jaquez-Herrera:
- RTKL Architectural International Firm, Dallas, LEED certified

Danielle English:
- University of Denver: Master of Science, Public Relations, Sp 2010

Alicia Edison:
- Inaugural class 2000 – 2001
- Masters of Social Work, University of Kansas
- Employment: Army Family Advocacy Program Prevention Specialist, Schofield Barracks, HI

Where Are They Now?

Morgan Fisher

Clemente Jaquez-Herrera

Danielle English

Alicia Edison

The Builders’ Association Scholarship Foundation Awards

Alejandro De Luna and Leonel Hernandez received a $3000 scholarship for the 2010 Academic school year from The Builders’ Association.

The Builders’ Association Scholarship Foundation is a nonprofit endowment fund whose mission is to support scholarships, high-impact research, and educational programs in the commercial construction industry.
Teach for America: Teaching for ALL

For years now, there have been soldiers fighting in the war in Iraq and in Afghanistan. But while the war abroad has been headlining in the news almost daily, there is a silent war that is being fought right here on American soil: educational inequity. According to Teach for America, “Only one in 10 students from low-income communities graduates from college, and children living in low-income communities are already two to three grades behind their higher-income peers by the time they reach fourth grade.” So what is being done about this problem?

Teach for America, established in 1990, is a national organization that recruits college students who are among the nation’s most promising future leaders to help end this educational atrocity. It is our pleasure to announce that one of our alumni Scholars Bobby Gomez has been recognized by Teach for America (TFA) as one of those promising leaders capable of fighting this educational deficit. Bobby Gomez, a senior majoring in elementary education, has accepted a position as a TFA Corp member. He will be teaching Special Education in New Mexico. Bobby was also a recipient of the Commerce Bank Innovation Scholarship by fighting for equity, teaching for all. Bobby says that he hopes to inspire students with the confidence to learn, supplying them with tools to help in following their dreams, and to advocate that education be shared not only to the middle and upper classes, but to everyone. We look forward to hearing more about Bobby in the future as he continues to stand in the frontlines of education by fighting for equity, teaching for America, and most importantly, teaching for all.

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National Excelecencia in Education Honoroble Mention

The Developing Scholars Program is proud to announce that it was named the Excelecencia in Education Baccalaureate Honorable Mention in October for its success in recruitment, retention, and graduation of Latino/a students. K-State’s DSP was the only Kansas initiative selected in this nationwide competition. A celebration and recognition ceremony was held in October in Washington, D.C. Dr. Farrell Webb attended.

At a time when more and more Latinos/as are graduating from high school, Excelecencia in Education is a national organization whose goal is to advance Latino/a student access and achievement in higher education. The DSP shows a 93% success rate for Latino/a students who have accessed means graduation or matriculation into a professional program. Currently, three out of four DSP alums in medical school are Latino/as.

Rare Species Discovered

Usually scholars look to biology, chemistry, and physics labs to identify rare species, but this year a rare species has been spotted wandering the halls of the Math Department. This rarity? We in Developing Scholars refer to her as Perla Salazar. Perla is a Latina transfer student from Dodge City Community College who came to K-State through the Bridges to the Future grant. Her research, Explicit Similarity Solutions and Their Asymptotic Behavior, Perla tells us, is about special explicit similarity solutions of the nonlinear diffusion equation $\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \text{div} \left( \gamma \left( \text{grad} u \right)^n \right)$, more specifically focusing on the special case where $M = 0$ and $N = 0$. Perla is breaking down stereotypes as a woman from an underrepresented background who not only speaks Spanish but the language of Mathematics as well. Perla’s mentors are Dr. Marianne Korten and Dr. Charles Moore.

Winds of Change

This past October Karmen Harris, sophomore in industrial engineering, and Justin Curry, freshman in electrical engineering, attended the Kansas Wind and Renewable Energy Conference in Topeka. Dr. Noel Shulz, their Developing Scholars mentor, gave them this opportunity: “The purpose of attending the conference was so that Justin and I could learn more about the different renewable energy efforts taking place in Kansas, specifically wind energy and the different aspects of implementing the renewable energy in Kansas,” Karmen said. The conference covered topics such as Renewable Energy, Transmission Issues, Energy Efficiency and Economic Development. It was a great learning experience for both Justin and Karmen even though a few of the topics went into subjects they were not familiar with, but as Karmen said, “It gave us new questions to ask.”

Justin had never attended a professional conference before. What impressed him was how serious and passionate people were about renewable energy. “I learned a lot about how they expand wind farms and what it takes to do so. They said that their most important task is making everything more efficient. This stimulated my interest because it opened my eyes to the many jobs available in renewable energy. People need engineers to make things more efficient.”
Edgerley-Franklin Urban Leadership Scholars

Another very important group, the Edgerley-Franklin Urban Leadership Scholars, will select their third year of recipients on April 19. The scholarship was created in the name of Paul and Sandy Edgerley and his siblings Susan and Steve as well as the Elisa and Bernard Franklin family. Both families have strong passions for the urban communities and significant ties to K-State. It is the hope of the donors that after graduation, Scholars will contribute to the urban communities in order to improve quality of life for those living in urban areas. Edgerley-Franklin Scholarship recipients are learning and growing through their experiences in both the Developing Scholars Program and the Leadership Studies minor.

“They are challenged with the ability of leading others to a better goal,” says Michelle Foster, freshman in Political Science and Ethnic Studies and first year scholarship recipient.

Derrik Wiggins, sophomore and member of the first Edgerley-Franklin Scholarship class says, “I am learning how to be a leader and a server that works for the specific needs of people.”

Recipients of the Edgerley-Franklin scholarship receive $3000 a year for four years. Presently, K-State has five recipients: Edmond Rivera, Derrik Wiggins, Michelle Foster, Mary Jackson, and Oscar Rodriguez who studies on the Salina campus. Administrators of the scholarship are currently in the process of recruiting next year’s class of exceptional leaders. Much time and careful planning goes into the selection of these scholars. Bernard Franklin, president of Penn Valley Community College in Kansas City and family advocate for the scholarship says, “We will look for students who have a proven track record in high school as academic high achievers and who have many hours of community service in the urban community.” Derrick and Mary will be on international service teams this summer in Africa and Mexico.

Citizens-in-Training

As Developing Scholars, we have chosen to be viewed by society as leaders. The actions of the educated shape the foundation of this country. As Anita’s mantra states, “With great opportunity, comes great responsibility.” While the Developing Scholars are among leaders in academics, our efforts in community service also mold us as civic-minded individuals. This year with projects such as the annual “Rake-N-Run,” “Mittens for Many,” and our canned food drive, the program again showed why we Scholars lead by example. Scholars helped the elderly in more than a dozen homes with our “Rake-N-Run” event. The event gives Scholars a chance to make a difference in the community by raking leaves of those who need the assistance. This year the event was promoted at the Senior Center and those who expressed interest received the help they desired. Mitten donations were taken to the local shelter where people could be provided a small handful of warmth this holiday season. This year, the Developing Scholars Program turned the canned food drive into a fan competition to see which group could raise the most in donations. Scholars showed enthusiasm, donating above and beyond in many cases. The Flint Hills Breadbasket received 130 pounds of assorted non-perishable food items from the program. We students of the Developing Scholars Program are taught more than academics; we are great citizens-of-the-community.

Garmon Social Justice Awards

Rymonda Davis, sophomore in journalism, and Derrik Wiggins, sophomore in Open Options and Japanese, were recipients of the Joey Lee Garmon Awards this past September. Awards are given for demonstrated recognition to an individual’s commitment to social justice. Each received a $700 award. Rymonda’s mentor is MJ Morgan, history, and Derrik’s mentor is Farrell Webb, family studies.

Getting Down to Business

Corporations are seeking the world’s best college students majoring in business-related fields. The non-profit organization Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) states that it “brings a diverse network of university students together to create a more sustainable world through the positive power of business.”

Oscar Rodriguez, a freshman majoring in engineering technology at K-State Salina and an Edgerley-Franklin Urban Leadership Scholar, has had the privilege of participating on the SIFE team there. In the short time that he has been on the team, they have already completed one of their business projects: “The Green Project.” Oscar said, “We did a study that focused on determining the amount of recyclable trash thrown away on campus. After sorting through the trash, we found out that 30% of the trash thrown away by students is recyclable.”

In addition to this project, Oscar’s SIFE team competes against other SIFE groups from across the country year round. At these competitions, SIFE teams are presented with a real-life business case. After hearing the case, each team has 24 hours to work on creating an innovative business solution. The winning team receives a cash prize. Struggling businesses then take these solutions and implement them so that they can survive in their local communities. In the fall of 2009 at Southern Arkansas University’s Walgreens Wrangle competition, Oscar’s SIFE team was named the grand champion. Oscar is really excited about being a part of SIFE this year: “SIFE has been a great outlet for me,” he says. His success with SIFE has also been evidenced in work with DSP mentor Les Kinsler, professor of engineering technology. Kinsler stated, “Oscar and I have made much more progress on the research project. A lot of the progress I think was due to his increased comfort level with the college, again, thanks to the SIFE connection.” Oscar and Professor Kinsler are investigating the current state of use of speech recognition software in today’s commonly used computer platforms and applications. From environmental sustainability projects, to creating innovative business solutions, in addition to conducting research all in his freshman year, Oscar is truly getting down to business.

The Tradition Continues: Outstanding Seniors

Danielle Hoskins, early childhood education, was selected by the College of Human Ecology as one of six outstanding graduating seniors. She was selected for her professional commitment, professional growth and development, and service to others. Honorees were selected by faculty. Danielle has already been hired as lead teacher by Project Eagle in Kansas City. Danielle’s DSP mentor was Kathrine Schlageck, Beach Museum Senior Educator.

Nathan Garcia, accounting, was selected as outstanding graduating senior by the College of Business for excellence in service and academic achievement. He was a member of the college’s Multicultural Business Student Association, serving as treasurer and president. In addition to Developing Scholars, Nate was a mentor with Semillas de Excelencia, Kaufman Scholars, and a student leader with Project Impact. Garcia also was active in recruiting multicultural students to K-State’s College of Business Administration. His DSP mentor was Eric Higgins.