

# Where They're At & Where They're Going



Last summer, **M. Talia Gutierrez** interned at General Motors in Kansas City. This May, she will be receiving her Master's degree in industrial engineering. She plans to relocate to Houston, TX, where she has accepted a position with Exxon Mobil.

**Clemente Jaquez-Herrera** was a recipient of the Benjamin A. Gilman International Award and is studying in Orvieto, Italy, with fellow architecture students. He will continue to work on his Master's degree upon returning to the States. His work with the DREAM Act and involvement in Hispanic issues in Kansas led him to the Inaugural Ball, where he met Governor Kathleen Sebelius.

**Kieu Nguyen** will be exhibiting her work at Willard Hall's Chapman Gallery. She will complete her BFA degree over the summer as she attends Florence University of Art in Italy. She plans to attend graduate school to further her education in fine arts.

**Andrea Pardo**, junior in architecture, was a recipient of the National Lideres de Hoy ("Leaders of Today") Award, a \$5000 scholarship! Andrea says her passion is helping fellow Hispanic students achieve their educational goals by being an advocate with the DREAM Act. Her award included a three-day trip to Washington, D.C. for the conference.

**Lizette (Vargas) Strader** is the first DSP scholars to have her poster accepted at the 2007 Council on Undergraduate Research "Posters on the Hill" at the U.S. capitol Washington, D.C.

- Answers to Did You Know:
1. Joey Martinez
  2. Johna Wallace & Zach Marteney
  3. Sheila Ellis
  4. Sammy Ornelas
  5. Katie Herrera
  6. Alex Desormaux & Michelle Hubin
  7. Tony Modzelewski
  8. Amber Tyler
  9. Tiffany Harris
  10. Kristel Williams
  11. Jesus Garcia

## DSP 2006-2007 WORD SEARCH

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- ARTICLE  
BEACH  
BREADBASKET  
CHEMISTRY  
COLLOQUIUM  
COURAGE  
DEMOGRAPHICS  
EMPIRICAL  
EXPERIMENT  
HONORARIES  
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SMARTIES  
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SYMPOSIUM  
TIMESHEETS  
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# SCHOLARS' SCOPE

Vol. 3 No.2  
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kansas state university  
developing scholars program

## Inside this issue:

- WHO'S WHO {How well do you know our Scholars?}  
TOP NOTCH {Scholars receive scholarships, research grants and present at conferences.}  
SPOTLIGHT {Mentors and Scholars united through research.}  
STATUS {Scholar alums graduate, current ones travel and intern. Graduate studies and jobs await.}



## Mentor and Mentee have Award-Winning Year

by Kieu Nguyen



Olga Martinez, first-year Scholar in Pre-Dentistry, came to the USA from Zacatecas, Mexico, as a young infant. In her experience as an advocate for social justice, she has participated in the *Day without a Mexican*, wrote a letter to her senator seeking justice for minorities in work settings, as well as driver's licenses and citizenship for immigrants. Additionally, she wishes there were more collaboration with the Mexican government for the number of undocumented immigrants coming to the States. Olga also encourages others to vote by explaining how leaders have a great influence on these issues. Olga was recognized for her work for social justice when she received the 2006-2007 Joey Lee Garman Award. Don't think these are the only accomplishments this young Latina has under her belt, however.

A transfer student from Dodge City Community College, Olga has had quite a year at K-State. Through her DSP research project, Olga was introduced to mentor, Dr. Lorena Passarelli, from the Department of Biology. Since the start of Olga's project, Dr. Passarelli has been introducing her to more than just the realm of research. Dr. Passarelli guides Olga's eligibility for

grants, scholarships and awards. Consequently, Olga was awarded a \$1000 cancer research grant through the Terry C. Johnson Center for Basic Cancer Research. She will use the funds to continue studying a virus that has a viral fibroblast growth factor associated with development, differentiation, and the spread of cancer.



Olga's mentor has had quite a year herself. Dr. Passarelli, born in Guatemala, also understands the need for diversity and acceptance. In receiving this year's Commerce Bank Award for Distinguished Service to Minority Students, Dr. Passarelli says the most meaningful aspect is that diversity is being recognized on campus. When she received the award, she said, "It really boils down to the fact that I'm fortunate enough

"I want to give students credit for their achievements."

to recruit outstanding minority students to my research team. The award recognizes the students, and in turn, recognizes me as a good mentor.

However, I want to give students credit for their achievements." Dr. Passarelli influences students across the country as well.

She is currently working with her alma mater, Simmons College, in Boston as a mentor for a program called MOSAIC. The program asks alumnae mentors to provide career leadership for Simmons students of diverse backgrounds. In DSP, Dr. Passarelli has worked with former Scholars, Kristy Morales and Rey Morales, who are both now in medical schools.





## To Thine Own Self Be True { Third Annual Target on Excellence Colloquium reveals the power of moral courage }

by Bobby Gomez

“We cannot hide anymore. You know it and I know it; we are intellectual.”

When placed in such a fast-paced collegiate setting, it can be easy to forget to reflect important ideals and characteristics such as moral courage. Moral courage was the discussion at hand at the Third Annual Target on Excellence Colloquium. This year’s “ToE” was held February 19, 2007.

The Target on Excellence Forum was established by the Developing Scholars Program Administrative Director Anita Cortez. According to Cortez, the Developing Scholars Program was one of the first recipients at Kansas State University to receive funds from the Targeted Excellence grants. In order to highlight the scholars that benefit from the grant, the Target on Excellence Colloquium was established. The intent of the Target on Excellence Colloquium was to showcase and spotlight multicultural students who achieved academically and were socially responsible. “We cannot hide anymore. You know it and I know it; we are intellectual,” proclaimed third-year Scholar Elise Gaines. “Now education, for many of us, is a hard-won opportunity. This is something that should be

cherished, utilized and displayed.”

displayed.”

This year’s ToE highlighted seven, high-achieving scholars: Sheila Ellis (sophomore), Elise Gaines (junior), Jesus Garcia (freshman), Sammy Ornelas (senior), Amber Tyler (junior), Kristel Williams (freshmen), and Jannet Wright (senior). The selected Scholars demonstrated the power of knowledge through their reflection on moral courage.

These Scholars were able to describe moral courage and how it has affected their lives by sharing their experiences and goals with a diverse audience hanging on every word.

“I have now lived in the U.S.A. for four years, and I feel like a very different person. I feel as a person that needs to set an example. I feel a commitment to those who are disadvantaged, to those who can not defend themselves,” stated Garcia.

The evening was concluded by the Master of Ceremony, second-year Developing Scholar, Matt Martinez. Martinez encouraged the audience to leave with further consideration of moral courage and their own experiences with it. The audience was impressed by the scholars and left with a greater appreciation of their own ability to succeed and encourage success.

So, even though the hours of the day seem too short and everything is piled onto an already packed schedule, do not forget some of the most important things. Do not forget to think about how you, too, can use the power of moral courage.

## staff & contributors...



**joi.sampson** is our DSP graduate assistant. Joi is currently working toward her Master’s degree in Counseling and Student Development. This summer, Joi and family will pack up for their return to the Big Apple, where she will be closer to family and can complete her degree. Her husband, Siepo, is an English major and musician. He will be playing the piano at our Poster Symposium.



**bobby.gomez** is a sophomore in Secondary Education and a second-year scholar. Bobby was on the President’s Honor Roll for the Fall semester. He plans to volunteer for the Kansas City Wizards’ kid’s soccer camp over the summer. Last summer, he toured Europe with a friend. Ask him what his plans are for this year. Bobby’s coverage on Target on Excellence can be found on page 2.



**kieu.nguyen** is a fifth-year in Fine Arts with a focus on drawing. Kieu looks forward to her summer in Italy. She has served as *Scope* editor since its inception and designed the DSP logo. Her stories are a feature on Olga Martinez and Dr. Passarelli and a student spotlight on Sheila Ellis. She has had her work displayed at the Hardback Cafe at Hastings and Anita’s private collection in the DSP office.



**kristel.williams** is a freshman in Elementary Education focusing on English as a Second Language. She is a first-year Scholar and a new addition to the DSP staff. Kristel was a presenter at ToE and was a recipient of the Ashley O’Rourke Foundation Scholarship. This summer, Kristel plans to tutor students in math and Spanish. In her feature story, Kristel acquaints us with fellow first-year Scholar Mike Hodge.



**elise.gaines** is a third-year Scholar and new DSP staff member. A junior in English in the creative writing tract, Elise presented in Target on Excellence about the “nerd within.” Her famous line: “Friends don’t let friends dumb down.” This summer she plans to hold a research internship though McNair Scholars. Elise’s fresh approach to writing can be seen in *Mantis* and her piece on Paul Migwi.



**zach.marteney** is a freshman in Biology & Pre-Veterinary Medicine. He was accepted into the Global Learning Semesters Program to study in Belize this summer. Zach is hoping to be accepted into the College of Veterinary Medicine for the 2008-09 academic year. You will find encouragement in his spotlight on Areli Monarrez and Dr. Nguyen and his word search is quite a challenge. Are you up for it?



Sheila Ellis { interview with the reporter }  
by Kieu Nguyen



“I’m a minority  
by race and by  
gender.”

WE know someone who was awarded a \$10,000 scholarship, two paid summer internships, *and* a full-time paid internship for a year after graduation -- do you? It is first-year Scholar, Sheila Ellis. Born with African-American and Filipina heritages, Sheila is a sophomore in Print Journalism.

The “Landmark Scholars” program was set up by the Landmark Publishing Group, a major group under Landmark Communications companies on the East Coast. The nation-wide search was on, and Sheila won and was placed at the Roanoke Times in Virginia. She begins her first internship this summer. Find out how this bright-eyed reporter chose the path that led to this exciting moment.

**K:** How did you have the courage to pursue stories and practice freedom of speech?  
**S:** Especially in college media, freedom of speech is a big deal because we are just now getting a taste of it. In the newsroom at K-State *The Collegian* pushes the idea of freedom of speech. What I try to do when I think a source says something controversial, maybe bashing one side, I usually try to find someone else who has another opinion so I can get both sides. It reflects on me.

When Phil Kline was running for attorney general, he was trying to dig up abortion records. I contacted his office and they were saying he wasn’t searching the identities... Then, I talked to the Women’s Studies Department and Political Science Department Head to see what all they had to say so it didn’t sound so one-sided.

Even if it is controversial, I try to get a diverse range of sources because sources are the ones telling the stories. Being a [racial] minority and female shows me what kind of stories I want to get.

**K:** Wow, it’s interesting you said, ‘the sources are the ones telling the story.’

**S:** Even if I were in a different field, I think it takes courage, because I’m a minority by race and by gender. It takes courage because my by-line is on there. If I write a controversial story, not saying it’s a reflection

of me, but in a way, it is. Some people don’t get that it is not my story, but the sources tell the stories. A few months ago, I was reporting at Fort Riley for the Deployment Ceremony. I was the only minority reporting on it, which I didn’t think about at that time. I had problems getting the sources to talk to me and there were media from everywhere. I had a hard time getting the same attention. Then I saw a woman holding her son, and she was just bawling. A photographer was all in her face taking pictures and there were others at a distance trying to as well. I ended up being the only reporter who could use those photos because she only talked to me, even though all the other reporters were trying to get her name. But, in the other situations, like with colonels, they were trying *not* to talk to me.

**K:** If that’s what you have to deal with, why did you even want to be a journalist? Aren’t there easier routes?

**S:** I always knew I loved to write and I like to ask a lot of questions. So, I took this little career test my freshman year of high school. It said I should either be a wedding planner or a reporter. At the Topeka Capital Journal, I got into the *Topeka Capital Journal Explorer Post*, where I got to shadow reporters. They told me I could write about anything I wanted, and, at the time, I wrote about fashion and hip-hop. It was based on that popular song *Bling, Bling*. The *only* thing I wanted to do was be a fashion reporter. Then, as a college freshman, I had to take the stories they gave me. I found I really enjoyed going to work and not knowing what I’d get. It had nothing to do with entertainment or fashion. After I started getting feedback from stories, I started changing my mind because there are more important issues than just fashion and entertainment.

**K:** Does the research project you’re conducting with Dr. Soon-Tae An and Dr. Angela Powers relate to your own career goals?

**S:** What I’m doing now is more on the business side. With my major, I don’t get a whole lot of that. So, it’s good. I want to eventually own my own publication. The sad part about my major is that people are not reading newspapers like they used to. Twenty years from now, nobody is going to read newspapers, which

is killing them because no one will be subscribing anymore and will just go online. Whatever publication outlet is going when I’m ready will be the one I will pursue.

(*Sheila now writes for the Topeka Capital Journal*).

Paul Migwi {His life from Kenya to Kansas}



by Elise Gaines  
Quiet and thoughtful, freshman and first-year Scholar Paul Migwi waits patiently for my barrage of questions. All Developing Scholars stand out, but Paul is unique even among his peers. His accent nearly undetectable, many are unaware Paul has only been in the U.S. for two and a half years. Paul and his family moved from Kenya to Kansas when he was sixteen years old. Such a big move certainly comes with adjustments, and Paul has made many changes to his lifestyle. Some changes were difficult, like learning a new vocabulary. Having grown up with British English, Paul also learned to spell differently. Other differences made things easier. In Kenya, Paul attended boarding school for six months. He studied from 4am to 11pm and had eleven classes a day. When his family moved to the U.S., Paul enrolled in Shawnee Mission North West High School. There, Paul attended six or seven classes a day. At times the material was different, and Paul had to relearn selected materials for class. However, there are advantages to Paul’s background and education. Paul is trilingual and speaks Swahili and Kikuyu in addition to English. He also enjoyed being able to attend a class where students would learn about elephants, and he could say that he had actually been near them. When talking about lions, he had petted one (which he says is just like petting a dog, only more carefully). Some changes were fun. Paul drove his first automatic car, and though he had to work to pay for his insurance,

Did You Know? by Elise Gaines

1. He wrestled in the conference tournament in Boulder, CO, and placed first in the 174 lb. weight class.
2. These two Scholars are bound for Belize in the summer.
3. This Scholar will be interning in Virginia for the Roanoke Times newspaper.
4. This Scholar has a research internship with the McNair Scholars Program on “Blood-Flow Kinetics.”
5. She has been accepted into nursing school and will be traveling to Granada and Salamanca, Spain!
6. These ladies have been accepted to the College of Veterinary Medicine! Yay!
7. This second-year Scholar received \$1000 from the Kansas Arborist Association and attended the Kansas Arborist Association Conference in Topeka.
8. This summer, she will be traveling to Monticello, MN, for an internship with Cargill Sunny Fresh.
9. This first-year Scholar will be working with the Summer Medical & Dental Education Program.
10. This first-year Scholar was selected into Silver Key Sophomore Honorary Society for 2007-2008!
11. A new member of Sigma Lambda Beta, he attended the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute Conference at Chicago.

he enjoyed the satisfaction of knowing that he had earned the car himself. The hardest adjustment for Paul was making friends. The friends he knew were back in Kenya. Friends are not the only thing that Paul misses. He spent a lot of time with his family in Kenya, where both sets of grandparents had farms covered in fruit trees. Paul misses being able to walk outside with his cousins and pick fruit from the trees or spend a peaceful afternoon in the shade. He looks forward to being able to visit in the future. Currently, Paul is enjoying his research in Chemical Engineering under the guidance of Dr. Keith Hohn. While he was in high school, Paul’s cousin, who recently graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in Chemical Engineering, came to visit and Paul’s interest was sparked. After a little research, Paul made his way to K-State and to the Developing Scholars Program. Paul knows that undergraduate research puts him a few steps ahead, as there are juniors and seniors who are just beginning the type of work he is exposed to through DSP.

In the future, Paul plans to get his Bachelor’s degree in Chemical Engineering, work for a while, and perhaps attend graduate school. Like many students,

Paul may choose to study abroad. If he gets the opportunity, Paul would like to visit Russia. The culture and language interest him, and he would like to learn more about it. If he learns to speak Russian, that will add language number four to Paul’s already diverse repertoire.





First-year Scholar in Biology/Pre-Med, Areli Monarrez, won a Terry C. Johnson Cancer Scholarship this year. With help and encouragement from her DSP mentor, Dr. Annelise Nguyen, Monarrez applied for the scholarship back in October. Monarrez is no stranger to winning awards and recognition. She transferred to K-State this year through the Kansas Bridges to the Future Program. The program offers a scholarship which allows students to transfer to K-State to study in biomedical fields. Monarrez was also accepted into the EXploring sCIence and TEchnology, or EXCITE! Program, a program designed to mentor young women in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Her mentor provides direction for Monarrez.

Dr. Nguyen is now in her second year as an assistant professor in Diagnostic Medicine Pathobiology in the College of Veterinary Medicine. She comments, “I know what opportunities there are for us and how to capture those opportunities... There are not a lot of people aware of how to do that. I point out to Areli that, because we are at this stage, there are a lot of opportunities we don’t know about, and if we can capture them, that would be great.” Dr. Nguyen is a graduate of the Texas A&M program ExCEL, a program that helps underrepresented students find a mentor. Dr. Nguyen is excited to have a Scholar in her care. “I know what it’s like to be on the other side, and now, as a mentor, I’m glad to be a part of it, in terms of giving back to the system.” Monarrez is also gaining from the experience. “I think being in the lab and having the experience of working as an undergraduate student, especially with Dr. Nguyen, has also helped me. She really does know what it’s like to be on the other side: being an undergraduate, what’s expected and what-not. A lot of the time



she can answer my questions, and she really knows what is behind everything. I think that has also helped both of us.” Dr. Nguyen realizes the importance of DSP to its students. “It’s very competitive right now. You have to take the options available, and if you don’t know about them, it’s not that you’re not smart enough - it’s just that you don’t know. Everything’s very objective now – it’s all about numbers. That’s why I tell Areli that you not only have to work hard, but have to work smart as well.”

Monarrez is thankful for Dr. Nguyen’s advice. “I feel very fortunate to work in Dr. Nguyen’s lab. I know that she is very involved in my project, and that if I ever have any questions, she is more than willing to help in anything. It’s nice to know that she went through it and to have her advice, and to know that if it worked for her, then it will definitely work for all of us. Like she says, “Grab every opportunity as it comes.” A last piece of advice from Dr. Nguyen: “Be competitive and build a résumé. This is the only time you can achieve as much as you can, and in the future, people are not going to know who you are just by numbers and a piece of paper.”

## Knowing How to Capture Opportunities

{mentor shares knowledge beyond research}

by Zach Marteney

“If it worked for her, then it will definitely work for all of us.”

## Paving the Way

by Kristel Williams

Ever been to Texas? If not, you’re in luck. A taste of what the Lone Star State has to offer is right in our backyard. Meet Mike Hodge, a freshman and first-year scholar majoring in open options from Dallas, Texas. Mike decided to explore universities based on their academics. After a bit of research, he found that the Department of Chemical Engineering at K-State was one of the best. Ask him how he likes college, and he’ll immediately tell you that his university experience is excellent for two reasons. First, he enjoys learning how to manage his time more wisely. Second, he likes the white precipitating phenomenon that we know as *snow*.

While he’d like to say his enthusiasm has been nonstop throughout the entire year, he gets homesick just like everyone else. As the fourth oldest in a family that includes seven sisters and one brother, it was tough being away from them during first semester. As Mike talked about them, it became very apparent that he is very close with his family. Though he is away from them right now, his siblings have set good examples for him as he makes his journey through college. One of his siblings in Chicago received a



he particularly takes pleasure in being able to meet lots of people in the DSP family...

Masters Degree in Nursing, another is a traveling actress who will be performing in Lawrence in April, and his other sister back home has a degree in accounting *and* a little boy. So far, Mike is right up there with his siblings with the accomplishments. He was a recipient of a Cargill Scholarship during a chemical engineering tour in Minnesota last April.

Now, for a peek inside of his DSP research: Mike works with mentor Dr. Stefan Kraft, Assistant Professor of Chemistry. The goal of *Synthesis of Bowl-like Molecules* is to get bowl-like molecules out of bromide reagents, materials used to start a chemical reaction. He enjoys the research and mentorship aspect of the program a lot. He particularly takes pleasure in being able to meet lots of people in the DSP family like Lleran “Larry” Johnson, also a first-year Scholar, who lives just two floors above Mike in the dorms. Mike has realized that his participation in the program has been noticed by the faculty. After Mike receives his Bachelor’s Degree, he plans to pursue graduate school. Soon after, he will go back home and look for a job in hometown Dallas. Though Mike is finding K-State to be a home away from home, he still tries to remain true to his original home—Texas. Like his siblings before him, Mike is off to a good start in paving the way for those who will come after him.

## Mantis

by Elise Gaines

*Liberated from purgatory on good behavior, we burst from the restraining sac of boredom.  
Wind, the fluid of our labors, forcing a stream through the wulfenite leaves.  
I almost pass her by. I almost lose her in the windings of dead foliage.  
Mantis.  
Her tiny head tilted in meditation,  
she whispered,  
“Shhh.  
Appreciate it.  
These moments vanish so swiftly.  
Careful  
that you do not steal it from yourself.”  
So I linger, taking shallow breaths  
silencing the wheezing and wind to listen for what Simon and Garfunkel really heard.  
And I hear it. I hear NOTHING, for just a second.  
Mesmerized, I lift my head.  
Just in time to see the beautiful Oxford Boy  
traipsing, in his earth tones.*