

What's Up, Doc?

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 precedence.

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.

"I don't see anything better that I could be doing for myself than [to get] my education," Samuel observes. Samuel, who will receive his Masters in Public Health this May, was recently accepted to KU Medical School and will start in the fall of 2010.

After going through the DSP, Scholars become experts at problem-solving and rising above obstacles. Samuel feels he has also learned through the adversity he has faced. He believes that successful people overcome bigger and bigger challenges until nothing seems impossible; and medical school is no exception.

Kristy Morales is currently in her OB/GYN residency at St. Mary's Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri. Kristy's

brother Reinaldo Morales, who will receive his medical degree in May, says that he is interviewing for a surgical residency for this fall. Hieu Doan is also in medical school and will graduate with her medical degree from KU in 2011. The Developing Scholars Program not only teaches students about research and academics, but qualities such as work ethic, confidence, and integrity, all important to their future profession.



Samuel Ornelas at graduation.

Cancer Research Award Winners

Four Developing Scholars were recipients of Cancer Research Awards this past Fall semester. They are **David Villanueva**, biology/pre-medicine, (mentor: **Stefan Bossman**, chemistry), **Jimmie Stewart**, biology/pre-medicine, (mentor: **Bruce Schultz**, anatomy & physiology), **Nidia Ortega**, biology, (mentor: **Max Lu**, geography), and **Emma Del Real**, biology/pre-medicine, (mentor: **Lorena Passarelli**, biology). Each student and each lab are awarded \$1000.

The DSP is proud to recognize the accomplishments of our fellow Developing Scholars. As the achievements for those in the Developing Scholars Program steadily increase, Scholars are nationally recognized for their hard work and achievement in academics. This semester DSP has two Scholars selected to Mortar Board, a national college senior honor society. Both Jessica Rodriguez and Tamica Lige were selected to be a part of the elite honor society. DSP has Scholars in multiple honor societies and the numbers of Developing Scholars in honors organizations continue to rise.

be one of excellence.

Students who maintained a 4.00 GPA in Spring 2009 were **Anthony Garcia**, senior in biology and pre-medicine, **Devi Bluvan**, senior in psychology, **Jesus Garcia**, senior in human nutrition and pre-medicine, **Jessica Rodriguez**, junior in animal science and pre-veterinary science, and **Kristel Williams**, junior in elementary education. Students achieving a 3.80 GPA or above were **Eduardo Alvarado**, freshman in open options, **Derrik Wiggins**, freshman in open options, and **Rita Perez**, senior in human nutrition.

Honorifics

Students who maintained a 4.00 GPA in Fall 2009 were **Jaime Arreola**, junior in social science, **Marcus Bragg**, freshman in business, **Eduardo Alvarado**, sophomore in philosophy, **Ariel Anib**, sophomore in sociology and pre-law, **Kristel Williams**, Senior, Elementary Education, **Anthony Garcia**, senior in biology and pre-medicine, and **Jessica Rodriguez**, senior in animal science and pre-veterinary medicine. Students achieving a 3.80 GPA or above were **Alejandro De Luna**, sophomore in construction science, **Michelle Foster**, freshman in political science and leadership, **Leonel Hernandez**, senior in construction science, and **Tamica Lige**, senior in fine arts.

Volume 6:
Number 2

DEVELOPING
SCHOLARS PROGRAM



Scholars' Scope

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Developing Scholars Program Celebrates 10 Years

Ten years ago, PlayStation 2 was new on the scene. Al Gore and George Bush were battling for the presidency in the Florida Supreme Court. In 2000, everyone worldwide was more worried about the Y2K bug than H1N1, and no one worried about Al Qaeda. The first draft of the human genome was completed. Ten years ago, K-State's Developing Scholars Program came into existence.

The DSP started with 20 students and an idea. **Dr. Dean Zollman**, physics, provided a National Science Foundation grant. He also taught the DSP seminar. **Dr. John Exdell**, philosophy, took on the role of faculty director and grant seeker, and **Anita Cortez**, PILOTS director at the time, began to envision how the University of Michigan's undergraduate research program could be adapted to the benefit of underrepresented students at K-State.

Anita is still dreaming, and **Dr. Farrell Webb**, family studies and human services, has assumed the role of faculty director. Dr. Webb has been teaching the DSP seminar for eight years and directing the increasing number of freshmen through their research presentations. After ten years, the DSP has over a hundred graduates and many more on the journey. (See related 10-year highlights.) This year DSP reached an all-time high of students in research across every college on campus.

In fact, DSP has its first student, **Oscar Rodriguez**, participating from the Salina campus. **Professor Les Kinsler**, engineering technology, has served as his mentor.

Many faculty members believe in the benefits Developing Scholars provides for both students and faculty. **Dr. Lorena Passarelli**, biology, explains, "Developing Scholars are diamonds in the rough. You polish them by providing them with training, and they shine with significant contributions to your research program. Their contributions are at several levels: they provide mentoring training for senior graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, they stimulate a collegial and friendly research environment, and they contribute new research ideas."

The DSP helps to mold students. **Dr. Briana Goff**, family studies and human services, believes that "Students are provided an opportunity to develop personally and professionally within a supportive environment. My mentoring of DSP students has been an excellent experience, and it has helped me develop my skills as a faculty mentor. Having DSP students involved in my research program has greatly enhanced our research."

The DSP epitomizes why many professors became professors: "We came into higher education first of all to teach. Seeing students go on perhaps to become researchers and teachers themselves is a pretty big high," says **Dr. MJ Morgan**, assistant professor of history. "Because

faculty can share their own passions with students one-to-one, DSP cements the idea that research is original, exciting, and contributory to human knowledge."

Where do we go from here?

As funding deficits continue nationwide, support for the DSP is an on-going concern. Thanks to support from the Provost's Office through a Targeted Excellence grant, the program began to thrive. DSP now has several collaborating associates: the National Institutes of Health-funded Bridges to the Future recruits transfer students from the southwest corner of the state for STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) fields; the College of Veterinary Medicine and Hill's Pet Nutrition supports Agriculture and Pre-Veterinary Science participants; and the Edgerley-Franklin Urban Leadership Scholarship supports its recipients who participate in the DSP. Additionally, over the years some faculty research mentors have provided funds for their individual Scholars.

Anita's larger dream? She dreams that the DSP alumni will change the world for the better. She dreams they will also become donors for students who come after them. Anyone who wishes to contribute to the Developing Scholars Program can do so by designating the program in their Foundations gift.



Jorge with his Harvard lab.

In just a few short months **Jorge Mendoza** has travelled to Massachusetts, Idaho, Virginia, and California. All of these opportunities presented themselves through Jorge's research interest.

Jorge spent this past summer working in **Dr. Scott Edwards'** lab in the Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology at Harvard University. Jorge met Dr. Edwards when Edwards visited K-State. In the Harvard lab Jorge contributed to new work in the field of Bluebirds. He studied Blue Jays throughout the nation and across the globe analyzing their DNA to see if conditions with the bird changed.

While in Boston, Jorge got to experience much the city has to offer. He had access to the National History Museum and was very close to Boston Commons. (He also had the opportunity to have dinner at the Beacon Hill Hotel and Bistro where Anita's son is executive chef. He sampled his first raw oyster, lamb, and more.)

Jorge spent 10 weeks working in the Harvard lab. While there, however, Dr. Edwards invited him to attend the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Evolution, the Society of Systematic Biologists, and the American Society of Naturalists at the University of Idaho where he presented his Developing Scholar research on upland sandpipers and common nighthawks (mentor, **Dr. Brett Sandercock**).

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's 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 quartering 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

Jorge presenting to the Audubon Society



Jorge and Jasmine at the SEEDS Conference

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.



Jorge in Virginia

Where Are They Now?

Morgan Fisher:

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



Morgan Fisher

Travis Hudson

- Dallas Morning News online edition

Clemente Jaquez-Herrera

- RTKL Architectural International Firm, Dallas, LEED certified.

Danielle English

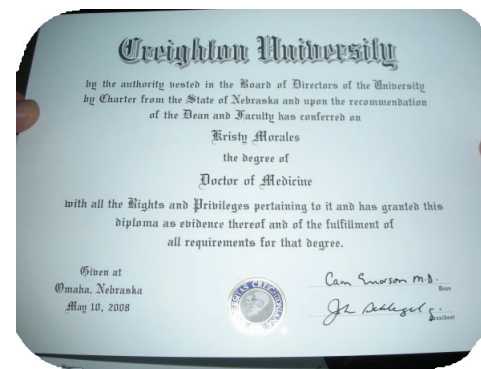
- University of Denver: Master of Science, Public Relations, Sp 2010



Alicia Edison

Alicia Edison:

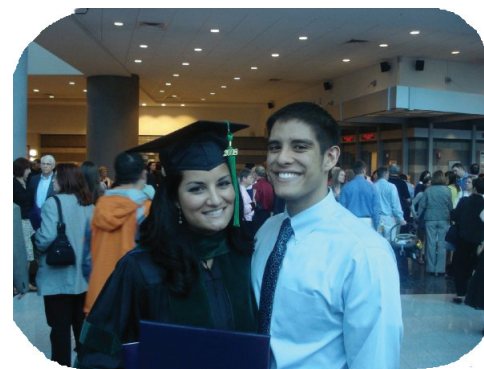
- Inaugural class 2000 - 2001
- Pursuing a Ph.D. in Sociology from North Texas State, 2012



Kristy Morales' Medical Diploma

Kristy Morales:

- Inaugural class 2000 - 2001
- First medical doctor: Presently in residency in Ob/Gyn through St. Louis University



Kristy and Reinaldo Morales.

Reinaldo Morales

- Class of 2002-2003
- Graduates in May. Followed by a residency in Pediatric Surgery.

Matthew Hobson:

- Class of 2004 - 2005
- First Graduate of Veterinary Medicine, May, 2010
- Employment: Care Veterinary Clinic, Muncie, Indiana

Mathew Leonard:

- Berkeley, Physics Ph.D., May 2011

Kieu Nguyen

- Savannah School of Art & Design (Atlanta), May 2010

Conolley August

- Teaching 3rd grade, Hayesville, KS; working on M.S. at WSU

Dwight Alexander

- 2nd year law school—KU, Graduation in 2011

Tara Hacker:

- Inaugural class 2000 - 2001
- Masters in Public Health, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
- Employment/Service: Peace Corps in Honduras
- <http://www.hondurashack.blogspot.com/>

Deidra Allen Saina

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



Deidra Allen Saina

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 York City this fall. When asked what drove him to pursue applying to Teach for America, Bobby explained that “[TFA] connects my two passions: education (teaching and learning) and social justice; inequity in education is an area that needs to be fixed if



Bobby working in the DSP office.

we hope to continue to be a great nation, and through TFA, I can serve both passions.”

For Bobby to have been accepted into Teach for America is truly an honor. In 2008, almost 25,000 students applied, and only 4,000 were accepted. “I was nervous about applying because of the caliber of the applicant pool. Some were from Harvard and places like that, but after reflecting on all that I’ve learned about education, in addition to the leadership skills that I have developed over the years, I felt confident,” commented Gomez. It is this same confidence that propelled Bobby into the national spotlight as a Truman Scholar finalist and KSU Mortar Board president during his junior year.

So just what type of individual does Teach for America have to look forward to in Bobby Gomez? One of his mentors, **Kay Ann Taylor**, Associate Professor in the Department of Secondary Education, describes Gomez as “passionate, yet humble, and he never ceases to amaze me. He is thoughtful, reflective, and caring. He sees the big picture. Our world would be a better place if everyone shared



Bobby Gomez teaching in Guatemala

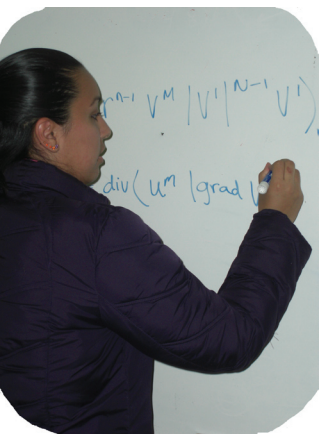
Bobby’s vision, values, and activism.” Bobby says that he hopes to inspire students with the confidence to learn, supplying them with tools to help in following their dreams, and to advocate that education be supplied not only to the middle and upper classes, but to everyone. We look forward to hearing 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. Bobby was also a recipient of the Commerce Bank Award for Distinguished Service to Multicultural Students this spring.

National Excelencia in Education Honorable Mention

The Developing Scholars Program is proud to announce that it was named the Excelencia 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, Excelencia 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 when success means graduation or matriculation into a professional program. Currently, three out of four DSP alums in medical school are Latinos/as.

Rare Species Discovered



Perla educating us in math.

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 $\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \text{div} (u^M |\text{grad } u|^{N-1} \text{grad } u)$, 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:



Justin Curry with mentor Dr. Noel Shulz

“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.”



Karmen Harris with mentor Dr. Noel Shulz

10 Year Highlights:

- Overall graduation rate to date: 81%
- Six Outstanding Senior awards
- First African American editor-in-chief, K-State Collegian
- Scholars in Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, Golden Key and others
- Rhodes finalist (FY08)
- Truman finalist (FY09)
- Gilman recipient (FY08) (study abroad)
- Lideres de Hoy Essay recipient, \$5000 and trip to DC
- Landmark Scholar, \$10,000, 2 summer internships, job offer
- Three Scholars in Law School
- Scholars have received \$1000 Cancer Research Awards since our first year (8 awards in FY09)
- Internships: MIT, Harvard, GM, Cargill, ExxonMobil and others
- Five practicing architects
- Two medical doctors, two more in medical school
- One scholar in Peace Corps, masters in Public Health Policy
- Ph.D. students in Physics, Sociology, Chemical Engineering, Marriage and Family Therapy.

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 Elsia 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.

“I am learning to become a better leader through my leadership studies which will help me to go back and be a positive force in the community 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.



Michelle Foster, Derrik Wiggins and Mary Jackson

Citizens-in-Training



Loryn Clauson and Morgan Franklin celebrating the many mittens.

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 fun 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.



Oscar at work.



The winning Salina SIFE team.

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.



Danielle at Graduation



Nathan and DSP Mentor Dr. Dawne Martin at Graduation

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, Kauffman 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**.