Volume 15, Number 1

scholars' scope

the newsletter of the **Developing Scholars Program**

What's Inside?

Celebrating 15 Years of Research Excellence

The Developing Scholars Program (DSP) hit a milestone this year--fifteen years of promoting undergraduate research. In the Fall of 2000, DSP recruited its first class of twenty scholars. As the saying goes, the rest is history. Fashioned after the University of Michigan's program, Kansas State was one of the early programs in the country to actively promote inclusion from underrepresented students in all fields of undergraduate research.

Fifteen years later, DSP has placed nearly 350 students of color or first-generation college students with research faculty campus-wide. These students have balanced coursework with research and leadership activities across campus and most still managed to graduate within five years. Students have received internships at MIT, Harvard, UCLA, and National Institutes of Health. They have gone on to graduate programs across the country from North Carolina to Stanford, from Wisconsin to Texas. They have become doctors and dentists, attorneys, engineers, entrepreneurs, and teachers in Teach for America. Some have participated in Peace Corps. Look for their profiles throughout the newsletter or on our webpage (www.k-state.edu/scholars/).

Our first graduate, Deidra Allen Saina, is a licensed social worker. We also have an Air Force Major who is an Ob/Gyn (Dr. Kristy Morales-Garcia); an archeologist (Matt Padilla) in the Black Hills; a member of the Foreign Service (Morgan Fisher); an entrepreneur in engineering and optometry (Craig Van Dyke and Charlie Dao), and Dr. Alicia Edison Brunson is a university visiting assistant professor at K-State who now teaches and mentors Developing Scholars!

In 2009, Excelencia in Education recognized DSP nationally with an honorable mention for undergraduate Latino/a retention and graduation rates, the only Midwestern institution recognized in 2009. DSP also provided a chapter in the Council on Undergraduate Research publication, "Broadening Participation in Undergraduate Research." In 2014, as one of their "spin-off" programs, the University of Michigan invited DSP to present on its successes at their 25th celebration of undergraduate research.

Now in its fifteenth year, DSP has a new home in the Office of Undergraduate Research & Creative Inquiry where underrepresented undergraduates forged the pathway for all undergraduates interested in research and making positive change as we head forward on an inclusive path toward 2025.

Lighting the Way

Renewable resources can help keep the lights on, but few know quite as much about making that a reality as Sophomore **Alan Caro,** who has the scars to prove it. Caro is studying how solar panels work most efficiently in order for Hanergy, an energy company, to create the most powerful solar panels possible.

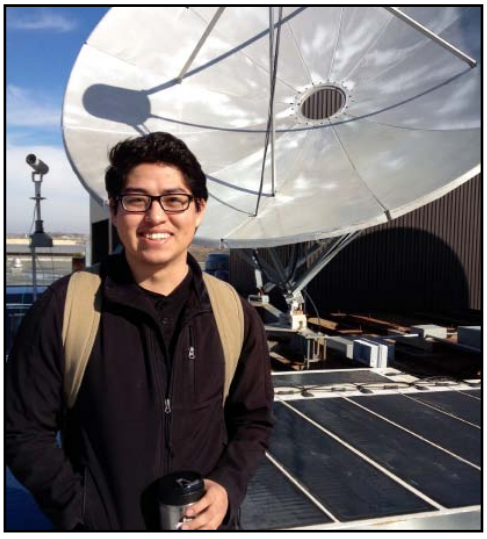
Caro explained that solar panels are impacted by their substrates, what the solar panel rests on. "We're testing on roofs, cement, grass, and on a wooden board," he said. Before he could run the tests, his team, led by **Dr. Ruth Douglas Miller**, first had to learn how solar panels actually work. "The hardest part was getting familiar with the jargon," Caro said, and added that his team had to create a plan to set up the solar panels to ensure they would work effectively.

The challenge of implementing their plan using new equipment was Caro's favorite part, even though it led to a large scar. "It's kind of dangerous on the roof when it's really windy; I was opening the door and it hit my hand and blood started flowing everywhere."

> "I think [solar power] is an energy source that will be more used in the future," Caro said. He has witnessed home power meters moving in reverse: "The house was producing more power than it was using."

However, Caro said that he enjoyed working hands-on as he explained some of the other difficulties in setting up a large inverter in a small space and learning how to program the computer. "We had to do a lot of planning. But in the end it was worth it."

Once the solar panels were set up with the inverter to convert power, and the

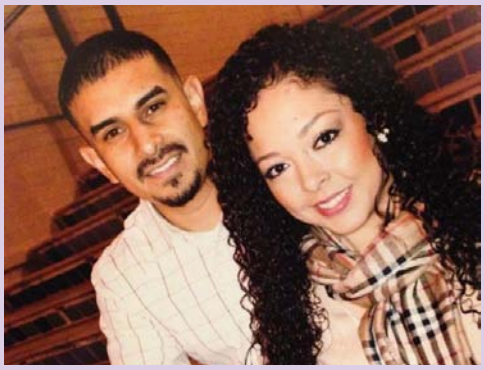


computer motherboard programmed to relay and organize data, they began analyzing the solar panels. So far, data indicates that solar panels are more effective with space underneath the panel to keep it cool. As they collect more data, Caro's team can contribute to a better product.

Dr. Miller said that she hopes their research will "serve as independent verification in a real-world setting." In reference to DSP, Dr. Miller said, "If I did not have Alan and other scholars in the program, likely such inquiries would just not be made." She hopes her students learn how to ask questions, set up experiments, and find the answers. "I like being able to give students an outlet for their curiosity, and I hope they are able to take advantage of it."

Caro says he plans to continue research as he goes on to pursue his Master's degree. Hopefully his future discoveries will not all require new scars; who knows what he will uncover to keep lighting the world!

Paying it Forward: Scholars Giving Back



Jose Valles (Liberal, DSP 2007-2010) came to K-State via the NIH Bridges to the Future grant. Valles came somewhat reluctantly, as he was not "into" academics. He wanted to be out in the open working with his hands, not trapped in a classroom with his nose in a book. Nevertheless, he allowed himself to be guided by **Dr. Dan Thomson** of the Beef Cattle Institute and the College of Veterinary Medicine. While at K-State, Valles traveled to England, Scotland, and Ireland, to China, and to South Africa. He graduated with a Master's degree in Clinical Sciences and is now the owner of Valles Livestock Consulting, Inc.

Areli Monarrez-Valles (Liberal, DSP 2006-2009) also came to K-State through Bridges to the Future. Her mentor was **Dr. Annelise Nguyen.** Monarrez-Valles studied abroad in Italy for a semester and attended graduate school at KU. Currently, she works at Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney, NE. Monarrez and Valles married in 2013. They have chosen to pay it forward to DSP by funding a book scholarship for a current scholar to be awarded at the symposium.

Daniel Dissmore, junior, wins DSP's Talent Show with a trumpet rendition of *My Funny Valentine*

Academic Perfection: 4.0

Spring 2014:

Jonathan Bernard
Kiera Brown
Thuy Cao*
Izabella Carmona*
Tayler Christian
Jennifer Delzeit*
Marcus Dominguez*
William Duren*
Jeffrey Murray
Raquel Ortega
Navanté Peacock*
Daniel Perez
Sofia Sabates
Cipriana Sapien
Arisa Yamashita

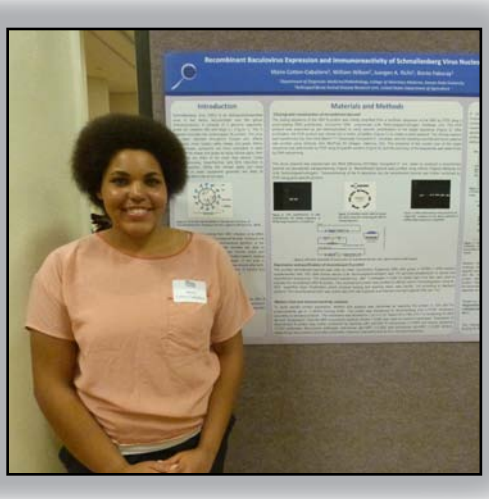
Fall 2014:

Alyssa Baquero*
Thuy Cao*
Izabella Carmona*
Jose Covarubias*
Obdulia Covarubias
Jennifer Delzeit*
Marcus Dominguez*
Navanté Peacock*
Daniel Perez
Michael Zuniga*

* Indicates a 4.0 cumulative GPA

Zoetis Scholar Heads to Thailand

Maira Cotton-Caballero, 2nd year scholar in ASI/Pre-Veterinary, will spend two weeks this summer working and learning alongside veterinarians at an elephant sanctuary and dog rescue in Thailand. She will experience Thailand first-hand as she lives among the elephants caring directly for them, providing check-ups and procedures to dogs in need, and interacting with tiger cubs at a tiger sanctuary. During week one, she will work with the veterinary staff to care for dogs at the Animal Rescue Kingdom Dog Shelter in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Students will learn how to assess the dogs' health and do exams. The second week is spent at the Elephant Nature Park, providing hands-on care and support for the forty elephants who live there. Cotton-Caballero's participation in DSP is funded through Zoetis. Her research mentor is **Dr. Bonto Faburay**.



Cotton-Caballero traveled to Kansas City, Missouri, during October to attend the 57th Annual American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians Meeting, where she gave a poster presentation over her research entitled, "Recombinant Baculovirus Expression and Immunoreactivity of Schmallenberg Virus Nucleocapsid Protein."

The Rougher Path: An Interview with Daniel Perez

The traditional undergraduate student at K-State might take for granted a quiet study space or even the time to pull an all-nighter at Hale. These parts of the typical college-experience may not seem like privileges, but for the non-traditional student, the identity of "student" is just one of many. **Daniel Perez** is one of the few non-traditional students in the Developing Scholars Program with added family and home responsibilities. No student path to higher education is easy or the same, and Perez's unique journey to K-State has taught him different ways to succeed both academically and as a provider for his family. Today, he is a senior, earning his degree in Kinesiology with several impressive 4.0 semesters at K-State. But what his grades won't reveal is how far he has come from being a shy six-year-old boy.

Perez was born in California, but grew up in Mexico until returning to the U.S. at age six with no knowledge of the English language. His age difference and lack of English skills made it hard to connect with his peers. "I felt like I was always out of the loop," he said. This feeling of never quite fitting in continued and by high school he decided to drop out in order to support his family. "I was a terrible student," Perez admits, but a school counselor, Sheri Smith, reached out and provided a path for him to earn his GED and start his Associates Degree curriculum at Garden City Community College. For the average undergraduate, earning a high school diploma went unquestioned, but with poor grades and mouths to feed, the decision to pursue higher education is a difficult decision many "non-trads" face. His counselor helped him realize that the work he was putting in towards a college degree was going to pay off: "I knew it would be better for my community. It was a more difficult route, but it was the best route." The transition from high school to community college taught Perez to make personal connections with people of authority. "Definitely talk to people. There are lots of people to help you," he advises.

It was Perez's cousin Johanna Diaz, however, who informally introduced him to the Developing Scholars Program. "I didn't think I could do it because of my grades," he admits thinking at the time. "I'm not good enough to get into a program like that." Several 4.0's later, Perez realizes now he did not have faith in himself. Ultimately, he gives credit to his family who encouraged him to apply despite his reservations. Being accepted as a Bridges student finally opened his eyes to the accessibility of academic opportunities. Today, Perez is confident in his identity as a student. He says, "The worst thing that can happen is 'no,' and if you don't try, you'll never know. Anything is possible."

Since attending K-State, Perez has been conducting undergraduate research in Kinesiology, which is another aspect of his life that surprises him. He knew he wanted to impact people personally and was originally pursuing Physiology at K-State to later attend Physical Therapy school until DSP director, Anita Cortez, connected him with a research mentor in Kinesiology/Public Health. He is grateful for the exposure to the career he is now pursuing, and laughingly admits, "At the end of the day I am still working with people."

Perez's research mentors are **Dr. Richard Rosenkranz** and **Dr. David Dzewaltowski**.

THANK YOU to those who have graciously stepped in to fill important leadership roles. DSP would not be successful without you!

Dr. Tanya Gonzalez
DSP seminar instructor

Dean John Buckwalter
Bridges Primary Investigator

Dr. Charlotte Olsen
Bridges Coordinator

Dr. Irma O'Dell
Edgerley-Franklin seminar instructor

Dr. Brenee King
L-SAMP Coordinator

Siblings Conquer the World

Obdulia and Jose Covarrubias share more than parents; they are both Developing Scholars. Here's what they said about life as Developing Scholar siblings:

What's the best thing about having a sibling in DSP/doing research?

Jose: The best thing of having an older sibling in DSP is that she is my role model. I have been a witness to all of her accomplishments and that motivates me to do my best. It is hard to live up to her standards. She has set the bar really high.

Obdulia: Something that I really enjoy about both of us being in DSP doing research is that we can talk for hours about our projects and how everything is going in our labs and with our mentors.

Jose, did Obdulia's choice to join DSP help you make your choice?

Jose: Yes, she would talk to me about how nice Manhattan is and how caring the professors are. Also, she would always talk about her research, and I started to wonder how it would be to work in a research lab.

Do you have any shared experiences as a result of being siblings in DSP?

Obdulia: Jose helped me find an opportunity to continue with graduate school. Like many people say, 'Life happened' and the plans I had for graduate school changed. Then I started looking for other schools where I could apply, but Jose wanted me to stay here and connected me with his current DSP mentor, **Dr. Bossmann.** The idea of getting a Ph.D. in chemistry sounded intimidating at the beginning. After meeting with Dr. Bossmann and talking about his project, I became very interested in working for him. I think it's amazing how I was persistent with Jose about coming to K-State so we could be together, and now he was the persistent one encouraging me to stay and finish my Ph.D. here. I can't wait for that day when 'The Covarrubias Siblings' conquer the world of Science!

Happy Feet: Alumnus Walking the Walk

Phuoc Van Bui (Dodge City) graduated from K-State two years ago. After K-State, Phuoc entered Kent State University to work toward becoming a DPM (Doctor of Podiatric Medicine). While in DSP, Phuoc worked with **Dr. Mark Weiss** in anatomy & physiology. He also had the opportunity to shadow **Dr. Michael Tran**, a local podiatrist, who talked to him about the profession and what it entailed. Phuoc had known he wanted to go to medical school but had no idea what he wanted to study once he got there. With Dr. Weiss and Dr. Tran's wisdom and insights, Phuoc realized that podiatry offered him the best mix of patient interaction and care combined with scientific and surgical expertise. Phuoc looks forward to the intricate work and attention that keeps us all wearing happy feet. He will begin clinical work this summer.

Brewing Coffee Party Activism

Even for the politically savvy college student, details on the Coffee Party are hardly common knowledge and rarely discussed. Despite the fact that most of the Coffee Party has disbanded, a group of close-knit elderly Kansans are still active in Coffee politics. So why would the Coffee Party of Kansas interest sociology professors and students? Against the GOP stronghold on middle-age and elderly Kansas adults, especially those living in rural areas, the Coffee Party of Kansas incorporates Christian ideology from a variety of denominations but with a progressive, liberal understanding.

Tayler Christian does not work in a lab nor does she don a lab coat or a set of latex gloves. Instead, Christian periodically travels outside Manhattan to "Prairie City," an undisclosed Kansas town, to attend Coffee Party meetings.

Part of her research consists of taking field notes, concise annotations she makes during Coffee Party meetings. Her main objective is to carefully observe and participate via active listening. When she returns from Prairie City, she goes back to the notes.

How can this party exist, and what is the connection between fundamental Christianity and Liberal politics? What is the significance? How does this small community remain sustainable when the median age of the party is well into the 60s? That is what Christian and her research mentor are trying to figure out.

When asked about the significance and the future of her research, she finds that the existence of the Coffee Party is monumental. They have created their own society and are thriving, which might provide insight into our culture in general.

When asked about what DSP has taught her, Christian explains she has learned to look at situations without bias like a professional sociologist. Her logical reasoning has also improved in ways that would not have otherwise if she were not in the program and conducting research. Not only has she learned the value of professionalism, she has also learned a lesson in humility and how to admit when she was wrong or did not know something. Additionally, the research conducted alongside her research mentor, **Dr. Alisa Garni,** has taught her how to connect across generations.

Recently Christian became a recipient of the OURCI Travel Grant Award. She will use the award to attend an International Conference on religion and society in Berkeley, California, alongside her research mentor and Dr. Frank Weyher to present this research.

Edgerley-Franklin Urban Leaders Embark on Spring Break "Learning Tour" in Boston

The Edgerley-Franklin Urban Leadership Program seeks to shape the next generation of great American urban leaders. What better way to fulfill this mission than to spend time immersed in a forward-thinking, innovative urban environment learning about the big challenges and issues that exist, and the leadership needed to create positive change? Twelve E-F Leaders traveled to Boston, MA, over spring break to engage in learning about urban education and workforce development, public health, community development/poverty alleviation, as well as the arts, and urban civic engagement. With organizations such as New Profit, and Bridgespan, and other high functioning organizations, Boston has become a respected hub that aspires to harness the spirit of innovation, vision, and optimism to help innovative social entrepreneurs and their organizations to solve some of their regions', and our nation's, most nagging and pressing social problems. Scholars visited many organizations in the Boston area, including Boston Children's Hospital; City Year; Year Up; New Profit; Match Charter Public School; Boston 2024; and the Boys & Girls Club.

The students returned to Manhattan with new perspectives on how to create change in urban communities. After the trip, sophomore **Yubisela Toledo** said, "We are no longer questioning, how are they doing this? We are now asking ourselves, how can we do this?"

E-F Spotlight

What do martial arts and research have in common? Quite a lot, according to first-year Scholar, Edgerley-Franklin leader, and 3rd degree black belt, **Michael Zuniga**. Zuniga began participating in martial arts at the age of seven. At the age of fourteen, he started instructing classes. Serving as an instructor forced him to develop a high level of maturity at a young age.

Zuniga says that martial arts helped him develop into the college student he is today. Character, hard work, and respect were stressed as he was encouraged to become a well-rounded individual developing himself mentally, physically, and spiritually. The lessons he learned through martial arts have continued to influence his lifestyle in college. He expressed his drive to do his absolute best in all areas of his life. Zuniga, it seems, is reaching this level as he receives high remarks on his research from his mentor, **Dr. Mark Weiss.**

When asked what similarities he sees between martial arts and research, Zuniga expressed the importance of first learning, then giving back. He mentioned that as a first-year scholar, it is important for him to be teachable and take the time to learn and understand the ins and outs of working in a research lab. Just as he transitioned from learner to teacher in martial arts, Zuniga hopes to pass on the knowledge he acquires in research to future young researchers. "Martial arts isn't easy, and neither is research. Not everyone is able and not everyone gets the opportunity, so it's important for me to take advantage of the opportunities given to me," Zuniga said.

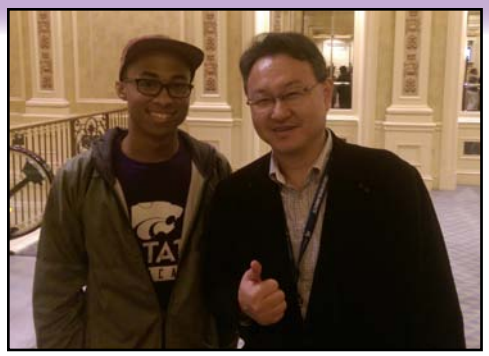
Graduating Seniors' Next Steps

Daniela Guereca:	Aug 2014, Microbiology, optometry assistant, applying to optometry schools
Branford Harris:	Dec 2014, Mass Comunications & Advertising
Yojana Mendoza:	Dec 2014, Microbiology, applying for lab positions
Valerie Rito:	Dec 2014, Industrial Engineering, employed at General Mills, Nashville, TN
Emmanuel Garcia:	Dec 2014, Kinesiology, accepted to K-State B.S./M.S. Program in Kinesiology
Daniel Perez:	Dec 2014, Kinesiology, accepted to K-State M.A. Program in Public Health
Jonathan Bernard:	May 2015, Biology, University of Kansas Medical School
Thuy Cao:	May 2015, Biochemistry, University of Kansas Medical School
Eduardo Acosta:	May 2015, Life Sciences, University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry
Miguel Valdes:	May 2015, Mechanical Engineering, employed at Engineered Air, Chicago, IL
Matthew Castinado:	May 2015, Kinesiology & Gerontology, medical scribe, Kansas City
William Duren:	May 2015, Electrical Engineering, employed at Burns and McDonnell
Thuan Daniel Quach:	May 2015, Biochemistry, graduate work at K-State
Phillip Hill:	May 2015, Marketing, pursuing career with advertising or marketing communications agency
Larry Rodriguez:	May 2015, Chemistry, pursuing graduate studies
Monica Farfan:	May 2015, Animal Science & Industry
Obdulia Covarrubias:	May 2015, Biochemistry, accepted to K-State Ph.D. Program in Chemistry

Google Scholar

Geordy Williams, sophomore in Computer Science, was accepted into **CodeU**, an exclusive development program for high potential freshman and sophomore students to strengthen their skills and prepare them to become successful candidates for future technical opportunities. Williams will have the following opportunities through the CodeU program: technical development and mock interview practice; development of an Android App and technical coaching through Udacity's Developing Android Apps course; an assigned Google engineer mentor; attendance at the CodeU Summit: a four day, all-expenses-paid summit, at the Google Mountain View campus during summer 2015; and a guaranteed interview for a Google internship for summer 2016.

In December, Williams traveled to Las Vegas, Nevada, to attend the Playstation Experience Conference. Williams connected with Shuhei Yoshida, President of Worldwide Studios, Sony Computer Entertainment; Adam Boyes, Vice President of Publisher & Developer Relations at Playstation; and Scott Rohde, Playstation Software Product Development Head for Sony World Wide Studios America. He returned with business cards and new contacts of professionals in the field. Williams' DSP mentor is **Dr. Mitchell Neilsen**.



Williams meets Shuhei Toshida, President of Worldwide Studios

Using Creativity to Research New Diagnoses

Someday when your dog gets sick and you have no idea why it stopped eating, you may be thankful for **Tera Brandt** and her research with the Developing Scholars Program. Brandt, a freshman pre-veterinary student, is working with **Dr. Thomas Schermerhorn** to analyze a specific illness in dogs that is illusive to find and expensive to diagnose: Addison's disease.

"Addison's looks like anorexia or the flu," says Brandt, which is why it is difficult to pinpoint. "Currently, the method for diagnosing Addison's is expensive, usually costing between $100 and $200 and many vets fail to recognize the symptoms right away."

Brandt's team is working on finding a new way to diagnose the disease. "Addison's is a defect of the adrenal gland which secretes adrenaline and steroids. Steroids help with blood flow which helps with circulation in the digestive track, so without that, the track can become thinner," Brandt explained. This is the key to their research.

Brandt is working on remeasuring ultrasounds of dogs who are already diagnosed with Addison's to find clues and track the progress of the disease in their digestive track. "Our dogs have gastrointestinal signs, so we believe steroids to have an effect," she said.

However, Brandt acknowledged that searching through ultrasounds and microfilms is difficult. "Sometimes it doesn't seem important, but then it becomes important later or you realize you've missed something." This challenge has taught her to sift through large amounts of data and organize it well.

Brandt is no stranger to working with animals and knows that things are not always as they seem, especially with her research. "Dogs can have Addison's disease and the indicators don't show at all." In regards to research she adds, "I hadn't really thought about research before Developing Scholars, so it's introduced me to something I would have never considered."

Brandt plans to become a veterinarian and work with both small and large animals. "Animals do so much for us that I want to be able to give back to the animals," she said. One of her favorite parts of her current research is spending time in the veternary clinic, watching procedures and learning about life at the clinic.

If Brandt and her team can find a way to measure the effect of Addison's on the digestive track, they may find a new method for diagnosing Addison's that is easier and much less expensive than current practices, saving pet owners money and a lot of worry while their dogs get the treatment they need.

Grassroots Inquiry

Marcus Dominguez, 3rd year Scholar in Sociology/Pre-Law, began his sociological research on Kansas immigration laws during his freshman year at K-State with **Dr. Alisa Garni.** His research project began with a case study on Kansas immigration laws compared to other states. After completing the case study, Dominguez wanted to delve deeper and understand why and how Kansas is unique in terms of immigration laws. He found that Kansas has a more open and lenient, rather than restrictive, policy when it comes to immigrant labor. However, Kansas is more restrictive in terms of public accommodations such as welfare, food stamps, child care, and obtaining drivers' licenses.

This past year, Dominguez has taken his research a step further by engaging in a qualitative, comparative study of a Kansas town with three different dairies of similar size and with some form of immigrant labor. He has spent his time talking with the dairy farmers, churches, educators, and community members about the town's immigrant population to learn more about the relationship among farming, immigration, and legislation.

Dominguez will graduate in May 2016 and plans to attend law school. He believes the skills he acquired doing research including attention to detail, reading, and writing, will prove very beneficial in law school. Dominguez is eager to pursue a position in the law field in which he can work to advance immigration policy. Dominguez presented his research at the Capitol in February.

Exploring Cultural Respect through Music

When thinking about undergraduate research, many people imagine white laboratory coats and test tubes in the traditional departments like Biology and Chemistry. While the Developing Scholars Program does include an impressive amount of undergraduate researchers in labs, there are also scholars that conduct research within the arts and humanities. One such student is freshman, **Sharon Wilson**. Pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education with a vocal and piano emphasis, Wilson is researching with her long-time voice instructor and internationally recognized K-State professor, **Dr. Amy Rosine.**

Over the year, Wilson has had mixed reactions when she tells her peers, instructors, and other adults about her research in music. "How do you research music?" is a question she has continually faced this semester. Wilson finds herself explaining, "There is a lot about music you can research. You can take music theory or research the emotional connection a vocalist has with the music. Music isn't just music. [It's] a really hard field, [and it's] more than just playing an instrument."

Wilson's project focuses on why singers, especially at the high school level, shy away from Spanish songs in favor of French, Italian and German compositions. One of her preliminary steps was to analyze three popular Spanish composers: Enrique Granados, Manuel De Falla, and Joaquin Rodrigo. Wilson and Dr. Rosine then turned to look for young vocalists just beginning to sing in languages other than English. Wilson has observed a boys' choir and has also identified three subjects for more in-depth interviews.

Over the semester, she found that some deterrents include the challenging Spanish language dialects and the emotionally demanding nature of a Spanish song. In terms of technique, dialects present a new challenge to vocalists, since French and Italian music do not employ the use of regional dialects as Spanish does. Wilson also explains that in Spanish music, "The lyrics are very blunt. The songs are set around intense moments in life such as death and lost love, which a young singer is not going to understand fully at 12-years old."

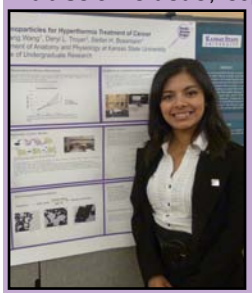
The most unsettling reason came when Wilson asked her choir director, "Why don't singers and the audience have more respect for Spanish music?" Skeptics might ask, "How is researching Spanish music going to help anything?" As the daughter of a Peruvian woman, Wilson's formal explanations and cultural aims are personal, yet clear. Not only does Spanish help with performing songs in other romance languages, Wilson wants to show the community at-large that "Spanish music is just as cool as European music and is important to our culture. There are a lot of Hispanic families in our community we don't even notice, and I want to bring respect back that American popular culture has taken away."

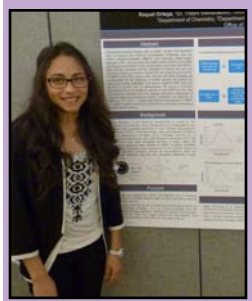
Overall, Wilson is challenging a tacit consensus. When she explained her research to her academic advisor, Dr. Phillip Payne, Wilson was met with enthusiasm, "Music students never feel like they need to research." Wilson's research is breaking into a social space dominated by science and engineering. Her project opens up avenues to influence her peers in the humanities to conduct research of their own.

Scholars Travel to Conferences

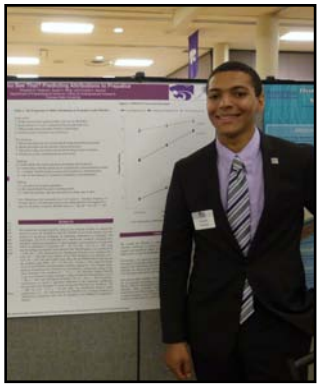
Thuy Cao, senior in Biochemisty, presented her research on the enzyme ACEL-1 in the molting fluid of Manduca sexta, at the K-INBRE conference in Topeka, KS. Cao's research mentor is **Dr. Neil Dittmer.**

Yubisela Toldedo, sophomore in Biology/Pre-Optometry, and **Raquel Ortega**, sophomore in Chemistry/Pre-Medicine, gave oral presentations at the Midwest Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society in Columbia, Missouri, November 12-15, 2014. Ortega presented, "Studying the Protease Expression of Triple Negative Breast Cancer" and Toledo, "Synthesizing Magnetic Nanoparticles for Hyperthermia Treatment of Cancer." They attended the conference with their faculty mentor, **Dr. Stefan Bossmann.** Both Ortega and Toledo presented at Posters at the Capitol in Topeka in February.





Navanté Peacock, sophomore in Psychology and Anthropology, presented his research entitled, "Propensity versus Prototypes: Factors That Influence Attributions to Prejudice," in a poster session at the Southwest Psychology Association Convention on April 10-12, 2015. Peacock's research mentor is **Dr. Don Saucier.** Peacock also presented research at the Capitol in Topeka in February.



Cancer Research Award Recipients 2014-2015:

Raquel Ortega
German Cuevas

Ortega presents at Research Day at the Capitol

Cuevas presents at DSP Symposium

Phillin' the Love: Mr. Marketer Meets a Mentor

Phillip Hill (DSP '11-'14), senior in Marketing, graduates this May. Hill worked on research through DSP with **Dr. Esther Swilley** of the Marketing Department. He presented his research at The Society of Marketing Advances conference in Hilton Head, South Carolina and the following year in New Orleans where he was able to network with professionals in his field. Hill also used LinkedIn as a means of exploring the job market. As he networked with a San Francisco-based organization, imagine his surprise when he and the person in San Francisco learned that they were both Developing Scholars alumni! **Danielle Cornejo-English** was in DSP from 2004-2007. She attended graduate school at the University of Denver before moving to San Francisco and is currently digital manager at Weber Shandwick. She also guided Hill as he planned his trip west to explore what awaits him on the East Coast.

Thank You, Faculty Mentors!

Our Scholars owe much of their success to our K-State faculty who believe in "passing on the torch" of knowledge and illumination through early training in research and creative inquiry.

DSP Faculty mentors plan classes, write syllabi, conduct research, attend meetings, serve on committees, teach classes, see students, AND mentor undergraduates at no additional funding.

We thank you for your continued investment in, and support of, our program and student scholars.

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KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

DSP Alumni Pay it Forward Awards:

Talia Gutierrez, Dodge City, (B.S./M.S. 2007, Industrial Engineering) said, "I know it would make a first generation college student very happy. It feels good to finally give back! I will forever be grateful to DSP and all that it did for me." Talia works for XTO Energy in Fort Worth, Texas. XTO is a wholly owned subsidiary of ExxonMobil. Her position is Master Contracts Advisor. Talia's DSP faculty research mentor while at K-State was **Dr. Todd Easton** in industrial engineering.

Bobby Gomez (top left), Shawnee, (B.S. 2010, Education, M.S. Early Education from Hunter College) and brother **Phillip Gomez** (bottom right), Shawnee, (B.S. 2014, Marketing) also stepped forward. "The Developing Scholars Program was my family. The family that provided the support and knowledge to be successful in college and an ever-changing world. I am where I am today because of the Developing Scholars Program," Bobby said. Bobby spent two years with Teach for America in Brooklyn, New York. He currently teaches second grade at St. Luke's School in Brooklyn and coaches soccer. **Dr. Adrienne Leslie-Toogood** was his research mentor in Education. Phillip was known in DSP for keeping the candy bowl full and for supplying leaf bags every year for the DSP Rake N Run service event. Phillip is working for the National Intercollegiate Soccer Officials Association. His research mentor was **Dr. Kevin Gwinner.**