

Program starts new tradition with first induction ceremony



Scholars get to know each other by playing ice-breaker BINGO.

The Developing Scholars Program (DSP), now in its seventh year at K-State, is an undergraduate research program for underrepresented students. The program has nearly tripled in size, thus making Fall 2006 an ideal time to introduce a formal welcome into the program. DSP held its first induction ceremony on September 10, 2006, receiving fifty-six scholars into this program founded on expectations of academic excellence, overall achievement, and commitment to integrity. The ceremony began with Anita Cortez, administrative director, giving a short history of the Program in order to give all Scholars an understanding of responsibility not only to

themselves and each other, but to the efforts of those who came before them as well. Scholars were encouraged to consider that with great opportunity comes great responsibility. DSP alums Thuy-Kieu Nguyen, senior in Fine Arts and designer of the DSP lapel pins, and Clemente Jaquez-Herrera, senior in Architecture, spoke about their experiences in DSP and the opportunities they have had as a result of their participation in the Program. Both spoke of the prestige they enjoyed as Scholars and the network of professional contacts they developed. Following their comments, Joel Pearson, graduate in Student Personnel, spoke to the group about his decision to pursue a graduate degree. Dr. Farrell Webb, academic director and seminar professor, spoke to the group about what it means to be a professional. He encouraged scholars to look back in their families’ struggles and look forward to a future filled with opportunities unattainable to our ancestors. Then the pinning ceremony commenced, followed by cake and punch.



Left: Gloria Conner, third-year Scholar, is pinned. Right: Joel Pearson, graduate assistant, is pinned as an honorary member.

Scholars revisit Asian heritage and compare experiences from past decade



Jannet drinks fresh spring water.

Jannet Wright, Transport Combat Medic for the U.S. Army Reserves, may call Junction City home, but this second-year Scholar has spent plenty of time working and studying on the other side of the

world. This past summer, she spent 2 ½ months in her mother’s native land of South Korea to study abroad and visit family in the cities of Seoul, Suwon, Osan and Songtan. Below, Jannet contrasts her experiences abroad. J: The classes were taught in Korean so I was able to enhance my reading and writing skills. I liked being able to see my family; it’s been ten years since I’ve seen them. I was exposed to many other cultures of students that also studied abroad: Denmark, Poland, Germany and Russia. Personally, a difference I felt was that Korea has become more westernized. I didn’t really like seeing that. It has really taken away from their culture. Ten years ago, there were more of the Korean traditions. Now, you have to go to expos to see how Korea used to be. The rest of the culture was so “American”; it was hard to find anything that was just the Korean-style. K: How did this make you feel? J: It was upsetting because it’s fun to go to another country to see the differences. The differences were not as significant as they were ten years ago. I would rather go back to see the old Korea and learn more about that culture. Instead, I went and experienced the same things I do in America. I realized that I’m a quick learner. I thought college was going to be the most difficult experience ever! After one week, I had it down more than I thought and actually passed [exams]. I can get along really easily with people. I was exposed to a variety of cultures; others may have had a difficult time adjusting because it was so different. I could just fit in. Also, I learned that I could cook Korean food better too! K: How has this experience changed you? J: I’m different now because I can adjust to a foreign country faster than I imagined. I was there by myself so it was kind of stressful. I felt nervous and scared, but, really, it wasn’t any different. When I go to other countries, I kind of know what to expect. Being in Iraq helped me adjust to the weather. It was very, very hot and Korea is in the same Asian region.



AJ with family at Taal Volcano near Tagaytay

Andrew John (A.J.) Herrs, third-year Scholar, hasn’t been back to the Philippines since he was a young teen. From the small town of Green, Kansas, this geology major ventures across the globe

to see his family. Here, AJ reflects on his renewed experience... K: Do you know any Tagalog (the native language)? AJ: Just a few words. Sometimes, they would talk too fast and I couldn’t understand anything they were saying except one word, like, “sleep.” But they spoke a little English, too, so that helped. K: Describe the differences between the travels of this time and the last. AJ: I noticed how poor people are. I noticed that a lot more. K: How did that make you feel? AJ: My mom and her older sister provide for the rest of the family. (They are the only two who live and work in the United States.) When I get older, I want to try to take over that role and help out financially. [My mom and aunt] pay for [the kids] to go to school over there, and I want to be able to help out with that too. K: What did you learn? AJ: There’s a big aspect of the cultural stuff like the food they eat. This time, I ate a lot of different kinds. The traffic’s crazy! There aren’t any stoplights and people drive between the lanes. There, family has a warm atmosphere. I learned to appreciate the family I have more. And to value my possessions and money a little more because a lot of people over there don’t have that. K: How has this experience changed you? AJ: I have a new goal of trying to become successful enough to provide for them. That’s the main thing I got out of it. K: Describe what being successful means to you and your path toward reaching that goal. AJ: I think to have enough [money] so they can live and get an education. I want to finish school, get a decent job and provide for the family I would have here and my family there too. I would at least get a master’s degree for sure, maybe a doctorate too.

Dates to Remember

- October 31, 2006 all day: [Haunted] Open House in Holton 001
- November 5, 2006 at 3-5pm: DSP group activity
- February 19, 2007 at 3-5pm: Target on Excellence Forum
- April 22, 2007 at 2-4pm: 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Poster Presentations



Dwight Alexander Sitings



Dwight sited in Austria.

Dwight Alexander, third-year Scholar, continues to add to his list of profound educational experiences. When approached by Dr. Jon Mahoney, professor in philosophy, about studying in Italy, Dwight could not resist. While in Italy on the summer study abroad trip, he visited Rome, Florence, Sorrento, and Venice. He was awestruck by what he saw: Aqueducts and fountains from the first and second centuries are still being used today. He also had the opportunity to see Michelangelo’s famous sculpture *David*, and in Rome, he saw the famous *Temple of Jupiter*. Along with the historical experiences, he found that the cultural experience was fascinating as well. “Things weren’t as hectic and rushed in Europe as they are in the States,” Dwight said as he noted how open and personable people were in Italy. It was an educational and cultural experience Dwight said he will never forget. While in Europe, he also took a short train ride to Innsbruck, Austria. Later in the summer, Dwight traveled to the Bahamas with his family, and somewhere in-between, he managed to attend a pre-law institute at the University of Nebraska. Dwight can now be sited tail-gating in his newly purchased ten-dollar van outside the Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

Editorial from Clemente



Elise Gaines, Team Awesome member, drops cans off during the DSP Food Drive.

DSP students must always pride themselves in their academic and professional performance. It is also important not to forget why every student has made it so far. In many ways their local community supported them and nourished their intellectual growth.

As DSP Scholars, we must hold ourselves accountable for the well-being of our surroundings. It is our responsibility to become leaders of our community and set an example for our society. This semester, I am privileged to be the community service coordinator. My main objective in providing this opportunity to our Scholars is to help them realize the simple acts that could provide a great impact. I hope that by implementing community service activities within our DSP group, our students will interact with one another on a more personal basis and get to know one another despite their year classification or major. By having our scholars get to know one another more personally and having them depend on one another, I believe we will strengthen the image and structure of the Developing Scholars Program. Community service activities, I believe, bring a sense of connection and awareness towards the community, and in a personal meaning, it makes one humble. My goal is to have one major community service event at the beginning of each month. Along with resume-building opportunities, these activities will strengthen the core values and social mores of our scholars.

Cameron Anderson is S.M.A.R.T.



Cameron with his MIT research group.

Last spring Cameron Anderson was chosen as a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Extraordinary Scholar. As a result, he traveled to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge where he worked in the lab of Dr. Tyler Jackson conducting research on stem cells derived from lungs. Cameron has returned from his summer internship at MIT wiser and more grateful. In Dr. Jackson’s lab he worked with other scholars from all over the country and the world. Cameron said that interacting with this diverse group of students has given him a clearer perspective of his successes as a Developing Scholar. One of his counterparts from Africa spoke with him about the opportunities in education that many American students take for granted. Cameron says he realizes the advantages he has and capitalizes on them. He only hopes that other Developing Scholars will do the same. “We are all given the chance to excel and succeed, and we all should seize each and every one of them,” says Cameron. Cameron has also received two scholarships: The Department of Defense’s Science, Math and Research for Transformation Scholarship (SMART) and the Kansas Idea Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (K–INBRE). Due to Cameron’s hard work, he was recommended by Dr. Larry Williams, his advisor, for these honors. In the case of the K-IMBRE scholarship, Dr. Williams sought him out and encouraged him to apply for it. Because of his dedication to academics, Cameron was an excellent candidate for the scholarship according to his advisor.

Cameron’s advice to Scholars? Focus on classes, remember to build relationships with professors, and always follow through with commitments. Be mindful of your actions. You never know who is watching and what opportunities they might provide.

Getting to know all about you...Spotlights on some of our DSP staff



Left to Right: Joel Oliver Pearson, Clemente Jaquez-Herrera, Liz Vargas

Having studied Spanish for two years, he buffed up his skills in Mexico during Spring 2006. While there, he studied the language, participated in community service with the indigenous people and worked as an intern for Tecnologico de Monterrey (a university in the city of Cuernavaca). Currently in his final semester of graduate school, Joel Oliver Pearson is researching service learning. At our induction ceremony, he was pinned an honorary member of the Developing Scholars Program. Joel will be graduating this December with a master’s degree in counseling and college student development. Joel is hoping to keep his Spanish fresh by having bilingual conversations with students in the office. Swing by sometime to chat it up with him.

This 20-year-old architecture student is a DSP alum and straight-A student. He pursues immigrant and minority rights and his leadership within organizations is well-known across campus and the greater community. As a member of the DSP staff, Clemente Jaquez-Herrera organizes monthly service activities to lend helping hands to the community and build DSP into a stronger entity. Clemente is currently working toward his master’s degree in architecture and hopes to graduate from K-State in 2008. Soon thereafter, he hopes to continue his education in England. He is in the application process for national scholarships which allow for graduate studies abroad. Next semester, Clemente will be studying architecture in Italy.

This second-year Scholar is studying psychology and is currently working on a project that examines how people cope with trauma. Liz Vargas is DSP’s official social chair. In planning group activities, she hopes to unite DSP members through more relaxed and informal social gatherings. Some of these events included going out for dinner and cheering on the intramural soccer team Funky Monkey, whose star players are members from our own DSP family. She hopes to one day work with teens who have eating disorders. Before that, she may be spending a year in the Peace Corps to focus on others’ needs. Upon her return, Liz will continue to work toward her own goals and dreams which include moving on to graduate school. Have ideas for social events? Share them with Liz: [lizette@k-state.edu](mailto:lizette@k-state.edu)

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