From Dreaming to Becoming...Aha! Continued

And if the results are positive? “Then we get permission to test on other companion animals,” he says. Joshua believes the more scientific jingo he learns, the better. He has also learned that one needs to be unbiased in order to avoid influencing results. Joshua says DSP has put him ahead of his peers: “DSP is like graduate school preparation, because I am already doing what graduate students do. When I enter graduate school, I will already be prepared.”

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Where in the World Are They Headed?

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Tamic Lige: University of Kansas or Pennsylvania State University in Art History
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Joey Martinez: Field engineer with Hensel Phelps Construction Company working on a new facility at the UCLA Medical campus in Torrance, CA
Leonel Hernandez: Target Corporation as a Construction Executive in Training, Minneapolis
Jessica Rodriguez: South America to Santiago, Chile, then Lima and Cusco, Peru, then Montanita, Ecuador. Finally, Quality Associate for General Mills in Rockford, Illinois
Elise Gaines: has been accepted to graduate school in audiology at Wichita State and University of Kansas
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Countries where Scholars have travelled

- Japan
- Kenya
- Australia
- Korea
- Russia
- Honduras
- Belize
- Germany
- Spain
- And this summer, China will be added to the list.

Developing Scholars Program

From Dreaming to Becoming...Aha!

“My dream job is to be a research doctor. I could test samples and try to find cures. When you are young, it seems like make believe, but while you are in a lab, actually doing the work, and putting in the time to get results, it is not as far away as most people would think,” says Joshua Springfield, junior and first-year Developing Scholar majoring in Microbiology and Clinical Lab Science. “Growing up, we kids would sometimes play ‘little scientist.’ We lit matches and set things on fire; we tried to see if our fingers would burn, or tried to invent a magic potion to give us super strength.”

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A Passion for Puzzles

Finding your passion is listening to the music playing in your heart. You wish it were as easy as figuring out if you prefer to be a Wildcat or a Jayhawk. Alas, it is a more puzzling journey! But what fun would it be if it did not require hard work? In the Developing Scholars Program, we are all encouraged to find our passion, to find what it is that our heart asks for, to find our drive, to find our reason for struggling and working so hard.

When it comes to finding passion, Ariel Anib, third-year Developing Scholar and junior in Pre-Law and Criminology with a minor in Non-Profit leadership and Spanish, confirms that it is a journey, but one that will be worth it in the end. Ariel is working with Dr. Nadia Shapkina, Sociology, on human trafficking. The title of her research is: A Clogged Artery and Analysis of Human Trafficking in the Heart of America. She chose this project because there is a need in Kansas for people to be aware that trafficking is not just a thing of big cities or other countries. It happens here. Ariel says, ‘Because of Kansas’ proximity to I-35, a lot of people use Kansas as a transit place for victims who are trafficked.’ She and her mentor found cases of human trafficking in Kansas City, Wichita, and Topeka. They even found a case of a K-State student who was trafficked to Fort Riley. Trafficking can truly happen anywhere.

Dr. Shapkina says that the most common form of human trafficking is sex trafficking. She went on to say that ‘...contemporary trafficking happens mostly because people decide to migrate voluntarily to other places in search of better resources or better social conditions and that exposes them to dangers, vulnerabilities, and risks.’ For trafficking, which is something that is ‘near and dear to her heart.’ She hopes to work one day for the International Justice Mission. Her back-up plan is to volunteer for the Peace Corps after graduation. Ariel hopes her research this year will offer one solution to the problem. Ariel found her niche by searching. “If, while doing your research, you get interested in something else, take the steps to research about that because you never know what you might find.” -Ariel Anib

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Dr. Anib explains, “The first thing I ask students to do when they start working with multiple Scholars. And that is truly a testament to both the Scholars Program and our Faculty. Faculty mentors are integral to the developing Scholars Program. They oversee Scholars’ research, help to network, give advice, and collaborate to foster educational growth. Three mentors, Dr. Anelisee Nguyen, Veterinary Medicine-Toxicology, Dr. Warren White, Mechanical Engineering, and Dr. Stefan Bossmann, Chemistry, work with multiple Scholars. For Dr. Nguyen, work and vacation can become intertwined. “Once I was at Machu Picchu hiking, and got a call from my lab.” Why would she take a call when in another hemisphere on vacation? She explained, “It can change experiments!” Dr. Nguyen oversees three Scholars focusing on cancer research: Luis Chavez, Morgan Armbruster, and Kristina Bigelow. The Scholars have different projects. “I challenge each student in a different way, because in my lab everyone plays a major part,” Dr. Nguyen explains.

Dr. White has three Scholars as well. Joshua Ames, Miguel Valdes, and Victor Salazar are working as a team to produce a device for an undergraduate engineering lab. The device, a motorlab, is an integral part of the Dynamic Systems and Controls Laboratory. The team is redesigning and compiling data about the manufacturing of the motorlab. Dr. White wants to market the motorlab to other universities in order to fund K-State’s laboratory. “Technology can change and you need to have the means to incorporate new ideas. Changing labs is very labor intensive,” Dr. Warren points out. Their research hopes to sustain itself and to pave the way for future Scholars. Dr. Bossmann’s two scholars, Pamela Maynez and David Villanueva, are working with oligo peptides in cancer research. Dr. Bossmann says there is one essential quality: “You have to be self-driven. If you don’t reach certain goals for yourself, you cannot work in a research lab. You have to have a vision for yourself and you have to have imagination.” Not surprisingly, Dr. Bossmann also mentioned enthusiasm as a beneficial quality, and he observes that successful Scholars “are energetic and excited in what they’re doing.”

The mentors wish to prepare their Scholars for life after their undergraduate degrees. Dr. Bossmann wants his students to be independent. “Students have to become active, have to look for their own methods and contributions. I believe in helping them early to see if this is something for them.”

Dr. Nguyen says, “The first thing I ask them is what they want to do after they are done in my lab. Most say veterinary or medical school. What makes you stand out is doing things besides the MCAT and your GPA. Research is one of them—not only research but meaningful publication. I can help them toward that to make their application more desirable.” The main quality that mentors need, according to students, is a good rapport with students. Armbruster said, “I expect [my mentor] to help me when I am unsure of my work.” Bigelow expects “communication and advice,” and Villanueva expects his mentor to “be there to help with any question I have.”

Maynez, a transfer student, found that having a fellow Scholar to research with is beneficial as well. “I came here and I didn’t know anyone. [David Villanueva] was the first person I met and made friends with here, and in the lab that’s really helpful.” Salazar seconds this opinion: “Working in groups requires that all people work in tandem and in an effective manner.” Overall, the Scholars are able to explain their research with impressive composure and eloquence, and that is truly a testament to both the Scholars and the mentors’ hard work and dedication.
The Achievement Advantage

Classes and research and a social life...oh my! The life of a Developing Scholar is a busy one, yet some Scholars have still managed to achieve a grade point average of 4.0. The Scholars who achieved a 4.0 in 12 hours or more in Spring 2010 are Jerome Bernard, senior in Psychology; Edwardo Alvarado, senior in Philosophy and Economics; Jaime Arreola, junior in Psychology; Eduviero Alvarado, senior in Philosophy and Economics; Anthony Garcia, senior in Kinesiology; Pre-Medicine; Matthew James, senior in Industrial Engineering; Evgeniy Shishkin, senior in Chemical Engineering. Scholars who achieved a 3.80-3.99 GPA in 12 hours or more in Spring 2010 are Ariel Anib, junior in Psychology; Danielle Anderson, sophomore in Biology; Laura Gonzales, freshman in Hotel and Restaurant Management; Joerg Mendoza, senior in Biology. Scholars who achieved a 3.60-3.79 GPA in 12 hours or more in Fall 2010 are Eduviero Alvarado, senior in Philosophy and Economics; Jaime Arreola, junior in Psychology; Kristina Bigelow, junior in Biological Science and Gerontology; Emma Brase, sophomore in Biological Engineering; Johanna Diaz, junior in Biology; Laura Gonzales, freshman in Hotel and Restaurant Management; Tyler Johnson, sophomore in Business Administration; Tamica Lige, senior in Social History; Stephanie Skinner, sophomore in Animal Sciences. Students who achieved a 3.80-3.99 GPA in 12 hours or more in Fall 2010 are Ariel Anib, senior in Sociology and Modern Languages; and Evgeniy Shishkin, senior in Chemical Engineering.

A Sweetheart of an Opportunity

The Edgerley/Franklin Urban Leadership Scholarship Program hosted its 4th annual Leadership Day on February 14, 2011. The Leadership Day gave 12 scholarship finalists the opportunity to interview with the selection committee. Throughout the day the candidates interacted with current scholars and campus representatives to learn more about the program and the university. The purpose of the scholarship is to shape the next generation of great American urban leaders. Scholars will have the knowledge to make sound judgments, the character to flourish under the pressures of leadership, and the vision to bring new solutions to our nation’s most pressing urban needs. Four recipients, Jonathan Bernard, Ismael Hernandez, Zachary Jones, and Chayce Wynn are poised to join the Edgerley/Franklin leaders this fall. Additionally, the overall quality of the students’ interviews prompted the committee to extend an invitation for all finalists to join the Developing Scholars Program. Current Edgerley-Franklin Urban Leaders, Michelle Foster, Mary Jackson, Edmond Rodriguez, Oscar Rodriguez, Miguel Valdes, and Derrick Wiggins, along with graduate assistant Nate Garcia, spent the first half of their spring break on a Kansas City urban service trip. Dr. Bernard Franklin arranged meetings with civic organizations and leaders.

"It was a great experience. The scholars dedicated their time during spring break to learn about urban issues and the types of actions regular people around Kansas City are making to bring about positive change." -Nate Garcia

A Transformative Journey

“Through the Developing Scholars Program students are transformed as they slowly embark on a voyage towards higher learning," states Jaime Tobon, third-year Scholar and senior in Biology. The purpose of student participation in the Developing Scholars Program is to explore an area of interest much earlier than previously afforded. This opportunity often serves as the foundation of a desire for further learning within Scholars. In fact, most students who participate in the program stay committed to the program for the maximum three years. Of those students, most decide to continue on to achieve a degree beyond their bachelor's degree. This year, we decided to ask the Scholars, "What are your reasons for participating in the Developing Scholars Program?" With the program at its largest with about 75 scholars, we were able to obtain a multitude of different responses. The responses ranged from experiencing exposure to gaining new ways of learning. The top five answers included: an opportunity in undergraduate research, the ability to network, the support system the DSR family creates, research with knowledgeable professionals, and early career preparation.

We were also interested to see how many of the Scholars in the current group had made the decision to advance their education past their bachelor's degree. Around 90% of the responses received stated that they planned to continue with school after their undergraduate studies.

Reflections of a First-Year: Gavin Talking to the Law

As I complete my first year in the DSP, it is impossible for me to ignore the changes that have undergone. I have developed opinions and ideas about my profession and have spoken to representatives of national organizations and individuals in the design profession. Students of the College of Architecture are awake for hours. However, Seaton Hall is full of teachers who believe in students making intriguing discoveries. Coming to fruition within the Developing Scholars Program...
Scholars Hunger to Compete

In the post-apocalyptic world of The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins, being a teenager means putting your life on the line every year. One boy and one girl are chosen from each of the twelve districts and forced to fight to the death in a televised game shown by the Capitol in retribution for a failed rebellion.

Stephanie Skinner said The Hunger Games is about more than just a battle. It is about surviving, and what it means to live in a dictatorship where not even the lives of your children are safe. It is a commentary on American culture, consumerism, and egoctrism. The people of the Capitol see the tributes as a source of consumerism, and egocentrism. The Capitol sees the tributes on the line every year. One boy and one girl are chosen from each of the twelve districts and forced to fight to the death in a televised game shown by the Capitol in retribution for a failed rebellion.

District Nine, led by Ariel Anib, contributed 133 items. Other team members were Eduardo Alvarado, Laura Gonzales, Valerie Rito, and Brooke Williams. The leading individual contributors were Caleb Wurth, Alejandro De Luna, Edmond Rivera, Isaac Falcon-Campos, and Miguel Valdés. The drive raised over 600 pounds of food and 41 pairs of mittens, demonstrating how Developing Scholars are developing their civic-mindedness as well their intellects.

Disclaimer: No competitors were harmed in this competition.

Note: Stephanie Skinner and Abe Denner have both been invited to serve on the selection committee for the KSBN 2012.

Jasmine Sharp, third-year Scholar in Wildlife Biology, was chosen for the Grand Teton Internship program working in the Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming. Jasmine is interested in the conservation of endangered wildlife and the maintenance of biodiversity, and this summer internship will allow her to gain more insight and knowledge in these areas. Jasmine hopes to get better acquainted with other biologists and to learn more by being in the field. One of her duties will be to assist in monitoring the breeding success of several sensitive birds: bald eagles, trumpeter swans, great blue herons, ospreys, sage grouse, peregrine falcons, and others. She will observe these species using a spotting scope or binoculars and record information on their occurrence, habitat, and nesting status. Jasmine is eager to further her experiences in the area of Wildlife Biology. She feels fortunate and privileged to be working with Dr. Samantha Wisely in the Department of Biology. Dr. Wisely is very knowledgeable in the field of molecular ecology and she answers a lot of questions I have in regards to wildlife biology,” Jasmine said. Jasmine also attributes many of her successes to the Developing Scholars Program. “DSP has helped me a lot, not only providing me with undergraduate research but also in having the privilege of being connected with helpful and knowledgeable people in the program.”

DSP Mathematician Earns Prestigious Internship

What are your summer plans? This is a question most college students face this time of year. Perla Salazar, senior in mathematics, has her answer: She has been accepted into the Real Industrial Mathematics Program (RIPS) through the Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics at the University of California, Los Angeles. “We suggested Perla apply because it is an industrial mathematics program with real industry problems,” Dr. Korten stated. “My impression is that Perla may be ‘wired’ for pure math, but we wanted her to explore applied mathematics in time for her to make her graduate school choices so that they match what she wants to do rather than by default.”

“We are very proud of Perla, as RIPS is extremely competitive. Not only did Perla make RIPS, she did so without any help from our professional networks. Now I am telling her to be prepared to do the cramming of her lifetime while she is there. Even if she does not go into applied math, the people she will meet at RIPS will meet professionally again, as they are members of the same generation and will move through their career stages at about the same time. They will be a resource for each other.” Perla’s mentors are Dr. Marianne Korten and Dr. Charles Moore, Department of Mathematics.