Program starts new tradition with first induction ceremony

Scholars revisit Asian heritage and compare experiences from past decade

Jannet Wright, Transport Combat Medic for the U.S. Army Reserves, describes how being in Iraq helped her to appreciate the family she has back home in South Korea. "When I go to other countries, I kind of know what to expect. Being in Iraq helped me adjust to the stoplights and people drive between the lanes. It was very, very hot and Korea is in 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.

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, 'sleep.' But they spoke a little English, too, so they helped.

K: Describe the differences between the travels of here and my family there too. I would at least get a master's degree for sure, maybe a doctorate too.

K: How did that make you feel?

AJ: I noticed how poor people are. I noticed that a lot more.

K: How did this experience change you?

AJ: My mom and her older sister provide for the rest of the family. (They are the only two who live back in their families' struggles and look forward to being able to help out with that too.)

K: How 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 work hard here and my family there too. I would at least get a master's degree for sure, maybe a doctorate too.
Dwight Alexander Sittings

Dwight Alexander, third-year Scholar, continues to add to his list of profound educational experiences. When approached by Dr. Jon Mahoney, professor of philosophy, about studying in Italy, Dwight could not resist. Dwight visited his first country and already a second, 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 cited tail-gating in his newly purchased ten-dollar van outside the Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

Editorial from Clemente

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.

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

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 greater community. As a member of these events included going out for dinner and conversing on the intramural soccer team Funky Monkey, whose star players are members of our own DSP family. She hopes to one day work with teens who have eating disorders. “I would love 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

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

Last spring Cameron Anderson was chosen as a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Exceptional 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 counter parts from Africa spoke with him about the opportunities in education as 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. Willets sought him out 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.

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