Dwight Alexander, 2004, has finished law school at the University of Kansas and is in private practice. Dwight Alexander, 2010, attends Cleveland Chiropractic College in Overland Park, Kansas, and is halfway through his program of study. Estrada also took Part I of his board exams over spring break. His older brother and DSP alumnus, Uriel Estrada, is one year ahead of him at the same chiropractic college. Morgan Fisher Isom, 2000, works at the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan. Victoria Fort, 2009, has been hired by the State of Oklahoma’s Department of Human Services in Muskogee, Oklahoma. Nathan Garcia, 2005, works for Deloitte Tax LLP, a “Big 4” accounting firm. His home state of Texas is ahead of him at the same chiropractic college. Clemente Jaquez-Herrera, 2003, works as a designer at RTKL Architects in Dallas, Texas, passed all seven of his licensing exams, and is now a licensed architect. Dwayne McFerren, 2006, will graduate from the University of Dayton Law School, in Dayton, Ohio, this May. Dr. Kristy Morales, 2005, will begin working at the Small Animal Medicine/Surgery/Emergency at Chesapeake Veterinary Referral Center, Towson, Maryland. Dr. Zachariah Marteney, 2006, will begin working at the Small Animal Medicine/Surgery/Emergency at Chesapeake Veterinary Referral Center, Towson, Maryland. Dr. Michelle Meyer, 2005, will begin working at the University of Missouri’s College of Veterinary Medicine, Columbia, Missouri. Dr. Johna Wallace, 2006, plans to go into general practice after graduation.

A Special Thank You to Developing Scholars’ Alumni, Class of 2002, Andrew Kowal for giving back to DSP so other students can have the same benefits that he enjoyed.

A Special Thank You to Jim and Connie Hamilton for their support of the Developing Scholars Program.
A Special Thank You to Pfizer Pharmaceuticals for their support of the Developing Scholars in Agricultural and Pre-Veterinary Sciences.
Anib Wins Fulbright to Study in Mexico

Ariel Anib, senior in Sociology/Latin American Studies/International Studies/Pre-Law, won a Fulbright Scholarship to study in Mexico for one year. This prestigious program issues 8,000 grants world-wide for graduate study, advanced research, university lecturing, and classroom teaching each year. Anib is also minorinng in Spanish, Nonprofit Leadership, and American Ethnic Studies, and she is the Edgarley-Franklin staff assistant and a Developing Scholars Alumna. In addition to her studies and DSP research, Anib has been involved in the Student Governing Association as the director of multicultural affairs, served as the multicultural assistant of Goodnow Hall, was a Leadership Stud- ties ambassador, and has been involved with the Kansas State University Student Foundation. She took the initiative in planning K-State’s Anti-Slavery Summit to inform the campus about human trafficking. Anib served as a leader for an alternative spring break service project in Chicago. Anib was honored earlier this year with the 2012 Commerce Bank Presidential Award for Enhancing Multiculturalism. She is the recipient of a K-State Hero Award, the Inaugural Wildcat Peace Award, the DSP Exemplary Scholar Award, and the Office of Student Life’s Outstanding Senior Award. Anib is poised to make the Developing Scholars Program proud for many years to come.

What Comes Next?

Jaime Arreola, Political Science/ Psychology/International Studies with a minor in Conflict Analysis and Trauma, will be joining an international service team in Brazil this summer and is waiting to be placed in the Peace Corps. Barbara Braga, Creative Writing with a minor in Leadership Studies, is pursuing graduate studies in Student Personnel. Alejandro De Luna, Construction Science and Management with a minor in Business, was hired by Turner Construction Company in Kansas City, Missouri. Johanna Diaz, Biology/Pre-Veterinary Medicine, begins her studies in Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State University. Jordan Eder, Microbiology with a minor in Animal Science and Industry, will start graduate studies in Immunobiology at Iowa State University this fall. Isaac Falcon Campos, Psychology, will begin graduate studies at Kansas State University this fall in Family Studies and Human Services and ultimately intends to earn a Ph.D. in counseling. Karmen Harris, Industrial Engineering, will begin her career as a Section Manager at Hallmark Cards in Lawrence, Kansas. Matthew James, Bachelor’s degrees in Economics and Industrial Engineering and a Master’s Degree in Industrial Engineering, will work for Exxon Mobil Chemicals in Houston, Texas. Perla Salazar, Mathematics, has been accepted into the Mathematics Ph.D. program at the University of Kansas. Jimmie Stewart, Biology/Gerontology/Pre-Medicine, has been accepted to the University of Kansas Medical School.

Some Scholars Conduct Research at K-State over the Summer

Developing Scholar Alexa Sampson-Bellot, junior in Animal Sciences and Indus- try/Pre-Veterinary Medicine, got the opportunity to begin working on research this sum- mer. She began research on PRRS, a swine virus, at the Large Animal Research Center (LARC) with Dr. Raymond Rowland, Professor in Diagnostic Medicine and Pathobiology. Sampson-Bellot has continued working on this research for the Developing Scholars Pro- gram.

The research required the collection of saliva and blood samples from infected pigs. This particular virus is not transmittable to humans, although it causes lung problems within pigs. After two months of collection, Sampson-Bellot began analyzing the samples in Dr. Rowland’s lab where she studies the virus through cell culture work. She says the most difficult thing is to keep the cell cultures alive. In time, they hope to develop a vaccine.

Scholar Priscilla De Los Santos, senior in Animal Sciences and Industry/Biotechnology with a Bioscience option, begins working with Dr. Rowland this coming summer, as she pursues her Master’s Degree in Biomedical Veterinary Science at Kansas State University this fall. De Los Santos’s current mentor is Dr. Mi- chael Kenney, Professor/Interim Department Head of Anatomy and Physiology.

Developing Scholars’ Alumnus

After completing a one-year post-baccalaureate program at Syracuse University, Developing Scholars’ Alumnus Jorge Mendoza began working on his Master’s degree in Wildlife Ecology at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. Every six months, Mendoza travels to Costa Rica for two weeks in order to gather samples that he later analyzes in the Peery Conservation Biology Lab. He is currently conducting research on two-toed and three-toed sloths in Costa Rica. His research interests include population biology, behavior ecology, and evolutionary ecology of tropical birds and mam- mals. After earning his Master’s degree Mendoza plans to pursue a Ph.D. and continue his research on the ecology, evolution, and genetics of birds and mammals of the trop- ics.

When asked how the Developing Scholars Program helped him beyond K-State, Mendoza said, “DSP taught me how to network. You can be a great scientist and think but that will only get you so far. You have to learn how to network, and DSP really helped me with that.” Mendoza also provides regular and much-appreciated donations to support the program.

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Lothamer collects fungi samples at City Park for analysis.

Pamela Maynez Perla Salazar
Kale Lothamer

Wilt Virus (TSWV) with Associate Professor infected. Even more puzzling, younger plants tend to die from TSWV, but older plants

biting an infected plant, TSWV then enters the thrip, but appears not to harm the insect. Even more puzzling, younger plants tend to die from TSWV, but older plants can fight it off.

In understanding how the thrips resist TSWV, Dr. Rotenberg and Ames hope to discover how to stop the virus from spreading. While a type of plant vaccine would be one way to stop TSWV, discovering a way for the virus to infect the insect host and kill it would spare many crops.

Ames presented his research for Dr. Rotenberg at the annual Ecological Genomics Conference in Kansas City, Kansas.

Characterizing the Konza
Abraham Denner, junior in Microbiology, conducts research for the Ecological Genomics Institute with Dr. Michael Herman, Professor in Biology. Their research focuses on characterizing grassland soil nematodes, which are microscopic round worms. On the rare occasion, Denner does collect nematode samples from the Konza Prairie, but he mainly studies the reproductive cycle of the previously collected nematodes while working to maintain the lab’s living samples from the Konza. Dr. Herman studies the effects nitrogen has on the plant life and on nematodes from the Konza Prairie. In working on this research, they hope to gain a greater understanding of the overall ecosystem while establishing what each nematode species does for its environment and how they do it. Additionally, Denner and Dr. Herman study the nematodes’ life cycle in hopes of determining what impact each nematode species has on the Konza Prairie’s complex ecosystem.

As an Ecological Genomics Institute undergraduate researcher, Kale Lothamer, a junior in Animal Science and Industry, works with Dr. Ari Jumpponen, Associate Professor in Biology, on fungal ecological research. Lothamer collected samples at City Park and on Kansas State University’s campus in order to study the urban ecology of fungi in the city of Manhattan. He looks at the diversity of species found in urban areas and compares the species present with those present in nearby rural areas. This research is done in hopes of understanding the various ways species of fungi adapt to survive in different environments. Lothamer hopes to continue this research next year.

Lothamer collects fungi samples at City Park for analysis.

Scholars Win Ecological Genomics Internships

Kansas State University’s Ecological Genomics Institute offers a limited number of scholarships each year for Undergraduate Research and Mentoring. These scholarships allow undergraduates to work on research with a faculty mentor in the field of ecological genomics, where ecology and genetics are studied in tandem. Researchers in this field work to gain an understanding of the genetic mechanisms that help organisms survive in various types of environments. They accomplish this by characterizing and identifying the specific genes that enable adaptation and evolution of a species.

Four Developing Scholars were awarded $15,000.00 internships 2012-2013. They are Stephanie Jaquez, senior in Food Science and Industry/ Pre-Veterinary Medicine, and Sofia Sabates, freshman in Psychology/ Pre-Veterinary Medicine. Joshua Ames and Kale Lothamer will continue in their internships for a second year.

Completed applications for the Ecological Genomics Institute’s Undergraduate Research and Mentoring Scholarship are due annually in March.

Congratulations to the 2012-2013 awardees!

For more information about the Ecological Genomics Institutes’ Undergraduate Research and Mentoring Scholarships, please visit http://ecogen.ksu.edu/
Michelle Foster Studied in China

Michelle Foster, senior in Political Science/American Ethnic Studies/Pre-Law, participated in a study abroad program, lead by Dr. Han Yu, Assistant Professor in English, to Beijing, China. The group stayed in a hostel right outside the gates of the Beijing Language and Culture University, which is where they interacted with the Chinese students and faculty. Highlights of her trip included walking a large portion of the Great Wall and visiting the Forbidden City, The Temple of Heaven, and Tiananmen Square. Foster also enjoyed foods unlike anything she had ever eaten before that were prepared by outdoor vendors. Foster would gladly go back to China and recommends that everyone broaden their college education by adding in a study abroad experience. Foster’s research mentor is Dr. Tanya González, Associate Professor in English.

Caleb Wurth Gains Work Experience through Internships

Caleb Wurth, junior in Agricultural Economics, Milling Science & Management, Feed Science & Management, has made the most out of his years in Developing Scholars working with Dr. Leland McKinney, Associate Professor, Grain Science and Industry. Now in his third and final year, Wurth has multiple internships on his vitae as well as several trips out of country. Wurth had barely finished his first year of college when he landed his first internship with Cargill/Horizon Milling in Mt. Pocono, Pennsylvania. Although young and with limited experience, he must have impressed his supervisors because the following year, he applied for and received an animal nutrition internship with Cargill in Fernwald, Pennsylvania. He was a business management intern in ingredient merchandising. This summer Wurth will remain closer to home as he has accepted a merchandising internship with Cargill/Horizon Milling in Overland Park, Kansas.

Wurth has more on his vitae than internships, however. He has participated in an Agronomy tour of Argentina to assess agricultural productivity and traveled to Colombia and Panama with an FFA ICAL agricultural study team. The team conducted an in-depth evaluation of the effect of United States free trade agreements on Colombian and Panamanian agriculture. Among the sectors analyzed were feed mills, co-op, dairy producers, beef ranchers, cock plantations, sugar plantations, fruit farms, and grain elevators.

Stephanie Skinner Studied in Spain

Stephanie Skinner, senior in Animal Sciences and Industry/Pre-Veterinary Medicine and mentored by Dr. Maria Ferrar, began studying Spanish in middle school years before she actually travelled to Spain. Due to her lengthy studies, she had no problem communicating in Spanish and even translated for some less proficient students. Yet she was surprised by how many people would speak to her in English once they heard her accent. While in Spain, Skinner attended the University of Salamanca where she took a course on Spanish grammar, one on poetry, and a class on women in the history of Spain. Skinner and three other students stayed with an older Spanish couple. Skinner says, “The food my host family cooked was amazing. I even gained a little weight even though we walked so much.” In fact, Skinner enjoyed her experience abroad so much that she is planning to study in New Zealand for a semester. Skinner’s ultimate goal is to visit every continent. So far, she has visited Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, Israel, Jordan, Egypt, the Netherlands, Austria, Spain, and Portugal leaving with her with only three continents to visit to reach her goal.

Are you interested in studying abroad? For more information, contact the Office of International Programs in person at 304 Fairchild Hall, by phone at 785-532-5990, or online at overseas@ksu.edu.

What Do Scholars Do

“Dr. Tanya Gonzalez is without a doubt one of the best mentors I have ever had in my life,” proclaims Michelle Foster. “She has not only been a mentor in research and learning, but a mentor in life. Dr. Tanya has become more than my boss, but someone that I can go and talk to about anything, whether it is school-related or a personal issue. What makes her so special to me is that she genuinely cares about my academic and personal growth. It’s not just about me doing the research project; it’s about what I learned through this research and how I can further apply that in my future studies. Dr. Tanya is also wonderful in that she takes my views and suggestions to heart.”

Foster reports that working with Dr. Gonzalez has increased her understanding of how to successfully use library and internet research tools. She also taught Foster how to write good abstracts, to do interlibrary loans, read and dissect scholarly works, use online catalogues, prepare proper citations and bibliographies, and helped improve her writing skills. Foster says she also has learned more about political and immigration issues and has a better understanding of media influences and perceptions of minorities.

Working with Dr. Gonzalez has influenced Foster’s career plans and even her scholarship on St Francis. Before working together, Foster was a major in Women Studies and debating whether to keep her Political Science major. After the first semester, Foster felt more secure in Political Science and added American Ethnic Studies as a major with a Women Studies minor. “Working with Dr. Gonzalez showed me just how much fun studying ethnicity and culture could be,” Foster said.

Dr. Gonzalez has been instrumental in helping Foster strategize for her future. She is always willing to help when it comes to writing references, reviewing essays, or sending Foster career and scholarship information. On occasion, mentor and scholar have spent an entire weekly meeting discussing Foster’s future. “I doubt I could understand how important that was to me, especially at times when I felt lost in what I wanted to do with my life,” Foster says. “With her support, I know I have someone whom I can rely on to help me understand exactly what path I want to take in the future.” Life lessons that Dr. Gonzalez has taught Foster are really simple, but very powerful: “She has not only been a mentor in research and learning, but a mentor in life. Dr. Tanya is one of my greatest mentors, and I know that even after I leave DSP, she will still be my mentor.”

Developing Scholars’ Faculty Spotlight

Michelle poses for a photo with a golden elephant while visiting the Forbidden City in Beijing.

On February 19th, nine Developing Scholars participated in the first annual Developing Scholars’ Talent Show. In Developing Scholars working with Dr. Blake Franklin, junior in Microbiology/Pre-Medicine, performed an interpretative dance to Gilberto Santarosa’s “La Agarro Banjando.” Additionally, Xavier Gavin, senior in Interior Architecture and Product Design, was the first place winner of the art exhibition portion of the talent show which was determined by the audience’s vote. Blake Franklin, junior in Graphic Design, and Jessica Campos, senior in Animal Sciences and Industry, also participated in the art show.

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A special thank you to our performers: Candice Hirounaka, senior Associate Director of the School of Leadership Studies; Alicia (Edison) Branson, Instructor of American Ethnic Studies and DSP alumna; and Dr. Farrell Webb, Associate Professor in Family Child and Human Services.

At the DSP Talent Show, Falcon Campos and his partner, Copeland, performed a salsa dance.