

Alliance

minority affairs newsletter



KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Summer 1982

KSU Minority Recruiters Hit The Road This Summer

Minority student recruitment has taken to the road this summer. In an effort to attract more Blacks, Hispanics, American Indians, and other ethnic minorities to the campus, four K-Staters have been traveling throughout the state telling prospective students about what KSU has to offer minority students.

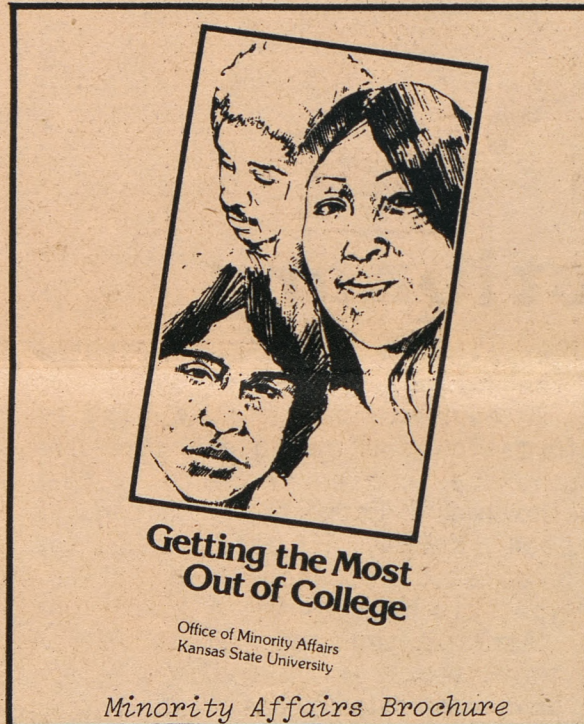
Raul Guevara, Outreach Coordinator for the Office of Minority Affairs, Meridith Kidd, Undergraduate Admissions Assistant Director, Enrique Garibay, Assistant Director of the Minority Study Center for the College of Engineering, and K-State student and professional magician, Eddie Rodriguez, are cooperating in this informational program.

The three administrators have been visiting schools, community groups, and any other gathering of people who will hold still and listen to them to explain what their respective offices can provide for minority students at KSU. Rodriguez, stage name "Shamriguez," goes along to provide the entertainment.

So far this summer the quartet has traveled to Salina to address the Kansas LULAC State Convention; to Garden City and Liberal schools; and to Topeka to address the Kansas American GI Forum State Convention. They will return to Topeka in July for the Fiesta Mexicana. And they are currently planning their August schedule.

The show has received grand reviews to date. One letter from Liberal said, "You gentlemen make an excellent team. I hope you continue to work together, for you are true ambassadors from Kansas State University."

Providing ambassadors from K-State's minority programs to the



state's minority population is, in fact, the team's goal. "In essence, the services we represent exist to ensure that minority students get the most out of their college education," Guevara said. "The Office of Minority Affairs, and the

more specific services of the Office of Admissions and the College of Engineering are designed to help minority students academically, socially, and otherwise. Our staffs are committed to minority educational attainment," he said, "and we want young minority students out in the state to know they will find support of many kinds in our office."

Guevara said the Office of Minority Affairs often arranges for minority students to visit the K-State campus so high school seniors and others can get an inside look at any or all of its 8 colleges and 82 departments in a relaxed and informal way.

The Educational Supportive Services (ESS) program provides varied services to students once they are enrolled. "We have staff members who specialize in improving study skills, especially writing, reading, time management, and test preparation," Guevara said. The ESS program and the Office of Minority Affairs also provide a math lab, counseling and advising, career planning component, and tutors for most subjects.

Garibay remarked that Guevara, Kidd, himself, and members of the KSU faculty make regular visits to junior and senior high schools for the purpose of acquainting future students with K-State programs. "We also attempt to reach potential students in non-traditional ways," he said. For example, besides the Fiesta Mexicana in Topeka this summer, Garibay and the others also plan visits to one or more American Indian Pow Wows and a Mexican-

(to page 2)

THIS IS WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

Pamela Felder poses for a photo with major professor, Dr. James Boyer, before receiving her Ph.D. in May. Dr. Felder and husband Dennis (who will earn a Ph.D. this summer) are currently job hunting: in Special Education and Physical Education, respectively. The top of one ladder is the bottom of the next!



DR. PAMELA FELDER AND DR. JAMES BOYER



Vicki Felder Drew, theatre & drama coach for Upward Bound, and several students plan a skit for the annual "Extravaganza." The evening of entertainment will be held July 16, in conjunction with a Family Reunion for students and staff of Upward Bound from the past 9 years.



Thirty-seven students participated in this summer's Upward Bound Program live-in experience at K-State. Fourteen of the students have just graduated from the high school program and are now full-fledged KSU freshmen. The remainder (pictured above) plan to enter college next year, or the next. Upward Bound is an academic and personal support program designed to motivate and assist young people who qualify for the program to continue their education beyond high school. Frankie Felder, Helen Govan, Elliot Travis, and Monica Collins work with Upward Bound students throughout the year, in Riley, Geary and Pottawatomie counties.

Book Review

Mexican-Am. Dictionary

A basic guide to Mexican American history, as suitable for bedtime browsing as for academic research, was published in 1981 by Greenwood Press, a division of the Congressional Information Service, Inc., Westport, Connecticut.

It is a single volume, alphabetically arranged and comprehensive in its scope. It treats a multitude of subjects that range from the poet Abelardo to the Zoot Suit Riots of 1943. The dictionary touches on subjects within the historical period which begins with the year 1519, particularly with respect to individuals and events that led to the exploration and settlement of northern New Spain (Mexico); the area known today as the Southwest--homeland of the Mexican American. But the main concentration of entries lie historically from the Texas revolt against Mexico in 1835--the event, one will learn from the guide, which marked the birth of the "Mexican American"--to the beginning of "the decade of the Hispanic," in 1980.

The publication is easy to use and entertaining to read. Many entries include suggestions for further reading, a service to those who wish to delve deeper into a particular topic.

Eight Appendices are included: one is a historical chronology on Mexican American history beginning 50,000 years ago; there is a glossary of frequently encountered Chicano terms; an annotated list of the more important Chicano journals;

maps and tables (using the 1970 and 1976 census); and several others.

The principle authors/collectors for the Dictionary are Matt S. Meier and Feliciano Rivera, but over 30 scholars from univer-

sities all over the U.S. contributed to the volume.

As an example of the kind of information one can glean from the Dictionary, one entry tells us that the Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan (MECHA) is defined as the Chicano student movement of Aztlan. If you skip back to the A's and look up "Aztlan," you learn that "Aztlan is the historical and mythical place of origin of the Aztecs."

"...among Mexican Americans it (Aztlan) has become a popular symbolic name for either the southwest of the United States, where most Mexican Americans live," the Dictionary said, "or for the metaphorical space that exists wherever Chicano culture flourishes."

Jump ahead to the middle of the "Chicano" definition and you find that, in its broadest sense, Chicano simply means Mexican American and has been widely used in this meaning by the news media because of its shortness and simplicity as compared to terms like Spanish-speaking, Spanish-surnamed, or Mexican American. In its narrowest meaning, it signifies a proud, militant ethnicity with connotations of self determination, rejecting accommodation and assimilation, and favoring confrontation strategies."

Go back again to the "Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan" entry and read on to learn that Mecha means "wick" in Spanish and "match" in Calo (a Spanish dialect). The organization MECHA, then, is considered to be a "potential spark to ignite Chicano educational, economic, and political change," the book said.

There are 375 pages of entries such as these, covering events, organizations, famous individuals, and ideas from Mexican American history, today and yesterday.

Slow Down!

The world population has not always been a problem. It took 1,850 years from the time of Christ for the world population to reach one billion. The next billion took only 80 years. The third billion took 30 years. The fourth billion took 15 years. And the fifth billion is projected for 1987--only 12 years!

Recruiting (from page 1)

American baseball tournament. Garibay said that the College of Engineering is actively involved in the recruitment of minorities into the field of engineering. Fall 1982 marked the opening of the Minority Engineering Student Center, he said. The Center employs tutors

to help students with their engineering coursework; assistance is provided free, on a walk-in basis. The Center is equipped with three "Apple" computers which students may use to help them as a study supplement in courses such as chemistry, physics, and math.

Kidd said that the summer recruitment efforts are part of a long-standing commitment at K-State to serve minority students. "Kansas State University is one of the nation's original land grant universities and it is the intent of land grant institutions to meet the needs of a diverse student population. This means KSU programs are available to people from all races, creeds, and walks of life," he said. (See related story on Minority Enrollment)

"It is the mission of the KSU non-traditional recruiting section of the Admissions Office to identify, contact, recruit, and encourage minorities, and other non-traditional students to go on to post-secondary education," Kidd said. "Emphasis is placed on Black, Chicano, Asian-American, and Native American individuals."

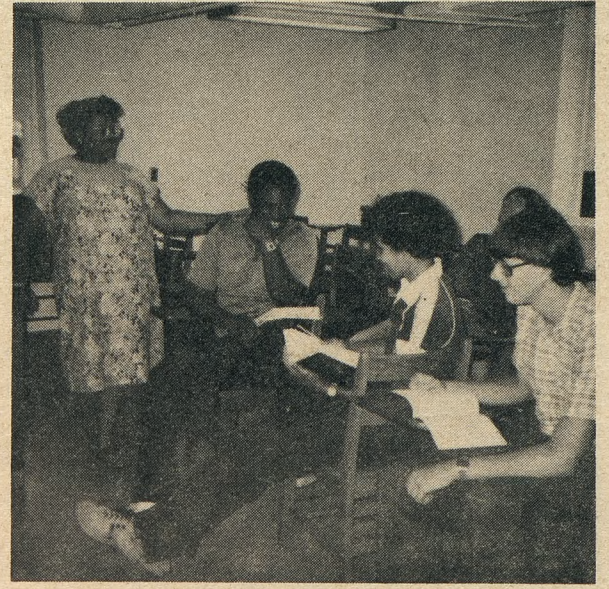
Reading Aloud Revived At Farrell Library

The ancient custom of story reading is being revived at KSU this summer. The Farrell Library Short Story Classics, a series of stories which are being read aloud at noon each Thursday by volunteers was organized by Paula Elliot, Assistant Reference Librarian, and Antonia Pigno, Director of the minority center. Pigno said the story hour has been so popular that planners hope to continue the series next summer. "It is a nice leisurely activity for students who need a

break," she said.

And, indeed, to those who have vague memories of life before electric entertainment, being read aloud to once again is true joy.

"I Stand Here Ironing," by Tillie Olsen will be read on July 8. On July 15, "The Use of Force" by William Carlos Williams will be read. And on July 22, "Forever and the Earth" and "Have I Got A Chocolate Bar for You," by Ray Bradbury will wind up the summer series.



Antonia Pigno reads "Lullaby," by Leslie Silko, to a capacity crowd on the 3rd floor landing of Farrell.

First KSU Black Engineer To Be Head At U. of Maryland

John Brooks Slaughter, 1981 Office of Minority Affairs Black Speaker Series participant and Kansas State University alumnus who has headed the National Science Foundation for the past two years, has submitted his resignation to become chancellor of the University of Maryland, College Park. The College Park campus has an enrollment of 37,000 students.

Slaughter was born in Topeka in 1934 and earned a bachelor of science in electrical engineering at KSU in 1956. In his address here in 1981 Slaughter recalled that when he attended Kansas State University from 1954 through 1956, he was the only black engineering student.

Around The World

* The foreign student population in the U.S. is changing and growing. Before 1970 most foreign students were Canadians or West Europeans. Now students from OPEC countries account for 33% of the total number, slightly more than 300,000 during the 1980-1981 academic year. Engineering was the most popular field of study, accounting for over 25% of the foreign enrollees, according to the latest census by the Institute for International Education. Other growing fields: business and management, mathematics and computer science. Most foreign students come from South and East Asia, followed by the Middle East. Latin Americans represent 16% and Africans about 12%, reports the New York Times.

Human Assistance Program's rehabilitation garden at Khagendra New Life Center in Kathmandu, specially built raised garden beds allow wheelchair-ridden residents to grow vegetables, plants and shrubs. The "sensory garden" has different patterns and textures on the walkways to identify different garden areas to the blind, a concept perfected by the Helen Keller Center. In addition to learning to grow vegetables, residents will improve their nutritional intake, writes the National Council for International Health newsletter, and at the same time make some money for the center by selling surplus produce. IHAP is planning a similar project for the severely disabled in the Philippines.

There's a special garden in Nepal where blind and disabled people can become more self-sufficient and acquire a sense of pride in their own back yard. At the International

* Even with a government-backed movement toward one child per couple, China's population growth between now and the year 2000 will equal the present population of the United States.

Minority Enrollment Reflects U.S. Trends

K-State's minority recruitment program has seen its efforts bring the KSU minority student enrollment from just 137 minorities in 1969-1970 to a high of 963 in 1979-1980. The 1981-1982 total was 886 minority students, or roughly 5 percent of the total KSU population.

Veryl Switzer, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs said the trend seen in numbers of minority students at KSU is a reflection of the national figures. "Like the national trend, KSU saw a steady increase in the overall enrollment of minority students for a period of years following the 1960s," Switzer said. "There was a significant increase for about seven years--up to a 20-25 percent per year. But our numbers leveled off in 1978 and there has been little gain since. This is true across the nation," he said.

This leveling off is one primary motive behind the initiative taken by the K-State Office of Minority Affairs and other campus offices to recruit and retain more minority students, Anne Butler, director of K-State's Educational Supportive Services, said. Butler, who attended school in a small Eastern Kentucky community where there was practically no support for students, like her, who wanted a higher education, has maintained a commitment to seeing that minority

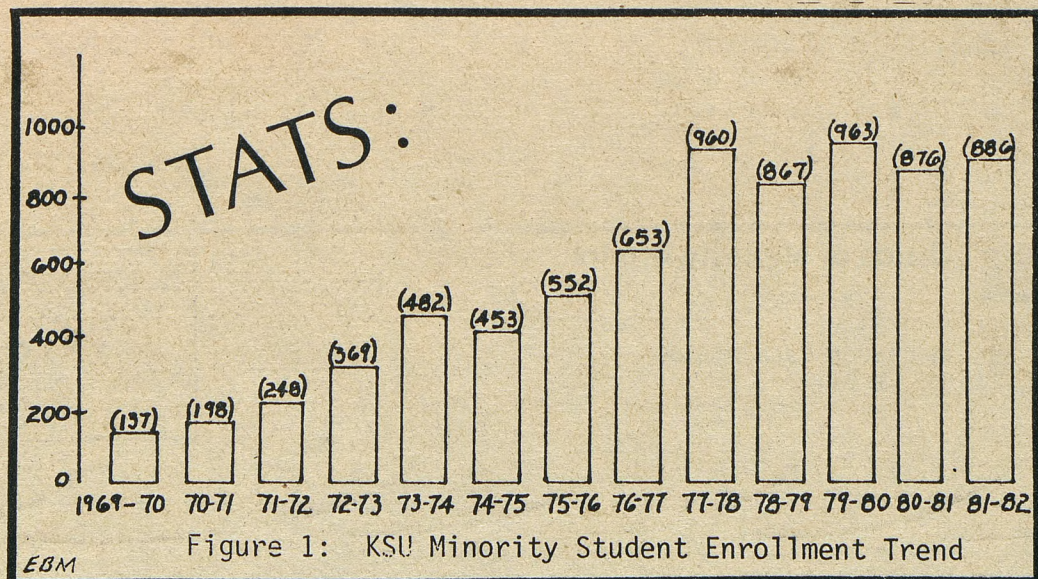
students have the information and develop the skills they need--and "that there are plenty of right people in the right places for minority students."

The non-traditional recruitment program conducted by Raul Guevara, Meridith Kidd, Enrique Garibay, as well as the Office of Minority Affairs tutoring and ESS services, the Engineering Study Center, and Kidd's Office of Admissions assistance program are examples of

Butler's and K-State's efforts to get some "right people" in the "right places."

A recent study by the Ford Foundation on Minorities in Higher

Education found, among other things, that there is a distinct link between the quality of the educational institution and the success of its minority students. The Commission report concluded that one way to increase the number of minority students who successfully complete advanced training is first to increase the number who enter prestigious and elite institutions. If the reverse is found to be true, K-State's increased minority recruitment efforts and retention-focused services and support programs may serve to increase the educational success of Kansas minority students and, in turn, indicate a higher quality institution for KSU.





Global Alliance

At the First Global Conference on the Future, in 1980, a participant predicted that for many, the uncertain times now and ahead of us may make submission to an absolute authority increasingly attractive. "The erosion of values in rapidly developing countries and meaninglessness in post industrial societies will lead more people to commit themselves to religious fanaticism," he said.

Forty years ago, Nobel Prize winning scientist and philosopher Bertrand Russell gave a similar warning. Russell wasn't worried by a specific form of tyranny by the righteous, but by the mind-set that accepts any fanatic belief. He said people are always looking for something which offers a definite answer to all of their questions.

We know it is hard enough to handle the uncertainties and scary parts of life even when we can believe some person, church, government, ideology, or other authority has the capacity to define real and right for us--and all we have to do is try to follow it. Waking up to the fact that life is filled with ambiguity, that our culture offers us but one of many different and changing world views, and that even physics and religion cannot give us "pat" answers requires not just hard work but a good deal of courage. Consequently, most people rarely make the effort.

Striving to acquire the skill of perspective and the ability to think for ourselves doesn't mean we get to follow individual beliefs to the point of "yelling fire in the theatre," except under extreme circumstances (Nazi Germany and Joe McCarthy America come to mind). But when should we conform, and expect others to conform, to some idea of right and normal and when should we look beyond a given answer?

There are various levels of situations, of course, ranging all of the way from what we do in the privacy of our home to what we do that directly affects large numbers of other people. Rules which concern how parents care for their children are less strictly defined than rules which govern international air traffic, but Russell and the futurist point out that a dogmatic mind will try to apply very narrowly prescribed rules to the complete spectrum of human behavior.

The notion that we should be like everyone else, even in this most individualistic of cultures, is immensely strong -- and, among the fanatical of any persuasion, it is rigid. "Kermit the Frog" had it right when he sighed, "It ain't easy being green."

Is "same" best; is "everybody" always right? Herbert Prochrow once said, "Civilization is a slow process of adopting the ideas of minorities." And, the often eccentric singer, Barbara Streisand, poked fun at the absurdity of having only one definition of "normal" when (tongue firmly in cheek) she said, "I used to be different, but from now on I'm going to be the same."

Maybe small, personal conflicts with something called normality by our own culture can serve as a microscopic lesson when we, ourselves, are tempted to pronounce an unfamiliar idea abnormal or wrong. It undoubtedly seemed right to white children in the South years ago that white skin was "naturally" superior to skin of color. How could they think otherwise? Everyone around them believed it. Most beliefs of this "earth is flat" variety are so ingrained that we do not THINK about them at all.

Basic, everyday beliefs and attitudes are so built in that we can no more perceive them without effort than a fish can know it is in water. Our customs, what we define as right, real, normal, surround us in just the same invisible way water envelopes a fish.

It is easy to make fun of a different approach to life; shoot down an unfamiliar, threatening idea. It has not been too many years since children were beaten for using their left hands and not too many since people were burned at the stake for personal beliefs that differed from the "norm." But, as Bertrand Russell said, "Unfortunately, the atomic bomb is a swifter exterminator than the stake...."

Russell believed that only through a revival of "tentativeness" and "tolerance" can our world survive. His own creed was that we should live-and-let-live, practicing tolerance and freedom, "so far as public order permits." He advised an "absence of fanaticism" in all ideology.

It is not so important what opinions are held, Russell said; what is important is how they are held. "Instead of being held dogmatically, they are held tentatively, and with a consciousness that new evidence may at any moment lead to their abandonment."

When we look around and see differences in climate and bugs and leaves, and we understand that the diversity is inevitable and necessary for survival--why can't we see that the same is true for human life?

Perhaps once we have experienced enough of the world to realize that there is more than one right answer to practically everything and that new ideas don't necessarily wreck our entire world, then we will have begun to grow into the kind of person who can contribute to what the late President Kennedy called our greatest challenge: "creating a world safe for differences."

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NOTICES

* The Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas Annual Pow-wow is July 16-18. Seven miles west of Horton, Kansas on the Kickapoo Indian Reservation. There will be dancing, food, booths, arts and crafts. All are invited.

* The 49th Annual Fiesta Mexicana in Topeka is July 13-17. Food, clothing, music, dances, and people of the proud Mexican American Community make this ethnic celebration a highlight of the year. Planners estimate more than 10,000 each of tacos, burritos, enchiladas, and tostados will be served beginning at 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and Saturday at noon. The fiesta is held in our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Topeka.

* INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE AGENTS Positions Available: Entrance salaries \$12,850 to \$19,475 depending on your qualifications, plus full civil service benefits. Accounting degree or 4 years appropriate professional accounting experience will qualify you. Kansas positions are located primarily in Kansas City, Topeka, Wichita, Garden City, Parsons, Hays, and Salina. Other positions are available in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Colorado, Louisiana, and Texas. Vacancies will be filled by October, 1982. Applications accepted until July 10, 1982. For more information contact:

Mr. McQuade
444 SE Quincy
Topeka, KS 66683
(913) 295-2951

* Employment opportunities at Kansas State University: Dial 532-6271 for a recorded message of positions available at KSU. Call any time of the day or night.

SOME NEWS REGARDING THE RIGHTS OF U.S. CITIZENS:

*The Voting Rights Act, which guarantees free access to the polls for minority voters, was extended for another 25 years on June 29.

*The ratification period for the Equal Rights Amendment ("Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied by the United States or by any state on account of sex.") ran out on June 30. It will be reintroduced in Congress.

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