

Phi Beta Delta, Beta Zeta Chapter

The KENT MEDALLION



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Upcoming Events:

March 1, 2005, 3-6 p.m.
F?? Study Abroad Fair
2nd Floor Kent Student Center

March 2, 2005, 3-4 p.m.
F?? Study Abroad Student Panel
KSC 316

March 3, 2005, 7:30-9:30 p.m.
F?? Awards Ceremony
Henderson Hall Auditorium

F?? Leadership:

President:
Mr. Ted R. McKown, II

Vice President:
Dr. Kenneth Cushner

Secretary:
Ms. Louise Ditchey

Treasurer:
Dr. Charles Nieman

Advisory Council:
Dr. Larry Andrews
Dr. Jerry Feezel
Dr. Davina Gosnell
Ms. Marion Korloss
Dr. Don Williams

Awards:
Dr. Ruth Ludwick
Dr. Barbara Mims

Membership:
Ms. Louise Ditchey

Scholarship:
Ms. Carolyn Sampson
Dr. Larry Andrews

Communications:
Mr. Tom Welsh

Ceremony to Feature Talk by KSU Photographer Harwood

Kent State University has moved aggressively in recent years to narrow the gap between campus and community. Few university staff members, however, have taken more personal efforts to reach out to communities than Gary Harwood, coordinator of photography at the Communications and Marketing Office.

In a presentation titled "Images That Connect the University and Community," Harwood will share some of the joys and challenges of building bridges between the campus and communities that are—literally, or figuratively—a world away. The 30-minute talk featuring Harwood's photographs will be part of the annual Phi Beta Delta induction ceremony, held on Thursday, March 3, at 7:30 p.m.

"The focus will be on what's possible when people connected to the university go out and establish relationships beyond the university," Harwood said. "These journeys often represent a sort of continuum, in which university projects set the stage for community support, which, in turn, often links back to the university through the student and faculty experience."

An example of this phenomenon: the photographer's four-year relationship with families of Mexican migrant workers in Hartville, Ohio, a rural community located near Canton. Some of the many images created in the course of Harwood's project will be featured in a book to be published by Kent State University Press in September 2006.

Harwood's personal journey into the lives



KSU photographer Gary Harwood's image of a Mexican interior exemplifies his artistic efforts to reach beyond the campus community.

of the migrant workers began in 2001, when he was asked to document a program involving students enrolled at KSU's College of Nursing, who were getting "hands-on" experience at the Hartville Migrant Center that provided medical services to the families.

"Originally, I documented the project from the perspective of the university and emphasized the students working in the clinics," he said. "But, I found I wanted to spend time with the families themselves."

Obstacles to what emerged as an independent project included gaining access to the migrant workers. "The owner of the farm [where the families worked] practically threw me off his property three times," Harwood recalled. "He was simply trying to protect the workers, because he didn't want them to be exploited. When he saw the pictures, he understood what I wanted to do.... Without his permission, this project would have gone nowhere."

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the families themselves.

A turning point came when the photographer was invited to document the wedding of a woman whom he had befriended. "When people saw how well I got along with her, they began to accept my presence," he said.

Trust between Harwood and the families deepened further thanks to the photographer's habit of sharing photos with the migrant workers. "This way, there was never a mystery about what I was doing," he said.

The result of the photographer's prolonged

contact with the families was a visual document of their lives. "I've photographed the first children in some families to be born in the United States," he said. "There are pictures of baptisms, weddings, and people engaged in the well-earned leisure of old age."

This array of images suggested to Harwood another project, a book. This has involved a creative collaboration with KSU poet David Hassler. The poet, who sought to "discover" the community independently, is producing the text for the book project.

NINE HONORS STUDENTS EXPERIENCE MEXICO

Nine KSU honors students have vivid memories of Mexico that may shape the way they think about their future careers.

This past January, the honors students took part in "Cross-Cultural and Inquiry-Based Learning in Mexico," a unique 12-day program that enabled them to teach in classrooms, work with professionals in the field, and participate in outreach programs.

"We hoped to give the students an international experience that would enable them to explore their discipline in a global context," said Theresa Minick, a professor in Modern and Classical Language Studies who developed the program.

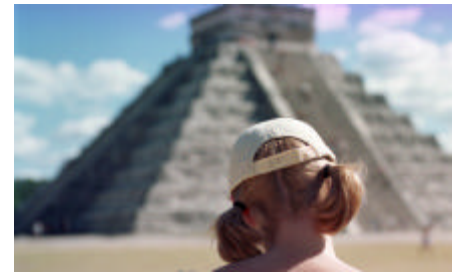
The venue of the intercultural program was the Yucatan capital of Merida, a 16th-century town built on the site of a Mayan city. While students had a chance to visit the city's landmarks and nearby Mayan ruins, they were also expected to complete a range of tasks.

In line with the service segment of the program, each student gave a PowerPoint presentation to local students. "I wanted to teach Mexican students something about America that they couldn't learn from a textbook," said Melanie Pickens, a junior psychology major. "In addition, I was curious to find out how psychology was practiced in Mexico."

Much of the learning, however, occurred beyond the venue of classrooms, and many students' memorable experiences stemmed from their encounters with a new culture.

"One of my most touching experiences was a visit to a village in a dry jungle of the Yucatan," said Carolyn Kelly, a junior Visual Communications and Design major. "A woman sat by the fire in this hut...making tortillas by hand. It was a beautiful image."

Later, participants visited a school in the



A KSU honor student stands in the shadow of a magnificent Mayan pyramid near Merida, Mexico.

impoverished neighborhood of San Jose Techo. "We spent an afternoon teaching the children songs in English and playing games," recalled Jerica Jefferson, a senior French language major. "We had a chance to step inside their world of learning."

As part of the inquiry segment of the program, students had the opportunity to work with local professionals in their prospective fields. "Visiting archeological sites like Chichen Itza and Uxmal was truly unforgettable," said Lindsay Vance, a senior anthropology major.

Meanwhile, students developed a research question related to their major and conducted surveys with local students. Eventually, they submitted portfolios that included service projects, inquiry surveys, and a journal with reflections on their experience.

"I know that I will apply this experience when I enter the medical field," said Rachel Woods, a junior pre-med major. "When I treat patients from other cultures, it is necessary for me to be considerate of their values and ethics so that the patient receives the best care possible."