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- going to ask another day? Okay, you get the point. See how putting things off can filtrate throughout your entire life! Stop procrastinating-TODAY!
2. **Take a math course during your senior year of high school.** Math during the senior year of high school—it's not just for overachievers anymore. Many majors at UK require college algebra and/or elementary calculus. Taking a math class during the senior year keeps math fresh in your mind and makes the first day in your college algebra class sound less like your foreign language class.
 3. **Take challenging classes in high school.** While it may seem like a good idea to take three study halls and be a student worker for three periods during a semester, that schedule will not help prepare you for the rigors of college. The freshmen Scholars suggest that you "take as many challenging courses in high school as possible." Does your school offer AP classes? Give one a try. Are there college courses offered through your high school? Sign up!
 4. **It is okay to not know what you want to do with your life.** College lets you explore different classes, majors, and yourself. Keep an open mind and ask a lot of questions. You may stumble upon the perfect fit.

There are more tips and articles to come from veteran Robinson Scholars. Look for them in the next edition!

Patchwork of Community

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UK UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

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Director's Message

Happy New Year! I hope you had an enjoyable holiday season and are off to a great start to 2006. We are very excited to bring you the first edition of *Patchwork of Community*, a newsletter for high school Scholars and their families as well as for the secondary school counselors who are so vital to the success of the Robinson Scholars Program. Our hope is to bring you three editions of *Patchwork* every year with full-editions at the beginning of each semester and an abridged edition at the end of the school year. *Patchwork* is one of the ways we can share with you the excitement of the Robinson Scholars Program. Each edition will recap past Program activities, relate important information about future events, and share the accomplishments of the students who make this Program so great.

2005 was an eventful year for the RSP. As you know, we consolidated our two regional offices into a single regional office, located at the Robinson Station in Jackson. This restructuring provided the Program with the opportunity to ensure a consistent experience for all Robinson Scholars, to build a stronger sense of community among Scholars, and to provide additional financial resources for student opportunities. We have been exceptionally pleased with how this transition has played out, and most of the credit goes to Steve Jones, our Regional Coordinator, and the wonderful team he assembled in Jackson with Lara May and Dana Hays. Steve, Lara, and Dana are absolutely committed to student

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success, and as I am sure you have already learned, they are a wonderful resource for Scholars, their families, and secondary school personnel.

I want to give special thanks to Katy Bennett, our Program Relations Officer, for designing and editing the newsletter, and to Katy, Steve, and Lara for writing the articles you will find here. I hope you enjoy this inaugural edition of *Patchwork of Community*. We are so glad you are a part of the Robinson Scholars community, and we look forward to an exciting 2006 together!



Five Things Everyone Should Know About College

By Class 5 Robinson Scholars

The beginning of a new year is a great time to prepare and plan. The Robinson Scholars Program works to give each student the tools necessary to prepare them for a successful transition to college. We hold workshops and summer programs to share tips for success, but there are some things that students know best. At the end of the fall semester, we asked our freshmen Scholars for advice to give our high school Scholars as they prepare for college. Some of their suggestions may sound familiar, some may surprise you, and hopefully some will help as you or your student prepares for college in the near (or not as near) future.

1. **Develop good study habits in high school.** This, by far, was the most frequent piece of advice college

Scholars gave for high school students. Nick Williams, from Rockcastle County, said, "When I was in high school, I wish I would have developed good study habits. It is so hard to break bad habits that you have developed throughout your high school career." We could not have said it better ourselves.

5. **Do not procrastinate.** Procrastinating is not just a bad study habit! Keep meaning to join that club, but just have not gotten around to it yet? Want to take a college course while in high school, but cannot make it to the counselor's office? Do you want to ask that guy or girl out for the weekend, but since you really do not like the shirt you have on today, you are

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Seniors Step Out on UK's Campus

The high school senior Scholars visited the University of Kentucky campus on Saturday, October 1, and Sunday, October 2, for the first of two campus visit programs this year. On Saturday, the students participated in two workshops ("The University of Kentucky: An Overview" and "Making a Successful High School to College Transition"), took a campus tour, and attended a panel discussion of current college Robinson Scholars. In "Making a Successful High School to College Transition," Scholars and Program staff discussed the differences between high school and college and the approaches students might take to successfully negotiate those differences. Students also had a chance to talk about the things

that concerned them the most about going to college and the things about which they were most excited. The student panel provided high school students with a "no holds barred" opportunity to ask questions about college life, both academic and non-academic, and to get college Robinson Scholars' perspectives on the transition process.

On Sunday, students reviewed the RSP Senior Checklist ("the green sheet") and completed admissions applications for UK and KCTCS as well as housing applications for UK. By completing these applications in early October, Robinson Scholars were among the first students to submit these documents for consideration.

Fun on the Farm

The Robinson Scholars regional staff welcomed freshman and sophomore Scholars and their families on Saturday, November 12, 2005, to the Regional Office at Robinson Station for an academic workshop.

The workshop focused on test-preparation and writing skills. The freshman class took the EXPLORE exam, the first in the trio of ACT tests. The sophomore class took the PLAN test, ACT's second exam. Both classes also participated in a writing workshop conducted by UK English faculty member Kristi Branham. This workshop is the first of a series for Robinson Scholars. Throughout the academic year, students submit their writing via email to English faculty who review and provide feedback to students. This culminates in the Writers' Workshop summer program focusing on argumentative and research-based writing.

research-based writing.

After lunch, Doug McLaren from the UK Department of Forestry and Stephanie Jenkins from the Kentucky Water Resource Research Institute introduced the freshman class to an upcoming summer learning and service project studying watersheds.

While the students were engaged in their sessions, parents watched the *History of UK*, a video narrated by the late Kentucky historian Dr. Thomas Clark. The regional staff also conducted *Robinson Scholars 101* where they discussed programming and expectations of Scholars and their parents. A question and answer session followed. After lunch parents were treated to farm tours by Dr. Terry Jones, a horticulturist at Robinson Station.



(L): Parents take a farm tour with Dr. Terry Jones.



(R): Students discuss watersheds with Doug McLaren.

Upcoming Events: January – July 2006

January 28 th	Senior Financial Aid Workshop <i>Robinson Station</i>	June 11 th – 16 th	Water Pioneers Program <i>Rising sophomores</i> <i>Mammoth Cave National Park</i>
March 2 nd -4 th	Senior UK Campus Visit <i>University of Kentucky</i>	19 th -20 th	Summer Advising Conference <i>Incoming UK freshmen</i> <i>University of Kentucky</i>
25 th -26 th	Junior ACT Workshop <i>University of Kentucky</i>	24 th -30 th	New Scholars Summer Program <i>HCTC-Lees Campus</i>
April 8 th -9 th	Freshmen Leadership Workshop <i>Georgetown College/UK</i>	July 15 th -22 nd	Writers' Workshop <i>Rising juniors and seniors</i> <i>University of Kentucky</i>
22 nd -23 rd	Sophomore Leadership Workshop <i>Georgetown College/UK</i>		

Juniors Explore Leadership

On October 15, junior Scholars traveled to Georgetown College's Cincinnati Bengals Training Center and participated in a low ropes challenge course. The juniors split into two groups where they explored leadership and team building skills. Each activity was specifically designed to teach a different aspect of leadership and team building. Activities ranged from simple group activities to each student having the opportunity to slide down a zip line. Cooperation and team work were essential to completing each task successfully and showed how each member is important to the team.

That evening the group traveled to Lexington and participated in diversity and leadership workshops. We were fortunate to have Sarah Fannin-Holliday, Morgan County Extension Agent, and Dr. Martha Nall, Extension Specialist, instruct the group. The diversity workshop focused students on learning different cultures and how two cultures must cooperate in order to live collectively. Dr. Nall's *What is Leadership* seminar reinforced that everyone is a leader and that a true leader is one who encourages others and includes everyone within a group to make decisions.

Workshops continued on Sunday. Scholars attended *Understanding Self* and *Learning to Learn* sessions discussing self esteem and learning strategies.



Scholars work to move as one.



Scholars work together to complete the task.

Spotlight: Your Regional Team

Each issue of *Patchwork* will feature a different aspect of what makes the Program stand out: our Scholars, our Staff, our programming. For this inaugural edition, the spotlight is on the Jackson Regional team. This is an opportunity for you to get to know each one of them a little better.



Steve Jones

Steve Jones came back to the Robinson Scholars Program from Hazard Community and Technical College where he directed a multitude of efforts, most recently the Student Leadership Institute. He was an original Regional Coordinator for the Program serving from 1996-1999. A native of Hazard, Steve graduated from Hazard High School and Berea College. Steve "bleeds blue" and is an avid UK sports fan. He currently resides in Hazard with his two Chihuahuas and German Shepherd. These first few months have been a busy time for Steve and his team, but he loves every minute of it. He looks forward to seeing you all again in the New Year.

Lara May

Lara May serves the Robinson Scholars Program as Assistant Regional Coordinator. Lara graduated from Morgan County High School and UK, where she studied Sociology. A life-long resident of West Liberty, you can frequently find her on Friday nights at the field or gym cheering



on her beloved Cougars. Lara is fun and energetic, and enjoys traveling and spending time with family and friends, especially her nieces and nephews. Before joining the RSP team in August, she worked with the Morgan County Public School System.

Dana Hays

Each time you call the Jackson office, you are greeted by the friendly voice of Dana Hays. Dana is the Program Assistant for the Jackson office. She is a native of Jackson and a graduate of Breathitt County High School. Dana and her husband, Chris, own a farm in Breathitt County and own and enjoy working with horses. In her spare time, she enjoys reading and, in the past, has coached football with her husband. Prior to joining the RSP staff in August, Dana worked for the Buckhorn Children's Center.



This past fall, Steve and Lara spent over forty days on the road visiting Scholars and guidance counselors in all twenty-nine RSP counties.