

Robinson Scholars Program

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Robinson Scholars Program
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- **Utilize the Program staff.** We are here to help not only your student, but also you! If you have a question, Program officials are ready to assist. We are also available if you just need someone to listen.
- **Encourage your student to take advantage of all opportunities offered to them.** This goes beyond the RSP world. High school students need to take challenging courses and be involved in school and community activities. College students need to get involved in the campus community. By helping your child get involved early in their academic career, it will come naturally to them as they get older.
- **Be prepared for the “freak out” moment.** Your child will likely have a moment where they call you, crying, and begging to come home. This is one of your most challenging moments as a parent. “My parents had come to visit me, and I was having a hard time in a class, and I just didn’t want my parents to leave. My parents literally had to make me stay in the dorm while they left. My mom told me that she sobbed all the way home and felt like a terrible mother. But, by the time she called me from home, I had calmed down, found a friend to go have dinner with, and was just fine,” said Katy Bennett, Program Relations Officer for the Program. “I needed that tough love from my parents at that moment. I was just afraid of failing and wanted to retreat to what I knew.” Your child may have this same kind of moment. Be prepared for it, listen to what they have to say, and discuss rational solutions with them once they’ve calmed down.
- **Send your college student mail.** With all of the electronic ways we communicate, getting “real” mail is exciting, especially to a college student. Send your student a quick note, a holiday card, or clippings from your local newspaper.

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Coordinator’s Message

Greetings from the Robinson Scholars Program team! We hope the beginning of the academic year has been a smooth one for you. In our view, the success of the Robinson Scholars Program depends on strong partnerships and you are a valued partner. It is our hope to continue providing you updates on Program activities and highlighting student achievements through this newsletter.

Over the summer high school Robinson Scholars participated in various programming designed to offer opportunities for growth academically, socially, and culturally. Throughout you will find more details about the enriching opportunities that were offered to Scholars. We continue to evaluate RSP activities for improvement and welcome your input at any time. We especially want to thank everyone who participated in our year-end survey process. The information you provide us is invaluable, and we have made changes based on that feedback.

The beginning of the academic year is the most exciting time for Program staff. Our high school visits have begun and the college Scholars are busy in their third week of classes. Both RSP college and high school students are participating in community service projects this semester. We feel it is important students learn leadership and what it means to give back, and community service is the perfect avenue for gaining that knowledge. Our students continue to perform at a very high level in both high school and college, and we all can be proud. Scholars, continue to set high standards for yourself. You are providing a solid foundation for those who come after

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you. Continue to rise to the occasion!

As we move forward into the new school year, I would like to take a moment to recognize outgoing Director Brad Goan. Brad dedicated the last five years to developing the excellence found throughout this Program. Under his leadership, the Program gained national prominence for service to students, and he will be greatly missed. In the interim, I will be serving as both Director and Regional Coordinator for the Program, and together with the Robinson Scholars staff, we will continue to be dedicated to excellence. We look forward to working with you on our continual goal of helping students find success.

Easing the Transition to College: A Guide for Parents

The Robinson Scholars Program is devoted to making the transition for your student to college the easiest, smoothest possible. We realize that this is difficult time, not only for Scholars, but also for their parents. It is hard for parents to find the balance between letting go of their child and being supportive without being intrusive. Below are some ideas that parents can use to ease the transition.

- **Talk to your child about going to college and making good choices before they go.** Parents have the single largest impact on their children. By discussing issues before they arise, you are opening the lines of communication with your student, and they will come to you for advice later.

- **Visit campus.** Before your child comes to UK, schedule a time to come for a campus tour. Being familiar with your child’s new home will help ease your fears or concerns. After your child comes to UK, ask them to get tickets to an event that everyone in the family can go to.
- **Learn to use email.** The schedule of a college student can be a bit erratic, and they are hard to track down sometimes. By emailing, text messaging, or instant messaging, you’ll be able to communicate with your child in a way that is convenient for them. It may take a few days for your Scholar to email you back, but they will eventually!

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Summer Opportunities Take Scholars from College to the Community

An integral part of the Robinson Scholars Program is summer programming for high school Scholars. This summer, we launched a new program for rising high school sophomores, revamped our New Scholars program, and continued the excellence of the Writers' Workshop. Scholars spent a week during their summer enhancing their writing skills or exploring the importance of watersheds or learning about Appalachian culture. These workshops make Scholars better students and better citizens.

Junior and Senior Scholars participated in the sixth annual Writers Workshop held on campus at the University of Kentucky. The curriculum included creative writing lectures, exercises, and various reading assignments. They were exposed to nationally renowned authors Bobbie Ann Mason and Maurice Manning, both Kentucky natives. The overall goal of the Writers Workshop is to continue preparing students for writing at the college level. The program also allows Scholars to become more familiar with campus and UK faculty.



Sophomore Robinson Scholars participated in the Water Pioneers Water Quality Outreach Initiative, one of twenty-three projects deemed by President Lee Todd as Commonwealth Collaborative. Students studied at Mammoth Cave National Park exploring various components of watersheds and impact of humans and other animals on watersheds. Students participated in a lantern tour of Onyx Cave, learned about insects, bats,

and mussels, identified trees, and conducted soil and water testing. The week ended with a historical canoe tour of the Green River and a reflective camp fire discussion. All Water Pioneer Scholars will participate in a community service project aimed at improving the environment in their hometowns. Partners in the Water Pioneers Water Quality Outreach Initiative are the Kentucky Water Resource Research Institute at UK, the College of Agriculture's Cooperative Extension Service, PRIDE, and a variety of outside agencies whose aim is to encourage youth activism on behalf of an in-depth study of the Appalachian watershed.



The New Scholars Program provided the newest class of Scholars the opportunity to learn about Appalachian culture and get to know each other and Program staff. Students spent six days on living on the Lees College Campus of Hazard Community and Technical College. Scholars participated in numerous field trips including visits to the Kentucky Coal Museum, Mountain Homeplace, Cowen Creek Music School, US 23 Museum, Kentucky School of Craft, Loretta Lynn's Cabin in Butcher Holler, and the Robinson Forest. Students participated in workshops which included ball room dancing, business and social etiquette, pre-college curriculum and the transition to high school, and spent time journaling. The students also participated in a visit and picnic at Fern Hill Farm, the home of Judge Sara Combs.

Upcoming Events: September – December 2006

September 23 – 24	Senior Transition Workshop <i>University of Kentucky</i>
27	Field Day (Sophomores Presenting) <i>Robinson Station, Jackson</i>
October 14 – 15	Junior Study Skills Seminar <i>University of Kentucky</i>
November 11 – 12	Freshman and Sophomore PLAN and EXPLORE retreat <i>Hazard Community and Technical College, Hazard, KY</i>

Middle School Counselor Training Sessions Set

Counselors, get the latest information about the Robinson Scholars Program selection process at training sessions in early October! This year's sessions have been revised and revitalized to provide you with information to serve your students better as they apply for the Program. Also, those attending will be the first to receive their applications.

We hope to see you there!

Oct. 2	Jackson	Community Building
Oct. 3	West Liberty	Regional Technology Center
Oct. 4	Whitesburg	Pine Mountain Grill
Oct. 5	Prestonsburg	Jenny Wiley State Park
Oct. 6	London	Somerset Community College

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Lunch will be provided

Spotlight: 2006 UK Graduates

For this issue of *Patchwork*, the spotlight shines on the University of Kentucky Class of 2006. Forty-four Scholars graduated this past May, and their individual accomplishments are impressive. Each class of college graduates serves as an example to each of our high school classes. These students are just like you, and if they can do it, so can you. Here are just a few of the highlights from this outstanding class.

Monica Hobson



Monica, a Scholar from Floyd County, has had an accomplished four years at the University of Kentucky. She has served as Co-Coordinator of the College of Arts and Sciences Student Ambassadors, and she has represented that college as a Student Government Senator. Monica has also represented her peers as one of three students on the University Senate Council. Monica has been on the Dean's List each semester and has maintained a 4.0 GPA. An Honors Program participant and winner of the Vandebosh Award for most outstanding political science major, she will attend the UK College of Law on the prestigious Combs Scholarship and Wethington Fellowship. Monica was named a 2006 Sullivan Medallion winner, awarded to a male graduate, a female graduate, and a non-student who "possess such characteristics of heart, mind, and conduct as evince a spirit of love for and helpfulness to other men and women." The Sullivan Award is generally regarded as one of the most prestigious given by the University of Kentucky, and Monica joins an impressive list of recipients that includes E.O. Robinson and Mary Breckinridge. Monica has also been selected the Singletary Outstanding Senior Award winner.

Michael Lemaster

A Magoffin County Scholar, Michael graduated with a degree in English and Spanish. Active in RSP activities, last fall he served as the peer instructor for the RSP section of UK 101, a freshmen orientation course. Michael aspires to teach on the collegiate level, but he began his work this fall in Baltimore, Maryland, teaching twelfth graders. Michael has been selected to participate in the highly competitive Teach for America Program, a national corps of outstanding recent college graduates of all academic majors who commit two years to teach in rural and urban schools.



More outstanding students:

- Victoria Holiday, a biology major from Lee County, was accepted to medical school at the University of Kentucky and began in August on a Wethington Fellowship. She is the first Robinson Scholar to attend medical school.
- Andrew Farmer, a biology major from Leslie County, is the first Robinson Scholar to attend dental school. He began at the UK College of Dentistry this fall.
- Natasha Grubb, a nutrition and food science major from Clay County, began her optometry studies at the University of Alabama in the fall.

Welcome Class 10 to the Robinson Scholars Program Family!

Stephen Bailey	Perry County
Brittney Bowling	Leslie County
Felisa Bowman	Owsley County
Tess Brown	Menifee County
Lena Brumley	Clay County
Dillon Bryant	Carter County
Jessica Bush	Breathitt County
Megan Caldwell	Johnson County
Joe Clark	McCreary County
Andrea Conn	Floyd County
Kenny Craft	Knott County
Brooke Duncan	Bell County
Amy Evans	Whitley County
Stephanie Fawbush	Laurel County
Miranda Hamilton	Estill County
Nicole Hensley	Morgan County
Emily Holland	Wolfe County
Miranda Lindsey	Harlan County
Nick Mollette	Martin County
Zach Neace	Elliott County
Keyana Polly	Letcher County
Samantha Prater	Magoffin County
Regina Rice	Rockcastle County
Megan Roach	Lee County
Georgetta Robinson	Pike County
Danielle Smith	Knox County
Tanner Stevens	Lawrence County
Quintin Vancleve	Powell County
Bethany Wilson	Jackson County



Class 10 at the close of the New Scholars Summer Program

- Kristy Tsou, an Elliott County sociology major, received the Lexington *Herald-Leader* Fellowship for 2006-07. As part of the fellowship, Kristy completed an internship with the newspaper this summer. She began her graduate studies in sociology at UK this fall.
- Sara White, a 2006 UK graduate from Laurel County, began her work with the Peace Corps in July 2006. She is consulting with small businesses in sub-Saharan Africa on information and technology systems.