

Robinson Scholars Program

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Justin Dozier from Bell Co. fills out his UK application.

Class Seven (senior class) completed their admission applications to UK and KCTCS along with their housing applications at Quicksand on Saturday, October 21. College Service Coordinators Liz Bryan and Pam McFarland conducted the workshop and guided Scholars through the process. Parents were welcomed along with the Scholars and enjoyed a question/answer session with Liz. Scholars also reviewed the ever popular "green sheet," a step-by-step checklist for college admission.

The freshman and sophomore classes of Robinson Scholars met in Jackson on Saturday, November 11 for their academic workshop. Both classes participated in a writing workshop with Kristi Branham and were given an on-line writing assignment. Class Ten caught a glimpse of what to expect in the summer of 2007 from Stephanie Jenkins when she introduced them to the Water Pioneers program. Class Nine enjoyed a self-esteem and confidence building workshop with Katy Bennett. Scholars then traveled to Hazard Saturday evening where they enjoyed dinner and bowling. On Sunday morning Scholars assembled at Hazard CTC where the freshmen took the EXPLORE exam and sophomores took the PLAN test.

Patchwork of Community

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UK UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

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Director's Message

The Program staff would like to extend heartfelt congratulations to all Robinson Scholars in the graduating class of 2007. We are excited for our high school and college graduates, as both classes prepare for the next phase in their academic and professional lives. We honor the graduates for reaching their goals and accomplishing much in their high school and college careers.

For the past nine months I have had the distinct privilege of working as the Robinson Scholars Program Director and I continue to be very impressed with the level of staff dedication and quality of student programming. Beginning in March 2007, Lara May assumed the role of Regional Coordinator and has begun providing overall leadership for the high school programming component. Lara is excited about her new level of responsibility and looks forward to planning and implementing new programming for both students and parents. In the Lexington Office, Liz Bryan has assumed additional responsibilities as well. Liz will be focusing on the grant writing process aimed at securing additional funds to enhance our summer and academic year programming. She will also begin focusing on a long term evaluation study designed to monitor the effectiveness of Program services. Other Program changes will include revamping the Robinson Scholars Program website and filling the Program Relations Officer position, both of which are scheduled to take place this summer.

As the high school academic year comes to an end and the college semester closes, Summer Workshop planning kicks into high gear. Both the New Scholars Program and the Water Pioneers Program will take place at new locations and will involve new learning opportunities. The Writers' Workshop, designed for our juniors and seniors, will take place once again on the University of Kentucky campus and will host nationally renowned authors Frank X Walker and Nikki Finney.

Fall Workshops Wrap-Up

Robinson Scholars Program high school students participated in an array of academic workshops last fall, where they not only gathered valuable information, but had a lot of fun, too. Class Eight (junior class) traveled to UK's campus for a weekend of study skills on October 14-15. Nikki Strange from The Thomas Clark Study facilitated the Master Student Seminar on Saturday which focused on topics such as principles of learning and recall; working your memory; time management and

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Any successful program requires strong community support, and the Program staff are thankful for those of you who have supported us over the years. We value your service and look forward to many more years of working together in order to provide additional educational opportunities for first generation college students. There is no greater display of service than the community members from across the Commonwealth that will come together and select the 11th class of Scholars over the next few weeks.

The Robinson Scholars Program tradition lives on!

overcoming procrastination. After dinner at a local Italian restaurant, the Scholars attended *Heroes, Monsters & Madmen* at the Singletary Center. On Sunday, the Scholars put their study skills to the test as they participated in the RSP Apprentice Game. The day ended with a question and answer session which gave the current high school Scholars a chance to gain a new perspective on college life.

Fall Workshops continued on page 4

Spring Workshops

The spring term provided many opportunities for Scholars to get more familiar with UK and help with the college transition.

On Saturday, January 27, RSP seniors and their parents attended the Financial Aid workshop facilitated by David Prater, assistant director of UK's financial aid office. At this meeting, Mr. Prater guided students and families through the federal financial aid process, which can often be quite confusing. To further prepare the Scholars for their upcoming college admission, the seniors traveled to Lexington on March 1 for their spring campus visit. While on campus, students had the opportunity to attend classes



Sophomores Ryan Buckler, Adam Senters and Matt Wynn participate in a diversity exercise with Mahjabeen Rafiuddin.

with current college Scholars and get a taste of what college curriculum is really like. Afterwards, a student panel was conducted where the high school seniors could ask questions and get more information on college life from UK Scholars. Nikki Strange from The Study also dropped by and gave a presentation on the services her office provides to all students on campus. On Saturday morning each Scholar sat down with the staff individually to go over their "green sheet" one last time. This valuable weekend eased some fears and anxiety for the incoming college students.

On Saturday, March 24, RSP juniors attended an ACT prep workshop conducted by Kaplan. The workshop provided test taking strategies and prepared students for the actual ACT. On Sunday morning the students took a mock ACT so that they would know what to expect. All students said they gained valuable information and tips from the Kaplan facilitator.

In April, the sophomore class of Robinson Scholars (Class 9)

A Note of Appreciation

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to the middle school guidance counselors for all of their assistance in the 2007 application process. Counselors play a vital part in the process and without their support the process would not be possible. I also am very appreciative of the chance to go into the schools throughout the region to inform students of the scholarship and the process. I enjoyed visiting with the eighth graders throughout Eastern Kentucky.

Lara May
Regional Coordinator

attended a two-day workshop in Lexington focusing on diversity. Mahjabeen Rafiuddin from Multicultural Affairs at

UK conducted the workshop which focused on racism, classism and sexism. The diversity in classes, cultures, nationalities and races at UK and in the Lexington community is vast and it is important for students to learn sensitivity to such issues. After the workshop, students continued their cultural exploration and enjoyed Indian cuisine at Kashmir restaurant.

Unfortunately, we were unable to complete our freshman leadership workshop this spring, as the weather simply would not cooperate with us. We look forward to seeing the freshmen this summer at Water Pioneers!

Robinson Scholars Share Thoughts with Dr. Lee Todd

On Feb. 2, 2007, two Lee County Robinson Scholars got a very unique opportunity – they met and shared their thoughts with Dr. Lee Todd, president of the University of Kentucky.

During the annual Lee County Chamber of Commerce meeting held at Cathedral Domain, Dr. Todd discussed UK's Top 20 Business Plan and the measures that the University will employ to achieve recognition as one of the nation's 20 premier public research universities. He also highlighted various other programs, including the Robinson Scholars Program.

Jason Hollon, a graduating senior planning to attend UK in the fall, and Megan Roach, a high school freshman, were both introduced at the meeting. Several prominent community members, including State Representative Teddy Edmonds, recognized the Scholars and praised the Program's impact on local communities. Afterwards, the Scholars had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Todd and share their experiences as Robinson Scholars.



Dr. Todd and high school freshman Megan Roach.

Spotlight: Jill Owens



In March, Jill Owens, a Rockcastle County Scholar, got her first taste of life at the University of Kentucky. Invited to the prestigious Merit Weekend, Jill attended a special two-day advising conference for incoming freshmen

where she registered for classes and checked out what the University had to offer.

Designed to give academically gifted students a higher priority in class selection, Merit Weekend participation is by invitation only. Students must have at least a 28 composite score on their ACT Assessment for selection. Throughout the weekend, the University holds various seminars highlighting different programs and what they have to offer. "The seminars...were immensely helpful," said Jill, "and the diversity of classes was astonishing."

Currently, Jill plans to pursue a pre-veterinary course path, seeking a Bachelor of Science in Biology. Her other interests include art, thus she is keeping an open mind when it comes to degrees in Fine Art and Architecture. Jill is an active member of the Berea art scene and has donated some of her work to local charities and galleries. She also participates in community projects such as murals and public demonstrations.

Three other Robinson Scholars also attended Merit Weekend this year: Jason Hollon, Lee County; Jarrod Cole, Johnson County; and Katy Hall, Floyd County. Congratulations on this extraordinary achievement!

Selection Committees Face Difficult Decision

It's hard to believe, but the Robinson Scholars Program is currently in the process of selecting its 11th class. This year, we had over 600 Robinson Scholar Program hopefuls vying for the 29 coveted positions. Currently, the selection committees are reviewing applications, and the interview process begins in mid May, when 3 to 4 students from each county will be interviewed. The announcement of each county's new Robinson Scholar will take place later in May.

The Robinson Scholars Program would like to thank the members of the selection committees for their hard work and dedication. The selection process is a difficult one, competition is fierce and there are so many deserving students out there. The time and consideration they donate to this process means so much. We couldn't do it without them.

Congratulations to the Class of 2007

Bell	<i>Justin Dozier</i>
Breathitt	<i>Leann Turner</i>
Carter	<i>Nikki Lowe</i>
Clay	<i>Kayla Scalf</i>
Elliott	<i>Lori Adkins</i>
Estill	<i>John Dawes</i>
Floyd	<i>Katy Hall</i>
Harlan	<i>Greg Edens</i>
Jackson	<i>Zach Daugherty</i>
Johnson	<i>JC Cole</i>
Knox	<i>Robert Turteltaub</i>
Laurel	<i>Melissa Monroe</i>
Lawrence	<i>Jeconiah Staniford</i>
Lee	<i>Jason Hollon</i>
Leslie	<i>Todd Day</i>
Letcher	<i>Megan Tolliver</i>
Magoffin	<i>Whitney Lemaster</i>
Martin	<i>Charleea Sparks</i>
McCreary	<i>Jess Gibson</i>
Menifee	<i>Derek Ferrell</i>
Morgan	<i>Brook Harper</i>
Owsley	<i>Jonathan Harris</i>
Perry	<i>Courtney Fletcher</i>
Pike	<i>Colby Kurkowski</i>
Powell	<i>Alison Wasson</i>
Rockcastle	<i>Jill Owens</i>
Whitley	<i>Scarlet Thomas</i>
Wolfe	<i>Chad Jones</i>

Upcoming Events: May - August 2007

June	
9	Recognition Ceremony <i>The Forum, Hazard, KY</i>
9 - 16	New Scholars Summer Program <i>Hazard, KY</i>
18 - 19	Senior Advising Conference <i>University of Kentucky</i>
18 - 22	Water Pioneers (Sophomore) <i>Mammoth Cave National Park</i>
July	
7 - 14	Writers' Workshop (Junior/Senior) <i>University of Kentucky</i>