

Robinson Scholars Program

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Serving college Scholars
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859-257-5874
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Serving high school Scholars
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Visit us at:

www.uky.edu/RobinsonScholars

Robinson Scholars Program
217 Funkhouser Building
Lexington, KY 40506-0054

Young Alumni continued from page 1

His involvement in the Student Development Council encouraged him to make the commitment to give back to his alma mater, and the Young Fellows program made it easier.

“Young Fellows are awarded all the benefits of a Fellow with five extra years to fulfill my pledge. Even though it is a big commitment, I know that the Program needs individuals, corporations, and alumni like me for support, and I want to give back to the Robinson Scholars Program. I want to support the Program because it has given so much to me and my family. I am forever grateful for the RSP. This is just one small way for me to give a little back.”

For more information about the University of Kentucky Fellows Society and/or the Young Fellows program, visit the Office of Development's Web site at www.uky.edu/development

or fill out the contribution form inside this newsletter, mark the Fellows Society information request box, and return it to:

*Robinson Scholars Program
ATTN: Bobbi Silver
217 Funkhouser Building
Lexington, KY 40506-0054.*

Patchwork *of* Promise

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UK UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

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2006: Exciting Developments

It is hard to believe that 2006 is nearly over! This year has been full of new partnerships, friendships, and adventures for all of us at the Robinson Scholars Program.

In development terms, 2006 has been an extremely exciting year for our Program. Citizens National Bank in Paintsville committed to funding a scholarship and we have our first alumnus who has committed to become a University fellow. (There are details about both accomplishments in this newsletter!) I have had the pleasure of connecting with so many of you who want to help our Program. Thank you for extending me invitations into your homes and businesses. I have enjoyed meeting each of you and look forward to connecting with you again in 2007.

I am humbled both by our amazing students and by the generous community support our Program receives. The Program now has 69 graduates with bachelor's degrees and 23 more have earned associate's degrees. These graduates are making a difference in their communities by contributing to the workforce or seeking graduate or professional degrees, and we could not be prouder of each and every one of them.

As the end of the year swiftly approaches, please consider making a gift to our Program. Any amount is deeply

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appreciated and goes directly to the programming and support we provide for our students. If you are interested in obtaining information on making a larger gift, please contact me at anytime. Your gift can be mailed to the Lexington office address listed on this newsletter.

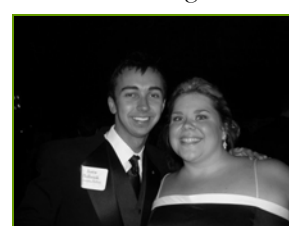
I extend my deep and sincere thanks to all of you who give so much time, effort, money and love to our program. We could not do this without you!

Bobbi Silver
Development Officer

Returning the Favor: Young Alumni Giving

Justin Holbrook always knew he wanted to go to UK; he just wasn't sure how he was going to get there. Then, the opportunity of a lifetime came along – the Robinson Scholars Program. Justin, of Letcher County, applied in the fall of 1998, was selected to the Program's second class, and immediately began taking advantage of all the Program had to offer.

“The program has given me the opportunity to have a better life. Neither of my parents even graduated from high school, just like many of the people in my area. Eastern Kentuckians seem to be at a disadvantage when it comes to education. Being a Robinson Scholar has afforded me so many wonderful opportunities at UK.



*Justin with Katy Bennett, RSP
Program Relations Officer,
at the 2006 Fellows Society Ball.*

When I first came to campus, it was intimidating, but I had an advantage--I already knew people. As I would walk Rose Street on the way to Whitehall, I'd see faces I knew. That's because they were Robinson Scholars too.”

Justin did not just take advantage of the programming offered by the Program, but he delved into the University Community. While at UK, Justin was a part of the Emerging Leader Institute, the Summer Advising Conference Staff, the University Leadership Summit, the Student Development Council, and Preparing Aspiring Wildcats.

“Knowing that I had an amazing support system behind me encouraged me to step outside my comfort zone and get involved.”

Justin graduated from UK in May 2006 with a degree in political science, and has settled in the Nashville area, but his heart belongs to UK and the Robinson Scholars Program. “The Robinson Scholars Program was the reason that I was at UK.”

That dedication to the Program encouraged Justin to become a University Fellow, with his funds dedicated to the Robinson Scholars Program. The Fellows Society was established in 1966 as a way to recognize private sector donors for their contributions to the University of Kentucky. Fellows must make a minimum commitment of \$10,000.00 and the contribution may be made over ten years.

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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 designed and are implementing community service projects 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, East Kentucky PRIDE, and a variety of outside agencies whose aim is to encourage youth environmental activism.



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 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 enjoyed a visit and picnic at Fern Hill Farm, the home of Judge Sara Combs.

Hawaii Nature Center, located in the Iao Valley, will provide hands-on field programming and community research. The students will be engaged in the ecological, cultural, and environmental studies of a watershed in Maui, Hawaii, including: volcanic soil study, cultural comparison, stream study, ecological hike, oceanographic research, water quality analysis, plant and animal survey, and snorkeling. Students will have an opportunity to present their home community projects to students and educators while in Hawaii. The exchange will allow Robinson Scholars to communicate and educate others about the importance of water quality as well as showcase the leadership abilities of Kentucky students.

After returning from the exchange, students will participate in a statewide environmental education conference to present their findings as well as provide a summary to the Environmental Quality Commission comparing and contrasting the two ecosystems.

This program is a valuable tool for Scholars and for Eastern Kentucky. We are currently in the exploration phase, and are working on funding this exchange program. If you or your company is interested in finding out more about the Water Pioneers exchange, contact Bobbi Silver.

Shaping the Bluegrass and Beyond: Water Pioneers Exchange Program

During the Water Pioneers program, sophomore Scholars were introduced to watersheds and discovered how people impact the environment. They developed ideas, communicated their knowledge, and compared and contrasted watersheds in the area. The conclusion of the program required that create a project to addresses water quality problems in their community. Currently twenty-eight scholars are working on seventeen projects to raise environmental awareness in their communities.

The Scholars will present the projects and findings at an event or local summit with parents, local officials, decision makers, school administrators, teachers, Division of Water employees, and others.

We hope to incorporate an additional educational and promotional opportunity for participants through a national Water Pioneers exchange. Through this exchange, students will investigate similarities and differences in regional water quality in very different watersheds and areas of the country from their home communities. Agencies from Alaska, Hawaii, and Montana have all expressed interest in participating in the exchange.

The first partner identified is the Hawaii Nature Center, a nonprofit organization founded in 1981. The

Partner for Progress: Citizens National Bank

The Robinson Scholars Program depends on the kindness of contributors to help continue the success of the Program. This year several individuals and organizations have reached out to the RSP and are committed to help sustain the Program. Citizens National Bank a new partner of ours, and we are truly grateful for their dedication to the success of the Scholars.

Citizens National Bank/Citizens National Corporation of Paintsville, Ky., has donated \$15,000 per year for the next 12 years to fund a Scholar's four years at UK. The recipient of this scholarship must live in Carter, Floyd, Johnson, Magoffin or Pike Counties.

Kyle Jenkins, a 2006 graduate of Magoffin County High School, is the first recipient of the Citizens National Bank/Corporation scholarship. Jenkins was selected to participate in the Robinson Scholars Program in the spring of 2002 and is a member of the Program's sixth class. Throughout his high school career, Jenkins pursued a rigorous pre-college curriculum including 10 honors courses and four advanced placement courses. He participated in the Christian Youth Club, Postponing Sexual Involvement, the Best You Can Be Camp, and Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA). Jenkins is studying



English at UK.

"I am honored to be selected as a Robinson Scholar and am thankful to Citizens National Bank/Corporation for their contribution and support of my education efforts," Jenkins said.

Citizens National Bank/Corporation has been aware of the Robinson Scholars Program for a while and wanted to find a way to help students from Eastern Kentucky have the opportunity to further their education, said Dennis Dorton, president of Citizens National Bank/Corporation.

"We are extremely interested in helping educate the youth of Eastern Kentucky," he said. "We hope they will come back to this part of the state and help us continue to grow and change the face of Eastern Kentucky."

Did You Know?

- Robinson Scholars at UK devote over 2500 hours to community service each year
- Robinson Scholars are active in over 90 student organizations at UK
- Our regional team spends over 45 days each semester visiting with high school Scholars
- Ten Scholars have studied abroad traveling to France, England, Honduras, Mexico, and Spain

A blessing. Life changing. Amazing. The opportunity of a lifetime. Ask a Robinson Scholar or their parents to describe the Robinson Scholars Program and that is what you hear. The Robinson Scholars Program changes lives and opens doors. It empowers Scholars to complete degrees from UK and make a positive impact in their world. As a contributor to the Robinson Scholars Program, you can change the lives of deserving eastern Kentucky youth. Your donation helps sustain the scholarship and support resources that make this program so unique and so successful. Please consider making a gift to the Robinson Scholars Program. It is a great investment in our most precious natural resource – our youth and their future.

-Ashley Judd

Actress, Activist, Friend of the Robinson Scholars Program

Robinson Scholars Program Contribution Form

Gift
Enclosed is my/our gift of \$ _____
Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Make check payable to the University of Kentucky and mail to:
University of Kentucky Robinson Scholars Program
217 Funkhouser Building, Lexington, KY 40506-0054

Pledge
I/we pledge \$ _____ to be paid in equal installments over _____ years, beginning:
 with the enclosed payment. My/our gift will be matched by my employer.
 with the first payment in 20____. Form is enclosed.

Total pledged \$ _____ Amount paid \$ _____ Credit Card # _____
Balance due \$ _____ Expiration date _____
Cardholder signature _____
(Annual reminders will be sent.)

I would like more information regarding: Annual Giving Planned Giving Fellows Society
Thank you for your kind contribution!