

## Robinson Scholars Program

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and the desire to make a difference in people's lives, Lori is sure to make an excellent physician.

### Recent Graduates Recognized for Accomplishments

The Robinson Scholars Program celebrated the high school graduation of our Class Seven Scholars on June 9, 2007. These students have worked hard over the last four years, preparing themselves for higher education.

After a warm welcome from RSP staff, were recognized for their accomplishment of completing the high school component of the Robinson Scholars Program.

As they continue on their journey to college, we wish them well and look forward to celebrating their graduation from UK with them and their families in another four years.

# Patchwork of Community

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**UK** UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

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## Director's Message

As another school year begins and fall draws near, I am reminded of the Robinson Scholars Program's mission, which is to provide students with support services and scholarship resources that empower them to complete a Bachelors degree at the University of Kentucky. As the Program's Director, I feel fortunate to be part of a dedicated staff whose number one priority is *student success*. Program staff currently serves 92 college participants and 113 high school participants through various programming activities. Many of these efforts are centered around preparing students for the transition from high school to college and support for participants once they arrive on the University of Kentucky or a Kentucky Community and Technical College campus.

Carrying out the Program's mission calls for a tremendous amount of support in addition to what our dedicated staff provides. I feel very blessed to have had an opportunity to meet so many wonderful individuals across our twenty-nine county service region and the Commonwealth as a whole. The success of the Robinson Scholars Program starts with dedicated middle and high school staff as well as community members from across the state that volunteer their time to select quality students. Strong community support is important to the Program's overall success. Because we recognize the need for support, the Robinson Scholars Program is currently seeking friends from our community whom might be interested in serving as team members on the Program's Board of Ambassadors. The Board of

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Ambassadors will serve in an advisory capacity assisting the Program Director and Program Development Officer and with community outreach and development initiatives. We also continue to seek out those who may have an interest in providing other educational opportunities such as internships or co-ops for Scholars.

Robinson Scholar Program participants are truly amazing young adults who have the potential to become leaders in our communities. As Program Director, I would like to extend a sincere offer of gratitude for your service to the Program and I look forward to working with you to increase the chances for success for the many students across the eastern Kentucky region.

## Spotlight: Lori Adkins

Lori Adkins, a UK freshman from Elliott County, got a head start on her medical career this summer. As a participant in the four and a half week Professional Education Preparation Program (PEPP), she had the opportunity to explore different specialties in the medical field.

As part of PEPP, Lori was able to dress in full surgical attire, and experience a surgery first hand, where she had the opportunity to observe the surgeons and listen in as they explained every step of the procedure. Other rotations included Labor and Delivery and the College of Dentistry, where she practiced placing fillings in artificial teeth. Seminar topics included autopsy, hypnotism, therapeutic



massage, and substance abuse. Students were also introduced to the Dean of the College of Medicine and were invited to tour the UK Cadaver Lab.

"It [PEPP] was definitely one of the most amazing experiences I've ever had," said Lori. "I had always thought about going into the medical field and...the program reassured me that I want to become a doctor."

Lori is studying biology at UK this fall. The tips she received at PEPP geared toward success in the college classroom will no doubt aid in her future accomplishments. With the motivation to work hard

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## Robinson Scholars Program Welcomes Eleventh Class



In the early afternoon of June 9, 2007, students from the newest class of Robinson Scholars slowly began to trickle into the Forum at the Hal Rogers Center. Each one, nervous but excited, walked onto the stage amid applause and camera flashes to receive their official welcome into the Robinson Scholars Program. As they returned to their seats, one wonders if they truly realize how drastically their lives have just changed. This day is just the beginning of their four-year journey on the road to the University of Kentucky.

After the formal recognition, the new Scholars began a one-week residential program in Hazard, Kentucky designed to introduce them to Appalachian heritage and history. After a few tearful farewells as parents left, the Scholars enjoyed dinner and began the process of getting to know one another.

The Robinson Scholars Program staff had a lot of fun cultural and educational activities planned for the week. On Sunday, Scholars attended "A Grand Night for Singing," a musical revue presented by the UK Opera Theatre at the Singletary Center. Monday, students enjoyed a day outside while at UK's Robinson Station in Quicksand. Dr. David Ditsch, superintendent of the station, gave a brief overview and hayride tour of Robinson Station. After the hayride, students learned about Heritage cooking from Martha Yount, the Breathitt County FCS Agent. Scholars had the chance to make cornbread from scratch and even churn their own butter!

Tuesday, students visited Fern Hill in Powell County, home of Judge Sara Combs and the late Governor Bert T. Combs. An Eastern Kentuckian himself, Governor Combs made a lasting impression on not only the region, but the state as well. The Scholars were excited to learn more about him and his accomplishments through talking with Judge Combs and touring their estate.

On Wednesday, Mahjabeen Rafiuddin, Director of Student Diversity Engagement in UK's Office of Multicultural Student Affairs, conduct a workshop on diversity, and that evening, they enjoyed a dance workshop with Bill and Sherry Bettinazzi. The

next day was spent hiking at the Robinson Forest. Scholars learned about plant and tree identification and about water quality at the nearby creek. Later that night, everyone traveled to Hindman for a free concert at the Hindman Settlement School.

In a program designed to educate students on Eastern Kentucky heritage, coal mining could not be ignored. Friday morning, students departed for the Kentucky Coal Mining Museum in Benham where they learned about life in the coal company and the science of extracting coal. Students also got to enter a mock mine shaft as part of a museum exhibit.

When Saturday arrived and it was time for parents to pick the Scholars up, many of the students didn't want to go home and leave the new friends they made. Fortunately, this is just the beginning of a long journey together for these 29 students. The Program Staff will be excited to see everyone again in the fall and is looking forward to creating more memories in the future.

### Upcoming Events: September - December

<b>September</b> 14 - 15	Senior Transition Fall Workshop <i>University of Kentucky</i>
<b>October</b> 13	Junior Fall Workshop <i>Robinson Station @ Quicksand</i>
<b>November</b> 10	Freshman/Sophomore Workshop <i>Robinson Station @ Quicksand</i>

## Sophomores Become Water Pioneers

June 18 marked the beginning of the transformation of 29 students from Robinson Scholars into Water Pioneers. The five-day summer program is designed to teach students about water quality and its effects on the surrounding environment and wildlife. Held at the Leadership Center in Jabez, Kentucky, Scholars took an in-depth look at water quality issues in their own communities.



*Stephen Bailey and Emily Holland learn about trees in the forest at Jabez.*

The week was filled with many fun and educational adventures. Activities for the week included a lesson in Nature Art, geology, soil surveying and testing, and insects. Students were particularly interested in the insect tent, where

they got to learn about and identify different types of bugs.

Later in the week, students tested water at a wetland, a cave and at a lake to see how conditions vary across different environments. They also learned about tree identification and about the impact of humans on the forest and wetlands. One evening, the Scholars listened for frogs and discussed human impact on them and on bats.

Students spent most of their last day on drafting proposals for their community service and education projects. Water is essential to human life, and one of the main goals of Water Pioneers is to educate Scholars about the condition of water in the region and empower them to go back to their communities and make a positive change. At the end of the week, students presented their community project proposals before going home to get started on their projects.

## Juniors/Seniors Participate in Writers' Workshop

This summer's seventh annual Writers Workshop proved to be another successful week on UK's campus for rising junior and senior Robinson Scholars. Students lived at Haggin Hall for



*Writers' Workshop participants enjoy an evening cheering on the Lexington Legends.*

the week and spent their days learning about argumentative writing from experienced college English instructors. 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.

This year's program included visits from Nikky Finney, a renowned poet and faculty member at UK, and a creative writing workshop with Frank X Walker, another noteworthy Kentucky poet. The time spent with these special guests gave Scholars the opportunity to take a break from academic writing and explore their creative sides, which they enjoyed.

Other activities for the week included a trip to Boyd Orchard in Woodford County for a cookout and a hayride, as well as an evening at Applebee's Park to cheer on the Lexington Legends. Rising seniors also had the opportunity to participate in College 101, the first of several workshops tailored to assist students as they transition from high school to college.

### Congratulations to Class Eleven

Bell	<i>Elsie Elliott</i>
Breathitt	<i>Amanda Barnett</i>
Carter	<i>Alyssa Elswick</i>
Clay	<i>Shane Allen</i>
Elliott	<i>Emily Skaggs</i>
Estill	<i>Kelly Crowe</i>
Floyd	<i>Amanda Newsome</i>
Harlan	<i>Christa Hensley</i>
Jackson	<i>Nikki Klang</i>
Johnson	<i>Nancy Borders</i>
Knott	<i>Hillary Hughes</i>
Knox	<i>Stevie Lemons</i>
Laurel	<i>Chandria Bennett</i>
Lawrence	<i>Jessica Thornsberry</i>
Lee	<i>Brett Napier</i>
Leslie	<i>Tara Smith</i>
Letcher	<i>Emily Allen</i>
Magoffin	<i>Lindsey Lovely</i>
Martin	<i>Devon Blamer</i>
McCreary	<i>Jordan Adkins</i>
Menifee	<i>Jordyn Belcher</i>
Morgan	<i>Hunter Fraley</i>
Owsley	<i>Candace McQueen</i>
Perry	<i>David Jones</i>
Pike	<i>Kyndra Justice</i>
Powell	<i>Kelly Ward</i>
Rockcastle	<i>Kyle Messina</i>
Whitley	<i>Lan Yang</i>
Wolfe	<i>Amber Smith</i>