

# Patchwork of Community

Summer 2006  
Volume 1, Issue 2



**UK** UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

Robinson Scholars Program, 217 Funkhouser Building, Lexington, KY 40506-0054  
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## Coordinator's Message

Greetings from the Jackson Regional team! June 2006 marks one year since my return as Regional Coordinator and being back with the Robinson Scholars Program has been a true blessing. I am extremely pleased with Regional Office team members Lara May and Dana Hays, who are absolutely committed to student success and quality programming. As educators, we value and place high priority on building relationships with Robinson Scholar students, families, school personnel, and community members. There is no substitute for the sense of dedication, passion, and authenticity that comes from the experiences of working one-on-one with Scholars and their family members. We are constantly reminded that our most important work consists of building relationships within the Robinson Scholars family.

As we look forward to this summer, the RSP staff is excited to offer a quality learning experience for each participant. Programming designed to strengthen both academic and leadership skills will continue to be our primary

## Spring Semester Wrap-Up

It is hard to believe that the 2005-06 school year is almost over! During the 2005-06 academic year, each class of high school Scholars participated in two weekend programs, one in the fall semester and one in the spring semester. These events focused on problem-solving, leadership development, and college preparation. Steve and Lara also spent over 80 days on the road this year visiting each Scholar at his or her school. This individual contact with students and school officials keeps staff abreast of how students are performing in school and if there are any issues that need attention.

### Seniors

This spring, senior Scholars continued focusing on their transition to college. Scholars and their families met with the Jackson team in January to walk through the financial aid process. In March, seniors traveled to Lexington and attended class with Scholars currently at UK. They also had the opportunity to take a creative movement class from the UK Dance Ensemble. This program is valued by Scholars and helps them not only see what college is really like, but introduces them to veteran Scholars who will be at UK to help them.



objectives, and we have designed a new program and tweaked our existing summer programs to help reach these goals. Opportunities will be provided for Scholars to sharpen their individual writing, math, and science skills. Junior and senior Scholars will participate in the sixth Writers' Workshop at UK. New Scholars will explore the eastern Kentucky region and learn more about Appalachian culture through tours and exposure to various musicians, artists, and authors. Last but not least, sophomore Scholars will be provided opportunities to make a difference in their home communities through community service projects tied to the environment. The summer experience will prove to be educational, exciting, and lots of fun.

I will end by saying congratulations to our newly selected Scholars and welcome to the Robinson Scholars family. We look forward to building a new friendship with each of you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Steve". The signature is written in a dark ink on a light background. The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent "S" at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail at the end.

### Juniors

College preparation was also the area of concentration for junior Scholars. Their focus was on the ACT. In March, juniors met with Brenda Fitzpatrick from Kaplan Test Preparation in Lexington. Over two days, Scholars examined each section of the ACT, learned tips and strategies for success, and took a practice exam.

### Freshmen and Sophomores

On separate weekends in April, freshman and sophomore Scholars traveled to the Cincinnati Bengals' Training Center and participated in a low ropes challenge course where they explored leadership and team building skills. Activities ranged from simple group activities to each student having the opportunity to slide down a zip line. Freshmen participated in leadership workshops, while sophomores went on a campus tour and had a student panel with current UK Scholars.

As summer nears, the RSP turns its attention to three week-long summer programs. Rising sophomores will study watersheds, then apply that knowledge through the implementation of water quality projects in their home communities. New Scholars will study the opportunities and challenges of Appalachian communities, and rising juniors and seniors will participate in the sixth Robinson Scholars Writers' Workshop.

### Robinson Scholars Program

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**Congratulations Class Six on your high school graduation! Best of luck in college!**

### Upcoming Events: Summer 2006

#### June

11<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> Water Pioneers Program  
*Rising sophomores*  
*Mammoth Cave National Park*

19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> Summer Advising Conference  
*Incoming UK freshmen*  
*University of Kentucky*

24<sup>th</sup> Recognition Ceremonies  
*HCTC-First Federal Center*  
*11:00 Graduating HS Seniors*  
*2:00 New Scholars*

24<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> New Scholars Summer Program  
*HCTC-Lees Campus*

#### July

15<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> Writers' Workshop  
*Rising juniors and seniors*  
*University of Kentucky*

## Spotlight: Jordan Williams

Jordan Williams, a senior Scholar from Lee County, loves to bang on things. You will frequently see him tapping his feet or strumming his fingers to the beat in his head. Jordan has a passion and talent for anything percussion. He has been in the band since the 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Lee County Schools. His resume is full of awards and accomplishments including being undefeated in Class A competition and winning the overall percussion honor four times. Along with performing, Jordan is also an accomplished arranger. He has arranged a battery field and warm-up book for Dixie County High School in Cross City, Florida, a band that finished second in their year-end competition. He has also arranged music for his high school and the Accent Winter Drumline in Williamsburg, KY. Jordan has been accepted to the UK School of Music, plans to get his undergraduate degree in Music Education, and would like to receive his doctorate in composition. His hope is to teach music at the college level and compose for schools.



### Join the UK College of Agriculture for Field Day!

The University of Kentucky College of Agriculture will be hosting the annual All Commodity Field Day at Robinson Station in Breathitt County on September 28, 2006. The day features youth educational programming that includes:

- Introduction to Global Positioning Systems
- Golf Course Management
- ATV Safety
- Win with Wood
- Robinson Scholars Program Watershed Project
- Field Research Basics

Registration for this educational event begins in early August, and pre-registration is required. For more information, contact Stephanie Naillieux at 606-666-2438 Ext. 221 or visit the Robinson Station website at [www.ca.uky.edu/robinsonstation](http://www.ca.uky.edu/robinsonstation).

## Scholar Selection

The selection of the tenth class of Scholars is essentially a year-long process that began in September with middle school recruitment visits and counselor meetings and ended with interviews and selection committee meetings in late April and early May. The RSP staff in Jackson facilitates this process, but the thirty-six volunteers on six different selection committees do the difficult work of evaluating, interviewing, and selecting the next class of twenty-nine Scholars.

Selection concluded on May 13<sup>th</sup>, and this class will continue in the excellent tradition of Scholars selected before them. Class ten will be recognized on Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, at the First Federal Center on the campus of Hazard Community and Technical College. At the conclusion of the event, Scholars will travel to Lees Campus of HCTC in Jackson to begin their first summer program.