Robinson students explore culture in The Big Easy

The Robinson Challenge is a year-long college and career exploration activity that includes a cultural trip. Hazard High School junior Stacie Fugate offered her comments about the trip. To read her full essay and see more pictures, visit the Robinson Facebook page.

The actor John Goodman said that going to New Orleans is like going to an entire culture. I was blessed to experience this great city. On this challenge trip, we explored, we learned, and we laissez les bons temps rouler! Here are some things I particularly enjoyed about the culture.

Scenery: It's busy, chaotic, hectic, and impersonal, but in the French Quarter, you feel much like you are walking in your hometown.

Food: In New Orleans you can take leftovers, cook them in a pot, and call it a (delicious) dish! If there's one suggestion I have it's “try the food!”

Diversity: It's an amazing thing to experience and one of my favorite things about the city!

Robinson Scholars visit State Legislature

Robinson Scholars were special guests of State Senate President Robert Stivers during a March trip to Frankfort. Their experience included meetings with Senator Stivers and State Rep. David Hale, a tour of the Capitol Building, and visits to the Kentucky Vietnam Memorial and State Archives.

The trip gave high school students an opportunity to learn about state government and observe proceedings of the legislature. They were also invited to meet with State Librarian and Archives Commissioner Wayne Onkst, who discussed the function of State Archives and talked about career opportunities in libraries and archives. Pictured, from left, are Brent Bartley, Carrie Sargent, Rachel Holbrook, Whitney Wright, Senator Stivers, Cameron French, and Trevor Rice.
Scholars lend talent to UK Tomorrow Corps

Five Robinson Scholars participated in the UK Tomorrow Corps this summer. The initiative was developed by the UK Appalachian Center as a way to utilize the skills of college students to support the well-being of Appalachian Kentucky children.

The Tomorrow Corps provides summer employment and professional support for UK students tutoring K-12 students in math and literacy skills, in partnership with local libraries, public schools, and community organizations.

“This is an opportunity to help youth in my community, and it creates job opportunities for college students who want to give back,” said Owsley County Scholar Joslyn Cope.

Bennett interns with DuPont

Chandria Bennett has been participating in a cooperative study with DuPont Titanium Technologies as part of her degree work in chemical engineering. She completed two semesters in 2014 and worked for the company in the summer of 2015.

“Having an experience like this is invaluable in college. You get to experience a real world job and see what your life will be like after you graduate,” said Bennett, a 2011 graduate of North Laurel High School.

“I learned a lot of applicable skills, especially on safety and working with people. I can now see how the things I learn in class apply to the work world,” Bennett said. Chandria notes that her Robinson Scholar peers have provided a supportive community. “All through our college experience, we have friends who understand us and access to many resources. That makes college in such a huge place seem smaller.”