

# The Roan Scholars Leadership Program

View From The Top  
Fall 2007

Editor: Chris Mynhier

## A Day on the Lake



As most everyone knows, the weather has been unusually warm this late in the year. Current and alumni Roan Scholars alike got a chance to enjoy this beautiful weather thanks to Dr. Michael and Linda Browder.

As we have done in the past, the group joined the Browders for an afternoon out on the lake as guests

on their houseboat. This day gives all the students a chance to get away from the start of a new year and just relax and enjoy each other's company.

The Scholars enjoyed swimming, waterskiing and kneeboarding, as well as eating lunch and spending some quality time with each other.

At the end of the day, all were tired but glad for another great experience at the lake. Thanks to the Browders for yet another wonderful opportunity to be their guests and spend time together as a group.

## Scholars Enjoy Bristol Races



Twice a year, Bristol Motor Speedway hosts the NASCAR racing series. The Roan Scholars were invited to this year's August races by Mr. Jeff Byrd and his wife, Claudia. We had the privilege of being guests of theirs in their suite. This was an unforgettable experience for us all.

Anyone who has been in a

suite for the races knows it is an amazing experience. We had dinner of a chipotle southwest mix of vegetables and steak along with other side dishes.

The most exciting part of the experience was getting to see the races from a new perspective. Many have seen the races from the stands and have gotten a pretty good look at NASCAR, but until one gets the chance to be in a suite, he or she does not fully appreciate it.

Thanks again to Mr. Jeff and Claudia Byrd for inviting us to be a part of this fascinating experience.

## Class of 2007 Gets a Taste of the Outdoors



The Roan Scholars Class of 2007 wound down its last days of summer out in the wilderness, experiencing the traditional Outdoor Adventure that each new class enjoys.

The first day or two started slow with some team-building activities on the Basler Challenge Course at the CPA along with the leisurely "sunset paddle" kayaking trip to Watauga Dam. All this was in preparation for the next full week of non-stop activity.

The first big trip was to Fontana Lake in Western North Carolina. Here we kayaked with a partner on a 3-day trip around the lake. We camped at designated campsites on the lakeshores each night. We learned how to cook on a camp stove and enjoyed the wilderness and nature around the lake.

The day after the Fontana trip, we stopped at the Nantahala River to go whitewater rafting for the day. Here some of the older Scholars and Mr. Jon Walker, the CPA Director, met us for a less strenuous day of paddling on single rafts down the Nantahala. The first trip down the river, we had a guide, but the second time we were on our own down the route. The water was cold, but the trip was a memory never to be forgotten.

The next activity we prepared for was the most feared of all the Scholars: the Roan Mountain hike. This is generally the most demanding for the new Scholars on the outdoor adventure. It proved once again to be tough, but conquerable. We hiked the Roan Mountain portion of the Appalachian Trail to the Roan High Knob. The trip took 3 days and it covered a 10-mile section of the trail. We were tired when we reached the top, but had a great sense of accomplishment for what we had done.

The last days of the adventure were spent winding down with some laidback activities such as paintball and scuba diving. At the end of the trip, all of us had felt like we had done something that at the beginning we never thought possible. It gave us the confidence we needed to jumpstart the new school year and the college experience.

## Senior Shows Leadership as SGA Vice President



One of our senior Scholars is getting some superb leadership experience as part of the Student Government Association.

Stephen Linebarger is currently serving as SGA Vice President on campus this year. This is a position that requires great organization and responsibility in the Senate. As Vice President, he is

in charge in the absence of the President. He is also the chair of the SGA Senate.

Stephen had previously never held a position on the Senate before being elected, only serving as Associate Justice and Chief Justice his Sophomore and Junior years. When asked what his favorite part of being Vice President was, Stephen says, "I am involved every day with decisions that can benefit the students and the campus. To me that is what is rewarding about the position; the fact that I can make students' college experience better than it already is."

## Frist Pays a Visit to ETSU and Roan Scholars



On October 18th, former Senator Bill Frist was the Keynote Speaker for the 25th Annual Lamb Lecture at ETSU. This presentation is done every year by a leader or pioneer in the health field. It is named in honor of the first Dean of the College of Health at the university.

The Roan Scholars got the special privilege of meeting with Mr. Frist earlier in the day before his

lecture. The meeting was outstanding. Mr. Frist first gave a very brief biography of himself and a history of his background in both the medical field and in the political arena. From there, the entire meeting was simply just questions from many of the Scholars that Mr. Frist went on to answer. The questions centered around his career and endeavors in both career fields. All the Scholars were very excited to meet him. Both his political and medical career were of interest to all the students, and his life proves to be a perfect model for all of the Scholars.

## Allison experiences the culture of Amsterdam

One of our seniors this year is spending the fall semester studying abroad. Allison Lowe is currently studying Psychology at the Universiteit van Amsterdam in the Netherlands.

Allison is living in Am-



Allison on top of Arc De Triomphe in Paris, France. View of Eiffel Tower in the background.

sterdam in a studio apartment that she rented through the university. She enjoys living on the harbor, only having to travel a short bike ride to reach the hustle and bustle of the city center.

In her free time, Allison loves to travel all over Europe. She has visited Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, and Denmark, as well as enjoyed Spain, France and Italy. She has plans to visit England in the near future. She also enjoys staying in the local area, exploring the city by the main mode of transportation: bicycle.

When asked about studying abroad, she said, "I prepared by taking a lot of courses early in college so I could have a free semester to do this. I was anxious about being away from family and friends and my 'normal' life, but this is the absolute best experience of my life. I have learned so much about the world and about myself. This has been a life-changing adventure."

She also went on to say that "studying abroad tests all of your knowledge and abilities: there is nothing like being in a

foreign country, where people speak a foreign language, and figuring out how to live and study in a new city on your own. The huge challenge is also its greatest reward when you accomplish your goal of immersing yourself in a new culture." We are so excited to hear from Allison as she experiences life and school in a new environment. We are anxious to hear more from her in the near future. Her accomplishments are ones she will never forget.

Special thanks to Jeff and Claudia Byrd for our experience at the Bristol races as well as Mike and Linda Browder for the kindness of having us on the lake. Thank you for your wonderful support and making us feel like part of the family.

For recent updates on the Roan Scholar Leadership Program, we encourage you to visit our web site at [www.etsu.edu/roanscholars](http://www.etsu.edu/roanscholars).