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Undergraduate Awards and Honors

UK Office of Undergraduate Research

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Undergraduate Awards and Honors

Astronaut Scholarship for Research 2009-2010

Samuel Niciase
Samuel Niciase, Electrical Engineering student, was awarded a $10,000 scholarship by the Astronaut Scholarship foundation (ASF). The scholarship is presented to dynamic undergraduates or graduate students who exhibit inovation, imagination, and exceptional performance in the fields of science and engineering. ASF honors students whose talent foreshadows a career leading to advancement of scientific knowledge and technology. Established by the original astronauts in 1984, the foundation has grown to include more than 50 astronauts from the Gemini, Apollo, and Shuttle programs. The foundation is dedicated to helping the U.S. retain its world leadership in science and technology by providing scholarships to students pursuing careers in those fields.

Beckman Scholarship Recipients for 2009-2010

Laura Crawford
Jessica Houtz
Marti Robinson
Crawford, a junior from Corbin, Ky., majoring in agricultural biotechnology, is performing her project under the mentorship of Diane Snow, professor and researcher in the Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Research Center in the UK College of Medicine. Crawford is also a Singletary Scholar, Chellgren Fellow, peer mentor for UK AMSTEMM, and member of the UK Society for the Promotion of Undergraduate Research (SPUR).

Houtz, a junior majoring in agricultural biotechnology from Lexington, Ky., will perform her research under the mentorship of professors Karyn Esser, in the Department of Physiology in the College of Medicine and Bruce O’Hara, in the Department of Biology in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Marti Robinson
Robinson, a sophomore from Knoxville, Tenn., majoring in biology, is performing her project under the mentorship of Robin Cooper, professor and researcher in the biology department in the College of Arts and Sciences. Robinson is also a Singletary Scholar and was accepted into the accelerated B.S./M.D. program. In 2008, Robinson was awarded the Ribble Scholarship for her undergraduate research studies in neuroscience.

Goldwater Scholarship

The Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation operates an educational scholarship program designed to provide opportunities for American undergraduate students with excellent academic records and outstanding potential. Goldwater Scholarships support study in the fields of mathematics, engineering and the natural sciences as preparation for careers in these areas.

Lesley Mann
Mann is a junior majoring in agricultural biotechnology and has been very involved in undergraduate research since arriving on campus her freshman year and currently is doing research as part of the UK Department of Plant Pathology in the College of Agriculture. She is a member of the Honors Program and president of the Society for the Promotion of Undergraduate Research (SPUR), where she works to ensure other undergraduates obtain valuable research experience in their area of studies at the university. In addition, she serves as a biochemistry tutor. Upon graduation, Mann plans to pursue a doctoral degree in plant sciences. She would like to conduct research contributing to sustainable agriculture and teach at the university level.

Tom Dodson
Dodson, a senior, is among the many potential scholars studying more than one major at their university. A Henry Clay High School alumnus, Dodson is currently majoring in computer science, computer engineering and physics at UK. He also is pursuing a minor in mathematics, and considering additional minors in biology and linguistics. During his time at UK, Dodson has done undergraduate research at UK’s Space Systems Laboratory under the direction of James E. Lumpp Jr., an associate professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. He also has previous research experience in the Department of Computer Science where he worked under the direction of Professor Judy Goldsmith. Both these research opportunities were through the UK College of Engineering.

Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship

Kayla Rae Whitaker
2009 Recipient

The scholars are chosen from a nationwide selection process that draws approximately 1,000 nominees from across the country. Each scholarship is worth up to $300,000 ($50,000 per year for a maximum of six years), which is among the largest scholarships offered in the United States. The value and duration of each scholarship varies based on the cost of attendance or other grants each student receives. Each university is allowed to nominate only two students for the award. Whitaker will use the scholarship to pursue her passion for writing as she works toward a master’s degree.

National Leadership Council

Brittany Martin
2009-2010 National Leadership Council

The council is a leadership opportunity offered by the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, an honor society inviting freshmen and sophomores. Martin is a junior majoring in psychology and social work.

2009 Chellgren Fellows

The Chellgren Fellows Program is for students with exceptional academic potential and aspirations, who are eager to participate in a special learning community designed to cultivate extraordinary achievement.

Elizabeth Dunn
Shaky El-Maraghi
Lindsey Elza
Laura Feder
Lisa Fioretti
Amber Gay
Eric Gilland
Philip Houtz
Jun Huang
Matthew Hufford
Adesuwa Ighodaro
Sidrah Khan
Andrea Lowe
Courtney Lynch
Allison McVey
Kristyn Mickley
Deepa Patel
Megan Schultz
Zachary Willand
Fei Xiong
Alyssa Yson

(See pages 90-92 for reports from this year’s Beckman Scholars)
Gaines Scholars
Gaines Fellowship Program for the 2009-10 and 2010-11 academic years

Ben Barnes, James Chapman, Kit Donohue, Jason Grant, Nazeeha Jawahir, Bailey Johnson, Rachel Keller, Christina Kuchle, Jonathan Laurel, Raven Newberry, Katherine Reynolds, Stephanie Straub

Gaines Fellowships are given in recognition of students’ outstanding academic performance, demonstrated ability to conduct independent research, interest in public issues, and desire to enhance understanding of the human condition through the humanities. Fellowships are awarded for the tenure of a student’s junior and senior years, or for the last two years of a five-year program; students in all disciplines and with any intended profession are given equal consideration. The Gaines Fellowships carry a stipend of $2,000 in the junior year and $3,000 in the senior year.

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
Ali Cibon
2009 Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) Championships Monetary award given to the highest achieving Biosystems & AG Engineering Student

Cibon, an agricultural economics major from just outside of Chicago, earned an individual national championship in intermediate equitation over fences at the 2009 Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) Championships in Murfreesboro, TN. UK was selected as reserve national champion in the hunt seat division at the championships.

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
Ben Barnes
American Physiological Society Undergraduate Summer Research Fellow recipient

Ben Barnes, an undergraduate student in the College of Arts & Sciences and a topical studies major with a focus on aging and gerontology, was announced as a 2009 American Physiological Society Undergraduate Research Fellow. Barnes’ academic advisor is Esther Dupont-Versteegden, an associate professor in the Division of Physical Therapy. Fellowship winners spend the summer in the laboratory of an established scientist and APS member. Now in its 10th year, this program aims to excite and encourage students about careers in biomedical research.

Aun Ali Munis
Sullivan Awards for Community Service

Two seniors, Aun Ali Munis and Corinne Keel, received the 2009 Algernon Sydney Sullivan Medallions. The Sullivan Medallion recognizes students whose commitment to community service shows characteristics of heart, mind, and conduct that evince a spirit of love for and helpfulness to other men and women. Munis, president of the Muslim Student Association, was chosen for his leadership of fundraising events on behalf of the Catholic Action Center, a shelter for homeless men, women and children. A member of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity, Munis also helped plan and organize events to raise funds for Lexington’s ALS Foundation and Service for Sight. He has also performed volunteer work with the St. Joseph Surgery on Sunday Program, UK DanceBlue and Habitat for Humanity.

Keel served as a member of AmeriCorps for a year between high school and enrolling in college, assisting in a variety of projects in West Virginia and Virginia. At UK, she was active in the local and campus communities, serving as a teaching assistant for Booker T. Washington Elementary School students and as an invited conference delegate and regular volunteer for UK’s Students Educating and Empowering to Develop Safety (SEEDS) program. Keel also has served as president of UK’s Gay Straight Alliance, and served as a mentor for the Gaines Fellows program to develop an online resource for Lexington residents who suffer from HIV and AIDS.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & ECONOMICS
Hammad Khan
Adelstein Award

The Adelstein Award is named for the late Carole S. Adelstein, wife of retired UK English professor Michael Adelstein. Carol, who used a wheelchair because of polio, was an inspiration to persons with disabilities by leading a meaningful, successful life at a time when individuals with disabilities were not encouraged to be independent and contributing members of society. The Adelstein Award is given by the UK Disability Resource Center to students with disabilities who are inspirations to others. Hammad Khan, who is visually impaired, is a communications senior who wants to pursue a law degree after graduation. He is a diligent and hard worker, being continuously active on and around campus.

COLLEGE OF DESIGN
Rebekah Schaberg
Association of Woodworking Furnishings and Suppliers’ (AWFS) national Fresh Wood competition first place winner

The biennial furniture competition is held as part of the AWFS®Fair, an international trade show featuring all products and supplies for the woodworking industry that brings together the entire home and commercial furnishings industry, including manufacturers and distributors of machinery, hardware, lumber, construction materials and other suppliers to the furniture makers, cabinet manufacturers and custom woodworkers.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
UK Solar Car Team
Formula Sun Grand Prix, UK Team placed 2nd

13 members of the UK Solar Car Team made the trip

The UK Solar Car Team placed 2nd at the Formula Sun Grand Prix at Motorsport Ranch in Cresson, Texas. The UK car, Gato Del Sol III, completed 393 laps over three days, with its fastest lap timed at two minutes, 33 seconds. Thirteen members of the UK Solar Car Team made the trip; all are students in the UK College of Engineering.

UK Solar Decathlon Team
2009 U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon

9th Place

For three weeks in October 2009, the U.S. Department of Energy hosted the Solar Decathlon—a competition in which 20 teams of college and university students compete to design, build, and operate the most attractive, effective, and energy-efficient solar-powered house. UK’s team developed its Simple, Modular, Affordable, Renewable, Transportable, Building Living, Understanding, Energy-efficient, and Sustainability or SMART BLUES House for the competition (and took 9th place).
Undergraduate Awards and Honors (CONT.)

16 students from the Dept. of Mechanical Engineering participated in the Cessna/Raytheon Student Design/Build/Fly Competition in Tucson, Arizona. The contest provides a real-world aircraft design experience for engineering students by giving them the opportunity to validate their analytic studies. Student teams design, fabricate, and demonstrate the flight capabilities of an unmanned, electric powered, radio controlled aircraft which can best meet the specified mission profile. The goal is a balanced design possessing good demonstrated flight handling qualities and practical and affordable manufacturing requirements while providing a high vehicle performance.

UK Chemical Engineering Students and American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) student chapter participated at the November 2008 AICHE Centennial Meeting. The University of Kentucky’s American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) student chapter was very active in the annual meeting and centennial celebration in Philadelphia, PA. Twenty-six undergraduates attended this meeting and participated in the wide variety of events. The UK AIChE student chapter was honored as an outstanding chapter. Each year, only about 10% of student chapters receive that designation. The Chapter received this national award for the 26th year in a row.

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

1st Place - Diana Yodzis, 2nd Place - Gabrielle Barker, 3rd Place - Bryce Wiatrak.

From its beginning in Indiana in 1992, the William E. Schmidt Foundation has sought to find and nurture high school singers through the Schmidt Youth Vocal Competition. The competition was established to encourage and nurture the pursuits of young people in the arts.

1st Place - Elizabeth Maurey, 2nd Place - Keymon Murrah

Undergraduates vied for two awards presented by UK Opera Theatre and Bryant’s Rent-All. The awards include full UK undergraduate (tuition) scholarships with first place receiving an additional $5,000 cash award and second place receiving an additional $2,500 cash award. Elizabeth Maurey is a soprano from Brazil, Indiana. As a junior, Maurey won last year’s Schmidt Youth Vocal Competition in Indiana. The second place undergraduate winner is Keymon W. Murrah, a tenor from Louisville, KY.

Richard Hoagland, “University Open” – first place

University Open is a juried competition between undergraduate fine arts students at Kentucky colleges and universities. This year’s competition featured work from 38 of the state’s student artists. Winners were announced at an opening reception held in April at Lexington’s Downtown Arts Center. Hoagland, a resident of Lexington, received first place honors for his series of digital prints titled “Ralph Juxtaposed.” As Best of Show winner, the student artist received a $500 cash prize.

Office of Student Activities, Leadership & Involvement (Student Volunteer Center)

Savannah F. Craddock, Maurice A. Clay
Jeffrey R. Steller
Jennifer N. Burkman
Andrew H. Trimble
Kevin R. Fox
Nicholas M. Covault
Rachel D. Fields
Timothy M. Bowman
Nicholas A. Purol
Myra Elizabeth Shuffett
Nicholas A. Such
Elizabeth A. McDonald
David P. Nicholson

The Maurice Clay award is sponsored by the UK Chapter of Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK), presented to a graduating senior in each UK college, and based on leadership among the student body. As a testament to the loyalty and dedication of Dr. Maurice A. Clay, the Maurice A. Clay Leadership Development Initiative exists to provide financial support to individual circles seeking to establish specific programs to enhance leadership development on the campus and in the community.

Zachary D. Brien, Joseph P. Kennedy Student Development Scholarship Recipients
MacKenzie A. Gathof, Benjamin J. VanderHorst
Ryan M. Hayes
Krista M. Braun

The Student Development Council has the opportunity to award ten $1,000 scholarships each year thanks to generous gifts made by Kennedy Book Store. The selection process for the Joseph P. Kennedy Student Development Council Scholarships is highly competitive. The criteria for this award include a strong history of academic achievement as well as a demonstrated dedication to leadership and service both on campus and off.

Joseph A. Wright, Charles T. Wethington, Jr. Fellowship
Kristen R. Svarczkopf

In honor of Charles T. Wethington Jr., the president of the University of Kentucky from 1989 to 2001, the University annually provides funding for fellowships up to $20,000 to be awarded to UK graduating seniors who plan to continue their post-baccalaureate education in one of the University’s graduate or professional programs. The fellowships are awarded for a first year of graduate or professional study at UK and are not renewable for subsequent years. Preference is given to Kentucky residents who are first-generation college students.

Joseph L. Fink III, Robert G. Zumwinkle Student Rights Award

The award is given to one student and one staff member or other person who is dedicated to the preservation of student rights. The award is based on what the nominee has done to further student rights at UK. In the nomination it is important to describe exactly what the nominee has done to protect, enforce and further student rights. Each recipient will receive a $300 gift.
This award is presented to students who have demonstrated superior leadership, academics, and service to the community. UK faculty members decided to begin the award for graduating seniors. They named the award after former UK president, Otis A. Singletary.

Tim Masthay

Darrell VanMeter Award

A selfless spirit award. For fourteen consecutive years, UK has recognized a student for The Darrell VanMeter Award in honor of Darrell A. VanMeter. Darrell, (a sophomore at the time of his death in 1991), was recognized by the University community and his home community for his positive contributions dedicated to serving others. The impact of his “good Samaritan” approach to helping others was apparent to faculty, staff and students alike. He touched the campus community with his selfless heart and continual acts of service.

Jessalyn M. Ubellacker

Student Government Academic Scholarship

At least three thousand dollars ($3000) will be allocated toward University of Kentucky Student Government Association Student Scholarships. The Senate shall elect a committee of five to establish criteria and applications for the scholarships.

Michelle S. Combs

Raymond Bett S. Crystal Award of Service

This prize was first awarded in 1986 and is for outstanding service to the Honors Program and the University community at large.

Sabrina L. Mason

Student Government Constitutional Scholarship

At least three thousand dollars ($3000) will be allocated toward University of Kentucky Student Government Association Student Scholarships. The Senate shall elect a committee of five to establish criteria and applications for the scholarships.

Suzanne Anandappa

Viji Jenganathan Award for Cross-Cultural Understanding

Yumi Yokoi

The Viji Jenganathan Scholarship for Cross-Cultural Understanding is an endowed scholarship in memory of an outstanding international student who died of leukemia while studying at UK. The $1,000 award is presented to an individual who demonstrates leadership and ability in bridging cultural differences and who promotes communication among students of diverse nationalities at UK or in the Lexington community.

Jerrad T. Howard

Diachun Award for Research

The Stephen Diachun Award, named after the first director of the Honors Program, has been presented since 1982 to a graduating senior who has “demonstrated outstanding research talent in the form of his/her Independent Project and who holds high promise for further professional development in graduate school.” The Diachun Award comes in the form of a check for $1000 to be used for expenses in graduate or professional school.