

## Student Selected as Astronaut Scholar

UK senior Ryan Fischer has been selected as an Astronaut Scholar by the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation. The foundation named Fischer as one of only 18 Astronaut Scholars for 2006-07 and awarded him a \$10,000 scholarship. The prestigious scholarship is presented to dynamic undergraduates or graduate students who exhibit motivation, imagination, and exceptional performance in the fields of science and engineering.

Fischer, majoring in agricultural biotechnology and biology, is a Singletary Scholar currently working in cardiothoracic research under the guidance of Dr. Victor Ferraris, Gill Heart Institute co-director, the Tyler Gill Professor of Vascular Surgery and Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery in the UK College of Medicine Department of Surgery, and Suellen Ferraris, an assistant professor in cardiothoracic surgery in the Department of Surgery.



Photo submitted



Photo: Amanda White Nelson

## \$11.5 Million Gift Strengthens UK

UK has received the most broad-based gift in the history of the university from class of 1937 alumnus Dr. E. Vernon Smith. The gift, made in the name of Smith and his late wife, Eloise C. Smith, totals more than \$11.5 million including matching funds and will create scholarships in the areas of nursing, medicine and band; professorships in history, business, nursing and macular degeneration research; and endowed chairs in macular degeneration and Alzheimer's disease research.

The largest amounts of funding, \$4 million each, will go to establish the endowed research chairs. Smith has been diagnosed with macular degeneration while Eloise Smith passed away in 1997 of Alzheimer's disease. UK already has strong programs of research in both areas, and the Smith gift will further UK's efforts to research, understand and better treat both diseases.

A native of Greenup County, Smith has designated medical and nursing scholarships specifically for students from his home county. Smith, himself, is an internist in Cincinnati, Ohio. He has a keen interest in American history and etymology, and played saxophone in the UK marching band and the university symphony orchestra while a student.

## Center for Rural Health Offers New Academic Program

The UK Center for Rural Health now offers an academic program to prepare health care professionals in southeastern Kentucky for management roles and responsibilities.

The Clinical Leadership and Management program is for current providers who have an associate degree in a health-related discipline and at least one year of employment experience in a health care setting. Program graduates receive a Bachelor of Health Sciences degree from UK and will be prepared to assume greater responsibilities at their current jobs, be better qualified for job promotions, and positioned for graduate studies.

This degree completion program accommodates transfer students for many allied health disciplines, including radiological technology, respiratory therapy, dental hygiene and nursing.