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Note to our readers: The mission of Berea College is carried out through activities guided by Berea’s Great Commitments. Berea’s strategic plan, Being and Becoming: Berea College in the Twenty-First Century, identifies specific initiatives which the College is implementing to continue its tradition of learning, labor, and service. While all Berea College Magazine articles relate to Berea’s mission, specific articles about the strategic plan initiatives are indicated with the symbol.
Editor's Note

When I first met President Shinn (a year ago now) he mentioned that he would like to see something in the magazine that really showcased Berea’s diversity for our friends, alumni, and future students. I think this issue is it. In the year it took me to discover the stories that are Berea, I encountered some incredible people—former and current faculty, students, and alumni.

Looking through the College’s archival photographs one day I discovered a 1912 portrait of four gentlemen wearing heavy boots. Each had walked over 100 miles through the Appalachian Mountains to come to Berea. In 1865 James Bond, a freed slave, walked over 60 miles, leading a steer that he hoped would defray the cost of his education. Last year I interviewed a student from the former Tibet who, as a boy, crossed the frozen mountains into Nepal (approx. 786 miles), then continued his studies in India before he arrived at Berea College.

“How I Got Here and Why” (p. 22) focuses on the lengths that students will go to acquire the education that ultimately will shape their underlying passion to make meaningful change. “A Lifestyle of Service” (p. 28) shows us the lengths to which our alumni will go to make the world a better place—easing homelessness and hunger, fighting AIDS and poverty, and building a world house under the roof of peace. You’ll also read about some rather amazing teachers who influenced a generation of activists and educators in the interviews with Berea College faculty (p. 15). In the course of these conversations, the names of many more faculty members from Berea College arose—so many names that I could have written a book.

Berea College’s administration, faculty, and friends are in the business of building a powerful community of service and social change. Perhaps some would say our philosophy of investing in lives of great promise is a dream too difficult to attain in this complex and conflicted world. Personally, I believe that prayer and people can change things.

Or, as Margaret Mead once said: Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

Normandi Ellis
Fifteen students studying under economics and business professor Debbi Brock performed a management study to develop a comprehensive strategic business plan for the College Craft Industries. “We took our students into the field to learn management while performing an integrated service for the crafts program,” Brock says.

The students learned to create a strategic plan to lower production costs, boost profit margins, and improve operations of the 115 student workers who are the key components of the broomcraft, weaving, wrought ironworks, ceramics, and woodworking programs. They examined the craft industry, its market, and how the program plays into the success of Berea College, the community, Kentucky, and the region.

The students shared their recommendations with the business administration, craft program administrators, and others in a final presentation. “Having a chance to participate in this project,” says Katrina Kubesova ’06, “was a great way to make us retain the material we learned.”

Brock praised her students. “By far this is the best project we have ever done. It integrated all the functions of business management into a successful learning experience.”

Two anonymous grants totaling $270,800 have allowed Berea College to hire a full-time sound archivist and expand and its sound and oral archives in an effort to further preserve traditional Appalachian dance and music.

The grants brings with it the opportunity for more students to experience traditional music and dance by allowing more access to the archives, as well as bringing aboard additional music faculty. The grant helps the College to acquire traditional instruments for student use and provides time for teachers to train the students in the art form. Funds will also enable an ensemble of dance musicians to accompany the Berea Country Dancers when they are traveling throughout the region.

In addition, four fellowships were given this spring to musicians who are working with the sound and oral archives of the region. Deborah Thompson, of McKee, Kentucky, studied race and gender representation in traditional music. Brian Harnetty, of Columbus, Ohio, gathered sound and images into a large-scale multimedia work, “American Winter,” being produced by Appalshop. Erin Marshall, a Canadian fiddler, explored Eastern Kentucky fiddle styles and tunes. This summer ethnomusicologist Ajay Kalra from Austin, Texas, will study the McClain Family Band.
Berea Hosts State Forensics Tourney, Garners Awards

At the same time the Berea College speech and debate team was hosting the 2006 Kentucky State Forensics (KSF) Tournament in February, it earned third place overall in the events, including Coach of the Year for tournament coordinator Billy Wooten, '98. Several debate team members picked up individual awards.

Ten colleges and universities—including Berea College, Asbury College, Transylvania University, and Western Kentucky University (WKU)—participated in the tournament, with 160 students, coaches, and judges. “I was thrilled to see so many students entering these competitions and honing their cognitive, speaking, and performing skills,” said Wooten, assistant professor of English, theatre, and communications.

Chosen by student competitors, Wooten received the Kentucky Forensics Association (KFA) Coach of the Year award. Incoming KSF president Barry Fields from WKU presented the award, calling Wooten the Great Mediator of the KFA, noting his ability to keep peace among the KFA coaches. “It’s nice to be recognized by the students and be known as a mediator,” said Wooten.

Senior Christie Poteet garnered the Harlan Hamm Award for the student most dedicated to furthering forensics study and competition. “I feel honored,” said Poteet, who serves as Berea’s team captain. “This award is not just for me. It is for the whole team.”

In the small four-year institution category, Berea beat out six other schools to earn first place. Berea placed second in individual competition, earning four awards. In all, including the final KFA debates, this year’s speech and debate team ended its season with 45 awards.

Jessica Turner Creates HomeGrown HideAways—An Award-Winning Business Idea

Berea College junior Jessica L. Turner received the grand prize in the second annual Southeastern Kentucky Concept Challenge for innovative business ideas. Turner gained $1,000 in funding for her proposal for ecologically designed and built vacation rental cabins, “HomeGrown HideAways.”

Sponsored by the Eastern Kentucky Enterprise Group, the Berea College Entrepreneurship for the Public Good program, and the Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation, the competition was open to full-time students from postsecondary schools and community colleges throughout southeastern Kentucky.

Turner’s proposal entails ecologically designed and built rental cabins direct to consumers who want to fulfill travel desires while minimizing environmental impact. HomeGrown HideAways would give customers an opportunity to engage in hands-on workshops and classes designed to teach techniques for sustainable living. As a bonus, tasty home-cooked, organic meals prepared by an in-house chef would be included in the price.

Already Turner’s seed idea has taken root and is growing. She and her husband, Nathan, have begun scouting land and renovating their house, which they plan to sell for profit, then use the profit to build her innovative, environmental business.

“I want to show people the different ways you can build that are less expensive and less toxic.” Turner expressed high hope for a clean environmental future and is happy to be making contributions for a better tomorrow.

Jessica Turner, '07, displays her Southeastern Kentucky Concept Challenge Award for her innovative business ideas.
Black History Month Celebrates African American Culture

The College’s Black Cultural Center, the African and African American Studies program, and campus ministry, hosted events throughout black history month honoring heritage and culture.

During the February 2nd convocation, students were transported 148 years back in time to hear of the hardships of racism, the honor of service, and the life of a black soldier. Wearing Union blue civil war dress, Hasan Davis, ’92, portrayed A.A. Burleigh, who graduated from Berea in 1875. Davis, an actor, lawyer, and motivational speaker, based his portrayal on Burleigh’s military records and correspondence with John G. Fee.

Dr. Mary Frances Howard-Hamilton delivered an awe-inspiring speech after her recent attendance at the wake for Coretta Scott King, widow of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In her convocation speech, “Listening to the Voices of Our Sisters,” Howard-Hamilton literally brought audience members to their feet when she asked them to rise, talk to their neighbors, and discuss the inspiring women of their lives whom they cherished “as part of their freedom choir.”

During the tenth annual Unity banquet, faculty and students were recognized for service and contributions to the unity of all races, cultures, and ethnicity. The Carter G. Woodson Awards, named for the 1903 Berea graduate and father of black history month, were given to students Marcus Elston, ’06, Anton Bates, ’07, Nicholas Citizen, ’08, and Thaddeius McCall, ’09. Faculty recipients were director of the Center for Excellence in Learning and Service Meta Mendel-Reyes and vice president of Alumni and College Relations Bill Laramee.

New Heat Plant Almost There

The backhoes, trenches, and plastic orange security fencing around campus are the necessary nuisances that signal that of the new heat plant and distribution lines are nearly complete. The more efficient heating and cooling plant and its distribution system will supply more accurately the buildings’ energy needs. The new system replaces less efficient, antiquated steam piping. The main piping is nearly complete. Chilled water pipes will be ready for summer cooling; hot water lines are expected to be ready by fall.
PR and Development Receive CASE Awards

During the statewide CASE (Council for the Advancement and Support of Education) conference, Berea College received a total of eight awards for outstanding achievements in development and public relations projects.

The Office of College Development received a grand award for its publication appealing to Berea’s young alumni, in addition to an excellence award for its publication “Students are the Reason.”

The Berea College Magazine received a grand award for its Spring 2005 issue, as well as two writing awards—an award of excellence to Jay Buckner for his article on Jake Krack, “Fiddling Around” and an award of merit to Normandi Ellis for her article on the civil rights movement, “Walking in the Footsteps of Peace.”

Buckner also received an excellence award for his video news release, Juice & Water, about the sale of Berea College’s utilities. His two other video projects—one detailing the 40th anniversary of Berea’s participation in the civil rights march, the other about the Schmidlapp Fund endowment to assist women, primarily single parent students, from Appalachia—received awards of merit.

Chemistry Department Upgrades

Funding from the National Science Foundation has helped assistant professors Mark Cunningham and Paul Smithson enhance chemistry education through computer and flash technology. In collaboration with Lee University, the professors are testing online chemistry tutorials, homework sets, and quizzes. Boasting an interactive computer application, the new programs will be available to all science students, particularly those in general, environmental, and organic chemistry. Using sound, motion, and other visual effects, flash technology demonstrates how a particular chemical or biological process occurs. The program may be configured to provide self-study exercises that allow students to work at their own pace.

“The timed quizzes have the feel of a video game,” Smithson says enthusiastically, “and students try to beat the clock. The program provides incentive to learn the material all chemists need to know, avoiding the distractions that interrupt regular homework.”

Assistant professor Matthew Saderholm purchased a new automated peptide synthesizer with some funding from the National Institutes of Health. The time-saving synthesizer will accelerate summer research for both students and faculty.

“A peptide that previously took well over a week to make could be made in a day now,” Saderholm said. “This, combined with the electrospray mass spectrometer acquired last year, will allow us to complete substantial summer projects in 8 weeks and give students practical skills that pharmaceutical companies are using more often.” The synthesizer also makes peptide synthesis accessible to advanced laboratory students during the regular year.

Upgrades to the nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy machine were overseen by associate professor Jay Baltisberger. The equipment, purchased with National Science Foundation funds in 1999 for $200,000, determines how a molecule is put together. The $80,000 upgrade, funded by federal Department of Education allocations, extends the life of this equipment. “Basically we were able to turn the clock on the life of this instrument back to zero,” Baltisberger said. “This instrument has served us well these last six years and should continue to be one of the most heavily used chemistry instruments for years to come.” The NMR machine allows Baltisberger and his students to return to pulse sequence development research.

Recent federal Department of Education (DOE) allocations allowed the chemistry department to upgrade a gas chromatography instrument that uses a flame ionization detector and to repair a carbon/hydrogen/nitrogen analyzer to assist with organic chemistry research. Other DOE money will be used to upgrade small equipment like stirring hot plates, balances, and melting point detection apparatus.
Students Pen Prized Essays on Women, Palestine, & Traffic

The Berea College Learning Center awarded several talented writers for their contributions to the anthology *Voices*. The compilation includes Berea College student, faculty, and staff authors spanning 75 years. Editor Bradley Fletcher, '06, believes these voices will take readers through seven decades of historical perspective on issues dealing from race and gender to war and peace.

After a college-wide contest, three student winners were selected for inclusion in the anthology. Beth Coleman, '09, a freshman political science education major from Mt. Vernon, Kentucky, took first place with her poem “I am an Appalachian woman.” Second place winner, Michael Adams, '08, an English major from Princeton, Kentucky, submitted a poem that takes place in Palestine in the early 1990s. Third place winner, Robert Fox, '08, a nontraditional student majoring in English, penned his story out of “frustration with increasing pollution and traffic in northern Virginia and ongoing recollections about life in the U.S. Army.”

Staff and faculty winners were Lesia Holder, assistant to the Dean of Labor, Betty Hibler, associate director of the Center for Excellence in Learning Through Service, and Robert Hoag, chair of the philosophy and religion department.

For a copy of *Voices*, email janet_trone@berea.edu.

Mountain Folk Festival – 70 Years of Music, Dance & Song

Berea College held its 70th annual Mountain Folk Festival in March at the Seabury Center. Since 1935, the festival has reached out to the Appalachian region to interest a new generation of dancers and dance leaders in the mountain folk tradition. Children in grades 4-12 perform traditional music and dance from the British Isles, Denmark, and Appalachia.

Weekend events included traditional English seasonal display dances with colorful costumes, flowers, bells, ribbons and dance items such as sticks and swords. The event was codirected by Jennifer Rose Escobar, performing artist and educator, and Pamela Corley-Slowkowski, Morris dance coach of the College country dancer women.

Berea musicians Al and Alice White, and Atossa Kramer, provided live music. Bob Dalsemer, former president of the Country Dance and Song Society and coordinator of programs at the John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, North Carolina, was the featured caller.

Divine and Dazzling Theatre

*Once on This Island* student performers include (left to right) Stephanie Smith, '06, as Erzulie, Goddess of Love; Vincent Henry, Jr., '07, as Papa Ge, Demon of Death; Valton Jackson, '09, as Agwe, God of Water; Morgan Younge, '06, as Asaka, Goddess of the Earth; and Tianna Williams, '09, (lying down) as Ti Moune, the poor peasant girl who falls in love with an unattainable man. The musical was directed by Dr. Deborah Martin.
Swimmer Britin Ellard Begins Her Berea Career Swimmingly

Swimmer, Britin Ellard, '09, jumped right into Berea College history this season by breaking nine individual school records, including the 100-, 500-, and 1000-meter freestyle; the 50-meter backstroke, the 50-, 100-, and 200-meter breaststroke; and the 200- and 400-meter individual relay. Ellard represented Berea at the NAIA Nationals in St. Peters, Michigan, in March, placing 6th in the 200-meter individual medley, 7th in the 200-meter breaststroke, and 11th in the 100-meter breaststroke. She called the chance to compete for Berea nationally “an amazing opportunity and privilege for me.”

Lady Mountaineers Take Their First KIAC Tournament

Berea College’s No. 1 Lady Mountaineers tamed and defeated Bethel College’s No. 2 Wildcats 91-85 to win their first ever Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (KIAC) basketball championship game held at Indiana University Southeast.

The two teams traded leads throughout the game and tied only twice. Berea’s largest lead came in the second half when they led by 24 points. Rebecca May, '07, led the team with 30 points, 5 rebounds, and 5 steals. Also a force to be reckoned with, Crystal Davis, '06 scored 18 points.

The Lady Mountaineers represented the KIAC in the NAIA Division II women’s basketball national tournament in Sioux City, Iowa, in March, but lost in a disappointing first round.

The men’s basketball team fell 93-63 to No. 1 Indiana University Southeast in the KIAC championship game. Berea’s highest scorers were Jermaine Martin, '09, and Tomas Klimas, '07, with 13 points each.

Lady Mountaineers May and Davis Shatter College Records

Two Lady Mountaineers who broke College records this basketball season were recognized at the Virginia Intermont home game this year. Forward Rebecca May, '07, scored more than 1000 career points, and guard Crystal Davis, '06, became the all-time assist leader.

May, a sociology education major from Waynesburg, Kentucky, is only the sixth Lady Mountaineer to be inducted into the 1000 point club. While averaging only 22 minutes a game, she makes those minutes count, typically scoring 20 points per game. This season alone, May scored 523 points in 26 games.

“It felt amazing to be a part of the 1000 point club,” says May. “I’m glad I can be a part of the Berea College basketball history.”

Davis, a business administration major from Wilmington, Ohio, has been playing basketball since the eighth grade. With more than 500 assists, Davis is Berea’s career assist leader. She also ranked second in rebounds for the Lady Mountaineers. Last season, Davis’s assist-turnover ratio of 3.48-1 was the best in the country.

“Crystal will not quit,” says Berea coach Bunky Harkleroad. “When things don’t go well, she always comes back strong.”
Six faculty members were awarded fellowships that will include academic study of service learning and the development of community partnerships. Participants include Rodney Clark, theatre; Dwayne Mack, history; Connie Richmond, nursing; Paul Smithson, chemistry/SENS; Stephanie Woodie, physical education and health; and Billy Schumann, Appalachian studies.

The faculty will gather throughout the semester to discuss and plan the courses that they will teach within the next year. Since Spring 2004 the fellowships have been offered each term by the Center for Excellence in Learning Through Service through a three-year Learn and Serve America consortium grant.
Since 1971, the short term semester has provided students with the opportunity for intensive month-long study in one topic of special interest. On and off campus short term classes allow for professional growth of faculty through planning and teaching new courses, which are frequently experimental in content and experiential in format. A total of 1312 students enrolled in one of 75 different courses spanning the disciplines, including chemistry, dance, and gymnastics.

You breathe crisp morning air and feel a biting winter chill soak into your throat. The frost resonates, and your bones tingle. Your toes are ice cubes. But you still wait—for an amber horizon; a moment of relief; a moment of warmth.

The sun begins to rise. Pink and purple mist colors the sky in a canopy of pastels. The sun comes up further, brightens your face, warms your body through, and you know for a brief moment that you have seen heaven.

Twelve students, along with their professors—photographer Alan Mills and poet Libby Falk Jones, experienced the opportunity of a lifetime–visiting four national parks in Utah through a short term class designed to explore nature conservation through photography and writing. The group traveled to Canyon Lands, Arches, Bryce Canyon, and Zion national parks.

"Because there were so few students, we had a lot of one-on-one time with professors and each student’s questions were answered,” said Alan Prather, ’07. Throughout the 10-day mandatory early wake-ups, Prather, a photography teaching assistant, willingly helped other students with challenges.

“Photography,” he said, “is something I do to get away.” At 8000 feet, atop a mountain overlooking Bryce Canyon’s red rock, Prather’s horizons have certainly expanded. Sunrise on one side and a cascade of slender red rock spires accented by morning light on the other makes for a wonderful world to wake up to. Carved by wind, blanketed by sunlight, basking in oranges, reds, and ambers, waking up in Bryce Canyon—the coldest of the four places was worth the morning chill.

Regardless of the harsh weather conditions, students shared gratitude for their chance to travel.

“Traveling off campus really broadens a student’s experience because you get the hands-on applications of the class, as well as experience dealing with group dynamics,” said Emily Potter, ’08, a communications major. This was Emily’s first trip out West. As a nontraditional student, she already has experienced living and working in intense, away-from-home environments, but, she loved seeing her peers learn some of life’s more valuable lessons. She cited everyday events, such as luggage and transportation issues, tiredness, and crankiness, bonding, and overcoming obstacles, as some of the challenges trip members faced.

Upon return each student sorted hundreds of photographs, reread and revised a month’s worth of writing, then chose one photograph and one page that best represented the Utah experience. The photos and writing were displayed in Hutchins Library during February; the exhibit filled library patrons with sighs of awe.

And, for students dedicated enough to get up at 5:30 in the morning and walk outside in 2 degree weather to write and photograph nature’s miracle, a better conclusion couldn’t be possible.
Learning Outside the Box

Ten Days in the Heartbeat of Utah

By Robert Fox, '08

A short term class in photography and writing brought out the beauty of a frozen landscape in Utah.
They ripped up floors, pulled down paneling and insulation, carried out trash and sodden furniture, and treated the remaining floors and walls for mold. These thirteen Berea students spent their January in Louisiana helping to clean out six hurricane-damaged homes in the town of New Iberia. They described the perspective-changing experience as “amazing.”

As part of her January short term class, “Rebuilding through Service: Lessons of Hurricane Katrina,” CELTS director Meta Mendel-Reyes joined forces with a grassroots organization, Southern Mutual Help Association. “Like many people, I was affected by the hurricane and wanted to respond,” she said. “A short term class was the first opportunity to involve students in recovery work.” By lending their hands, students learned the differences between charity work and the service that addresses root causes.

Before their trip, the class studied the hurricane and subsequent recovery process, including ways to have improved disaster response. They also explored the connections between service and citizenship. Mendel-Reyes wanted the class to give her students firsthand knowledge about the hurricane, as well as insight into the impact the hurricane had on the poor and people of color.

Students bonded while repairing the homes; presumptions and biases were both discussed and resolved. “As a class, we got so close,” said Mikala Rollins ’09, a child and family studies major.

By seeing hurricane devastation and speaking with people inside their flood-damaged homes, the students reassessed many preconceived notions. They worked intimately with a diverse population affected by the disaster, ranging from a four-generation family of Cajun fishermen to an elderly African American couple. Rollins said that she was most affected by the people she encountered because despite their unfortunate living conditions, “they had so much hope.”

Sociology major Katrina Burton, ’06, kept a journal about her experiences. In writing about a woman whose home the students helped repair Burton said, “She transformed from a woman who was skeptical of a bunch of unskilled college students to the most welcoming and warm person; the kind that you feel you just have to talk to.”

The students also spent a day in New Orleans surveying the hurricane damage and finding some chilling effects. While some houses stood virtually unharmed, a neighboring house might be completely destroyed. “It was hit and miss everywhere we went,” said Rollins.

“You see all this on the news and you become desensitized,” said communications major Zack Kocher, ’08. After students saw the damage in person and met the families affected by the hurricane, the true tragedy became real. “You wouldn’t believe how much hope these people have,” he said.

At the end of the term, the class held a Louisiana-themed presentation in Baird Lounge to show others on campus what they had accomplished. News articles, slide shows, and photographs painted a moving portrait of their experiences and gave a taste of Louisiana culture, as well as the continued need for ongoing relief efforts.
BEREA COLLEGE
Faculty: A Commitment to Appalachia and Beyond

By Normandi Ellis


The world was changing, and so was Appalachia. The homecoming queen wore a plaid skirt and an eyelet sweater; the Tab theatre produced some edgy plays—The Man Who Came to Dinner, White Dresses, Krapp’s Last Tape, and that old class-act, Othello. The students marched in Alabama and on Frankfort. They held mock U.N. assemblies, participated in leadership and peace trainings, and collected books for elementary students in Pike County and elsewhere.

It was a world in which President Lyndon Johnson urged the nation to become “The Great Society;” we fought a war on poverty at home and a disastrous war in Vietnam. Students were poised at a crossroads in history. As the Chimes yearbook put it: “We tried to learn the knowledge of the ages in fifty-five minutes and two cherry cokes.”

As alumni return to campus this summer for their 40th class reunion, no doubt they will recall the luminaries on faculty who helped to shape their lives—Gordon Ross (philosophy and religion), Emily Ann Smith (English), Thomas Beebe (chemistry), Perly Ayer (sociology), ‘Occie’ Gunkler (physical education), John White (psychology), Charlotte Ludlum (ancient languages), and Rolf Hovely (music)—and of course, those faculty interviewed here—Dorothy Tredennick (art) and Bob Menefee (economics).

In 1966, the Chimes yearbook announced that “1,647 students came with stuffed teddy bears, letter jackets and hope… from Appalachia, from the world, to be one blood.”
William Gordon Ross
One time a large tree behind the library came down. I was given a six-foot crosscut saw and assigned to cut the tree into blocks.

... Dr. Gordon Ross came along and offered to help. On the first return stroke, I knew here was an experienced hand. I suspect some of Dr. Ross’ philosophy and good attitude comes from growing up with honest labor.

—Garnie Anderson, ’42

Dean Albert Weidler
He favored cooperatives and would sometimes challenge College speakers if they said something that was very anti-socialist, or if they espoused views foreign to his thinking. Dr. Weidler was pro-student.

—Joe L. Morgan, ’54

Mary Ela
We learned to see the beauty around us: tin cans, tree trunks, the big plant in the front room that grew from the inside out. We learned: 1) Art is a way of life; it is not just what you do but how you do it that counts; 2) People don’t stay the same; if you knew someone last year, you don’t necessarily know that same person today; 3) Art and conservation have much in common: the wise use of natural resources.

—Margaret Hill Cruz, ’42

Rolf Hovey
Dr. Rolf Hovey taught us songs I had never heard before, but he laid the basis for my appreciation of music that has served me in good stead down through the years.... Music was his magnificent obsession.

—Oscar Davidson, ’47

Perley Ayer
I can still see Perley Ayer with his curly white hair, flying, smiling, discussing Appalachia with a friend over on the street.

—Mary Kelley, ’51

Perley Ayer – Inspiring a Generation
By George Giffin, ’66

Dorothy Tredennick – Teaching by Example
By Libby Falk Jones
When I attended Berea College in the infamous sixties, I had the good fortune of taking a community development course under the genius inspiration of Perley Ayer. Although Perley was widely known as a leading authority on community development, I was personally impressed even more so with his capacity for kindness and his mastery of weaving group dialog on a host of issues. Thus, in discussing the development of communities with him, you got to literally experience how it works best.

In the field of therapy, we are admonished to honor each person's feelings. Whenever I was in class with him, I was profoundly inspired by how he honored not only students' feelings, but their thoughts and their points of view as well. He was naturally determined to gather in the real views of others, and often asked students to validate or challenge his own views. One always found deep community and deep democracy in any gathering with Perley Ayer.

It did not befit Perley to lecture and to view students as just listeners. He always assured a sense of sharing that enabled students to know that their contribution to the dialog was vital. Perley was keen to inspire sharing, and his own views were not cast in stone. Even the academic grading process was for the student to decide. Ultimately, as Perley would explain, what matters most is your own deep sense of what it is that you know and what it is that you do not yet grasp. This dynamic and precious teacher exemplified the best qualities one could ever hope to bring, not only to community development, but to any field of study or to any workplace.

Time spent with Perley Ayer always left me realizing that this man knew how to recognize the divine in each and every person. By exemplifying this trait, his inspiration was boundless.

A founder of the Council of Southern Mountains, Perley Ayer of Berea College was instrumental in developing social programs in Appalachia.

Every dawn brings a new promise, proclaims a card in the home of Dorothy Tredennick, '46. She says she lives by it.

At age 91, the former Morris Belknap Professor of Fine Arts continues to work and teach as an artist in the community, just as she has done since coming to Berea College as a non-traditional student in 1943. Extending her art school background and her 10 years of museum work, Dorothy Tredennick majored in history and English. As a student worker, she developed a cataloguing system for the College art collection. In 1951 she earned a master's degree in art history at University of Michigan.

Joining the Berea faculty in 1946, Tredennick taught art history and humanities to generations of Berea students. Strong women faculty like Julia Allen (history), Mary Ela (art), Helen Dingman (sociology), and Emily Ann Smith (English) influenced her teaching. She found these women creative, dynamic, and caring. “They spoke up, and they also worked behind the scenes,” she recalls.

As a new faculty member, Tredennick managed the art building, several labor students, and the art collection – as well as teaching three courses each term. Two years later, she helped develop the interdisciplinary humanities course which she taught for 22 years. In teaching art, she says she aimed to stimulate students' awareness of the world and the way art reflects the culture. “Images pack a wallop,” she notes. “Art matters in our lives.” To experience her subject firsthand, she traveled frequently to Europe and Asia and led a student group to Greece during a January term. She hoped also to “teach by example – who I am and what I think and believe.”

Numerous students testify to her influence as a teacher. One is George Lester, '54, award-winning scientist who received the 2005 Distinguished Alumnus Award. “I find it hard to say just how much I owe Miss Tredennick for planting the art enjoyment seed that has flourished and become a very important part of my life.”

Dorothy Tredennick, '46, a tireless student advocate and mentor, received a Seabury Award for excellence in teaching in 1962, a Fulbright award in 1963, and was named 1987 Phi Kappa Phi Professor of the Year.

In teaching art, she aimed to stimulate students' awareness of the world and the way art reflects...
Retired economics professor Bob Menefee, '40, and his wife Liz, '92, know the secret to staying young. They go parking; that is, they park their 13-year-old Buick Park Avenue (named 'Parkie') in the lot near Draper so that, despite rain or snow, they can roll down the windows slightly and listen to the carillon.

Indirectly, music brought Menefee to Berea when he was a high school senior. That spring, he and his mother traveled with their Methodist minister from Ashland, Kentucky, to visit his son, Karl Vogle, at the College. "I was impressed with his son," Menefee confides. Although radios were prohibited in the dormitory then, "he had engineered a radio in his dresser drawer, and whenever the door opened, the radio turned itself off."

He also met Ralph Rigby, director of music, who was pleased to learn that

Robert Menefee – Living Life Fully Engaged

By Normandi Ellis
Menefee played the bassoon. “His bassoonist had dropped out that spring. I was still in high school, but my folks let me have the family car to come to Berea to play in the spring concert. “I think that bassoon saved me in 1936.”

Although he grew up in Ashland, Menefee was born in Dunleary, a Kentucky coal town in the far corners of Pike County. He tried to go back to show it to Liz, he says, “but it’s been lost in the kudzu.” He describes his background as a good strong, Christian family, who were a bit limited in their horizons.

“Berea College transformed me,” he says. He suddenly encountered literature, theology, history, Biblical studies, and socialist thought. “My thoughts exploded and I sailed off.”

His first Bible studies teacher, Walter Sikes, “really shook me up. He taught me how to ask questions—I’m still asking questions. Because of him, I spent all night bull sessions with my roommates. Today we’d call what he did ‘an extreme makeover.’” On campus Menefee found strong pro-labor sentiments, faculty members running for state legislature, and, in the 1930s, a rising pacifist sentiment “because we’d just been through World War I.”

Walter Muelder taught philosophy, often assigning lengthy articles to read in the library that delved into national politics and sociology, and early church history. “He rode me hardest,” Menefee recalls. “I adopted about nine different schools of philosophy that semester.” Muelder later became dean of the Boston University School of Theology and mentor to Martin Luther King, Jr.

Although he started to major in history and political science, Menefee’s encounters with economics professor, Albert Weidler, “just blew my mind.” Suddenly Menefee acquired enough economics credits for a major. He calls Dean of Labor Albert Weidler “a firecracker. He was a socialist, a pacifist, a feminist, but he just astonished me in his oppositions. Personally conservative, he was a radical thinker—the most contradictory man I ever knew.”

Dean Weidler and his wife lived in and directed Pearsons Hall, a dormitory

“Berea College transformed me. .. My thoughts exploded and I...
Katherine True
One day, Anna Marie Smith and I were walking across the campus. A squirrel suddenly turned and ran up Anna Marie’s leg and under her dress. I was busily trying to extricate it when Dean True came along. As you may remember, it was against the rules to ‘catch’ or play with a squirrel. Dean True reminded us of this in no uncertain manner. We tried to convince her with our version of what had happened, but she refused to accept the story and ordered me to place the squirrel on a nearby tree. I did exactly that, but the squirrel had a mind of its own. It immediately turned and ran up Dean True’s dress.

—Pearl Phillpott Rundo, ’42

Charles Schutt, Dr. John Armstrong, and George Dick
Partially deaf when I entered Berea, I almost was not allowed back for a sophomore year because my grades were so low. Thanks to Dean Schutt, Dr. Armstrong, and Mr. George Dick, who knew of my handicap, I was referred to the New York League for the Hard of Hearing in New York City where Dr. Armstrong had contacts and I was interviewed there to ascertain my suitability for an aide... I never made another D in college.

—Patricia Williams-Allen Morgan, ’47

Thomas Beebe
Dr. Beebe was more than a chemistry professor or dormitory director. He was the tour director/photographer of the “Summer Western Camping Excursions.” He invited students to participate in a month-long, western states adventure while he designed the itinerary, provided all the equipment, and transportation—all for a nominal individual fee of $50 or less per student.

—Mary Singleton, ’71

(Menefee continued)
with 135 men and two showers. Menefee remembers that bookcases ran along every wall of every room in the dean’s living quarters, from the floor to the nine-foot ceiling. Mrs. Weidler made his oatmeal in a percolator every morning.

Weidler’s teaching methods ran ahead of his time. His students read an extensive bibliography of five subject areas, then each class period four classmates presented reports that were then opened to discussion. While regular classes met six times a week, Dean Weidler had other responsibilities, so he ran his class an extra 10 minutes each weekday, beginning at 7:20 a.m. His economics classes reflected the thinking of a liberal socialist who was interested in consumer cooperatives.

When Menefee returned to Berea to teach economics in 1946, after receiving his MBA at Tulane University, Weidler was department chair and became his mentor. Menefee quotes Weidler as saying, “I never worried too much about making any of my students too radical. As soon as they got out of school, I knew, they’d get it knocked out of them.” Menefee also followed Weidler’s footsteps right into Pearsons Hall, where he found stored in the basement, key rings with multitudes of keys, 7 cracked

Margaret Curd Dotson, Cx ’66 – Returning to the Source
By Normandi Ellis

“My own experiences as a wife, mother, and student have made me more understanding... As a parent, one can’t just do college
Margaret Dotson, Cx '66, attended Berea during the crossover generation of the 1960s. Although she married her college sweetheart, R. Adrian Dotson, '65, in Danforth Chapel in 1964, Margaret never actually graduated from Berea. Still, she describes her experiences at the College as pivotal.

In particular she remembers the performance of Handel's Messiah at Union Church in which President Hutchins' wife, Dr. Louise Hutchins, sat down beside her. “I had never heard Handel’s Messiah before and I was totally enthralled.” During the ‘Hallelujah chorus’ Dr. Hutchins suddenly stood, then leaned over to whisper that it was tradition to stand during the Hallelujah chorus. “I stood up and she smiled. Every time I hear the ‘Hallelujah chorus’ I remember that performance at Union Church and Dr. Hutchins.”

Convocations and humanities classes in art and music opened a whole different world to her, “windows I might not have looked through otherwise.” Had she stayed in her own neighborhood in West Virginia she says, “I would never have had the exposure to the arts or gone out of my way in adulthood to continue to find these experiences.”

During the three years she lived on campus, Dotson didn’t think of herself as being on the cutting edge of history. She admits that women’s interests in science and math, were not actively cultivated. “You had to be assertive and take the flak, which wasn’t easy for an eighteen-year-old,” she admits. Instead she majored in history.

She recalls Frank Wray, who taught the history of the Reformation, as one of her most influential teachers. Wray was infamous for his tough testing, especially on multiple choice problems wherein wrong answers earned you negative numbers. “In retrospect what he meant was that we should know it. A guess was not good enough. You can’t go through life just guessing,” Dotson says. She describes Wray as quiet, yet passionate about his subject. “He made you think, to be always on a quest for understanding, digging deeper and deeper so that your understanding increased.”

After moving to Ohio with her husband, Dotson began working in the library of a Dayton elementary school. She had two daughters, managing to finish her bachelor’s degree at Wright State University in 1968. After the birth of her second daughter, she completed her master’s degree in 1971. While her daughters were young, she stayed home with them. “It was an investment in them, and I grew up in between the feminist movement and the mothers who stayed home with their children.”

When her husband retired, and after her own daughters had graduated from MIT majoring in the sciences, Dotson returned to the other side of the classroom. She finished her doctorate at Ohio State University in 2000—all because of Berea College. “I came to Berea in love with learning, and when I left I was even more in love with learning.” One could say Margaret Dotson is passionate about education and Berea.

In 2002 she saw an advertisement for a job in the College education department and thought, “Wouldn’t it be nice to go back?” To her delight, she was hired.

Teaching at Berea as a newly credentialed faculty member, Dotson finds herself remembering what it was like to learn a college culture for the first time and what it means for her nontraditional students to juggle college learning and parenting. “My own experiences as a wife, mother, and student have made me more understanding in helping them stay organized and focused on their goals. As a parent, one can’t just do college assignments on the spur of the moment.”

Dotson finds that returning to Berea College has felt like a homecoming. “In many ways teaching here has allowed me to repay Berea, in a very small way, for all the opportunities I have had because the College accepted me as a student.”
How I Got Here and Why

Interviews with Remarkable Men and Women

By Normandi Ellis

William Gyudé Moore, '06

When William Gyudé Moore speaks to you, he holds his gaze steady. He speaks intently, directly, leaning into the conversation. He looks squarely into your eyes, saying in the soft lull of his African voice that his goal is someday to be a civil servant at the United Nations, and one day perhaps to be its Secretary General. And you believe him.

Outside the air is golden with October leaves. Inside the darkened café where we met, the light around Gyudé (pronounced Joo-day) seems golden, too. His voice in passionate conversation about the ravages of war cuts through the kitchen clatter and the buzz of other diners chatting on this campus. He takes a sip of water, using the time to gather his thoughts.

Gyudé has stopped by my table in the midst of one of his busiest days on campus, a day before the opening of the Southeast Global Leadership Conference which he instigated, and has organized and planned throughout the past year. He had just excused himself from the table of keynote speaker David Beckmann (president of Bread for the World) and others to come to my table so that he could be interviewed.

Within moments of his arrival, we are deeply engaged in a conversation that he seems to have brought with him from the previous table; yet I have a feeling it is a conversation he has carried with him from western Africa and has already had with many people. He speaks of the global issues facing all citizens of the world. He urges us to become aware of the devastation of AIDS in Africa and elsewhere, of homelessness, poverty, and social injustice, of fair trade, of environmental degradation. He urges us to do

“All this would not be possible,” says Gyudé Moore, ’06, “if Berea hadn’t given me the opportunity.”
When Gyudé Moore says, “I want to spend my life creating a world where children don’t have to experience what I experienced,” you believe him.

He remembers standing in a food line behind a U.N. truck, watching sacks of grain being unloaded. “Just a little rice or beans that I could carry back to my family,” he recalls. “Just enough to survive. It was my first interaction with the United Nations.” He remembers thinking to himself, “That is where I need to be – the U.N. If I am ever going to change things, it will be there. Not just to provide beans for people, but to create a condition under which people would not need to stand in line for beans to survive.”

Gyudé smiles and folds his hands on the table in front of him as if he were about to pray. The young man who first wanted to become a journalist, then studied to become a Baptist preacher, has now turned his attention to studying political science and economics at Berea College. He remembers thinking that a tuition-provided education in America sounded almost too good to be true. Knowing he had to do something, he applied to the College anyway.

“I just wanted to be in a place where I could improve people’s lives.”

He has done that already, receiving the Seabury Award for outstanding scholarship and leadership on campus. Gyudé graduates May 2006.

As I listen to Gyudé, I discover that his intentions are personal, but have always been intended for the elevation of humankind. He longs for partners in the quest for peace, justice, and equity; as the words of his poem Alone-No Longer Alone suggest, he longs to be but “a drop in an ocean of heroes.”

Few students on this campus do not know Gyudé Moore. He has established a student trade justice organization, been active in the ONE campaign against AIDS and poverty, and served as a teaching assistant in poverty related courses with Dr. Michelle Tooley, the Eli Lilly Chair of Religion. Gyudé is president of the Berea College group of Humanity in Action, an international human rights group. He speaks at collegium meetings with residential advisors; professors invite him to speak in their classes; he creates conferences to raise community and individual awareness. He writes editorials in the student newspaper, The Pinnacle. His life on this campus is an increasing legacy of commitment and action.

Berea’s first international Bonner Scholar, Gyudé began mentoring teens through the Students for Appalachia, a group supervised by Betty Hibler, associate director of CELTS (Center for Excellence in Learning Through Service). With Betty Hibler as ‘door-opener,’ Gyudé began a second amazing journey, starting with the 2003 COOL (Campus Outreach Opportunity League) conference in Cleveland, Ohio. There he heard about Oxfam America, a human rights organization that provides humanitarian aid. On the heels of that event, he became 1 of 50 students chosen to be trained as an Oxfam Change leader and invited to speak about trade-related issues on the nation’s campuses. Through his Oxfam

More Remarkable Arrivals in Berea

1878
In the fall, 15-year-old James Bond, born in Lawrenceburg, Kentucky to a slave, enrolls at Berea College, bringing with him a young steer given to him by his mother to help pay for his educational expenses. At the time he graduated in 1892, Bond was one of only about 2,000 African Americans in the US to hold a college degree.

1901
Archibald Fields, Jackson Browning, Greensbury McIntosh, and Arthur Flanery each walked over 100 miles to Berea to enroll. (See back cover)
family he gained the backing necessary to bring Beckmann to keynote the Southeast Global Leadership conference held at Berea College in October, 2005. Bringing awareness to others has become his life’s mission. “If people know what to do, they’ll go and do it,” Gyudé says. “But often they don’t know.” He has lobbied in Washington, D.C. and trains students in ways to make their voices heard at state and national levels. In 2005 he was the COOL conference student keynote speaker at the University of California-Berkeley. Through his conference work he tries to make fellow students feel that “here is something hands-on that we will be able to do to bring about change.”

He has attended forums in Minnesota sponsored by five Lutheran colleges in the Midwest and the Nobel Foundation. Gyudé Moore and professor Michelle Tooley co-present a lecture on peace and global economics in the Fireside Room last fall.

In 2004 he was invited to speak at the Global Leadership Awards forum at the United Nations. He was invited to return to speak in 2005, but was unable to accept the honor. He shakes his head ruefully. “I’d just finished a two-week Oxfam training as lead facilitator in Boston, and I was too tired to go back again.”

He falls silent and I notice my pen has stopped scribbling. I have forgotten to take notes because I have been so engrossed in Gyudé’s eloquence. His enigmatic smile reminds me of the polished faces of ancient Egyptian royalty. I can imagine him dining with heads of state and presidents. He picks up a bite of food and holds it suspended on the end of his fork.

“The way I see myself,” he says, then pauses looking at the carrot cake hanging before his eyes. He lays the fork down—I pick up my pen—and he continues. “I have been poor—really, really poor. I know lack. Here (in America) when I say I’m hungry, I haven’t eaten for a while, I can go to Food Service, or cook something for myself. But at home, people are hungry because of a lack of choice. You’re hungry because you don’t have any food or any way to get it.”

He returns to his meal, which has become for me a lesson in poverty awareness that far exceeds my middle class American mother saying to her child, ‘Eat your supper, children are starving in Africa.’

“I thank God for this cake, and for the opportunity to be where I am,” Gyudé says, finishing his dessert. He continues, “When you hear of Liberia, you hear that 1 in 3 persons in Africa is malnourished. For you that is a statistic; for me, that’s family. It’s people I know. The difference between them and me is I am here, but I am their representative.” He points to himself, tapping the heart beneath the white shirt. “This is what they look like—people with similar dreams and hopes that everybody has.”

I ask Gyudé if he has always been so clear about his life path. He smiles and shakes his head. “At first it didn’t seem like a pattern, but looking back on the last 4 years, it feels like everything was headed in this direction.”

The one living person who most influenced him, he says, is Betty Hibler, his labor supervisor, because “she let my interests spread out, and she has created a space for me to grow. I might have gotten the classes somewhere else, but I don’t think I would have met someone who was so generous in her time and spirit. Some evenings I just go and sit and talk with her.”

For her part, Hibler says the pivotal moment she recalls about Gyudé was when he first publicly disclosed his goal to be Secretary General of the United Nations. “Over time,” she says, “I’ve come to believe that—if he doesn’t change his mind—he will do just that.”

In his application essay a young man wrote: “When I first heard of Berea, it was to me as a dream that was about to come true or a long wishful prayer that was about to be answered, for I had long hoped that there was some place where a young man could get an education regardless of his financial situation. . . .”

Berea’s Opportunity School begins and continues to 1950. The school was for men and women who were “dissatisfied with the dullness of their lives, for plain young people who were not illiterate nonthinkers, but who vaguely craved stimulation and guidance to new interests…. .”
Michael Hiltebrand, ’08

Tall, lean, with a hungry gaze, Michael Hiltebrand, ’08, knows what he wants and what he doesn’t want. At age 24, he’s not your average incoming college student; but maybe he never was, although he doesn’t see himself as that unusual. “The thing I’ve learned from my classes is that everyone has a distinctive Berea story,” he says. “I’m not sure mine is that different.”

Admitting that perhaps he had gotten in with the wrong crowd when he was younger, Michael dropped out of high school as a freshman. Despondent, he spent his time pulling his life back together and reading. He read everything he could find in the humanities. Five years ago he got his GED and decided to attend a community college; but that college wasn’t challenging enough for someone who had read philosophers like Nietzsche, Russian writers like Dostoevsky, and American luminaries Fitzgerald and Salinger. He craved a classical liberal arts course of study that might include the humanities—world literature, philosophy, and languages.

This student is passionate about learning.

“My first smell of freedom was the old dusty library, the musty smell of books,” he recalls. “The summer I was five years old, I insisted that my mother let me walk down to the Maysville library by myself.”

Apparently, she refused to let him go, saying he was too young.

“My papaw said to her, ‘You let him walk to the library,’ so she did.”

Michael’s grandfather understood the importance of getting a good education. He knew because he was illiterate. “Papaw is the most important person in my life,” Michael says. The determination to go to college, succeed in life, and go for what he wants, Michael says emphatically, “He put that in me.”

In that same Maysville library Michael and his mother were part of a summer reading program. “Mom was looking through the picture books trying to find something for me to read,” he says. One particular display book on a shelf caught her eye. She took it down.

“Here you go,” she said. “Read this.” Michael recalls.

His reply was, “Okay, I will.”

It took the first grader about a month and a half to read Charlotte’s Web. “That’s where my educational quest begins,” he says. “I was seven years old.”

That vision led him to Berea College, a place he learned about while working in the library of the community college. He immediately applied, and was put on a waiting list to see whether his credits would transfer and they could accept them. “I didn’t care if I had to start all over,” he says. “I knew where I wanted to go. I hadn’t applied anywhere else, or devised any alternate plans. I didn’t want to break the spell. Coming to Berea,” he says, “was a leap of faith.”

That faith was rewarded when Michael took a creative nonfiction writing class with Dr. Richard Sears, a class that forced him to write, even though he realized “I didn’t want to write about myself, but I kept writing.” Dr. Sears, he notes, is the kind of professor who expects what you can give. “He knows at the beginning of the year what you can give. You may not know, but he does.”

The other class that sent him into the intense literary delight that only bibliophiles possess was a children’s literature class that Michael took during short term with Dr. Kathryn Akural, chair of the education department. He remembers that the first day of class she asked the students to get down on the floor. “And she read to us,” Michael says, laughing. “I was in heaven.”

The next day he raised his hand, asking her to read to them again. She did.
How I Got Here and Why

BEREA COLLEGE MAGAZINE: SPRING 2006

Aisulu Masylkanova, ’06

When Aisulu Masylkanova was only six years old, Kyrgyzstan, her mountainous central Asian country, gained independence from the Soviet Union. One of six sisters, she studied ecology and women’s rights at the summer camps run by Peace Corps volunteers—some of whom stayed in her home. So it seems fitting that the middle child of a working mother expressed an early desire to become a peace activist.

After completing her senior year at a North Carolina high school in 2001 during a foreign exchange program, Aisulu applied to Berea College, expressing her interest in human rights and international relations. She was accepted, and will graduate with a political science and economics degree in 2006.

It did not take Aisulu long to begin exploring international studies. Her freshman year roommate, Tshewang Dorji from Bhutan, sparked her interest in Buddhism; her many exchange student friends shared with her their Japanese culture and art. Soon after, she joined Humanity in Action (HIA), an organization that builds global leadership and improves human rights by giving students an opportunity to interact with human rights leaders.

Now, Aisulu, who comes from a Muslim family, is the president of the Buddhist Student Association, helping to plan events for the international community. The conundrum of being a Muslim, attending a Christian school, and studying Buddhism didn’t seem that unusual for this young woman who one day hopes to help her developing country with interethnic relations, economic development, and political freedoms.

“There is a Russian proverb that says, ‘Silence is a sign of agreement,’” she says. “Before I joined HIA, I was a quiet protestor, comfortable in my position.” She credits HIA with broadening her horizons. “I’ve become better at involving myself in discussions—whether it is passionately debating an issue or listening to others. I’ve come to realize that I must stand for what I believe and take an active role in promoting human rights.”

At Berea her studies have taken her to Denmark, Holland, and Germany, where she learned about the Holocaust and minority and human rights. She noted the connections between the genocide that occurred in Europe and the genocide that is happening in Rwanda. In The Hague, she studied international criminal court trials. In Germany she talked with Turkish immigrants. While in Prague attending the American Institute on Political and Economic Systems through Georgetown University, she met the former president of Latvia and the current president of Lithuania.

It’s a small world, she notes, and we have to learn to work together.

After earning her degree, Aisulu plans to go home to Kyrgyzstan, work in developing free market competition, and contribute to the improvement of women’s role in society. The main issue she sees facing women in her country is domestic violence. Despite the access to education and jobs, Aisulu says, she still sees many women who remain the object of domestic violence. “They think that it’s okay, that that is the way it’s supposed to be. They don’t have to go back,” she insists. “They can be strong and independent.”

Aisulu Masylkanova, ’06, and Palden Kyab, ’06, attended a fundraiser for the Buddhist Student Association this spring.

1947

Lacy E. Cochran recalls that he “arrived at Berea early one September morning with about fifty-one dollars to begin my college classes. . . I am still amazed that I found the nerve to go almost 500 miles from home.”

1956

While on a car ride with his mother, Jack Lewis was faced with his mother yelling at him “Young man, next year you’re going to the Kentucky Military Institute or Berea.” He chose to apply to Berea and it was his “educational salvation.”
I still remember that September day in 1958 when I was sixteen years old sitting on the front porch in a chain link swing. After I had graduated high school, I thought to myself, *there is a whole world beyond Williamsburg, Kentucky.* Some of my white friends had gone to Cumberland College, but I thought college was not for me, even though college was always my dream.

That day my superintendent, Jack Miller, drove by my house, passed me by, then backed up, and said, “John, what are you doing?”

I said, “I’m sitting here on this porch.”

“Where do you want to go to school?” he asked.

At first, I said I had no idea. He could have said, “John, good luck,” and gone on his way. I wouldn’t have thought any worse of him. I had no money, had made no preparations, and had no expectations. When he asked me that question my only point of reference was a family acquaintance who had attended this school called Berea where you didn’t need a lot of money. It came to mind.

So I said, “Berea.”

Mr. Miller said, “Get in the car.”

And I did. His action that day changed my life forever. It was a miracle.

He drove me to his office at the high school and he called Berea College. Hanging up the phone, he said, “They want you up there.”

I was scared to death. *How am I going to go up there?* I thought. *What does that mean?*

Back home my Dad agreed to take me and within three days we were driving up US 25 some 65 miles to Berea.

School was already in session when I arrived at the admissions office, but they said, “We’ve been expecting you.” With my high school transcript and all of my possessions in a ‘matchbox,’ I was given a tentative class schedule. I took my entrance exams between classes. I must have made it because they didn’t kick me out.

Thanks to the grace of God and Dean Orwig I didn’t have many out-of-pocket expenses. Every semester I’d go to Dean Orwig, the dean of men, and say I didn’t have money; and he would say, “No problem.” To defray those expenses I did incur I worked on campus during the summer when the pay was considerably better.

During my senior year I learned that many corporations interviewed Berea students on campus for possible positions. They apparently liked the scholarship and work ethic of Berea students. My economics and business professors advised me about which companies might grant me an interview—not all would, and some that did said they wouldn’t consider me for a management training program.

The right job found me nonetheless the day Charlie Honeycutt (’51) of Union Carbide came to campus. It almost seemed predestined—similar to the way I had come to Berea. I still feel that way about it. I returned to my room in Dana Hall to find notes posted all over my door, saying *Call Charlie Honeycutt.* I did. Charlie said, “I’ll be right over.”


Thinking back on this, I still appreciate the kindnesses of Mr. Miller, Dean Orwig, my professors, and other members of the Berea family. The only way I know to repay their vital contributions to my life is to try to help others. In turn, those who are helped generally help others. It’s the ‘multiplier’ effect of a single act of caring and compassion.

*John Berry lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan with his wife of 38 years, Patricia. They have one daughter and three wonderful grandchildren. He volunteers as a tutor in the schools.*
A Lifestyle of Service:
Alumni Who Continue to Care

Service is the rent we owe for our space in the world.
— Douglas Kelley, ’51, (paraphrasing Shirley Chisholm)

By Beth Bissmeyer, ’09

Troy Price, ’92

When Troy Price, ’92, entered Berea College as a freshman, he had no clue what he wanted to do with his life. During his first semester, Price took a child development class and learned a great deal about families. “I was impressed with what we already knew about parenting,” says Price. “I thought that if parents learned what I learned in just the first three days of class, the world would be a better place.” That class pointed him to a career in family services.

After graduating from Berea and earning his master’s degree from the University of Kentucky, Price worked for the Commonwealth’s Cabinet for Families and Children and then as a family advocate at the Children’s Advocacy Center of the Bluegrass.

At child advocacy centers, the goal is to help the families affected by abuse and to also prevent further abuse. “Advocacy centers are unique in that they handle the worst of the worst child abuse cases,” says Price. “I can’t speak highly enough of child advocacy centers.”

In 2000, Price was chosen to serve as the founding director of the Big Sandy Area Child Advocacy Center in Pikeville, Kentucky. After establishing and overseeing the center, Price left in 2005 to work as coordinator of information services for the National Children’s Alliance. He now offers technical assistance to advocacy centers and maintains the organization’s website.

Although different from his former positions, Price loves what he does. “I loved being a face-to-face child advocate. I loved working as director in Pikeville. Now, I love that I make child centers across the nation more efficient,” says Price. “By having weekly contact with at least 20 centers across the nation, I know that my efforts are having an impact on hundreds of victims a year.”

Service is not just a job for Price; it’s his life. “If you have a heart for service, if you value service, opportunities will present themselves. These opportunities will feed your soul,” says Price. One such opportunity Price was given was in 1999, when he and his wife, Della Mae Justice, ’93, obtained custody of their niece and nephew who had been in foster care. Even in his family life, Price lives up to his own idea that “Service isn’t just a job; service is a lifestyle.”

If you have a heart for service, if you value service, opportunities will present themselves.
— Troy Price, ’92
Douglas Kelley, ’51

From working in Cameroon to organizing education programs to volunteering in politics, Douglas Kelley, ’51, has been serving the global community for over 50 years. While the Peace Corps is most widely associated with John F. Kennedy, Kelley was one of the first to conceive the idea of sending qualified Americans to work in economically undeveloped countries. Drawing inspiration from historian Stringfellow Barr’s pamphlet, Let’s Join the Human Race, and his own past experiences—including his last two years at Berea—Kelley worked to see his idea come to life.

“During my senior year at Berea, I corresponded with three students on other campuses about our agreement that there ought to be a program placing people in modestly paid public service jobs with indigenous organizations and governments in Africa, Asia, and Latin America,” says Kelley. “We were thinking of jobs for teachers, nurses, agricultural extension agents, community development workers, and cooperative organizers. We wanted people who would live and work closely with their host country co-workers.”

In the fall of 1951, Kelley saw the formation of the International Development Placement Association [IDPA]. The nonprofit agency would recruit highly motivated applicants with skills needed in widely assorted jobs with indigenous organizations and governments in developing nations and would then recommend selected applicants to those institutions and government agencies.

While Kelley gained support from such people as Supreme Court Justice William Douglas and International League for the Rights of Man founder Roger Baldwin, the agency was not flourishing financially. When the organization folded in 1954, office files held applications from 502 potential volunteers, and eighteen people had been placed in a variety of service positions across the world.

Yet this idea of service across the world did not end with IDPA. Several people who had worked with Kelley before the organization met its end began to work on Congressional staffs. This helped lead to separate bills in both the House and the Senate that promoted establishing a Peace Corps. When Hubert Humphrey, the man behind the Senate bill, ran in the 1960 Democratic presidential primary and lost, he encouraged Kennedy to establish the program himself. And Kennedy did.

Soon after the Peace Corps was established, Kelley joined the staff as community relations director, but he wanted to serve in the third world as volunteers did.

“My family and I signed up for two years in West Cameroon, south of Nigeria,” says Kelley. “We were 200 miles inland from the hot and humid coast, in the Bamenda Highlands, with scenery somewhat like the Smokies of Tennessee and North Carolina.” In this area, Kelley organized a 1300-member crafts marketing cooperative that doubled the monthly income of many of its woodcarver, pottery, and basket-maker members. The Cameroon Handwork Cooperative (which Kelley says he modeled after the Southern Highland Handicrafts Guild in Appalachia) started its sales-shop in a two-room, mud-brick house. “A month later [the cooperative] moved to a $10 per month four-room house, and started trying to export; the first order from the United Nations Gift Shop in New York was a major thrill,” says Kelley.

Upon arriving back in the United States, Kelley served for seven years as the executive director for the multiracial “Encampment for Citizenship” program. Having attended the first such program as a teenager, Kelley says the program helped shape him and give him inspiration for projects like the IDPA.

Before retiring, Kelley spent several years as director of extension and continuing education at the University of Michigan-Flint. In this position, Kelley helped organize a wide assortment of new programs, including retraining programs for displaced autoworkers, a series of monthly public affairs debates, and an annual multiracial Shakespeare festival.

Since his retirement in 1990, Kelley has done volunteer work in politics at the local, state, and national level. He has been a Michigan national convention delegate, and he chaired the Washtenaw County Defending Social Security Committee.
A Lifestyle of Service


Fleming has a long résumé, including positions as the founding director for the National Underground Railroad Museum and a Presidential appointee on a Congressional commission to develop a plan for a National Museum of African American History and Culture. He is currently vice president of Museums at the Cincinnati Museum Center overseeing their three museums.

Before he pursued this career, Fleming saw firsthand the important work great African Americans were doing when, as a Berea College student in the 60s, he actively participated in the Civil Rights Movement, organizing demonstrations and marches, and participating in the march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. “Berea College helped make me more socially conscious,” says Fleming.

Fulfilling what he believes is his civic responsibility, Fleming serves on many boards and performs community service. He regularly prepares meals for 50 homeless and mentally ill people each month through the auspices of Tender Mercies, a Cincinnati social services program. “I love this service work because it helps keep me grounded to what is important in life.”

Of all of the programs Fleming participates in, he is most proud of the youth program at the Cincinnati Museum Center. Under his direction, the program trains teenagers to work at the museum as high school students and ensures that each is able to attend college. “I love to see the impact of the museum on young people’s lives,” says Fleming.

Each spring, the Center has a graduation exercise for the departing students. Recalling last spring’s ceremony, Fleming says, “I teared up when a young African American male got up in front of the audience and said what an impact I had on his life. The young man was from the inner city and was about to be the first from his family to go to college.”

Fleming considers himself a blessed man and wants to share his blessings through his work, saying “I believe that we should give back to the community in direct proportion to what we have been given in life.”
Carrie McCormack, ’02

She began serving by satisfying children’s thirst for knowledge. Now, Carrie McCormack, ’02, works to feed the hungry in Chicago’s northside.

As an eighth-grader, McCormack earned her first A+ when, as part of a project to promote reading, she read to children in her low-income housing complex. “This really was a pivotal point in my life because it helped me recognize my personal power and responsibility as an individual, that even as a child, or a female, or as someone in need myself, I could still promote and start empowering actions,” says McCormack.

After doing river clean-ups and recycling projects while in high school, McCormack continued doing volunteer work at Berea College with People Who Care. The group of students visited weekly with residents in various healthcare facilities all over Kentucky, including nursing homes and a children’s hospital. “I went so often that the coordinators let me introduce the visitation sites to the new volunteers,” says McCormack. Because of her commitment to the organization, she was awarded the ‘Volunteer of the Year’ award in 2000.

Becoming the first in her family to earn a college degree, McCormack graduated from Berea knowing that a life of service was what she wanted. “I wanted a job that was direct service, not just agroup that advocated an issue.

I wanted to be active in my service.” McCormack is now the coordinator for the Lakeview Pantry West site, which serves thousands of residents who are in need. Among her many duties, McCormack manages the day-to-day operations of the pantry, co-coordinates the Home Delivery Program, and trains and supervises volunteers.

Having started working for the Pantry almost four years ago, McCormack says she’s still just as excited about her job as she was at the beginning. “As a supervisor, I use a computer a lot, but I’m also unloading thousands of pounds of food outside year-round, and I get to be in contact with people in many walks of life which helps me keep a great perspective,” says McCormack.

One of the most challenging parts of her job is making time for all of her extra goals, she says, “There is just so much that I want to accomplish.”

Joe Byrd, Sr., Cx ’45

Does a newspaper article have the power to change your life? For Joe Byrd Sr., Cx ’45, the answer is “yes.”

In 1976, Byrd read an article about a successful Georgia lawyer who stopped practicing law so he could build houses for the less fortunate. A lawyer himself, Byrd was especially intrigued by this, saying, “It had never occurred to me to cease my chosen profession.” Soon after, he began sending money to that former Georgia lawyer, Millard Fuller, Founder of Habitat for Humanity.

Byrd continued to send checks to Fuller until 1988, when a Habitat for Humanity of Burke County, North Carolina, was established. From then on, his money and time went to helping build houses locally, volunteering as Habitat work team coordinator at his church.

In 1992, Byrd and his wife started supplying another valuable resource to Habitat: land. Having first donated five building lots, Byrd has since made larger land donations. In 2002, Burke Habitat received an offer to buy seven acres of land adjacent to Habitat Lane in Drexel. “They wanted and needed the land, but they did not have purchase funds,” says Byrd, “My wife, Gleta, and I discussed the seven acres. We purchased it and had it platted into fifteen house sites for Habitat.” As of now, ten houses are built and occupied. Five remain to be built this year.

Whenever he gets the chance, Byrd and his wife take a drive down Habitat Lane. “On each occasion I offer my prayer of gratitude to God for permitting us to be a part of the endeavors, and reaffirm my commitment to continue my efforts so long as He extends my days.”

Service is a family matter for Byrd. His granddaughters now make up the third generation of Habitat volunteers. Byrd credits his mother and Berea College for giving him the passion to be of service to those who are less fortunate. Although he was only at Berea for 18 months (he enlisted in the military during his sophomore year), Byrd says, “Berea College became and continues to be my major source of guidance. It expanded my vision of what life could and should be. I shall never forget its blessing to me.”
Profiles in Service: Bonner Scholars Stormy Gillespie Otis and Blake Jones

by Betty Hibler, Director of Bonner Scholars Program

Stormy Gillespie Otis, ’92, a junior psychology major already immersed in community service and committed to a counseling career, became one of Berea College’s first Bonner Scholars in 1990-1991. For the decade following her graduation, she held a variety of social service positions, earned a master’s in counseling from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and became a licensed professional counselor. The College’s service commitment helped her decide to come to Berea, but being here made her take a “deeper look at the choices I made in life.”

In retrospect, Stormy credits Dr. John White and his abnormal psychology class as influencing her professional and personal commitment to service. “Dr. White gave me a deep passion to work with the mentally ill,” she said. “His class opened my eyes and heart to a population that would not only challenge, but also bless me.”

While a student, Stormy worked with Students for Appalachia’s (SFA) Community Outreach Program. Under the direction of social worker Judy Singleton, students visited elderly community members, assisting them in various ways. Singleton “took time to answer my questions and challenged me to think deeper about my relationship with my clients,” Stormy recalls. “She encouraged me to step outside my comfort zone and to stretch myself in new ways.”

As a volunteer with Parents Anonymous, an organization that supports parents who either have abused or feel themselves at risk of abusing their children, Stormy met a child who left a lasting impression. “One little boy was so angry that he would fight with us, spit on the floor, refuse to participate in any activity (except snack), and disrupt any activity we had planned. Even though this behavior continued throughout my first year, I slowly started building a relationship with him,” she said.

“He started to trust me. He knew that I was going to return every Thursday night and that I was not going to hurt him even when he made bad choices. He stopped being so aggressive and began to participate in activities. By the end of the second year, he was like a different child.”

That experience taught her a deep lesson. “So often we want instant results for our time and effort. When I have been discouraged in my career with a client who is not making obvious progress, I often think back to that little boy.”

Her professional career includes work as a Head Start director, a counselor at a homeless shelter for runaway teens, and as a mental health counselor intervening on behalf of suicidal, homicidal, and psychotic clients. With Community Support Services in North Carolina, she provided therapy and case management for clients with severe and persistent mental illness. One of the most fulfilling and challenging endeavors of her life, she said, has been as a therapeutic foster parent.

According to Stormy, being a Bonner Scholar helped solidify “my career choice as a counselor and taught me that there is more to counseling than listening to your clients and directing them to useful services. It is also advocating for them and championing their cause.”

In 2003, after adopting two daughters, Stormy became a full-time mother and home-school teacher, but continues to serve. She performs such integral activities as taking a meal to a struggling or overtaxed family, grocery shopping with a depressed neighbor, picking up trash in the church parking lot, and babysitting for a struggling young couple.

"When we have a heart and mind for service, it will pour from us in everything we do.”

—Stormy Gillespie Otis
“Volunteering with established organizations is wonderful,” she said, “but allowing service to flow from your heart in all aspects of your life is even better. When we have a heart and mind for service, it will pour from us in everything we do.”

Blake L. Jones, ’92, is another of Berea’s first class of Bonner Scholars. He credits Berea College with changing his life. Although he was one of eight children growing up in a Christian, service-oriented family, Blake found Berea College’s vision of service even broader. “When I came to Berea, I learned that service to others can (and should) be part of an all-encompassing life view.”

He credits a course on Appalachia taught by sociology professor Tom Boyd as influencing his career in social work. “I loved Dr. Boyd’s sense of irreverence and playfulness in the classroom. He made sociology come to life and encouraged us to question authority, including his.”

Blake served two years as the SFA Student Director while at Berea College. During his tenure, SFA carried out eight regional outreach programs with a student staff of 25 and over 100 volunteers. His work with adult literacy is a cherished memory. “I worked all semester with a man who was a truck driver. I saw his initial discomfort and embarrassment in not knowing how to read, and we became very close as we worked together that summer. I got to know him on so many levels, and I look back and feel that I helped him find a gift that he can use every day for the rest of his life.”

During Stormy’s and Blake’s senior year at Berea, SFA became one of two Kentucky organizations to receive an award from the Points of Light Foundation. In May, 1992 Stormy, Blake, SFA Director David Sawyer, and several other students traveled to Washington, D.C. to accept the award from the President and Mrs. George H.W. Bush.

Blake reflected on this experience in a 1992 article “Of Kings and Points of Light,” published in Experiential Education, a journal of the National Society for Experiential Education (17: 4) The weekend in D.C. was the same weekend that the Rodney King incident in Los Angeles led to widespread riots in California. Caught up in the widely divergent emotions of joy and despair, Blake’s article ended with this thought: “As we headed back to Berea and our work with Students for Appalachia, much of the prestige of our trip to Washington was lost to the desperation of our troubled times. We were sobered by the graphic message of just how far we have to go to create miracles of justice in America.”

While working on a master’s degree in social work at the University of Kentucky (UK), Blake was a clinical social worker at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Lexington, Kentucky, where he assessed the mental health of adults with chemical dependency and senile dementia.

Then as a doctoral student in social work at UK, Blake became program coordinator for Kentucky’s Citizen Review Panels in Mayfield, Lexington, Louisville, and Morehead. Citizen Review Panels are federally mandated groups of community volunteers who evaluate the state’s child protective services system. Blake completed his doctorate in 2004 and now looks forward to sharing his knowledge in the classroom as a professor of social work.

The Bonner Scholars program has been an integral part of his life, Blake said. “I chose social work as my career because of Berea College. I have been blessed to find a career that will allow me to be a professional while also helping others—a perfect blend.”

[Editor’s Note: Betty Hibler interviewed Otis and Jones as part of the Bonner Foundation’s 15th anniversary celebration. The Bonner Scholars program, supported by the Corella and Bertram F. Bonner Foundation, began in 1990 at Berea College. Currently, 25 colleges and universities participate in the program which supports higher education for deserving students with a desire to mentor and to serve others.]
College trustee Brenda Larsen has deep family ties with Berea. Her mother attended the Berea Academy and Berea College. Her father was a member of the first graduating class of Berea’s public high school and attended law school at the University of Kentucky.

Long before Larsen was elected to the College’s Board of Trustees in 2004, she supported her mother’s alma mater. Larsen and her sister Louise Todd Taylor established the Elizabeth Dove Jessee Todd Scholarship in 1998 as a memorial to their mother, who, as the oldest of nine children, came to Berea from Russell County, Virginia. Larsen and Taylor, the first in their immediate family to earn undergraduate degrees, say that “Berea College had far more impact on our lives than our own colleges.”

The Todd Scholarship for the 2005–06 academic year was awarded to Megan Naseman, ’07, of Anna, Ohio. An independent major in outdoor education, Megan, who is studying in Australia for the spring 2006 semester, is a role model for other students because of her deep commitment to sustainability and environmental education.

For Larsen and Taylor, helping students honors their mother’s memory and recognizes Berea’s significance to their family. “We have learned that contributing in some small way is a joy if it can make a similar difference to another,” Larsen said.
Endowed scholarship funds are vital to Berea’s mission. Endowment funds, which may be established with an outright gift of $15,000 or with a gift of $25,000 over three years, often honor or memorialize individuals. When a fund is established, the gift is placed in an endowment from which income is derived.

Growing up in Berea changed my life,” says Nobel Prize winner and distinguished alumnus Dr. John B. Fenn, who recently memorialized his parents and brother with an endowed scholarship. The Fenn Family Direct Aid Endowed Scholarship Fund was established in December 2005 to provide support for students’ room, board, and other expenses.

Fenn’s association with the College began with a loss—that of his father’s job on the East Coast. Fenn’s aunt, Helen Dingman, already a Berea employee, told Mr. Fenn about a job at Berea. The family moved in 1928, an event Fenn says his parents regarded as “the rebirth of our family” that took them from “the slough of despair to great happiness.”

Fenn’s father, Herbert, taught auto mechanics and electricity at Berea’s Foundation School and later taught in the Physics Department. Fenn’s mother, Jeanette, was also a Berea staff member.

After attending both the Berea Academy and Berea College, Fenn earned a doctorate in chemistry from Yale University in 1940; his brother, Norman, later taught and coached basketball for Berea.

Fenn’s illustrious career includes time in the private sector working for chemical companies and years researching and teaching at Princeton, Yale, and Virginia Commonwealth universities. The ultimate recognition of his work, the Nobel Prize in chemistry, came in 2002. His outstanding success, however, has not eclipsed his fond memories of Berea College and its effect on his life and career.

More than 50 years later, Fenn recalls a conversation with some Berea classmates. As Fenn tells it, in the midst of a dorm bull session, one man stood to leave, saying he needed to study. Another fellow asked him, “Why are you knocking yourself out studying when you know you’re just going back to work on your daddy’s farm?” Fenn remembers the reply: “Yes, I’m going back to work on the farm, but just think of all the things I will have to think about while I’m farming.” To Fenn, this sentiment captures Berea students and the power of education.

Jacob G. Schmidlapp, a noted Cincinnati philanthropist and former Fifth Third Bank president, established the Charlotte R. Schmidlapp Fund in 1908 following the tragic death of his daughter, Charlotte, in a car accident. Schmidlapp had already lost his wife and another daughter.

Schmidlapp wanted to honor Charlotte’s memory and, as he said, “enoble, uplift, and strengthen the lives of young women who are compelled to be self-supporting.” The fund has become the largest private foundation in the United States to support solely women and girls.

In 2005, the Fund established the Charlotte R. Schmidlapp Endowed Scholarship for single mothers at Berea College. The first scholarship recipient is junior Alexis Riley, ’07, a Kentucky native and the mother of three-year-old Eve. A nursing major, Alexis expects to attend graduate school to become a nurse practitioner.

For more information about establishing a scholarship, contact:
Bill Laramee
Vice President for Alumni and College Relations
at bill_laramee@berea.edu
or 859.985.3005.
Alumni Connections

With more than 17,000 members around the world, the Berea College Alumni Association represents a diverse yet connected extended community. We encourage all our alums to develop strong ties with friends and to Berea by engaging in our many programs, services, and activities.

Berea is Coming to You!
Berea College Alumni Chapters are all over the country—one is probably meeting near you!

For more information, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 1.866.804.0591, or e-mail jennifer_mills@berea.edu.

Alumni Executive Council

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4 Reasons to Return to Campus this Year!

Navy V-12/V-5 Reunion June 2-4, 2006
Berea College welcomes back the Navy V-12/V-5 Unit to reminisce with friends and to celebrate the V-12/V-5 legacy in Berea’s history.

Summer Reunion June 9-11, 2006

Foundation Reunion October 6-7, 2006 Berea College Campus
All classes and years are invited. Mark your calendars to join us for a weekend of reminiscing and reconnecting right where it all started!
A registration form can be found at www.berea.edu/alumni.
For more information please contact Eddie and Hosea Pullins by electronic mail at epullins@ipro.net or by mail at 117 Lakeshore Drive, Richmond, KY 40475.

Homecoming November 10-12

Those Were the Days
150 Years of Labor, Learning, and Service

About Berea People

1930
Donnell H. Gould celebrated his 90th birthday and continues to play golf.

1931
Virginia Lucille Audil, retired College registrar, has moved from Berea to Russell, KY.

1937
James G. “Pop” Hollandsworth received the Award of Merit from the Asheville School in Asheville, NC, the school’s most prestigious prize. He worked at the school for 30 years, founding a modern-day mountaineer program.

1941
Chairperson
James T. and Eileen McDaniel Prewwitt

1945
Frances Zieaufose Kleiman enjoys reminiscing about time spent at Berea College. She resides in Hartford, CT.

1946
Helen Davis Heronymus and Mary Kay Hedler Kauffman

1949
Rosa Case Baldwin is a retired high school teacher living in Sylgard, NC.

1950
Minnie Lea Sanders Abell and Joseph C. Abell, Jr., celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary in February. They volunteer in their church and reside in Beavercreek, OH.

1951
Pete McNeill

1952
William (Bill) Bryson and Peggy Brown Bryson are retired and reside in Virginia Beach, VA.

1953
Frances Austin Day and Randall C (R.C.) Day, Jr., ’54, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in August 2003. The event was hosted by their two sons, Scott and Stephen, their wives, Yoan and Sarah, and their five grandchildren.

1954
Delphine Cody Moser Deaver is married to Frank Deaver. She is a commissioned lay pastor for the Presbyterian Church, USA. They live in Northport, AL.

1955
Bill Welsh, ’49

Foundation Reunion
All Classes and Years!
October 6-7, 2006
Berea College Campus

Mark your calendars to join us for a weekend of reminiscing and reconnecting right where it all started! There will be something for everybody, including tours of campus, an evening dinner, music and dancing, and shuttles to area attractions. A registration form can be found at www.berea.edu/alumni. For more information please contact Eddie and Hosea Pullins by electronic mail at epullins@ipro.net or by mail at 117 Lakeshore Drive, Richmond, KY 40475.
1955

Drs. Merrell Jenkins Riddle and Winston Riddle, ’57, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on August 28, 2005 in Bryson City, NC. Both are retired McDowell County, NC educators. They have four children and six grandchildren.

1956 50th SUMMERREUNION

Chairperson: June 9-11, 2006

Barney Davis

Erma Jo Reedly Helden and Merv L. Helden are living in a Baptist retirement community in Richmond, VA.

1957

Joanne Austin Goudra and Earl Goudra of Watauga, TN in 1991. They stay busy with their church activities and enjoy spending time with their four grandchildren.

Jack M. Grayson, Sr. and Patricia Ann Morris Grayson, ’59, reside in Rockfield, KY. Jack was employed with Southern States Cooperation for 40 years. They have six children and 26 grandchildren.

1958

Married: Betty Stephens Lamb to Steven Lynn on September 2, 2005 at Berea Church of Christ.

Royce Miller and Ebel Miller enjoy living in Sarasota, FL.

1959

Dr. Rachel Hickman Keen received an award for Outstanding Achievement in Research and Creative Activity at the fall convocation of the University of Massachusetts.

Rev. Reginald Martin is serving as the interim pastor of First Baptist Church, Zanesville, OH.

Alice Whittaker is the director of Lots Creek Community School, Hazard, KY, a settlement school in Knott County founded in 1933 by Alice H. Stone, her aunt.

1960

Jay Richen retired after 30 years of teaching at Grossmont College in El Cajon, CA.

1961 45th SUMMERREUNION

Chairpersons: June 9-11, 2006

Marlene Ellis Payne and Truman Fields

Keep in Touch

The Berea College Alumni Association enjoys hearing from Bereans from all over the U.S. and the world. The “About Berea People” section of Berea College Magazine reports verifiable news that has been sent to the Association by the alumni/ae. BCM reports the news you wish to share with your alumni friends and associates. “About Berea People” reports changes in careers, addresses, weddings, retirements, births, and other items of importance to our alumni/ae. Please include your class year and name used while attending Berea. Notes may be edited for style and length. For more information on how to submit class notes and photographs call 1.866.804.0591, email mae_suremek@berea.edu, or log on to www.berea.edu/alumni.

Howard Hicks and Carolyn “June” Davis Hicks celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on December 19, 2005.

Ival Secrest retired after 31 years of designing software for the Department of Defense. He is traveling the United States and Canada in an RV while serving on the Board of Directors for Friends of Ostomates Worldwide.

Blue Wooldridge was elected to the National Academy of Public Administration, a nonprofit organization that gives policy advice to local, state, national, and international leaders. He teaches at the Virginia Commonwealth University.

1962

Linda Letigo retired after tutoring part-time for two years in Middletown, OH.

1963

Laddell Simmons Powers, Cx’63, has recently been a contributing columnist for the Lexington Herald-Leader. He lives in Garbin, KY.

David Sutton retired after 35 years as professor of agronomy at the University of Florida. His retirement activity includes beekeeping, gardening, and woodworking.

1965

Garnett Stone retired after 25 years as pastor in the United Methodist Church. He resides in Danville, KY with his wife LaVerne and their children. He teaches art and Spanish in the Central Kentucky Christian School in Harrodsburg, KY.

1966 40th SUMMERREUNION

Chairpersons: June 9-11, 2006

James (Bones) and Rachel Upchurch Owens and Iverson Varinner

Dr. John Fleming authored A Summer Remembered, a memoir, and Barbara Durr Fleming, ’68, authored the mystery Murder on the Gold Coast. Both were published by Silver Maple Productions in Fall 2005. He delivered a lecture at Berea on “Writing the Black Experience” this April.

1967

Yuiko Suzuki King retired in July 2005 after working 35 years at an advertising agency in NY. She now resides in NJ.

Roberta Schofield, Cx’67, finished a successful show at Clayton Galleries in Tampa and is exhibiting a body of work at Turner Center for the Arts in Valdosta. She is planning a three-person show in Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

1968

Dr. Freida Hopkins Outlaw was recently honored in the American Journal of Nursing for her efforts in the mental health field. A child and adolescent specialist, she is assistant commissioner for the special populations and minority services at the Tennessee Department of mental health in Nashville.

1970

Fred T. Murcengill and his wife, Lavelle, reside in Westminster, SC.

Genn R. Tankersley practices law in Virginia Beach, VA. Debbie, his wife of 33 years, is his office administrator. They are the new grandparents of Lucy Samanth Tankersley, born November 17, 2005 to their son, David Glenn, and his wife, Melissa.

1971 35th SUMMERREUNION

Chairperson: June 9-11, 2006

Mary Ann Daniel Singleton

Dr. Rachel Hickman Keen, ’59

Howard and Carolyn “June” Davis Hicks, ’61

John Fleming, ’66

Roberta Schofield, ’67

Barbara Fleming, ’68
Robert D. Stephens and his wife, Mary, recently returned from Russia with their adopted children, Jaclyn-Marie Stetiana, age 10, and her brother, Robert Igor, age 7.

1972
Earlene Hawks Prokopec lives in Lexington, KY and is employed part-time by St. Joseph Home Care as a social worker.

1973
Ulanda Kay Stumbo Larson teaches at Simmons Valley High School. She resides in Patriot, OH. Linda McDaniel helped edit the first statewide encyclopedia devoted to black history, the Kentucky African-American Encyclopedia. Linda is director of library services at Kentucky State University in Frankfort.

1974
Larry Alan Reeves is the director of admissions and social services of Silver Bluff Village, a long-term health care community, in Canton, NC.

1975
Dr. Gary Mellick serves as co-director of the Sleep Disorders Center and is a neurologist for Aultabula County Medical Center in Aultabula, OH.

Margaret Murtini Musha is employed at Yale New Haven Medical Center in New Haven, CT, as a pediatric nurse practitioner. She and her son, Benjamin, reside in New Haven, CT.

1976
Bill Daugherty runs one of the largest drilling companies, NGAS Resources Inc., which was recently ranked the third fastest growing small business in the United States by Fortune magazine.

Fred Lane retired in July from auto supplier Arvin Meritor where he had worked since 1979. He lives in Cary, NC.

Linda Mullins retired after 27 years of teaching secondary math. She spent the last 17 years teaching at Madison Southern in Berea, KY.

Dorothy Louise Lively Tatum, ’76 resides in Taylors, SC. She works weekends at Northern Hospital of Surry County in Mount Airy, NC.

1977
Dr. Susan Price Dodd, of Knoxville, TN, was honored last fall as the YWCA Human Services Award winner at the 2005 Tribute to Women.

Anna L. Leavel retired from teaching at Girard County High School in Lancaster, KY in May 2004.

1979
Gerald Evans is a professor of business at Breyer State University in Kaminah, ID.

1980
Roma Charlotte Cline lives in the Seattle, WA area.

1981
Susan Jordan works for the Department of Mental Health as a clinical therapist in Florence, SC.

1982
Terri Huker was recently an artist in residence at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. She completed a banana costume for a European Pepsi commercial and is working on the next Chronicles of Narnia installation.

Cathy Baker Mihoney appeared for the second time in Who’s Who among American Teachers. Cathy is a special education teacher in the Madison County School System in Richmond, KY. Donald Mihoney, son of Cathy and Gary Mihoney married Kelle Patrice Shaw, ’06.

1983
David Meier published The Toyota Way Field Book with Dr. Jeffrey Liker of the University of Michigan. David helps companies improve their operations by implementing the Toyota production system.

1984
Cynthia Barker Atkins teaches in the Business Education Department at East Rowan High School. She and her husband Michael reside in Salisbury, NC.

Lisa Hargis is a physical education teacher and athletic director at a private school in Sarasota, FL.

Tim Metney is vice president and chief financial officer for the Patie A Clay Regional Medical Center in Richmond, KY.

Sheri Smith Reaser has worked for the Hershey Company in Hershey, PA for 20 years. She and her husband, Edvard, have been married 15 years.

1985
Jeff Atkins and Lori Stumbo Atkins, ’84, reside in Antioch, CA with their two seven-year-old sons, Benjamin and Jonathan. Lori is a homemaker and professional photographer. Jeff is a physics and astronomy high school teacher at Deer Valley High School in Antioch. He was selected as the Antioch Unified School District teacher of the year in 2003-04.

1986
Correction: Lisa M. Banks completes her master of arts in education in April 2006. She resides in Huntsville, TN.

James Holloway is vice-president of global editorial operations at Standard & Poor’s in New York City. He resides in Brooklyn, NY with his wife.

Donna Baker McClure is the field representative for U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell’s office in eastern Kentucky.

Married: Marcia Lynn Updike to William David Mangelli on July 30, 2005. The couple lives in Norton, MA.

1987
Petie Foley resides in Winchester, OH where he is a financial planner. He is working on his master’s degree and has two sons, PJ and Doug.

1988
Rodney Griffin and Regina Griffin reside in Morristown, TN with their two daughters. Rodney writes and sings gospel music full-time. For the last seven years he has been voted the favorite songwriter of southern gospel music.

1989
Jamie Dockery is the new Fayette County cooperative extension service agent for horticulture. He previously managed Hillenmeyer’s garden shop and King’s Gardens in Lexington, KY.

Teresa Paulina Ramey appears in the 9th edition of Who’s Who among America’s Teachers. Teresa is the music teacher at Clay City Elementary and resides in Silt, KY.

Stephen Shackleford is a financial analyst at Host Communications, Integrated Media Group in Lexington, KY. David Shockey served for the past six years as a water quality specialist with Kentucky American Water. He was recently named water quality supervisor.

1990
John Burch completed his doctoral program in history at the University of Kentucky in December 2005. He is currently employed as director of library services at Campbellsville University.

Jolie Deanne Ramey Bush of Grayson, KY works as an independent sales representative for HFA Inc., a wholesale gift market, representing Kentucky and southern N.C. She is also an independent beauty consultant with Mary Kay Cosmetics.

Married: Dean Goff to Tener Jones Goff on August 31, 2005. Dean works in Manchester at the Department of Highways. Tener works for the Knox County Board of Education. The couple resides in Corbin, KY.

Sheri Newton Greas and Dan Greas have four children, Beth, age 12, Will, age 9, Lee, age 6 and John, age 4. Sherri homeschools three of their children. Dan teaches at the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine.

Andrea L. Price-Goff resides in Brandenburg, KY with her husband, Gregory, and children Alexandra and Isabella. Gregory is currently serving with the 2113th Transportation Company with the Kentucky National Guard in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Anita Asher Swanson is an instructor of Spanish at Ohio State University and Otterbein College in Columbus, OH.

Myfnda Howard Turner resides in Harrisonburg, VA.

1991
Sheeny Ito Behnard and Hamid Behnard, ’93, reside in Salem, OR.

1992

Birth: Adaugha, Elizabeth Parker Justice, to Della Justice, ’93, and Troy Price.

1993
David Hay and Hope Wells Hay, ’96, reside in Winchester, KY. They have one son, Nick, age 6. Hope is a...
registered nurse and Droid is a lieutenant with the Kentucky State Police in Dry Ridge, KY.

1994

Gelita Sexton-Eden is a guidance counselor at Lexington Christian Academy in Lexington, KY. She earned her master’s degree in school guidance at EBLU. Gelita and Darrel Eden, Cx '95, serve as foster parents in Madison County, KY.

Laura Manning Evans works for Child Focus as a family advocate. Laura and her husband, Chris Evans, currently reside in Amelia, OH with their 3 children.

Timothy Jones and Melissa Jennings, '95, adopted a son, Peyton Brant Abraham Jones, born January 6, 2005 in Guatemala City, Guatemala. Grandparents are Glenn Jennings, '72, and Linda Jennings of Berea.

Wayan ‘Masi’ Matriyana and Vati Matriyana, Cx '98, reside in Richmond, VA. Masi is working with Virginia Commonwealth University as international credentials evaluator. They have a son, Vidyapriya.

1995

Kelly Kissick Overstreet, Cx '95, and John Overstreet, Cx '96, reside in M. Sterling, KY with their son Gaerik Geian, born July 30, 2004.

1996

Birth: Ason, Jude Evan Brown, to Jason E. Brown and Jennifer L. Kolkohest Brown, '98, on May 30, 2005. They have two other sons, Jeb and Jaron.

Iyn Grotke works as trip coordinator for the Augusta Recreation Bureau. She has a daughter, Rhianan, and a son, Ridge. They reside in Augusta, ME.

Tara Welch Okullo, Cx '96, and Pele Okullo, Cx '96, celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary. They started their own company, PSC Engineers.

Michael D. Thiel II and his wife Lisa celebrated their 5th anniversary. He is a director with Automatik Education, an automotive manufacturing consulting firm in Phoenix, AZ.

Renee Hood Yarhouse is married and has a daughter, Kaitlyn. She works part-time at Indian River Community College in Fort Pierce, FL.

1997

Kristi Parker Hurgis is a second grade teacher with Campbell County Schools in Tennessee. Ross, her husband, teaches preschool at Eagle Cliff Daycare.

Mark Williamson currently works for Wyeth Pharmaceuticals as a territory manager. He received a master’s of business administration from Ohio University in 2001.

Ale Douglas Wrenman is employed with Kentucky Division of Waste Management as an inspector. Crysta Wrenman is a registered nurse. They have one son, Connor Douglas.

1998


Nathan Haule teaches physical education at Homerville Elementary and Middle schools. He is in his 3rd year of teaching and serves as athletic director at the Homerville Middle School in Winchester, OH.

Birth: Ason, Nathan Alexander Hicks, to Libby Clabo Hicks, '00, and Derek Hicks on March 15, 2005. Libby received her master’s ranking one from Cumberland College in 1998. She is employed at Bell Elementary in Wayne County, KY. The family currently resides in Bronston, KY.


Amy Hammond Ward is married and has two children. She teaches family and consumer sciences at the high school level.

1999


Amanda Ott Armstrong and her husband John have two children, Bayly and Grace. Amanda is the child care manager at Rainbow Children’s Center in Coshoxton, OH.

Birth: Ason, Timothy Ryan Delano, to Daniel Martin Delano and Stephanie Hillen Delano, '00, on October 5, 2005.

Gerald Hvener, Jr. will complete his master’s degree in information systems from Marshall University. He plans to attend a doctoral program.

Birth: Adaughter to Courtney Blake Moore and Scott Moore, '00 on September 16, 2005.


2000


Birth: Adaughter, Sophie, to Wesley ‘Ted’ Brewer and Natalie Smith-Brewer, '01, on December 6, 2005. They also have a son Drake. Ted works in Somerset at Sherwin Williams and Natalie works in Lexington at St. Joseph East Hospital. They reside in Berea.

Vanessa Jones Bullock and Dr. David Bullock reside in M. Vernon, KY with their daughter, Bailey Lynn. Reverend J. Curtis Goforth currently resides in Badin, NC.

Married: Jeremy Grant to Maggie Brewer in Berea on October 8, 2005. He is employed at Madison Southern High School as an English teacher.


Kortney Carr Johnson completed a master of arts in secondary education in history at the University of Alabama.

Married: Dana Wadsworth Seymour to Greg Mencer, Cx '01, in August 2003. The couple resides in Little Valley, NY. Dana is a plant protection and quarantine officer with the USDA. Greg is a home energy auditor for a nonprofit human services agency. They are certified foster parents.

Married: Ayla C. McGov Willis to Patrick Willis on April 30, 2005.

Married: Jennifer Wooten, Cx '00, to Matt Van Nostrand. They reside in Nelsnville, OH.

2001

Andrew Hogue, Cx '01, is employed as a bookseller at The Book Gallery in Bowling Green, KY. He is a member of the Cedar Cross Missionary Baptist Church where he is a licensed minister. He does historical research into Appalachian United Missionary Baptist Churches and has prepared a manuscript for publication.

Son eath Hor was in Cairo, Egypt during November and December 2005.

Ashley Matthews graduated from Wight State University with a master’s of science degree in community counseling. She is a therapist working with children and their parents.

Married: Dolly Wilson Bellford to Brian Kelsey Bellford on November 11, 2005. Noah Arevalo, '02, was groomsman and Ali Arevalo, '02, was the matron of honor. Kasey works for IBM and Dolly is an accountant for a health care company.

Lauren Roth served two years with AmeriCorps service after graduation, and is in her first year of medical school at the University of Vermont.

Married: Michelle L. Van Weel, to Jeffrey A Webb on July 30, 2005. They reside in San Antonio, TX.

David Wilson received his master’s degree in education from Mount Vernon Nazarene University in the fall of 2005. Nicole Black-Wilson works for the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow, an e-school in Ohio. They reside in Besley, OH with their son, Isaiah Henry.

2002

Gretchen Bolton is currently serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in Portland, Jamaica working on literacy, small business development, and computer training with the community of Windsor Castle.

Rick Branhun resides in Brodhead, KY and recently accepted a position with the Hertz Rental Corporation. He is the branch manager for the Winchester location.

Married: Dana Mason Carrera to Andrew Carrera on July 30, 2005.

Catherine Morgan is attending Harvard Divinity School in Cambridge, MA. She resides in Berea during the summer.

Renata Montgomery Farmer is employed at the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service as a family and consumer science agent. Adam Farmer, '04, is employed by Wayne’s Supply as an engine mechanic. The couple resides in Barbourville, KY.

Deborah Payne will complete a master’s degree of public health at the University of Kentucky in May 2006. Melissa Gromer Remer is married and lives in M. Vernon, KY with her two-year-old twin daughters, Lara and Lizabeth. Melissa plans to begin graduate school at EBLU this spring to earn a master’s degree in teaching.

2003

Bethany Herman Archer and her husband reside in Findlay, OH. Bethany is teaching health and physical education at Van Buren local schools in Van Buren, OH. She also is the varsity cross country coach.

Jeremiah K. Duerson is a programmer/analyst at Eastern Kentucky University.

Miranda Gibson is in the doctoral program for pharmaceutical sciences at the University of Kentucky.
2004
Crystal Baldwin was named Vermont TRIO Achiever at the Vermont Educational Opportunities Programs annual conference. The award is given to the Vermont TRIO student that most exemplifies a commitment to their education. Crystal serves as assistant to the president at Berea College.

Mary Drewnoski is working on her master's degree in animal science at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, NC.

Laura Hebert is a sales manager at an S&K Menswear in Nashville, TN.

Julie Kiddle is the controller for Embassy Suites Hotel. She lives in Hampton, VA.

Married: La'Quita Middleton to Ariz A Singleton on March 1, 2005 in Birmingham, AL. La'Quita is employed at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute as a group tour coordinator.

2005
Tiffany Love Clark is currently a graduate student at Indiana University.


Ravi KC is a graduate student at Purdue University.

Birth: Ason, Jeremiah Durand McKinnie, to Samantha Stowers McKinzie and Xavier McKinzie, ’03. They currently reside in Grayson, GA.

Katrina Neal works as a family advocate for A Helping Hand, a nonprofit, Christian international adoption agency that places infants from China.

Hudie Parson is working on a master's degree in social justice and intercultural relations.

Ashley Hall Rotty and Jeremy Rotty married in June 2005 and reside in Baltimore. Ashley is a kindergarten teacher pursing a master’s degree at Hopkins. Jeremy is in the doctoral program at Johns Hopkins Medical School.

Emerald Skirvin is working on a master's degree in marriage and family therapy at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

Rebecca Wheat resides in Berea, KY.

Kim White received a master's degree in general psychology in the summer of 2005.

Baron Wolf resides in Lexington, KY and is working as a research analyst at Eastern Kentucky University.

Michael Woodall is a chemical analyst with Acan-Rolled Products.

1920s
Kathryn Dick Christopher, ’28, of Merrillville, TN, former admissions counselor, died February 2003.

1930s
Selma Downs Smiths, Cx ’30, of Willow Ridge, NC died on January 19, 2006.

Lillian Johnson Cope, Cx ’34, of Lexington, KY died on January 13, 2006. She was retired from the Blue Grass Army Depot.

Annie Lee Goins Green, ’35, of Morganton, NC died on January 9, 2006. She was retired from the U.S. Navy after an enlistment of 26 years in the medical field.


Susan Lillian Arthur, ’36, of Barbourville, KY died on November 15, 2005. She was a librarian for Berea College.

Hollis Henson, ’36 of Liberty, KY died on December 19, 2005. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Louise Muntz Henson, and children.

Sallie Yale Lycan, ’37, of Black Mountain, NC died on November 19, 2005.

Bessie Hale Wirt, ’37, of Franklin, KY died on December 26, 2005. She was a consultant nurse with the Kentucky State Department of Health.

Virginia Magie Butler, ’38, of Consay, SC died on October 22, 2005.

Estelle Arms Emshoff, ’38, of Robstown, KY died on December 7, 2005. She is survived by her son Carl of Grand Prairie, TX and her brother Fred Sexton Arms, ’38, of Danville KY.

Robert Galloway, ’38, of Guntersville, OH died on March 16, 2005. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Arlene Sprigg Galloway.

Wayne Odell Lowman, ’38, of Forest City, NC died on September 13, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Agnes Lowman.

1940s
Jeff Burden, ’41, of Ft. Worth, TX died on November 22, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Leona Patterson Burden and children.

Mary Rector Halton, Cx ’41, of Ukiah, CA is deceased.

Dr. Omie M Hartsell Jr., ’41, of Tuscaloosa AZ died December 1, 2005.

Ruth Rominger Davis, ’42, of Berea, KY died on January 1, 2006. She is survived by her daughters Mina Davis, ’79, and Vicky Reark.

Galys Franklin Houch ’42 of Raleigh, NC died on December 12, 2005.

Helen Patrick Kinne, ’42 of Ashland, KY died on October 18, 2005. She taught at Charles Russell Elementary School for 35 years.

Veru Coleman Rocke, ’42 of Hazel Crest, IL, is deceased. She is survived by her husband, Sol Rocke.

Louise Monical Zimmerman, Cx ’42, of Lexington, KY died on November 6, 2005.

Kate David Dotson, ’43, of Forth Worth, TX died on January 10, 2006. She was a teacher for 35 years.

Kathleen Stewers Whittaker, Cx ’43, of Egglesden, WY died December 16, 2005.

Dr. Thomas P. Hubbard, ’44, of Richardson, TX died on October 19, 2005. He served as a treasurer for his church for 33 years. He is survived by his wife, Pearle Scott Hubbard, ’43.

Eugene E. Both, Navy V-12 ’44, of Arlington Heights, IL died on October 25, 2005. He was a 31-year member of the First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights. He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Dorothy Bohl, and his children.

Calvin Orr West, Navy V-12 ’44, of Kenner, LA died on September 30, 2005. He was a retired officer and manager of Colman Transmission Franchise. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Ellythe West.

Frank M Heizne, ’45, of Prestonburg, KY died December 10, 2005.


Alice M Russell, ’47, of Hadley, MA died on December 12, 2005.

Marjorie Lee Davenport, ’48, of Flemingsburg, KY died on November 5, 2005. She is survived by her husband Ray B. Davenport and children.

Ervin Connelly, ’49, who retired from the College purchasing department in 1990 died February 2, 2006. He is survived by his wife, Helen Barnes Connelly, ’48, and three children, Sarah Vaughn, ’77, Steven Connelly, ’74, all of Berea, KY and Clark Connelly, ’80, of Atlanta.

June Allen Fisher, ’49, of Lakewood, OH died on December 28, 2005. She is survived by her husband, Douglas Fisher.

Bo Iggate Stafford, ’49, of Johnson City, TN died on October 6, 2004.

Eleanor Parmer Wiegand, ’49, of Mentor, OH died on October 6, 2005. She taught at Addison, Collinwood, and Eads high schools.

1950s
Dr. Harry Donald Nash, ‘56, of Covington, KY died on January 4, 2006. He was a U.S. Army veteran, a microbiologist, and researcher for 28 years with the U.S. Public Health Environmental Protection Agency.

James Dan Skean, ’56, retired microbiology professor at Western Kentucky University, died on January 26, 2005. He is survived by four sons, Danny, Mark, Tim, and Tom, and by his wife of 17 years, Barbara Whites-Skean of Austin, KY. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Nellie Ann Sherrill, ’52.

Louis M. Godfrey, Cx ’57, of Anioch, TN died on February 8, 2001. He was a retired assistant state conservationist from the U.S. Department of Agriculture after 37 years.

Willard Aubrey Etherington Jr., Cx ’58, of Springfield, KY died on November 3, 2005.


1960s

Virginia Neal Lee, ’60, of Oak Ridge, TN died on October 13, 2005. She worked at Oak Ridge Laboratory for 34 years. She is survived by her husband, Elmer Lee.

Darrell Glenn Davis, ’61, of Columbia, MO died on December 23, 2005. He worked with USDA for 26 years. He is survived by his wife Bonnie Henley Davis, ’63.

Robert Lee Polk, ’62, of Clifton, VD died January 22, 2006. He was a retired general counsel with the Metro transit agency. He is survived by his wife of 31 years, Barbara “Bobbie” Polk.


1970s

Gene Hampton Amos, ’70, of Martinsville, VA died on November 8, 2005. He retired from the Virginia Cooperative Extension after working 26 years. He is survived by his wife, Mary Amos, and a daughter, Tonya Michelle Amos Bistores.

Nancy Meade Bowens, ’71, of Gray, KY died on December 30, 2005.

Dr. Michael Mauk, ’73, of California died on January 13, 2006. He is survived by his mother, companion Doe McGuire, and two sisters.

1980s

Doster John Esh, ’85 of Richmond, KY died on October 22, 2005. He taught English at Eastern Kentucky University for 20 years. He is survived by his son, Doster J. Esh, and companion, Dana Wright.

Faculty/Staff

Helen Barlow Baucom, mother of Jane B. Stephenson and resident of Banner Elk, NC, died Wed., Jan. 25, 2006 at the Hospice Care Center at St. Joseph Hospital in Lexington, KY. She was preceded in death by her husband, Branton L. Baucom and is survived by her daughter, and grandchildren, Jennifer Mclamb, Rebecca Stephenson, David Stephenson, and Victoria Stephenson, all of Lexington, KY. An avid gardener, Helen Baucom was a member of the Banner Elk Garden Club and a lifelong active member of the Banner Elk Presbyterian Church.

Owen Presley, who was associate vice president of business at the College until 1991, died in R. Lauderdale, FL in February 2006. He is survived by his wife, Margaret, daughter Roxanna, and three grandchildren.

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